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**Knight time** Lourdes hoops teams compete in WIAA tourney Pages 16-17

### **Outbreak rules**

**County board restricts** health mandates Page 3

## Vehicle fee replacing road bills

**Annual DOT registration** will add \$35 by July

By Jonathan Richie OSHKOSH HERALD

This will be the first year the Common Council will not approve large special assessments for property owners for upcoming street and sidewalk projects after approving a new annual vehicle registration fee on vehicles kept in the city.

The vehicle registration fee (VRF) is part of the city's plan to eliminate special assessments for road and street work by establishing the fee and raising utility rates, between 0.25% and 0.50%, to cover annual costs. City

staff reported the cost would be \$3.75 million – \$1.5 million coming from the VRF and \$2.25 million from utilities.

The council approved a VRF of \$35 at the Feb. 27 meeting with a single opposing vote from

He said there were many inequities with the new plan, including people that own multiple cars and residents that have already received a special assessment.

"There've been literally thousands of Oshkosh residents that have paid these large assessments for several years now. Imagine how they feel about having paid these large assessments and now others don't have to pay them at all," Esslinger said. "That's a huge inequity."

He also took issue that vehicles causing the most damage to roads such as larger trucks will not be paying this fee as it does not apply to vehicles above 8,000 pounds per state statute.

SEE Vehicle fee on Page 10



## **Rallying the Herd**

Wisconsin Herd mascot Pointer led the cheering at the Oshkosh Arena last weekend as the Milwaukee Bucks' G League team took on the Maine Celtics for back-to-back games.

## UWO faculty moving forward with no-confidence vote

**Chancellor challenged** through petition effort

By Jonathan Richie Oshkosh Herald

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh faculty senators are taking information back to their constituents with a planned vote of no confidence in the university chancellor's leadership. Last week, the Faculty Senate approved the wording of the vote that will ask all faculty members whether they have confidence in the leadership of Chancellor Andrew Leavitt.

the university was forecasting an \$18 million deficit, followed by 140 employees receiving

layoff notices. Along with the layoffs, 76 people (staff members, faculty members and instructional staff) took

The petition laid out nine points regarding Leavitt's job performance. These include overspending that led to the layoffs, not addressing potential enrollment decline, disregarding shared governance while relying on a consulting firm to determine layoffs, and growing upper administrative positions and salaries and refusing to "make meaningful cuts to administration during the crisis." On Feb. 23, Manning had a meeting with Leavitt where she told him she had verified the signatures on the petition. Leavitt asked to see the signatures but Manning declined, telling Leavitt that faculty are concerned with retribution for signing the petition. Three days later Leavitt sent a letter to

Manning with his response to the petition. The letter stated there were "serious procedure flaws" that violate the Faculty Senate Constitution.

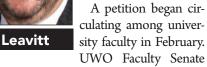
The petition references Article I, Section 6 of the Faculty Constitution. Leavitt said

member Paul Esslinger. Mugerauer

UW Oshkosh announced last year that



voluntary retirements and faculty members are being asked to take furloughs.



president Pascale Manning told senators at a Feb. 27 meeting that 74 faculty members, about 23% of the entire faculty, signed the

citing that was wrong due to the word policy, which he believes does not apply to his leadership role.

"A vote up or down on a matter as amorphous as a chancellor's 'leadership' is not a 'policy matter,'" Leavitt wrote. He asked Manning to "cease any further action" on the no-confidence vote.

Leavitt also said there were points in the

SEE UWO petition ON PAGE 10



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#### Publisher

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

## Oshkosh Herald Oshkosh Herald

#### Oshkosh Herald

GO Transit, the public transportation service for the Oshkosh area, invites residents to give their input on proposed fare increases, route changes and policy amendments at a public hearing set for 4 p.m. March 12 in room 406 at the Oshkosh City Hall Building, 215 Church Ave.

"At GO Transit, hearing from the voices of our community is not just a courtesy, it's a necessity. They are the lifeblood of our transportation system," said Steve Tomasik, transit operation manager. "Their experiences and insights are the compass that guides our changes, improvements and innovations. We invite residents to share their thoughts on all these proposed upcoming changes."

If approved, routes could change in August and fares would increase to \$2 per one-way trip, which is consistent with public transportation systems in the area. GO Transit also would replace punch cards with day passes that would cost \$4. Social service agency fares would change from tokens to paper vouchers. One-way transfers would remain free.

Besides the March 12 meeting of the Transportation Committee, residents can send comments or questions to TC@Oshkoshwi.gov. Call 920-232-5342 with any additional questions or learn more at oshkoshtransit.com.

## New Miss Oshkosh, Miss Oshkosh Teen selected

#### Oshkosh Herald

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh student Addy Wachholz was crowned Miss Oshkosh 2024 on Saturday, earning her a \$2,000 scholarship and an opportunity to compete for the title of Miss Wisconsin in June.

Jayden Dalton was named Miss Oshkosh's Teen 2024.

The Miss Oshkosh Scholarship Competition at Alberta Kimball Auditorium awarded more than \$7,000 in scholarships.

### Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

### March 1, 1952

Making Reef Artificial Buoy: Work is now underway to raise Horseshoe Reef in Miller Bay above the level of the water and make it an artificial buoy. The reef is located about 300 feet

Wachholz competed against six other women for the title. Majoring in nursing at UW Oshkosh, she sang "Tightrope" from "The Greatest Showman" and her social impact initiative is Stop the Traffic: Spreading Awareness about Human Trafficking.

Dalton performed a vocal performance of "She Used to Be Mine" from the musical "Waitress: and her social impact initiative is Living Confidently with a Speech Disability.

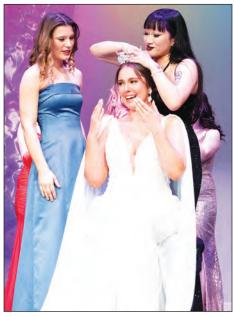
Both will compete at the Miss Wiscon-

north of the north end of the southern arm of the breakwater and is reported to be hazardous to water traffic. Four trucks are being used to haul stone to the reef. The stone originally came from the sidewalks on Ohio Street when that thoroughfare was repaved. Once above water, reflectors will be imbedded in the reef to attract the attention of boaters. The work is being done now while the ice is still thick enough to support the weight of the trucks.

> Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, March 1, 1952

sin Scholarship Competition set for June 19-22 at the Alberta Kimball Auditorium.

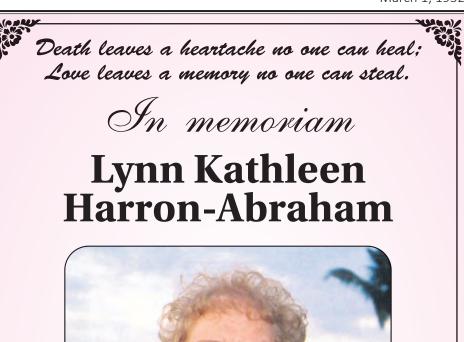
Miss Oshkosh first runner-up was Baylee Cottrell and second runner-up was Amalia Lloyd.



Submitted photo

Addy Wachholz is crowned Miss Oshkosh 2024 by outgoing Miss Oshkosh Taylor Swanson.





#### Editor

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

#### Corrections

It is the policy of the Oshkosh Herald to correct all errors of fact. For correction information, call 920-385-4512.

#### About the newspaper

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When her arms couldn't reach people that were closest to her heart, She hugged them in her prayers.

The world isn't as bright without you. Hard to believe you have been gone for 2 years.

## **County limits its oversight** on public health mandates

#### By Bethanie Gengler Oshkosh Herald

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors for the second time in three months approved a resolution that will restrict the county's authority to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.

Referred to by Oshkosh resident Mallory Schneider Birschbach as the "anti-community health resolutions," the board last Tuesday voted to approve one health-related resolution and to send a second back to committee.

"These resolutions are a slap in the face to those that have died or become disabled by COVID, anyone working in the medical field, researchers, scientists and the general public," Schneider Birschbach told the board. "People choosing individualism over community health are selfish, uncaring people, and the wording in these resolutions allows for potentially deadly and debilitating situations in future pandemics."

The approved resolution was introduced by the Legislative Committee and establishes that the county does not intend to support nor impose its own lockdowns, vaccine or mask mandates related to COVID-19 or its variants.

The resolution sent back to committee was submitted by District 26 Supervisor Conley Hanson and District 6 Supervisor Brian Defferding and sought to limit the county's ability to take steps to prevent the spread of any communicable disease. The county would no longer create or enforce any blanket or universal mandates and would encourage residents to make their own health care decisions.

The resolutions follow similar resolutions introduced by Defferding, Hanson and District 16 Supervisor Jacob Floam that were approved by the board in December.

Those resolutions limited the county's individual health orders to one person only, eliminating applicability for groups of people or gathering spots and limiting duration to seven days unless otherwise authorized by the county board.

A second resolution passed by the board removed time limits for voting requirements, meaning a health order could be strung along for weeks without a vote.

Defferding wrote on social media at the time that the ordinances were intentionally written to make it challenging for the Health Department to issue a general order such as the Safer at Home order issued in May 2020.

Health director Doug Gieryn issued a statement after the December vote that the department's goal is to work together with communities to assure conditions where everyone has the opportunity to be healthy in the face of diseases like measles, hepatitis A, whooping cough or other outbreaks.



