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City styles

19th-century contractor left lasting legacy
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Science challenge

FIRST Lego team prepares for state meet
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Photo by Michael Cooney

Holiday history

Yuliya Azarenko and Joseph Kerrigan were the Victorian-era hosts for the evening last Wednesday at the historic Morgan House at 234 Church Ave. that was decorated for holiday tours. Each room was elegantly dressed in seasonal splendor.

Candidates lining up for seats

Judicial, supervisor, council, board races set

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

There will be three new members on the Oshkosh Common Council next spring after all three incumbents decided not to run for another term.

Voters go to the polls in April to place their preferences for Common Council, Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education, Winnebago County Board of Supervisors and Branch 1 Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge. It will be the same day voters participate in the presidential primary election.

Council members Lynnsey Erickson, Mike Ford and LeKeisha Haase have all filed noncandidacy paperwork with the city clerk's office. This means there will only be one member of the council, Mayor Matt Mugerauer, with more than a year of experience on the council in April.

Current members Karl Buelow and Joe Stephenson were elected last spring and member Paul Esslinger had previously served on the council in the early 2000s and was mayor from 2009-2011.

Five candidates have announced their

SEE **Spring election** ON PAGE 8

County considers increase to boat launch parking fees

Revenue would go toward improvements

By Bethanie Gengler
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Winnebago County Parks Department is asking for an increase in the fee assessed at the seven boat landings maintained by the county to keep up with maintenance costs and make the boat landings more self-sustaining in the future.

Winnebago County maintains boat launches at Butte des Morts, Eureka, Black Wolf, Boom Bay, Lake Poygan, Grundman Park and Asylum Point Park.

Boaters who park an attached or detached trailer in any county park or boat launch are required to pay a daily, annual or multiyear parking fee. The fee ranges from \$7 daily to \$100 for a three-year



Oshkosh Media

Parks director Adam Breest spoke to the county board last month on a proposal to increase the parking fees at county-maintained boat launches.

pass for a nonresident.

In a memo, parks director Adam Breest wrote that the boat landing fund currently has \$168,705 in reserves, with \$125,000 scheduled to be spent fixing

the Eureka boat landing in 2024. The county was projected to net less than \$15,000 in the fund in 2023.

A downward trend in boat landing revenue was noted in 2020 and 2021, with a combined loss of \$100,454 those years. The county closed out 2022 with a profit of \$36,347. With the losses and profits averaged over the past four years, the fund has a combined deficit of \$49,107.

The Parks Department noted the long-term goal is to make the fund self-sustaining so that biannually or triennially the county can take on a larger boat landing improvement project. Some of the future projects include the Eureka and Poygan concrete landings; adding parking and bathrooms at Butte des Morts; dredging Butte des Morts, Eureka, Boom Bay, Poygan, Black Wolf and Asylum Point; paving the parking lots at Boom Bay, Poygan, half of Black Wolf, Asylum Point and Eu-

reka; and the future expansion of parking at Black Wolf.

Under the plan, the annual tri-county permit that covers all Calumet County, Fond du Lac County and Winnebago County-owned launches on Lake Winnebago would remain the same at \$50 yearly. Winnebago County's daily fee would increase by \$1, while the annual resident, nonresident, senior and supplemental fees would increase by \$5.

Three-year resident and nonresident supplemental fees would increase by \$20 and \$25, respectively, and three-year resident, nonresident and senior fees would increase by \$45-\$50. In addition, the Parks Committee recommended raising the age for a senior pass from 55 to 62 years old.

One year after implementing the in-

SEE **Boat launches** ON PAGE 4



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Advertising deadline is noon Friday for the following Wednesday. The classified line ads deadline is 4 p.m. Friday for Wednesday.

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Trial set for gun charges in home incident

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

An Oshkosh man charged with felon in possession of a firearm has a trial date for next year.

Ronald A. Davis, 33, remains in custody on a \$100,000 cash bond after being charged in November with possessing a firearm while convicted of a felony. He is also facing misdemeanor counts of battery, intentionally pointing a firearm at a person and resisting or obstructing an officer.

During the preliminary hearing it was noted that the Oshkosh Police Department has not recovered a firearm from the scene. One officer testified a single spent casing and live ammunition was found at the scene.

A plea hearing is scheduled Feb. 29. A two-day jury trial is scheduled for March 4 and 5. If convicted, Davis could face up to five years in prison followed by five years of extended supervision.

According to the criminal complaint,

Davis was in an argument Nov. 25 with a woman inside a vehicle. He allegedly hit the woman multiple times and fled the scene without her near Jackson Street and West Murdock Avenue.

An Oshkosh police officer spoke with the victim, who alleged Davis threatened her as the two were driving back from Appleton. She told the officer Davis hit her between 15 to 20 times and threatened her life.

Officers went to Davis' home on Frederick Street when they allegedly heard yelling coming from inside. Officers reported seeing a man at the door holding what looked like a gun with an extended magazine.

One officer drew a handgun while another officer went for cover in the driveway. At one point an officer alleged Davis waved a gun up and down and yelled, "You want to play?"

Around 1:57 a.m. an officer heard a single gunshot come from the residence. At 2:25 a.m. an officer heard a door open and

saw a man matching Davis' description outside and was told by police to put his hands up. The man immediately put his hands up but went back into the home.

The complaint alleges a vehicle backed out of the driveway driven by Davis' girlfriend. She later told officers she knows Davis is a felon but said he did not own a gun.

Police detective Chee Vang testified that one of the victims reported to police that the other victim fired the gun at Davis to protect themselves and that the gun was not fired by Davis. Vang spoke to Davis' girlfriend, who showed Vang several photos of Davis holding a black handgun that had the same extended magazine found at the scene.

The complaint outlines that various ammunition was found inside a safe in Davis' bedroom.

Davis cannot legally possess a firearm due to a felony conviction of substantial battery in a 2021 Outagamie County case.

Volunteer needs

Oshkosh Celebration of Lights is in need of 20-25 volunteers to help take down parts of the Celebration of Lights displays during the first week of January (weather permitting). Volunteers will assist in unwinding the lighted trees and pulling spotlights out of the ground throughout the EAA grounds. For more information, contact Vicki Harrison at vrabe.oils@gmail.com.

Covey is seeking individuals with a strong accounting, finance or investment background to join the finance committee. Meetings are scheduled for about an hour on a quarterly basis during normal business hours and can be attended remotely. Contact Pam at pschutz@covey.org.

Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes is looking for troop leaders and assistant troop leaders. When you embrace leadership in all forms and show girls what it means to be resilient, they learn to lead on their own terms. That is the power of being a Girl Scout troop leader. Contact Kinate at skinat@gsnwgl.org or 920-955-3356.

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Oshkosh Area School District photo

Friendly challenge

The Carl Traeger Middle School Student Council recently coordinated a toy drive for teens in need with digital flyers, posters and a promotional video. Donations of arts and crafts supplies, games, self-care products and gifts cards were sparked by a friendly competition among students from all grade levels. A total of 305 items were received and given to the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh and Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Jan. 5, 1951

New Year's Baby of 1951 Wins

Honors: Little Linda Mary Schober received the honor of being the first Oshkosh baby born in the new year at Mercy Hospital. Born at 4:30 a.m. and weighing in at 8 lbs, 4 oz, the infant is the daughter of Richard and Betty Schober. Prizes awarded by local merchants to the New Year's baby and family include a fur sleeping bag from Kline's, bunny booties from local


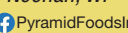
furrier Benjamin A. Zinth, a pair of trim foot booties from Rothenbach Brothers, a sterling silver baby cup from Kuettner Jewelers, a solid gold ring from J.F. Krumrich Co., a bracelet from Anger's Jewelers, 12 quarts of homogenized milk from Sunlite Dairy, an all-modern high-chair from Krummerow's, a nursery thermometer set from Mueller Potter, \$10 gift bond from the Boston Store, \$5 worth of laundry services from King's Laundry, and a coupon book for 500 pounds of ice from the Oshkosh Pure Ice Company. For the parents was a case of beer from the Peoples Brewing Co. and a bouquet of flowers from the Miles Kimball Co.

