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on undefeated roll
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Oshkosh chief gives
budget report
Page 8



Photo by Michael Cooney

Tight corner shot

Kaden Hillman, 14, from New London and playing for the Oshkosh Varsity Club team, prepares a masse shot during American Cue Sports' state billiards tournament last weekend at the Oshkosh Convention Center. More than 600 players from Wisconsin and surrounding states competed for cash prizes. There were 62 tables set up for the event, which was the fourth year it has been held in Oshkosh.

City's 2024 budget set for approval

Monetary highlights offered ahead of vote

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Common Council will vote on the city's 2024 budget at its meeting next week after holding a public budget presentation this Tuesday.

City Manager Mark Rohloff reported several highlights in the first pages of the 475-page budget document that can be viewed at ci.oshkosh.wi.us/BudgetFinancials. They include:

- \$174.3 million total operating budget.
- Nearly \$119 million in Capital Improvement Program projects.
- \$56.5 million in the general fund.
- \$2 million in state shared revenue to help with inflation and less revenue.
- Expenditure increases attributed to public safety, public works and parks.
- More than 60% of general fund going to public safety.



Rohloff

The general fund budget, supported in whole or partially by general property tax dollars, is proposed to increase 3.37% over the 2023 budget. The tax levy, which supports the general fund, special revenue funds and debt service fund, is proposed at \$47.5 million – a 3.99% increase over the 2023 budget.

SEE **City budget** ON PAGE 21

Venture capitalist continues to invest in hometown

Diverse projects include specialty hotel plans

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

TJ Rodgers may spend most of his time in California where he has run Silicon Valley companies, but he was back last week to give updates on his investments in Oshkosh.

Rodgers gave a pair of presentations inside the new event center at the Oshkosh Country Club, which he acquired about five years ago. Early in the day he

spoke to investors at the club about his Enovix Corp. silicon battery business, with a second presentation focused on what he is working on with Oshkosh businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Rodgers described himself as a Silicon Valley venture capitalist speaking to members of the OCC and the Oshkosh Rotary Club. He also helps operate wineries and vineyards in North-



Rodgers

ern California with his wife, Valeta. The Oshkosh native got his start in the 1980s as founder and chief executive of Cypress Semiconductors before stepping down in 2016.

Rodgers' SNW team owns the country club and its Scottish-themed TJ's Highland Steakhouse, TJ's Harbor Restaurant and Ardy & Ed's Drive In. He also has donated \$4.4 million toward the Tiny House Village (THV) housing project on the city's north side.

He talked about a homeless encampment in California that had been bulldozed, which led him to make some

phone calls about how he could make a difference in Oshkosh on homelessness by teaming up with the Oshkosh Kids Foundation and other organizations.

"This project shows Oshkosh is taking care of people," Rodgers said. "This stuff will never be bulldozed away."

Kids Foundation president Will Depiesse told a story he had shared with Rodgers about a family living in a car that was set to move into one of the tiny houses. After a short tour of the THV, the mother walked her two young boys

SEE **Project plans** ON PAGE 12

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Publisher

Karen Schneider, 920-858-6407
karen@oshkoshherald.com

Editor

Dan Roherty, 920-508-0027
editor@oshkoshherald.com

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www.oshkoshherald.com.

Boys & Girls Club names Youth of the Year

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh has announced its 2023-2024 Youth of the Year representative, naming Mercy A. as the winner Oct. 26 at its Youth of the Year Dinner.

Mercy competed against six other teens – Henry B., Gabriella F., Ryley G., Gwendolyn K., Madison S. and Zachary S. – judged on their club involvement and academic success.

Mercy receives \$10,000 from the Charles F. Hyde Jr. Scholarship Endowment Fund toward higher education. In March, Youth of the Year winners from across Wisconsin will compete for the state title and additional scholarships.

A Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh member for the last six years, Mercy serves as president of the club's Keystone Leadership Club while also volunteering and working as a part-time staff member. She has a 4.0 GPA as a senior at Oshkosh North High School and is a member of the National Honor Society. Mercy aspires to be a geneticist in the future.

She also has been selected to serve on the 2024 National Keystone Confer-



Youth of the Year nominees included (from left) Henry B., Gwendolyn K., Gabriella F., Mercy A., Madison S., Ryley G. and Zachary S.

ence Steering Committee.

"We are very proud of Mercy," said club chief executive Tracy Ogden. "She

is immersed in her club and is a passionate, young leader who is dedicated to doing good for her community."

Retired county educators set monthly meeting

The Winnebago County Retired Educators' Association invites retired school employees who live in or worked in Winnebago County to their next meeting Nov. 16 at Pizza Ranch in Oshkosh.

A short business meeting will start at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch. Sandy DeYoung will talk about the Sleep in Heavenly Peace program, a volunteer organization that provides beds for families and children, at about 1:15 p.m.

This also will be the last meeting to bring school supplies to support The Teachers' Closet in Oshkosh.

The November meeting is traditionally the opportunity to donate money to Park

View Health Center.

New members or visitors are welcome. Those interested can email Lisa at rolson3430@aol.com by Monday for more information.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Nov. 7, 1962

Fall Pet Circus at Kresge's (ad): On this date, the Kresge's "Dime Store" at 305 N. Main St. in downtown Osh-

kosh offered a big event. An ad was placed selling an assortment of pets that included Singing Canaries \$4.99 (undetermined sex canaries were only 99¢ each), Parakeets \$1.99, and Baby Turtles (get a baby turtle, large dish, and box of turtle food) for only 67¢. Children accompanied by a parent would get two free goldfish.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Nov. 7, 1962

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Child care funding solutions to get airing at panel event

Oshkosh Herald

More than 2,000 statewide child care programs were projected to close statewide and nearly 5,000 care providers eliminated without last month's emergency funding to keep Wisconsin's Child Care Counts program from running out of money in January.

While there have been Democrat and Republican proposals to support the child care industry, the \$170 million in emergency funding ordered by Gov. Tony Evers to continue Child Care Counts through June 2025 has been the first action to give child care providers and their family clients a measure of relief while looking for more long-term solutions.

With that backdrop on the status of state support for dealing with the child care crisis, a panel discussion of issues surrounding affordable and available child care will be the focus of a Nov. 14 program at the Oshkosh Food Co-op being presented by the local chapter of the American Association of University Women.

Panelists for the 6 p.m. program will include Dana Bain, training coordinator and resource specialist at Child Care Re-

source & Referral (CCR&R) Fox Valley; Barb Tengesdal, director of First Five Fox Valley; and Julie Stoffel, Wisconsin Early Education Shared Network and owner of Cradle to Crayons Child Care Center.

The time-limited Child Care Counts: Stabilization Payment Program to support Wisconsin's early care and education community was created to provide assistance in response to the COVID health emergency. With American Rescue Plan Act funding programs phasing out this year for pandemic-related expenses, legislative attempts to fill some of those gaps were unsuccessful.

A report from the Century Foundation estimated that 2,110 child care programs were projected to close, leaving about 87,000 children without child care and the loss of more than 4,880 jobs, without the funding extension.

CCR&R Fox Valley is one of nine in the state, serving Winnebago, Calumet, Outagamie, Waupaca, Green Lake, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc and Sheboygan counties. It holds free Build Your Business in Family Child Care information sessions, monthly provider cafes and has a resource library for providers and families.

Oshkosh Garden Club scholarship luncheon set

David Kersztyn from the Military Veterans Museum in Oshkosh will be the featured speaker at the Oshkosh Garden Club's annual scholarship luncheon Saturday at the Best Western Hotel's ballroom.

Kersztyn will talk about the origin of Veterans Day as well as the development of the local veterans' museum and expansion plans. Oshkosh Garden Club's two \$1,000

scholarships are currently assisting Cielo Gutierrez Kuhaupt, a sophomore at Ripon College, studying environmental science; and Kyla Birschbach, a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, majoring in biology.

Tickets for the event may be purchased from members, on OGC's Facebook page or calling 920 426-1084 to leave a message.



Oshkosh Herald

An Oshkosh police vehicle is shown Monday in the parking lot at the end of Broad Street in the area where a 60-year-old man was found dead in the Fox River.

Body recovered from Fox River

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Police Department is looking for information regarding the death of a 60-year-old Oshkosh man whose body was recovered from the Fox River.

A news release states that at 11:42 a.m. Sunday, police were called to the end of Broad Street near the Fox River and railroad trestle for a report of a man found in the river.

The police do not believe there is a threat to residents in the area but an investigation is ongoing.

The Oshkosh Fire Department assisted in recovering the body. The man's identity was not released as of Monday.

An autopsy was planned for later this week. Police are asking anyone that might have information regarding this incident to contact the department at 920-236-5700.

Barbershop Chorus concert benefit set at St. John's

The Winnebago Land Barbershop Chorus is presenting its Holiday Harmonies concert at 6 p.m. Nov. 25 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 808 N. Main St.

The benefit concert and food drive for St. John's Food Pantry will also feature the Plymouth HHT A Capella Barbershop Chorus.



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NOV 11

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NOV 11+ 12



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Plea date pushed back for child sexual assault case

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The courtroom was prepared for a plea hearing Halloween morning in Oshkosh as the first snow of the season flew outside, but due to a paperwork issue the plea for a former youth pastor accused of sexually assaulting a child has been pushed back a month.

Jordan R. Huffman, 52, is facing counts of first-degree child sexual assault and child enticement with sexual contact, and three counts of felony bail jumping. He remains in custody on \$1 million cash bond.

Huffman was convicted of repeated sexual assault of a child in Portage County in October. The former Plover youth pastor was sentenced to 20 years in prison followed by 20 years of extended supervision.

Andrea Winder represents Huffman in both cases. She attended the hearing via phone call and said Huffman had been transferred from Portage County Jail to Dodge Correctional Institute in Waupun.

Assistant District Attorney Tracy Paider

said a writ of habeas corpus was written to the Portage County Jail to get Huffman to the plea hearing but then learned he had been transferred. A writ of habeas corpus is used to allow an inmate to be transferred from a correctional facility or jail to a courthouse for court appearances.

Paider said the district attorney's office will write up a new request to have Huffman in person.

A new plea hearing has been set for Nov. 28. If convicted on both child sexual assault and child enticement, he faces a maximum of 55 years in prison followed up to 30 years of extended supervision.

According to the criminal complaint, on May 19 a juvenile called 911 stating he was in a vehicle at a hotel after being kidnapped and needed help.

Dispatch used GPS to track the caller's phone. Fox Crossing police officers arrived at the hotel on Holly Road and saw a vehicle leaving the parking lot. Officers then initiated a traffic stop.

As the officer exited the squad car, the

victim exited the front passenger door of the suspect's vehicle and Huffman was arrested.

The victim told officers he was communicating with Huffman through Snapchat earlier that day and Huffman sent him nude photos. The victim had his Snapchat location on and a short time later Huffman showed up at his house. The victim stated he went with Huffman because he was "going to probably kill me or something."

Huffman began assaulting the victim during the drive to the hotel. When they ar-

rived, Huffman went inside to rent a room and the boy stayed in the car and called 911. When Huffman returned to the vehicle, he brought the victim inside the hotel room where he continued assaulting him.

The victim told authorities he pretended his mom was calling and told Huffman he needed to be taken home. Surveillance footage showed the victim exiting the hotel room and running to the car, with Huffman behind. The victim dialed 911 again while in the vehicle and police initiated the traffic stop and arrested Huffman.

Police looking for video near garage fire

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Police Department wants to know if you have surveillance video that could help with an ongoing investigation.

A police news release stated on Oct. 29 there was a fire reported in the 700 block of Mount Vernon Street around 2 a.m. When officers arrived, an unattached garage was engulfed in flames and beginning

to spread to the house.