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Photo from Aurora

## Leap Day family

Lisa and Andrew Barkow became parents of Cole, an 8-pound boy born at 8:10 a.m. Thursday on Leap Day at Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh. He now shares the same rare birthday as his mother, who was born Feb. 29, 1984.



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## District reviews efforts on boosting math, reading scores

By Jonathan Richie Oshkosh Herald

A new report shows how Oshkosh students have been progressing through the school year on math and reading scores.

The Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education set benchmarks for students in grades three through eight and heard a recent update on where students are related to those goals based on a midyear report.

Last year the board heard a report that showed students were struggling in math and reading. Part of the dip in scores was attributed to students being out of the classroom for COVID and has led to the district putting together action plans for bettering scores.

Directors of elementary schools Erin Kohl and Kim Brown gave reports on the midyear iReady report for math and reading. iReady measures midyear progress in grades one through eight in math and reading, Kohl explained.

The district has set a goal of having 62% of students in grades three through eight proficient or advanced in math by 2025 and 56% by the end of this school year. The proficiency numbers are based on end-of-the-year targets.

These goals were set as staff looked at what is statistically attainable, Brown said.

"You would expect that most students at the beginning of the year would not be proficient at the end of grade level benchmarks," Kohl said. "Same with midyear, they should be making progress with those end of the year goals but they wouldn't have even had all of the instruction on the end of the year goals at that time."

Kohl presented the data for math and Brown focused on reading.

In reading, the district has a similar goal with 54% of students in grades three through eight proficient by the end of the current school year. The district will be adopting new reading curriculum for the 2024-25 year.

The board noted that third grade showed the most growth in both math and reading. Nine percent of third-graders were proficient in math at the beginning of the year and 30% were proficient at the end of first semester. In reading, 28% of third-graders were proficient at the beginning of the year and 48% were proficient at midyear.

For math, the district has implemented monthly team meetings with teachers and principals to help reach the rigorous goals in place. In reading, the younger-grade teachers are focusing on phonological awareness and phonics to reach the 54% proficiency goals.

There were reports for math and reading scores, both including breakdowns of student progression in grades one through eight with percentage of students proficient at the beginning of the year compared with the percentage of proficiency at the semester break.

Brown and Kohl were asked by board members whether they believe students will reach the proficiency or advanced benchmarks set.

"Right now, I would say I am not confident we're going to hit our end-of-theyear target across the board," Kohl said,

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adding it is difficult to make these types of predictions based on how students will progress through the second semester.

Brown said it was unlikely the reading goals would be reached unless more students are meeting the proficient scores. She said at this point it doesn't look like fourth- and fifth-grade students will meet the proficiency goals.

Superintendent Bryan Davis said

the district is working on consistency and achieving high-quality instruction across all grade levels. He also spoke about what happens if the proficiency goals – a district core value – are not met.

"(These are) ambitious goals to get to," Davis said. "We're not going to back away from these high standards and high goals. If we don't make it, we're not looking at who's to blame."



#### OASD photo

### Lunch payout

Oshkosh Arby's franchise leaders presented a nearly \$75,000 check to the Oshkosh Area School District as part of the Arby's Foundation's school lunch debt payoff. The donation will eliminate outstanding school meal debt for more than 3,600 families in need across the district's schools. Shown at the check presentation at Arby's are (from left) Bryan Davis, superintendent of schools; Dillan Peterson, Arby's general manager; Mitchell Johnson, Arby's Foundation board member; Kent Kaphingst, senior director of operations of DRM Arby's; and Theresa Duren, OASD Education Foundation director.



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## City looking into visual updates at roundabouts

### **Council continues** discussions on mayor

By Jonathan Richie Oshkosh Herald

A new plan will take a look at rejuvenating roundabouts across the city.

Oshkosh landscape operations manager Travis Derks explained that the first roundabout in Oshkosh was installed at Jackson Street and Murdock Avenue in 2010 and since then 11 new roundabouts were installed during the reconstruction on Interstate 41 and U.S. 45.

"Since then there has been minimal maintenance done to them, through lack of manpower," Derks said.

He said rejuvenating the roundabouts will lead to less maintenance being needed and make them more aesthetically pleasing entryways to the city. This could also make the roundabouts safer for vehicles.

A decorative rock ring to alleviate the amount of mulch used in the roundabouts is one part of the rejuvenation effort. The plan also calls for choosing more tolerant plants that require less maintenance.

By adjusting the plant spacing, Derks said it would create a more uniform look, control weeds and rodents, and be easier to pick up litter in those areas.



The roundabout at Jackson Street and Murdock Avenue was the first installed in the city in 2010. There has been little upkeep dedicated to the roundabouts in the city in recent years.

Derks said the project would cost \$220,000, with about \$150,000 coming from the city and \$70,000 from private groups.

Oshkosh Convention & Visitors Bureau executive director Amy Albright said the organization has been having conversations regarding the roundabouts since 2021. She said the public-private partnership would help attract people and businesses to the city.

"This is the first impression when you drive into Oshkosh; our roundabouts ... just don't look great," Albright said.

#### Mayoral discussion

The Common Council continued discussions on the mayoral position and how it is selected. As a Chapter 64 government, Oshkosh has a city manager-council government where the manager is the chief executive and handles the daily operations of Oshkosh.

City staff has been directed to write an ordinance update that would change the title of mayor to council president with voters still electing the position.

Mayor Matt Mugerauer initially proposed that voters would elect the seven council members and then the council would chose a council president among themselves for who would best lead the members for two years.

"I can read a room," Mugerauer said. "There's not enough support for my original suggestion."

The mayor of Oshkosh mainly presides over meetings and recommends appointments to various boards and commissions.

Council member Paul Esslinger said there is confusion in the community about what the city manager and mayor do and changing the title could lead to even more confusion.

Council member LaKeisha Haase said voters in 2004 decided by referendum to directly elect a mayor and shouldn't be changed on a council vote but by another citywide election. She also noted that the appointment power the mayor has is a powerful tool and shouldn't be minimized.

Along with Mugerauer, members Karl Buelow, Lynnsey Erickson, Mike Ford and Joe Stephenson showed support for renaming the position of mayor to council president and keeping the voters in charge of electing the position.

This would be an updated ordinance as part of the charter ordinance and requires a supermajority of the council to pass, which would mean at least five votes.

#### Parking fees updated

The council approved updated overtime parking fees and penalties for parking violations. The fees have doubled in many areas: areas with no parking from 2 to 5 a.m., parking on private property, signed prohibited parking, unauthorized use of permit/leased stall. Those fees have gone from \$15 to \$30.

Overtime parking violations and failure to properly display permit fees have gone from \$15 to \$20. Disabled parking violations are now \$250 compared with the previous \$150 fee.

City documents show the additional revenue generated will go toward more resources for consistent parking violation enforcement.

City Manager Mark Rohloff said the fees have not been updated in years and a recent survey of surrounding municipalities showed there was a need to raise them.

"There are some people that merely say I'll take the ticket and not worry about it because it's relatively inexpensive," he said.

The new fees are closer to parking fees in Appleton and Green Bay.

## Additional free parking spots OK'd

#### Oshkosh Herald

The city is converting several permit parking spaces to free two-hour parking to allow for more short-term parking downtown.

This move comes after a request by the Oshkosh Business Improvement District (BID) for more short-term options. Just over 100 permit parking spaces will be converted to free two-hour spaces.

Oshkosh transportation director Jim Collins agreed with BID officials that there is not enough short-term free parking. There will still be around 135 permitted parking stalls in the downtown area.

Collins said between 40 and 80 parking permits are sold annually. The permit allows parking in any of the permitted stalls.

Part of the ordinance would allow businesses to lease 24-hour parking stalls for \$50 a month or \$500 annually. City staff expect the income from 24-hour leased stalls will offset the potential loss of the converted spaces.

Common Council member Joe Stephenson noted this will invite more people to be able to park downtown. The council passed the ordinance with no opposing votes.

### AmazSpring Shopping & Craft Show Sat, March 16th, 2024 9 am - 3 pm Sunnyview Expo Center 500 E County Road Y OSHKesh FOOD CO-OP Oshkosh, WÍ EE Admission

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Photo from Venture Project

Jon Pethke (second from left) and Gail Nohr were winners of the pitch competition held last week to promote new business initiatives of military veterans. Shown with them are Jason Turner (left) executive director of Salute The Troops; and Ellizer Clune, general manager of The Venture Project.

### Veterans make winning business pitches

Oshkosh Herald

Two military veteran entrepreneurs were each awarded \$5,000 in business funding Wednesday in a Veterpreneur Pitch competition put together by The Venture Project and Salute the Troops.

Oshkosh cohort winner Jon Pethke pitched his Introwoo company's Coy Amore Dating app for Introverts. Green Bay cohort winner was Gail Nohr, who is owner/operator of Veterans 1st – Building Homes for Vets. Participants prepared business plans and pitches throughout the month. There were two startup class cohorts presenting from Oshkosh at Venture Project's co-working space and business incubator.

Pethke said he plans to use the money to add an artificial intelligence feature to the app and toward product marketing.

"Feel free to check out the app if you are an introvert looking for love – or an extrovert looking for love – and let us know how it is," Pethke said.