Source: *Oshkosh Northwestern*, Jan. 5, 1951

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FIRST Lego student team prepares for statewide event

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh's FIRST Lego League Challenge team of students from Tipler Middle, Traeger Middle, Oakwood Elementary and ALPs Charter schools is taking on the theme of Masterpiece in the state championships later this month.

The Baksteen Valken team and others from around Wisconsin have been challenged to research a real-world problem, then design and create an innovative way to share their interest. Baksteen Valken has already won several awards and advanced through two levels of qualifying tournaments to reach state competition Jan. 21 in Madison among 26 teams.

FIRST Lego League is a competition for students in fourth through eighth grade with a different theme each year. An innovative robot is designed to complete missions on a playing field to compete with more than 300 state teams along with a research project based on that theme. There are more than 35,000 teams worldwide.

Baksteen Valken, coached by Amy Hardy and Erik Ellifson, has a research project called ARCH (Archive and Repository for Continuing Humanity). ARCH is a monument designed to preserve and protect Earth's languages, knowledge and biodiversity against global climate change or catastrophes.

The monument contains a vault to preserve DNA samples, a digital genome data bank of Earth's biodiversity, and a digital ar-

chive of Earth's knowledge, history, arts and science. The monument would be in a national park for visitors to enjoy year-round.

The team met with experts from a wide range of fields, including a geneticist, two art historians, an art education professor, a computer scientist, communications professor, bioinformaticist, and a state representative to research and develop the project.

Baksteen Valken members said that besides the group's teamwork they most enjoyed meeting the variety of experts.

"They were helpful in putting together our project for this year. It was also a lot of fun to interact with them and learn more about what they do," member Barakat Akinyele shared.

Yui Watanabe said they go through a discovery process that teaches them about genetics, design and art along with skills such as soldering while working with pneumatic Lego parts, electronic breadboards and different kinds of robots.

"Learning about pneumatic Lego parts was fun. I also enjoyed programming the robot and working on our innovation problems where we could present our hard work to the judges," Watanabe said.

Barakat Akinyele encouraged other students to join FIRST Lego League for all of those reasons and how it can open up future possibilities.

Learn more about the project at arch-baksteenvalken.my.canva.site.



Submitted photo

Members of the Baksteen Valken team from Oshkosh will compete in Madison on Jan. 21 in statewide competition.

Fox Valley Trap Club sets league schedule

The Fox Valley Trap Club's two-person, 10-week winter league will start Monday, which along with Jan. 15 will be warm up nights that can be declared in league results.

All members must have shot at least

four leagues by Feb. 19 at the club at 5934 County E. The last night to shoot winter league will be April 1 until 7 p.m., when league awards will be presented at a potluck party.

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Former firefighter found guilty of child abuse

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

An Oshkosh man was found guilty of child abuse of an infant last week in Winnebago County Circuit Court.

Court documents show the man said he got a runner's high from hurting a 2-month old who had to be flown to a Milwaukee hospital for care.

Michael R. Ormond, 39, pleaded no contest to child abuse – recklessly causing great harm, which is a class E felony, and found guilty by Judge John Jorgensen. A second count of child abuse – intentionally causing harm will be dismissed on the prosecutor's motion but used for sentencing purposes.

He was employed as a firefighter with the Oshkosh Fire Department before his arrest in September. Ormond made his court appearance via video from inside the Winnebago County Jail last week, and has remained in custody since being arrested with a cash bond of \$50,000.

Ormond was initially charged with a class C felony child abuse – intentionally causing great bodily harm, but court documents show information was filed Dec. 14 that amended the charge and outlines the recommended sentence.

Wisconsin state statute for a class E fel-



Oshkosh Herald

Michael R. Ormond appeared via video for his plea hearing last week in front of Winnebago County Judge John Jorgensen.

ony is identified as "whoever recklessly causes great bodily harm to a child" and for the class C felony is "whoever intentionally causes great bodily harm of a child."

Defense attorney Christine Bruen said the agreement calls for Ormond to plead no contest to the single felony count. The recommended sentence agreed to by Assistant District Attorney Amanda Nash and Bruen calls for Ormond to serve five to seven years of initial confinement fol-

lowed by five years of extended supervision.

The class C felony count would have included a maximum initial confinement of 25 years followed by up to 15 years of extended supervision.

Jorgensen explained to Ormond that by pleading no contest he is giving up his right to a trial and added he doesn't have to follow the recommended sentence brought by the state. Ormond faces up to 10 years of initial confinement followed by

up to five years of extended supervision.

He is scheduled to be in court for a sentencing hearing Feb. 12.

According to the criminal complaint, an Oshkosh police officer was dispatched to the Children's Wisconsin-Fox Valley Hospital in Neenah at the request of Winnebago County Juvenile Intake. A social worker told an officer that the 2-month old had substantial bruising all over his body and a brain bleed. The child was later taken to Children's Hospital in Milwaukee via Flight for Life.

A detective spoke with Ormond, who allegedly admitted having thoughts of harming the infant since they brought him home. He said on the morning of Sept. 7 he was triggered by the infant's crying and hit him.

Ormond allegedly spanked the child and later squeezed his legs, arms and shook the infant for crying. When the infant went limp and pale from head to toe, Ormond called 911.

He allegedly admitted that hurting the infant gave him something like a "runner's high."

Medical records show the infant had a subdural hematoma, vast bruising and injuries consistent with abusive head trauma.

Boat launches

FROM PAGE 1

creases, the fund balance is expected to sit at just under \$40,000, steadily increasing each year to an estimated \$395,000 in 10 years.

Four residents and several supervisors spoke in opposition of increasing the fees at a county board meeting Dec. 19. One of the concerns was that the increase would drive boaters to use city and town launches, which typically have a lower fee than county launches.

Supervisor Thomas Swan called the boat launch parking fee "triple taxation."

"The county itself should be paying for this lake access out of the general fund that we charge taxpayers on our tax bill," he said. "These boaters have to pay a fee at the boat landing and they have to pay for license fees if they're a fisherman."

Historically, the county has used boat landing fees to fund installation, removal, repair and maintenance of buoys. In 2022

the buoy expenses were moved to the general fund. Breest estimated that from 2018-2021, \$477,000 in boat launch fees were diverted to buoy maintenance.

Swan said boaters should not be charged more "until that money is put back in and utilized for what it was supposed to be utilized for."

Earlier this year the board voted to replace the cash boxes at the county's seven boat launches with automated pay stations that accept credit cards or cash, funded with \$120,000 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds.

Supervisor Steven Binder requested that the county wait to change the boat launch parking fees to see whether the pay stations result in an increase in revenue. Supervisor Doug Nelson said he's familiar with the automated pay stations and their success in Winneconne.

"When the (pay stations) went in not only did the receipts go up some, but I believe the tickets that were issued tripled," he said, adding that it's easy to cheat the collection boxes but more difficult with an automated pay station because users are issued a sticker stating they paid.

During the discussion, the county board deliberated on an amendment that would increase only nonresident fees, with concern that it may not generate enough revenue. Nonresidents purchased 248 passes in 2022, making up about 26% of the 964 passes sold that year.

The board voted to send the fee increase proposal back to committee. It's expected to be sent back to the county board for a vote early this year.



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Fiscal burden of government can weigh on residents

Everyone gives up freedom and treasure to be part of a governed society. At no time is that more evident than tax season, a season when property owners open that bill and see what they owe the various taxing authorities in Oshkosh.

In my four years as a council member, I have received a whole lot of complaints about property taxes being too high, but not one contact suggesting our taxes are just right or perhaps too low.

Obviously, I am not surprised. Who enjoys paying property taxes?

Property taxes are akin to a generalized reciprocity where we all pay into something even if we do not receive a direct immediate personal benefit in return. My taxes help fund the police department and the library even if I never call the police or utilize the library. I pay property taxes to the school district for K-12 education even if I do not have a child in public school.