Oshkosh Fire Department personnel were able to extinguish the fire and there were no reported injuries.

Police are seeking video surveillance cameras in the area between 1 and 3 a.m. that morning. Residents with video can contact Detective Ryan Boerner at rboerner@ci.oshkosh.wi.us.



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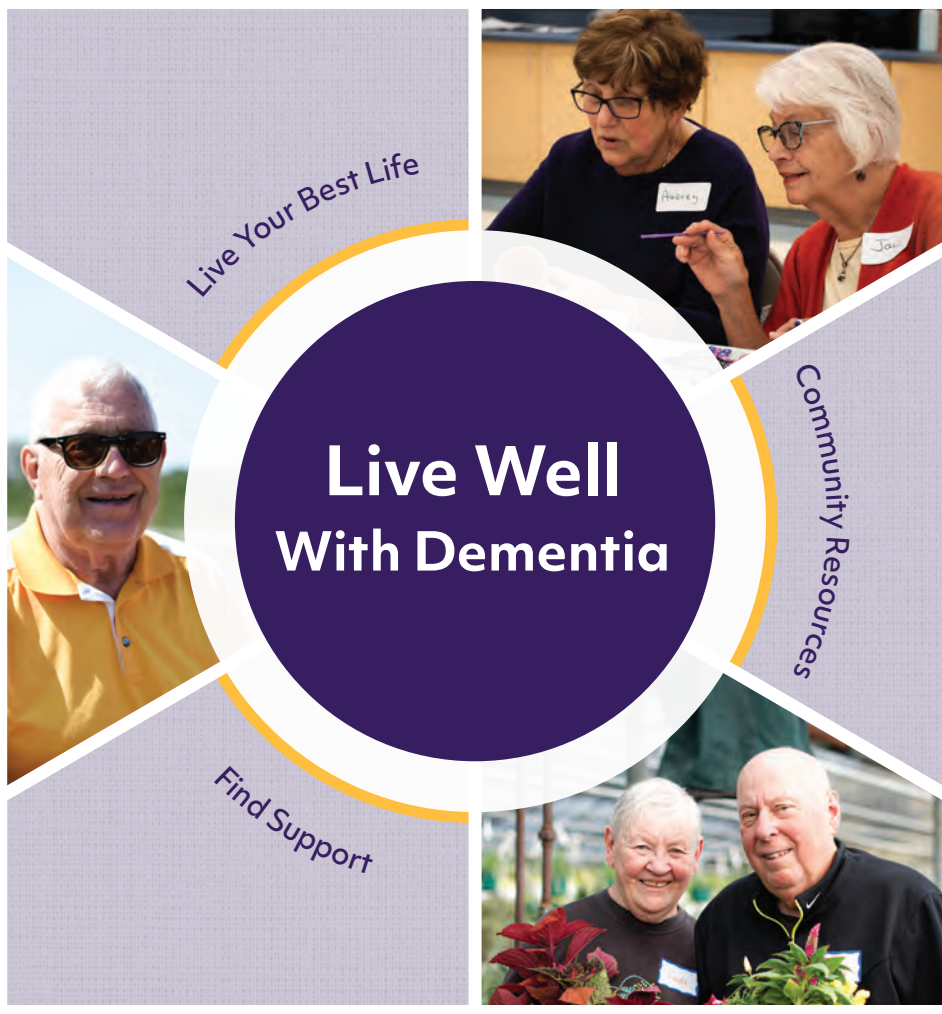


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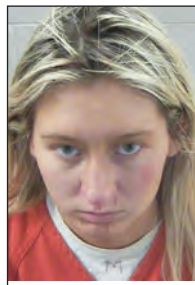
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Woman sentenced to seven-year term in stabbing case

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

An Oshkosh woman will spend the next seven years in prison for stabbing her ex-boyfriend.

Morgan T. Lund, 22, pleaded no contest to aggravated battery with intent of great bodily harm and second-degree recklessly endangering safety in August and was found guilty by Winnebago County Judge Bryan Keberlein.



Lund

In court Friday, Keberlein handed down a sentence of 7.5 years in prison followed by five years of extended supervision for aggravated battery and five years of extended supervision for the reckless endangerment count to run consecutively with the first count.

He called it a difficult case involving mental health, domestic violence and two young people.

In the criminal complaint, Lund told Oshkosh police officers she had been seeing a large black figure, not a person, and thought the figure was attacking the victim. The two had been in a relationship and had a child together.

Over the last several months two psychological exams were ordered and completed to evaluate Lund.

Assistant District Attorney Amanda Nash said neither evaluation backs up the black figure, but one of the evaluations claimed Lund might have been suffering from postpartum depression – a claim Lund’s attorney, Scott Ceman, agreed with.

Lund spoke during the hearing and apologized to the victim and to her family for putting them through this case and apologized to her parents for having to take care of her child while incarcerated. Lund added she has been taking medication for depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Court documents show Lund stabbed her former partner 19 times with a pair scissors on the morning of Feb. 18 with their infant child nearby. The man was

stabbed in the face, neck, chest, back and hands, and suffered a punctured lung.

Lund was initially charged with first-degree attempted intentional homicide and pleaded not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect, but charges were changed to less severe felony charges in August. Since being arrested, Lund has remained in custody on a \$250,000 cash bond.

Cases involving mental disease or defect are referred to as NGI cases. Nash said this was not an NGI case.

Keberlein noted in the presentence investigation report the victim believed attempted homicide should have been the charge and not the lesser felony counts. The victim also told investigators he did not believe Lund should receive the maximum penalty, a rarity in criminal cases, according to Keberlein.

Nash submitted crime scene photos as evidence at the beginning of the hearing with Keberlein reviewing the photos before attorneys argued the length of Lund’s sentence. One officer noted there was a “copious amount of blood” at the scene.

Ceman argued for a one-year prison sentence and probation since she does not have an extensive criminal history, has strong ties to the community and an abundance of family support. He also argued this case is about mental health and not domestic violence.

Nash argued for 7.5 years in prison fol-

lowed by 10 years of extended supervision. She argued that based on text messages between Lund and the victim that this case was about domestic violence. There were text messages between the two read in court that Nash described as “controlling behavior” by Lund.

Lund had sent text messages to the victim asking for his log-in information for various social media sites and applications. Nash said there was also a text from Lund threatening the victim by stating her father would beat him up.

Nash also referred to the psychological evaluations that determined the large black figure was not supported in their professional opinions.

The court received almost 20 letters in support of Lund leading up to the sentencing hearing, which Keberlein called an unusual amount of support for a defendant.

The gravity of the offense is the main factor Keberlein said he considered and the fact that the victim was stabbed 19 times.

“Scissors was used to plunge 19 times into a human being,” Keberlein said.

Keberlein also noted the force it took to stab a person and cause a collapsed lung and the amount of time it would have taken Lund to stab the victim 19 times.

Lund was also ordered to pay around \$35,000 in restitution to the victim, who was not in court and had been unable to work for more than a month.

Job fair to focus on laid-off UWO employees

Oshkosh Herald

The Fox Valley Workforce Development Board has initiated a rapid response to recently announced layoffs of 140 staff at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, including a private job fair set for Monday at the Oshkosh Convention Center.

The university announced the staff layoffs Oct. 16, which will impact one of every six employees effective Jan. 20.

A typical rapid response effort by Workforce Development Board, depending on the size of the dislocation and amount of notice provided, includes communication with employees to discuss retraining and job search benefits under the Workforce Opportunity and Investment Act (WIOA), a private job fair, resume writing sessions and other skills-building efforts at the area’s job center or satellite location.

All of these services are free and covered by the U.S. Department of Labor’s WIOA funds.

Workforce board staff will determine if any are interested in shifting to careers outside of higher education. Skills and interest assessments may be completed, updated resumes created and job search plans built. Some may require additional training at local technical college or other training providers.

The private job fair is set from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Convention Center, 2 N. Main St.

Employers with an interest in meeting with workers need to register at foxvalleywork.org. Registration for employers is free.

More information is at foxvalleyjobcenters.com or calling 920-997-3272.


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Rhyme updates focus with new Pearl Avenue location

By Jennifer Parmley
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Office technology and managed services specialist Rhyme has moved from 641 N. Main St. to 338 Pearl Ave., now working in 6,000 square feet of commercial space in the former Bella Academy of Cosmetology building.

President Mike Steinhoff said the move was needed to better accommodate its flexible workforce, and the type of products and services it's focusing on.

"We wanted to stay in downtown Oshkosh, and the new space was already set up the way we wanted it to be," Steinhoff said.

The building required some light cleaning, paint and new carpeting. It will house a reception area, 13 offices, a conference room, and enough space to showcase some of the office equipment Rhyme sells such as multifunction printers and collaboration displays, for example.

Decor and art will accent the space, including prints illustrating Rhyme's vision, mission and value statements, as well as a

custom piece showing Vince Lombardi holding a football. The meaning behind the print is an homage to the company's former sales director, Steve Ennis, who admired Lombardi's coaching style, which emphasized starting with the basics.

"In our world, that means asking a lot of questions of our customers and learning what they need and how we can help," Steinhoff said. "We don't go in and tell them what they need. We ask them the basics first."

Rhyme has a long history in Wisconsin. According to information on the company's website, Frank A. Rhyme, a pharmacist, opened the first Rhyme Drug in 1886 in Portage. After he passed, his son William Rhyme, took over, assisted by his son, Frank. In 1945, William purchased 400 government surplus typewriters, adding to the lines of office supplies and fur-



Steinhoff



Schneider

niture and services offered by Rhyme Drug.

In the years since, Rhyme acquired other companies, added owners and locations, and expanded its offerings. Steinhoff purchased Rhyme Business Products in August 1999 and added two additional offices in Madison and Janesville. In 2006, he opened the Oshkosh office on Universal Street.

Two years later, Rhyme acquired Advanced Office System as well as Scharpf's Office Products, moving into the Main Street location. In 2009, Rhyme acquired Professional Office Products in Fond du Lac and moved the business to Oshkosh.

Today the company focuses on working with customers and their information technology (IT) needs, Steinhoff said.

"It starts with the network, and everything connected to the network," he said. That includes computers, display screens, cloud-based phones, scanning, printers, security and more.

"We were always a technology company inside of an office products store, and I flipped that around," Steinhoff said, adding that satisfying customers is a top priority. "If they want something, we want to be able to provide it for them, and I encourage our people to be resourceful and to not say no."

Rhyme has 103 employees, nine of which are family members. The leadership team includes Steinhoff, his wife, Kimberly Steinhoff, vice president; daughter Kendall Steinhoff, sales and marketing director; and

Jake Schneider, director of services.

"The thing I like about the company is the people who work here," Schneider said. "Being surrounded by likeminded people, who work hard and want to grow, that genuinely care about each other, and our clients is very special. I like my role because I get the opportunity to help people. I get to create more value for our clients while helping our employees grow within their careers."

Rhyme is heavily involved in the Oshkosh community, serving as a corporate sponsor for several organizations such as UW Oshkosh Titan Athletics, the Oshkosh Area United Way, the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, the Wisconsin Herd and Oshkosh Arena, and the Oshkosh Chamber, to name a few. Its charitable foundation, Rhyme Time, focuses on helping others.

Each year, Rhyme gives scholarships to students who have been touched by cancer. Its Steve Ennis Memorial Golf Classic is one of several events it sponsors.

"Rhyme has always been an excellent community partner and have been great supporters of the Oshkosh Chamber and the overall Oshkosh business community, whether it be through sponsorships, participation at events, or providing resources to their clients and customers," said Rob Kleman, president and CEO of the Oshkosh Chamber. "Mike Steinhoff and his team at Rhyme are difference makers for Oshkosh and he always brings an excellent perspective to the table because of their statewide presence. Mike's dedication to his customers, and his passion and enthusiasm for community are undoubtedly keys to his success."