### Muza Metal Products acquired by Lomira firm

Muza Metal Products of Oshkosh has been acquired by the Jor-Mac Co. (JMC) of Lomira but will continue to operate under its current name, it was announced last week.

JMC is a manufacturer of metal fabrication parts and electro-mechanical assemblies for equipment manufacturers in industrial automation, back-up power/grid infrastructure and HVAC sectors. JMC officials said Muza primarily serves different customers but shares common markets and products.

Muza Metal, which has about 200 employees, will continue to be led by president John Kriz and its existing team, with Tony Cavalco as chief executive of the combined entity.



## Nova Counseling among recipients of ARPA funds

By Bethanie Gengler Oshkosh Herald

Nova Counseling Services made its second run for ARPA funds at a Winnebago County Board of Supervisors meetings last week and was awarded \$500,000 to re-establish its residential and transitional care programs for women.

Nova contracts with the county to provide clinical substance use disorder services and has been operating for more than 40 years. The organization previously offered services to both men and women but relinquished its care programs for women in 2022.

Nova offers a 28-day residential program, 90-day transitional (Terra) program, family program and outpatient aftercare. Its 50-bed facility in Oshkosh is undergoing a \$1.9 million expansion, with the ARPA funds sought to create a separate living space for female clients.

"We are very much interested in providing this service again and assisting local women with their recovery and reintegrating back into their community free of substance use," executive director Jody Willeford wrote in a letter to the board of supervisors.

Nova made its first attempt at American Rescue Plan Act funds from the county's Spirit Fund in January. At the request of District 4 Supervisor Paul Eisen, the board voted to send Nova's application for funds back to committee based on concerns over the nonprofit's transparency.

Willeford, who has worked for Nova for 30 years, told the board last week that since the January board meeting Nova considered and remedied the supervisors' concerns by adopting a conflict-of-interest policy and making its financials available upon request starting with its 2023



tax filing.

While the board voted to fund Nova at last week's meeting, a request for \$350,000 for Child Care Resource and Referral was sent back to committee, and the board denied funding for Neenah and Menasha to purchase mobile traffic barriers for public safety during parades and other large events.

Neenah was seeking \$300,000 and Menasha was asking for \$184,957, with Supervisors Steven Binder, Rachael Dowling and Brian Defferding speaking against awarding the funds. Dowling and Defferding stated the requests were a result of the two cities' irresponsible budgeting.

Supervisor Karen Powers countered those claims, stating that if Neenah and Menasha hadn't had to divert money to COVID-19 related expenses the cities would be able to afford the barriers without seeking federal funds.

Supervisors approved awarding just under \$2.7 million in ARPA funds to nonprofits and local governments at the meeting Tuesday.

Here's where the latest round of funding is going:

• \$500,000 for Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue to build an emergency services training facility.

• \$343,000 to the city of Omro to update water and sewer lines under the Fox River.

• \$75,000 to NEW Mental Health Connection of the Fox Valley to implement innovative features on its service directory online, and update technology and website content.

• \$403,625 to Tri-County Dental Clinic, based in Appleton and serving Winnebago, Calumet and Outagamie counties, to purchase equipment to provide better dental care to those in need.

• \$50,000 to Pillars of Appleton for its Ascend Program, which serves young adults on their journeys to independent adulthood.

• \$324,500 to the Village of Winneconne to upgrade parks, remodel the barn, extend parking and improve boat ramps and piers, fish cleaning stations and larger bulk heads.

Winnebago County received \$33 million in COVID-19 relief funds awarded by the federal government and has spent about half of the money as of this week, with an estimated \$15 million remaining, plus interest earnings.

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## Man receives prison time after police shooting incident

By Jonathan Richie Oshkosh Herald

A man shot by Oshkosh police after an armed confrontation was sentenced in court last week to prison and probation.

Benson Thao, 34, was sentenced to two years followed by four years of extended supervision for felony first-degree recklessly endangering safety.

Thao plead no contest to the count in December and has been in custody since the incident in June. The criminal complaint in the case states Thao was suicidal June 29 and had tried taking his own life in the Fox River. Thao got out of the river and had a loaded hunting rifle when police showed up on the scene.

District Attorney Eric Sparr went over the case in front of Winnebago County Circuit Branch 6 Judge Daniel Bissett on Tuesday. He said the facts were not disput-

ed and that his sentence recommendation balanced the concerns of the police and community.

Sparr said Thao showed behavior that was

not normal when police arrived, such as walking backward toward the officers and at one point crouching down.

The district attorney's office in July said the shooting was justified and Tuesday Sparr reiterated the officers involved showed re-

straint during the incident.

Thao's attorney Timothy Hogan said Thao crouched because it made for a better chance of being fatally shot than if he was standing and an officer might try to shoot him in the leg.

Thao

"It's a sad situation," Sparr said. Thao had been drinking that day and had been depressed since his mother and brother passed away during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hogan and Sparr both argued Thao should serve another four months incarcerated, as he has 244 days of time served, to make it a full year served before three years of extended supervision.

When officers arrived on the scene near the Mill Street boat launch, they attempted to get Thao to put the rifle down and one officer shot Thao with less-lethal rounds that did not affect him. Thao eventually pointed the rifle, which he did not own, at the officers. Shortly after an officer fired two shots at Thao, striking him once.

The name of the officer is not being released per victim's rights under Marsy's Law. Officers provided medical assistance to Thao before he was transported.

At the sentencing hearing, Thao apologized to Oshkosh police, the community and everyone else involved. He called his actions selfish and that he is ashamed of what he did.

Thao told the court he had no intention of hurting anyone. He said his only intention that day was to end his life. He added he is in a better, sober place now.

Sparr said many people are still dealing with the results of this incident, stating the officer needed to take time off work.

Sparr asked Bissett to include an order where there would be no firearms in any residence Thao was living in after he is released from prison. Bissett agreed and ordered there be no firearms in any residence where Thao will live.

Bissett also ordered Thao to receive his GED before he completes his probation time.

The Mavericks, an American rock and country music band from Miami with

Grammy, Country Music Association

and Academy of Country Music awards,

headline the Aug. 15 Leach lineup as part

of their Moon & Stars summer tour, with

opening groups Alex McMurray Band and

This year Waterfest will have a bonus

Wednesday night concert set for Aug.

21 featuring Chicago co-founder Danny

Seraphine along with Child's Anthem, the

More shows are yet to be announced for

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August.

## Waterfest 2024 lineup starting to come together at Leach

#### Oshkosh Herald

Waterfest 2024 has been filling in its Thursday night lineups for the annual summer concert series at Leach Amphitheater in downtown Oshkosh, including nationally known artists The Mavericks and Los Lonely Boys.

Touring act Hairball, which pays homage to 1980s rock bands, headlines opening night June 13 with Road Trip and The Michael Weber Show as opening bands. Teachers get in free with a school ID.

Los Lonely Boys, the Grammy-winning multiplatinum Texas trio of Henry Garza, Jojo Garza and Ringo Garza, leads the June 20 lineup that also features Chuck Prophet & The Mission Express and Brett Newski.

Steely Dane, Paul Cebar Tomorrow Sound and The Fox Menagerie taken the June 27 concert stage. Then its Arrival from Sweden: the Music of Abba, two weeks later July 11 with opening groups the Pocket Kings and Salsa Manzana.



The Mavericks bring their summer tour to the Leach Amphitheater for the Aug. 15 Waterfest show.

Voices of Rock Radio, which features former members and performers for Lynyrd Skynyrd, Humble Pie, Journey, Kansas and Boston, head the July 18 lineup with Copper Box and Kate Voss & the Hot Sauce.

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On Aug. 8, it's a British music invasion with Herman's Hermits along with American English: The Beatles Tribute.





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## A civil discussion on Oshkosh schools – public and private

I recently moderated a remarkable discussion with three Oshkosh education leaders for a segment that is now available on Oshkosh Media. The leaders were Bryan Davis from the Oshkosh Area School District, John Dinegan from Lourdes Academy and Bradley Dunn from Valley Christian School.

All three lead schools with diverse student bodies. All three face similar challenges universal to K-12 education. All three share a common interest in seeing Oshkosh thrive. And most importantly, all three seem to like one another.

Why is any of this remarkable? Well, the topic of our discussion was school vouchers, a public policy that elicits strong emotions among proponents, and opponents, of using public money to fund students attending private schools. The politics around school vouchers are messy. Since the first modern voucher program began in Milwaukee in 1990, there have been lawsuits, controversies regarding accountability and enrollment limits, concerns about impacts on public school funding, and more.

The purpose of our discussion was not to debate the pros and cons of voucher policy, but rather have a discussion about how school choice actually works, how parents utilize it, how it impacts public school budgets, and about what actually goes on in Oshkosh schools, public or private.

The discussion reminded me of a focus group I ran in Milwaukee over a decade



ago. I was working on a research project aiming to explain how parents interacted with their schools. The plan was to bring parents attending traditional public, voucher and charter schools together to discuss why they chose the systems they did.

I quickly learned I was asking the wrong questions. Many of the parents in my focus group had children in both public and voucher schools. The parents I spoke with had experiences in all three school sectors. I came to understand that parents did not distinguish between school sectors the way I did as a researcher, or the way policymakers do come budget time. Rather, parents cared a lot about individual schools, and little about the mechanism by which their child attended that school.