The argument is made that our property taxes fund the common good, but good luck finding agreement on what



Michael Ford
Oshkosh
Common Council

exactly that means. Part of the challenge is that we have a market-based economy where we are used to exchanging money for something specific we desire. Paying property taxes that fund general operations can feel inconsistent with our economic norms.

I find there is also confusion about the level and distribution of our property tax burden. The Wisconsin Policy Forum's municipal data tool – which uses state Department of Revenue data – is a great resource for comparing municipal finance information across jurisdictions. The latest information posted on that site lists the property tax-levy per capita, i.e. the total city property tax levy divided by the population, for 2022.

As can be seen below, Oshkosh is higher than Neenah, but slightly below our other peer cities:

- Oshkosh: \$683
- Neenah: \$672
- Appleton: \$706
- Fond du Lac: \$691
- Eau Claire: \$709
- La Crosse: \$715

But the city of Oshkosh is just one of several entities with the power to levy property taxes on its residents. The Policy Forum data tool also breaks down the distribution of property taxes by taxing authority for Oshkosh residents in 2022:

- Oshkosh Area School District (OASD): 37.9%
- City of Oshkosh: 36.7%
- Winnebago County: 16.4%
- Tax incremental financing districts: 5.7%
- Tech college: 3.2%

But even that breakdown is open to more discussion. As I wrote about recently, a growing portion of the school district levy supports the state private school voucher program. So, while the total levy amount for OASD is supporting K-12 education, it is not all going to the school district.

There are other ways we can slice the pie too for each of the categories. But, my larger point, is that a focus on just one taxing jurisdiction gives an incomplete picture of the fiscal burden placed on residents by local governments.

Fees and utilities complicate things further. There are certain fees we only pay if we use a service directly, like a dog license, and others we all pay based on our property's characteristics, like the stormwater utility fee. And the dreaded

special assessments are not as simple as often presented.

There are street assessments for road construction, special charges for sidewalk construction, and utility assessments. While recent efforts to replace special assessments deal with street assessments and sidewalk charges, they would not address utility assessments.

Why are things this complicated when it comes to our taxes and fees? Part of it is federalism. When the state places limits on local revenues it incentivizes the use of fees, utilities, and other creative methods to fund government operations. Some of it is politics. Fragmented structures can obfuscate spending and revenue realities, and that obfuscation can be weaponized for political gain.

For example, a political actor may seek to limit the property tax levy because of its high profile, only to transfer the fiscal burden to other revenue sources like fees. In such a situation the levy may look fiscally responsible, but the overall fiscal burden on the taxpayer has not actually improved.

The bottom line is that those of us in and around government need to consider the overall fiscal burden being placed on our residents rather than focusing solely on single indicators. We also need to improve coordination across taxing entities. After all, every fee and every tax impact residents' bottom lines, and Oshkosh's overall attractiveness as a place to live.

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



Oshkosh Area Community Foundation photo

Next steps

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh gave a preview of the final phase of its \$18 million expansion project last week to current and emeritus Oshkosh Area Community Foundation board members. Set to open in February, the new building will house workforce development and career readiness programming for teens, expanded mental health services and a community center for local agencies.



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Joseph T. Raycraft: contractor, builder, carpenter, architect

By Shirley Brabender Mattox
OSHKOSH LANDMARKS COMMISSION



When we look at historic buildings, we see the style of architecture and we may think about the architect. Rarely do we identify the contractor and builder.

Yet it was the contractors and builders who constructed the beautifully designed homes, municipal, commercial and utilitarian buildings that are the core of our city.

About 40 years ago I became aware of a contractor, Joseph T. Raycraft, who had built his home at 923 Jackson St. in 1897. The city of Oshkosh was settled by people such as Raycraft, who brought their skills, fortune and ambition with them, believing the world was their oyster.

Raycraft was one such person, born in Dublin of "well-to-do and highly respectable people" of Scottish descent. He was well educated and served a regular apprenticeship as a carpenter and cabinet maker followed by a three-year course in architectural drawing. He was a foreman

in his brother's architectural business in Dublin.

At age 18 in 1882, he came to the United States to visit friends in Chippewa Falls. They persuaded him to remain in this country, which he did, and he set up a contracting business.

In 1889 he married Clara Church, whose parents were early settlers in Allenville. He moved to Oshkosh in 1890, where he worked for 24 years as a contractor, builder and carpenter.

Raycraft built homes under contract; others he sold or rented on "the most desirable streets" in the city. His residence at 923 Jackson was in his advertisement in the City Directory.

Each year the Oshkosh Northwestern published the city's list of all the contractors' revenue created in the previous year. 1902 was a banner year for the city, which made a grand showing of \$1,233,111, equivalent to \$44 million in 2023.

That year Raycraft reported the greatest amount of work for the year of any contractor carpenter, which included the Baptist Temple, the 8th Street Lutheran School, the Oshkosh Electric Light and Power Co. plant, the Diamond Match Co. warehouse and many residences.

The Northwestern reported: "One of the finest new residences in the city is that of L. Frank Gates, corner of Jackson Street and New York Avenue. This residence has 12 rooms and is elegantly finished in hardwood with every modern convenience."

It was designed by architect William C. Klapproth, for whom Raycraft had built a home. He built more homes on Jackson Street after the fairgrounds was destroyed. He worked with many different architects, including those outside



Photo by Shirley Brabender Mattox

Oshkosh building contractor Joseph Raycraft built his home at 923 Jackson St. in 1897.



Photo by Shirley Brabender Mattox

Terra cotta panels with Acanthus leaves at the entrance to Frontenac Flats built in 1896.

Oshkosh. Often he bid on contracts with Meyer & Domke, later C.R. Meyer & Son; they did the masonry while he did the carpentry work.

His ads ran, "12 carpenters needed. No botch man wanted." He bought and sold houses promising "Your own time to pay for them." In 1895, he had contracts to build 15 of the largest dwelling houses ever erected in Oshkosh, all with quality workmanship.

Some of his works that remain are St. John's Church on South Park, Frontenac Flats on High Avenue, Oshkosh Normal School, the 1906 addition to Frank Percy's Fur House on Main Street, Christ Episcopal Church on Jackson and The Idea, a vaudeville hall on Main Street, along with scores of beautiful homes from 1890 to 1912.

Raycraft went to Long Beach, Calif., in 1913 for a rest and stayed. He was superintendent of the Los Angeles Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company during World War I, then president and general manager of Long Beach Construction, and finally became city building inspector, an appropriate job for which he was

prepared in Oshkosh.

He died in 1923 and is buried in Riverside Cemetery.

"Father made a fortune but lost it in Oshkosh. But everybody likes a town that has been good to him. He likes Oshkosh and so do I," wrote his son Joe Raycraft, superior court judge of Los Angeles County, in June 1954.



Photo by Shirley Brabender Mattox

The L. Frank Gates house at 404 W. New York Ave. was built in 1902.

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Oshkosh Herald

Restaurant site revived

Mad Chicken had a soft opening last month in Oshkosh for its newest restaurant location at the former Hardee's at 409 Algoma Blvd., with owner Mahmoud Gaballa shown at the counter. The Milwaukee-based chain started in 2017 at the Fox River Mall food court and now has 16 locations nationwide with at least six others planned. Gaballa's other business partners are Ramez Aly, Moe El Kady, Waleed Kamal and Franky Schadt.

Metro area unemployment rate drops to 2.4%

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area and Winnebago County saw a drop in its unemployment rate from 2.7% to 2.4% between October and November, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

Last November's jobless rate in Oshkosh-Neenah and the county was at 2.2%. The city of Oshkosh saw its rate drop from

3% to 2.5%.

The non-seasonally adjusted data shows jobless rates in Metropolitan Statistical Areas declined in all of Wisconsin's 12 metro areas over that period. Unemployment rates also decreased in 32 of Wisconsin's 35 largest cities and in all but one county.

