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Downtown housing plan unveiled

Child care services part of multi-unit project

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

A housing development could help address the low-income housing shortage that Oshkosh has been struggling to fill for years.

Preliminary plans call for an apartment building with residential units on the sec-

ond and third floors with a child care center and commercial units on the first level.

The city's Redevelopment Authority (RDA) has been acquiring several properties along the west side of the 600 block of Jefferson Street since 2006 in an effort to create housing or a mixed-use development. A developer specializing in low-income housing has a plan for more than 50 units of low-income and workforce housing.

The RDA owns eight parcels along Jef-

erson Street and one on North Main Street, which could be the site of the new development. The Common Council approved a term sheet that outlines developer and city obligations with the project.

Final plans will need to be approved by the Plan Commission and Common Council for construction scheduled to begin in 2025.

Commonwealth Development Corp.

SEE **Housing plan** ON PAGE 16

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Girls hoops

Knights' fast start stings Warriors
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Vote coming

County to weigh in on drug vending machines
Page 3



Photo by Michael Cooney

Winter watch

A holiday-themed ice boat is displayed before a recent sunrise on Lake Winnebago at the South Side Ice Yacht Club on South Main Street. Warmer weather is keeping ice and snow conditions on hold before anyone can take advantage of outdoor winter activities.

Chemical Society builds STEAM for northeast Wisconsin

Corporate scientists devote time to youth

By Patti Lee
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Georgia Pacific R&D director Mary Glesner and Kimberly Clark lead scientist Kara Nell are the chair and chair-elect of the Northeast Wisconsin (NEW) Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS). They are also passionately involved in a network of scientists, librarians, educators and volunteers dedicating time, creativity and brain power to mak-

ing chemistry exciting and accessible to young people.

Chemists refer to their field of study as The Central Science. According to Glesner, "Everything around us is made up of the 118 elements on the periodic table. That's all we have to work with." She is passionate about making science approachable and bringing "the transforming power of chemistry" to the community.

"As a chemist, I look around and see chemistry everywhere," Glesner said. "Our goal is to help people see how chemistry relates to everyday life. It's so important, but folks often find science in gen-

eral to be intimidating. Our events bring chemistry to the community in a way that

connects with their everyday experiences.



Glesner

"Think about it," Glesner continued. "Why do your hot packs get hot when you're skating at Neenah Plaza? I shove those little toe warmers in my skates and they heat up, right? That's a chemical reac-

tion. Let's skip to summer and you're out at Memorial Park playing soccer. You just

skinned your knee and need a cold pack. You pull it out, break it and shake it up and why does it get cold? It's a chemical reaction. People use chemistry every day whether they know it or not."

The ACS is one of the largest scientific organizations in the world and Nell is quick to emphasize the uncommon nature of the NEW section.

"We're a unique section because we don't have a major research university," she said. "There are universities in northeast Wisconsin like UW Oshkosh, Green

SEE **Chemistry** ON PAGE 10

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ThedaCare, Froedtert complete merger

Oshkosh Herald

Froedtert Health and ThedaCare have finalized their merger agreement with the combined health system officially launching Monday at the start of the new year.

The combined organization expects to name its board in January with the initial chair and vice chair roles of the board and committees equally shared between the parties. The first board chair will be Jud Snyder, Froedtert Health’s current board chair, and the initial vice chair will be Jim Kotek, ThedaCare’s current board chair.

Froedtert Health president and chief executive Cathy Jacobson will initially assume the role of CEO, and ThedaCare president and chief executive Dr. Imran A. Andrabi will serve as president. After a six-month transition period, Jacobson will retire from the organization and Andrabi will assume the role with more than 30 years of medical, operational and strategic expertise and leadership.

“We are confident our combined health

system will continue to improve health and well-being for everyone we are privileged to serve, in line with our longstanding commitment to our communities,” said Andrabi. “This is just the beginning of an inspired future for health care in Wisconsin.”

The brand names of each organization will continue and patients can continue seeing their providers and accessing services. WicareWIroots.com is an informational site that provides updates on the combination.

Oshkosh Defense, union agree to new contract

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Union workers at Oshkosh Defense recently voted to approve a new contract that will increase wages.

Last week, 1,400 members of UAW Local 578 in Oshkosh voted to accept the wage proposal, said UAW Local 578 president Bob Lynk.

“These additional wage increases will help our people with rising costs, and we hope it puts the company in a position to hire for the open positions we currently have,” Lynk said in a statement to union members.

Oshkosh Defense released a statement regarding the new contract.

“We worked with the UAW Local 578 bargaining committee to develop a proposal to increase wages in hopes of retaining and recruiting top talent. The Union Bargaining Committee hosted a vote today on what we believed to be a mutually beneficial solution. We are pleased that membership voted in favor of the proposal, and we look forward to working together to recruit and retain talented team

members to meet the demands of our production requirements.”

Lynk said the contract will increase starting wages by \$7 an hour.

“The UAW across the country is taking a stand for a better life for our members, and our elected bargaining committee will continue to fight for justice in our workplace and community,” said Lynk, whose union has been unsuccessful in lobbying for Oshkosh Defense to produce the new U.S. Postal Service mail truck locally in a contract valued at \$6 billion.

School District launches Mission Keepers podcast

Oshkosh Herald

Mission Keepers is a new monthly podcast produced by the Oshkosh Area School District with Superintendent Bryan Davis chatting with a staff member about their lives inside and outside school.

Davis said the podcast “will give you an inside look on what motivates and brings joy to our incredible staff members who live our district mission of enriching our

community by supporting students to lead creative and empowered lives.”

The inaugural episode was released Dec. 12 with a conversation between Davis and Vel Phillips Middle School choir teacher Phong Nguyen. They discussed Nguyen’s untraditional professional path to becoming a music educator going from Bemidji State University to the school district as choir teacher and his love of woodworking.

Davis said the goal of the podcast is to show district staff are more than just the people that students see at school.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Dec. 22, 1920

Big Tree is in Place: A 21-foot-high Christmas tree was received this morning and is being put in place at the Elk’s Club in the lodge room where a children’s party will be held Friday afternoon. The party is expected to be the biggest event of its kind ever attempted in this city. Invitations have been issued to 283 children whose names were secured through the

cooperation of Associated Charities. Santa Claus will be there in person to hand out gifts from under the tree. There will be a gift for every child along with a bag full of candy, nuts, an orange, and an apple. Charles Carver (Carver Ice Cream) will supply each child with an ice cream cone. Also, each child will receive two street car tickets from B.W. Arnold. Folk dancing and vaudeville performers will be the entertainment for the youngsters and theater manager Roy Cummings will give each of the children two tickets to the Majestic Theater. Presents for the children are being contributed by the Elks.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Dec. 22, 1920

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Drug safety vending machines set for county vote

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Vending machines stocked with Narcan, fentanyl test strips and recovery materials could soon be in Neenah and Oshkosh pending county approval, increasing access to resources in the wake of the county’s deadliest year for accidental drug overdoses, with fentanyl identified as the leading cause.

Winnebago County health director Doug Gieryn told the Board of Health last week that the purpose of the vending machines is to increase access to Narcan, the brand name for naloxone, a lifesaving drug that reverses opioid overdoses, and provide test strips that identify the presence of fentanyl and can also save lives when used appropriately.

“It’s about having the Narcan available because you have a family member or a group that you associate with where there’s a potential risk for overdose, and having that Narcan available will buy you time,” he said. “It may save a life or at least extend the time-frame in which EMS (emergency medical service) has to respond.”

This year there have been 42 fatal overdoses in the county as of November, with an additional seven cases pending toxicology results. That surpasses the county’s previous record of

41 such deaths in 2021. There are currently about 60 harm-reduction vending machines placed throughout the state using Wisconsin Department of Health Services grant funding, but none in Winnebago County.

Controversy around a proposal to use the \$80,000 grant to install the vending machines outside the Human Services building at 211 N. Commercial St. in Neenah and in the county administration building’s outdoor courtyard at 112 Otter Ave. in Oshkosh has delayed the process.

The proposal to accept the grant was on the Board of Supervisors’ agenda in August but abruptly pulled after medical examiner Cheryl Brehmer spoke in opposition, stating she’s concerned about the health department providing drug users with supplies that facilitate use and the county should be focusing on providing access to treatment resources.

“Essentially, they’re supplying almost everything needed for IV drug use other than the substance itself,” she said. “I’m concerned that these supplies will eventually make their way into those vending machines.”

