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Photo by Michael Cooney

Merry mission

Emjay McConnell holds a clipboard while her grandmother Connie Wolf and brother Cohen McConnell examined a Christmas tree at the Oshkosh Public Museum last Saturday during the Holiday Elf Quest. The museum hosts the holiday game to offer a new way to explore a familiar place in a different way.

City works on water obstacle

Lakeshore Drive area site of pipe blockage

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The intake pipe that provides Oshkosh with drinking water is about 60% blocked by sediment. City officials have worked with state officials and the Department of Natural Resources to develop a plan to get it cleared to prevent a potential emergency.

The pipe brings in water from Lake Winnebago and is used mainly for drinking water and fire suppression. Construction will block a section of Lakeshore Drive between the two driveways of the Oshkosh Water Filtration Plant.

City Manager Mark Rohloff said the 60-inch pipe was about half full of sediment, mainly sand and zebra mussels, in May when he declared an emergency. This was done to look at the situation before it became a problem. At the Common Council meeting last week Rohloff said the pipe is now likely 60% blocked.

Rohloff reported that the backup pipes were damaged by ice shoves during the winter of 2015-2016. He asked the council to ratify the declaration of emergency and authorize emergency actions, purchases and to amend the 2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

The city applied for a DNR permit to clear the blockage but was denied earlier this year. Since that announcement, former Oshkosh mayor and current state representative Lori Palmeri worked with

SEE **Water intake** ON PAGE 10

Animal shelters seek to educate on proper pet care

More solutions sought for surrendered animals

By Bethanie Gengler
OSHKOSH HERALD

When a Neenah Animal Shelter (NAS) employee exited the building on a chilly day late last month, she discovered a blanket on the ground. Inside was a kitten.

As she began searching the area, she found two more in the wheel well of a vehicle. They were believed to have been left at the shelter unrestrained in the blanket

about 25 minutes earlier by an unknown person. It's the second time this year that cats were abandoned outside NAS.

At Oshkosh Area Humane Society (OAHS), staff arrived one morning earlier this year and discovered a dog that had been lifted over the fence and abandoned while no one was on site.

The incidents illustrate a growing problem statewide and nationally. With many shelters overcrowded or at capacity, pet owners turned away may feel their only option is to abandon their pets.

Oshkosh and Neenah are seeing an

increase in stray animals that aren't reclaimed, overwhelming staff and limiting the number of animals that can be accepted as owner surrenders.

Rising costs, a shortage of affordable housing and a booming population of pets following pandemic lockdowns are contributing to the challenges.

As of last week, NAS was caring for 132 animals, when the normal capacity is 100 or fewer. Eighty-five of those were cats, with roughly half available for adoption

SEE **Animal shelters** ON PAGE 10



Photo from OAHS

Some of the cats at the Oshkosh Area Humane Society that are looking for a permanent home for the holidays.

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Veterans transportation service offered

Oshkosh Herald

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Winnebago County Chapter 17 and the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce are launching a transportation program for disabled veterans residing in Oshkosh, Omro and Winneconne.

Scheduled to roll out Jan. 2, the program aims to provide seamless service for veterans attending medical appointments at VA facilities in Appleton and Green Bay.

The Chamber will play a major role in hosting the vehicles that volunteers will use to pick up veterans from their homes. Rides can be scheduled Thursday mornings on the phone or online.

The DAV Chapter 17 office, which will oversee the program, already assists with veterans' benefit claims, transportation to medical appointments, aid in transitioning military to civilian employment and raising public awareness of DAV legislative priorities.

"This collaboration with the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce is a testament to our commitment to empowering veterans," said Barbara Belmont, DAV Chapter



Submitted photo

DAV Winnebago County Chapter 17 members are shown with the group's van used for veterans transportation.

17 commander. "We believe this transportation program will significantly improve the lives of our local heroes, ensuring they receive the care they have earned."

Chamber president Rob Kleman added, "We are excited to have the opportunity to

collaborate with them on this innovative approach to improve the lives of our local veterans."

Anyone interested in being on the volunteer task force can contact Kyle Newkirk at 920-431-2639 for more information.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Dec. 15, 1906

North Park Lagoon Ready for Skaters: The superintendent of North Park reports that ice on the artificial lake is solid enough to be perfectly safe for crowds and the ice is in good condition.

The sudden change in temperature last evening has provided good firm ice in the spacious lagoons of North Park at the foot of East Irving Street. This will be pleasant information to young people who have been eagerly awaiting the opportunity to ice skate, providing no sudden snow storm puts in an appearance. In case of snow storms, an effort will be made by the city to have the lagoons cleaned off with a scraper drawn by a horse.

Source: *Oshkosh Northwestern*, Dec. 15, 1906

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Housing development regains original size proposal

Lake Butte des Morts project OK'd at 522 units

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

A proposed housing development slated to add more than 500 high-end apartments cleared a project hurdle despite concerns raised by neighbors in the area on Lake Butte des Morts Drive.

The Common Council approved the change of allowing developers to build up to four-story apartment buildings instead of the three-story limits previously approved.

Red Earth Development LLC has plans to build a 522-unit complex off Lake Butte des Morts Drive that would be developed in six phases. The first phase includes a clubhouse and two 40-unit apartment buildings and estimated to cost \$18 million to build.

A general development plan has been endorsed by the Plan Commission and approved by the council for the rest of the project. Last week the council was only voting on the specific implementation plan (SIP) in regard to the first phase being four stories instead of three.

In the spring, the council voted to amend the plans partially because zoning in the area allows for buildings up to 35 feet and the proposed four-story apartment buildings will be about 59 feet tall.

Last week at city hall several residents spoke against the development with concerns regarding the impact it will have on the surrounding area.

Dan O'Callaghan, a land-use and zoning lawyer who spoke at last week's meeting on behalf of Red Earth, said the amend-

ment to approve a three-story building limit made the project "unworkable."

In October, representatives from Red Earth met with the council in closed session to discuss creating a tax increment finance (TIF) district to cover the costs the developer stated it would lose due to the height restriction. The developer was seeking \$5 million in government assistance to make the budget work, which the council did not move forward with.

Then last month, council member Karl Buelow initiated the process of sending the SIP back to the Plan Commission and the council for reconsideration, which reversed the decision of the previous council. Some residents at a Nov. 22 meeting said that made council action uncertain because a new council can re-look at any project that has already been approved.

"Trust has been eroded and the perceived favoritism toward this developer and the lack of continued transparency are concerning," Kathy Brewer said at the meeting.

Resident James Rescheske called it a "monster development" and said at last Tuesday's meeting that it doesn't fit in with the serene and quiet area of Lake Butte des Morts.

Former council member Bill Miller spoke in favor of the development, calling it an "amazing project." He said if this project is approved the rest of the area could be developed and the city could have a new corridor with added tax revenue to benefit the whole city to help with issues like homelessness.

"We are an incredibly poor community. Projects like this subsidize our real needs. Without these projects we get zero tax

dollar growth," Miller said.

Council member Mike Ford acknowledged the city made some mistakes during the process of approving this project.

"Development is a balancing act. How do we balance our long-term housing and economic needs while we respect our residents?" Ford asked. He said the city should have set an initial neighborhood meeting for the project when first announced.

There was an open house explaining the project the day before the first vote. Ford called these moves "inconsistent" with the values he has followed during his time on the Plan Commission.

He said there were countless examples when he was on commission where they worked with residents and developers to "mitigate the impact on new development through compromise." Because of these missteps Ford said he would vote against the SIP.

"It wasn't intentional but the process on this project – it sent a very clear message to our residents: You don't get to have a voice. That's not OK with me," Ford said.

Ford served on the commission as its designated council member for six years during which the project was getting approvals. Paul Esslinger now sits on the commission in that role.

"Most concerning to me is the willingness of this body is to undo a compromise we made with those we serve," Ford said. "We made mistakes, and we need to own this."

Mayor Matt Mugerauer said he agreed with Ford and respected his position.

"We have to balance the needs of the whole versus the wants of the few," he said. "We got it wrong," Mugerauer said in

reference to the amendment that limited the apartment buildings to three stories. "I'm in support of a four-story project. I think it's the right thing for this space and for this community."

Esslinger, who is a real estate agent, spoke of the need for fixing housing problems in Oshkosh. He said some renters are "paying a fortune" for rent and the situation isn't getting better.

"The housing in this community is terrible, whether it be single-family homes or trying to find rentals – the demand curve now is completely with landlords. They can charge basically whatever they want," Esslinger said.

It has been mentioned at several meetings that a 2021 housing study shows the city needs more affordable housing units instead of more high-end apartment developments.

"This point deserves attention for balanced community growth," resident Brewer said at last week's meeting. "It's imperative that development aligns with our actual community needs, particularly in terms of housing affordability and availability, which directly impacts most of our lives."

Council member Buelow, who is also operations director for Day By Day Shelter, responded by noting the housing study also determined the city needs 5,000 units right away.

"The answer to homelessness is more homes," Buelow said. "We need more apartments. That's just the absolute situation that we're in."

The council approved the SIP by a 6-1 vote with Ford voting against.



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School paraprofessionals ask for better wages, safety

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

A group of more than 150 Oshkosh Area School District paraprofessionals have signed a petition asking for better wages and improved working conditions.

Stephanie Dronski left her position after more than seven years in the district after being attacked by a student. She said her time was “extremely fulfilling” as she was able to see the positive impact her work had on the students but voluntarily left.

Dronski, a breast cancer survivor who underwent reconstruction surgery earlier this year, said a student attacked her in October and she required a second surgery.

She said she didn’t leave the district because of the student or staff but “because of the lack of care and support from the district’s administration.

“(Paraprofessionals) are often overlooked, they are grossly underpaid and treated like second-class citizens.”

Dronski said paraprofessionals receive physical and verbal abuse daily.

“We get kicked, spit on, sworn at, punched, bitten, things thrown at you,” she said. “Yet, we’re expected to come into work every day and do it all over again

with no support.”

Many in the audience at the meeting last week wore “Dronski Strong” shirts to show support.

“We need to be shown that we are valued,” she said.

In a statement to the Herald after the meeting, the district said it appreciated the concerns brought to the school board.

“The safety and wellbeing of all school staff is a top priority and we are committed to providing safe working and learning environments,” the statement said. “We also recognize the critical role paraprofessionals play in providing quality education to all students and we are committed to offering competitive pay and exceptional benefits.”

Jamie Hoff and Mary Margaret Eisley, co-presidents of the Oshkosh Area Paraprofessionals Association, also spoke during the public comment period about issues and concerns they have as district paraprofessionals.

Hoff has been a special education paraprofessional for 16 years and said the job is much more than reading books to students or helping organize bulletin boards. She said there is a level of physical abuse



Oshkosh Media

Stephanie Dronski speaks about her struggles as a paraprofessional as she and other paraprofessionals pleaded with the Board of Education for better pay and treatment within the district.

by students in all classrooms, not just in special education classes.