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Education funding in Wisconsin needs more transparency

It is budget season for school districts, and as such, there is no shortage of social media activity commenting on all matters of K-12 education funding.

For better or for worse, I have dedicated a substantial portion of my professional career to studying and explaining the finer points of education reform and financing in Wisconsin. Most recently I was appointed to serve on a state task-force designing a new K-12 fiscal transparency dashboard for the state.

Alas, that dashboard is not live yet, so I figured I would share a bit here in an attempt to demystify the more confusing aspects of education financing in Wisconsin.

First and foremost, understanding education financing in Wisconsin is particularly difficult because we have a system designed for traditional school districts that is continuously retrofitted to accommodate new models like vouchers, charter schools and the state's open enrollment program. Whatever one's opinion of such reforms, they did not exist when the fundamentals of Wisconsin's education financing system were designed.

Further complicating matters are the political battles surrounding education reform in Wisconsin, funding and regulatory discussions are often proxy political battles, making sound administrative and public policy difficult to come by.

Nonetheless, it is possible to make sense of Wisconsin's education landscape. The most important concept to understand is revenue limits. Just as it sounds, revenue limits dictate how much revenue each pupil in a district generates in combined state aid and local property



Michael Ford

Oshkosh
Common Council

tax. Each school district has a different per-pupil revenue limit, but dollar increases are established by the state Legislature and applied evenly.

For example, if a hypothetical district has a revenue limit of \$10,000 in year one, it means each pupil in the district generates \$10,000 in combined state aid and property tax revenue. If the state sets the revenue limit increase at \$200, it would mean in year two each student generates \$10,200 in state aid and property tax revenue.

In other words, enrollments are the key to generating revenue for a school district.

But what about state aid and the tax levy? Here is where I think many people understandably get confused. Once the overall revenue limit is determined for a school district, the state's equalization aid formula determines how much of a district's revenue limit is funded through state aid, and how much of it is funded through the property tax. I am oversimplifying a bit, but generally the poorer a district is as measured by community property values, the more state aid it receives.

Wealthier communities receive less state aid and are more reliant on the property tax. Another way of thinking about this is that more state aid does not mean

more spending authority for a school district, rather, it usually means property tax relief. Now, districts can exceed their revenue limits if the voters give them permission through a referendum, and there are other exceptions as well.

Finally, districts have the option of levying below the allowable amount, but in practice most districts simply set the levy to use their full revenue limit authority.

The state voucher program adds a further wrinkle to district finances. The program is funded through a state aid reduction to school districts equal to the cost of resident students attending a participating private school using a voucher. According to the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB), this resulted in a \$4,474,269 state aid reduction to the Oshkosh Area School District (OASD) in 2022-2023.

Does this mean there was less money for OASD to spend on their students because of the aid reduction? No. Districts are empowered to levy to offset the voucher aid reduction. As the LFB states in its information paper on school choice, "If a school district chooses to levy to

the maximum [which OASD does], its total resources are unaffected by the aid reduction."

State voucher advocates are pushing to fund 100% of the voucher program with state General Purpose Revenue, which would eliminate the need for a district aid reduction as well as the corresponding property tax levy increase. However, it would not mean more funding for OASD, that would require enrollment increases and/or per-pupil revenue limit increases.

Clear as mud, right? I am a proponent of revamping education finance in Wisconsin in a way that simplifies how money flows, accommodates the funding of reform efforts, and ultimately raises the level of our collective discourse around school finance.

Systems that are this complicated allow half-truths, obfuscations, and confusion to spread. And a system that is not broadly understood will, by definition, not be as effective as possible.

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

UW Oshkosh online programs earn rankings

UW Oshkosh's online programs have been ranked among the best in the state or country in the annual assessment from intelligent.com, a resource for program rankings and higher education planning.

UW Oshkosh's human services degree program earned the highest accolade, landing at No. 3 in the U.S.

Intelligent.com's institutional rankings

are based on academic quality, graduation rate, student resources, cost and return on investment. The rankings of colleges and universities were published last month.

UW Oshkosh is ranked No. 9 for online aeronautics and aviation degree programs, No. 13 for online master's in human services degree programs and No. 30 for online emergency management degree programs.

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Police dealing more with mental health, homeless calls

Chief gives overview on increased priorities

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Police Department is seeing an increase in calls involving a mental health crisis, which it handles with a co-responder team and more mental health crisis training.

Chief of Police Dean Smith recently spoke during a budget workshop as city staff and Common Council members continue their work on the 2024 budget. He said calls for service have gone up in several areas.

There has also been an increase in 911 calls from the public concerned about members of the homeless community. City officers have responded to more than 550 calls this year regarding homelessness.

These calls include people sleeping where they aren't allowed, vandalism and fights. Smith said those calls could be seen more like 1,100 calls for service because most require two officers to respond, with one officer spending a couple of days in the hospital after being bit by a homeless person's dog.

Smith said the department works with members of the homeless population to see what services can be provided to help these people. He also noted the homeless population is growing, partially due to services offered in Oshkosh and Winnebago County that are not offered in more rural areas of the region.

"It's not the fault of the resources that we have in the community – there's no fault at all. It's just that we have resources," Smith said.

"The homeless issue is not a police department issue, nor is it a Day by Day Warming Shelter issue. It's a community issue that we all must work on together."

Some of those calls include assisting at the shelter.

Council member Karl Buelow, who is operations director at the shelter, said the police are called when staff cannot take care of a situation.

"When we're calling OPD it's, of course, when we can't handle it," Buelow said during the budget workshop.

Smith also spoke about the importance of training within the department throughout the year. He said training allows them to be prepared for a plethora of situations they may face.

Annual training includes some mandated by the state and other training based on what the department could be facing.

"Our staff development is incredibly important, especially in these challenging times. Training our police officers and our leadership on the best practices of law enforcement is the forefront of the work that we do administratively," Smith said. "By planning for training in the upcoming year we are able to prepare our officers with the best tools available in law enforcement. This, in turn, provides the most profes-

Three new patrol officers named

The Oshkosh Police Department recently announced the hiring of police cadets Daniel Rucinski, Maggie Steele and Jonathan Ehley as patrol officers. They joined the department June 5 and completed their Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on Oct. 13 through Fox Valley Technical College.

Rucinski, originally from Oshkosh, earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice in May from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and completed an intern-



Oshkosh Media

Police Chief Dean Smith spoke to city staff and council members about operations and the budget last week.

sional police officers that we can for our citizens here in the city of Oshkosh."

Smith said this includes training on de-escalation, implicit bias, crisis intervention and mental health responses.

Mental health response

"Mental health crises are not exclusive to just law enforcement. Helping those in a mental health crisis takes a community," Smith said.

He believes homelessness has two main causes – mental health and substance use issues.

One way the department is handling this increase is with the co-responder team which is composed of a social worker and behavioral health officer. The social worker is a position funded half by the city and half by the Winnebago County Department of Human Services.

The co-responder team took 931 mental health-related calls for service this year, a 228% increase from last year. Of those calls, the team followed up on 490 of them to provide additional resources to those in need.

"It's been a great help to the patrol officers," Smith said. Officers can work on other criminal activity cases as the co-responder team has relieved officers with more than 700 calls.

Smith said he could add a second co-responder team and they would be kept busy with the number of calls received.

Fentanyl in area

There also has been an increase of fentanyl cases in the area. Last year there were 10 overdose deaths in the city. As of this September, there have been 22 overdose deaths, with three pending toxicology reports that could add to the total.

Every officer on the street and member of the Oshkosh Fire Department carries Narcan with them that is used to reverse an opioid overdose.

"If this were not the case our overdose deaths would be tremendously higher," Smith said. "Fentanyl is the lead cause of overdose deaths in Winnebago County." The department's vice and narcotics unit continues to go after drug dealers and human traffickers successfully, Smith said, but added there is more work to be done.

There are several area agencies that make up the Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group or LWAM, which includes OPD and the Winnebago Sheriff's Office and does investigations all over the region.

In 2019, LWAM seized 26.2 grams of fentanyl. In 2022, LWAM seized 7,350 grams.

"It's an astronomical increase in what's coming into our community," Smith said. He added that two milligrams of fentanyl can kill a person.

There are other parts of the OPD budget that include school crossing guards, auxiliary police and capital improvement program (CIP) requests. OPD employs 18 crossing guards with four alternatives to help children safely arrive and depart schools.

Smith said the auxiliary provides free services at public events across the city. The group of volunteers has existed in Oshkosh for 60 years.

For the CIP, the police department is continuing taser replacement that began last year and will continue for the next four years. The department is also requesting an equipment update in the communications community outreach vehicle (CCOV) which serves as a command post in the field during critical incidents.

Smith also mentioned a new program to provide officers with take-home vehicles. This is budgeted to cost \$432,250 every year for the next three years totaling almost \$1.3 million.

Winter coats welcome refugees settling into Valley

Oshkosh Herald

Goodwill North Central Wisconsin (Goodwill NCW) is partnering with World Relief Fox Valley to provide nearly 50 children and adult coats for refugees newly settling into the community.

"We are glad our partners at World Relief reached out to us to help meet this need for refugee families," said Jill Henselin, Goodwill NCW retail leader. "Owning warm winter wear is a critical part of adjusting to a healthy, productive life in Wisconsin."

Daniel Vang, resource coordinator at World Relief Fox Valley, said the coats

could not come at a better time. World Relief Fox Valley welcomes refugees into local communities during the initial resettlement period with services such as basic necessities, securing housing and enrolling children in school.

"We value our partnership with World Relief Fox Valley, which extends beyond meeting basic needs. We also provide skill training sessions that focus on helping refugees transition into the workforce as they look for sustained employment to become financially stable," said Mike Garrigan, manager of programs and partnerships at Goodwill NCW.

Healthy Neighborhoods cites its first Hero honorees

Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods honored its first Neighborhood Heroes at Lakeshore Park's new pavilion recently with discussions of fun-filled neighborhood activities and events.

Tim and Katy Neubauer won the Good Neighbor Hero award for their renovation of the Corbett House in the River East neighborhood. The couple and their family of seven bought a historic Queen Anne

home and are still in the process of bringing it back to its former glory.

The second honor went to Cynthia Thorpe from Menominee South, who won the Volunteer Hero award for providing guidance and support since the association was formed in 2014. She helped with the renovation of the Sea, Sand and Sailor Land playground and the Menominee Park Trail Exercise project.

The Youth Hero award went to Henry Erberhart, also from Menominee South. A skilled sailor, Erberhart offered his services to provide instructions to people wanting to learn how to sail.

The Support Hero award went to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Midtown Neighborhood Association. The

parish has hosted meetings and events for the neighborhood, including picnics, meetings and the 2022 Rock the Block event.

The Common Council recently approved two new neighborhood associations in the city. The Quarry Park neighborhood is directly south of South Park spanning Knapp Street to Ohio Street going south to 18th Street. The Sawyer Creek neighborhood, including Miravida Living's assisted living facilities, is the area south of Red Arrow Park from North Koeller Street to North Sawyer Creek.

"It's awesome to see the neighbors trying to build a community within a community," Mayor Matt Mugerauer said at the council meeting. It brings the number of city neighborhood associations to 25.

Basic Needs Giving Partnership announces local grant winners

The Basic Needs Giving Partnership is awarding \$1.25 million in new grants to 42 organizations across northeast Wisconsin, including at least seven that serve Oshkosh area residents.