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

RE/MAX offices join forces in Oshkosh, Fond du Lac

Rod Drendel and Gus Garcia, co-owners of RE/MAX Heritage in Fond du Lac, have purchased RE/MAX On the Water in Oshkosh. The merged companies will maintain their current names and operate under one leadership team of real estate professionals.

"We're excited to expand our leadership opportunities in the Oshkosh market and combine efforts to provide the best service RE/MAX has to offer," Garcia said. "The agents at RE/MAX Heritage and

RE/MAX On the Water have a proven record of outstanding service to their clients. Now, with more tools and collaboration, we're confident we'll continue to build on the reputation as one of the most respected brokerages in Oshkosh."

RE/MAX On the Water at 814 Knapp St. and RE/MAX Heritage at 116 N. Main St. in Fond du Lac specialize in listing and selling waterfront properties, single-family homes, investment properties and vacant land.

Calendar of events

7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Sunday, Jan. 14

Movies with Friends: "Up," 1 p.m., Oshkosh Public Library

Wednesday, Jan. 17

Tierney Sutton with pianist Christian Jacob, 7 p.m., The Howard

Thursday, Jan. 18

Aviation Adventure Speaker Series: Archaeology and MIA Recovery Missions, 7 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum
Student Jam, 6:30 p.m., The Waters, 1393 Washington Ave.

Friday, Jan. 19

Comedy Night, 7:30 p.m., Bare Bones Brewery, 4362 County S

Steely Dane: The Ultimate Steely Dan Tribute, 8 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Saturday, Jan. 20

Ruby's Pop-up Pantry, 9:30 a.m., 491 Old Oregon Road

Sunday, Jan. 21

The Wisconsin Wedding Showcase, 1 p.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

Ongoing

Nutcracker in the Castle, Paine Art Center & Gardens, through Monday

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

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Spring election

FROM PAGE 1

candidacy for the three city seats on social media: Jacob Floam, Kris Larson, DJ Nichols, Hollie Poupart and Kristopher Ulrich. Each of the candidates had until 5 p.m. this Tuesday to file their paperwork along with at least 100 signatures from current city residents. If seven candidates file paperwork by the deadline it will initiate a primary election set for Feb. 20.

Board of Education

Three seats will be on the ballot for the Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education and all three incumbents serving on the board will be seeking another term: Kristopher Karns, Chris Wright and Beth Wyman. One other candidate, Timothy Hess, recently announced his intent to run.

Winnebago County

The ballot will have voters choosing county supervisors and a new county judge as Teresa Basiliere is not seeking re-election as circuit court Branch 1 judge. Court commissioners Eric Heywood and Michael Rust have both announced their candidacy for the seat.

All 36 county supervisor seats are up for election in the spring. The Herald is focused on seats that represent our readers in districts 11 through 25 and District 31. As of Friday, the county clerk's office has reported that supervisors in districts 12, 13, 14, 18, 22, 24 and 31 are incumbents running unopposed.

Supervisors and candidates need to file a declaration of candidacy, campaign registration and nomination pa-

pers. Supervisors not seeking re-election were to file noncandidacy papers by Dec. 22.

In District 11, Supervisor David Albrecht has two challengers – Tim Paterson and Jeffery Schettl – who have filed nomination papers. If Paterson and Schettl both file by the deadline it will trigger a primary election in February. Supervisors and candidates had until last night (Jan. 2) to submit paperwork.

In District 15, Supervisor E. Michael Robinson is seeking re-election and is being challenged by Amber Gilbertson. District 16 Supervisor Jacob Floam has submitted his noncandidacy papers for his seat as he seeks a Common Council seat, and Robert Knudsen has filed a declaration of candidacy.

Supervisor Julie Gordon of District 17 will not be running for another term on the board and currently no one is running for the seat.

District 20 Supervisor Timothy Ernst was appointed to the board in 2023 and is not seeking a full term after he filed noncandidacy papers. Timothy Macho Sr. will be running for the seat.

County clerk records show Supervisor Joshua Belville of District 19 and District 23 Supervisor Koby Schellenger have not filed for candidacy or noncandidacy. Larry Lautenschlager has filed papers to be on the ballot for District 19.

In District 21, Supervisor John Hinz is being challenged by Jeff Lawrence. In District 25, Supervisor Karen Powers is running for another term and will be challenged by Scott Perzentka.

All 36 supervisor district maps can be seen online at winnebagocountywi.gov/county-board/supervisory-districts.

Pediatrician warns of high caffeine in energy drinks

ThedaCare Communications

New sports and energy drinks are gaining popularity, thanks in some part to an increased presence on social media channels such as YouTube. The advertising and videos connected to these drinks have impacted their millions of young social media followers. Many of these products have hundreds of milligrams of caffeine, which is becoming a concern for parents, families and health care says some drinks contain high caffeine levels professionals.

"Parents should know that caffeine in any amount can impact young people much more strongly than adults," said Dr. Sneha Subbarayan at ThedaCare Physicians Pediatrics-Neenah. "It's also important to truly understand how much caffeine is in a specific drink. For example, some of these drinks have 100-200 milligrams of caffeine. A can of caffeinated soda has about 30 milligrams."

Energy drinks generally contain stimulants such as caffeine and guarana, a plant product which contains caffeine. These drinks also may contain sodium, vitamins, minerals and sugar protein. The American Academy of Pediatrics said some energy drinks can contain up to 14 times the level of caffeine found in some sodas.

Rapid consumption of about 1,200 milligrams of caffeine can cause toxic effects such as seizures in adults, the FDA said. Children, teens and adults can experience a range of effects from caffeine overconsumption including insomnia or trouble getting to sleep, headaches or dizziness, nausea or lack of appetite, anxiety and rapid or irregular heart rate, hyperactivity and increased energy, jumpiness and increased stress hormones, dysphoria (unhappiness) and impaired concentration.

"Overconsumption of highly caffeinated drinks can cause toxicity in the body, and even death," Subbarayan said.

In May, a British primary school student

suffered a "cardiac episode" after drinking an energy drink. Kids with pre-existing conditions also can be at greater risk for caffeine-related health problems. The American Academy of Pediatrics discourages any consumption of stimulants including caffeine by children, and energy drinks are never recommended for children under age 12.

"Water is the best drink for children," Subbarayan said. "Adolescents should limit caffeine consumption to a maximum of 100 mg per day."

Additionally, people can become physically dependent or addicted to stimulants. The FDA currently recommends that healthy adults can consume up to 400 mg of caffeine per day, though people on certain medications or who have certain conditions (including pregnancy) should talk to their providers about whether it's safe to consume caffeine.

Sports drinks are different from energy drinks but also should be consumed with caution. They are flavored beverages that normally contain minerals, vitamins, nutrients and electrolytes, and for young people who participate in athletics, the drinks can help rehydrate them after intense activity.

"Sports drinks are not recommended as a substitute for water, however, because they can have a high caloric content, and they are sometimes high in sugar, which contributes to obesity," Subbarayan said. "Additionally, the citric acid in some sports drinks can lead to dental erosion if consumed frequently."

Children and adolescents likely consume some caffeine daily as the stimulant can be found in foods and drinks like chocolate, soda, tea and ice cream.

"Always check product labels of the drinks your children consume to ensure they are caffeine-free or contain reasonable amounts if your children are over age 12," she said. "Keep in mind that many caffeinated drinks also contain sweeteners, which also should be limited to protect your child's health and well-being."

Overconsumption of sugary drinks can lead to obesity. Almost 20% of children and teens in the United States were obese between 2017 and 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Talk to your kids about caffeine, sugar and nutrition and help them to understand the risks of the drinks they may be asking for," Subbarayan explained. "Read food labels with your child, and when they're old enough, teach them to compare items to make informed choices."