“The number of violent behaviors we have in our schools right now is at an all-time high,” Hoff said. “Paras are coming to school wondering ‘how badly am I going to get hurt today?’ And that’s not OK.”

She said paraprofessionals should qual-

ify for hazard pay as some have experienced bruises, bites, open scratches and headbutts. Hoff said some have needed to go to the hospital.

Hoff noted that there are currently 19 open positions for paraprofessionals in the district and the current ones are left to cover those staffing shortages.

“So we’re taking on the job of two paras,” Hoff said. “We are definitely overworked and underpaid.”

Despite these concerns the paraprofessionals keep going back to work, Hoff said.

“Why do we still want to work here? It’s because we love the kids. We have created bonds with our students and their families,” Hoff said. “We have so much love and experience to give the children. You just can’t throw that away by keeping us at the bottom of the pay scale.”

They brought the signed petition asking for safer working conditions and better pay. Eisley said they would like to see a \$3 wage increase by next school year and would also like to see a wage study from the district.

“We need higher wages or unfortunately you will be losing more amazing and irreplaceable paras,” Hoff said.

Oshkosh West theater named after former drama director

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education voted unanimously to name the Little Theater at West High School after former drama director Tom Lynch.

Lynch’s son, David, who is also a teacher, spoke about his father’s career in Oshkosh at last week’s meeting noting that Tom Lynch began as a teacher at Webster Stanley Middle School before moving to West High in 1972. He served as drama director and a member of the English faculty until he retired in 2001.

During Lynch’s career he coached the forensics team which won 17 consecutive state excellence awards, including four state titles. Lynch’s teams won several state qualifiers, critic’s choice awards, state director awards and individual acting honors.

David Lynch said his father is not one for the spotlight despite his years as a director.

“Were he here tonight, he’d say his impact was on individual students who he taught, coached and directed,” he said of his father, Tom Lynch. “Kids are his legacy.”

Lynch was also honored as the USA Today Teacher of the Year and was inducted into the Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech & Dramatic Arts Association as a theater

educator in 2011.

The board noted Lynch is alive and needed a vote to waive a district policy that states “anyone honored must be deceased prior to the board’s selection of his/her name for a plaque or for the naming of a facility.”

“Anyone who walks in that hallway between the Little Theater and the library sees the multitude of plaques that recognize the success of students in our forensics program and in our drama program,” school board vice president Barbara Herzog said.

As an Oshkosh graduate board member, Kristopher Karns said these moments are great because he knew Lynch as a teacher when he was in high school.

“There are teachers who love what they do and there are teachers that you can feel their energy. He was one of those that was special,” Karns said. “He was a great teacher and this is an honor that he deserves.”

Karns thanked Lynch’s family for bringing this idea to the board. He also noted that as the district continues the long-term facilities plan that the Little Theater will retain Lynch’s name to honor him.

Along with renaming the theater, there will be a plaque to commemorate Lynch’s work and achievements during his more than 30-year career with the district.



Submitted photo

Veteran’s Remembrance

Ralph Nielsen has organized a weekly Friday remembrances for all of those deployed (RED) and on Veteran’s Day the group gathered at the Oshkosh YMCA for a special remembrance.

Mailed tax bills delayed, published online

Oshkosh Herald

After an administrative delay with the state Department of Revenue, Winnebago County has published property tax bills online ahead of being mailed to residents.

Oshkosh and other cities in the county publish and mail their respective tax bills and are also available on city websites.

Taxpayers looking to pay their 2023 property taxes before the year’s end should

review their bill at ascnt.co.winnebago.wi.us/LandRecords. More information is available at winnebagocountywi.gov.

While the county prints the tax bills, the first property tax payment is paid to the town, village or city in which the property is located. Questions on how to pay the 2023 property tax bill due in January should be directed to the resident’s town, village or city treasurer.

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State loans available for housing in commercial spaces

Oshkosh Herald

Two new state loan programs announced Dec. 7 will be drawing the interest of developers and municipalities interested in creating more residential housing options in commercial building spaces.

Gov. Tony Evers and the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) unveiled the new programs – Restore Main Street and Vacancy-to-Vitality – now available and expected to spur the development of affordable housing units.

The approved 2023-25 biennial budget provides one of the largest state investments in workforce housing – \$525 million – in state history, including measures to fund the Main Street Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund and Loan Program, now called Restore Main Street, and Commercial-to-Housing Conversion Revolving Loan Fund and Loan Program, now called Vacancy-to-Vitality. Both programs were created this year as part of a bipartisan package of bills Evers signed.

Jennifer Sunstrom of the region's Housing Now Coalition said her group advocated strongly for the programs that will require quick coordination between business owners and local governments to clear any hurdles the projects may face while seeking the loans.

"There's not a silver bullet here, but they are definitely going to be helpful," said Sunstrom, who is also government affairs director for the Realtors Association of Northeast Wisconsin. "One of the things that our organization is going to be doing is making sure that local units of government are aware that the grants are available."

The Restore Main Street Loan Program

provides loan funding for building owners to cover costs to improve housing on the second or third floors of an existing building with commercial space on the ground level. Borrowers can apply for up to \$20,000 per housing unit, or 25 percent of the total rehabilitation cost, at an interest rate of 3%. That rate drops to 1% in municipalities with a population of fewer than 10,000 residents.

The Vacancy-to-Vitality Loan Program allows a developer to apply for a loan to cover the costs of converting a vacant commercial building to workforce or senior housing. Developers can apply for up to \$1 million (20%) of the total project cost, including land at a low-interest rate of 3% or 1% in municipalities with a population below 10,000 or senior housing.

"Together, these new programs give us even more opportunities to add much-needed affordable housing in both urban and rural areas of our state that are desperate for safe, stable homes for working individuals, families and seniors," said WHEDA executive director Elmer Moore Jr.

Municipalities are required to take steps to reduce the cost of the eligible project by voluntarily revising ordinances or regulations that affect the project on or after Jan. 1, 2023. Municipalities are also required to have updated the housing element of their comprehensive plans within five years.

Kelly Nieforth, Oshkosh's community development director, said that while the program is newly unveiled it has been discussed with some property owners on Main Street and will be promoted by other city partners.

"The Oshkosh Chamber and our community partners like GO-EDC, the city

of Oshkosh and the Downtown BID are looking forward to working with many property owners to make sure these programs can be utilized to their full extent," said Colan Trembl, the Chamber's economic development director.

"The Chamber has been reaching out to property owners in the Oshkosh community to share the information that we do have and offering our assistance in whatever way we can."

Sunstrom said it's a revolving loan so not everyone is going to get one the first time around but applicants will be able to show the demand is there and can help keep the program going beyond the two-year budget approval.

"This is open across the entire state so we have a lot of communities with their downtown main streets with these residential properties above commercial areas that are really in need of some TLC, and will be applying for these grants," she said. "(Applicants) are going to have to really be almost ready right now in filling out those grant applications and getting them in."

The Vacancy-to-Vitality program promoting commercial space conversions will be the more challenging of the two

programs that will need some "capital stacking" with other federal or local grants, Sunstrom expects, with higher development costs along with zoning and location considerations.

"It's going to take everybody working together to be aware of the grants and what the possibilities are," she said. "It's going to take people who have some knowledge base on how the grant works to help people get those filled out and submitted."

The Housing Now Coalition is composed of stakeholders from real estate, builder associations, chambers of commerce and other development interests trying to raise awareness of the housing crisis and advocate for solutions. It recently launched a 12-week public education campaign called Say Yes to Housing.

Sunstrom said the coalition will be focusing on millennials who are struggling to achieve home ownership.

"More than anything we're trying to get information out there to make people aware of issues and problems, but also make them aware of resources – try to do some matchmaking."

Additional information is on the WHEDA website.

Salvation Army's Match Day Weekend set

The Salvation Army of Oshkosh has a Match Day Weekend that starts Thursday and concludes on the last day of bell ringing Saturday to end the Red Kettle season.

Thursday will have a \$15,000 match challenge sponsored by the J. J. Keller Foundation. Then match challenges will be sponsored by Advanced Asbestos Removal on Friday, followed by the Wisconsin Public Service Foundation on Saturday.

An anonymous donor in Oshkosh is also

doubling all \$20 bills donated to area kettles on Saturdays during Red Kettle season.

"Their commitment to our Match Day challenges will significantly impact our ability to meet the needs of those in our community who require our assistance the most," said Maj. James Mungai. "Their contributions will go a long way in spreading hope and joy this holiday season."

Individuals can participate as bell ringers by registering at RegisterToRing.com.

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Search warrant leads to drug arrests

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Three Oshkosh men are facing drug charges in Winnebago County after a search warrant was executed on Walnut Street earlier this month resulting in a small amount of methamphetamine recovered from the home and people living there.

Craig S. Diener, 59, has been charged with maintaining a drug trafficking place. Noah M. Cuttill, 24, and Nicholas S. Damman, 34, are charged with possession of methamphetamine. All counts are Class I felony counts, if convicted each could be spending up to 18 months in prison followed by two years of extended supervision.

According to the criminal complaints, a search warrant was executed on Dec. 6 at a home in the 1400 block of Walnut Street by Oshkosh police. During the search warrant multiple individuals were arrested in connection with dealing and using illegal substances.

An officer saw a man, later identified as Cuttill, who was temporarily detained at the scene. Cuttill told the officer he lived at the home. When officers searched him they found a dollar bill with a substance in it that Cuttill allegedly admitted was

methamphetamine. It weighed a total of 1.1 grams.

While the search warrant was being executed, a police detective allegedly saw Damman throw a piece of paper or baggie out of an upstairs bedroom window onto the roof that was recovered and tested positive for methamphetamine.

The following day, an officer went back to the home and got Diener's permission to look through his phone, which he said contained "several conversations about purchasing narcotics."

The complaint alleges Diener admitted to using drugs inside his home and told an officer he knew Damman was selling small amounts of drugs.

Online records show all three men are out of custody.

Cuttill and Damman were in front of court commissioner Eric Heywood for their initial appearance where their signature bonds were set at \$1,000. Diener was given a \$1,000 signature bond. He must maintain absolute sobriety and not possess any medication without a valid prescription. Diener was also ordered to comply with the condition of the drug free 24/7 program.

House fire claims Ashland Street resident

Oshkosh Herald

An early morning fire at a home in the city claimed the life of an Oshkosh man on Thursday.

Oshkosh firefighters were called to a structure fire at 4:50 a.m. at 1837 Ashland St., and upon arriving four minutes later reported residents outside and heavy black smoke coming from the home. A search of the single-family home found Lawrence

I. Ames, 69, who was declared dead at the scene.

There was heavy smoke and fire damage to the entire residence, and the family was being assisted by the Oshkosh Police Department's Community Crisis Closet and American Red Cross.