Grantees are working in three priority areas — early care and education (birth to 5), housing access, and mental health and substance use. They reflect organizations serving the region's rural, urban and suburban areas by providing direct services as well as organizations working to change the policies and practices that hold poverty in place.

Among those gaining grants were Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, Community for Hope of Greater Oshkosh, Fox Valley Technical College Foundation, Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corp., Oshkosh Community YMCA, Samaritan and Advocap.

The partnership transitioned to a single regional organization this year to centralize and coordinate activities, including grantmaking. This grant cycle marks its first as the evolved Basic Needs Giving Partnership. In addition, \$2.46 million in previously committed multiyear grant awards is being distributed this year through partnerships with local commu-

nity foundations, making for a total of \$3.71 million supporting organizations across the 10-county region.

Grantmaking is supported by funds from the U.S. Venture Open, which this year raised \$4.82 million with all proceeds invested back into the region.

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Students among groups needing to advocate for renter rights

By Chloe Strand
ESTHER STUDENT HOUSING ADVOCATE

According to a 2021 housing study done by the city of Oshkosh, our community has an overall shortage of more than 1,700 housing units. One of the largest shortages is for the almost 6,000 households in Oshkosh making less than \$25,000 a year.

Many college students, retirees and others fall into this income bracket, including myself. We are competing for housing in a market that has a shortage, a shortage especially significant for those in our income bracket. Not only is there this shortage, but many of us constantly fear losing housing.

Just over a year ago, I sent my rent

via a check, but somehow it got lost in the mail. I continued on with my studies and classes, unaware until I got a heart-wrenching email. My rent was never paid.

As someone who has studied the housing crisis for over a year now, I knew what that meant. My mind started spiraling with thoughts of eviction and how I was going to come up with that money for the second time in one month. Thankfully I had family members who were able to loan me money until I got the check back.

That is a privilege I will not take for granted as many individuals do not have that luxury.

Additionally, throughout this past year

I have been able to talk to college students about their concerns surrounding housing. Their three biggest problems are bad living conditions, lack of communication from landlords, and the fear of eviction and retaliation after voicing concerns – a fear I just experienced.

These students are also trying to fight a stereotype that we are poor and may not be able to pay our bills. Although this can be true, does this justify horrible living conditions, lack of communication from landlords, or even retaliation from landlords due to not knowing our housing rights? No.

Now, as an ESTHER housing advocate, I want to show how we can change public policy to support students and other renters, especially those with lower incomes. First, we need support and education for tenants, specifically those who are first-time renters. Second, we need to be able to hold bad landlords accountable, but we also need to support approachable, fair and equitable land-

lords who are working hard to provide affordable housing in our community. Lastly, we need better policies that support renters.

For example, the city of Racine has a program that protects tenants from landlord retaliation for reporting code violations or other nuisance activities. The city of Madison has extended fair housing protections to help those who have an eviction or conviction on their record access housing. The city of Milwaukee has multiple programs to support landlords, particularly new landlords who have just a few properties.

If you would like to see similar programs in Oshkosh, please contact city council members at ci.oshkosh.wi.us/CityCouncil to advocate for change.

If currently a tenant in need of assistance, contact the Winnebago County HELP Program at 920-509-7629 or find more information using the Tenant Resource Center at tenantresourcecenter.org.

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Witzke's site was center of German immigrants' social life

By Lee Reiherzer
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The shuttered Witzke's Bar at 17th and Oregon is an uncertified Oshkosh landmark. And it's falling apart. The building is the last remnant of a historically important site.

This isn't just another forsaken saloon property. This corner was the cultural home of Oshkosh's south side.

Like so many of the early Oshkosh saloons, this one was born in a grocery store. It started in the spring of 1873 after an immigrant from Mecklenburg, Germany, bought the spacious, empty lot at the southeast corner of 17th and Oregon. His name was Henry Schmidt. He was 43 and had recently closed a saloon he had been running on Main Street.

Schmidt had a lot more room down on Oregon. His new property contained better than an acre of land. On the corner of the lot he built a boxy, two-storied, wood-framed structure. Schmidt, wife Maria and their three children lived in the rooms upstairs. Below, they put in a grocery and saloon.

The grocery/saloon combo was already becoming commonplace on the south side. What made this corner different was the field out back where Schmidt planted a beer garden. Southsiders would gather there for the next 40 years.

Schmidt sold the property in 1883, but the essence of the place never changed. The proprietors who came after him were also immigrants from Germanic lands. There were a lot of such folks flocking to Oshkosh.

By the 1870s, more than 30 percent of the city's population was foreign born. The greatest concentration was south of the river, where migrants from Central Europe made up the majority. With them came their culture of pleasure. The saloon and beer garden at 17th and Oregon was a welcoming spot where they could relax, foster a sense of community, and feel at home again.

The name of the beer garden changed with each succeeding proprietor. First, it was Schmidt's Garden, and when he left it became Thom's Garden. After Augusta Thom took over the business, she renamed it the White Clover Summer Garden. Later, it was Scherck's Grove, Abrams Beer Garden, and then Bork's Park. Whatever the name, the beer garden was always about more than beer.

This was the south side's summer resort. Music and dancing were almost always part of the attraction. The Sunday afternoon sessions featured Oshkosh's most popular bands. Among them were the Arion Band, the American Cornet Band and the Acme Orchestra.

If there wasn't music, there might be boxing matches, gymnastics exhibitions or roller skating. There were Oktoberfest celebrations in the fall, and on May Days and Labor Days crowds would gather there to hear pro-labor speakers urge them to organize for better pay and working conditions. All that free-flowing Gemütlichkeit



Photo from Lee Reiherzer

The closed Witzke's Bar at 17th Avenue and Oregon Street holds a long and storied history on the city's south side.

didn't sit well with some Yankee elites living north of the river. Complaints from the American-born upper crust were common from the start.

In the summer of 1880, the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern ran a slanted article suggesting the city council should shut the place down. The paper smeared beer-garden goers as "the roughs who congregate there every Sunday." The so-called "roughs" included women, children and people of every age.

The bigotry was served with a side of moralism. "Our German citizens" at "their beer garden in the south wood" were accused of having too much fun on Sundays.

On the north side, they thumped their pulpits and demanded that the Sabbath be kept sacred, free from the stain of vice and worldly concerns.

The southsiders paid no heed. Many of them labored 60-70 hours a week in grim lumber mills. Sunday was the one day they had for themselves. They would spend it as they pleased.

The nattering died down by the turn of the century. Even the gray Daily Northwestern managed to concede a degree of appreciation for "the German with his long-stemmed pipe and a big stein of beer in front of him, the picture of solid comfort." But the compliments also missed

their mark. On the "Brooklyn" side of town it wasn't all pipes and beer steins. They were working to create their own rendition of the American Dream.

Oregon and South Main streets became the domain of German-speaking merchants and their butcher shops, grocery stores, carriage works and saloons. Near the beer garden were Oshkosh's two largest breweries. Both were run by German immigrants who teamed up in 1894 to form the Oshkosh Brewing Company. The president of OBC, Bavarian-born August Horn, decided that the south side's cherished resort was due for an upgrade.

The Oshkosh Brewing Co. purchased the saloon and beer garden in January 1897. A wholesale renovation of the property began in the summer of 1901. The beer garden pavilion was replaced with a 600-square-foot dance hall. Henry Schmidt's old grocery and saloon was gutted and given a Queen Anne makeover. At the roof line of the tavern you can still see the Oshkosh Brewing sign. The turret added to the northwest corner of the building remains a familiar beacon more than 120 years later.

In 1914, the saloon took on the name that most people in Oshkosh still know it by. "Witzke's" was coined by August Herman Friedrich "Fuddy" Witzke. He was 33 and cut from the same cloth as the saloon keepers who came to that corner before him. Witzke, though, would face a challenge his predecessors could not have imagined. But they certainly would have admired his response.

This is the first of three parts on the extensive history of the Witzke's location. Lee Reiherzer has been writing about Oshkosh's beer and its brewing history since 2010 when he launched the Oshkosh Beer website. He is co-author of "The Breweries of Oshkosh" and author of "Winnebago County Beer."

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Project plans

FROM PAGE 1

back to the car to collect their things and move into their new home for the next 18 months.

“They were walking back to the car and the kids start crying and saying, ‘Mom, no car, no car.’ They didn’t realize they were getting their belongings to move into the village,” Deppiessé said. “They had been living in the car for quite some time. Those are things that families go through and we’re able to help them out.”

Plans were put in place and now the THV has 32 homes on the West Packer Avenue lot. Each home is 392 square feet with two bedrooms and a bathroom. All floor plans are the same but painted in a handful of different colors so they don’t look identical. They have standard appliances – refrigerator, oven and stove – TV and a phone landline.

Residents can live there for up to 18 months and have access to programs to help them become and remain financially independent and have a plan when it comes time to move out.



Oshkosh Herald

The former Oshkosh Northwestern building was purchased in 2021 and the new owner’s investment could see it turn into a hotel with a bar-restaurant and retail store.

As Rotary Club members listened to Rodgers explain the progress with his properties and businesses in the area, there was one other building he noted at the very end – the former Oshkosh

Northwestern location.

He purchased the newspaper building built in 1929 at 224 State St. in 2021 and since then has been going over potential plans for the 57,000-square-foot space. He said there will be a bar and Italian restaurant on the first floor to be named The Truffle Pig Ristorante.

“It will probably be the biggest and grandest bar in all of Wisconsin,” Rodgers said. “We’ve got good bartenders here; we’re good at that.”

Rodgers said he will have an Italian chef working in the restaurant. He joked they haven’t found that person yet, but will be Italian. Other plans include turning a former boardroom into a private event space that will utilize the bar and restaurant.

“The main floors – that’s all marble and

granite,” Rodgers said in describing the interior of the building, which includes a marble green and pink stairway.

Plans for the second floor include a 30-room hotel and space for retail shops. Rodgers said there is potential for a women’s clothing store with options for other shops such as a barber and tailor. He called it a tremendous opportunity to renovate the historic building.

Construction on the Northwestern is scheduled to begin later this year. It’s expected to be completed by late 2025 or early 2026.

Another venture for Rodgers is TJs Destination Oshkosh, a home rental business with eight properties around Lake Winnebago that includes the Kalbus House, which sits on the Kalbus Country Harbor Campground.



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Saturday Session on November 18th


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*For grades 6 – 12



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Saturday, November 11
 Anytime 11 AM – 2 PM

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Children 3 & under receive free admission. Family Discovery Days are free with Museum admission and for Museum members.