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Two Good Greek Yogurt

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59 oz
Minute Maid
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16 oz
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4.99
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Wheat or White Bread

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2 lb
Riceland
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Meat

2.99
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16 oz
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8 oz
Sugardale
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1.19
2.4-3.3 oz
Armour
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Wholey
Raw Shrimp

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Farm Raised
Tilapia Fillet

8.99
26/30 ct 16 oz Wholey
Cooked Shrimp

Bauer hits milestone as Knights down Berlin

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Just about everyone wearing a Lourdes Academy girls basketball uniform last Thursday night – or had close contact with someone donning that attire – knew exactly how many points junior guard Hailee Bauer needed to score to eclipse the 1,000-point milestone.

About the only one who lacked that information was Bauer.

“My team did a great job of hiding it from me. They all knew and were talking about it before the game but they didn’t let me in on it,” Bauer said after the Knights beat Berlin, 70-59, in a nonconference game at The Castle. “I knew I was close, but I didn’t really want to know exactly because then it would be in my head the whole game.”

Bauer, who has now scored 1,016 points in her career at Lourdes Academy after totaling 26 points in the win over the Indians, reached the milestone late in the first half when she drained a 3-pointer from the left wing.

She finished with a game-high 26 points and playfully pointed out that she now has bragging rights over older brother Josh, who finished his career with the Knights with 978 points.

“I can kind of hold that over him now,” Bauer said. “It feels great. Being here with the people I love most and my teammates. I wouldn’t want to do this with anyone else. It’s amazing.”

Lourdes Academy head coach Ali Starr said that she was proud of the way Bauer reacted to her achievement.

“It’s very telling of the kid she is that the first thing she wants to do is compliment her teammates,” Starr said. “In my opinion, any time a kid scores 1,000 points, she doesn’t do it alone. It’s always the crew that’s around her playing a role. Her role is to score, and she does it well.”

Bauer’s milestone 3-pointer – one of six she made in the game – capped a 10-4 run by the Knights to close a tight first half



Lourdes Academy junior Hailee Bauer (3) surpassed the 1,000-career points milestone in last Thursday’s win over Berlin.

with a 39-31 lead.

Berlin had pulled to within 29-17 with about four minutes to go in the half before five straight points from Ella Slusarski and a putback basket by Hannah McDowell started the spurt that Bauer capped off at the break.

The late first-half run seemed to spark Lourdes Academy as it would lead the entire second half, although the Indians never let the Knights put things on cruise control.

Berlin scored eight straight points ear-

ly in the second half to slice the Knights’ lead to 44-43 before Lourdes Academy answered with a free throw from Sabur Machiros, a basket by McDowell and a three-point play from Bauer.



Oshkosh Herald

Fans celebrated Hailee Bauer’s 1,000th career point during last Thursday’s game.

Then, when the Indians pulled within two points just past the midway point of the half, 3-pointers from Slusarski and Bauer sparked a 16-4 surge for the Knights that Delaney Ruedinger capped with a driving layup for a 66-52 lead with 4:23 left to play.

“We got punched in the face a couple of times this season and we didn’t really punch back. We kind of slapped back. Tonight, we kept on moving and playing our brand of basketball. I’m very proud of them,” Starr said. “They were poised. They took care of the basketball. This was a huge basketball IQ growth night for us.”

Berlin would then get as close as nine with about two minutes to play but Aubrey Schettle went 4-for-4 from the free-throw line in the final 1:39 to help keep the Indians at bay.

“Great free throws by Aubs,” Starr said.

Never surrendering the lead in the second half was important for the Knights, as

SEE **Lourdes girls** ON PAGE 15

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PARTNER IN YOUTH LITERACY



Martell following family tradition of athletic success

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

As the youngest of four rough-and-tumble athletic brothers, Garth Martell learned about toughness early in life.

He never lost it.

Prep athletes don't get much tougher than Oshkosh West's senior wrestler, football player and track and field thrower.

A top-notch football lineman and a three-sport athlete, Martell is one of the better heavyweight wrestlers in Wisconsin.

Martell is seeking a repeat trip to the WIAA state individual wrestling tournament after dropping his first and only match in his state tourney debut last February. Martell finished a productive junior season at 40-12 and is looking to get back to Madison for a more extended stay on the mat.

"It was a great experience with the guys from the team, the coaches and my family there to support me," said Martell. "But this year, I'm hoping to get a little more wrestling in."

Martell - the defending FVA champion in the 285-pound (heavyweight) class - is also looking to join an exclusive club at West with 100 career victories. He entered the 2023-24 season needing 30-plus wins to hit triple digits.

If he can reach 100, Martell will have accomplished something that none of his older brothers did. Nolan, Avery, and Roman all wrestled and played football at West. Nolan, a 2017 West graduate, wrestled at 160 and was the Wildcats' quarterback. Avery, a 2019 graduate, competed at 285 and was a defensive lineman. Roman, a 2022 graduate, wrestled at 195 and was a running back.

Roman was a three-time WIAA state tourney qualifier and finished fifth at state his senior year. Avery was also a state quali-



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Garth Martell has followed in the footsteps of his older brothers in finding athletic success at Oshkosh West. This wrestling season, he hopes to make a return trip to the state tournament and return with a medal.

fier as a senior and is currently playing college football at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

"I believe I need 32 wins to get to 100," said Garth. "Roman came up just shy of 100 and doing that would mean a ton to me. My brothers have always been a big inspiration to me. My goals have been set basically to do what they did and maybe be a little better than them. I want to make the type of impact they did."

Garth has been wrestling since kindergarten and grappling with his older brothers for as long as he can remember.

"We'd always be playing around in the sunroom, with me getting beat up a little bit," said Garth with a chuckle. "But it definitely made me tougher and a better wrestler."

The athletic success of the Martell brothers should come as no surprise. Their father, Matt, played football, wrestled and threw the shot and discus at West, while their mother, Patricia, was a basketball and softball player at Lourdes Academy.

"I do all the sports my dad did and he's someone I've always looked up to," said Garth. "I've always wanted to be like him."

Senior spotlight

He coached me throughout my youth in wrestling and football. He's always been in my corner and took me to all these youth tournaments over the years. He basically made my base, my foundation, as a wrestler."

The Martell brothers have always been highly supportive of one another and Garth has never had to look far for a wrestling partner.

"All of my brothers have been big wrestling partners for me," said Garth. "They're still my favorite partners up in the wrestling room. I always love wrestling those guys."

"If I was nervous before a match, my dad used to say that it's no different than going up against your brothers."

Size can play a factor in the 285-pound class, but proper technique is necessary. Martell knows he can't solely rely on brute strength.

"You have to have technique," Martell said. "I do a lot of upper body stuff and get to standing leg attacks and slide-bys. I've definitely had my ups and downs in wrestling. I struggled a bit my freshman and sophomore years, then picked it up last year. I have pretty high hopes for this season."

Chances are that Martell won't be outworked by any of his 20024 opponents. While some athletes loathe practice, Martell loves it.

"Wrestling is my favorite sport," Martell said. "I love the grind of it. For me, there is no better way to get something off your mind than wrestling. There is nothing like sweating it out on the wrestling mat, espe-

SEE **Senior spotlight** ON PAGE 16

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Prep sports roundup

BOYS BASKETBALL

North splits pair of games at WBY Tournament

Oshkosh North was able to go 1-1 against a pair of highly-touted opponents at the Wisconsin Basketball Yearbook Tournament in Mequon last week.

The Spartans won their first game of the tournament by routing Franklin, 78-57.

North led only 34-31 at halftime but outscored the Sabers 44-26 in the second half to pull away for the win.

Stevie Clark scored 25 points to lead three players in double figures for the Spartans. Xzavion Mitchell added 18 points, while Carter Strange hit three 3-pointers to finish with 12 points.

The following night, the Spartans came up just short of Brookfield Central, suffering a 61-59 defeat.

Mitchell poured in 31 points to lead North, while Clark finished with 19 points as the duo combined for 50 of the team's 59 points.

Knights fall on the road against Roncalli

Lourdes Academy dropped the opening game of the Holy Buckets Christmas Classic against Roncalli last Thursday night, falling to the Jets on their home court, 49-39.