Gieryn addressed Brehmer’s comments at last week’s meeting.

“We heard from our medical examiner in relation to her concern in having the harm-reduction materials in a machine and that she’s concerned that by having these materials in the machines that we’re promoting drug use and overdose – and certainly that’s not the intent of these machines,” he said.

He noted that having clean materials prevents the spread of disease from one drug user to another when sharing supplies “and helps people not end up with a lifelong disease that they have to recover from in addition to trying to navigate their addiction.”

Gieryn said the resolution was modified to take up Brehmer’s concerns and include that hypodermic syringes, needles or other objects used for injecting substances are prohibited from the inventories of the vending machines “but that we’d still be able to have Narcan, fentanyl test strips and a variety of other products that are designed to help support individuals in our community.”

Vending machine access would be restricted, requiring users to consult with the health department and obtain a code to use them.

“If we’re restricting access, we’re only doing it in a way where somebody is calling us, explaining a need and giving a code,” he said.

Gieryn noted if the county isn’t going to have sterile supplies such as needles in the machines there may not be a need

for restricted access. Added to the newest resolution was wording from County Executive Jon Doemel that other public health materials may be included in the machines, including CPR masks, hats, gloves, water and food, with county executive approval. Gieryn said the wording was added to consider people who are skeptical about what may go into the machines and their oversight.

“We’re trying to make sure everyone feels comfortable just to get them placed,” he said. “Even if the only thing we can ever put in these machines is Narcan, it would still be worth it.”

The Board of Health voted to advance the proposal to the Personnel and Finance Committee. If approved it will go to the county board, which is expected to take action on it early next year.

“We want to have naloxone available like we have CPR machines because accidents happen,” Gieryn said. “You can’t always predict when that will occur and we want to make sure that the community has access to these materials so that people can survive.”

Wave Robotics local volunteers sought

Oshkosh’s Wave Robotics Team is looking for volunteers to help inspire and guide students in STEM and business fields by contributing to their skills development in robotics competition.

The group’s season kickoff is set from 9:30 a.m. to noon Jan. 6 at Oshkosh North High School. Contact Sara Dobish at sdobish@waverobotics.com for more information.

Wave Robotics began in 2008 with the goal of providing STEM opportunities to students through the FIRST Robotics program and retain students in the local area as they enter employment.

It now offers K-12 programming in FIRST programs, camps and outreach initiatives.

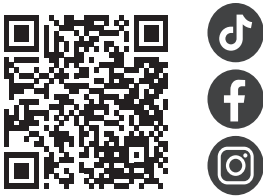


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Savor the season. Scan here for ideas:



Cardboard Legacy a draw for sports card fans

By Jennifer Parmley
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

From hobbyists to devoted sports card enthusiasts, patrons of Cardboard Legacy have found a home wholly dedicated to their passion. The retail shop at 923 Oregon St. opened July 22, 2022, dedicated to collecting, buying, selling and trading sports cards, offering expert grading services.

An avid card collector since he was about 7, Nic Wienandt founded the business during the pandemic. The professional photographer was prevented from



Wienandt

working in person with clients at his primary business, Nic Charles Photography. He dabbled with a few ideas and discovered that collecting, buying, selling and trading sports cards was a viable option, and he began with eBay listings online.

"This one was fun and gained the most traction as something long term and sustainable, and who doesn't want to play with cards all day?" he said.

Once the restrictions of the pandemic were lifted and he was able to return to photography, Wienandt enlisted his mother, Pauline, to continue to post cards online when he was out doing photo work.

"We did that for months and months and then we had several thousand cards online and were selling a couple a day," he said.

Although he intended to be an on-line-only business, in May 2021 he noticed the Oregon Street property was for



Photo by Jennifer Parmley

Cardboard Legacy at 923 Oregon St. offers a personalized connection to the sports card trading world.

sale. Four months after closing, he made several improvements, including a new roof, some paint, carpet and a lot of sweat equity.

Today, Cardboard Legacy employs two part-time employees and a full-time manager in addition to Wienandt, who also spends much of his time at the store. The 7,000-square-foot space has enough room for events, cases, workspace and products, including the upstairs, which is currently being remodeled for eBay operations.

Wienandt said many people who want to know card values usually start by going

online.

“Then they’ll find us and give us a phone call,” he said. “If it sounds appealing to us, with the right years and the right players, we’ll tell them to bring them in and we can look at collections in a few hours or a few days, depending on their size, and then eventually help them sell them or offer to purchase them.”

Chris Krumenauer decided last winter to go through all his old cards to see whether any were of value.

"I went into the shop and was immediately greeted and made to feel at home. I ended up trading in a lot of cards and Nic and Riley helped me send in my best items for grading," Krumenauer said. "The community around the shop is second to none and keeps me going back on a weekly basis. Nic and his team are definitely a positive force in the community and make everyone welcome. It's one of the highlights of my week when I can pop in there for a bit and talk cards and try my luck with something new."

Eddie Dwyer inherited his stepfather's card collection and he and his mother have been going through it. In the process, he figured he should learn how to buy, sell, trade and value cards.

"I started with making some purchases at shows and helping Mom sell the cards that we had," he said. "After a few months I started looking for stores in the area to visit, as I knew that I would need to find people to help value what we had in our collection as well as a connection for myself

with my own card-collecting adventures.”

He visited Cardboard Legacy earlier this year.

"I talked to Nic for maybe 15 minutes about a few different things, looked at everything he had in the shop, and my wife and I headed out," he recalled. "We discussed it on the way home, and both of us were enamored with how nice the shop was, how kind and helpful Nic was, and we both agreed he far beyond passed our vibe check."

Now a frequent customer who recommends the shop to others, Dwyer considers Wienandt a mentor.

"He's doing it because he truly loves it, and he loves building a community. That is what separates Cardboard Legacy from other shops and other people," Dwyer said. "It's all about the community."

And the community is active. Card-board Legacy has a Facebook group and Discord server for local collectors to learn about the shop. The store houses several tables for monthly trade nights and is also increasing its presence with more events, including partnering with the Wisconsin Herd on Jan. 13 for a card show at the Oshkosh Arena.

“The whole idea behind building this was that if you can build a community of people, you probably won’t fail no matter what happens to cards or the economy,” Wienandt said.

For current information on events and other news, or to shop online, visit cardboardlegacy.com.

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"Your Financial Health is our Future"

Workplace injury specialist gains pitch recognition

Oshkosh Herald

An Oshkosh workplace consultant who goes on site to help prevent overuse injuries for the benefit of both employees and employers earned a second-place finish in the recent NEW Launch Alliance Pitch Event.

Dr. Sara Ziegele, owner of Preempt Physical Therapy, helps workers recover from costly preventive injuries, educating people on what's behind their injuries and coming up with more sustainable routines. Companies in turn reduce compensation costs and lost workdays.

Ziegele was one of the 12 entrepreneurial pitch winners who advanced from local competitions hosted by collaborative partners and vied for additional prize money Nov. 30 at a regional pitch competition hosted by New North Inc.



Ziegele

"It is clear that northeast Wisconsin supports entrepreneurial growth," Ziegele said after participating in the competition. "There are so many resources available to business owners in Oshkosh, from initial LLC setup, to pitch deck coaching, to ongoing mentorship. Participating in the NEW Launch Alliance Pitch brought them all to the same table."

She said the competition put a spotlight on workplace safety and highlighted that businesses are looking for innovative strategies to save money on worker compensation.

Ziegele has a bachelor's degree in exercise and movement science and a doctorate in physical therapy, both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has worked in orthopedics and sports medicine with clients ranging from Olympians, ironmen and semiprofessional athletes to workplace staff and everyday athletes.

She launched Preempt in November 2022 to put a focus on educating employees about strategies to avoid future

injuries.

"After recognizing the extensive need for effective overuse injury mitigation strategies in the workplace, I started Preempt as a consulting service for businesses in northeast Wisconsin," she said. "It helps companies change the injury prevention initiative from the top down to the bottom up."

Ziegele, who also treat patients at her private clinic on Main Street in Oshkosh, collaborates with another doctor of physical therapy in Maine who has been targeting workplace prevention for the past 40 years.

Beyond the prize winnings for top finishers, Ziegele and others gain a wider investor and business audience along with

the pitch experience. Top pitch competitor NEW Compost, an eco-friendly business by Connor Freimuth, Ziegele and third-place winner Kids in Combat Boots by Deanne Herber of Sheboygan will give an update on their businesses at the New North Summit on June 6 at Lambeau Field.