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<p>2/\$6 52 oz Simply Juice or Mixology</p> <p>1.79 14.5-24 oz Select Prego Pasta Sauce</p> <p>4/\$3 16 oz Food Club Pasta</p>	<p>2/\$6 Cedar Crest Ice Cream</p> <p>2/\$4 General Mills Chex Cereal</p>

prices in this ad good wednesday 11/8/23 thru tuesday 11/14/23

grocery essentials

<p>2/\$5 8-8.2 oz Family Size Idahoan Potatoes</p> <p>3.49 5 lb Gold Medal Flour</p> <p>2.99 24 oz Syrup or 32 oz Pearl Milling Pancake Mix</p>	<p>2.99 9-16.6 oz Select Kellogg's Cereal</p> <p>3/\$3 14.5 oz Swanson Broth</p>
<p>2.99 28 oz Betty Crocker Mashed Potatoes</p> <p>2/\$5 8-12 oz Hershey's Baking Chips or 4 oz Baker's Chocolate</p> <p>3.69 15.8 oz or 6 ct Thomas' Bagels or Muffins or 6.8-13.8 oz Entenmann's Snack Cakes</p>	<p>3.69 5-12 ct Kellogg's Pop-Tarts</p> <p>2.99 5.5-13 oz Ruffles or Tostitos</p>
<p>2/\$6 32 oz Clamato Tomato Juice or 8 pk or 64 oz Mott's Apple Juice</p> <p>2/\$5 64 oz Select Old Orchard or Langers Juice</p> <p>6.99 11-12 oz or 10-12 ct Cups Select Dunkin' or Folgers Coffee</p>	<p>7.99 24.5-30.65 oz Select Maxwell House Coffee</p> <p>3.19 20oz Village Hearth Italian or 24 oz Pennsylvania Dutch Potato Bread 18-22 oz or 16oz Country Hearth Cinnamon Raisin or English Muffin Bread.... 4.19</p>
<p>2/\$5 6 pk Mott's Applesauce</p> <p>1.79 2 pk Gerber 2nd Foods Graduates Snacks... 2.69</p> <p>2/\$5 6-10 pk Quaker Chewy or Sunbelt Bakery Bars</p> <p>2/\$5 6-10 pk Betty Crocker or Mott's Fruit Snacks</p>	<p>2/\$7 45.5-50 oz Arm & Hammer Liquid Detergent</p> <p>6.99 4 Double Roll Brawny Paper Towel or 6 Mega Roll Quilted Northern Bath Tissue</p>
<p>2/\$4 15 oz Squeeze Bottle RealLemon or RealLime Juice</p> <p>1.79 6 oz Select PEARLS Ripe Olives</p> <p>1.29 5 oz Olive Garden CROUTONS or 4 oz Mrs. CUBBISON'S CROUTONS or Tortilla Strips</p> <p>4.99 10 oz - Chopped or Halves & Pieces Fisher Walnuts</p> <p>7.49 10 oz - Chopped or Halves Fisher Pecans.....</p>	<p>5.99 3 pk Puffs Facial Tissue</p> <p>4.99 16 oz Powerwash or 24.3 oz Dawn EZ Squeeze Dish Soap</p>
<p>2/\$5 15 oz Alfredo or 23.5-24 oz Rinaldi Pasta Sauce</p> <p>2.49 7.5 oz or 10 oz On-the-Border Popcorn or Jay's Potato Chips</p> <p>2/\$5 7.5-10 oz Hormel Compleats</p> <p>3.99 16 oz Lawry's Seasoned Salt</p>	<p>2/\$7 12 oz or 24 ct Vicks VapoRub Sleep Aid... 7.99</p> <p>5.49 11-25 ct Select Cascade Dishwasher Detergent</p>

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STRAWBERRY
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64 oz
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8 ct Original, Light or
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Cheese Wedges

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5.02-6.4 oz Brown 'N Serve
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Breakfast Links,
Patties or Meals

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25.10-33.75 oz
Brew Pub
Stuffed Crust or
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32 oz
Coffee-Mate
Creamers

3.99
1 lb
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Butter Quarters

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Philadelphia
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Dole
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8 oz
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16 oz Individually Wrapped
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2/\$9
8-11 oz Select
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16 oz
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4.19
Pint
Prairie Farms
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2.69
Quart
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Singles, or 9.1-10 oz Screamin'
Sicilian Stromboli or Pizza Singles

2.29
16 oz
Daisy
Sour Cream

3.29
9-12 oz - Individually Wrapped
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or Snack Sticks

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2 ct, 9 in
Food Club
Pie Crust

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24.5-40 oz
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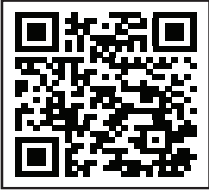
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2/\$3 14-24 ct Simply Done Zipper Freezer or Storage Bags	2.49 250 ct Simply Done Napkins	2.69 22-48 ct Simply Done Designer Bowls or Plates	4.99 12 Double Roll Simply Done Bath Tissue or 2 Double Roll Paper Towels	3.99 100 ct TopCare Ibuprofen

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2/\$6 24 pk, 10 oz Bottles Piggly Wiggly Water WITH CARD	7.99 6 pk, 10 oz Bottles Jack Daniels Country Cocktails	21.49 24 pk, 12 oz Cans or Bottles Coors Banquet, MGD, Miller 64, Miller Lite or Coors Light LOWEST LEGAL RETAIL 3000 pig points Save 10¢ Per Gallon of Gas!	16.99 12 pk, 12 oz Cans Bud Light Seltzer	10.69 12 pk, 12 oz Cans Miller Lite, MGD or Miller 64 AFTER \$10 MAIL-IN REBATE WHEN PURCHASED ONE 750 ML BOTTLE, CROWN ROYAL AND ONE 12 PK MILLER FAMILY TOGETHER.
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 3.99 3 lb Bag Wisconsin Empire, Gala or Cortland Apples	 2.49 12 oz Bag Wisconsin Cranberries	 2.49 ea 16 oz POM Wonderful 100% Pom Juice... 2.99 ea	 1.49 lb Wisconsin Premium McIntosh or Cortland Apples
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 2/\$4.50 8 oz Whole White Mushrooms	 2/\$7 5 oz Baby Salad Blends	 4/\$5 Yellow, Orange or Red Bell Peppers	 2/\$3 Seedless Cucumbers
---	---	---	--

 1.69 lb California Cauliflower	 1.29 lb Jumbo Sweet Onions	 2.99 5 lb Bag Wisconsin Red or Gold Potatoes	 1.99 5 oz Fresh Gourmet Salad Croutons
--	--	--	--

meat & seafood

 2.49 LB 3 lb or More Boneless/Skinless Fresh Chicken Breasts	 3.99 12-16 oz Select Varieties Farmland Sliced Bacon
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 5.99 24 oz Schweigert Cooked Brats	 1.99 8-12 oz Select Varieties Farmland Sausage Links or Rolls	 3.99 14 oz Zatarain Sausage
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 1.69 LB Sugardale Ham Shank Portion Butt Portion..... 1.89 lb	 2.79 LB Frozen Turkey Breast
 5.99 LB Oven Ready Homestyle Meatloaf	 7.99 LB Beef Pinwheels

Calendar of events

Wednesday, Nov. 8

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

Friday, Nov. 10

Costaki Economopoulos comedy show, 6 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

"Late Night Catechism," 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

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

Ryan Hader & the Backward Echo, 7 p.m., Arise Balanced Wellness, 1810 Evans St.

Saturday, Nov. 11

Veterans Day services, 10:45 a.m., American Legion Post 70, 1332 Spruce

St.

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

Oshkosh Blood Drive, 7 a.m., 2100 Omro Road

Craft sale, 10 a.m., Oshkosh Town Hall, 230 E. County Y

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

Holiday Wonders Shopping Expo & Craft Fair, 10 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Holiday Open House, 9 a.m., House of Flowers, 1920 Algoma Blvd.

A Helping of Hope fundraiser, 5:30 p.m., Oshkosh Masonic Center

Bad Habitz, 8 p.m., Revs Bowl Bar & Grill, 275 N. Washburn St.

Cranksgiving, 3 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Fantastic: A Tribute to Elton John, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

"All About Eve," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Sean and Brittany, 8 p.m., Anjie's Bar, 413 Ohio St.

Sunday, Nov. 12

Holiday Craft Show, 10 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

Bowl for Kids' Sake, 1 p.m., Revs Bowl Bar & Grill, 275 N. Washburn St.

Tuesday, Nov. 14

Dueling Pianos, 5:30 p.m., Oshkosh Country Club

AAUW program on child care crisis, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Food Co-op

Wednesday, Nov. 15

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

Jonny T-Bird, 6 p.m., Water City Pub, 216 N. Main St.

Thursday, Nov. 16

Aviation Adventure Speaker Series: Blue Angels Panel, 7 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum

NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) event, 5 p.m., Caramel Crisp Corner, 200 City Center

Valley Jazz Institute student jam, 6:30 p.m., The Waters, 1393 Washington Ave.

Wisconsin Herd vs. Iowa Wolves, 6

p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Friday, Nov. 17

Fancifool with Ananda Bena-Weber, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

"Ghosts on the Loose," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

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

Saturday, Nov. 18

Craft/bake sale, 8 a.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2450 W. 9th Ave.

Lourdes Academy Craft Show, 8 a.m., 110 N. Sawyer St.

Fancifool Kids with Ananda Bena-Weber, 2 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Wisconsin Herd vs. Iowa Wolves, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

"Planes, Trains and Automobiles," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Sixx Guns Loaded, 8 p.m., Water City Pub, 216 N. Main St.

Sunday, Nov. 19

Fox Valley Vintage Fest, noon, Oshkosh Convention Center

Festival Foods marks 16 years for Turkey Trot

Festival Foods will celebrate 16 years of the Turkey Trot this Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, to benefit local Boys & Girls Clubs and YMCAs.

There are 11 locations across Wisconsin, including Oshkosh, with more than 30,000 participants. Turkey Trot has raised more than \$3.9 million overall with the help of about 1,700 volunteers each year – about 120 of them in Oshkosh.

This year's Oshkosh event will move to the Oshkosh Seniors Center's North building with more room and parking.

Parking will be available at Fox Valley Technical College, UW Oshkosh on Witzel Ave and Verve.

The two-mile route will be reversed from last year to provide a start nearer the parking lots, and the five-mile route will run through the UWO campus.

Oshkosh North student Joshua Hawley will sing the National Anthem before the run/walk starts at North Campbell Road and Dempsey Trail. There will be a timed five-mile run, a two-mile fun run, two-mile walk, two-mile dog jog or the home

edition.

Bib and T-shirt pickup will be at the Seniors Center north building from 2 to 6 p.m. Nov. 22 and from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Nov. 23. The five-mile run will start first at 8 a.m., followed by the two-mile run, two-mile walk and dog jog.

Those who participate also receive a 6-inch pie and a T-shirt, coupons, post-race snacks and a race day bib. Pies can be donated to a local charity.

To register, volunteer or for more information go to festivalfoodsturkeytrot.com.

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Submitted photo

Quilting field trip

Winnebago Audubon and Wild Ones Fox Valley Chapter are hosting an indoor field trip Nov. 16 at Evergreen Retirement Community with Anita Carpenter, a local naturalist who has authored Winnebago Audubon's Badger Tracks nature column for 40 years. She also creates original nature-themed quilts that she will present that include a boreal forest, desert and coral reef among others. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. with a social time and the presentation at 7 p.m.

World's top axe, knife throwers will be returning to Fox Valley

Oshkosh Herald

With the Fox Valley becoming the center of the competitive axe and knife-throwing world for a second straight year, regional competitors will be part of that four-day tournament set for Nov. 9-12.

Christine Clemetson, who competes out of 608 Axe Throwing in Oshkosh – previously Blades and Boards – will be axe throwing in the amateur division.

The World Axe Throwing League (WATL) and World Knife Throwing League (WKTL) are hosting their first USA Pro-Am Championships at the Fox Cities Exhibition Center in Appleton after holding the 2022 World Axe & Knife Throwing Championships there last December.

“WATL/WKTL is so excited to come back to Appleton again. This time we are not only bringing the top axe throwers in the world, but also the top amateurs, who will battle it out to make the main stage on Sunday to be broadcast on ESPN,” said Mike Morton, WATL commissioner.

The leagues are composed of more than 350 companies representing venues on every continent and membership topping 20,000 players. The Pro-Am is expected to attract more than 300 throwers from 38 states, Canada and Great Britain competing for \$40,000 in prizes.

The Pro-Am will focus on throwers of various skill levels, marking the first step toward multiple divisions of throwing competition. Nine different events will be held during the Pro-Am Championship with the finals of each division broadcast on ESPN.



Photo from 608 Axe Throwing

Regional competitors will be part of the USA Pro-Am Championships at the Fox Cities Exhibition Center.