Residents were alerted to the fire by their working smoke alarm. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Calendar of events

Ongoing

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

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

Wednesday, Dec. 20

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

Friday, Dec. 22

Traveling Suitcase, 7 p.m., New Moon Cafe, 401 N. Main St.

Saturday, Dec. 23

Night Before Christmas Carol, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

A Very Vintage Christmas with Sundae & Mr. Goessl, 8 p.m., Becket's, 2 Jackson St.

Ask Your Mother, 8 p.m., Revs Bar Bowl & Grill, 275 N. Washburn St.

Wednesday, Dec. 27

Holiday Tours at Historic Morgan House, 5 p.m., 234 Church Ave.

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

Friday, Dec. 29

Substitute - Tales from The Who, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Saturday, Dec. 30

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

Monday, Jan. 1

NAMI Oshkosh 5K for Mental Health & Suicide Awareness, 9 a.m., Oshkosh North High School

Oshkosh Gallery Walk, 6 p.m., downtown Oshkosh

UW Oshkosh reduces deficit outlook

Oshkosh Herald

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh is looking at an improved financial outlook after announcing in August it was laying off about 200 of its non-faculty staff and administrators with a projected deficit of up to \$18 million in its current fiscal year.

UW Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt told staff and students in a letter last week that its deficit gap by June 30 will be reduced to about \$3 million.

"This is a testament to the incredibly difficult but necessary measures we have undertaken and continue to carry out within the Institutional Realignment Plan," Leavitt stated.

About 1,100 employees are subject to layoffs and furloughs in January. The university cited declining higher education participation rates and an aging demographic; lack of state legislative support; and increased reliance on tuition revenue amid a decade-long tuition

freeze.

UW Oshkosh's Fond du Lac campus also became a victim of statewide cost-cutting measures when UW officials announced in October that in-person instruction would end there and at UW-Milwaukee at Washington County by June.

UWO's negative balance was projected as high as \$6 million after the layoffs and other cost-saving measures were announced. Leavitt said it was still a significant gap but better than the initial forecast while adding there is a plan to close the remaining deficit.

"The painful decisions and actions taken to date have generated approximately \$15 million of savings. We all know this has come at a significant human cost to our UWO community," the letter stated. "But we need to maintain our budget, workforce, restructuring, student recruitment and student retention discipline to truly emerge a fiscally sustainable institution by FY 2026."



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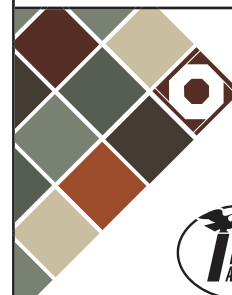
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Photo from Goodwill North Central Wisconsin

Trevor Wiegert shows his professional truck driving certificate earned through the Career EXCEerate Wisconsin program

Career training program advances another class

Career EXCEerate Wisconsin celebrated its second cohort of students earning educational certificates through the collaborative program with Goodwill North Central Wisconsin (NCW), Fox Valley Technical College and Rawhide Youth Services.

Students completed certificates in nursing assistant, early childhood teacher aide, professional truck driving, welding fundamentals, woodworking technician and diesel technician.

“Career EXCEerate is creating life-changing opportunities for people to overcome challenges and pursue in-demand careers,” said Chris Hess, Goodwill NCW president. “We are proud to partner with Rawhide Youth Services and Fox Valley Technical College to ensure that participants have personalized support as they navigate earning their certificates and launch into new career pathways.”

Career EXCEerate was created in summer 2022 with support from a Workforce Innovation Grant from the state, offered at no cost to individuals wanting to launch a lasting career but are struggling and would benefit from individualized support. The program supports individuals as they seek in-demand careers in specific areas of study and create a pipeline of job seekers.

As of Dec. 1, 89% of students who completed Career EXCEerate have either obtained employment or continued with additional education in their field of study within a year of completion. Those who have completed the program and attained employment are benefiting from improved financial stability, as they have seen an average increase of approximately \$8.85 per hour in wages from intake to their current job.

Trevor Wiegert, who earned his professional truck driving certificate through the program, reflected on his experience.

“You see everybody in here, they all accomplished something that they couldn’t do without this grant, without the help from everybody. We all get to start our next career, and it’s a great feeling,” he said.

The program focuses on providing tracks that have career development options. Enrollment takes place on an ongoing basis for all educational certificate programs.

Those interested in earning a certificate can complete the application form at CareerEXCEerateWI.org. Local employers can partner to recruit qualified candidates by contacting careerexcelleratewi@goodwillncw.org.

Rebel Alliance Theatre sets new stage show

Rebel Alliance Theatre is staging “Perfect Arrangement” by Topher Payne with four shows Jan. 5-6 and Jan. 12-13 at First Congregational Church, 137 Algoma Blvd.

The artists of Rebel Alliance Theatre, aided by a grant from First Congregational, have devoted their season to amplifying LGBTQA+ voices and issues. This show contains themes that may not be comfortable for all audiences.

“Perfect Arrangement” is set during the infamous Lavender Scare in 1950 at the outset of McCarthyism. Two gay men and

two lesbians have found a way to avoid discovery by presenting themselves as heterosexual couples, living next door. But when their employer, the U.S. State Department, asks them to target men and women like themselves, they are forced to choose between the tenuous living arrangement required and the right to live in dignity.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with show time at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$18 to \$25 and can be purchased at the door or at ko-fi.com/rebelalliance-theatre.

College graduates

The following individuals from Oshkosh were among 1,470 candidates for degrees attending University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee commencement exercises Dec. 17.

Thomas Hendricks, Peck School of the Arts, bachelor of fine arts

Margot Neely, College of Letters and Science, bachelor of arts

Yiwen Qin, College of Engineering and

Applied Science, bachelor of science in engineering

Mason Robertson, Sheldon B. Lubar School of Business, bachelor of business administration

Alysia Van Boxtel, College of Letters and Science, bachelor of arts

Payton Willis, Peck School of the Arts, bachelor of fine arts

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Amplify Oshkosh stays current with local technology culture

By Colan Trembl
CHAMBER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Amplify Oshkosh, a program of the Oshkosh Chamber, is the leader in amplifying the awareness of opportunities surrounding all aspects of technology in the Oshkosh area. Amplify started out as a small economic development initiative over a decade ago and has grown into a program with more than 900 members and 13 annual sponsors.

It is Amplify Oshkosh's goal to empower our local businesses with technology through new initiatives, local and regional partnerships, networking events, current world trends, and much more.

Amplify Oshkosh was first born in 2013 when the Chamber of Commerce participated in a study to analyze what the community could improve on, what



was missing from the area, and what was on the rise.

The results overwhelmingly showed that there was an emerging sector of technology in the Oshkosh community with opportunities for advancement becoming more and more common.

From that point forward, a core group of individuals from local businesses and organizations came together to form the Amplify Oshkosh Consortium and began promoting all things technology within the Oshkosh area and Fox Valley region. Although the goals and vision of Amplify have varied slightly through the years, the

core mission of the group has stayed consistent with helping enhance and improve the technology culture throughout our community.

Today, Amplify hosts numerous events throughout the year, including an annual conference each spring, to help bring awareness to the current and future technology that is impacting our world. We recognize that every career is impacted by technology in some form or fashion and that is why we welcome and encourage all individuals to engage with us and enjoy our events.

We also are committed to ensuring that the younger generation understands the opportunities in technology available here in Oshkosh. As a testament to this, we take pride in our strong relationships and connections with the Oshkosh Area

School District, Fox Valley Technical College, and the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. These relationships help Amplify engage with students of all levels and show them that the technology community is strong and prevalent in the Oshkosh area.

We are extremely proud of the Amplify Oshkosh program and the amount of progress we have made throughout the past decade.

The Amplify team will continue to bring the Oshkosh area informative technology events, stay on top of current trends, and strategize new initiatives with our community partners.

If interested in learning more about the Amplify program or looking to get more involved, please don't hesitate to contact me at colan@oshkoshchamber.com.

Solutions Recovery staff honored for efforts

Solutions Recovery executive director Trevor Fenrich and program director Megan Edwards were honored with the 2023 We Heart You Celebration of Excellence Award from the Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) team.

Edwards was pivotal in creating the Solutions Peer Response Team program that connects people in crisis to recovery coaches with lived experience. Through a rapid response to a substance use crisis, the program minimizes the risk of overdose by guiding individuals through resources and access to care and treatment.

Edwards led an expansion of the services by implementing the Sobriety Treatment Assisted Recovery (STAR) program in collaboration with the Winnebago County Jail. Individuals receive support

and guidance from recovery coaches during their time in jail and after release.

"Megan's work in the jail is some of the most important work I've seen in my 21-year career," said Winnebago County Corrections Lt. Amber Rozek. "Megan and the Solutions Recovery team have become the face of change and hope in our facility. Her passion for the recovery community sets the tone for the programs."

Fenrich was a lead technician behind the We Heart You mobile app launched earlier this year, which connects people to substance use resources in Winnebago, Calumet and Outagamie counties. The app's 24/7 live chat function connects people with the Solutions Peer Response Team. Fenrich represents Solutions Recovery in various OFR committee activities.

"Trevor's dedication to combatting substance use and increasing recovery efforts have truly made a difference in our community," said Jennifer Skolaski, OFR program manager.

"Trevor and Megan have gone beyond their professional roles and inspired amazing work within the OFR team and throughout the community."

Solutions Recovery is one of 47 partners representing 36 agencies that work together on the OFR team to prevent overdose deaths. The team examines individual, organizational and systems level factors related to overdose deaths in the county. More information is at winnebago-countywi.gov/health. To learn more about Solutions Recovery, visit solution-recovery.org.



Submitted photo

Megan Edwards and Trevor Fenrich from Solutions Recovery were presented with the 2023 We Heart You Celebration of Excellence Award.

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Museum education programs draw classes

The Oshkosh Public Museum's education program has hosted more than 1,300 field trip visitors from schools and organizations throughout the state this year, the museum recently reported. Of those visitors, about 800 were from Oshkosh Area School District classrooms.

City Manager Mark Rohloff said in his weekly newsletter that museum field trips help bridge gaps between students of different backgrounds, are memorable for students and bring classroom learning to

life in irreplaceable ways.

Teachers said in one assessment, "(The field trip) brought to life what we were learning in our lessons. Students were able to touch and hold artifacts I had been showing them photographs of."

The museum's second-floor transformation also continues with construction underway to install loading doors on an exterior wall as an enhancement to the Waldwic Gallery temporary exhibition space.

Business news roundup

Margaret Brill, previously director of the EAA Aviation Foundation, has been promoted as its new vice president.