Preempt Physical Therapy was the winner of the local event and received \$1,000, while second-place finishers were given \$500 each. In all, 39 entrepreneurial pitches were made during the local qualifying events in collaboration with 10 local partners, including FVTC Venture Center, Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce and UW Oshkosh Small Business Development Center.



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UWO senior donates children’s books to ThedaCare

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh graduating senior Kallena Pluemer was able to leave an impact on some local children before starting her career in Appleton.

While she was a UWO College of Business student with a focus on accounting, Pluemer’s roots are in education, with six generations of teachers in her family. Her capstone project for her Business Growth and Development class had a focus on education and literacy.

Pluemer worked on a children’s book collection that would benefit the Reach Out and Read program at ThedaCare Physicians-Oshkosh. Reach Out and Read helps integrate reading into pediatric practices, advises families about the importance of reading with their children and shares books that serve as a catalyst for childhood development. Children get to leave with a book after each visit from birth to 5 years old.

“I have always loved to read, and my favorite place to shop as a child was a bookstore,” she said. “I worked and volunteered at a library in my hometown for a number of years, and I loved to see what a difference it made when children got to read.”

Pluemer noticed how hard it was for a lot of the children to part with the books when it came time to return them. She connected with her former boss Jessie Lee-Jones, Platteville Public Library director, who suggested donating the books to a Reach Out and Read clinic in Oshkosh.

“As a parent, I have had the first-hand experience of benefiting from the Reach Out and Read program,” Lee-Jones said. “My kids always love to receive a new ‘forever book’ when they visit the doctor.”

The Platteville Public Library donated a few books and did a fundraiser, with the money going toward Pluemer’s project.

In the end, Pluemer collected nearly 200 gently used children’s books from family, friends, professors at UW Oshkosh, and the Platteville library.

She dropped the books off to ThedaCare Physicians-Oshkosh on Dec. 6 to Martha Harlow, a registered nurse and clinical supervisor, who was excited about the donation and the effort by Pluemer.

“We are extremely grateful to Kallena for her generous donation,” said Harlow. “We understand that reading daily with



UW Oshkosh photo
A lifelong love of reading led Kallena Pluemer to spend her final weeks at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh organizing a book drive.

children, starting at birth, has a lasting effect on language and literacy development, caregiver-child relationships, and social and emotional health.”

ThedaCare clinics have been participating in the Reach Out and Read program for several years with care teams prescribing thousands of books in the region.

Business news roundup

Oshkosh Police Department **Lt. Andy Lecker** has graduated from the 288th session of the FBI National Academy, an 11-week program that offers rigorous training and educational programs that shape police leaders. The session consisted of law

enforcement leaders from 45 states and 24 countries and provided advanced coursework in intelligence theory, terrorism and terrorist mindsets, management science, law, behavioral science, law enforcement communication and forensic science.

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Samuel Coleman, Oshkosh Area School District assistant superintendent of instruction, has been named one of Madison 365’s Most Influential Black Leaders in Wisconsin for 2023. He is one of 51 leaders across the state named to this year’s list, selected from nearly 200 nominations. Coleman oversees the district’s preK-12 academic programs, alternative programming, student achievement data and improvement efforts. He also identifies priorities for professional development and instructional methods, as well as implementing training for teaching staff.

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Thank you for the honor of electing me to serve as your State Representative in Madison. Listening to your concerns and input on issues facing our state is the most important part of my role. I want to thank everyone who has taken time out of their day to call, email, send letters, or stop by my office hours. Hearing from you allows me to effectively serve the 54th Assembly District.

Included in this ad is an overview of my first year in office and is meant to provide you all with information on what I have worked on both in Madison and in Oshkosh.

I hope you also take a moment to complete the survey via the QR code above. This survey is meant to provide an easy way for you to share your thoughts on the issues facing Wisconsin.

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Lori Palmeri



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Bills I am working on!

DEMOCRACY & ELECTIONS

- AB 596 • restoring the right to vote to certain persons barred from voting as a result of a felony conviction, changing the information required on voter registration forms, and changing voting procedure for certain persons who are convicted of felonies
- AB 582 • facilitating voter registration for those who have their voting rights restored
- AB 595 • counting individuals confined in state prison to determine population for redistricting purposes
- AB 605 • automatic voter registration which would help reduce barriers and ensure everyone has access to the most basic American right: voting

CLEAN DRINKING WATER

- AB 288 • prohibiting food and beverages from being served in foam polystyrene packaging and providing a penalty
- AB 289 • allowing local governments to prohibit or regulate pesticide use on private lawns
- AB 312 • programs and requirements to address perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. We are continuing to work on this legislation to ensure proper PFAS testing and limits are established for drinking water in Wisconsin

HOUSING

- AB 709 • would allow local municipalities to decrease the short term rental window to 90 days in a one year period if they deem it necessary to combat housing shortages in their area
- AB 711 • would provide reimbursement of services used to find and sustain housing under the Medicaid Assistance program
- AB 710 • requirements for residential leases that provide more stability in housing for the renter

LOCAL CONTROL

- AB 245 • shared revenue bill, this increased the supplemental aid to Oshkosh by 20% and by 256.6% for the Town of Nekimi. This was a historic moment this session for local governments
- LRB-3867 • local rent control and inclusionary zoning
- LRB-4560 • a school district revenue limit adjustment for the cost of unfunded state mandates on school districts
- LRB-2164 • would allow a county or municipality to create additional sales and use tax at a rate of 0.5%

HEALTH & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

- AB-787 • limiting emergency care hospital rates for uninsured patients
- AB-776 • public funding for pregnancy counseling organizations
- AB 777 • elimination of certain abortion-related regulations
- AB 489 • would enact minimum nurse staffing ratios in hospitals and other protections for nurses
- LRB-3926 • fall prevention and recovery training, CPR and first aid certification, a duty to provide aid in certain residential facilities and hospices
- LRB-5267 • grants for patient lift devices and making an appropriation



EDUCATION FUNDING K-12

- AB 754 • providing state aid to reimburse public and private schools that provide free meals to all pupils for the costs of those meals
- AB 589 • school mental health and pupil wellness aid and making an appropriation
- AB 521 • grants to encourage individuals to pursue a career in teaching

HIGHER EDUCATION & UW

- LRB 0921 • provides \$60 million in additional funding for the University of Wisconsin System to account for the system's projected \$60 million deficit.
- LRB 0918 • expands the Tuition Promise program to all UW System institutions using state funding whose household income is equal to or less than \$60,000 a year.
- LRB 5130 • creates a Student Success and Access Fund to apply for additional funding if student success and access are in jeopardy.

GUN SAFETY

- AB 761 • storage of firearms in retail facility when unattended
- AB 763 • containers or trigger locks provided at a firearm sale and providing a penalty
- AB 764 • requirement to report lost or stolen firearms and providing a penalty
- AB 718 • waiting period for purchase of handguns

PUBLIC ACCESS TO WATER & LAND

- AB 769 • free state park admission for veterans and gold star families
- AB 139 • waiver of fees for admission to state parks on Earth Day

- AB 11 • fee waivers for state park vehicle admission receipts to parents or guardians of 4th grade pupils and making an appropriation

SMALL BUSINESS

- AB 265 • a main street housing rehabilitation revolving loan fund and loan program
- AB 487 • Go Big for Small Business- online portal
- AB 134 • preferences for woman-owned businesses in state procurement for architectural and engineering services

Oshkosh Herald

January

Fox Valley Technical College formalized two collegiate transfer agreements with the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and UW-Green Bay that expand on connecting its associate degree programs with other colleges in Wisconsin. FVTC offers two-year liberal arts associate of science and associate of arts degrees that have since gained accreditation and meet general education requirements at UW Oshkosh and UWGB.

February

The Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education approved naming its newest secondary school Menominee Elementary School, which aligned with an advisory survey yielding more than 4,000 votes among students, staff and community members. The Menominee Nation Tribal Legislature later endorsed the name to make it official.

Winnebago County jurors found former Oshkosh West High School student Grant Fuhrman guilty of attempted first-degree intentional homicide in a December 2019 attack on former school resource officer Michael Wissink. Fuhrman was sentenced in May to 17 years in prison and 10 years of extended supervision.