“We have some incredibly exciting new skills games and new targets to challenge our competitors in every way and in every discipline, and they will compete as teams to crown the best overall in the skills competition,” Morton said.

Throwing begins with the pro competition at 6 p.m. Nov. 9. The knife and amateur competitions start at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., respectively, Nov. 10. Skills competitions begins Nov. 11 along with the Commissioner's Cup and the Spicy Duals competition later in the day. The finals will be taped Nov. 12 for broadcast on the ESPN family of networks; doors open at 10 a.m. with competition starting an hour later.

The public is encouraged to attend the weekend of events, which are free from 9 a.m. to about 8 p.m. Sunday's Finals will be ticketed with a capacity of about 400 spectators.

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Submitted photo

Piano students from the Fox Valley will all take the stage at UW Oshkosh's Music Hall for a Monster Concert this Saturday.

Piano Monster Concert set at UWO Music Hall

For the first time since 2018, an Oshkosh stage will be decked out with six pianos and dozens of pianists performing simultaneously in a "Monster Concert" at 7 p.m. Saturday at the UW Oshkosh Arts and Communications Music Hall.

Twenty duets and trios will be performed en masse, showcasing more than 50 piano students and teachers from the area. The program features an array of arrangements for four to six hands per piano, including John William's "Cantina Band" from Star Wars, "You'll Be Back" from Lin-Manuel Miranda's "Hamilton," Jerry Lee Lewis' "Great Balls of Fire" and a special tribute to veterans with "America the Beautiful" and "Fly With Eagles."

Thousands of musicians from the area have taken part in the 13 previous Monster Concerts since 1990.

This is the second performance co-hosted by the Fox Valley Music Teachers and Oshkosh Area Music Teachers Associations, and co-sponsored by UW Oshkosh and Heid Music, who are providing the venue, grand pianos and digital keyboards.

Proceeds will benefit, in part, a scholarship and continuing education fund for local students and teachers.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10, or three for \$25, and may be purchased in advance at Heid Music stores in Oshkosh and Appleton or at the door.

Novel writing month marked at Caramel Crisp

NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) will be celebrated Nov. 16 at the Caramel Crisp Bookstore with a writing event starting at 5 p.m.

Local authors Ursula Klein and Char-

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Laws protect first responders on roads

The Wisconsin State Patrol's November Law of the Month reminds drivers of the laws they must follow to create a safety zone for emergency crews on the highway.

Wisconsin's Move Over law requires drivers to move out of the lane closest to emergency and roadside service vehicles that are stopped along a highway with their warning lights activated. If you can't move over, you must slow down.

Drivers also cannot use a handheld phone while passing through a highway maintenance or construction area, in a utility work area, or emergency or roadside response area. Fines double for certain violations in an emergency response area, which is defined as 500 feet surrounding an emergency vehicle.

Last year, 326 on duty workers were hurt and five were killed in crashes across Wisconsin. Those incidents often occur when crews are responding to a crash or other highway incident.

A crash scene can turn dangerous quickly for law enforcement, EMS, or fire crews, because of the risk of secondary crashes. There have been more than 4,000 secondary crashes in Wisconsin since 2018. Those involved in a crash and first responders are in greater danger in inclement weather and when other drivers are following too closely or not paying attention to traffic.

Crash Responder Safety Week, Nov. 13-17, is a nationwide effort to call attention to the risks first responders face on duty.

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Old-growth wood both beautiful and sustainable

By Shirley Brabender Mattox
LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEMBER

Oshkosh – Sawdust City – built its early economy on wood and the manufacturing of wood products.

Trees in pristine forests covered much of northern Wisconsin; they grew more slowly due to the density and competition for light from other trees. This old-growth timber that were hundreds of years old has extremely tight growth rings.

The result is a hard and sturdy wood with many wonderful properties – it is rot resistant; it is more stable and does not contract and expand; it is stronger and can bear heavy loads; it is more termite resistant, good news for framing, siding, and windows; it will last hundreds of years.

Unfortunately, these old-growth forests were heavily logged. There are seven small old-growth forests still preserved in Wisconsin.

Old-growth timber was used by Oshkosh sawmills and manufacturers of the



many wood products used in building our homes, which included windows and sash, interior and exterior doors, flooring, porch and stairwork (columns, newels, balusters, railings, stair treads, risers), lath, blinds and shutters, mouldings, mantels, medicine cabinets, breakfast nooks, built-in ironing boards, china cabinets, colonnades, buffets, sideboards, book cases, beam ceiling, rafter ends, garage doors and many more items.

A 2019 Oshkosh inventory of buildings included 18,315 residences; 8,045 were built before 1940; that's more than 42% of the city. Today, owners of our older Oshkosh homes are fortunate to have old-growth wood siding, hardwood floors, windows, and all the beautiful woodwork manufactured by proud Oshkosh workers.



Submitted photo

New-growth lumber at left next to an example of old-growth lumber dated from 1918.

If your house was built before 1940 much of the wood might be old-growth wood. The older the house the better the chance you'll find it.

So, before you remove some of that "old" wood, consider that it might be worth saving, maintaining and preserving. It is an investment that can be rewarding as you save your historic home.

The warm patina of old-growth lumber really is an awesome part of living in an old house. What makes it the most valuable is that they just don't make it anymore.

Oshkosh has a real treasure in its older homes built with wood products, made in Oshkosh. We can save these homes, one by one.



Submitted photo

"The Beautiful Door" was a Morgan Door Co. advertisement from 1914.

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Chamber of Commerce names two new coordinators

The Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce has named two new coordinators to its team.

Maureen Lasky has been appointed as concierge coordinator for a new program being launched, while Shannon Seaman joins as the education and talent coordinator.



Lasky

The new concierge resource offers employer services to enhance talent recruitment and retention efforts along with onboarding new talent. The program is designed to offer thoughtful integration to newcomers, showcasing quality of life and community amenities through custom-

ized experiences and relevant information based on the candidate's needs.



Seaman

Lasky returns to the Chamber after previously serving as the first full-time downtown business improvement manager in 2010. Her new role is aimed at business recruitment and retention.

"I've always considered myself a community advocate, and now in this new position, I believe I will be able to use my experiences to help newcomers see Oshkosh as the best place in northeast Wisconsin to live, work, and play," she said.

EAA flight training scholarships available

The application process is now open until March 1 for the 2024 EAA Aviation Scholarships, including flight training and postsecondary scholarships available to everyone over age 16.

Flight training scholarships help cover the costs at any flight school in the United States or Canada that is not a university program.

Postsecondary scholarships help pay for collegiate-level programs in the United States including but not limited to aerospace or aeronautical engineering,

aviation business administration, air traffic control, aviation maintenance, professional flight, or any aviation-related STEM field.

"The costs of training and education can be one of the biggest challenges students face when trying to achieve their goals," said Becca Greskoviak, EAA scholarship and fund steward coordinator. "EAA is able to help break down that barrier through our scholarship program."

More information is available at EAA.org/Scholarships.

UW Oshkosh graduates

Several University of Wisconsin Oshkosh students from Oshkosh earned their degrees after completion of May-term or summer coursework. They include:

Tammy Alger, master of science in education, literacy

Victoria Boushele, master of science in education, literacy

Soraya Esquivel, associate of arts and science

Brooke Fisher, bachelor of science, radiologic science

Lisa Helbing, master of science in education, literacy

Royce Hunstad, master of business administration

Lou Jaeger, bachelor of music, music industry and audio production

Jade Kaenel, bachelor of science in edu-

cation, special education-early childhood

Benjamin Kleist, master of business administration

Derek Kroll, bachelor of business administration, supply chain management

Jordyn Nenno, bachelor of science, radiologic science

Sarah Oswald, master of science in education, literacy

Brandon Rothe, bachelor of science, exercise & sport science

Kristin Sutton, master of social work, mental health care practice

Heather Swenson, master of science in education, literacy

Lindsay Wolf, graduate certificate, educational administration for principal licensure

City budget

FROM PAGE 1

"The projected tax rate is \$12.50, an increase of \$0.38 per \$1,000 of assessed value," Rohloff wrote. "The final rate will be subject to final values due from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue."

City officials are anticipating the \$2 million in shared state revenue will help offset projected revenue losses and expense increases due to inflation.

The council heard from each department during the workshops held last week over two days.

Mayor Matt Mugerauer described the budget workshop as a "high-level overview" of departments from the department heads. Council members heard from city staff about the individual department activities as well as upcoming projects.

The budget public hearing along with the Nov. 14 budget vote will be available to view on Oshkosh Media.

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collaborate on workforce development programs with educational institutions and the Oshkosh business community, including Oshkosh public schools, Lourdes Academy, Valley Christian School, Fox Valley Technical College and UW Oshkosh. She has a bachelor's degree in art in graphic design from UW-Stout and owns EllaFisch Seafood with husband Aaron.

Seaman will also work with the Ampli-

fy Oshkosh Consortium to develop and implement programs that support the region's technology sector.

"We are very excited to welcome Maureen and Shannon to our Oshkosh Chamber team," said president and chief executive Rob Kleman. "Their talent, expertise and experience will be very beneficial in advancing our education, workforce and talent development efforts."

Higher education scholarships get focus

The state's Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) and Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) announced that Gov. Tony Evers has proclaimed November as National Scholarship Month, part of a nationwide effort to raise awareness about the vital role scholarships play in reducing student loan debt and expanding access to higher education.

"Scholarships play an essential role in paying for college by providing free funds for students that can help minimize student loan debt," said DFI secretary-designee Cheryll Olson-Collins. "Many students end their college years with thousands of dollars in student loan debt. Although loans are sometimes necessary, students don't want to graduate with the burden of excessive debt, so it's important to take time now to research and apply for scholarships. It will be time well spent."

"Scholarships are considered gift aid meaning they do not need to be repaid, and unlike grants, eligibility for scholarships is usually based on merit or achievement, rather than financial need," said HEAB Executive Secretary Connie Hutchison.

Some tips to help students and families

secure scholarships for higher education:

- To qualify for federal student financial aid, including scholarships, students and families must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible.

- Scholarships aren't just for athletes and valedictorians. There are scholarships for nearly every interest, hobby, or background. Search for scholarships on the DFI's grants and scholarships webpage and the HEAB's website.

- Many scholarships are for students already enrolled. Whether a high school senior, current college student, or graduate school student, research and apply for scholarships each year.

- Most scholarships will not provide a full ride, but every little bit helps. Every scholarship dollar used to pay for college is a dollar that doesn't need to come out of pocket or be borrowed.

- Be aware that legitimate scholarships don't charge fees of any kind, they never guarantee money to applicants, and they don't create a sense of urgency to apply beyond meeting the deadline.

For additional information, visit the DFI and HEAB websites.

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Pandemic brings telehealth boom, but barriers linger

By Hina Suzuki and Tyler Katzenberger
WISCONSIN WATCH

Marshfield Medical Center family nurse practitioner Brianna Czaikowski says telehealth appointments are a game-changer for some patients. But in serving a mostly rural community, Czaikowski often fights spotty connections and miscommunication when providing virtual care.

“They feel a lot that I’m talking over them, which sometimes I probably am because (of) the delay,” said Czaikowski, a doctor of nursing practice and pediatric urology specialist who sees patients as far away as Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. “You’re not getting that full connection.”

Fresh off a COVID-19 pandemic boom, telehealth is increasingly connecting Wisconsinites living in remote areas to a web of health resources. Telehealth claims in 2020 swelled to a 6.3% share of total claims in Wisconsin — an increase of more than 2,400% from the previous year, according to a report from the Wisconsin Health Information Organization. Some northern counties reported high gains compared with the rest of the state.

