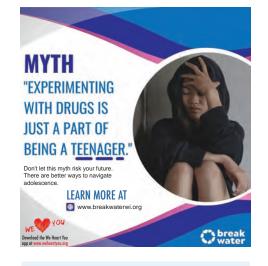


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INSIDE



Taking flight AirVenture sets themes for this summer Page 5

## On market Oshkosh Arena seeks new ownership Page 3



#### Photo by Michael Cooney

## **Bunny connections**

The Oshkosh Area Humane Society hosted an Easter EggVenture Egg Hunt and educational event Saturday where children learned how to properly care for a real pet rabbit, including appropriate housing, nutrition, veterinary care, microchipping and introducing them to other pets. Maddy Schroeder, 6, of Neenah is shown with both a real bunny rabbit and her adopted "pre-loved" stuffed bunny. OAHS takes in and adopts out 50-60 rabbits annually.

# Lead pipe removal plan shifts

# Council acts to connect program to DNR loans

By Jonathan Richie Oshkosh Herald

The city of Oshkosh is changing how lead pipe replacements will be paid for, including a 50% reimbursement to property owners if they meet the timeline.

Public works assistant director Steve Gohde explained there is a time crunch with the state Department of Natural Resources needing the necessary paperwork to get loans for funding property owners who may have lead laterals.

Gohde said a DNR safe drinking water loan could cover half the cost of replacing owners' lead laterals, which is the connection from the main utility line into a home or business.

New regulations state that if the city replaces the main line, the owner has 90 days to replace the lead lateral running to their property.

The reason for this move is that construction season is set to start earlier this year after a mild winter. Waugoo Avenue construction has already begun and other projects across the city will soon begin.

The city already has the program in place to help cover up to 50% of lead lateral replacement costs, but having the

SEE Lead pipe loans ON PAGE 10

## Washington School served generations as it nears closure

One of first students recalls its early years

By Dan Roherty Oshkosh Herald

With the imminent closure of Washington Elementary School as part of an ongoing school district reorganization, at least one family will carry with them memories that span the 67-year history of the grade school. Debbie Laffin was a first-grader in the first year of the new Washington School in 1957 after her kindergarten year in the former Washington school site at Otter Avenue and Bay Street where her father, Joe Rahn, taught. She remembered stepping into the new building and being excited with other students and staff.

"It was a huge deal, it was so modern and so neat, because the old school was just yucky," Laffin said. "I remember the gym was in the basement."

She also fondly recalled some of her teachers, including Miss Marie LaBudde who often wore a cardigan sweater over her shoulder.



"I begged my mother to get a sweater like that so I could wear it like Miss La-Budde," she said. "She was a very wellloved teacher."

An Oshkosh Northwestern photo captured her portraying Betsy Ross with

SEE Washington ON PAGE 9

OASD photo

Washington Elementary School closes out its final year this spring ahead of the opening of the new Menominee Elementary School.

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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.

#### Publisher

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

## City progress and projects highlighted

## State of the City marks efforts in community

By Jonathan Richie Oshkosh Herald

In an annual statement to the community, City Manager Mark Rohloff said he is optimistic about Oshkosh's future and added important work continues to progress in the city.

This year's State of the City address was not held in-person but instead released as a video narrated by Rohloff. During the video he speaks about Oshkosh as a dynamic city with bright prospects.

"2024 is shaping up to be one of our best years yet," Rohloff said.

City officials used a survey to ask what residents want the government to focus on this year. Rohloff said there were requests to fix the streets, update infrastructure, add affordable housing and invest in green spaces and parks.

The city has several capital projects that will improve streets and deal with drainage issues. These include reconstruction of parts of Waugoo Avenue, Cherry Street and Grand Street.

There is also a block of streets, including Iowa Street from 6th to 5th Avenue; Michigan Street from 5th to 7th Avenue; West 5th from Michigan to Iowa; and West 7th from Michigan to Iowa. This work is set to fix some of the drainage problems that occur in the South Park area.

The Waugoo Avenue project could have cost property owners around \$22,800 in special assessments but the Common Council voted earlier this year to initiate a vehicle registration fee for passenger vehicles along with an increase in utility rates that will eliminate special assessments for street and sidewalk projects.

To deal with housing demand, Oshkosh is seeing apartment complexes going up on the south side of the city on Ripple Avenue, adding to the first phase of that project.

Oshkosh will also see improvements and additions to the Menominee Park Zoo with the new black bear and fox enclosures set to open this year. There are also plans to extend the Riverwalk Trail to



Capt. Jack Clark of the Oshkosh Fire Department (left), named City Employee of the Year, oversaw the installation of more than 50 smoke detectors after a hotel's system stopped working.

#### loop around Pioneer Island.

#### State funding

Oshkosh will receive an additional \$1.9 million in state shared revenue annually. Rohloff has said the state has remained stagnant on increasing shared revenue over the past 30 years.

There is more work to be done when it comes to getting financial assistance from the state. The municipal services payment program is in place for the state to help fund the operations of state-owned properties such as the Oshkosh Correctional Institution and Wisconsin Resource Center.

Oshkosh ranks third in state-owned buildings, behind Milwaukee and Madison. The state is currently only covering 40% of the associated costs.

"We are currently underfunded by \$2 million annually," Rohloff said. "That needs to improve."

#### **Private developments**

The State of the City also highlighted private developments including 4imprint expanding operations on Atlas Avenue. More growth on the Oshkosh Avenue corridor includes a new Tru Hotel by Hilton with restaurants and bars also added to that area off the interstate.

#### Award recognition

The State of the City address includes an awards ceremony with residents and community organizations recognized. The Oshkosh Employee of the Year is Capt. Jack Clark of the Oshkosh Fire Department.

Last August, the Fire Department learned there was a hotel in Oshkosh that didn't have a functioning smoke detection system in place and could not be repaired until the following day.

While an employee attempted to get corporate approval to buy new alarms, the fire department installed 54 individual smoke detectors belonging to the department. Clark was on site until all were installed and working.

"This dedication to service allowed the hotel to remain open while guests were not inconvenienced and never at risk," Rohloff said.

The full 26-minute video is available on Oshkosh Media's YouTube channel.

### <u>Back in the Day</u>



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

### <u>April 3, 1980</u>

Town of Oshkosh Renames Streets: According to Town of Oshkosh Town Clerk Kay Ehlke, recommendations have been made to the town board to rename three streets in the northeastern section of the township. Ehlke said Fairview Beach, Island Beach and Island Point-formerly known as the Lake Road-were recommended to be named Island View Drive. In addition, the portion of Island Beach to County Trunk A will become British Lane. Also, the road travelling off Island Point to Indian Point is recommended to be named Garlic Island Road. "All residents in those areas have been contacted about the street name changes" noted Ehlke, who indicated the board will discuss the subject at a future meeting. (Note: two of the three changes were eventually approved, the single exception being Garlic Island Road would become Channel View Drive)



Meth drug trafficking brings sentence man were both charged with possession of methamphetamine. The first of three men charged in con-

According to the criminal complaint, a nection with a house where methamphetsearch warrant was executed Dec. 6 at Dieamine was being sold has been sentenced ner's home on Walnut Street. The next day investigators returned to the residence to Craig S. Diener, 59, pleaded no conspeak with him. test and was found guilty of maintaining

Diener gave an investigator permission to search his phone. During the search they discovered several conversations about purchasing narcotics. The complaint states Diener admitted knowing someone else living in the house, Damman, was selling drugs.