Winnebago County Clerk Sue Ertmer retired Feb. 24 after more than 44 years of service to the county. She was hired in 1979 as a clerk and typist, moved up the ranks to deputy county clerk from 1983 to 1998 before being elected clerk in 1998 and went on to be re-elected seven times. Ertmer provided services to residents and municipalities and was chief election officer. The position also acts as a secretary for the County Board and its committees and commissions.

March

A high-level, fixed bridge for the Oregon/Jackson Street span was the preferred design announced by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Northeast Region. The DOT's recommendation followed coordination and outreach with stakeholder groups, businesses, industry, the public and city leaders. The bridge

built in 1956, with an estimated 8,500 vehicle crossings per day, was closed to road traffic for about six months from May to November last year as broken gears needed to be replaced. Environmental approvals are anticipated in 2024 and design will continue through 2027.

A large multifamily residential development was proposed along Lake Butte des Morts Drive. Developer Red Earth said the development plan was for 15 apartment buildings and townhomes with a centrally located clubhouse, totaling 522 units over multiple phases of construction. In the wake of opposition from neighboring residents, the Common Council amended the original plan to have the first-phase apartment building be three stories instead of four, a decision reversed in December by the council.

Winnebago County established a “Spirit Fund” for \$33.4 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds after a similar proposal failed in January and reversed previous activity and rulings related to the funds. Among the expenditures approved after the fund’s establishment was to grant each of the county’s 21 towns and municipalities \$145,000 for general purposes. The county is using 2022 expenditures as lost wages or revenue, similar to what other Wisconsin counties are using to line up ARPA funds as general service expenditures.

April

Matt Mugerauer was elected the city's new mayor after a close race with Common Council colleague Aaron Wojciechowski in the spring election where voters also chose two new council members and a new school board member. Mugerauer took over as mayor as Lori Palmeri finished her term and was elected as a District 54 Assembly member. Council incumbents Bill Miller and Courtney Hansen both were defeated as Karl Buelow, Joe Stephenson and former mayor

Paul Esslinger joined the group. On the Board of Education, Barb Herzog won re-election while Kelly DeWitt also won the seat vacated by Angie Lee who took over when Bob Poeschl stepped down. Winnebago County Circuit Judge Scott Woldt retained his Branch 2 bench seat against challenger and former Branch 4 Judge LaKeisha Haase.

May

The Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center at 1 Main St. was acquired by Scarlett Hotel Group and is undergoing renovations with anticipation of a new franchise branding. David Helgeson remains as general manager. The hotel's expected name change will include a changeover at the existing Ground Round restaurant. The hotel will be closed at the beginning of 2024 for up to three months as its new owner renovates the facility. The attached Oshkosh Convention Center will also be closed for most of December for renovations and maintenance updates.

Oshkosh's 13 public boards, commissions and committees were reduced by three panels and others consolidated. Operations of the Committee on Aging, Stormwater Utility Appeals Board and the Rental Housing Advisory Board were ended, while consolidating the Museum and Public Arts and the Beautification Board into the Public Museum and Arts Board, as well as merging the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Traffic and Parking Advisory Board and Transit Advisory Board into one Transportation Committee.

The new Day By Day Shelter opened as a low-barrier shelter that requires guests for the evening to be adults and are provided a bed and a meal. The homeless shelter established as a nonprofit in 2011 at Most Blessed Sacrament church at 449

SEE **Year in Review** ON PAGE 9

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Year in Review

FROM PAGE 8

High Ave. with 25 beds moved to a new year-round homeless intake location at 420 Ceape Ave. with a 50-bed capacity and is ADA-compliant.

June

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center has been answering a growing number of accidental emergency calls which could divert resources from genuine 911 calls for emergencies. They receive an average of about 140 calls every day, so 234 over two days is substantial. From Jan. 1 to May 23, there have been about 1,000 more hang-up or accidental calls than what the department received in during the same period in 2022. Sheriff John Matz said the department is seeing an extensive amount of accidental 911 calls and hang ups this year. In 2022 dispatch received 5,900 accidental 911 calls, which is about 11% of all 911 calls received and this year the department is on track to receive around 7,000.

Detailed informational plaques were added to the 112-year-old Chief Oshkosh statue in Menominee Park with an official rededication of the monument to the 19th century Menominee tribal leader. City officials, Gov. Tony Evers and Menominee Nation officials marked the added historical background that had been lacking at the site originally dedicated to the Bear Clan descendent who led his people from 1827 until his death in 1858. The tribal nation's territory extended over the Oshkosh area and most of eastern Wisconsin during his time.

July

TDS Telecom halted its plans to bring high-speed internet with fiber optic cables to about 20,000 Oshkosh addresses after issues arose with city ordinances and rules regarding the installation process. The company announced in November 2021 that it was looking at expanding into Oshkosh with its fiber optic cable. City officials said they had informed TDS representatives about ordinances, permit process and right-of-way regulations for installing fiber optic cable that needed to be followed.

Winnebago County approved plans in July for its own mobile morgue unit for temporarily storing bodies in response to the opioid epidemic and the possibility of a mass casualty event. The County Board voted to accept the donation of a mobile morgue unit from the Fox Valley Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition. Bodies that require autopsies are currently transported to Fond du Lac County. A permanent morgue and sheriff's office evidence storage is being planned at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million.

August

A new apartment complex was ap-

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proved by the city on the south side with 96 housing units in eight buildings on 16 acres of land near Oregon Street and Ripple Road. Premier Ripple Road is a planned multifamily project and second phase of the development plan after the Oregon Place Apartments was approved and built. The project is slated to have eight 12-unit apartment buildings and will cost an estimated \$15 million.

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh announced it was laying off about 200 of its non-faculty staff and administrators this fall while requiring furloughs for others as it was projecting a record deficit of up to \$18 million in its current fiscal year. A statement from UW Oshkosh said about 1,100 employees are subject to the layoffs and furloughs in January 2024. 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.

September

The new Vel Phillips Middle School opened for fall classes, with a dedication ceremony held Sept. 17. Superintendent Bryan Davis said the district is excited to hold the open house and that the entire community is welcome to attend. Vel Phillips' son Michael is expected to attend the event.

Froedtert Health and ThedaCare's boards officially endorsed combining their health care systems with approval of a definitive agreement outlining their merger. ThedaCare, the largest health care system in the northeast and central Wisconsin, is building a third hospital facility in Oshkosh as part of their alliance with

Froedtert Health and Medical College of Wisconsin. ThedaCare and Froedtert announced last October they were building health care campuses in Oshkosh and Fond du Lac in a joint venture before the merger plans were announced. The 58,000-square-foot Oshkosh campus will be in the Morgan District area south of the Fox River.

The Oshkosh Parks Department completed its new Parks Department Administration Operations building at 805 Witzel Ave. while putting the finishing touches on a new four-seasons building at Lakeshore Park. The pavilion is part of the first phase in development of the new Lakeshore Park on the site of the former Lakeshore Golf Course that also includes a public plaza, splash pad and about 80-car parking lot on the north end of Punhoqua Street. Future plans include extensive pathways throughout the park as well as large multipurpose lawns and revamped ponds.

October

Oshkosh officials continued discussion regarding the multimillion-dollar project to replace the underground tanks that hold the city's drinking water. Set to cost more than \$30 million and funded by the Safe Drinking Water program funds, the clearwells will have a pumping capacity of 13.4 million gallons per day and consist of two square, million-gallon tanks with two pumping stations. Other discussions centered on the facade and landscaping at the site.

A road construction project in Oshkosh has led to an archaeological investigation after a Native American village was identified during the early stages of work on

Pratt Trail at Menominee Park. Artifacts dating between A.D. 900 and 1600 have been recovered at the city's largest park, which put the Pratt Road project on hold until next year. The city is partnering with a team from the Cultural Resource Management program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee who are working with Wisconsin tribes to identify items at the site on the shores of Lake Winnebago. The city is allocating \$169,000 to fund the park investigation.

December

The Oshkosh Public Library will have a new director next year with the hiring of Darryl Eschete, who served as director at West Des Moines Public Library since 2012. The library's board of trustees discussed the position Nov. 16 among three finalists. Jeff Gilderson-Duwe served as director of the library and Winnefox Library System for 18 years. The positions have been separated and now the Oshkosh director will focus his attention on the city's library.