Among Brill's duties are designing and executing of the foundation's year-round strategy that benefits EAA's education, safety, and aircraft preservation initiatives. The foundation also coordinates the administration of more than \$1 million in scholarships annually, and hosts The Gathering annual fundraiser during EAA AirVenture. A native of Winneconne, Brill graduated from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh with a bachelor's degree in journalism before gaining extensive experience in the nonprofit and higher education communities.



Brill

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh senior **William Dorsett**, of Pine River, took home the grand prize of \$1,000 in seed funding and a guaranteed spot in the upcoming Business Model Competition at the recent 90-Second Elevator Pitch Contest for his idea about new firefighting equipment to assist rural firefighters. Dorsett is a mechanical engineering technolo-

gy major. Second place went to first-year student **Eliana Acosta**, a social science education major from Grafton, for a new condiment based on a family recipe. She won \$350.

The Wisconsin Sustainable Business Council announced its 2023 Sustainable Business Award Winners in November, which celebrate recipients for showing cutting-edge environmental, social and governance leadership. **Kevin Tubbs**, vice president and chief ethics, compliance and sustainability officer for Oshkosh Corp., was named 2023 Sustainability Champion of the Year. Tubbs came to Oshkosh Corp. in 2012 to develop and implement a sustainability program. Since that time, Oshkosh has become known as a leader in the sustainability space.

Schwalter & Jabouri P.C., a tax and business advisory firm in St. Louis, has merged into **Honkamp**. The new location will be the first office in Missouri for Honkamp, which is based in Dubuque, Iowa, and has about 300 employees. In addition to St. Louis, the firm has eight offices in Iowa and Wisconsin, including an Oshkosh office. Honkamp added Nigl Accounting based in Oshkosh in December 2021.



Photo from Indiana Pacers

Spartans convene

Tyrese Haliburton (center) invited current players from his former high school team at Oshkosh North to the shootaround Wednesday before his Indiana Pacers faced the Milwaukee Bucks at Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee.

DNR magazine's winter issue keys on sturgeon

The winter issue of Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine takes an in-depth look at the historic sturgeon spearing tradition that takes place every winter on Lake Winnebago.

The issue also sheds light on the many aquatic invasive species lurking under the ice, a story about a black bear den survey and how the DNR tracks bear populations, a list of snowmobile trails around the state, winter driving

tips from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the effects of climate change on Wisconsin's wine-making industry.

The print edition includes the 2023 Friends of Wisconsin State Parks calendar, featuring images from the Friends' annual state parks photo contest.

The issue is available online at dnr.wisconsin.gov/wnrmag or for the print issue subscription call 800-678-9472.



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Water intake

FROM PAGE 1

the DNR about the importance of getting it cleared before the lake freezes over in January.

Rohloff said the plan is to blow the sediment out of the pipe into the lake now that the DNR has approved the plan. There will be a curtain around the intake pipe to ensure the blockage sediment doesn't flow into the lake.

"We felt it was necessary to put those precautions in place to protect the environment as much as possible," Rohloff said.

He expects work to begin this week or next with the hope of being finished by the

end of December. The process of blowing out the sediment could take anywhere between three and 13 days.

"I think we've got a plan in place that will prevent an emergency from really coming to pass," Rohloff said. "Because certainly drinking water as well as fire suppression is really the concern we have."

Public Works director James Rabe said there are two components within the water filtration plant on Lakeshore Drive. One is the intake pipe that was in discussion at the meeting; that pipe takes water from the lake to a structure at Menominee Park. Then a transmission pipe transports the water from the park to the filtration plant.

Rabe said it's more than a mile of 60-inch pipe. He told the council the im-

mediate concern is the intake pipe but the department also has concerns about the transmission pipe.

"We've been unable to inspect (the transmission pipe) because we haven't been able to get in through the intake pipe," he said.

For those reasons Rohloff said the emergency declaration will remain in place until the transmission line is inspected.

This project is not related to reconstruction of the park's Pratt Trail, as that been put on hold for the winter. The contractor the city is working with is already staging the area in hopes of starting the intake pipe work as soon as possible.

The city has contracted with Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. as well as North Divers USA and worked with the DNR to

develop a plan. The project is part of the city's CIP projects and could cost more than \$1.8 million, according to Rohloff.

Council member Karl Buelow mentioned during the council meeting that part of this project is being funded with money from projects that were completed under budget.

Mayor Matt Mugerauer said not fixing this issue could be a nightmare scenario of not being able to provide clean, safe and reliable drinking water to residents. He said Rohloff's actions were necessary to ensure the health and safety of the community.

The council voted unanimously to ratify the emergency declaration and authorized actions to get the intake pipe cleared and inspect the transmission pipe.

Animal shelters

FROM PAGE 1

and half in the pre-adoption process. Thirty-five animals are in foster homes.

OAHNS is also regularly at or over capacity, with 203 animals in its care as of Tuesday. Of that number, 159 are cats with 50 available for adoption, 50 in the pre-adoption process and 59 in foster homes.

Unforgettable Underdogs operates a local foster-based rescue with a capacity of 25 dogs. President Erika Berge said the organization would need hundreds of families to foster to keep up with the number of dogs being surrendered.

Both NAS and OAHNS have a waiting list for owners to surrender animals. NAS executive director Cindy Flauger said it's possible the owner of the kittens abandoned last month may have called to surrender them and was turned away.

"We've gotten calls from the Madison area, the Milwaukee area; people are trying but right now we can't even manage the population we have," she said.

OAHNS president Ieva Engel said the organization works to try to keep pets and owners together.

"We work with them on different solutions," she said. "They may think surren-

der is the only option when in reality it isn't."

But when people are insistent on surrendering, she said OAHNS tries its best not to turn people away.

NAS is telling people to try to self-rehome animals, suggesting websites homehome.org and rehome.adoptapet.com.

Berge said those who self-rehome should evaluate prospective owners by completing a background check, calling their veterinary office, checking with references and doing a meet-and-greet with them and their family.

Abandoning an animal comes with risks.

Flauger said unsecured animals may run away and in winter it's common for cats to seek shelter under vehicles, which can harm or kill them.

"If we don't find them quickly enough their temperatures can drop very quickly, especially kittens, and that becomes deadly for them," she said.

That's what happened at OAHNS last year when seven cats were left in carriers in freezing conditions in an adjacent parking lot. By the time staff found them, all had

perished.

"It was very sad for the staff, I mean, they are there to help the animals and take care of the animals and not being able to help, it was quite traumatizing," Engel said.

In situations where a person feels compelled to abandon a pet, Engel said it's important not to shame them.

"In reality, none of the folks want to leave their animal outside and just abandon it," she said. "I would imagine that they're feeling very desperate that they may not be thinking of all the different options, that they may not have utilized all of the different options, but I definitely think it's an act of desperation."

Flauger shared that sentiment.

"We don't know what their circumstances were," she said. But she noted there isn't an easy solution.

Both directors said expanding access to community resources such as spay and neuter services would help reduce the pet population. OAHNS occasionally offers its parking lot for a mobile spay and neuter clinic operated by Underdog Pet Rescue. Pet owners interested in the low-cost spay, neuter or other vet services can inquire at mobilevetcare@underdogpets.org.

OAHNS has had success with a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program, where feral cats are spayed or neutered and returned to an outdoor environment. The organization provided spay and neuter services to 200 cats through the program this year.

Engel said there is evidence that TNR programs reduce the overpopulation of cats. However, Neenah ordinance prohibits allowing animals to run at large in the city, eliminating the possibility of a TNR program.

Both NAS and OAHNS offer a working cat program where spayed and neutered cats are placed in an outdoor setting such as a barn, horse stable, warehouse, garage or garden shed.

Both shelters also offer a foster program, which helps free up some space. Flauger said implementing a short-term foster program to provide temporary care for pets owned by people experiencing a medical or other emergency could be beneficial.

Engel added that microchipping helps reunite lost pets with owners, which also helps reduce the number of homeless pets.

NAS is moving to a new larger location next summer and hopes to be able to accommodate more cats, but Flauger said there just aren't enough homes to keep up with all the animals in need.

While both NAS and OAHNS are no-kill shelters, meaning healthy, treatable animals are not euthanized for any reason including length of stay or capacity, the unfortunate side effect is that people rehoming pets may be turned away.

Residents can help by opening their homes to an adoptable pet, fostering an animal, volunteering and donating. Both shelters have a wish list on their respective websites for items they're in need of.

If someone feels their only option is to abandon an animal, Flauger suggested they talk to shelter staff.

"We have long conversations with people and ask them what they have tried, are there family members who can take them, can we give them resources for self-rehoming," she said.

While hearing about an abandoned pet can elicit strong emotions, Flauger believes compassion is the best response.

"We all say, 'How can you surrender a family member?' but sometimes people are making tough choices," she said.

Engel said OAHNS will continue to help in any way it can.

"In the end, we're hoping that all these animals, that they do make their way to us and that we're helping as much as we can, just to avoid situations where animals are just set loose," she said.



Engel

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Wisconsin Red, Yellow or Russett Potatoes 
5-pound bag

\$1.99

Limit one with separate \$25.00 purchase

Good at Red's Piggly Wiggly in Omro and Oshkosh only

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Ore-Ida Frozen Potatoes 
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Offer expires 12/26/23 PLU 27205

Farmland Bacon 
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Assorted varieties

\$1.99
12-count

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4.99
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7.5-10 oz Cheetos
9-13 oz Tostitos
12-16 oz Dean's Dips...1.79


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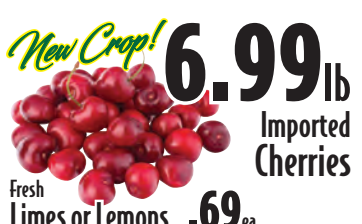

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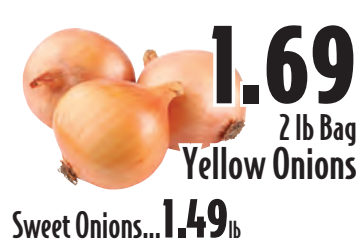

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2/\$3
1 lb Baby Carrots
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1 lb Red Radishes...**1.99**


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2 lb Bag Envy Apples...**3.99**


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Navel Oranges
Wonderful Pomegranates...**2.49**