#### 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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to 18 months of probation in front of Winnebago County Circuit Branch 1 Judge Teresa Basiliere.

a drug trafficking place. He was sentenced

Oshkosh police reported in December that several individuals were arrested after a search warrant was executed at an Oshkosh home.

Noah M. Cuttill and Nicholas S. Dam-

R

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Wednesday, Apr 10, 2024 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce 120 Jackson Street, Oshkosh 54901

Diener also admitted that he uses drugs inside his home.

Damman's case is scheduled for a plea/ sentencing hearing April 22 in front of Judge Bryan Keberlein. Cuttill was in court Monday where Judge Scott Woldt set his plea/sentencing hearing for June 13.

## Send business bits

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

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, April 3, 1980

## **Oshkosh Arena on market** after seven-year ownership

#### Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Arena is up for sale as its owners seek a new group to take over the facility.

Located at 1212 S. Main St., the Arena listing appears on loopnet.com as for sale with the page stating the property has been on the market since March 12. The listing does not include an asking price.

The Oshkosh Arena has been home to the Wisconsin Herd since 2017 when it first opened. It is owned by Fox Valley Pro Basketball with the Herd, the G-League affiliate of the Milwaukee Bucks, as the main tenant.

The lease with the Herd runs until 2026 with an option to extend the agreement until 2028. The Herd played their final home game of this season on March 27. The arena is also home court for the GWBA Wisconsin GLO.

Fox Valley Pro Basketball president Greg Pierce said the arena was built with private capital through an equity raise in 2017 with an original plan for a seven- to 10-year hold.

"The building has recently entered an exciting phase in its history, with the addition of outside partners to the operational team," Pierce wrote in an email. "This up-

Öshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area and Winnebago County saw a jump in its unemployment rate from 2.3 percent to 2.8 percent between January and February, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

Last February's jobless rate in Oshkosh-Neenah and the county was at 2.5

grade will translate into a higher-profile event schedule for the community and integrate the Oshkosh metropolitan area into the national entertainment scene.

"As this transformation is taking place the time is right for new ownership to step in to take the Arena to the next level."

The arena has held several sporting events, performances and music concerts since opening in 2017, including Nelly, Ludacris and Blue Oyster Cult.

The Oshkosh Arena sits on 80,000 square feet in Oshkosh's Sawdust District on the site of the former Buckstaff Furniture factory and is part of the city's Tax Incremental District No. 31.

Last summer there were issues at the facility with fire codes and the paying of annual property taxes.

The listing says the 24 Herd games with a capacity of 4,000 seats generate \$78,733 annual revenue. There is also an agreement that The Oak View Group will manage the facility over the next 10 years. The Oak View Group advertises as the "largest developer of sports & live entertainment venues in the world" on its website.

## Jobless rate rises in region for February

percent.

The non-seasonally adjusted data shows jobless rates in Metropolitan Statistical Areas increase in all of Wisconsin's 12 metro areas over the month and year. The rates decreased or stayed the same in eight metro areas.

Unemployment rates increased in Wisconsin's 35 largest cities and 72 counties over the month.

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## Aligned Medical Oshkosh to open in central city in 2025

## **UWO** sees opportunities with nursing college

By Jonathan Richie OSHKOSH HERALD

A new hospital at 6th Avenue and Oregon Street will make an emergency room visit within 15 minutes away for most city residents.

The \$84 million project is already under construction and scheduled to open in 2025. Renderings released last year show a sleek and modern design similar to the health care campus also being built in Fond du Lac.

Aligned Medical Oshkosh is a partnership between Froedtert and ThedaCare that was first announced back in 2022 as a joint venture. The merger of the two Wisconsin-based health care companies was completed in January and now is called Froedtert ThedaCare Health Inc.

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt spoke to the Herald about how the hospital will be another opportunity for nursing students to work after graduation.

"We have a very large and powerful college of nursing that supplies nurses for this region," Leavitt said.

The Froedtert ThedaCare Health campus will provide a new opportunity for UWO graduates to work and allow them to stay in the area.

"We're very proud of our nursing graduates and I'm delighted with this partnership bringing this hospital to the area," Leavitt said. He added that UWO graduates of the nursing college work at many of the hospitals and health care facilities in the region.



Oshkosh Herald

City Manager Mark Rohloff and officials from Froedtert ThedaCare Health ceremoniously break ground for the new Aligned Medical Oshkosh facility, which will open in 2025 on Sixth Avenue.

City Manager Mark Rohloff spoke on the history of the site. Since the 1860s it was an industrial site for Morgan Door Co. and in the early 1900s there were more than 1,000 people working at the site.

Since 2009 the industrial buildings have been demolished and more recently the site was used for Oshkosh Corp. vehicle storage.

Another amenity in the area is the extended Riverwalk Trail, which Rohloff

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noted could be used by hospital employees as well as residents who can view the waterfront hospital.

Rohloff said the hospital will have the opportunity to serve not just as a health care facility but an economic development opportunity as housing is being built and new businesses and restaurants come into the area. Just down the street, the Mill on Main apartments are being constructed and the Miles Kimball building is being transitioned into apartments under the name MKLofts.

The Common Council approved an agreement that will help Froedtert ThedaCare Health pay for site remediation due to the high amounts of contaminants in the soil.

Rohloff explained that soil contamination and remediation have been necessary for much of the riverside properties due to the history of industrial use along the Fox River.

Froedtert ThedaCare Health officials have worked with the DNR to follow the necessary protocols for clearing the site and initially asked for around \$4.5 million in the form of a tax increment financing (TIF) development. The agreement states the health care company will receive around \$2.5 million based on the estimated value of the taxable portion of the campus.

The site is already in a TIF district created in July 2016, and the maximum amount Froedtert ThedaCare Health can receive is \$3.42 million.

A similar hospital broke ground in mid-February in Fond du Lac with renderings of the building looking similar to those for Aligned Medical Oshkosh.

Aligned Medical Oshkosh will be open all hours, 365 days a year with 18 beds and about 60 employees, according to Jenny Nikolai, who was named vice president of the new hospitals in November.

Nikolai explained the hospital is expected to have computed tomography (CT) scans, X-rays, ultrasound, mammogram, MRI and lab services.

"More services could be added in the future to meet the community needs," she said.