The federal government has decided state officials should look into and study expanding passenger rail service from Milwaukee to Green Bay, which could include a stop in Oshkosh and a new train station in the city. Five rail service corridors across Wisconsin will receive federal funding to plan and develop the corridors as part of a larger plan to increase rail service across the Midwest. Each selected corridor will be granted \$500,000 for eligible activities related to the initiation of a grantee's corridor development efforts. The Milwaukee-to-Green Bay corridor would connect the existing Hiawatha service between Chicago and Milwaukee with an extension up to Green Bay through Fond du

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Chemistry

FROM PAGE 1

Bay and Sheboygan, but most sections revolve around a major research institution and tend to cater to academic lectures and presentations. The makeup of our section is more industry professionals.”

NEW has been actively leaning into the idea of chemistry professionals making a positive impact on area communities. ACS holds regular events in the spring for Earth Week and in the fall for National Chemistry Week, which takes place around “Mole Day.”

Despite the name, Mole Day does not celebrate the furry pest that tortures your back yard but rather commemorates Avogadro’s Number, (6.02 x 10²³) a basic measuring unit in chemistry. It is celebrated annually from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m. Oct. 23 and created to foster interest in chemistry. Schools around the world celebrate the day with activities related to chemistry and moles.

The themes are set by the National ACS, which publishes a yearly magazine called Celebrating Chemistry. The section has found that the best way to distribute this free resource to students is through the libraries.

“The libraries are a great place because parents come in with their kids,” Glesner said. “They take these home where they can do chemistry projects as a family.”

ACS has had an ongoing relationship with the Oshkosh Public Library since 2005. Marie Boleman is the Oshkosh children’s librarian working with Pat Hallquist, ACS member and volunteer. Together with ACS, they create and produce STEM events.

LoriAnn Snow is the youth assistant li-



Submitted photo

Mary Glesner (center) works with students at the Atlas Science Center during National Chemistry Week in 2022.

brarian at Neenah Public Library working with Hannahh Shraufnagel, Glesner and Nell to create ongoing events and “Dare to Dream” kits for in-house science programming.

An enthusiastic Snow explains that “the Dare to Dream kits are a science-based kit that is STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) related.” “We recently added an ‘A’ between the ‘E’ and the ‘M’ to include art,” she said. “We added some STEAM!”

The kits are taken home and everything is assembled by Snow at the library. Age appropriate for 6 years and older, the pro-

gram encourages the engagement of adult caregivers with children of all ages.

“We want them all to discover, engage and get the knowledge behind the science experiment,” Snow said. “Kits are alternated about every three weeks.”

Dozens of professionals and volunteers are involved in the Earth Week and Chemistry Week programs. Earth Week 2023 featured a “hands-on, in-person” science event.

“It’s amazing to see how many students come through with their families. I think we had close to 100 people participating in the “Curious Chemistry of Amazing Algae,” related an enthusiastic Snow.

There was a simultaneous hands-on, in-person event at the Oshkosh Public Library and after engaging with the fine folks in Neenah the group packed up their cars and drove to Appleton for an afternoon event at the Atlas Science Center – former called the Discovery Center – where they engaged with another 50 participants.

“On a single day during Earth Week we reached about 200 people in the area with around 20 volunteers at three locations. It was really exciting,” Glesner said. “It was a chaotic day, but it was worth it.”

Atlas became a participating partner with NEW during Earth Week 2022 with “The Buzz about Bugs.” Students were asked to assemble a recycled bug creation where they could take throwaway items such as bottles, lids, caps and such, turning them into bug creations. All those bugs were displayed at Atlas.

It takes a lot of people power to pull off outreach on this scale. The participation of Atlas has enabled NEW to coordinate with the expertise of Atlas lead educator Claudia Damiani, and volunteers Ashley Rossmessl and Jennifer Freese.

One of the ways Atlas is trying to impact the community is in bridging the gap in STEM programming and content. Their target is upper elementary through middle and high school. That tends to be the age where students – girls in particular – start to opt out of science, thinking “this isn’t for me. I’m not smart enough.”

Atlas has geared their programming toward that gap range to offer different types of engaging science. The class you take in school can’t begin to touch upon all the interesting areas of science. If that class isn’t exciting or interesting, the disconnect follows. That’s where the program diversity comes in.

“When I first started here at the library I noticed that there was a certain group that

was not being hit by in-person programming and it was that middle school to high school range,” Snow said. “So for the last couple of years, the goal has been to get them in the door – engage them, get them here and keep them wanting to be here.”

“I am always encouraged by the diversity of our facilitators,” Nell said. “We have so many people working in different careers... teachers and professors, people in divergent types of industry, varying ages, different genders, and people of different ethnicities and backgrounds.

“It is really important for students to see such diversity so they can picture themselves in that future career. When we go to recruit volunteers, we’re looking for anyone and everyone who wants to help because it showcases to the students how so many different people can become a scientists. It breaks down the barrier of what they think a scientist might look like.”

Nell recently represented NEW at the ACS’s Midwest Great Lakes regional meeting, where she accepted the P3 Award – a nomination submitted by the late Martin Rudd, counselor for the section, who passed away unexpectedly Oct. 14. P3 stands for Partners for Progress and Prosperity and their award category is for STEM education. The award included a grant and the partners are already in planning for 2024 bonus events made possible by the award.

The regional meeting included a tribute to Rudd, who received the E. Ann Nalley award for volunteer service recognizing exemplary leadership in the region. Glesner and Nell deeply acknowledged the leadership and mentoring they received from Rudd. Speaking at the tribute, Lydia Hines, ACS regional board representative, articulated that “Martin developed an amazing skill for someone at his level of academic responsibility – that of giving undivided attention to anyone with whom he was communicating at the moment.”

“I can confidently say that every opportunity I’ve had in the last two years with ACS was due to Martin’s encouragement and support,” Glesner said. “He was an incredible mentor and valued member of our leadership team.”

In the wake of Rudd’s passing, everyone involved believes the best way to honor him is to carry on the mission of STEAM. One relatively new offering is the Teen Createspace. Together with Snow, they have created such things as macrame keychains, miniature pumpkin catapults, balloon-powered cars and liquid notebooks.

“I’ve started a teen advisory board,” Snow said. “I’m not a teen anymore, as much as I would love to be. So the teens need to teach me. They are helping me do amazing things like creating a jewelry workshop but out of something like rubber, things that are different from what the younger kids would do.”

Meanwhile the planning, creating and dreaming goes on. As Glesner reflects on the program, awards and recent events, she sees the mark that Rudd has left.

“Martin’s legacy will absolutely live on throughout the many individuals he impacted as well as the successful programs, grants and outreach that continues in northeast Wisconsin,” she said. “All these ongoing impacts and the people behind the activities will be a testament to Martin.”

The awards are on display at both Atlas Science Center and the Neenah Public Library, along with information on the ACS programs, past, present and future.



Nell

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69¢ ea California Fancy Lemons or Fresh Limes

6.99 lb Extra Large Cherries

2/3.50 14 oz Fresh Express Coleslaw

1.69 2 lb Bag - Medium Yellow Onions

3.99 3 lb Bag Wisconsin Fuji, Red Delicious or Evercrisp Apples

2.99 7.5-10 oz Wholly Guacamole

4.99 12-16 oz Salsa King Salsa or Mexicali Dip

3.99 16 oz Little Potato Co. Microwave Potatoes

Inflation Buster Coupons

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Food Club Pasta 19-32 oz.



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Roma Pizza or Bellatorial Personal size

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750 ml Bottle LaMarca Prosecco

10.99
750 ml Bottle Roscato Wines

Public library calendar

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

- Jan. 2
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
- Jan. 3
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults
- Jan. 4
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
- Jan. 5
Archive Dives, 9 a.m., YouTube
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-5 p.m.
Tween Book Club, 4:30 p.m., Grades 3-5
Teen Book Club, 4:30 p.m., Grades 6-8
Young Adult Book Club, 4:30 p.m., Grades 9-12
- Jan. 6
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Jan. 7
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4 p.m.
Cozy Time Under the Dome, 1-5 p.m., all ages
- Jan. 8
Family Storytime, 9:30 a.m., preschoolers
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
- Jan. 9
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Adult DIY: Diamond Painting, 6 p.m., adults
- Jan. 10
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults
- Jan. 11
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Afternoon Book Club, 1:30-3 p.m., adults
Genealogy Collection Tour, 6 p.m., adults
- Jan. 12
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-5 p.m.
Elementary Book Club, 4:30 p.m., Grades K-3
- Jan. 13
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9 am.-4 p.m.
Mad Science of Milwaukee: Sounds Like Science, 10:30 a.m., ages 5 and older
- Jan. 14
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4 p.m.
Movies with Friends, 1 p.m., all ages
Cozy Time Under the Dome, 1-5 p.m., all ages
- Jan. 15
Family Storytime, 9:30 a.m., preschoolers
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