Helping fuel that growth is the federal government’s COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration, which eased regulatory barriers that previously blocked telehealth access. That included relaxing rules for certain prescriptions and changing regulations pertaining to appointments and reimbursement for those on Medicare or Medicaid.

But lingering gaps in broadband access continue to limit services in many rural communities, where telehealth use lags behind better-connected urban communities.

Meanwhile, the federal government

ended its emergency declaration in May, leaving questions about how long some telehealth flexibilities will last. Legislation made some changes permanent, but others are set to expire by the end of 2024 or before.

Without action, some of the state’s most vulnerable patients could lose telehealth options they gained during the pandemic.

After the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March 2020, the Biden administration announced initial telehealth flexibilities that Congress further expanded temporarily — igniting a 63-fold increase in Medicare patients seeking telehealth services that year, according to a federal Department of Health and Human Services report.

Pandemic-era changes, for instance, allowed all eligible Medicare providers to deliver telehealth services that patients could access in their home and outside of previously designated rural areas. The changes waived geographic restrictions on telehealth services and increased options to receive them.

The changes cleared a “huge hurdle” that previously blocked telehealth growth, said Mary DeVany, associate director for the Great Plains Telehealth Resource and Assistance Center.

The pandemic ushered in significant growth for telehealth services for behavioral and mental health. And it has also increased options for certain types of primary care, DeVany said. Remote patient monitoring software, for instance, allows doctors to keep tabs on weight, blood pressure and other vital signs for patients with chronic health conditions, meaning patients with chronic conditions need less

frequent hospital or clinic visits.

Telehealth has its limitations. “We can’t see certain things that we could see in the office,” Czaikowski said. That could include immediately spotting signs of child abuse or diagnosing ailments that might not be on a patient’s radar.

But expanded telehealth options have proved “really beneficial” for Czaikowski’s patients in many ways. Although most of her patients still use in-person visits, she said, telehealth visits allow families to check in more often or get simple diagnoses without having to pull their kids out of school and drive long distances for a short in-person visit.

“I see people from Michigan,” Czaikowski said. “They have to drive six hours just to see me. And then to have a 10-minute visit and tell them that their kid is just constipated? Or that they wet the bed — okay, here’s your medicine. That’s a lot for the families to have to give up.”

But not all telehealth options are equal — or accessible to all.

Czaikowski conducts telehealth appointments over video or phone. She prefers video appointments when possible, allowing her to see patients and keep their attention. But she said the majority of telehealth patients she treats rely only on phone calls. That’s in line with national trends among rural patients.

“People will call you from work or when they’re driving and not really give you their full attention,” Czaikowski said. “You have to be really talented in what questions you ask as a provider.”

While phone visits work well for those with less tech literacy or working parents with multiple kids at home, they reduce opportunities for children to communicate health information that parents might not think or want to mention, Czaikowski said.

“The kids tell the truth. When we’re on the (phone) visit, you don’t really hear the kids, it’s more the parent.”

Poor internet service ranks among the top reasons Czaikowski’s patients choose phone appointments over video, which generally should work at download speeds of 25 megabits per second and upload speeds of 3 Mbps — the federal standard for broadband access.

Nearly 22% of rural Wisconsinites lack adequate broadband services — a rate far above the rest of the state, according to a 2021 Federal Communications Commission report. And data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey show 38% of low-income households in Wisconsin lack an internet subscription.

State leaders are working on solutions.

In 2020 Democratic Gov. Tony Evers established the Governor’s Task Force on Broadband Access, which assists rural communities, many with older populations that want high-quality internet but don’t know where to start.

“They didn’t mind not having broadband, maybe they didn’t see the importance of it,” task force chair Chris Meyer said. “But as their communities age, telehealth suddenly becomes a reason.”

Telecommunications companies find it more lucrative to provide broadband to densely populated urban areas. For-profit businesses happily make the initial, and often heavy, infrastructure investment because they expect to have a large customer base.

But sparsely populated areas are less enticing for private companies. The cost of burying miles of fiber optic cables — one of the fastest and most reliable ways to deliver the internet — can be prohibitive. While a mile of internet service could serve hundreds of homes in a metropolitan area, it would cover only a few homes in northern Wisconsin, Meyer said.

Wisconsin has directed at least \$340 million to broadband expansion and connected about 390,000 people to the internet since Evers launched the task force, Meyer said. The state had previously spent about \$20 million.

Despite the task force’s increase in spending, Meyer said many people, especially those in northern Wisconsin, have yet to gain high-speed service.

Without broadband access, telehealth is “not a cure-all,” said Kirk Moore, covering Wisconsin’s navigator who connects northern Wisconsinites to health insurance.

“Just to be able to take on the task of telehealth is a barrier.”

Meanwhile, low-income rural Wisconsinites may not make full use of the internet even after fiber optic cables arrive in their communities.

Rural households tend to earn less than urban households in Wisconsin, federal data show. And while a growing share of rural Wisconsinites own a computer, Moore said, “they have a computer but they don’t have the broadband access to be able to hook up to a physician or a behavioral health person through a video.”

The federal government made some telehealth flexibilities permanent before the emergency declaration ended, particularly for those related to behavioral and mental health. Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics, for instance, may continue providing such services to Medicare patients without previous geographic restrictions — including over audio-only platforms.

Deer meat donation program promoted

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages hunters to donate Wisconsin-harvested deer through the DNR’s Deer Donation Program. The program helps stock food pantries for the upcoming holiday season and supports residents in need.

Since the program began in 2000, hunters have donated 98,000 deer, totaling more than 3.9 million pounds of venison.

Wisconsin has a network of venison donation partners, including county land and water conservation departments, food pantries, charitable organizations, USDA-Wildlife Services and participating meat processors, who all help implement and administer the program.

“This is a great opportunity for hunters to showcase their sportsmanship and help

individuals in their local communities facing food insecurity,” said DNR program administrator Grace Nugent. According to data from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, more than 900,000 Wisconsin residents received food assistance in 2022. “There is a big demand for venison provided through the Deer Donation Program, and we are hopeful hunters will continue to donate their deer and help those in need.”

Hunters and non-hunters may also support the Deer Donation Program through a monetary donation at any Wisconsin Hunting License sales location or online through their Go Wild account.

Visit dnr.wisconsin.gov to learn more about the program.

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UWO volleyball keeps winning during magical season

Women's team success based on tight bonds

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Every team sets out to win every game on its schedule, but rarely do coaches expect their squads to go undefeated.

Jon Ellman didn't enter the 2023 season. The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh volleyball coach liked the makeup, depth and talent on his team, but an always tough conference as well as a top-flight nonconference slate had Ellman being realistic about his team's chances.

"My question would have been if we had a chance to make it into the NCAA Tournament with 10-12 losses because our schedule is so tough," Ellman said last week. "We are surely thrilled that we are here but it was not even on the radar as far as goals."

And just where are the Titans?

After picking up three wins – all in straight sets – the Titans capped the regular season with a perfect 33-0 record. Along the way, UW Oshkosh captured its 14th WIAC regular-season title, earned and maintained the top spot in the AVCA Division III regional rankings and broke a 31-year-old record for longest winning streak in the conference.

"It blows my mind," said senior outside hitter Riley Kindt. "It's a big deal to us but we don't make it a point of talking about it much because we never made it a point of what we are striving for. We didn't set out the season to go 33-0 and I think that's why we do so well."

Over the course of a 33-match season, there are certain to be off-nights or opponents who play above their normal capabilities in a given match. There also can be nights where every bounce, every break or every close call doesn't go your way.

Ellman said the Titans have experienced such nights during the win streak but still have been able to find a way to claw out a win.



Photo courtesy of UW Oshkosh Sports Information

The UW Oshkosh volleyball team, celebrating a set win on Community Night earlier this season, is 33-0 entering the WIAC Tournament later this week.

"Generally, a win is perceived as good and a loss is perceived as bad. The reality is that regardless of outcome you can have good or bad matches," Ellman said. "It's just their mindset is to be as prepared as possible for every upcoming challenge. Then to trust their own skills and each other well enough to handle any challenges that do come our way."

The chemistry on the Titans' roster has certainly contributed to the team's success.

Kindt said playing with this group is like playing with all her best friends, which gives the team a strong bond on the court.

"How we get along together is the key to our team being the way it is. We're just a group of best friends," Kindt said. "There is never any drama. And just the way our mindsets mesh so well. It's the culture of our team that we just like to work hard and have fun."

One of the offshoots of the strong team chemistry is that the team genuinely doesn't care if it wins or loses.

Yes, they want to succeed and do everything in their power to win, but it's more about just being out on the court enjoying playing volleyball together. All the wins just happened.

"As long as we give our best every day, that's all we can do," senior setter Halli Mau said. "We have a really close bond and we can go to each other for anything. Every person, I feel like we know what they need to play their best, so that's really cool."

Another key to the team's success is the depth that Ellman has established in the program.

Seven different players have at least 100 kills on the year, while another seven play-

ers have at least 100 digs on the season.

"There isn't an A side or B side, starter versus non-starter. We mix everybody every single practice including the practice before we go play an opponent," Ellman said. "So the depth in the gym from the top of any position group to the bottom, that difference is so minimal that we are really playing high-level volleyball anytime we step into our own practice gym."

If there was a galvanizing moment for this team, it may have been the mid-October match against national powerhouse Washington University in St. Louis.

SEE **UWO volleyball** ON PAGE 24

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UWO volleyball

FROM PAGE 23

The Titans, who had never beaten the Bears in program history, dropped the first two sets before coming roaring back to win the five-set match.

"I think we needed a kick in the butt ultimately. It was kind of like a wake-up call for us that we really needed to work hard for everything," Kindt said. "That was a big win for us and maybe was a turning point in our mindset, too."

With the regular-season over, the Titans are now focused on the postseason, starting with the semifinals of the WIAC Tournament, which will be Thursday night at the Kolf Center.

Even with the long winning streak still going, the philosophy will be the same. They just know the target on their backs will be a tad bit bigger.

"As we see games in the postseason coming up, we know there is going to be more pressure. Most teams are coming after us. We have the target on our backs," Mau said. "It's just so awesome to play with my best friends and we've been so successful. It's cool to see our hard work paying off."

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THE SALVATION ARMY

Zeinert, Salzer, Dietschweiler qualify for state swim meet

Oshkosh Herald

Senior Carly Salzer and junior Samara Zeinert of Oshkosh West and Oshkosh North/Lourdes freshman Kiersten Dietschweiler each qualified for the WIAA Division 1 State Swim Meet at Saturday's sectional meet at Neenah Middle School.

Zeinert will compete in a pair of individual events for the second straight year, having qualified in the 100-yard backstroke and 50-yard freestyle. Zeinert won the 100-yard backstroke at the sectional

meet, while finishing second in the 50-yard freestyle.

The junior finished 13th in the 100-yard backstroke at last year's state meet and will be seeded 11th entering this year's meet. She is seeded 10th in the 50-yard freestyle.

Salzer was part of a fast group in the 100-yard butterfly, qualifying on her time of 58.64 as she finished fifth in the race. Salzer has qualified for state all four years and finished 23rd in the event at last year's meet.

Dietschweiler will be competing in two events at the state meet after winning both

the 200-yard freestyle and the 500-yard freestyle at the sectional meet. The freshman won the 200-yard freestyle by about three seconds but posted an impressive 10-second win in the 500-yard freestyle where she will be seeded third at the state meet.

Oshkosh West finished seventh at the sectional meet, while North/Lourdes took eighth in the final team standings. Neenah edged Bay Port by a point to win the sectional title.

In addition to the state qualifiers, both Oshkosh schools had top-five finishers in

diving. North/Lourdes' Natasha Konop finished third in the event, while Neva Schlies took fifth.