Froedtert Health CEO and president Cathy Jacobson said the hospital, which will be at 250 Sixth Ave., will provide better and more seamless care to the community.

"We're reinventing health care," Jacobson said.

"When designing this health campus, our patients and families were at the forefront of our planning to develop services around them," she said. "Our health system is committed to ensuring patients receive the care they expect and deserve while empowering each person to live their unique, best life."

ThedaCare CEO and president Imran Andrabi said Aligned Medical Oshkosh will focus on "improving health and well-being in the community."

ThedaCare and Froedtert officials have noted the importance of the hospital that will serve Oshkosh's east-side residence as other hospitals - Aurora Medical Center of Oshkosh and Ascension NE Wisconsin - Mercy Campus - are situated on the west side of Interstate 41. Most Oshkosh residents live on the east side of I-41.

"We look forward to the opportunity to offer additional access to all levels of care in one coordinated system, close to home in Oshkosh," Andrabi said. "This campus naturally extends the trusted medical care we currently provide the people of this area."

Aligned Medical Oshkosh will have a single-story micro hospital attached to a two-story ambulatory surgery center and medical office building with both buildings able to expand. There will also be a drive-through pharmacy on the south side.

"Nobody's going to be more than 15 minutes from a hospital or emergency room," Andrabi said. "People will have access to care right in their neighborhood."

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## AirVenture highlights include D-Day, WWII heroes

# EAA continues to unveil features and performers

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) will pay tribute to the heroes and sacrifices made during the Normandy landings on D-Day and throughout the year 1944 during World War II with an 80-year Turning the Tide commemoration at EAA AirVenture on July 23 and 24.

"As the number of veterans from WWII who are still with us are dwindling, it is important to commemorate the events of 1944, and the importance of the campaigns in both Europe and the Pacific to preserve freedom," said Rick Larsen, EAA vice president of communities and member programs. "This year's programming during AirVenture week will connect the human events and aviation history of that year so those of us today have a better understanding of those times."

A collection of C-47s from the D-Day Squadron will be on display as part of the commemoration. The squadron features unique C-47 aircraft from throughout the United States. Many will be part of a commemorative mission to Europe in May and June. The C-47 played a vital role in transporting more than 13,000 paratroopers to Utah Beach at Normandy.

Afternoon air shows July 23 and 24 will feature warbirds from both the Pacific and European theaters including the World War II Airborne Demonstration Team. The team will be jumping from their own C-47 using traditional round canopy parachutes, reminiscent of the paratroopers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions who risked their lives in Normandy.

A Theater in the Woods presentation July 23 will also focus on 1944 and split into two parts, the first retelling the story of 1944 and the second going into detail about the aircraft.

Additional aircraft that played key roles in 1944 have also been invited to partici-



C-47s from the D-Day Squadron will be part of the Turning the Tide commemoration at this summer's AirVenture.

pate, and EAA and the EAA Warbirds of America continue to plan activities as part of the commemoration.

Other AirVenture highlights that were previously announced:

• Three World War II-era warbirds – the Supermarine Spitfire, Hawker Hurricane and North American P-51 Mustang – will represent Canadian wartime aviation as Vintage Wings of Canada brings those aircraft as part of the "Victory Flight." The aircraft will be part of the centennial celebration for the Royal Canadian Air Force to be featured this summer. They will join the Canadian Forces Snowbirds aerial demonstration team in attendance.

• The Frecce Tricolori, the military aerobatic team representing the Italian Air Force, will be making its first Oshkosh appearance since 1986. The Italian team, formally known as the 313th Aerobatic Training Squadron, is scheduled for July 23 as part of the third North American tour in its history. With the Canadian Forces Snowbirds, it marks the first time that the fly-in will have two military demonstration teams in a single year.

• The aerial art form of lighted drones is featured as Starlight Aerial Productions brings its displays to night air shows on July 24 and 27. Up to 500 state-of-the-art drones will take to the sky for the performances, offering light displays and captivating illustrations.

• Some of the world's top air show performers have made commitments to fly at AirVenture as part of the afternoon and night air show lineups. The event features nine air shows over seven days, including night airshows on July 24 and 27. Daily afternoon air shows are presented by Daher and Pratt & Whitney, while night air shows are presented by Covington Aircraft and PenFed.







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## Longtime printer, packager expands for future success

## Watermark47 carries on family firm's history

By Jennifer Parmley Herald Contributor

The new owners of a longtime Oshkosh business have expanded their offerings to position the company for continued success well into the future.

Watermark47 president Heather Winscher and vice president Jayson Bochinski purchased the company in 2021. The printing, packaging and finishing business at 650 E. Murdock St. was founded in 1947 as Advertising Letter Service (ALS) by Winscher's grandfather, Roy Bartel. Winscher's father, Bruce Bartel, took over in 1979.

Winscher, who graduated from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh with a degree in journalism, said running the family business initially wasn't on her radar.

"But growing up in a family business, you're always helping out with the fami-



ly business in one way or another," Winscher said.

When one of the company's sales reps decided to retire, Winscher learned the business and discovered she enjoyed the work.

Bochinski started at the company after graduating from high school and eventually ended up managing the production side of the operation.

"I didn't envision business ownership when I started with the company in 1998," he said. "After 20 years in the industry, I was presented with the opportunity to buy into the business."

Winscher said Bochinski's knowledge of presses and other equipment meshes well with her sales and front-office skills.

"It ended up working out perfectly," she said.

The duo decided to rebrand the business from ALS to Watermark 47 about four years ago because they expanded their offerings from print products such as business cards, catalog, labels and the like to packaging products and finishing services such as kitting, assembly and specialty bindery projects.

In the printing industry, a "watermark" signifies a name or trademark integrated into a piece of paper during the manufacturing process. It is then visible when held up to light. The "47" signifies the year the company was founded.

Winscher said the addition of several services was prompted by customer requests, some of which are different than what they had done thus far. They are equipped with a digital press for quickturn, short-run projects, a four-color press, book assembly equipment and





Watermark47 is led by third-generation owner Heather Winscher (left) and vice president Jayson Bochinski.

more, and employ about a dozen people to accomplish those jobs.

"We have a great group of employees who are willing to adapt with the changes," Bochinski said.

"It's been a very busy couple of years between buying the business, rebranding and promoting these other services," she said. "It's opened new opportunities for us and expanded what we're able to do." Winscher would love for her grandfather – he worked for Miles Kimball and was encouraged by Kimball to start his own company – to see what the company has grown to.

"It is different, but I think he'd be really proud of where we are. Seventy-seven years in business is not something you see every day," she said. "I'm really proud of where we are and where we're going."

### DNR, Conservation Congress sets spring hearings

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) invite the public to attend open houses at 6 p.m. Monday in all Wisconsin counties to learn about resource management through the annual Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearing process.