The Knights led 16-15 at halftime.

Mitchell Wing was the lone player in double figures for the Knights with 15 points.

Jok Machiros and JJ McKellips each chipped in seven points for Lourdes Academy, who was slated to play St. Mary's Springs on Friday night.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Oshkosh West wins tourney opener

Brenna Gehri scored a season high 17 points as Oshkosh West rolled past Wausau West 75-41 in the first game of the Marshfield Holiday Classic last Thursday.

Paige Seckar chipped in 10 points in the win for Oshkosh West, while Charlee Martin added eight. Eleven different players scored in the game for the Wildcats.

Oshkosh West was scheduled to face Marshfield in the tournament title game Friday.

Due to early holiday deadlines, we were unable to provide coverage of sporting events held Friday and Saturday.

Big second half carries Oshkosh North to win

The Spartans put together a huge second half to rally past Green Bay Preble in the first game of Preble's Holiday Tournament.

Oshkosh North trailed by one at intermission but outscored the Hornets 41-12 in the second half to collect a 65-37 victory.

Ava Hanson finished with 21 points to lead the Spartans, while Awut Alic finished with 15.

Hailee Valdez chipped in eight points in the win.

Warriors knock off Milwaukee North

Valley Christian exploded for 50 points in the first half and rolled past Milwaukee North 75-19 in the first game of the Stockbridge Tournament.

The Warriors had four players score in double figures and had nine players score overall in the game.

Anna Y. Giannopoulos led the way for Valley Christian with 18 points followed by Lizzie Fink with 12 – all in the first half. Anna E. Giannopoulos and Paige Boevers added 11 and 10 points, respectively, while Eavie Heffernan and Mya Moran each scored nine.

Valley Christian, which was slated to play St. Joan on Friday, led 50-10 at the half.



Oshkosh Herald

Lourdes Academy's Aubrey Schettle (1) dribbles through a trio of Berlin defenders during the first half last Thursday.

Lourdes girls

FROM PAGE 13

they were able to come up with some key stops to keep Berlin from getting on a big roll.

"They shoot a lot of 3's and we knew we had to get out on them because once they get hot they stay hot," Bauer said. "They are fast and they have great athletes, so it was just important for us to be on our toes the whole time defensively."

Despite the win, which upped the Knights' record to 6-2 overall this season, Starr was concerned with the way the Knights rebounded against the Indians.

Berlin was able to generate a wealth of second-chance opportunities which helped them keep the game close.

"Rebounding has been our kryptonite all year. But here's the thing – that is figure-it-out-able," Starr said. "If we couldn't compete because of athleticism or just score enough points to win, that's a problem. Rebounding is heart and attitude and that is something we have to run more drills with, put more time in on and I can do a better job coaching it, too."

Bauer's 26-point effort led the Knights, but she certainly had help on the offensive end.

Slusarski finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds, while also picking up seven steals in the game. Schettle chipped in 12 points.

"Ella is a kid that's always going to play hard no matter how many minutes she's out there," Starr said. "You can count on her doing something spectacular when she is out there."

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MIRAVIDA LIVING

Senior spotlight

FROM PAGE 14

cially if I'm going against my brothers. I just like the feeling you get from a good wrestling workout. I always feel refreshed."

Martell's football opponents seldom felt refreshed after battling against him in the trenches. Martell, who also played nose tackle, was an all-Fox Valley Association second-team selection at center in 2023. He received all-conference honorable mention as a sophomore.

"Garth has always been someone who I can count on doing the right thing all the time," said West wrestling coach Matt Cuadra, who has also been a West assistant football coach. "It's been a privilege to coach him in both football and wrestling."

Martell's prep career won't end following wrestling. He also throws the shot put and

discus in track and field.

"To me, sports is a way to have structure," Martell said "If I don't have a sport or anything to do after school, I don't really know what to do. Honestly, I'm the type of guy who always needs something to do."

Martell, an honor-roll student at West, plans to attend UW Oshkosh next fall. He's considering a criminal justice major and hasn't yet decided if he will pursue college wrestling.

"Two of my brothers are at UWO, so it will be nice to stay in touch with my family," he said. "What I like about criminal justice is that it's something new every day. I don't want a career where you're doing the same thing every day."

In the meantime, he's doing everything in his power to get back to the Kohl Center.

"I just need to keep working hard," he said. "Hopefully, I get back to state and get up on that podium."

Free app hopes to combat loneliness in caregivers

By Hope Kirwan
WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO

A health care company in northeastern Wisconsin is helping launch a new program to combat loneliness in the state's caregivers.

Lakeland Care provides managed care for older adults and adults with disabilities in the state's Medicaid program in 22 counties, including Winnebago.

Jen Harrison, Lakeland's chief program officer, said the company originally contracted with Pyx Health to provide the app to their members after seeing an increase in the number of people experiencing depression in recent years. The program provides a mix of activities and resources to address loneliness within the app, as well as offering users the opportunity to talk with a real person.

"What we discovered in doing all of this is that the caregivers who are supporting these people were saying, 'Can I use this program? Is it OK if I sign up?'" Harrison said.

Federal health officials have warned of an epidemic of loneliness in the general population across the country. A U.S. Surgeon General advisory earlier this year warned a lack of social connection can increase the risk of premature death as much as smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day.

Family and other unpaid caregivers are looked to as individuals who can help prevent loneliness. But Cindy Jordan, founder and CEO of Pyx Health, said they also have unique pressures that can make them feel isolated from others. She said caregivers may be physically separated from

friends and social connections, having to stay home with someone who needs physical or medical help. And they can feel like others don't understand their experience, which is a different kind of mental or emotional isolation.

"They believe that they shouldn't be complaining or that it sounds like complaining because whomever they're caring for is much worse off than they are," she said. "That's when loneliness can get very, very dangerous for caregivers because you start to believe no one understands your plight. No one can help you. There's nothing that's going to make it better."

This is the loneliness Jordan experienced herself after the death of her stepdaughter, a loss that led her to become a caregiver to her partner and family in a new way. She said her family's experience is part of what inspired the creation of Pyx Health. The company has created a new version of their app specifically for caregivers and Lakeland Care is the first to launch the new program.

With an estimated 580,000 family caregivers in Wisconsin, Harrison said Lakeland Care decided to not only extend the new resource to caregivers of their members but for anyone in the state.

"We feel like this is a really cost-effective intervention," Harrison said. "It's something that's a link to another person or an app. Maybe someone's not ready to admit, especially our male caregivers, that they're tired, but they're willing to go on an app and just really get some support or some information in a different, unique way."

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Miravida Living photo

Celebrating 105

Bethel Home recently celebrated the 105th birthday of cherished resident Mary Gabert (seated in front). Friends and family within the Miravida Living community and beyond shared in the celebration.

Grammy-nominated jazz vocalist slated at Howard

Oshkosh Herald

Wisconsin native Tierney Sutton, a nine-time Grammy-nominated jazz vocalist, will perform Jan. 17 at The Howard in Oshkosh as part of the Jazz Coterie pop-up concert series serving central and east-central Wisconsin.



Sutton

Sutton, who grew up in Milwaukee, has received a Best Jazz Vocal Album Grammy nomination for almost every album she has released in the past 20 years. She is heralded for her abilities as both a jazz storyteller and her ability to use her voice as an instrument.

Tierney received a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., and attended Berklee College of Music in Boston. She said she first discovered jazz during the summer after her first year in college singing at the Heidel House Resort in Green Lake.

Tierney has headlined at Carnegie Hall, The Hollywood Bowl and Jazz at Lincoln Center. When not performing, she is a producer and vocal educator. Tierney taught at USC's Thornton School of Music and was vocal department head at the Los Angeles College of Music in Pasadena.

Concert tickets and information can be found at JazzCoterie.com or at thehowardoshkosh.com. Sutton also performs Jan. 16 at Great Northern Distilling in Stevens Point.