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\$4.99 per Pound

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<p>2/\$5 6 pk or 128 oz Hawaiian Punch</p>	<p>1.99 13.75 oz Betty Crocker Mashed Potatoes</p>	<p>2/\$3 14 oz Food Club Cranberry Sauce</p>	<p>3/\$6 6 oz Stove Top Stuffing or 12 oz Heinz Gravy</p>	<p>2/\$3 5.75 oz Stuffed or 6 oz Food Club Ripe Olives</p>
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<p>2/\$3 7-16 oz Barilla Pasta</p>	<p>4/\$5 3-3.9 oz Jell-O Gelatin or Pudding Mix</p>	<p>3.29 16 oz or 24 oz Sun-Maid Cinnamon Raisin Bread or Sunbeam Texas Toast</p>	<p>2.99 11-14.75 oz Select Post Cereal</p>	<p>2/\$5 20-50 ct Select Dixie Plates or Bowls or 80-100 ct Vanity Fair Napkins</p>
<p>2.99 24 oz Princella Pasta Sauce</p>	<p>2.99 40 oz Princella Yams or 29 oz Glory Foods Sweet Traditions Candied Yams</p>	<p>3.99 16 oz Village Hearth Rye Bread</p>	<p>2/\$5 12-14 oz Fisher Peanuts</p>	<p>6.99 36 ct Finish Dish Tabs</p>
<p>2.99 16-32 oz Vlassic or Milwaukee's Pickles</p>	<p>8.99 2 lb Velveeta</p>	<p>2/\$5.50 13 oz Old Dutch Tortilla Chips</p>	<p>2/\$5 9 oz Herdez Taqueria Street Sauce or 15.3-6 oz Chi-Chi's or Herdez Salsa</p>	<p>3.99 28 oz Dawn Dish Soap</p>
<p>2/\$5 20-24 oz Simply Potatoes</p>	<p>2/\$4 6-8 oz Food Club Sliced Cheese</p>	<p>2.49 14 oz Weyauwega Cheese</p>	<p>3/\$5 14-16 oz Select Food Club Premium Frozen Vegetables</p>	<p>2.69 10 oz Marie Callender's Fruit or Meat Pot Pies</p>
<p>2.29 16 oz Daisy Sour Cream</p>	<p>4.49 6-12 ct Cinnamon Rolls, 12-36 ct Rolls or 24 ct Texas Size Rolls</p>	<p>2/\$10 20.36-33 oz Select Connie's, Palermo's or Surfer Boy Pizza or 13-18.1 oz Palermo's Thin Crust Pizza</p>	<p>5.99 21 oz Birds Eye Chicken or Shrimp Viola!</p>	
<p>2.79 8 ct or 8 oz Pillsbury Crescent or Cinnamon Rolls</p>	<p>2.99 32 oz Half & Half or 16 oz Heavy Whipping Cream</p>	<p>2/\$3 12 oz Old Orchard Juice Concentrates</p>	<p>2/\$5 9.5-16 oz Birds Eye Steamfresh or Select Vegetables</p>	
<p>3.29 2 ct Pillsbury Pie Crust</p>	<p>2.49 24 oz Food Club Cottage Cheese</p>	<p>6.99 4 qt Food Club Ice Cream</p>	<p>2/\$3 Pint Cedar Crest Sherbet</p>	
<p>3.99 8 oz Spray or 15 oz Brummel & Brown or I Can't Believe It's Not Butter</p>	<p>3.49 16.50 oz or 12-24 ct Pillsbury Cookie Dough</p>	<p>2.99 6.5 oz Reddi Whip</p>	<p>2/\$5 8 oz Select Crav'n Flavor Appetizers</p>	

dairy & frozen

<p>2/\$5 20-24 oz Simply Potatoes</p>	<p>2/\$4 6-8 oz Food Club Sliced Cheese</p>	<p>2.49 14 oz Weyauwega Cheese</p>	<p>3/\$5 14-16 oz Select Food Club Premium Frozen Vegetables</p>	<p>2.69 10 oz Marie Callender's Fruit or Meat Pot Pies</p>
<p>2.29 16 oz Daisy Sour Cream</p>	<p>4.49 6-12 ct Cinnamon Rolls, 12-36 ct Rolls or 24 ct Texas Size Rolls</p>	<p>2/\$10 20.36-33 oz Select Connie's, Palermo's or Surfer Boy Pizza or 13-18.1 oz Palermo's Thin Crust Pizza</p>	<p>5.99 21 oz Birds Eye Chicken or Shrimp Viola!</p>	
<p>2.79 8 ct or 8 oz Pillsbury Crescent or Cinnamon Rolls</p>	<p>2.99 32 oz Half & Half or 16 oz Heavy Whipping Cream</p>	<p>2/\$3 12 oz Old Orchard Juice Concentrates</p>	<p>2/\$5 9.5-16 oz Birds Eye Steamfresh or Select Vegetables</p>	
<p>3.29 2 ct Pillsbury Pie Crust</p>	<p>2.49 24 oz Food Club Cottage Cheese</p>	<p>6.99 4 qt Food Club Ice Cream</p>	<p>2/\$3 Pint Cedar Crest Sherbet</p>	
<p>3.99 8 oz Spray or 15 oz Brummel & Brown or I Can't Believe It's Not Butter</p>	<p>3.49 16.50 oz or 12-24 ct Pillsbury Cookie Dough</p>	<p>2.99 6.5 oz Reddi Whip</p>	<p>2/\$5 8 oz Select Crav'n Flavor Appetizers</p>	

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 <p>2.79 5-7 oz Jones Dairy Farm Breakfast Links or Patties</p>	 <p>3.49 11-15 oz Select Armour Cooked Meatballs</p>	 <p>3.99 12 oz Select Johnsonville Breakfast Links or Patties</p>
 <p>7.99 12 oz Select Ma Baensch Herring</p>	 <p>9.99 lb Smoked Lake Trout or Salmon Chunks</p>	 <p>8.99 lb Salmon Fillets</p>

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<p>3/\$15</p> <p>8 pk, 12 oz Bottles or 12 pk, 12 oz Cans Coke, Sprite or Diet Coke</p>	<p>AFTER \$2 INSTANT SAVINGS</p> <p>8.99</p> <p>12 pk, 12 oz Cans Budweiser Zero</p>	<p>17.99</p> <p>8 pk, 12 oz Cans Nutri Vodka Seltzer</p>	<p>AFTER \$2 INSTANT SAVINGS</p> <p>13.59</p> <p>15 pk, 12 oz Cans Goose Island IPA</p>	<p>15.49</p> <p>12 pk, 12 oz Bottles Kona Craft</p>
<p>4/\$5</p> <p>2 ltr Bottles 7UP, RC Cola or Dr. Pepper</p>	<p>WHEN YOU BUY MULTIPLES OF TWO</p> <p>12.79</p> <p>EA 12 pk, 12 oz Cans or Bottles Leinenkugel's Craft</p>	<p>LOWEST LEGAL RETAIL</p> <p>14.84</p> <p>12 pk, 12 oz Cans or Bottles Corona Extra or Modelo Especial</p>	<p>4500 pig points</p> <p>14.79</p> <p>12 pk, 12 oz Cans or Bottles or 15 pk, 12 oz Cans Blue Moon Craft</p>	<p>WHEN YOU BUY MULTIPLES OF TWO</p> <p>14.79</p> <p>EA 15 pk, 12 oz Cans Founder's All Day IPA</p>
<p>2/\$12</p> <p>6 pk CANS BUBBLR 6 PK PURE LEAF OR 12 PK LIPTON TEA</p>	<p>WHEN YOU BUY MULTIPLES OF 4 OR \$1.39 EA</p> <p>4/\$5</p> <p>28 oz Powerade</p>	<p>AFTER \$2 INSTANT SAVINGS</p> <p>10.29</p> <p>12 pk, 12 oz Cans or 12 pk, 11.2 oz Bottles Seagram's Escapes</p>	<p>AFTER \$3 INSTANT SAVINGS</p> <p>20.99</p> <p>1.75 Liter Bottle Smirnoff Vodka</p>	<p>AFTER \$3 INSTANT SAVINGS</p> <p>13.99</p> <p>1.75 Liter Bottle Ryan's Irish Cream</p>
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General Mills
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Strong first half not enough to carry North to win

By Steve Clark
OSKOSH HERALD

It was all clicking in the first half for the Oshkosh North girls basketball team Friday night.

The Spartans held Appleton North to just one field goal in the final four minutes of the first half and had struck for nine 3-pointers, had three players in double figures and, with Ava Hanson scoring six points in the final 35 seconds, taken a 41-31 lead on the Lightning.

Then halftime happened and things were never the same.

Appleton North outscored Oshkosh North 48-27 after intermission and handed the Spartans a 79-68 loss at the Oshkosh North fieldhouse.

“(The first half) was really good. We were hitting shots and playing good defense. At the end when we were on a run, we just wanted to keep it going into the second half,” Hanson said. “We just kind of fell off.”

The Spartans scored the first five points of the second half on a 3-pointer by Lauren Geer and two free throws from Awut Alic to take their biggest lead at 46-31 but Oshkosh North managed just seven points over the next eight minutes as Appleton North erased the deficit.

The Lightning took their first lead of the second half with 9:40 remaining and stayed ahead of the Spartans the rest of the way.

“The kids busted their butts but we couldn’t find our rhythm (in the second half) and we couldn’t hit shots,” head coach Rick Leib said. “They kept changing up the defenses, which is what they are known for, and that kept us a little out of rhythm.”

The loss dropped the Spartans to 1-4 in the Fox Valley Association but Leib likes what his young team is showing on the court.

“The best thing about what we are doing right now is that we are in games,” Leib said. “We believe we can beat any-



Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh North's Awut Alic gets double-teamed along the baseline during last Friday's FVA matchup against Appleton North. Alic scored a then-career-high 22 points for the Spartans.

body and that's the powerful message that has to be. We just have to keep instilling that belief.”

Hanson believes this team is close to picking up some wins in FVA play.

“We just have to learn how to win and finish the games and then we are going to be good,” Hanson said. “It’s like a stretch of five minutes just kills us and away from that we are there the entire game. We are in these games and really close to getting over that little hump.”

The first four shots the Spartans made in the game were 3-pointers – two by Alic and one each from Geer and Hanson – while Hanson’s driving layup less than six

minutes into the game knotted the score at 14.

Appleton North held the lead for much of the first half but a strong finish over the final 4:35 boosted Oshkosh North. Brinna Paulson ignited the half-ending 16-4 run with seven straight points, including a pair of 3-pointers, while it was Hanson’s flurry just before halftime – a burst that included a couple of steals as well – that gave the Spartans their 10-point lead.

“The biggest thing is that we have been peeking to the hoop to put pressure on the defense right away instead of making the automatic pass. That was the difference between the first half and second half,” Leib said. “In the first half we were catching the ball, thinking shot and then moving the ball. In the second half, I think we got in the world of just moving the ball and letting somebody else hit the shot.”

Three players finished in double figures for the Spartans, led by the freshman Alic who topped the 20-point mark for the first time, finishing with 22 points.

“She brings a fearlessness and I think it’s kind of catchy,” Leib said. “Her length and athleticism are what we see but I just think its her fearlessness that stands out the most.”

Hanson added 21 points and five steals in the game, while Paulson notched a career-high 13 points, including four 3-pointers.

“It’s really nice to have some people who I can rely on to take care of the ball and who want to shoot,” Hanson said. “They want to win just as bad. This group of girls really wants to win and it’s nice to have that feeling.”