Winnebago County's open house is at Alberta Kimball Auditorium, 375 N. Eagle St., Oshkosh.

An online opportunity for public input will be available from noon April 10 through noon April 13. Access information is available at dnr.wisconsin.gov un-



der the About tab.

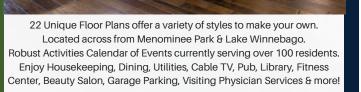
DNR staff and WCC delegates will be on hand at these open houses to discuss local issues of importance, answer questions and open a dialogue between the public, DNR and WCC about areas of concern.

The WCC will hold delegate elections at each meeting with two of the five WCC seats up for election in each county.

The public is invited to provide feedback on fish, wildlife and other natural resources-related topics as part of the hearing process either online or using paper ballots available at the in-person meetings.



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## Understanding affordable housing leads to solutions

By Joe Stephenson Oshkosh Common Council member

I was elected a little over a year ago to the Oshkosh Common Council and one of my key interests is housing. In my professional life I've worked for the past decade in the public sector, planning cities throughout the Fox Valley. I also serve on the American Planning Association as Wisconsin's northeast representative.

I've always had a keen interest in housing and bringing new life to many of our tired neighborhoods. Over the past decade I've learned a lot about housing but I've also learned how we all think of housing in different terms, to our detriment.

Affordable housing is one of the most misunderstood words in the English language. Every person seems to have a different definition of what "affordable" means. There are folks who think affordable means low income or government-run housing. There are other folks that think affordable is whatever rent or mortgage they personally find to be reasonable. I'm here to tell you both are wrong.

The Wisconsin statutory definition of affordable housing is housing that costs no more than 30 percent of a household's monthly income, meaning a household that brings home \$100,000 a year can spend \$30,000 a year on their house. It also means a family that makes \$1,000,000 is in an affordable home if they spend \$300,000 or less on their home.

Anyone can see this definition is problematic when talking about housing developments, especially from a city council perspective.

That is why we use other housing terms, like market rate, workforce or low income. These terms have firm definitions, unlike the more flexible definition of affordable. Still, these terms are often misused as well. Here is a basic rundown of what income levels each of these terms is referring to:

Market rate: Housing that is priced to sell at the current market value. It is important to note, market rate housing can be, by definition, affordable. So long as folks who buy or rent the units are spending below the 30% income threshold.

Workforce: Housing that is priced for households making between 80% and 120% of the area median income (AMI)

Low income: Housing priced for households making between 50% and

#### 80% of AMI.

Very low income: Housing priced for households making below 50% of AMI. For reference, Section 8 vouchers are typically not given until an individual is below 30% of the area median income.

Mixed income: A housing project that has a combination of any or all of the above terms.

As you can see, these definitions are more solid and are tied to the area's income, but it is also important to understand that these values are always changing. Oshkosh's median household income, as of 2024, is about \$62,000 (2022 dollars adjusted for inflation as 2024 numbers are not out yet).

That means if a household makes \$74,000 a year, they are still considered workforce housing. If a household makes \$31,000 a year, they are considered low-income housing.

Many people have a hard time correlating a housing project with someone they know. They hear "affordable" or see "low-income apartments" and instantly make assumptions. Having the definitions helps humanize the project. The average starting salary for a teacher is \$38,000. The average firefighter in Wisconsin makes about \$58,000. Each of the housing types discussed above could be for one of these folks.

For a recent example, The Corridor, a mixed-income project on North Main and Jefferson streets has a proposed 55 units. Eighteen units are set aside for 30% AMI, 12 units for 50% AMI and 25 units for 80% AMI. That means 45% of the units in an affordable housing project are workforce housing. The remaining units are for low income and very low income categories.

This is smart planning. Having a mix of different people, with different backgrounds and income levels, has been proven to create successful projects. It also means that as people go through phases of their life, potentially earning more as they advance in their career, they can stay in the same place and not risk losing their housing if their household income rises.

Now armed with the proper housing knowledge, next time you hear someone complain about workforce housing or use the nebulous "affordable" word, kindly correct them. Because words matter, and having a common understanding of housing is going to help us all solve this dire issue our city and state are facing.



Submitted photo

## Fire teams in training

The Oshkosh, Fox Crossing and Neenah-Menasha fire departments participated in training at Station 31 on Breezewood Lane in Neenah last week. The location is the future home of a \$1 million emergency training facility, funded in part by a \$500,000 award from Winnebago County's Spirit Fund.

## **Chemical Society sets Earth Week programs**

The Northeast Wisconsin Section of the American Chemical Society and the Oshkosh Public Library will mark Chemists Celebrate Earth Week with two days of programs at the Oshkosh Public Library.

Wonderlab for grades K-2 will be from 5 to 6:30 p.m. April 18 and TWEEN S.T.E.A.M. for grades 3-5 is from 4 to 5:30

p.m. April 19, both programs in the lower level of the library.

The importance of chemistry in everyday life will be celebrated with hands-on activities under the theme Get A Charge Out Of Chemistry, with a focus on batteries, electricity and their importance in the transition to clean energy.



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## Mpox virus at slow but steady pace in region, state

#### By David Hall Herald contributor

Pox viruses are a scourge to many vertebrates, including humans.

Mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, is caused by a virus related to the virus that causes smallpox, according to the Winnebago County Health Department.

The current mpox epidemic that emerged from Africa in 2022 is the latest of many. Wisconsin has been affected with 96 total cases to date. There have been 50 from Milwaukee County, while Winnebago, Outagamie, Brown and Calumet counties have accounted for 13 cases total.

With an incubation period of two to four weeks, the mpox virus infection presents with a skin rash covering any part of the body with lesions that look like bumps, warts, sores or scabs. These lesions are how virus particles get back out into the environment.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, people must have close, sustained contact with an infected person to get the virus. That includes close contact with the lesions or clothing that has been in contact with the lesions.

Conquerors of the New World spread smallpox to indigenous people by trading them clothing coated in the virus. Smallpox killed 300 million people in the 20th century before being eliminated through vaccination in the 1970s.

A vaccine was developed by Edward Jenner in 1793 but the concept of vaccination was not fully accepted until the 20th century. Jenner realized that the closely related coxpox (vaccinia virus), proved capable of triggering immunity against smallpox. This suggested that pox viruses are closely immunologically related, thus vaccination against one is protection against most.

Mass vaccination for smallpox ended in 1972, with smallpox declared eliminated in 1980. The elimination of a virus is an exception and not the norm. Smallpox and polio are a handful of viruses that only infect humans; if the entire population is vaccinated, the virus will effectively become extinct. However, most viruses like SARS-CoV-2, influenza and yellow fever can never be eliminated because they can hop back and forth, evolving between different animals.

Mpox has a natural reservoir in non-human primates and can jump to humans through their consumption of bushmeat. The CDC reports it can also be spread to people from animals through bites, scratches or use of a product from an infected animal.