That same sentiment came across during my discussion with Oshkosh school leaders. When I asked them how their schools were funded, the answers were revealing. The OASD is funded through a combination of state aid, property tax, and some targeted federal funds. The private schools are funded via tuition, some grants, and some support

#### from parishes.

From the point of view of the private school leaders, vouchers are state-funded tuition scholarships. All three school systems are reliant on diverse funding sources, and all three systems rely on student enrollment to fund their schools.

We covered some of the more misunderstood aspects of school choice. For example, the OASD does not lose operational revenue because of the school voucher program, but the OASD's property tax levy is significantly impacted by vouchers. So kids in the OASD do not lose resources because of vouchers, but property taxes do increase because of the voucher program.

The voucher program is means tested, meaning participants must come from a family with an income at or below 220% of the federal poverty level to initially qualify. We also discussed the substantial fiscal audit and reporting requirements for private schools receiving vouchers, and the OASD. We discussed accreditation, the standardized tests the three school systems take, and differences in

services available for students in need of special education support.

I commend all three school leaders for having this conversation. As I teach my students, we have to confront situations as they exist, not as we want them to exist. Whether you support or oppose school voucher policy, there is value in understanding how these systems work.

Most importantly, there is value in looking past the politics of controversial issues. More often than not you find genuine people who happen to have different policy preferences. In the case of vouchers, there is a lot to disagree about, but plenty of space for agreement on the importance of having strong schools in Oshkosh, public and private.

The video of our discussion will air on Oshkosh Media's Life TV throughout March. It can also be viewed at any time on the OASD's YouTube Channel.

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.

### Public museum introduces new logo

#### Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Public Museum (OPM) has unveiled a new logo and visual identity as it marks its 100th year and expanded mission encompassing history, art and culture.

Museum director Sarah Phillips expressed her enthusiasm about the updates stating, "This is more than just a change in our logo; it represents a renewed energy. The Oshkosh Public Museum is forward-looking, lively and dedicated to the rich stories that shape our community."

The new logo drew inspiration from two things unique to Oshkosh: the sunrise over Lake Winnebago and the rich jewel tones found in the Tiffany stainedglass landscape window in the Sawyer



Home.

The new brand will be rolled out across various touchpoints throughout 2024, including the museum's website, social media channels and signage.



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## Collaboration on home for disabled nears completion

By Dan Roherty Oshkosh Herald

Fox Valley Technical College's residential construction program last week showed its steady progress on a four-bedroom, fully accessible home for adults with disabilities being built in partnership with Winnebago County and the Covey organization.

Project planning began a few years ago when Covey, which focuses on disability services in the Fox Valley, was being asked by many of their families if they would offer residential programs for loved ones. Covey approached FVTC, which typically builds three-bedroom ranch homes without a buyer in mind as part of its school curriculum, and the county signed on with money from a federal grant to make it happen.

Ground was broken May 10 for the home at Woodhaven Lane and County CB in Neenah and scheduled for an April 23 grand opening during the WHBA Parade of Homes. FVTC expects the final handoff to Covey by June.

FVTC instructor Ben Fouts has 17 students, of which nine were working at the home last Wednesday with the rest in the classroom and work lab at the S.C. Spanbauer Center in Oshkosh. The split groups change places when they are ready to move onto a new phase of the build.

"We practice there and the real thing happens here," said Andrew Podgorski, a student from Wrightstown who was working at the home site and graduates in August. Students rotate in and out of the project as their semesters and studies end, learning and mentoring through the process.

With a growing demand for independent, accessible housing for adults with disabilities, students became part of a specialized home project. Hallways and doorways



FVTC residential construction students work on a home at Woodhaven Lane and County CB through their partnership with Covey and Winnebago County.

are wider than those of a traditional home, with zero clearance entries, lever doorknobs, toggle switches and higher outlets.

Cabinets being built by FVTC's woods program with lower, accessible countertops are coming later this month while students work on the base trim and finish the graded ceiling design that FVTC projects commonly use.

Fouts said that similar to FVTC's other spec home projects, the outside work was finished by Thanksgiving, inside drywalling was completed by Christmas and inside work commences through the winter months.

"The students build the house but they use my brain when they're doing it," said Fouts, who took over the FVTC instructor role in September. "They learn in the classroom but then I'm here giving them tips and making sure everything looks good."

Covey chief executive Pam Shulz said the collaboration, made possible after Winnebago County was awarded a \$10.3 million Neighborhood Investment Fund grant aimed at housing continuum services, creates momentum on future housing opportunities for the people they assist.

"The objectives for this home extend beyond its mere physical presence," Shulz said. "Covey seeks to further expand accessible housing options in the Fox Cities while remaining steadfast in our mission to continue creating opportunities that foster personal growth for our participants and their families. We envision this house as the inaugural step toward a future of inclusive living spaces for all who need it."

Covey is working on plans for a new adult family home in Oshkosh to be situated next to its respite house on Eastman Street, which will not involve FVTC students but is supported by the county grant program. Groundbreaking is planned for early summer and completion by 2025.

Fouts explained that student home-building projects are normally done through the FVTC Foundation, which funds the work and takes in the proceeds from the sale.

"With Covey, they are paying the bills but they have been great about it," he said. "There haven't been any issues with any delays."

For more information about Covey's respite care services and volunteer opportunities, visit covey.org.





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## Vehicle fee

#### from Page 1

Mayor Matt Mugerauer said the plan isn't perfect but it's a compromise.

"Our current system, in my opinion, doesn't work. The goal has been to find a fairer and more equitable way to improve our transportation system," Mugerauer said. "This isn't an easy one. If it was it would've been solved 20 years ago."

Council member Mike Ford said he has worked on this for five years. He said the state Department of Revenue collects more money from special assessments in Oshkosh than any other community in the state, and when those numbers are adjusted for population or per capita Oshkosh ranks fourth.

"We're an extreme outlier and our current policy isn't working, and we need to fix it," Ford said. He added that while much of the public focus has been on the VRF, the utility portion of the plan will cover more of the costs.

Ford favored a cap and relief fund two years ago and again last year but no one else on the council supported the plan.

Council member Karl Buelow said he has reviewed 21 plans to deal with special assessments and Esslinger said he has looked into maybe 25 plans with this being the first to be voted on since the new council was elected last year.

Buelow said of those plans this was one that doesn't leave the city open to being sued over a replacement.

Jennifer Sunstrom, governmental affairs director with the Realtors Association of Northeast Wisconsin, said eliminating special assessments removes enormous burdens for property owners.

There were other public comments made during the meeting about the plan being unfair to people that have paid special assessments and those who could be paying, including interest, for those assessments for the next 15 years.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation needs 90 days to implement the fee and update state records to add the estimated 46,000 resident that will be paying the fee. It is expected to start by July 1. Vehicle owners will pay the fee as part of their annual state registration.

## **UWO** petition

from Page 1

petition that were "misleading if not devoid of fact." He did not include details or outline which of the nine points in the petition were inaccurate.

Despite Leavitt's objections to the petition, the Faculty Senate voted to go forward with the no-confidence vote. The entire faculty, not just those in the senate group, will be invited to take part in the anonymous online vote after they are given about a month to deliberate.

A vote of no-confidence by the senators would be a symbolic move since the UW Board of Regents has sole authority to remove a chancellor.



Oshkosh Heral

## **Black history event**

Oshkosh North High School's third annual Black History Month presented by the Black Student Union was held Thursday with performances by the BSU Dance Team and high school band. Keynote speaker was assistant district superintendent Samuel Coleman.

## We Heart You event keys on recovery

Oshkosh Herald

Winnebago County partners are hosting the second We Heart You: Recovery in Our Community event from noon to 5 p.m. March 13 at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Culver Center.

The free event seeks to bridge the recovery community with the broader community by educating people about addiction and sharing resources that can save lives. Former Milwaukee Bucks player and assistant coach Vin Baker will be this year's keynote speaker along with other presentations from local subject matter experts.

More information and registration can be found at solutionsrecovery.org/ we-heart-you-registration. Volunteer assistance is also being sought.

Community leaders, medical providers, law enforcement, people in recovery, faith leaders, city and county providers, elected officials and others from around the state have signed up to take part in the event.



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#### Thursday, March 7

Veterans Prohibition Ball, 6:30 p.m., Venue 404, 404 N. Main St.

#### Friday, March 8

Who's on Fifth Comedy Series, 9 p.m., Fifth Ward Brewing Co.

Curious Crow, 8 p.m., Fletch's Local Tap House, 566 N. Main St.

#### Saturday, March 9

Oshkosh Winter Farmers Market (craft fair), 9 a.m., Oshkosh Arena

King/Queen of the Beach volleyball tournament, noon, The Bar, 825 N. Washburn St.

"Waking Ned Devine," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

#### Sunday, March 10

Spring Craft Show, 10 a.m., Oshkosh **Convention Center** 

Jazz Orgy, 9 p.m., Fletch's Local Tap House, 566 N. Main St.

#### Wednesday, March 13

LWV Food for Thought lunch, noon, Oshkosh Food Co-op Community Room, 155 Jackson St.

Trinity Lutheran School open house, 3 p.m., 819 School Ave.

#### Thursday, March 14

"You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Group Ukulele Jam, 6 p.m., New Moon Cafe, 405 N. Main St.