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4:00 pm, St. Vincent Church (Children's Mass)
(livestreamed on Facebook available afterward on parish YouTube channel)

4:00 pm, Sacred Heart Church
10:00 pm, Sacred Heart Church

CHRISTMAS DAY – MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:00 am, Sacred Heart Church
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Knights' Carpenter shooting for elusive state title

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Carpenters build and Mason Carpenter is no exception.

Take the outstanding prep wrestling career that Carpenter has built with the Lourdes Academy/Valley Christian program.

The building, though, isn't done for Carpenter. That's because he's missing one final piece – a WIAA state individual title – and Carpenter will try to nail it down in late February.

Carpenter is a two-time state finalist who has been denied a gold medal the last two years at the Kohl Center where he's had to settle for a pair of silvers.

A three-time state qualifier, Carpenter took second in the 126-pound class (in Division 3) in 2023 and placed in the same runner-up spot at 120 pounds in 2022. He also claimed a state medal as a freshman, placing fifth at 106.

This will be Carpenter's last shot at winning a state title and he's not looking for an instant replay of the past two seasons.

"It's been awhile since Lourdes had a state champion," Carpenter said. "I'm looking to win a state title and finish undefeated. Finishing second the last two years obviously wasn't my goal."

What's particularly frustrating for Carpenter is that the same opponent – Cumberland's Dawson Johnson – has delivered all three of his state tournament losses. Johnson topped Carpenter by a 6-0 decision in last year's 126-pound state championship and pinned him in the 120-pound state title bout in 2022. Johnson also pinned Carpenter in his opening 106-pound state match as a freshman, be-



Oshkosh Herald

Lourdes Academy senior Mason Carpenter is a three-time state medal winner in wrestling, including second-place finishes the last two seasons, and looking to claim a state title.

fore Carpenter battled back for the fifth-place medal.

Johnson – a University of Minnesota recruit – will pursue his fourth straight Division 3 state championship this season, while Carpenter will try to secure his first. Carpenter was at a disadvantage in last year's state title match, wrestling with a dislocated thumb that he injured in his state semifinal match.

"He (Johnson) is just a very critical wrestler," Carpenter said. "He doesn't make mistakes. Even if you make a little mistake, he'll capitalize on it."

It's tough to tell right now whether Johnson will remain a roadblock for Carpenter since the two may compete in different weight classes. Carpenter – a top-notch middle linebacker – played the 2023 prep football season for Lourdes at 148 pounds and has the potential to move up two or three weight classes. Or, he could elect to slide down from last year's 126-pound weight.

"I'll wrestle at wherever my body feels the most comfortable," said Carpenter. "It will come down to how I feel at a specific weight. Even if I go down, it wouldn't be too bad with the dieting part and all. It's something I've done since the seventh grade."

Carpenter entered the 2023-24 wrestling season with a dazzling 112-10 career record, including a 48-3 mark last season. It takes more than just raw talent to string together a stellar record like that and Car-

Senior spotlight

penter has worked hard for every one of those wins.

"What makes Mase a great wrestler is that he's one of the hardest workers I've ever worked with," said Lourdes coach Stephan Heinzl. "He always wants to be in the wrestling room, improving and getting ready for his next match."

Carpenter merges strong technique with physicality on the mat and it produces positive results.

"My style is hard pace," Carpenter said. "I'd say I'm more technical than physical but it's pretty close. I definitely try to be as physical as I can. I'm not a nice wrestler. I want to dominate out there."

Carpenter has been wrestling since the first grade. His father, Kip, was a prep wrestler at Oshkosh West where he competed in the upper weights. Kip has worked steadily with Mason over the years and helped him develop into an elite wrestler.

"I owe a lot of my success to my dad," Carpenter said. "He's been working with me since the third grade. He comes up to me every year and asks me: 'What's your goal? How hard do you want me to push you? Every year, I give him the same answer: 'To win a state title and to push me until I break.'"

Carpenter wrestles year-round, but isn't a one-sport wonder. He's a ballhawking linebacker in the fall who was a tackling machine for the Knights. Carpenter led Lourdes in total tackles the past two years with 95 (54 solo) in 2023 and 127 (86 solo) in 2022.

"I started football in middle school and the coaches noticed right away that I was good at tackling," Carpenter said. "I think it correlates to takedowns in wrestling. I really enjoyed playing football. It's a little different than wrestling, which isn't all that popular in high school. In football, you have all the fans and your classmates

SEE Senior spotlight ON PAGE 20

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Oshkosh West takes down rival Spartans in FVA dual

By Dustin Riese
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The Oshkosh West and Oshkosh North wrestling teams took to the mat Thursday night for a Fox Valley Association double dual against Appleton East at Oshkosh North.

While both teams knocked off the Patriots, it was their matchup against each other that was the highlight of the night as both were looking to go 2-0.

Despite the Spartans' best efforts on the mat with several matches going into the second and third periods, it wasn't enough as the Wildcats took care of business 68-11 to improve to 3-1 in FVA dual meets.

"Overall, in both duals, I think the team did a great job at getting to what they do and working hard in every position," Wildcats head coach Matt Cuadra said. "The energy was there and that had to do with us finally being 'home' and getting to have more of our fans in the stands. I am very proud of how our team wrestled tonight and we are just getting started."

The Wildcats' match against the Spartans was much like their dual meet with Appleton East early on with Xaiver Vang earning a forfeit at 112 pounds followed by another forfeit win by Arjen Karns at 120 pounds.

It was in the 126-pound match where the Wildcats won their first match without a pin or forfeit, but still managed to keep a perfect score going.

Benediction Kakola squared off against Yohana Bikyeombe and the two of them went the distance before Kakola picked up the 9-3 decision, extending

the Wildcats' lead to 15-0.

One match later saw the Spartans pick up their first win as Anthony Berger took on Liam Sullivan at 132 pounds and dominated him from start to finish to pick up a 16-1 technical fall. That victory put the Spartans on the board and pulled them within 15-5.

Unfortunately for the Spartans, that was as close as they would get as the Wildcats went on to win the next five matches and scored 29 out of a possible 30 points to open up a 44-5 lead.

The lone match that didn't result in six points was at 138 pounds with Damarion Williams picking up the 19-4 technical fall victory over Camden Watson and came away with several near falls during the match.

That was followed by Edwyn Schroeder (144), Jaxen Lloyd (152), Ryland Schneider (157) and Jaiden Fronczak (165) all earning pins as the Wildcats clinched the victory.

With only five matches to go and a chance to finish off strong, it was the Spartans picking up their second and final win of the night as Hunter Gruse took on Zach Bartels in the 175-pound weight class.

This match was filled with plenty of intense drama as things got chippy early on resulting in an unsportsmanlike penalty charged to Gruse. Gruse found a way to battle back and went into the third period against Bartels coming away with an impressive pin, giving the Spartans their final six points of the night.

Spartans head coach Michael Kositzke was proud of the way Gruse managed



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Oshkosh West's Damarion Williams takes down Oshkosh North's Camden Watson in the 138-pound match Thursday.

SEE **Wrestling** ON PAGE 20

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Prep sports roundup



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Oshkosh West's Sam Gibson puts up a shot between a pair of Kimberly defenders on Friday night.

SWIMMING

Oshkosh West cruises past rival North/Lourdes

Oshkosh West won 11 of the 12 events and got multiple victories from Caleb Bergin, Isaac Palomaki and Dane Dodge in collecting a 113-66 win over Oshkosh North/Lourdes Academy last week.

Bergin's wins came in the 200-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle, while Palomaki earned his victories in the 200-yard individual medley and 100-yard butterfly. Dodge placed first in both the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle.

Other wins for the Wildcats went to Sam Roblee in the 100-yard backstroke and Carter Crowe in the 100-yard breaststroke.

West also placed first in all three relays with Bergin, Crowe, Palomaki and Dodge winning the 200-yard medley relay and the 400-yard freestyle relay, while Roblee, Mateo Romero, Logan Auxier and Jack Loper finished first in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

North/Lourdes' lone victory came in diving where River Reeves finished first and teammate Everix Blessent took second.

Other second-place finishes for North/Lourdes were Dylan Anderson in the 200-yard freestyle; Trip Kujawa in the 200-yard individual medley and 100-yard freestyle; Swayer Sharratt in the 100-yard butterfly and 100-yard breaststroke; and David Tjugum in the 500-yard freestyle.

Picking up second places for West were Crowe in the 50-yard freestyle and Jordan Gietman in the 100-yard backstroke.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Spartans pull out win over Stoughton

Stevie Clark finished with 27 points, including a three-point play with 4.6 seconds left in the second overtime, to lift Oshkosh North to an 86-84 win over

Stoughton at the 60Eight Tournament in Madison on Saturday.

Clark also had seven steals in the game.

Xzavion Mitchell also finished with 27 points and eight rebounds in the win for North, while Stefan Stolicovic chipped in 10 points.

North led 30-28 at halftime with the score being tied at 64 at the end of regulation. Both teams scored 11 points in the first overtime.

The Spartans suffered their first loss of the season last Tuesday, falling to Appleton North 71-63.

Mitchell led three players in double figures with 19 points, while Bryce Ott added 15 and Clark chipped in 11.

Wildcats drop pair of FVA contests

Kimberly scored the first 10 points of the game and led Oshkosh West the entire way in handing the Wildcats a 72-47 loss in Fox Valley Association play Friday.

West managed only 13 points in the first half and trailed by 18 at intermission.

Drew Blair was the lone double-figure scorer for the Wildcats, finishing with 14 points. Leading scorer Dylan Taylor was limited to just five points in the game.

Earlier in the week, the Wildcats lost on the road to Appleton North, 78-68.

Blair went 4-for-4 from 3-point range and scored 25 points to lead West. He also grabbed a team-high seven rebounds. Taylor added 16 points and Collin Carns hit three 3-pointers and finished with 11 points.

Knights upend Marshmen in overtime


Dom Bauer hit a free throw with less than a second left to lift Lourdes Academy to a 55-54 overtime win over Horicon at The Castle on Friday night.

The Knights trailed 32-27 at halftime but rallied in the second half and JJ Mc-

SEE Prep roundup ON PAGE 19



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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 18

Kellips hit a basket to send the game into overtime tied at 47.

McKellips finished with 24 points to lead the Knights, while Mitchell Wing added 10 points in his return from injury.

Lourdes Academy improves to 4-1 in the Trailways East, a half-game ahead of Horicon at the top of the league standings.

Rough second half stings Valley Christian

The Warriors trailed by just three points at halftime but couldn't keep pace with Dodgeland in the second half as they fell at home 52-35.

Isaiah Hyvonen led Valley Christian with 11 points.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Spartans collect win over Wisconsin Rapids

Awut Alic scored a career-high 26 points and Oshkosh North hit 10 3-pointers in a 70-43 nonconference win over Wisconsin Rapids on the road Saturday.