Since the end of mass vaccination, the world population has exploded and few have been vaccinated against pox viruses, leading to the success of mpox spreading beyond Africa.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services reports mpox primarily affects gay, bisexual and other men, but there has been an increase in new mpox cases in other populations. The Winnebago County Health Department recommends those at risk of contracting the virus get vaccinated to stop the spread.

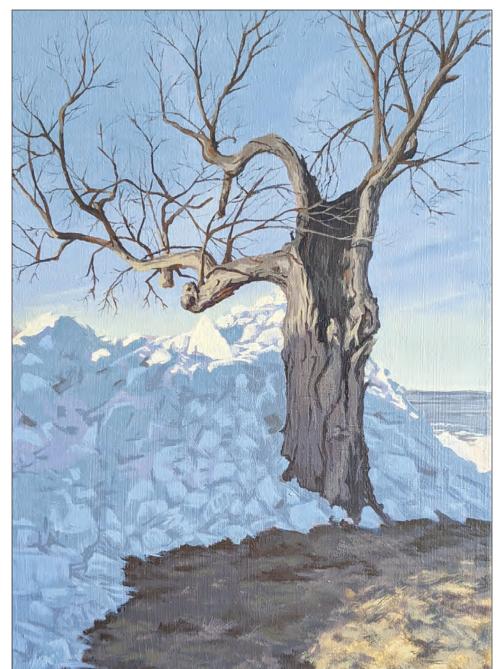
About 70 doses of the pox vaccine JYNNEOS have been administered in Winnebago County since 2022. The vaccine is a two-dose regimen, with the first dose giving some protection and a second dose 28 days later providing stronger protection. The Winnebago County Health Department noted that the number of vaccines administered is not an indication of how many people are fully vaccinated because it is not required that someone completes the series at the same location.

Winnebago County is currently offering the JYNNEOS vaccine by appointment. It is not required that someone is a resident of Winnebago County to receive the vaccine at the health department. To make an appointment, contact Public Health at 920-232-3000 or email wchd.cd@winnebagocountywi.gov.

Those vaccinated against mpox will get lifetime immunity against many other pox viruses, including smallpox, providing a measure of protection in the future.

Oil painting by Kyle Gorenschek





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## **Art Collective show**

The Oshkosh Art Collective is hosting its third annual art show from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday at the Gibson Social Club, 537 N. Main St. The event showcases work from more than 35 local artists from different backgrounds.



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## Washington

from Page 1

first-grade classmates and teachers Nancy Lehman and Carol Gee in their production of "This is Your Life ... George Washington."

Laffin laments the closing of Washington and other smaller neighborhood schools with students close enough to get there on foot.

"I walked to school when I was in first grade, kindergarten," she said. "I walked to Webster Stanley as well. We walked through the lakeflies, and there was no dropoff/pickup like there is now."

Fast forward to this school year, Laffin was in attendance at Washington's final spring concert March 19 with her oldest granddaughter Stevie Buehner, daughter of Ted and Christina Buehner, taking part. Principal Kathryn Noble and music teachers noted the school's closing and the audience was encouraged to participate in a song as some tears were shed.

"It's a big deal to my sweet little second-grader because she really loves her school like a lot of kids do, and she's sad that she's not going to be going there anymore," she said.

The school property at 929 Winnebago Ave. is in the process of being sold to the city as most of its estimated 169 K-5 students transfer to the newly built Menominee Elementary School.

Habitat for Humanity has a plan to build private houses on the lot that will fit into the surrounding area.

"This will be a great re-use of the property that goes along with our housing goals," City Manager Mark Rohloff said.

Washington School became a Student



Submitted photo

Debbie Laffin is shown with granddaughter Stevie Buehner, a second-grader at Washington Elementary School.

Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) school in 2010, allowing for small class sizes in grades K-3 with parental involvement opportunities. The school earned a 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant that funds Lighted School House, which includes academic assistance and enrichment programming, and was a nine-time Wisconsin School of Recognition.

Farewell tours of Washington are set from 1 to 3 p.m. April 28 and 6 to 8 p.m. May 1.



## WineFeast Reservations Include: Cellar Select 5-8 p.m. | Night Cap 8-10:30 p.m.

Cellar Select is a fine wine and five-course dining experience with a champagne reception, short program, and live auction. Follow up dinner with Night Cap, exclusively for Cellar Select

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## Lead pipe loans

#### from Page 1

council amend the ordinance will allow changing the funding source to the DNR safe drinking water program, according to City Manager Mark Rohloff.

City attorney Lynn Lorenson said the city has been waiting for answers from the DNR and federal officials to get all the correct information related to the amended ordinance.

The new program is eligible to anyone with a lead service line. Gohde said most private lead lines were installed at the start of World War II, making them about 80 years old.

Gohde explained that if lead laterals are discovered during construction they must be replaced.

The city is not forcing properties with lead laterals to replace them in the immediate future but any lead lateral identified during road construction will be removed. Gohde said as soon as a lead pipe is dug up it has been disturbed and would need to be replaced.

Exposure to lead in drinking water through plumbing materials can cause health problems ranging from stomach distress to brain damage, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Last year the Public Works Department ran an extensive campaign to get Oshkosh property owners to have their pipes checked. This was to create an inventory so city staff would have a better understanding of how many lead laterals existed in the city.

The previous process, explained by Gohde, was that 50% of the project was paid for by the city after a property owner selected a contractor from a preapproved



Ochkoch Medi

Public works assistant director Steve Gohde updates the Common Council on the lead pipe replacement process.

list from the city. The property owner would pay the contractor and submit paperwork to the city, which would reimburse the owner.

The new process is similar, with the city expensing the entire cost and the city and property owner entering the loan program where the city would cover half the costs up to \$2,700. The cost to replace a lead lateral is about \$5,400.

The ordinances approved allow property owners who have to replace lead laterals to be reimbursed up to 50%. Some may qualify as low income and get all of the replacement funded.

Mayor Matt Mugerauer said public education would need to be offered with the new system. Gohde said there are mailings going out to property owners as early as this week.

More information regarding the lead service replacement program or to schedule a free service line inspection can be found at oshkoshwater.com.



## **Public library calendar**

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

#### April 1

Book Buzz, 8 a.m., YouTube Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m. LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-

7 p.m.

#### Read to a Dog, 4-5 p.m., ages 5-12

April 2

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

#### April 3

Baby/Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults

#### April 4

Baby/Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m. LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

#### April 5

Archive Dives, 9 a.m., YouTube LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-

5 p.m. Tween Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades 3-5 Teen Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades 6-8

Young Adult Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades 9-12

#### April 6

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9-4 p.m.

#### April 7

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4 p.m.

Drop-in Tech Help, 1:30-3:30 p.m., all

Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m. LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-

Read to a Dog, 4-5 p.m., ages 5-12

#### April 9

7 p.m.