Obituaries

Sally Jean Poeschl

Sally Jean Poeschl, 76, passed away in Oshkosh on December 24, 2023. She was born in Wisconsin to Audrey (Stoegbauer) and Howard Miller on January 17, 1947.

She enjoyed spending time with her friends and family and going to rummage sales. She also loved decorating with flowers and gardening. She was the life of the party and will be remembered for her heart of gold.

Sally is survived by her siblings, Michael (Kathy) Miller, Donna (Cliff) Berndt, Jane (Michael) Footit and Maryjo

Miller; her beloved dogs, Mindy, Nikki and Emma. She is further survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and other family.

Preceding her in death are her husband of 50 years, Jim Poeschl; and parents, Audrey and Howard Miller.

Per her wishes no funeral services will be held at this time.

Special thank you to Compassus Hospice for their care and compassion during this difficult time.

Fox Cities

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Gene Stengel

Gene Stengel, 74, passed away in Oshkosh, WI on December 21, 2023. He was born on May 15, 1949 to Delta (Kopp) and Alfred Stengel in Watertown, WI.



He graduated from Watertown High School in 1967 and went on to serve proudly in the US Army as a Vietnam veteran. He owned and operated Casey's Restaurant in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Gene loved to visit and camp at Wisconsin State Parks; he visited every one of them and even visited some in Michigan and Minnesota. He also enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and watching them play ball.

Gene is survived by his children, Jay (Angela) Stengel, Elizabeth Stengel, and

Sarah (Kirk) Lannon; grandchildren, Andrew, Ethan, Declan, and Anna.

Preceding him in death are his parents, Delta and Alfred Stengel.

He will be laid to rest in the family plot at Ebenezer Moravian Cemetery.

A memorial toward State Parks is being established in his honor.

Special thank you to ThedaCare Hospice and Cancer team for all of the care and compassion they provided during this difficult time.



Phyllis Tillou

Passed away on December 29 at the age of 94. She is survived by her five children and their spouses, 13 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date.

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Obituaries

Deanna B. Stearns

Deanna B. (Doemel) Stearns, age 85, passed away peacefully at Eden Meadows in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on 16 December 2023. She was born on 11 March 1938 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, to the late Harold and Beatrice (Barlow) Doemel. Deanna met the love of her life, Richard Stearns, and the two exchanged vows on 14 September 1957 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Oshkosh.

Deanna worked for the Oshkosh Public School System in a variety of jobs for 23 years. Her favorite part of the job was meeting and interacting with the teachers and the students. She would often talk about the young children who would seek her out for advice or just for a friendly chit chat. Making friends was her superpower. There wasn't a person she couldn't talk to or make friends with. Even while in the nursing home she endeared herself to the other residents and the staff.

Deanna's favorite pastimes included spending weekends with her husband and friends camping at her trailer at Horicon Marsh, "getting a deal" at a rummage sale, and singing in any and every choir imaginable. Deanna had a beautiful voice and even directed the choirs on occasion including lastly, the Y-Nots, a Fox Valley se-

nior choir. She loved to travel and looked forward to frequent visits with her sons in places across the United States and overseas. One of her proudest accomplishments was going back to school, late in life, and getting her high school diploma. Sadly, Deanna will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Deanna is survived by her children Michael (Ursula), James, Paul (Sarah) and Christopher (Michell) Stearns, sister Marilyn (Doemel) Hammerseng, brother-in-law Dennis Hammerseng, five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Preceding her in death are her husband, her parents, and her sisters June Janke, Janet Lautenschlager, Nancy Salzer and Carol Madaus.

The funeral service will take place at 11:00 A.M. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oshkosh on Friday, 12 January 2024. Visitation will be held from 9:30 to the start time of Mass. A luncheon at Sacred Heart Catholic Church will immediately follow. The internment will take place at 2:00 P.M. at Lake View Memorial Park in Oshkosh.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Deanna's name be directed to the American Diabetes Association at www.diabetes.org. The family also wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff of Eden Meadows, Ascension Northeast Wisconsin Mercy Hospital and Compassus Hospice for the care that Deanna received.

Fiss & Bills - Poklasny Funeral Homes, Oshkosh, is assisting the family. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.fissbillspoklasnyfuneral-home.com

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& CREMATORY

Norman D. Stefanac

Norman "Storm-in" David Stefanac was born December 17, 1958 in Milwaukee, WI to Norman P. Stefanac and Betty Brinn (nee Nelson; formerly Stefanac) and passed peacefully December 22, 2023

He attended Pius High School and graduated from New Berlin Eisenhower in 1977, where he excelled in sports and shenanigans.

Norman is survived by his self-described "soulmate" and fiancé of 13 years, Sharon von Thun, nee Weber; daughter, Shannon Lasater, brothers, Danny Brinn and David Brinn, sister, Rebecca Brinn Nelson, brother-in-law, Kenneth Nelson; nephews, Clayton Nelson and Erik Nelson; granddaughters, Ava Lasater and Vivienne Stefanac.

He is preceded in death by his father, Norman P. Stefanac; step-mother, Veryl Stefanac; mother, Betty Brinn; step-father, Ray C. Brinn; uncle, Eddie Nelson; and his beloved son, Michael Stefanac.

Norm also considered all of Sharon's family as his own and felt blessed to have

so many who loved him. He was a unique soul and real go-getter. He was especially proud of his Marine service as well as a self-made businessman specializing in concrete, masonry and building construction. At the end of his career, he thrived as a superintendent building Culver's Restaurants all over the country.

Norm had a storied life, he was quick with a joke and a great storyteller. We always had great belly laughs when Norm was in the room! He and Sharon loved to travel, had many adventures over the years, and was a great Corvette and Harley Davidson enthusiast.

Norm is also loved and very missed by his German shepherd Django and his lab, Charles "Charlie" Barkley. He is now reunited with his beloved frisbee girl, CoCo.

He did not wish for a traditional funeral so there will be a celebration of life/fundraiser with military honors on Saturday, March 9, 2024, at the Waukau Community Center.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established.

He always said, "We're not here for a long time, we're here for a good time" and then they made a song about it.

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Obituaries

William F. Denney

William Francis Denney, 90, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully at home in his favorite chair on December 22, 2023.

William, or Bill as he was more commonly known, was born on October 12, 1933, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Tony and Mary (Foley) Denney. The youngest of two children, he graduated from the Portsmouth Abbey School in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, in 1952 and matriculated to the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. During summers in college he lifeguarded on the Atlantic Ocean in Cape May, New Jersey, a location that would remain special to him his entire life. Upon graduating from the Wharton School in 1956 he was drafted into the U.S. Army and earned a commission as a second lieutenant. Among his experiences in the Army was a trip behind the Iron Curtain.

Upon leaving the Army he opted to accept a position on the oil tanker SS Pennsylvania Sun. While on the Pennsylvania Sun he transited the Suez Canal and visited ports across the world such as Bombay (Mumbai), India. In 1960, while on leave in Cape May, he met Sheila Kelly. He never returned to the tanker and on June 3, 1961, they were married. He would settle into the more traditional field of accounting and worked for the Amstar Corporation in New York City while residing in Yardley, Pennsylvania.

In 1970 he was offered a position with a subsidiary of Amstar, the Hoffmaster Corporation, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He

rose to Vice President of Finance at Hoffmaster, a position he retained until the early 1980s. Later he accepted a position with the Plexus Corporation in Neenah, Wisconsin, where he served as Controller, Vice President, and Treasurer until his retirement in late 1999.

During retirement he embarked on two tiger cruises on the USS Nimitz and USS Peleliu with his cousin Captain Francis Foley, chaplain. The excursions brought back fond memories of his time in the military and on the seas, while allowing him to develop a wonderful relationship with Francis. He and Sheila also discovered Sanibel, Florida, and spent a portion of many winters there. They developed many great Sanibel friendships and loved having visitors. Early falls were spent in Cape May Point, New Jersey, with visits from family near and far.