Alic led North with three 3-pointers as five different players hit from behind the arc in the game.

Ava Hanson finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Spartans. Alic also had 12 rebounds in the game.

Oshkosh North improved to 4-0 in non-conference games this season.

Earlier in the week the Spartans fell to Appleton East, 71-63, with Hanson scoring 23 points in the game and Alic adding 12. Lauren Geer chipped in nine points.

Nyedang Awak grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds for the Spartans.

Strong second half not enough for West

Oshkosh West outscored Kimberly 43-32 in the second half but couldn't erase an 18-point halftime deficit in a 66-59 loss to the Papermakers on Friday.

West managed just 15 points in the first half.

Paige Seckar posted a double-double to lead the Wildcats, finishing with 19 points

and 10 rebounds.

Laina Hammen and Morgan Toman each added 12 points for West.

The Wildcats lost a 44-43 heartbreaker to Appleton North earlier in the week.

Seckar and Hammen each scored 12 points in the game, while Seckar also picked up 13 boards.

Knights' offense erupts in win over Horicon

Lourdes Academy exploded for 51 first-half points and finished with a whopping 14 3-pointers in a 82-53 thumping of Horicon in a Trailways East contest last week.

Hailee Bauer led the charge, knocking down 6-of-8 from 3-point range and finishing with a season-high 31 points. She also had nine steals in the game.

Aubrey Schettle added 14 points, including four 3-pointers, while Hannah McDowell added 12.

Valley Christian picks up pair of wins

Anna Y. Giannopoulos posted a big double-double and Valley Christian rode a big first half to a nonconference win over Newman Catholic.

Giannopoulos finished with 18 points and 16 rebounds to lead three players in double figures for the Warriors. Lizzie Fink added 14 points while Anna E. Giannopoulos chipped in 11 points in the win.

Valley Christian held Newman Catholic to just 13 points in the first half in bolting to a 17-point lead.

Earlier in the week, Valley Christian won a Trailways East contest against Wayland Academy, 46-38, behind 16 points apiece from Mya Moran and Fink.

The Warriors are now 5-2 on the season.

WRESTLING

Wildcats take top spot at own invitational

Four wrestlers claimed individual titles to lead Oshkosh West to the team title at its own invitational Saturday.

The Wildcats finished with 262 points to outdistance D.C. Everest (230 points) and Ashwaubenon (216) for the title in the eight-team event.

Earning titles for West were Damarion Williams (138), Edwyn Schroeder (144), Ryland Schneider (157) and Nelson Fournier (215). Williams, Schroeder and Fournier finished 5-0 on the day, while Schneider was 4-0.

Fournier pinned all five of his opponents, stopping Ashwaubenon's Trent Velicer in 1:56 in the title match, while Schneider won all four of his matches by pin, including a stoppage of D.C. Everest's Max Saari in 1:11. Schroeder finished with three pins and Williams had two.

Jaxen Lloyd (150), Jaiden Fronczak (165) and Garth Martell (285) each finished second for the Wildcats, while Joshua Booth (106) and Zach Bartels (175) took third.

In an FVA dual meet Thursday, Oshkosh West posted a perfect score in a 84-0 win over Appleton East.

The Wildcats won seven matches by pin and the other seven by forfeit for their total.

Earning pins for West were Schroeder (144), Lloyd (150), Fronczak (165), Bartels (175), Connor Wisneski (190), Fournier (215) and Martell (285).

Spartans take down Patriots in FVA dual meet

Oshkosh North won four of the seven contested matches and collected a 46-18 dual meet win over Appleton East last Thursday.

Three of the Spartans' wins in dual meet came by pin. Alex Barrera (106), Jamond Thompson-Schreck (150) and Hunter Gruse (175) registered the pins, with Barrera needing just 50 seconds to earn his victory.

Antonio Thompson (190) added the other contested win for the Spartans earning a major decision victory.

The Spartans also won four matches by forfeit.

On Saturday, Thompson-Schreck finished 4-2 to place fifth at 150 pounds to highlight the day for at the Shawano Invitational.

Thompson-Schreck finished with a pair of pins on the day and was the only North wrestler to place in the top six in their weight class at the tournament.

Thompson (190) went 3-2 with a pin but fell just short of earning a place, while Camden Watson (138) had a pair of wins, both by pin on the day.

Carpenter takes second at Fond du Lac invite

Lourdes Academy's Mason Carpenter went 3-1 and finished second at 138 pounds at the Fond du Lac Invitational on Saturday.

Carpenter, who improved to 12-1 on the season, pinned his first two opponents and then won a 3-0 decision over Cedar Grove-Belgium's Owen Race in the semifinals. In the title match, Carpenter lost a 5-4 decision to Kewaskum's Bryston Scoles.

Hunter Stelzer added a fourth-place finish at heavyweight, going 2-2 on the day with both of his wins coming by pin.

BOYS HOCKEY

Ice Hawks drop pair of games over weekend

The Oshkosh Ice Hawks lost two games at home over the weekend, losing to Homestead, 5-0, on Friday and 7-1 to Rhinelander on Saturday.

Oshkosh generated 22 shots on goal but couldn't find the net in the loss to Homestead. It was the first time the Ice Hawks had been shutout this season.

Against Rhinelander, Isaiah Koeppen tallied the lone goal with Reid Polak picking up the assist.

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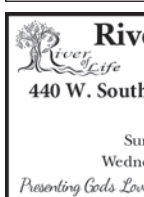
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Wrestling

FROM PAGE 16

to overcome adversity after what was a challenging start to the match.

“Gruse continues to impress and has gotten better each week,” Kositske said. “I wasn’t happy with his unsportsman-like penalty, but he did a great job regaining his composure and wrestled an outstanding match. Gruse has faced adversity several times this season and has continued to overcome those situations. Tonight was another adversity situation as this is a learning experience for all of us.”

Leading 44-11 with four matches to go, the Wildcats finished strong as they scored the final 24 points with 12 of those coming as forfeit victories to Connor Wisneski (195 pounds) and Garth Martell (285 pounds).

The other 12 points came from a pair of pins with Nelson Fournier pinning Logan Schettle at 215 pounds and Joshua Booth taking care of Alex Barrera at

106 pounds to clinch the 68-11 win.

Cuadra loved the performance his entire team put forth from start to finish.

“There were a lot of great performances across the board tonight, but one that stands out is Joshua Booth at 106 pounds,” Cuadra said. “That match was back and forth all night where both wrestlers were on their backs multiple times. For Josh to fight off his back and get the pin was great to see. This was the night where our team came together and really showed what our wrestling program is about.”

Even with the loss to the Wildcats, the Spartans took a step in the right direction as they are one of the younger teams in the FVA.

“I could not be more proud of how my wrestlers approached the match or how they continued to work hard,” Kositzke said. “We are a very young team with only one senior. West is a very solid team. They have a lot of experience and a lot of talented wrestlers. But we did not back down or hand anything to them tonight. We made them earn it, but we just got beat by a better team.”



Submitted photo

Steinbeck signs

Oshkosh North senior Carson Steinbeck, flanked by his parents Kari and Phil, recently signed his National Letter of Intent to continue his baseball career at the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy next year. UHSP is an NAIA school located in St. Louis.

Senior spotlight

FROM PAGE 16

cheering for you.

“It’s a team sport and all of my friends were on the team. I got an opportunity and just ran with it.”

Carpenter will get a chance to compete at the next level in wrestling and will look to run with that opportunity. An honors student at Lourdes, Carpenter has accepted an athletic scholarship to St. Cloud State (Minnesota) where he plans to major in finance.

“I’m really good at math – really good with numbers,” Carpenter said. “That’s what interests me about finance. I’m excited about St. Cloud State. There were some other schools interested and I could have

taken more visits, but I was really set on St. Cloud. They were my first official visit and I was hooked right away. I was really impressed by their mentality, how hard they work and the success they’ve had.”

Carpenter has a good idea of what it’s going to take to succeed on the mat at St. Cloud State.

“Little mistakes – you can’t have those at the college level,” Carpenter said. “I tried to get in workouts during the off-season against older college guys just so I could get used to the flow of what college wrestling will be like.”

“You have to do everything right off the mat, too. You have to get to bed on time, do your homework, practice hard and eat the right food. You need to do all those little things to build and get yourself to where you want to be.”

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Obituaries

Vivian Victoria Masanz

Vivian Victoria Masanz, 90, of Winneconne, WI died of cancer on Thursday, December 14, 2023. She was born in Marathon County WI. on January 23, 1933, to Sophie and Louis Stencil. Vivian met her future husband, Eugene Masanz, at Poplar Tree Ballroom, in Marathon County. Eugene and Vivian began dating in July of 1948, and were married in Castle, WI on June 1, 1950. They lived in Bear Creek, WI where Eugene owned a service station. After 13 years her family relocated to Oshkosh. Vivian remained in Oshkosh until the passing of her husband Eugene and later, mother, Sophie. It was after these events that she made the decision to move to Winneconne to be closer to her daughter and her new twin grandchildren.

Vivian is survived by her three children, Donald Masanz of Oshkosh WI, Brian (Sue) Masanz of Tucson, AZ, and

Tina (Robert) Nagler of Winneconne, WI; nine grandchildren, Rachel (John) Hutnik, Lindsay (Jesse) Larsen, Colin Masanz, Natasha Masanz, Joseph Nagler, Jessica (Travis) Novotny, Jeremy Nagler, Kristi Nagler, and Brandon Nagler; seven great-grandchildren, Madison Hutnik, Claire Larsen, Hudson Larsen, Mikayla Kopplin, Ty Nagler, Emma and Ari Novotny; sister in-law, Sandy Stencil; nieces, Brenda Hess and Linda Hutchinson. Vivian and her friends were practically inseparable throughout their lives. Some of her closest friends were, Stan and Darlene Christenson, Harold and Carmen Smith, Wayne and Barb Richmond, Bill and Karen Hanneman. More often than not, if you were looking for Vivian on the weekend you could find her at her country get away near Redgranite, WI. Sitting around the campfire with close friends or family reminiscing about days gone past.

Vivian worked several jobs throughout her life, from working at a glove factory, to a knitting mill, later finishing up her working career with three separate stints

at Copp's Department Store.

Vivian was an active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oshkosh, and later with St. Mary Catholic Church in Winneconne.

Everyone who knew Vivian knew how much she enjoyed puzzles, Rummikub, Bingo, reading, and Wisconsin sports. She also enjoyed feeding hummingbirds in the summer months. She enjoyed craftmaking (too many to mention), and spending time with her grandchildren. Vivian will always be remembered for her giving heart and the way that she was always willing to go out of her way for others. You couldn't have asked for a better wife, mother or grandmother. She will be missed every day; her memory will live on in the hearts of all those who knew her.

Vivian was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Masanz; her mother and father, Sophie and Louis R. Stencil; a brother, Louis L. Stencil; as well as multiple lifelong friends and extended family members.