#### April 10

Baby/Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults

#### April 11

Baby/Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m. LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

Afternoon Book Club, 1:30-3 p.m., adults

#### April 12

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-5 p.m

#### April 14

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4 p.m.

#### April 15

Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m.

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

Read to a Dog, 4-5 p.m., ages 5-12

#### April 16

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

Winnebago Free Legal Assistance Clinic, 4:30-6:30 p.m., adults

An Evening with the Director at Caramel Crisp Corner, 6-7 p.m., all ages

#### April 17

Baby/Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults Celebrate the Heart of Giving: the Wisconsin Volunteer Ombudsman Program, 2 p.m.

#### April 18

Baby/Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m. LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

Wonderlab, 5-6 p.m., grades K-2 Not Your Classic Book Club, 6 p.m., adults

#### April 19

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-5 p.m.

Tween S.T.E.A.M., 4-5:30 p.m., grades 3-5

#### April 20

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9 am.-4 p.m.

Saturday Surprise, 11 a.m.-noon, ages 5 and older

#### April 21

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4 p.m.

#### April 22

Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m. LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

Read to a Dog, 4-5 p.m., ages 5-12

#### April 23

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

Banned Book Club, 6:30 p.m., adults

#### April 24

Baby/Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults

#### April 25

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## ages April 8

7 p.m.

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-

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Elementary Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades K-2

#### April 13

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9 am.-4 p.m.

Read to a Dog, 10 a.m.-11 a.m., ages 5-12



Baby/Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m. LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

#### April 26

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-5 p.m.

#### April 27

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9 am.-4 p.m.

Read to a Dog, 10-11 a.m., ages 5-12

#### April 28

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4 p.m.

#### April 29

Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m. LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

Read to a Dog, 4-5 p.m., ages 5-12

#### April 30

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

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### Sliced Cheese





Ice Cream



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#### Ongoing

Craft Beer Week, Thursday through April 14

#### Thursday, April 4

Oshkosh Community Players "Death of a Salesman," 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

History Buffs Book Club, 6:30 p.m., Morgan House, 234 Church Ave.

#### Friday, April 5

Oshkosh Community Players "Death of a Salesman," 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Morgan House evening tours, 6 p.m., 234 Church Ave.

#### Saturday, April 6

Girls on the Fly, 8:30 a.m., EAA Youth Education Center

Oshkosh Winter Farmers Market, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

Art in the Garden Art Show and Sale, 10 a.m., Hilton Garden Inn

Rummage and bake sale, 8 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church, 240 W. 9th Ave.

Oshkosh Gallery Walk, 6 p.m., downtown Oshkosh Art Collective Show, 6 p.m., Gibson Social Club

Barley's Beer Sampling, 6 p.m., Barley & Hops, 663 N. Main St.

Oshkosh Community Players "Death of a Salesman," 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

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

#### Sunday, April 7

Art in the Garden Art Show and Sale, 10 a.m., Hilton Garden Inn

Bridge Tenders Breakfast with Oshkosh Boat Club, 10 a.m., Fox River Brewing Co.

Red Hot Chilli Pipers, 2 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Oshkosh Community Players "Death of a Salesman," 2 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

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

#### Thursday, April 11

Oshkosh Area United Way Community Celebration, 4:30 p.m., Venue 404

"Assisted Living: The Musical," 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

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

David Fiorazo, 6:30 p.m., Calvary SonRise Church, 222 Church Ave.

#### Friday, April 12

"Assisted Living: The Musical," 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Lourdes Academy Vegas Night, 6 p.m., Castle Gymnasium, 110 N. Sawyer St.

Special Olympics Spring Games, UW Oshkosh campus

#### Saturday, April 13

Run Away to the Bay 55-mile relay race, 6:30 a.m., Menominee Park

Special Olympics Spring Games, UW Oshkosh campus

Pat McCurdy, 8 p.m., Dublin's Irish Pub Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre, 7 p.m., Gibson Social Club

"The Iron Giant," 7 p.m., Time Com-

munity Theater, 445 N. Main St. Copper Box, 8 p.m., Revs Bowl Bar &

Grill, 275 N Washburn St.

Jason & the Jazzerknots album release, Becket's, 2 Jackson St.

#### Sunday, April 14

Special Olympics Spring Games, UW Oshkosh campus

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

#### Thursday, April 18

EAA Speaker Series: Tomcats Over the Gulf, EAA Aviation Museum, 3000 Poberezny Road

Chemists Celebrate Earth Week, 5 p.m., Oshkosh Public Library

#### Friday, April 19

Chemists Celebrate Earth Week, 4 p.m., Oshkosh Public Library

#### Saturday, April 20

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

Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra: Galvanize, 7 p.m., UW Oshkosh Arts and Communication Building

Rhinestone Cowgirls, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

## Rotary Club foreign exchange families sought

The Rotary Club of Oshkosh is holding an informational meeting for families interested in hosting a foreign exchange student. The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. April 10 in the Oshkosh West High School O Room.

The Rotary Youth Exchange program provides opportunities for students from Europe, Asia, Africa and South American to come to the United States as ambassadors of their countries and learn about life here. Rotary clubs recruit local families – three during the student's stay – who share their homes and lives during the school year.

For more information contact Karen Schibline at karen@insuranceservicesby-karen.com.

## Kitchen fire extinguishers distributed

#### Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Fire Department and Oshkosh Area Community Pantry distributed free self-activating kitchen fire extinguishers at the pantry Tuesday to guests ages 60 and older.

Stovetop Firestops are designed to extinguish stove fires without any action being taken by the resident of the home. They are a pair of cans filled with a fire extinguishing agent and magnetically attached to a range hood. They are activated

### Theater auditions to be held for 'Bye Bye Birdie'

Jolly Jester Community Theater will hold tryouts for its summer production of the musical "Bye Bye Birdie" from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in the Oshkosh Recreation Department Gym, 425 Division St.

Any adults and youth ages 7 and up who have ever wanted to be a part of community theater are encouraged to audition. Participants will be asked to sing a song with a karaoke track or acapella for one minute and recite a one-minute monoby a fuse on the underside of the can when flames are present.

Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and fire injuries in the United States, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Unattended cooking is the leading factor contributing to these fires and injuries.

According to the NFPA, people over the age of 65 are twice as likely to die or be injured in a fire when compared with the general population.

logue (poem, short story), preferably memorized.

"Bye Bye Birdie" is a send-up of 1950s small-town America, teenagers and rock 'n' roll. Full cast rehearsals will be held primarily at the Oshkosh Recreation Department Gym with the schedule yet to be determined beginning June 10. Performances will take place Aug. 15-17at Alberta Kimball Auditorium.

Information is available at oshkoshrecdept.com.