One of his proudest accomplishments is his role in the growth of St. Raphael's the Archangel Catholic Church in Oshkosh. He and the family joined the church, then known as Good Samaritan, in one of its first masses in 1971. In numerous roles he contributed to leading the mission church to parish status and eventually the building of two churches.

One of his greatest pastimes was the Green Bay Packers. Ironically, as a Philadelphia Eagles fan in 1960 he saw his Eagles beat the Lombardi-coached Packers in the NFL Championship game at Philadelphia's Franklin Field. Little did he know that just ten years later his conversion to Packer fan would begin. He was known for strongly expressing his opinions during games. In 1997 he and his three sons watched the Packers win the NFC Championship from the stands at Lambeau Field.

His greatest joy was his family and spending time with his wife, sons, grandsons, and great-grandchildren. He was affectionately referred to as G-Dawg by his great-grandchildren. With the entire family together, he celebrated his 90th birthday this past October.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Tony and Mary Denney, and sister Peggy Denney Cancelmo. He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Sheila; his children William (Karen), Drew, and Christopher; grandsons Thomas (Kathryn) and Peter (Samantha); and great-grandchildren Addie, Alex, Will, Emily, Noah, Finley, and Charlie.

Services will be held on January 4,

Betty Jane Boheen

Betty Jane Boheen of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, joined her heavenly father and loved ones on December 22, 2023, at the age of 99 years old. Betty was born July, 1924 to Frank and Leona Nachtman in Oshkosh. Betty married the love of her life, Robert Boheen in 1945 where they built the family



home on Hazel Street and raised their family. The Boheen home was always filled with love, laughter and adventure.

Betty was a homemaker and volunteer at Emiline Cook school where she read stories to children. She enjoyed shopping, going to rummage sales and traveling. She was a member of Christ Lutheran Church and loved her relationship with the Lord. One of Betty's greatest joys was being a grandmother.

Betty was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Robert "Bob"; parents, Frank and Leona Nachtman; two sisters, Dorothy Baerwald, and Lorraine Womas-

ki; and her cousin, Phyllis Nachman. Betty is survived by her children, Gwen Heagle and Craig Boheen (Diane), grandchildren, Amy Ready (Mike), Toni Aaron (JD), Caryn Musselman (Ellsworth) and Michael Boheen (Shelby); great-grandchildren, Hannah Ready (Austin), Connor and Carter Stamborski, EJ Musselman, Alexis and Serenity Boheen; her cherished god-daughter, Patty Shuttenthal (Bob); dear friend, Luella Heagle and her wonderful neighbors that became family, Dale and Doreen Bonfight.

We would like to thank St. Croix Hospice for the wonderful care and compassion they gave Betty as well as all the family and friends who visited Betty and appreciated how beautiful she was inside and out.

Services were held at Seefeld Funeral Home, 1025 Oregon Street in Oshkosh on Wednesday December 27th. Visitation was from 12:00pm to 2:00pm, with a service at 2:00pm.

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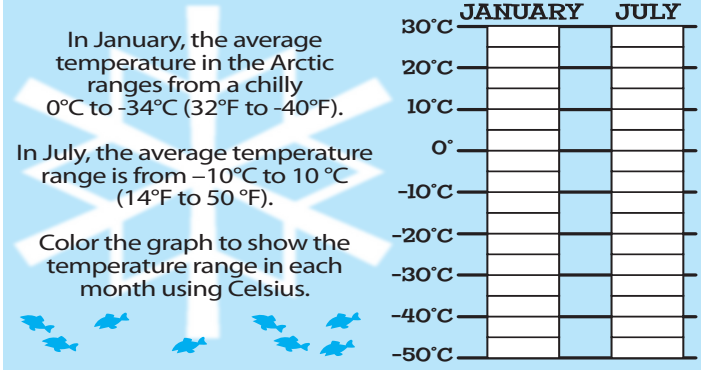


POLAR BEARS

Big and white, fluffy and furry, these are adjectives that describe a polar bear! Can you think of other adjectives that would describe this animal?

Polar bears love fish! How many fish can you catch on this page?

Average Temperatures in the Arctic



Polar Bear Fur Is NOT White!

Each hair shaft is transparent with a hollow core that scatters and reflects visible light, much like what happens with ice and snow, giving it a bright white appearance.

How Polar Bears Stay Warm

Polar bears live on ice near the North Pole in the Arctic, which is covered in ice and surrounded by very cold water. But that doesn't bother a polar bear.

In each box, write the letter that comes before the letter at the bottom of each box to find a couple of cool ways these fluffy fellows stay warm.

G	A	U	A	O	D
B	B	V	B	V	S

Polar Bear Paws

Polar bear paws can grow to be 12 inches across (31 centimeters) and help distribute weight when treading on thin ice.



When swimming, their broad forepaws act like large paddles and the hind paws serve as rudders for steering.

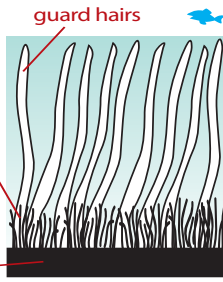
Black footpads on the bottom of each paw are covered by small, soft bumps known as papillae. Papillae grip the ice and keep the bear from slipping. Tufts of fur between their toes and footpads may help with purchase as well as can their claws.

Very Special Fur

Polar bears have two types of fur: long oily guard hairs and short insulating hairs.

The long, oily guard hairs are tiny, hollow tubes that trap warmth and hold it close to the skin. Their oily surface keeps polar bears dry.

Under the guard hairs is a layer of dense, short, soft hairs that trap heat close to the skin, like thermal underwear.



START →

What's another name for a polar bear's layer of fat? The letters along the correct ice path reveal the answer.

Extra! Extra!

Verbs and Adjectives

Look through the newspaper and find five **adjectives** that describe a polar bear. Then find five **verbs** that describe how a polar bear moves. Write one or more sentences about a polar bear using your adjectives and verbs.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Write the answer here: L _ _ _ _ E

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Polar Bear True or False

These statements are either all true or all false. Check your answers by adding up the numbers next to each of your answers. If the total is 33, you've got it right!

Polar bear young are called cubs.
 TRUE (10)
 FALSE (8)

Polar bear cubs are born without hair and are blind and deaf.
 TRUE (16)
 FALSE (7)

A polar bear's nose can smell a seal on the ice 20 miles away!
 TRUE (5)
 FALSE (9)

Polar bear skin is black.
 TRUE (2)
 FALSE (12)

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- REFLECTS
- FOOTPADS
- THERMAL
- HOLLOW
- ARCTIC
- POLAR
- BEARS
- LAYER
- WHITE
- GUARD
- HAIRS
- DENSE
- TUFTS
- OILY
- PAWS

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

C	P	O	E	S	N	E	D	L	S
I	A	R	L	A	M	R	E	H	T
T	B	E	A	P	A	W	S	R	C
C	O	S	S	U	W	H	I	T	E
R	T	I	G	O	B	A	A	U	L
A	A	Y	L	E	W	I	A	F	F
R	M	L	A	Y	E	R	A	T	E
L	O	R	O	W	A	S	Y	S	R
H	S	D	A	P	T	O	O	F	S

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

Kid Scoop Together Life of a Polar Bear Cub

This little cub has taken some of the words out of this article. Can you find where each one belongs? Have a parent check your work.



A polar bear starts its life in a den or ice _____ that its mother _____ into the snow. The den protects the mother and the cubs from _____, cold and predators. The den stays warm inside as heat from the mother bear warms the tight _____ and the frozen walls trap the warm air.

A polar bear cub weighs only about one _____ when it is born and are about 12 to 14 inches long.

These little guys grow up to be BIG. A male polar bear can grow to be 1,200 pounds. A female about 650 pounds.

They start to get _____ at about eight weeks. They stay in the den drinking mama bear's nutritious milk for about three to four _____.

Young polar bears stay with their mothers until they are around 30 months old. By then, they have learned how to _____ in the cold and find food on their own.

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