#### Friday, March 15

"You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Wisconsin Herd vs. Motor City Cruise, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

#### Saturday, March 16

AmazSpring Shopping & Craft Show, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

#### Shamrock Shuffle 4K or 4-mile routes (all day), Fusion Footwear, 520 S. Koeller St.

Alliances - Three Choirs, 3 p.m., St. Jude Parish, 519 Knapp St.

"You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," 2 and 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Ask Your Mother, Richard's School of the Dance, Star Six Nine, 2 p.m., Dublin's St. Patrick's Tent Party, 2070 W. 9th Ave.

Oshkosh Area Community Band Spring Concert, 7 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Wisconsin Herd vs. Motor City Cruise, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

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

#### Sunday, March 17

Shamrock Dinner and Luck of the Irish Bingo, 12:30 p.m., La Sure's Banquet Hall, 3125 S. Washburn St.

Big Thaw Craft & Vendor Event, 9 a.m., Venue 404, 404 N. Main St.

Spring Fling, 1 p.m., Oshkosh North High School

Jazz Orgy, 9 p.m., Fletch's Local Tap House, 566 N. Main St.

#### Wednesday, March 20

Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce Business Expo, 11 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

#### Thursday, March 21

The Four Phantoms, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

EAA Aviation Museum: Flying the A-1 Skyraider, 7 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum, 3000 Poberezny Road

Student Jam, 6:30 p.m., The Waters, 1393 Washington Ave.

#### Friday, March 22

The Four Phantoms, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

After Dark Eggs in the Park, 7:45 p.m., Winnebago County Community Park

#### Saturday, March 23

Grand Oshkosh

Sly Joe, 8 p.m., Becket's, 2 Jackson St.

The Four Phantoms, 7:30 p.m., The

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



Photo from Lourdes Academy

Lourdes students rehearse for the upcoming production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" at The Grand.

### 'Charlie Brown' staged by Lourdes at Grand

Oshkosh Herald

Lourdes Academy High School brings "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" to The Grand Oshkosh stage for four performances March 14-16.

The musical play explores life through the eyes of Charlie Brown and his friends in the Peanuts gang as they play baseball, struggle with homework, sing songs, swoon over their crushes, and celebrate the joy of friendship.

The revue of songs and vignettes are based on the Charles Schulz "Peanuts" comic strip.

The student cast includes Jade Donner as Sally, Emily Cater as Lucy, Allie Doemel as Snoopy, Cameron Crandall as Schroeder, Kyle Hipple as Charlie Brown, Lilly Doemel as Linus, as well as Kaylee Blanchard, Summer Burke, Grace Cater, Emma Dillenberg, Lizzy O'Connor, Riley Schneider, Abby Thorson, Franki Lee Tuttle, Sam Varga and Kayla Wilhm.

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Curtains open at 7 p.m. March 14 and 15, and 2 and 7 p.m. March 16. Tickets are \$8, \$10 or \$12 for Suite seats. Ticket information can be found at: www.thegrandoshkosh.org.









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## Lourdes girls come up short in sectional semifinal

By Steve Clark Oshkosh Herald

When Delaney Ruedinger drove to the hoop for a basket with 6-minutes, 16-seconds left in a WIAA Division 5 sectional semifinal last Thursday, Lourdes Academy pulled back even with top-seeded Assumption.

But the dramatic finish that the two teams teased never materialized.

The Knights were unable to score again after Ruedinger's basket and Assumption went on to collect a 54-44 win at Oshkosh West High School, ending



Photo by Andy Ratchman Lourdes Academy's Delaney Ruedinger goes up for a basket against Assumption last Thursday.



Lourdes Academy's season.

"We knew if we could weather their pressure it was going to be a successful night for us, but it was tough," Lourdes Academy head coach Ali Starr. "They are relentless in it. They don't stop and they found pockets to capitalize on us tonight."

Hailee Bauer's 3-pointer - her only points of the second half - pulled the Knights within two before a defensive stop set up Ruedinger's game-tying basket.

But Assumption regained the lead on the next possession and forced the Knights into multiple turnovers down the stretch to pull away for the win.

It is the second straight season the Knights have lost in the sectional semifinal and brought the end to the careers for a trio of seniors - Ella Slusarski, Charley Mullen and Reagon Proud.

"The three seniors are just such an amazing group of humans and phenomenal basketball players so yes we are going to miss them dearly," Starr said. "The hard part with this group is that they really love one another. It wasn't about what are we going to do without playing basketball together, it was what are we going to do without seeing each other every day."

Lourdes Academy struggled with Assumption's defense from the outset but were able to keep things close in the early going.

Slusarski scored the first four points of the game for the Knights while three straight points from Ruedinger left the Knights trailing just 11-7.

But Lourdes Academy would manage just eight points over the next nine minutes as Assumption pulled out to a 26-14 lead.

The Knights, however, did not disappear.

A pair of 3-pointers by Bauer and another trey from Mullen helped Lourdes Academy end the half with a 12-0 run to





Photo by Andy Ratchman

Lourdes Academy senior Ella Slusarski goes up for a shot in the first half on the Knights' WIAA Division 5 sectional semifinal at Oshkosh West last Thursday.

go into intermission tied at 26.

"They came out hot and then we matched that energy the last several minutes and went on a 12-0 run to end the half. That's the team I'm used to," Starr said. "So we went into halftime saying it was zip-zip and let's roll. We gave it our best effort tonight; it just wasn't enough."

Ruedinger's layup to open the second half gave the Knights their first lead of the game, while a basket by Aubrey Schettle a few minutes later broke a 30-30 tie.

A layup from Proud tied the game at 34 before Assumption rattled off six straight points. A putback by Mullen stopped the run, while Slusarski knocked down a 3-pointer to keep the Knights close before they tied it up at 44.

Ruedinger finished with 13 points to lead the Knights, while Bauer - who was limited to just eight shots in the game - went 4-of-5 from 3-point range to finish with 12 points. Slusarski chipped in nine points.



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## Knights hold off Gillett to capture regional crown

#### Oshkosh Herald

Five days. Three wins. One WIAA Division 5 regional championship.

The Lourdes Academy boys basketball team claimed its regional title with a 62-59 win over Gillett at home in The Castle on Saturday night.

The Knights, who earned their first regional title since winning the state championship in 2021, advance to a sectional semifinal matchup against Reedsville on Thursday night at Pulaski High School. Tip-off is slated for 7 p.m.

Reedsville is the No. 1 seed in the sectional with the Knights holding the No. 2 seed. The winner of the game will face either Almond-Bancroft or Three Lakes at Hortonville on Saturday night.

The Knights started their tournament run with an 85-27 thumping of Suring. The 85 points was a season-high point total for the Knights and the most points in

a game for the program since scoring 95 points in a first-round regional win over Stockbridge in the 2021-22 season.

Ten different players scored in the win,

Photo by Andy Ratchmar

Lourdes Academy's Calvin Tollard drives to the basket during Saturday's win over Gillett.

with four Knights reaching double figures. JJ McKellips led the way with 18 points, while Mitchell Wing finished with 11

points. Braden Studinski and Calvin Tollard chipped in 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Lourdes Academy jumped out to a 53-15 halftime lead and then held Suring to

just 12 points in the second half.

The Knights then pulled away in the second half to beat Green Bay NEW Lutheran, 68-59 on Friday night at The Castle.

McKellips and Tollard led the way against the Crusaders finishing with 28 and 19 points, respectively.

Lourdes Academy then wrapped up its regional title on Saturday night by holding off Gillett 62-59.

The Knights led by four at halftime and kept the lead much of the second half, although Gillett kept it close the entire way.

Four players reached double figures in the win, led by McKellips' 21-point effort.

Studinski added a season-high 17 points,

while Tollard and Jok Machiros each finished with 10. Wing, the Knights' second-leading scorer, did not play in the game.



Photo by Andy Ratchman The Lourdes Academy boys basketball team celebrates its WIAA Division 5 regional title on Saturday at The Castle. The Knights beat Gillett to claim the honor.









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#### March 6, 2024

## Hot-shooting Warhawks take down Spartans

### By Steve Clark Oshkosh Herald

Stevie Clark didn't take a lot of words to sum things up.

"They couldn't miss," the Oshkosh North senior standout said.

The "they" was Germantown and the hot-shooting Warhawks grabbed the early lead on the Spartans and were in control the entire game as Oshkosh North was knocked out of the WIAA Division 1 tournament with an 87-59 regional final loss at Oshkosh North on Saturday night.

Germantown hit nine 3-pointers in the first half in building a 16-point lead at intermission and finished 12-of-29 from behind the 3-point line for the game as the Warhawks shooting was too much for the



Photo by Jim Koepnick Oshkosh North's Jackson Anderson lofts a pass forward on a fast break against Germantown on Saturday.

#### Spartans.

"It's a credit to Germantown. They played as well as I have seen a team play all season long," North head coach Brad Weber said. "Germantown comes out the way they came out and we had a hard time getting off the mat. By the time we did, the lead was to the point where we had to be perfect to get back into it and we weren't perfect."

North led briefly in the opening minutes as six points from Xzavion Mitchell and a layup from Bryce Ott earned the Spartans an 8-5 advantage.