Send business bits

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

- Jan. 16
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Winnebago Free Legal Assistance Clinic, 4:30-6:30 p.m., adults
- Jan. 17
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults
- Jan. 18
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Not Your Classic Book Club, 6 p.m., adults
- Jan. 19
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-5 p.m.
- Jan. 20
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9 am.-4 p.m.
- Jan. 21
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4 p.m.
Cozy Time Under the Dome, 1-5 p.m., all ages
- Jan. 22
Family Storytime, 9:30 a.m., preschoolers
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
- Jan. 23
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
- Jan. 24
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults
- Jan. 25
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
- Jan. 26
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-5 p.m.
- Jan. 27
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9 am.-



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- 4 p.m.
- Jan. 28
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4 p.m.
Cozy Time Under the Dome, 1-5 p.m., all ages
Everyday Tech: Drop-in Tech Help, 1:30-3 p.m., all ages
- Jan. 29
Family Storytime, 9:30 a.m., preschoolers
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-

Calendar of events

Ongoing
Oshkosh Celebration of Lights, 5:30 p.m., EAA AirVenture grounds and expo hangars, through Sunday
Nutcracker in the Castle, Paine Art Center & Gardens, through Jan. 8

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
BSN Winter Classic college basketball tournament, noon, Oshkosh Arena
Substitute – Tales from The Who, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Saturday, Dec. 30
Oshkosh Farmers Market, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Arena

- 7 p.m.
- Jan. 30
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
- Jan. 31
High Hopes Early Literacy Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults

BSN Winter Classic college basketball tournament, noon, Oshkosh Arena

Monday, Jan. 1
NAMI Oshkosh 5K for Mental Health & Suicide Awareness, 9 a.m., Oshkosh North High School
New Year’s Day birding, 1 p.m., Sawyer Creek Nature Trail, 1130 N. Westfield St.
Oshkosh Gallery Walk, 6 p.m., downtown Oshkosh

Friday, Jan. 5
“Perfect Arrangement” by Rebel Alliance Theatre, 7 p.m., 137 Algoma Blvd.
Wisconsin Herd vs. Greensboro Swarm, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Saturday, Jan 6
Oshkosh Farmers Market, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center
“Perfect Arrangement” by Rebel Alliance Theatre, 7 p.m., 137 Algoma Blvd.
Wisconsin Herd vs. Greensboro Swarm, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Saturday, Jan. 13
Piano Men II: Still Rock ’n Roll to Me, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

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Housing plan

FROM PAGE 1

of America, based in Fond du Lac with more than 100 affordable housing projects across 24 states, will be the developer.

Tyler Sheeran of Commonwealth said the preliminary plan is to build 55 units composed of low-income, affordable and workforce housing with a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom units. There will be one mixed-use building on North Main in the proposal, commercial space including a child care center and 39 apartments on the second and third floors.

The development will include reduced rental rates based on the area median income (AMI) which is used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a benchmark for who will qualify as tenants.

According to HUD, the median family income for the Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan statistical area is \$94,600 for 2023. Commonwealth plans to serve households ranging from 30% to 80% of the AMI; for example, a family of four with an annual household income of \$45,000 would qualify as 50% AMI, a family of four with an annual household income of \$72,000 would qualify as 80% AMI and a family of four with an annual household income of about \$28,000 would qualify as 30% AMI.

Two eight-unit townhouse buildings on Jefferson are part of the proposal. In between the buildings on Main and Jefferson streets will include 55 parking spaces, a courtyard for residents and playground for the child care center.

Commonwealth would manage the property and would bring in a separate contractor to run the care center.



A map shows the proposed housing development project being explored in downtown Oshkosh.

Sheeran said Commonwealth will apply for low-income housing tax credits (LIHTC) through the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA.) Those tax credits will be awarded and announced sometime next spring, possibly in May.

Commonwealth documents show the company anticipates receiving more than \$8 million in federal LIHTC, over \$3.5 million in state LIHTC, \$3.3 million in

debt and the rest from various sources, including more than \$1 million from the city.

If WHEDA awards Commonwealth with tax credits they will be sold to investors and Commonwealth will use that money to fund the project.

In October, the Plan Commission approved rezoning the proposed area to urban mixed use – planned development. Planning services manager Mark Lyons said the zoning change was made to allow a better chance to gain WHEDA tax credits.

Lyons said over the last several years four or five different groups have attempted to develop the RDA parcels on Jefferson Street and this proposal is the closest he has seen to something getting approved by WHEDA and moving to pre-develop-

ment.

One area resident spoke about their concerns to the Plan Commission. Barb Kagak has owned her home for more than 20 years and noted most of the homes in the area are rentals.

"I'm really nervous about what you want to develop the property to," Kagak said. "Not everybody who rents their property has the same respect as people who own the property. I don't know what we'll be exposed to."

Those concerns will be taken up after WHEDA credits are awarded as the plans would need to go through the commission and council approval process. Lyons said there would also be a neighborhood informational meeting and public hearings before the housing proposal could be approved.

Sheeran said construction could begin in spring 2025.

The RDA met in July to go over proposals for the block of parcels on North Main and Jefferson streets after putting out a request for proposals. Commonwealth's was the only one the city received.

At that meeting Mayor Matt Mugerauer spoke in favor of the project moving forward.

"It's an attractive proposal. It fits very well in that space and it's what we've been waiting for a while on those properties," Mugerauer said.

Council members Joe Stephenson and Karl Buelow both said they supported the project as it will deal with low-income housing and day care needs in the area.

The term sheet includes a provision stating if the project does not move forward within two years the city is not required to provide funds to the project. The project is set to cost around \$19.2 million with Oshkosh providing just over \$1 million in financial assistance for low-income housing through the Neighborhood Improvement Program, blight removal program and the housing implementation fund.

Kelly Nieforth, director of community development, explained to the council that utilizing these fund sources is a quicker solution than creating a tax increment financing district.



An artist's rendering shows the housing units proposed for the downtown area.

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Ice Hawks charge back from first period deficit to down Waupaca

By Dustin Riese
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

It isn't always about how a game starts. The Oshkosh Ice Hawks surrendered the first goal in their matchup with Waupaca last Thursday night and left the first period facing a one-goal deficit. But the slow start gave way to a five-goal outburst over the final two periods as the Ice Hawks collected a 5-1 win at the 20th Avenue YMCA ice arena.

"The boys put together a complete game which is something we have struggled with in recent weeks," head coach Stephanie Brunkhorst said on the win. "Everyone contributed tonight and we had points coming from every line which isn't easy to do. It was a fantastic night all around and I couldn't be happier with our effort."

Behind a 39-save effort in goal from Gage Bauer, the Ice Hawks made the most of their 18 shots against a stifling Waupaca defense.

The Ice Hawks broke through late in the second period when Alex Beck scored on the power play off an assist from Isaiah Koeppen to tie things up 1-1.

Just over two minutes later, it was Owen Moran delivering the go-ahead goal as William Beck was credited with the assist.

Grabbing the lead in the second period was even more impressive for the Ice Hawks as they had to kill off three Waupaca power plays in taking the 2-1 lead.

"They made us work defensively throughout the second period, especially after we put ourselves in tough spots," Brunkhorst said. "The guys found a way



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Evan Neitzel fires a shot toward goal in a game earlier this season. Neitzel also tallied one of the goals in the Ice Hawks 5-1 win over Waupaca last Thursday.

to kill off every penalty and continued to battle out there no matter how many shots they were facing." Oshkosh continued to keep the pressure on in the third period and broke the game open.

Evan Neitzel started the scoring in the period with an unassisted goal followed by Reid Polak finding the back of the net off an assist from Mason Mohnen. Alex Beck tallied his second goal of the night to cap the scoring.

"This was the perfect way to end the first half of the season and 2023 for that matter," Brunkhorst said. "Hopefully this is a sign of things to come and we can carry this over into 2024 for the second half of our season."



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Spartans’ Hanson is an athlete for all seasons

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Multi-sport prep athletes are the Energizer bunnies of their high schools. They keep going and going....from one sport to another.

Ava Hanson is one of those busy athletes whose energy and production never seem to wane.

The three-sport Oshkosh North senior is one of the area’s premier girls’ basketball and softball players.

Hanson is the leading scorer for an improved North basketball team and is an outstanding softball player in the spring. She has also been one of the Spartans’ top cross country runners the past four years.