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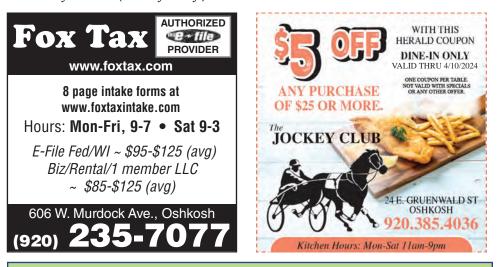
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## UWO faculty expertise helps curate Hmong artist's work



Photo from UW Oshkosh The work of Mao Lor (second from left) is on exhibit at the Paine Art Center and Gardens.



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# Paine exhibition features hand-sewn art

By Grace Lim UW Oshkosh Today

Two University of Wisconsin Oshkosh faculty members helped create an important exhibition featuring the first Hmong solo artist in the Paine Art Center and Gardens.

Chong Ntxoo Moua, assistant professor of UWO Hmong Studies, co-curated "Mao Lor: A Journey through Hmoob Paj Ntaub," an exhibition that showcases more than two dozen of Lor's hand-sewn and embroidered artwork, and Choua Xiong, assistant professor of Hmong Studies, helped develop and coordinate the K-12 curriculum for students who visit the exhibit.

Moua and Xiong said that the exhibition is more than just another art installation because of its historical significance.

"I was happily emotional and very proud of all the work we put in," said Moua, who worked with co-curator and artist Ger Xiong/Ntxawg Xyooj. "I got all the feels because it was so amazing to see Hmong art occupy the gallery space. We were able to turn that gallery, which most recently hosted Rodin sculptures, into a Hmong space. That contrast is not lost on me."

Moua was born in Laos before her family fled to Thailand. Her family came to the U.S. as refugees in 1989 and settled in California where she grew up. Xiong, born in Ban Vinai Refugee Camp in Thailand, grew up in Appleton.

"Hmong art is historically not seen as having the history and/or value of some pieces that have previously been featured at the Paine, but this exhibition definitely demystifies those dominant ideas," Xiong said. "My hopes are that people can reorient themselves to see and recognize Hmong artists as valuable



knowledge producers and contributors to their own lives. Hmong people are not just victims of the Secret War or worthy of recognition because they 'helped' Americans during the Vietnam War."

Xiong said Lor's work tells stories of the Hmong people other than those associated with war.

"The works shown in this exhibition...featuring Mao's life and her craft does not focus on the Secret War, but that Hmong paj ntaub has always existed before Americans encountered Hmong people," Xiong said. "Thus, this exhibit does not exoticize Hmong people in the Fox Valley but recognizes that Hmong talent is a norm in the Fox Valley. By featuring Mao, we get to name and associate Hmong textile with an artist rather than a faceless, nameless Hmong person."

Moua added that the exhibit is a celebration of people in the community.

"One thing I love about this exhibit is that it's both a Hmong story and also a very local Fox Valley story," she said. "It shows the vibrancy of both and how both stories can be told and celebrated together. Mao Lor has been a vendor at the art/craft fair hosted by the Paine for 20 to 30 years now, so this exhibit is really about bringing Mao from the outside of the Paine to the inside – to be a featured artist that deserves the honor of a solo exhibit to showcase her life's work."

The exhibition also features a documentary by filmmaker Soua Vang about Lor's art.

Aaron Sherer, executive director of the Paine, welcomed the partnership with Moua and Xiong, as well as the other Hmong professionals who contributed to the project.

"The Paine had the impulse to present Mao Lor's textiles in a major exhibition, but we didn't have the cultural perspective or expertise to ensure it would be done well," Sherer said. "Fortunately, the faculty in UWO's Hmong Studies program, Chong Moua and Choua Xiong, were willing to bring their full selves to shaping the project."

Sherer said the educational program led by Xiong will continue to have an impact beyond the walls of the Paine.

"We already have more than 40 school groups, from lower elementary to college, who are planning to participate in educational activities centered around the exhibition," he said. "After the exhibition, we will create a module with some of the cloths, the documentary film, and variety of educational activities that can travel to schools for years to come."



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# North's Angell brings multiple tools to diamond

By Tim Froberg Herald contributor

Two-way players in professional baseball like Shohei Ohtani are the rarest of cats.

However, there are plenty of athletes at the high school level who make multiple contributions with their arm, bat and glove.

They identify as baseball players and good ones like Colton Angell don't get caught up with labels and definitions.

The Oshkosh North shortstop-pitcher is gearing up for a big senior season at the plate, on the mound and in the field.

Angell is expected to be one of the better pitchers and overall players in the Fox Valley Association after missing a good chunk of the 2023 baseball season due to a knee injury.

"I've always considered myself to be more of a hitter and infielder, but I've shown development as a pitcher and I'll be going to college as a two-way player," Angell said.

Angell is just happy to be playing the game again. He missed nearly four weeks of a short 2023 Wisconsin prep baseball season after tearing the meniscus in his left knee. He was able to avoid surgery and return for late-season play.

"I collided with our center fielder on a fly ball and hyperextended the knee," Angell said. "I got a little down because it was the first time in my life that I had an injury and it kept me from doing something I love.

"But I definitely lucked out with the healing process and not needing surgery."

The injury limited Angell to 22 1/3 innings on the mound and just 25 plate appearances. He finished with a 2-2 pitching record and a 2.19 earned run average, striking out 22. He compiled a .240 batting average with a home run and five RBIs.

"Colton is a gamer and one of the most competitive players I've ever been around," said North coach Robert Loeper. "He hates to throw away at bats on offense



Senior Colton Angell is a standout pitcher and shortstop for Oshkosh North and will be one of the leaders for the Spartans this spring.

and when he's on the mound, he wants to strike everyone out.

"He showed me a lot by grinding through the injury to come back and help his team for our playoff game when he wasn't 100 percent."

Baseball is Angell's athletic focus. He's a single-sport athlete who has played travel ball the past three years for Wow Factor National, based in Millington, Tennessee.

"Ever since I was a very young kid, I always knew that baseball was my passion,"

## YMCA offering summer tennis camps

The Oshkosh Y Tennis & Pickleball Center is hosting summer tennis camps for ages 9 through adults from June 4 to July 18.

Adult tennis camp will be held from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The elementary/middle school camp will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday through Thursday. The high school JV session will be from 11:30 to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

The high school varsity section will be from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday at Oshkosh North High School.

Camp will be led by the Oshkosh Y's two new tennis professionals, Brian Hornburg and Bob Downey Jr.

Angell said.

"Travel ball has been a great experience. I've been able to meet guys from all around the country who are good players as well. It's pretty cool to travel down south to places like Georgia, Florida and Alabama and play in these big tournaments."

Angell appreciates the support he's

## Senior spotlight

been given in baseball by his parents, Jesse and Michelle. Jesse was a talented pitcher, shortstop and all-around athlete during his prep days at Winneconne High School.

"My dad has been a big influence on me in terms of baseball knowledge and IQ," Angell said. "My mom has always been really good with helping me on the mental side of the game.