North later used a 7-0 run on baskets by Clark and Ott and 3-pointer from Owen Weber to take a 15-14 lead, but Germantown drained a 3-pointer on the next possession and the Spartans were never in front again.

The Warhawks hit six 3-pointers in the final 7:37 of the first half to ignite a 23-9 run that broke the game open as Germantown took a 47-31 lead at halftime.

"They just hit shots and we came out flat," Clark said. "Our last 10 games we won we had gotten off to a hot start and tonight just wasn't our night."

Although 16-point deficits are tough to overcome and North got a boost early in the second half when Mitchell - who led the Spartans with 27 points and seven rebounds – scored five straight points in the first two minutes of the half.

"At halftime, we all felt that it was not an insurmountable lead and we knew 47 points in a half was beyond even an average effort for us on defense," Weber said. "We felt if we got with it we knew we could get back in the game. But we were never able to get with it."

After Mitchell's five points, the Spartans would go nearly six minutes before scoring again – on a Clark jumper.

In that time, Germantown stretched the lead to 66-36 and even though there was still more than 10 minutes to play, that stretch all but sealed the win,

Clark finished his final game for the



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Xzavion Mitchell soars to the rim for a dunk against Germantown on Saturday night. Mitchell led the Spartans with 25 points.

Spartans with 19 points, seven rebounds and three assists and looked fondly on his career with Oshkosh North.

"I loved my four years here," said Clark, one of two seniors along with Carter Strange on the roster. "Just being with the guys and being around Coach Weber every day it was really fun and it will be something I think about the rest of my life. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I loved every bit of it."

Clark, who is set to attend NCAA Divi-

petes. He puts the time in. He's improved every single year and I'm so excited his journey gets to continue. I think it hurts both Stevie and Carter to end like this and everybody hurts for them."

Ott also reached double figures in the game with 11 points but only five players scored in the game for North.

Oshkosh North opened the tournament with a 76-65 win over Menomonee Falls as the Spartans built a 38-21 halftime lead and held on in the second half despite being outscored. Mitchell had a huge game in the win totaling 32 points, nine rebounds and five steals in the win.



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sion 1 Colgate University next year, finishes his career as the all-time leading scorer at Oshkosh North with nearly 2,000 points. He also finished with more than 500 rebounds and 300 assists.

"His legacy is as a champion. In all aspects of the word," Weber said. "He com-

Clark added 21 points and 14 assists in the game and Carter Strange finished with 10 points.



## Prep sports roundup

### **GYMNASTICS**

### Oshkosh trio competes at state Division 1 meet

Three Oshkosh co-op gymnastic team members competed at the WIAA Division 1 individual state meet at Wisconsin Rapids last weekend.

Sophomore Neva Schlies collected the top finish for the group when she finished in a three-way tie for 18<sup>th</sup> place in the floor exercises. Schlies posted a score of 8.8167 to finish tied with Audrey Seefeld on Sun Prairie co-op and Katie Lange of Holmen.

Fellow sophomore Lydia Barr placed  $25^{\text{th}}$  in the event with a score of 8.033. Barr also placed  $22^{\text{nd}}$  on the uneven bars with a score off 8.3833 and  $26^{\text{th}}$  on the vault with a score of 8.433.

Barr also competed in the all-around and placed  $23^{rd}$  with a total of 32.8999.

Rounding out the Oshkosh qualifiers was junior Ja'niyah Ford who scored an 8.233 on the vault to place  $28^{th}$ .

The trio of qualifiers was the first time since 2012 that the Oshkosh co-op team sent three individuals to the state tournament. That trio consisted of Emily Bauer, Jackie Butler and Ally Ryan.

Franklin/Muskego won the 2024 Division 1 team title, followed by Verona/ Edgewood and Oak Creek/Whitnall.

#### **BOYS BASKETBALL**

### Powerhouse Arrowhead knocks out West

State-ranked and second-seeded Arrowhead was too much for Oshkosh West, handing the Wildcats a 66-36 loss in a WIAA Division 1 regional semifinal last Friday night.

Dylan Taylor led Oshkosh West with 13 points in his final prep game, also picking up five rebounds and four assists in the loss. He finishes his career with just over 900 points.

Tyler Moderson was the next highest scorer for West with seven points.

Arrowhead led 35-20 at halftime and then held the Wildcats to just 16 points in the second half.

### Johnson posts season high in Warriors' loss

Joshua Johnson registered a season-high of 17 points but Valley Christian lost to top-seeded Reedsville 95-51 in a WIAA Division 5 regional matchup last week.

Johnson hit three 3-pointers and was also 2-of-2 from the free-throw line for his total.

Brady Patterson added nine points and Cade Krause had eight for Valley Christian.

## For the lowdown on high school sports in Oshkosh, it's the Oshkosh Herald



Photo from ORD

## **City hoops champs**

Game Time is the 2024 city basketball champions in the Oshkosh Recreation Department league, defeating the Flying Dutchmen 66-54 in the title game. Members of Game Time include (from left) Bryan Clark, Frank Seckar, Chad Burmania, Jake Mosling, Paul Wojahn, Matt Sonnleitner, John Flanigan, Mike Johnson and Jason Krueger. Team members not pictured are Ryan Wolf and Ashtin Busching.





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## **Oshkosh's voice on the Best in Oshkosh**

#### VOTING

Phase 2 voting is now open through 5pm March 18, 2024.

Phase 2 voting is between the top 3 nominees in each category unless there was a tie.

CIRCLE your nominee in each category.

PIZZA

A minimum of 30 categories must be completed for your ballot to count.

#### RULES

Phase 2 rules are simple: One ballot per person per phase. No photocopies. No ballot stuffing.

Herald
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Name

Address\_

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PLACE FOR SOCIALIZING

**CITY PICKS 2024 FINALISTS** 

Mail or drop ballot by deadline to 36 Broad St. Suite 300, Oshkosh WI 54901

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#### Fox River Brewing Company Fletch's Local Tap House Becket's

#### BREWERY

Fifth Ward Brewing Fox River Brewing Company Bare Bones Brewery

#### **COFFEE SHOP** New Moon Café

Elsewhere Market & Coffee House Planet Perk

#### BREAKFAST Good Yolk Two Brothers Family Restaurant

Mike's Place Family Restaurant SOUP

The Roxy Supper Club **Caramel Crisp Corner** Mike's Place Family Restaurant Panera Bread

#### CHILI

Fox River Brewing Company Mike's Place Family Restaurant Parnell's Place

#### BAKERY

Thunderbird Bakery **Festival Foods** LaSure's Banquet Hall, Catering & Bakery

**FINE DINING** The Roxy Supper Club TJ's Highland Steakhouse Gardina's Kitchen Bar Market

#### West End Pizza Dr. Benzie's Pizza Ratch & Deb's Pizza Eaton's Fresh Pizza PANCAKES

Two Brothers Family Restaurant Good Yolk Mike's Place Family Restaurant

OMELETTE Two Brothers Family Restaurant Mike's Place Family Restaurant Good Yolk The Roxy Supper Club

#### BURGER

Pete's Garage Bar The Ruby Owl Tap Room Culver's TACO Cozumel Mexican Restaurant

#### The Taqueria Taco John's BBQ

Parker John's BBQ & Pizza Leon's Frozen Custard Fat Mama's Po Boyz and Sandwiches Chester V's

**FISH FRY** Parnell's Place The Roxy Supper Club The Hangar Bar and Grill

#### NOODLES Mama's Noodle Bar Noodles & Co. Terivaki Madness

SUSHI Sakura Japanese Restaurant Sushi & Grill Fuki's Steakhouse & Sushi Sushi Lover Oshkosh Manila Resto

#### **ITALIAN** Olive Garden The Roxy Supper Club PARM Gardina's Kitchen Bar Market

MEXICAN **Cozumel Mexican Restaurant** Takiza Mexican Cuisine The Taqueria Los Rivera's Mexican Grill

CHICKEN Parnell's Place

#### West End Pizza Teriyaki Madness Pete's Garage Bar Time Community Theatre **MEAT MARKET** Beck's Meats Wagner Market **Festival Foods**

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FAMILY RESTAURANT West End Pizza Two Brothers Family Restaurant Mike's Place Family Restaurant

The Mineshaft Restaurant **COCKTAIL BAR** The Roxy Supper Club Bar 430

Sturgeon Spirits Craft Distillery The Chalice

#### **DIVE BAR** Pete's Garage Bar Bob's Trails End Jerry's Bar

**SPORTS BAR** West End Pizza The Bar GameTime

#### **HAPPY HOUR** Friar Tuck's The Roxy Supper Club

Becket's Jeff's On Rugby MARGARITA

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New Moon Café YMCA Elsewhere Market & Coffee House Planet Perk Menominee Park JUKEBOX Barley & Hops Pub and Beer Garden

Nigl's Chieftain Jerry's Bar **Evil Roy Slades** 

**TRIVIA NIGHT** The Hangar Bar and Grill The Ruby Owl Tap Room Greene's Pour House at the Granary The Grand Oshkosh

LGBOT Deb's Spare Time Pete's Garage Bar The Electric Lounge

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#### DARTS

The Varsity Club Winners Sports Bar and Grill Houge's Bar **Evil Roy Slades BEER BAR** 

The Ruby Owl Tap Room Fifth Ward Brewing Oblio's Lounge

#### **BLOODY MARY** West End Pizza The Roxy Supper Club Bar 430

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#### VEGETARIAN

Teriyaki Madness Pilora's Café Gardina's Kitchen Bar Market The Chalice

#### JUICE/SMOOTHIE

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Jeff's on Rugby Teriyaki Madness Mike's Place Family Restaurant

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The Bar Buffalo Wild Wings Player's Pizza & Pub

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- BARTENDER

Scott from West End Pete M from the Roxy Pete from Pete's Garage Bar Christine from LaSure's

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#### EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

Nominees in each category that appear on the final ballot were chosen by the nominations from our readers in Phase 1.