In addition, Hanson is an all-star academically. She personifies the term ‘student-athlete,’ carrying a stellar 3.98 grade point average.

“Ava takes tremendous pride in her work in the classroom and on the court,” said North coach Rick Leib. “It’s her senior year and you definitely notice the growth in her skill set on the court.”

Nine games into the basketball season, Hanson led the Spartans with an 18.4 points-per-game scoring average. She was also North’s team leader in assists (3.8 per game), three-pointers made (12) and was second in steals (3.0 per game) and third in rebounding (5.8 per game).

A top-notch point guard who can torch opponents from the perimeter and make plays off the dribble, Hanson has stepped into a more prominent scoring role after averaging 11.1 points, 5.2 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 2.4 steals as a junior.

An unselfish player who takes more pride in passing than points, Hanson is getting more shot attempts and has already drained more 3-pointers than she did all of last season.

“I would actually rather distribute the ball – I’d rather pass it,” said Hanson, who received all-Fox Valley Association honorable mention last season. “I love passing the ball and getting the ball to as many people as I can. But with this team, I know I need to step up and be a scorer. I’m looking more for the three. Sometimes, that’s hard because we’re getting full-court pressed.”

Hanson broke into the North lineup as a freshman and has led the Spartans in assists each of her four varsity seasons. She became a double-digit scorer during her sophomore year (11.4 ppg) and has been a huge part of North basketball since the 2020-21 season.

“Ava has a motor that doesn’t quit,” Leib said.

There is a reason why Hanson plays with

Senior spotlight

such energy. She simply enjoys playing the game. Hanson started playing hoops in third grade and has long been intrigued with practically every facet of basketball.

“Basketball is my favorite sport – it’s not even close,” said Hanson. “I’ve played softball since I was five and I really enjoy it, but I’ve always seen myself as a basketball player.

“It’s such a great sport. It’s fast-paced and physical and there are just a bunch of different aspects to the game. You have to be fast, be able to shoot and dribble and play good defense. I like the physical aspect of it.”

Hanson does all of those things - and does them well. In addition to high school hoops, Hanson has played AAU travel ball in the non-prep season with the Wisconsin Blaze.

“I’ve played on the Blaze since the sixth grade and have loved every second of it,” Hanson said. “I love the coaches and the facility and all my teammates have been really great. Playing with the Blaze – that’s when I really started getting better at basketball.”

Hanson is also an impact player on the softball diamond. A right-handed hitter with speed and position versatility, Hanson received all-FVA honorable mention her sophomore year as an infielder and landed the same honor her junior year as a utility player.

“I’m not a power hitter,” said Hanson, who played primarily second base and the outfield last season. “I just hit the ball and try to get on base and take advantage of my speed.

“I like playing different positions and feel that I can play anywhere – other than pitcher. I could never pitch, but I’ve been a catcher and have really enjoyed it.”

Hanson has also competed in cross

SEE **Senior spotlight** ON PAGE 20



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Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh North senior Ava Hanson is a three-sport standout who currently is leading the Spartan basketball team in scoring and assists.



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Oshkoh Herald
Lourdes Academy's Hailee Bauer (right) and Valley Christian's Paige Boevers wrestle for the ball as the Knights' Ella Slusarski steps in to help last Thursday.

Girls hoops

FROM PAGE 18

which included the final nine points of the game capped by Mya Moran's 3-pointer at the buzzer.

"It was basically win possession by possession. Don't look at the scoreboard and just go out and play good fundamental basketball," Dinkelman said. "We told them to take away a good second half and it doesn't matter what the score is at the end of the game. Play tough. Play hard and play with heart in the second half."

For the Knights, it was just about making sure they kept their comfortable margin and never allowed the Warriors to get a big surge of momentum.

Twice the Warriors scored on back-to-back possessions in the second half only to have Bauer score – once with a driving

layup and the second time with a 3-pointer – to immediately shift momentum back to the Knights.

Lourdes Academy would then use an 8-0 run, capped by an Ella Slusarski jumper, to take its largest lead of the game at 62-28 with just over five minutes remaining.

"Coach Reed (Tyriver) always says don't take your foot off the gas and I thought the kids were focused and locked into every possession in the second half," Starr said. "They are not thinking too much about the last (possession) and not looking ahead to the next one. It was just right there."

Bauer finished with 20 points, while Ruedinger added 18 to lead the Knights, who had 10 different players score in the game.

Anna Y. Giannopoulos led the Warriors with 19 points, which included an 11-of-11 performance at the free-throw line. Anna E. Giannopoulos added 10 points.

Prep sports roundup

BOYS BASKETBALL

Oshkosh West picks up win over Menasha

Dylan Taylor finished with 25 rebounds and six assists to lead the Wildcats to a 57-49 win over Menasha in a nonconference contest last week.

Joey Ware chipped in 11 points for Oshkosh West, which bolted to a 28-17 half-time lead and held on in the second half.

Spartans dealt road loss by Madison East

Xzavion Mitchell and Steven Clark each had big nights but Oshkosh North came up short on the road in an 80-75 loss to Madison East in a nonconference tussle.

Mitchell finished with 33 points, eight rebounds and four steals, while Clark to-

taled 26 points, eight rebounds and six assists for North. The duo also combined to go 16-of-17 from the free-throw line.

Bryce Ott chipped in nine points for Oshkosh North, which dipped to 4-2 overall this season.

Wing leads Knights to win over Wolves

Mitchell Wing scored a season-high 25 points to help Lourdes Academy knock off Winneconne, 65-62, in a nonconference boys basketball game last Tuesday night.

Wing also finished with seven rebounds and six assists in the win, while going 3-of-4 from 3-point range.

Calvin Tollard was 7-of-8 from the free-throw line and totaled 15 points in the game and JJ McKellips chipped in 14 points.

Lourdes Academy, which improved to 6-1 overall, led 41-36 at halftime.

Senior spotlight

FROM PAGE 19

country since the sixth grade.

"It's probably my least favorite sport, but it's definitely the most mentally challenging sport," she said. "It's made me stronger for other sports and carries so well into the basketball season. I feel like I enter the season in so much better shape after running cross country."

Academically, Hanson couldn't be in much better shape.

"I always try to make good use of my time, especially during school hours, and get ahead, so I don't have to spend a lot of time with homework," she said.

Hanson will attend college next fall, but

hasn't yet settled on a school. She would like to play college basketball and is hoping she will receive that opportunity.

"I've had a few NAIA offers, but right now I have no idea where I'll be going to school," she said.

Until then, Hanson is simply looking to close her prep sports career on a high note. She's a huge part of a North team that is off to its best start in years.

"I feel like this is a talented team," Hanson said. "We have some good shooters and a lot of the girls have bought into the program. They want to win and are trying their hardest."

"I think things are a little bit different here than in the past, because everyone is so competitive. I'm really excited about this season."

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Obituaries

Catherine Elizabeth Gehrke

Catherine Elizabeth Gehrke passed away Monday December 18 at the age of 99. She was born May 26, 1924 to Helen and Englebert Nussbaumer. She was baptized, confirmed and a lifelong member of Christ Lutheran Church, Oshkosh.

She received her primary education at Boyd School where, as a student, Catherine had the job of arriving prior to the teacher and starting the wood stove so that the school was warm. Catherine Graduated from Oshkosh High School in 1942.



Upon the death of her parents, at age 19 Catherine raised her 12-year-old sister, May Rose E Nussbaumer, who had childhood diabetes, into adulthood. Catherine was employed by Deltox Rug Company in Oshkosh.

On May 14, 1948 Catherine married Clarence Zimdars. He passed away in a motorcycle accident a few weeks after their wedding. On July 2, 1949 Catherine married Vernon E Gehrke in Shawano, WI. They resided in Oshkosh in Catherine's childhood home and raised four children: Michael E (Marjorie) of Omro, WI, James B of Oshkosh, WI, Jeffery V (Pam) of Oshkosh, WI and Wanda K (Gary Schwoch) of Menomonie, WI.

Catherine was primarily a home maker managing children, large vegetable and flower gardens, canning, sewing, cooking, baking and helping her sister live independently until her death at age 60. Catherine babysat grandchildren, took care of her Aunt, Freida Nussbaumer, who lived across the road, and helped Vernon train his racing pigeons. She and Vernon were generous with family while living frugally and not wasting anything.