A visitation for family and friends will

be on Saturday, December 23, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Mueller Funeral Home 904 E. Main St. Winneconne. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, December 23 at 1:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Oshkosh.

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



Loretta Kay Blechl

Loretta Kay Blechl, age 70, passed away on Friday, December 15, 2023, at Omro Care Center. She was born in Oshkosh on December 24, 1952, to the late Frank and Lois (Wilde) Blechl.

For a full obituary, please visit Konrad-Behlman.com.



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Obituaries

Connie Fay Beulen

Connie Fay Beulen, age 61, of Oshkosh, passed away unexpectedly in her home on Friday, Dec 15. She was born to David and Joyce (Carpenter) Beulen on Jan. 15, 1962. Connie graduated from Oshkosh North High School in 1980 and spent her early years in the Girl Scouts and as Color Guard in the Oshkosh Drum and Bugle Corp. She got a job in the bakery at Carlson's Food and attended FCTI to become an Interior Designer. She eventually became a machine operator at Rockwell/Meritor Inc until it closed. She continued to work in the metal fabricating industry at Brickham Stamping Co. and then at Webbex Machining Co. in Neenah. She also worked for awhile at Spring Brook



Tavern.

Connie loved crafting, gardening, sewing, embroidering, and especially baking and cooking. Our family would gather at her house on many special occasions where she would have a beautifully set table (dinning or picnic) ready for us to be entertained. For years people would go to her house for haircuts and many times would end up having a meal there as well. This year's Christmas Chocolates were next on her list and ready to be made. Connie was last employed at 4-Imprint as an embroiderer, where her friends were planning for her retirement party next month. She also had an extremely huge heart for the many cats and dogs that were in her life.

Connie was preceded in death by her father. She is survived by three older brothers Gene (Tina) Beulen, Menasha, Michael Beulen, Oshkosh and Keith (Ellen) The Villages Fla., and many nieces

and nephews.

She is also survived by two dogs an Australian Labradoodle, Winston, and a Double Doodle, Gus, who are missing Connie very much. They have, however, seem to have found a good new home.

A funeral service officiated by All Saints Lutheran Church, where Connie was a member, will be held at Konrad-Behlman

Funeral Home (100 Lake point Dr. Oshkosh) on Friday, December 29, at 1:00. Visitation will be 11:00-until time of the service.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating to the Oshkosh Area Humane Society.



Daniel Lewis Carpenter

Daniel Lewis Carpenter, 75, of Oshkosh, passed away on December 15th, 2023. He was born to the late Daniel and Lenore (Eiler) on April 23rd, 1948. Dan married Marvel (Schultz) on December 11th, 1999.

Dan was a fan of the Green Bay Packers.

Dan is survived by his sons; James (Sara), Daniel (Jennifer), and Robert; a daughter Penny; as well as stepchildren Richard, Edward, Peter, Garry and Susan; brothers Philip (Barb) and Roy (Betty); sisters Francis (Dave) and Joyce (How-

ard); and grandchildren Danielle Monroe, Elizabeth Sharpless, Samantha Miller. Along with his parents Dan is preceded in death by his daughter Peggy; step son William and grandsons Jonathan and Joseph.

A funeral service for Dan will be held at Wyldewood Baptist Church, 3030 Witzel Ave, on Thursday December 21st at 4pm. Visitation will be 2 until the time of service.



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Obituaries

David James Grey

David James Grey – dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and friend – passed away surrounded by his loved ones at Evergreen Retirement Community in Oshkosh, WI on Friday, December 15, 2023, after a long battle with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP). David was 78 years old.

David was born to Clement and Mary (Spanbauer) Grey in New London, WI on March 2, 1945. David grew up in Clintonville, WI and graduated from Clintonville High School in 1963 before attending Wisconsin State University – Oshkosh. David majored in English and had a minor in Journalism. While attending WSU-O, David met the love of his life, Julie Thomas.

David and Julie married on May 20, 1967, and soon after welcomed their first

son, Steven. A few years later the family grew to four with the birth of another son, Michael. As he was building his family, Dave was also building a career as a writer for the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern. In 1967, David accepted a position as a sportswriter with the newspaper. This position eventually led to jobs as the City Editor, Business Editor, Special Editions Manager and Credit Manager with the organization over a thirty-six year period. Dave left the news business in 2002 to embark on a new career as a realtor with Schwab Realty in Oshkosh. Dave worked in real estate another eighteen years until he retired in 2020.

Throughout his life, David had a passion for sports. Whether it was playing them, writing about them, coaching them or refereeing them, Dave was involved. Some of his fondest memories came from his coverage of the Green Bay Packers when he was a sportswriter. Dave was a huge Milwaukee Brewers fan and always listened to Bob Uecker broadcast games on the radio.

He was also a follower and supporter of local high school and club sports.

In the early '90s Dave became a high school athletics official to stay involved in the sports scene. Dave was a referee for basketball and football, and he was an umpire for baseball and softball. He and his partners officiated high school games all over the state of Wisconsin. Football was always his favorite sport to officiate, and he and his crew were rewarded by being chosen to referee WIAA high school football state championship games in 1999, 2002, 2006 and 2011 at Camp Randall stadium in Madison. He always viewed those games as the "Super Bowls" of his officiating career.

When Dave was not working, he could usually be found in his garden tending to his flowers. He always had the best zinnias and irises in the neighborhood. Dave was also very involved in his church, St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Oshkosh. If he wasn't ushering at a Sunday morning mass, he would be distributing communion or helping in some way or another. Those that knew Dave will miss his quick wit, infectious smile and friendly personality.

David was preceded in death by his par-

ents Clement and Mary Grey and sister Joyce (Jack) Gretzinger. David is survived by his wife of 57 years, Julie Grey; children: Steven (Stacey) Grey, Michael (Laurie) Grey; grandchildren: Kaitlin, Alex, Erik, Campbell and Marnie Grey; siblings: Jack (Rochelle) Grey and Michael Nelson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Christian Mass will be celebrated for David on Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 11:00 am in St. Vincent church St. Jude the Apostle Parish, 1225 Oregon St. in Oshkosh with Father Louis Golamari as celebrant. A time of visitation will be held at the church starting at 9:00 am going until the time of Mass.

The family would like to thank those from Home Instead (Amy), the Theda hospice team (Stacy, Angie, Jamie, Riley), the staff at Cherry Meadows and Evergreen Retirement Community for their outstanding care and support during this very difficult time. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made to: **CurePSP**, 325 Hudson Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10013.



Charles R. Nitz

Charles "Chuck" R. Nitz, age 82 of Oshkosh, passed away on Monday, December 11, 2023 at Evergreen Retirement Community. Chuck was born on November 14, 1941 to the late John and Nina (Meyer) Nitz. Chuck was united in marriage to Pat Harrington on July 23, 1965 at Peace Lutheran Church in Oshkosh.

Chuck faithfully served in the United Stated Army before working at Duwe Precast and Bemis.

Chuck stayed active throughout his life by playing baseball and softball as well as racquet ball, dart ball and handball. He was also an active member at the YMCA for many years. Chuck was an avid cribbage player. He played cribbage every opportunity he got; he played on several leagues and in many tournaments. He also enjoyed playing card games, horseshoes, bowling, and going camping.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Patricia Harrington; children, Todd (Annalee) Nitz and Paula (Dan) Kingsley; grandchildren, Myles and Lexsis; siblings, David (Linda) Nitz, Judy Anderson, Jeff Nitz; nieces and nephews; in laws, Diane Har-

ington, Karen Harrington, Diane Harrington, George (Shirley) Harrington, Debbie (Tim) Liebert, Steve and Bobby Harrington.

In addition to his parents, Chuck was preceded in death by his siblings, Sharon Nitz, Sonny (Gerry) Nitz, Marilyn (Jim) Wiles, Pete (Barbara) Nitz; in-laws, Chuck Anderson, Mary Nitz, Merton (Helen) Harrington, Rodger and John Harrington, Betty and Art Covey, Dan Harrington, Keith (Dawn) Harrington, Doug Harrington, Gail Lee, Gary (Arlene) Harrington.

A memorial service for Chuck will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, December 23, 2023 at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Dr. with Lyn Zahorik officiating. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 1:00 PM until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established.

Thank you to the Evergreen Retirement Community long term care staff for the wonderful care provided to Chuck during his time there.



Oshkosh, WI. A service for Stephen will be held in the summer of 2024. A full obituary will be posted at a later date.



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SANTA ANSWERS ALL!

Imagine you had a chance to interview Santa Claus! What would you ask? What would Santa say? Here are some ideas from some *Kid Scoop* readers, who came up with the questions and the answers for today's page.

Q: How did you become Santa and how did you get your magic?

Santa: I was a smart, cheerful child. When my parents died, I was heartbroken. I cried, not out of self-pity, but out of true love. One of my tears dropped into the snow and froze to make an ice marble. When I held it, it glowed and took me to the North Pole. I met the elves and they needed my help.

After I grew up with them I took on the greatest task of all—delivering presents. The ice marble gave me powers I have today.
 — By Chris

How many ice marbles can you find on today's page?



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow one-step written directions.



Help Santa find his way through the magic maze back to the North Pole.



Q: What kind of milk do you like?

Santa: I like whole milk best, but Mrs. Claus put me on a diet so I have to drink non-fat.
 — By Nick

Q: How can you visit all of the children of the world in one night?

Santa: I fly at super speed; that's why you can't see me.
 — By Adrian

Extra! Extra! Santa Comes to YOUR Town!

Pretend Santa has to buy all of his Christmas presents from the stores advertising in your newspaper. Help him by selecting a gift for everyone in your class using ads in the paper. Don't spend more than \$500.

Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Solve addition problems using money amounts.

Q: Where do you buy your groceries?

Santa: I don't buy them; Mrs. Claus grows them. On Christmas Eve I come back with a sleigh full of soil instead of an empty sleigh. We grow food in our greenhouse and eat fresh veggies and fruit everyday.
 — By Laurena



Find the two identical fruit trees.

Find at least 10 differences between Santa and his reflection.



Standards Link: Investigation: Identify similarities and differences in common objects.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Q: Do you think you'll want to be Santa forever?

Santa: As long as my heart is _____ and my belly is _____, I reckon I'll want to be!
 — By Maya

Q: Has there ever been a year when you gave out more _____ than presents?

Santa: No, and I _____ that never _____
 — By Michael



Where does each of these words belong?

- JIGGLING
- COAL
- HOPE
- HAPPENS
- POUNDING

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- INTERVIEW
- MARBLE
- SANTA
- ANSWERS
- POUNDING
- FRUIT
- REFLECTION
- CLASS
- POLE
- MILK
- CLAUS
- CHEERFUL
- SNOW
- BELLY
- DIET

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

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

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Q: _____

A: _____



Q: _____

A: _____



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