Nominations in Phase 2 will be accepted from Feb. 28 - Mar 18, 2024. Ballots mailed must be at the Oshkosh Herald office by 5pm March 19, 2024. Nominations are limited. You can choose one nominee in each category during Phase 2 of City Picks voting. Your name and address must appear on the ballot. Our office is located at 36 Broad St., Suite 300, Oshkosh WI 54901. Off-site ballot boxes will be picked up by NOON on March 15, 2024.

Again, only one vote per name and address. The ballot is published three times so three voters per household is possible. No Ballot Stuffing. In the appearance of ballot stuffing the person, place, thing or business may be disqualified. The Oshkosh Herald reserves the right to determine if ballot stuffing has transpired.

Vote on as many categories as you'd like, but your ballot must include a minimum of 30 category nominations to count. Totals registered by our analyst will be considered final. This is a paper ballot contest. No funny stuff can happen online nor will photocopied or downloaded ballots be accepted. Please find a paper issue of the Herald to complete a ballot.

#### Winners will be announced in the April 17, 2024 Oshkosh Herald.

## From ICU nurse to hospital president: UWO alum shares journey

By Grace Lim UW Oshkosh Today

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh in 2001, Shane Carter began his health care career as an ICU nurse at the hospital now known as Ascension NE Wisconsin – Mercy Campus.

Today, just 20 or so years later, Carter has stepped forward as president of that same facility just a few miles from his alma mater.

"UW Oshkosh has helped mold me into the person I am today," said Carter, who was appointed president at the Mercy Campus in November. "It has really helped set the tone of my nursing experience, but more importantly, as a servant leader that leads with compassion and strives for integrity."

Carter's journey is one of many UW Oshkosh alumni career success stories that both began and continues in the same city and region where Titans prepare to enter the field.

As he reflected on his journey, Carter acknowledged it wasn't entirely smooth sailing.

At UWO, he needed and got a wakeup call. While a student in the College of Nursing, he had an influential professor and mentor who called him out on his lackluster academic performance. He remembers that humbling experience.

"I was the typical college student, probably putting education third behind going out with friends and working," he said. "I was in 'Adult Health 1' with Dr. Sharon Chappy, and she was very honest with me. She said, 'I don't know if you're going to pass this class, I don't know if you're ever going to be able to pass boards, I don't know if you're ever going to be a nurse."

That was the jolt a young Carter needed to settle down.

"That was the final push for me, to buckle down and take this seriously," he said, "and I performed much better my senior year and here I am today."

Since graduating with his nursing degree in 2001, Carter has worked as an ICU nurse in the very hospital that he currently helms. More recently he was the vice president and chief nursing officer at Advocate Aurora-Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh.

He returned to his alma mater for his master's degree in nursing, even having





Shane Carter was appointed president at Ascension NE Wisconsin – Mercy Campus in November.

another class with Chappy, who is now retired as dean of the School of Nursing at Concordia University.

Carter shakes his head and chuckles, noting that he has had professional encounters with his former instructor.

"A part of me always wanted to ask her, 'Did you believe it or were you just trying to get me over the hump?' I believe she was just trying to push me and wake me up a bit. Honestly, I don't know if I'd be here today if it wasn't for her and the College of Nursing at UW Oshkosh."

Chappy was gratified to hear of Carter's tribute to her.

"I am honored to know that a small part of 'me' influenced him to use his talents to become the outstanding nurse leader he is today," she said. "I remember how proud I was to see him graduate and then was even prouder when he entered and finished the master's program. I knew he was honing his skills to expand his influence. I watched his career develop over the years; what he accomplished was truly because of his own talents and his abilities

Proudly Serving Oshkosh for <u>60 Years</u> to gather talent around him. I knew he had it in him. I am honored to have him as a professional colleague."

Seon Yoon Chung, dean of the College of Nursing, echoed Chappy's sentiments.

"The fact that Shane Carter rose to the top was not surprising given his vast experience and contribution towards securing access to high quality health care in our community," Chung said. "I also applaud the UWO College of Nursing faculty and staff, who continues to work tirelessly towards our vision, to nurture scholarly nurse leaders who will revolutionize health care through service, innovation, and excellence in clinical practice. It is the members of the college and our students and alumni who make us who we are."

Carter, who grew up in Omro, never considered health care as a profession. He grew up loving sports and playing sports. His grandfather, Ed Goss, taught physical education and coached football at Omro High School, where Carter was a starting running back and cornerback.

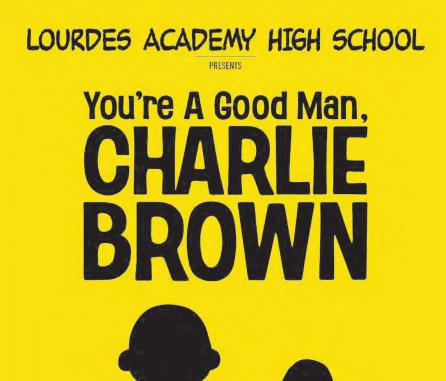
"When I was a little kid, my passion was sports and athletics. I really wanted to be a football coach like my grandfather," he said.

He started at UW Oshkosh, undecided but wanted to do something with a sports emphasis. While at school, he got a job at a local plasma center, working as a phlebotomist and found that many of his co-workers were nursing students. They urged him to consider the nursing program, and so he did.

"I was in a health care setting at the plasma center, interacting with the donors, the community, and I felt a little bit of the calling to be in that type of service industry," he said.

He applied for UWO's nursing program, was accepted and never looked back.

"I've been blessed to be part of something special, and that's health care delivery," Carter said. "I don't think there was ever a time growing up, or even in nursing school, in graduate school, that I envisioned myself in a role like I am today as the president of Ascension Mercy Hospital. But now that I am, I will do the best that I can."





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## **Obituaries**

#### **Ellen Luise McDonald**

Ellen Luise McDonald, age 74, of Oshkosh, passed away at her home on Mon-



at her home on Monday, February 26, 2024. She was born on August 21, 1949, in Oshkosh a daughter of Herbert and Eva Dumke Strycker. She married Steven L. McDonald on June 28, 1975.

Ellen loved spend-

ing her weekends camping at Little Silver in the summer. She spent many hours a day in her flower garden and her love of gardening will live on in her husband, children and grandchildren. Her family was everything to her. She was so very proud of her 8 grandchildren and poured her love onto them. She exemplified God's love and touched so many lives. Her laughter was contagious, and she truly loved life and Jesus.

She is survived by her husband Steven, two sons Jesse McDonald, Michael Mc-Donald, one daughter Sarah Klessig, eight grandchildren Madeline, Isaac, Ellie, Keliah, Bethany, Marcus, Lydia, Clarity, one sister Kathy (Tom) Mundle, one brother Michael (Mary) Strycker.

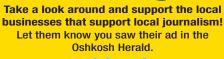
Private family services will be held.

The family would like to thank Heartland Hospice, Dr. Duwell, and Tisha Kenneback for their exceptional care and comfort provided to Ellen.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN

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#### **Jean Leetch**

In 1953, about a mile off highway 116, between Omro and Winneconne, there



was on Frank Ginnow's farm, L.H. "Red" Strehlow's Flight School. It was an X-shaped 1800foot runway. It doubled as Frank's cow pasture, and when a plane wanted to take off or land, Jerry

Chamberlain got on his motorbike and chased the cows to another area.

This is where Jean Stevens earned her single-engine, private pilot license in an Aeronca Champ. Jean Monica Stevens was born December 10, 1933, in Omro, Wisconsin to Harry and Lucy (Blase) Stevens, she was one of midwife Sophie Yorty's babies.

She attended the Omro public school system and graduated in 1951. She attended Virginia Springgate's Oshkosh Business College.

On May 1, 1954, she married Lawrence A. Chappa; they had four children, Cynthia, Michael, Laura, and Jeffrey. Jean divorced Lawrence in 1972. On September 22, 1979 she married Donald Leetch.

She was a charter member of Omro Women's Service League, she was a seventeen-year member of Omro Study Club, and held all offices twice and served on all committees. She was a president and long-time member, then honorary member of (Oshkosh) Lakeside Quilters. She greatly enjoyed the several round robins, in Omro, she was a Bluebird and Campfire leader, Girl Scout leader in Ozark, Alabama and a 4-H leader.

She is survived by her children, Michael Anthony Chappa, Laura Ann Doubek, and Jeffrey James (Linda) Chappa; grandchildren Dorian Chappa, Camille Henseler, Ryan A. Harvath (Dennis Garcia Flores), Kendrik (Tiffani) Chappa, and Tabytha (fiancé Alex Bernard) Chappa; great-grandchildren Keona Gomoll, Juniper Metcher, Lionna Chappa, and Maximus Chappa. Jean is also survived by one step-child who always cared about late husband Don's feelings and he had them, Duane A. Leetch and devoted wife, Linda. Other survivors include Jean's several nieces and nephews.