Catherine is survived by her children; grandchildren Cameron, Stewart, Travis (Rachel Hollender), Taylor, Andrew, Matthew, Laura Gehrke, Morgan and Fallon (Jacob Roberts) Schwoch. She has three great grandchildren Shaile Gehrke, Anna Gehrke and Freya Roberts.

Preceding Catherine in death are her husband's Clarence and Vernon, and sister May Rose.


Rather than flowers, Catherine would prefer memorials be given to Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Oshkosh.

Funeral services were held at Seefeld Family of Funeral Chapels, 1025 Oregon St. Oshkosh, 12:00 noon with Pastor Connie Weiss officiating, Friday December 22. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service.

Internment will take place after the service at Peace Lutheran Cemetery, Waukau Ave. Oshkosh.



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Obituaries

Beverly E. Gusse
Beverly E. (Zimmerman) Gusse, age 94, passed away in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on December 18, 2023. She was born to parents, R. Elry and Edna (Stark) Zimmerman, on November 3, 1929, in Sparta, Wisconsin.
She spent many years taking care of children in her in-house daycare alongside raising three of her own. She will be remembered as a kind and loving mother, grandmother, and friend. Beverly also spent a lot of time volunteering at Mercy Hospital, Aurora Hospital, and the senior center. In her youth, she enjoyed spending many summers at her grandparents' farm, tending to all of the animals.
Beverly is survived by her children, Karen



(Jim) Wahlgren, Robert (Ruth) Sherwood, Renee (Larry) Lautenschlager, Vince Huth, Gerald (Mary Ann) Huth, Mike (Sue) Gusse, and Joe (Sandy) Gusse; ten grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; brother, Duane (Delores) Zimmerman; and many nieces; nephews; and friends.
Preceding her in death are her husbands, John Sherwood, Vince Huth, and Ruben Gusse; and her parents, R. Elry and Edna (Stark) Zimmerman.
A private inurnment will be held at Lake View Memorial Park, 2786 Algoma Blvd., Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 54901 in the Spring.
In lieu of flowers, the family has established a memorial in her honor.
The family would like to thank the staff at Miravida Living and Moments Hospice, for their care and compassion during this difficult time.



Timothy P. Dolan
Timothy P. Dolan, 63, passed away unexpectedly on December 20, 2023. He was born on April 4, 1960 to Carol (Tiffany) and Edgar Dolan in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.
Tim loved his family, his grandchildren especially held a special place in his heart.
He was known for being a loving father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He was kind, generous and a loyal friend to many. Tim loved motorcycles and sports cars (particularly Corvettes), he also loved his friends and family and spending time with them, especially immediate family and his loving cousins. He also enjoyed music.
Tim worked at Hoffmaster for nearly 40 years before retiring. He was a proud



member of the Army National Guard.
He is survived by his daughter, Sabrina Downey; mother, Carol Dolan; grandchildren, Braedyn and Layla; and brother, Mark Dolan. He is further survived by many loving cousins, friends and other family.
Preceding him in death are his father, Edgar Dolan; grandparents, George and Mary Tiffany, and Vivian and Oliver Dolan; and his beloved dogs, Brutis, Abbey, and Angel.
A memorial service will be held at First United Methodist Church, 700 W. Linwood Ave. Oshkosh, WI on December 29, 2023 at 2pm with visitation being held prior from 12pm until 2pm.
Flowers are appreciated during the service and can be delivered to the church.



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Obituaries

John Henry Noe

John Henry Noe, of Oshkosh, passed away at his home on Thursday, November 2, 2023. He was born in Oshkosh on January 26, 1949 the second child of Weddlin and Laurel (McAllister) Noe.



He attended Webster Stanley and Merrill grade schools. John graduated from West High School and from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. John used his education teaching at Hortonville High School as an Art teacher for 31 years.

He married Shirley Jean Cloughley on October 30, 1971 and they had four children; John-Paul, Brandon James, Ryan Michael

Noe; a daughter, Ashley Jean (Matthew) Hoff. He is further survived by four grandchildren, Brayden and Kinley Noe; Mason and Samantha Hoff. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Robert and Michael Noe and sisters, Katherine Nemeth and Barbara Miller. To keep busy John loved to play cards and do crafts, paintings and stitchery. When younger he greatly enjoyed swimming and other water sports at the family cabin.

It was John's wish to not have a funeral, so a small family visitation was held on November 5th at the Fiss and Bills-Poklasny Funeral Home.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him.

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Kelly (Don) Cartwright, Kathy (Tim) Baier, Linda Rothe; sisters-in-law: Irene Wood, Joan Reichenberger; great-nieces and nephews; and dear friend, Jimmy Robl. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers: Lyle Reichenberger and Calvern Reichenberger; and niece-in-law, Bonnie Reichenberger.

The family would like to thank Clyde's neighbor, Rick and Sandy Voruda for the care and compassion they have shown to Clyde throughout the years.

A memorial service for Clyde will be held at 2:00 pm on Friday, January 5, 2024, at Lake View Memorial Park chapel, 2786 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh. Visitation will take place at Lake View Memorial Park from 12:00 pm until time of service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Clyde's name to the Oshkosh Area Humane Society or the American Red Cross.

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years retiring as a cooler Service Manager. Bob is survived by his loving wife Judy, and two sons, David (Michelle) and John. His sister Cheryl Daye, sister-in-law Dixie Walker, nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Ron.

Per Bob's wishes, cremation has taken place.

We'll have a private family celebration in June to honor Bob's life and their 60th wedding anniversary.

I will always love you, forever and a day.

Ruth A. Wissink

Ruth A. Wissink was called to celebrate Christmas in Heaven with her late husband Ronald L. Wissink on Thursday, December 21, 2023.



Ruth was born on August 18th, 1938, to the late Henry and Emilie Hartman. She married Ron Wissink, her husband of 66 years, on August 17th, 1957. Ruth worked as a secretary in the Oshkosh School system and at Schmitt Abstract & Title Company for many years.

Surviving Ruth are her five children: Susan Calo, Debra Fernau, Richard (Shelli) Wissink, Thomas (Kelly) Wissink, and Michael (Becky) Wissink; grandchildren: Mindy, Lindsay, Bradyn (Meagan), Joshua, Bailey (Bradley), Casey (Becky), Cody (Kenzie), Corey (Brooke), Kelsey (Adam), Jacob, Emersen, Easton, Nolan, Mackenzie (Sam), Brittanie, Colin, and Corrina; great-grandchildren: Amya, Alayah, Avielle, Owen, Khai, Charlee, Oliver, Ezden, Harvey, Hattie Jo, and Arlo; great-great grandchild Ace; brother-in-law Donald (Carole) Wissink, sister-in-laws Nancy (Dan) Robe, Diane (Jerry) Cummings and Judy Hartman, and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death are her beloved husband Ron, parents Henry and Emilie Hartman, in-laws Clarence and Ann

Wissink, brothers Reuben and Henry Hartman, sister-in-law Nancy (Henry) Hartman, and Niece Patty (Wissink) Parker.

Mom enjoyed spending time with her family and friends and had such a knack for turning routine experiences, short trips, and routine events into family adventures by being creative and thoughtful. She loved her grandchildren and was always interested in hearing what they were up to or concerned with their well-being. She will be dearly missed by her entire family but the thought of her and dad spending Christmas together in Heaven warms our hearts.

The family is planning a private service to celebrate Ruth's life and express their love for her.

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Clyde Reichenberger

Clyde "Babe" Reichenberger, 86, of Oshkosh, WI, passed away on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. He was born on August 18, 1937, to the late George and Irene (Esslinger) Reichenberger.



Throughout his life, Clyde found joy in the simple pleasures. He possessed a deep love

for fishing and hunting, spending countless hours outdoors pursuing his favorite activities. Whether it was casting a line into a serene lake or venturing into the woods in search of game, Clyde was at his happiest when surrounded by nature. Clyde was also a car enthusiast, and his attendance at the annual Iola Car Show was a tradition he eagerly anticipated each year.

Clyde is survived by his nephews: Dale Reichenberger, Dean (Lynn) Reichenberger, Darren (Polly) Reichenberger; nieces:

Robert D. Kozlowski

Robert D. Kozlowski, age 80, of Oshkosh, passed away Sunday, Dec. 17th, after a brief illness, at Bay Care Hospital in Green Bay, Wi.



He was born Nov. 6, 1943. The son of David and Verna Kozlowski.

In June, 1964 he married the love of his life, Judith Pluer.

Bob worked for Coca Cola Co. for 37

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