Both schools also fared well in the 400-yard freestyle relay where Oshkosh West was fourth and North/Lourdes was fifth. Zeinert, Salzer, Sarah Draxler and Kate Horejs made up the relay squad for the Wildcats, while Dietschweiler, Grace Penzenstadler, Ashlynn Anderson and Addison Perzentka made up the foursome from North/Lourdes.

The Division 1 State Meet will be held Saturday at Waukesha South Natatorium.

Turnovers haunt Titans against Pioneers

Oshkosh Herald

The UW Oshkosh football team committed four turnovers and was held scoreless in the first half of a 22-7 loss to UW-Platteville in a WIAC showdown in Platteville on Saturday.

The Titans had won the last nine meetings between the two teams but couldn't get the offense going against the Pioneers in this meeting. UW Oshkosh was held to just 263 total yards in the game and converted just 3 of 12 third-down attempts.

The Pioneers led 15-0 at halftime and scored on the opening possession of the second half to extend the lead.

The Titans responded with its lone scoring drive, needing just three plays to march 65 yards to get on the scoreboard.

Kobe Berghammer started that drive with a 33-yard run and then completed a 28-yard pass to Clayton Schwalbe. Berghammer scored on the next play on a run from the four-yard line.

Berghammer was picked off on the Titans' next possession, which led to a

missed field goal by the Pioneers.

On the next possession, UW Oshkosh drove 76 yards on 12 plays but Doug Burson fumbled on the 2-yard line and the Pioneers recovered.

UW Oshkosh's next drive also moved into UW-Platteville territory but back-to-back sacks forced the Titans into a fourth-and-19 situation and Berghammer's pass fell incomplete and the Pioneers took over on downs.

The Titans punted on their final possession and UW-Platteville ran out the final 2:48 to seal the win.

Berghammer, who finished 19-of-40 for 202 yards, was intercepted twice in the first quarter, one of which was returned for a touchdown. Jon Mathieu was the team's leading receiver with seven catches for 66 yards.

Kyle Dietzen led the Titans defense with 10 tackles while Tijs Santiago had nine.

The Titans will wrap up the 2023 season Saturday at home against UW-River Falls. Kickoff at Titan Stadium is slated for 1:05 p.m.



Oshkosh Recreation Department

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Obituaries

Susan E. Repenshek

Susan E. Repenshek was called home to heaven on November 2, 2023, after fighting a courageous 7-year battle with Parkinson's Disease. She was born in Oshkosh on December 2, 1946, to George and Norma Maxwell who preceded her in death. She graduated from Mercy Hospital's radiography school and worked as a radiologic technologist for Mercy (Ascension) hospital and clinic for 40 years.

She was married to loving husband, Tom, for 54 years. She is survived by her

husband and 3 sons: Robb (Lisa), Chris (Jen), and Brian (Mary). Grandchildren: Ryan, Owen, Alex, Abby and Eli were a special part of her life. She always considered herself to be twice-blessed with children and grandchildren.

She is further survived by siblings Mary (Jim) Pingry, Ann (Fritz) Fox, Greg (Carolyn) Maxwell and Jane Maxwell. Also, brother-in-law Rick (Kristine) Repenshek and sister-in-law Linda Repenshek.

Sue always loved everything outdoors and winter was her favorite season. Her summertime passion was golf and she golfed over 150 courses in Wisconsin and several in 12 other states. She enjoyed line dancing at the Senior Center and missed the classes when Parkinson's finally said

"No".

She did volunteer work including delivering warm meals to home-bound residents in Oshkosh and also took special care of her mother in her later years.

Her wishes were to have a private service for family. Grieve a little then be thankful for all of the good times shared with family and friends.

The family would like to give a special thank you to the staff at The Residence at Oshkosh, Heartland Hospice Care and to Father John for Helping us through this time.

If interested a donation can be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's research in memory of Sue. Do not stand at my grave and weep,

I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glint on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you wake in the morning hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft starlight at night.
Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep.
(Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am not there, I did not die!)

Poem by Mary Frye.

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Obituaries

Ruth Jane Clark

Ruth (Ruthie) Jane Clark, age 94, entered the arms of her Lord peacefully on November 1, 2023, with her husband, John Myron Clark, holding her hand, while listening to her favorite Christian music and with other beloved family by her side.

Ruthie was born in Oshkosh to Fred and Anna Gruetzmach-

er, the second of three children. She graduated from Oshkosh High school in 1947 and worked for Hewlett-Packard and Kimberly-Clark, before taking over the bookkeeping for her husband's business, John M. Clark and Son Construction. She was a faithful member of Peace Lutheran Church, and later First English Lutheran Church.

Ruthie was devoted to her family and having them over for holiday gatherings. She loved gardening and fishing, as well as spending time in her yard and up at the cottage. Determined and headstrong

Virginia is survived by her children: Jana Braun, Eric Naslund, Nels (Carol) Naslund; sister, Pearl Lefevers; grandchildren: Kevin Braun, Anessa Braun, Britta Naslund, and Karlin Naslund; great grandchildren: Kyra and Kaylen Zartner and Oskar Braun. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Richard C. Naslund; son, Gunnar Naslund; and daughter-in-law, Pamela Schifferl Naslund.

Private graveside services will be held.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

and wife.

Eileen is survived by her husband, Daniel Brownlea of Oshkosh. Two sons, Aaron Brownlea of Oshkosh and Adam (Jennifer) Brownlea of Kiel.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Lloyd.

Private family services will be held.

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as she was, Ruthie stayed active walking, cutting the grass, and shoveling the snow into her nineties. She saw the beauty in the simplest things in life, such as a soaking in the sunshine or gazing at a single colorful flower.

Ruthie was always thinking about other people. If you received a greeting card from her, you could expect a novel written on the inside letting you know how special you are and how much you are loved, along with a page torn out of a devotional with her favorite passages highlighted. One of her favorite inserts frequently included the phrase, "I know I'm somebody, 'cause God don't make no junk!!"

While Ruthie's favorite moments were always with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren at a cookout or family gathering, her second favorite moment occurred in 2021 when she and her husband took their first-ever airplane ride at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh in a Ford Tri-Motor that was built in 1929, the same year she was born.

Ruthie will be missed dearly by her husband of 72 years, John Clark; daughter Renee (Terence) Reinke and son Robert (Marcy) Clark; grandchildren Jamie Clark (Jamie Helf), April (David) Rodriguez, Heidi Reinke (Brian Ledwell), Bryan

Reinke (Kimberly Schaele); great grandchildren Griffin Reinke, Alexis Reinke, Isabella Messenger, Isabella Rodriguez, Sophia Rodriguez, and Piper Reinke. She is also survived by her sister Janet (Clyde) Friedman, as well as several nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents Fred and Anna (Gomoll) Gruetzmacher; daughters Debra, Roxeanne, Heidi, and Rachel Clark; brother Robert Gruetzmacher; and beloved grandson, Adam Clark.

The family would like to thank the staff in the Aurora Healthcare ICU, especially MK, for your kindness and care in Ruthie's last days. Special thanks also to Emily Humy, Ruthie's home health aid, for the care you took of her during the past year. Your compassion meant the world to Ruthie and her family.

A private service for family will take place at Konrad-Behelman Funeral Home on Sunday.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be sent to Women Who Care-Greater Oshkosh at <https://oacfcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?fundid=1586>.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

Virginia E. Naslund

Virginia E. Naslund, age 96, passed away on November 2, 2023. She was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin on September 18, 1927, to Herman and Pearl (Troxell) Steier. In November 1949, she married Richard C. Naslund, also of Oshkosh. They enjoyed 72 years of marriage together prior to his death in 2022.

Virginia worked alongside Richard for many years in their real estate business, Choice Realty. Virginia was active throughout her life in church and community organizations. She enjoyed tennis, golf, skiing, and travel.

Eileen D. Brownlea

Eileen Diane Brownlea, age 70, of Oshkosh passed away on Sunday, November 5, 2023 at Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh. Eileen was born in Sheboygan on October 7, 1953 the daughter of Ivan and Beatrice (Wierzbach) Medley. On August 14, 1976, she married Daniel Brownlea. She was a preschool teacher for many years in Oshkosh, WI. She was a loving mother

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Miscellaneous

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World Kindness Day!
November 13 is World Kindness Day! Join people around the world on this day and commit random acts of kindness!

The Lion and the Mouse

This famous Aesop fable tells of the importance of kindness.

Discuss these questions:
1. What unexpected acts of kindness did the lion and the mouse each do?
2. How did acts of kindness change both their lives?

Standards Link: Civics: Know character traits that contribute to the health of American democracy.

Celebrate World Kindness Day!

There are many simple ways to celebrate World Kindness Day. Read the list below. Choose one thing you could do. Draw a picture or write a sentence about the action you pick.

- Be generous with your smile!
- Give 10 hugs in one day!
- Start a conversation with a new student or someone who looks lonely.
- Smile at people who look sad.
- Write a nice note to someone having a bad day.

Standards Link: Social Studies: Students understand the importance of individual action and character.

Extra! Extra!

Kindness Acrostic

Find a word or phrase in the newspaper that begins with each letter in the word **KINDNESS**. Use these to create an acrostic poem.

K _____
I _____
N _____
D _____
N _____
E _____
S _____
S _____

Standards Link: Writing applications: Write in a variety of genres.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Missing Vowels
The vowels are missing from this famous quote about kindness. Can you replace them all?

A = ☺ E = ☆ I = ⚙ O = ♥ U = ☾

“H _ m _ n _ k _ n _ d _ n _ s _ s _ h _ s _ n _ v _ r _ w _ k _ n _ d
th _ st _ m _ n _ r _ s _ ft _ n _ d th _ f _ b _ r _ f
fr _ p _ pl _ . A n _ t _ n _ d _ s _ n _ th _ v _
t _ b _ cr _ l _ t _ b _ t _ gh .”
—Franklin D. Roosevelt
32nd President of the United States

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

KINDNESS
COMMIT
RANDOM
PLANET
LONELY
AESOP
ACROSTIC
QUOTE
ROPES
STUDENT
JUNGLE
POEM
HUGS
ACTS
WORD

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

R	T	C	I	T	S	O	R	C	A
N	S	S	T	C	A	P	D	W	M
S	S	O	E	T	O	U	Q	O	H
E	E	M	P	S	Q	M	D	R	U
L	N	P	E	L	E	N	M	D	G
G	D	A	O	O	A	Y	K	I	S
N	N	G	P	R	I	N	D	O	T
U	I	Q	T	L	O	N	E	L	Y
J	K	A	T	N	E	D	U	T	S

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

Random Rocks of Kindness

Read the news story below. Fill in the missing words on each blank line using the words in the word box.

In 2018, Tiffany Lester of Regina, Saskatchewan in Canada wanted to do something kind for _____ in her community. She and some friends started painting rocks and _____ them around the community.

People in the community _____ going outdoors to _____ for the rocks. Some started painting more rocks and hiding those. When people find a rock, they are asked to post the _____ on social media.

What do they do with the rocks? Most of them _____ them again, to keep the fun going.

Children are _____ off their digital devices and spending more time _____ trying to find the rocks.

Gather some friends and paint and hide kindness rocks. That would be an act of kindness for your community!

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| OUTDOORS | HUNT |
| PEOPLE | ENJOYED |
| HID | TURNING |
| LOCATION | HIDE |

You can visit the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation at randomactsofkindness.org

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Write On!

World Kindness Day

List three ways you will celebrate World Kindness Day.

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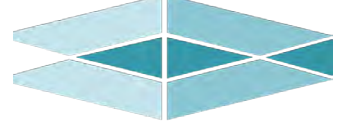
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