Jean was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Leetch; parents; daughter Cynthia Chappa; sisters Ruth Vonderloh and Harriet Lien, and little Angel.

Jean's special people were Gerry Karns, Shar Longworth, Susie Gruenwald, Doug Marone (Jean's attorney with a heart), and Katherine Roeske and Emily Roeske.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Oshkosh Area Humane Society, 1925 Shelter Court, Oshkosh, WI 54901. Jean hopes you will wear happy clothes in memory of her.



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## **Obituaries**

#### **Celeste M. Huybers**

Celeste M. Huybers, of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully at Mercy Medical Center



on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at the age of 60. She was born in Rhinelander on December 27th, 1963 to Clyde and Germaine (Marmes) Huybers, the youngest of 5 children.

> graduating After

high school, Celeste relocated to the Fox Valley and married Leonard J. Raygo on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 1984, in Omro. She remained with him for 28 years. On April 17th, 1986, they welcomed a daughter, Amber.

Celeste, a bona fide "old soul," was both a vibrant and merciless Scrabble opponent, as well as a humble talent in the quiet art of counted cross-stitch. She enjoyed spending time with her family, decorating her home with whimsical crafts, building puzzles, and listening to her favorite

music. She flourished later in life, finding empowerment by way of socializing and self-discovery. Reclaiming her independence and raising her daughter were her proudest achievements. She was thoughtful, gentle, kind, and dignified. To say that Celeste was a beloved mother, grandmother, aunt, cousin, little sister, friend... would serve injustice to those who cherish her. She will be missed and celebrated.

Celeste is survived by her daughter, Amber (Ben) Rennert, two grandchildren, Fiona and William Rennert, two brothers, Bernie (Karen) Huybers and Marty (Vickie) Huybers, and one sister, Charlotte (Tom) Chariton.

She is preceded in death by one sister, Norma Huybers, and her parents, Clyde and Germaine.

The family extends their sincere thanks to the many doctors, specialists, and nursing staff who treated Celeste in her final care, for showing such compassion. A private celebration of life will be held by family in the weeks to come.

Anderson; stepfather Dan Schoenrock;

brother Jamie and wife Rachel Anderson;

their daughters Karlee and Abby of Wau-

kau; sister Dawn Anderson Ledvina and

husband Paul Ledvina of Lisbon and their

son Noah. She was predeceased in death

Sheila graduated from the Oshkosh

North High School class of 1984, and

then graduated with a degree as a Certi-

fied Nursing Assistant working in many

local nursing homes. In recent years,

Sheila served as a lay minister at Father

Carr's Place to Be, serving those less for-

by her father, Jerry Anderson.

#### Sheila J. Anderson

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Sheila Jean (Sun-



ny) Anderson, age 57. Sheila is the wife of Danny Anderson and daughter of Joyce Anderson and stepfather Daniel Schoenrock, all of Oshkosh. Sheila died unexpectedly on March 3, 2024 at Mercy Medical Center in Oshkosh.



Sheila is survived by her sons, Andrew Becker, wife Caroline Becker, granddaughter Aurora, son Benjamin Becker, wife Laura, and grandsons, Malachi and Zan-

der Becker of Omro. Her mother, Joyce

#### **Casey A. Paschke**

Casey A. Paschke, 65, passed away in Fond du Lac, WI. He was born in Wiscon-



sin on July 19, 1958 to James and Dorothy Paschke.

Casey loved playing guitar, Oshkosh history, and antiques. He was always willing to lend a hand and help anyone in need.

He will be remembered for the wonderful pizzas that he made.

tunate than herself. Sheila's final gift to those in need was that of an organ donor. Funeral arrangements are pending. Fiss & Bill Funeral Home is handling arrangements. FISS & BILLS - POKLASNY

## FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY

He is survived by his beloved cat, Pebbles; mother, Dorothy Paschke; siblings, Gail (Rick) Sandbeck, Chuck (Kathy) Paschke, Phil (Diane) Paschke, Todd Paschke, Sandra (George Hagen) Brown, and Rodney Paschke. He is further survived by many nieces, nephews, and other family members.

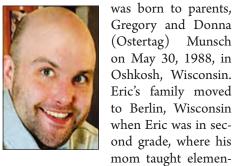
Preceding him in death are his father, James Paschke; and brother, Dennis Paschke.

Per his wishes, there will be no formal service held.



#### **Eric James Munsch**

Eric James Munsch, age 35, passed away unexpectedly on February 22, 2024. He



tary art.

After high school, Eric attended Fox Valley Technical College and obtained his certification in the culinary arts. He had many jobs over the years and was always considered hard working and conscientious.

Eric loved grilling food, learning about folklore, listening to classic rock music and going to state parks. Some of his favorite times were spent traveling to Las Vegas and Canada with his brother, Adam. He

#### **Thomas J. Noe**

Thomas J. Noe, 73 years of Oshkosh, passed away at his residence on Saturday, March 2, 2024. Services are currently pending with Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home. 920-231-1510.



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also enjoyed playing games with his nieces and carving the turkey during Thanksgiving Dinner at Uncle Harvey's house. He will be dearly missed by his family, friends and Tuckaroo, the family pup.

He is survived by his parents, Gregory and Donna Munsch; brothers, Matthew (Mandy) Munsch and Adam Munsch; nieces, Eloise and Josephine; uncle, Gary Ostertag; aunts, Debra (Harvey) Boushele and Laura (Tom) Stark; cousins, Amy Boushele, Kim Lyngen and Jenny VanKeuren; and many other family members and friends.

Preceding him in death was grandparents, Frank (Sylvia) Ostertag and James (Marilyn) Munsch; and uncle, Gary "computer guru" Munsch.

A private family service will be held. His final resting place will be at Lake View Memorial Park Cemetery, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.



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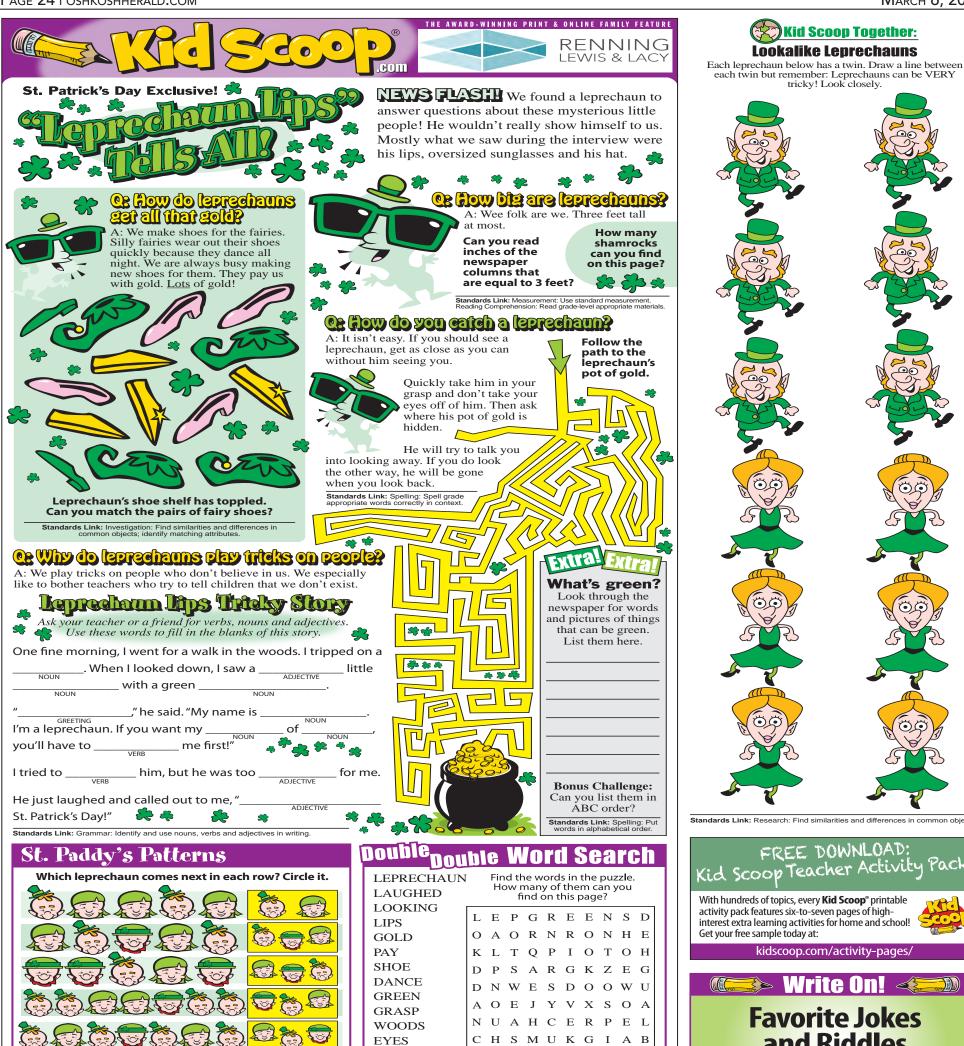
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