"I appreciate what they've done for me. They do a lot of traveling with me throughout the summer. They do a lot of different things to help make my dreams come true."

Angell has made a commitment to play junior college baseball next year at Southeastern Community College in West Burlington, Iowa. He received the offer after impressing Southeastern coach Justin Schulte at one of the summer tourneys. Angell is a solid student who plans to major in business-marketing.

"The facilities and coaching staff are what I'm hoping will take me to another level," Angell said. "I really like the way Coach Schulte looks at the game. I just felt that working with him could really help my development. I would definitely like to go on to a four-year college, hopefully a bigger D-1 school."

Angell will head to Iowa as a two-way player who may contribute both on the mound and as a positional player. At 6-foot-3, 205 pounds, Angell has the type of size and arm power that could project well on the mound. He throws a four-seam and two-seam fastball along with a slider, curve and circle changeup. Angell's heater usually clocks in the 85-86 mph range.

"My college coach sees a lot of potential in my pitching," Angell said. "I think it's something that could be really good for me. We'll see what happens."





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## Area baseball teams look to improve entering 2024 season

By Dustin Riese Herald contributor

Sometimes records can be deceiving and don't tell the entire story for a team. That was the case for the Oshkosh North baseball team in 2023 as a record didn't indicate how good of a team they were at

times. Despite posting a 10-17 overall record, including 5-13 in FVA play, North had several games that they let get away late. A couple of those games could have had things looking much differently.

"Sometimes we were our own worst enemy," head coach Robert Loeper said.

## **Baseball** PREVIEW

"We would have a bad inning or two, which would put us in a hole and were gritty enough

to give ourselves a chance to win, but just ran out of innings to pull out the victory. We also needed to do a better job of minimizing big innings. We would get the first two outs of an inning but the other team would somehow scratch together a twoout rally and then we would be down. We need to find a way to minimize damage this season."

Hoping to learn from some of those mistakes a season ago, the Spartans enter this season predicted to finish ninth in the FVA by their peers and coaches.

Loeper is hoping to use that to light a fire in his team this season as they enter the 2024 season with much bigger goals in mind.

"The other coaches in the FVA picked us to finish ninth," he said. "Our goal is to finish in the top half of the FVA and continue to be a tough matchup for whoever we play. Hopefully playing the schedule we do and the conference we play in we can be battle-tested enough to play at home for a sectional playoff game."

For the Spartans to achieve some of the goals they have set for themselves, Colton Angell is going to be someone they lean on a ton both on the mound and at the plate.

Angell is a four-year varsity performer who missed the first month of the season with an injury last year and comes into this season healthy and ready for a massive season.

Another player to keep an eye on is Carson Steinbeck, who will be entering his third season at the varsity level. Steinbeck has been as steady as they come for the Spartans the past two seasons, both at the plate and in the field, and North will need that to continue this season.

Although North may have some questions on offense, the Spartans will have a strong rotation on the mound.

Shaun Gavin, also the top returning hitter for the Spartans, and Zach Kiffmeyer round out the Spartans staff and they will need all of these guys to deliver for the team to be successful.

"For us to be successful this season, we need to stay healthy, get timely hits and minimize damage," Loeper said. "We need to put pressure on the other team with big innings from an offensive standpoint and minimize damage on defense. I always tell the boys you can give up one but you can't give up three or four."

#### **Oshkosh West**

Things have been tough for the Oshkosh West baseball team in recent seasons but things may be looking up for head coach Tony Gerharz and his squad. Despite finishing with a 5-17 overall mark and 4-14 in conference play, this was a team that found themselves in several close games with some of them coming against some strong opponents.

The Wildcats had one of the youngest varsity rosters in the league a year ago, so simply gaining experience last year could help this group surprise some teams this season.

"We did have several close games last year and did beat some quality opponents but we needed to be more consistent in all aspects of the game," Gerharz said. "We did start four sophomores for most of the season last year and they got valuable experience in the FVA."

Now that his team has taken some of the lumps they took last season, the Wildcats are eager to make some noise in 2024.

That won't come easy considering the quality of opponents they see, but Gerharz knows the best way to get wins is to play with more consistency in every aspect of the game.

"Our goals and expectations for this season are the same as always," Gerharz said. "We hope to compete in the always tough FVA and improve as the season goes on."

One of the key players returning for the Wildcats will be senior pitcher Ryan Williamson, who missed all of last year because of injury but pitched well during his sophomore year.

West will count on a group of 15 juniors to lead the way, with most of that group already having gained varsity experience.

Juniors Eddy Schroeder, Landon Ubrig and Jaxon Prill started as sophomores last year and give the Wildcats a nucleus to build around entering the season.

Add in sophomores Evan Johnson and

pitcher/infielder Avery Mosloski, who have both looked good in practice this season along with seniors Ricky Ludwig, Trevor Davis and Williamson to round out this team, and the Wildcats may be young, but will have plenty of talent at their disposal.

What they do with that talent is on them, but for them to compete in this league and do what they feel they can it starts with their defense and goes from there.

"For the Wildcats to challenge in the FVA and beyond we need to play solid defense, get consistent pitching and improve our hitting from last year by getting guys on base and driving them in," Gerharz said. "We also need to have great team chemistry and every player being a positive contributor to the team in whatever role they play"

### Lourdes/Valley

When Matthew Armatoski took over the Lourdes Academy/Valley Christian baseball program in 2023, he knew there would be challenges along the way.

After graduating a talented class following the 2022 season, the Knights entered 2023 as one of the least experienced teams in the Trailways and finished the season 5-15 overall and 5-13 in conference play.

The final record wasn't what the team planned on, but the single biggest takeaway from last year was the experience that was gained.

Improving skills is one valuable aspect of getting time on the field but game experience can't be coached as that is going to be a massive key to the Knights season

SEE **Baseball preview** ON PAGE 19



Home Games at Lourdes Academy. *games at EJ Schneider Field.		Home Games played at Oshkosh North EJ Schneider Field		Home Games played at Oshkosh West Peppler Field		
May 20 Omro @ UW-Oshkosh	5:00pm	May 23 @ Kaukauna	4:30pm	May 23	Appleton West	4:30pm
May 17 @ Oakfield MS/HS	5:00pm	May 21 Kimberly	5:00pm	May 21	@ Hortonville	5:00pm
May 16 Pardeeville	5:00pm	May 20 @ Marinette	4:30pm	May 16	Oshkosh North	4:30pm
May 13 @ Pardeeville	5:00pm	May 16 @ Oshkosh West	4:30pm	May 14	@ Kimberly	4:30pm
May 10 Oakfield MS/HS	5:00pm	May 14 Fond du Lac	5:00pm	May 10	@ Kaukauna	4:30pm
May 9 Montello	5.000	May 10 @ Appleton North	4:30pm	May 9	Fond du Lac	4:30pm

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## Lourdes Academy girls to return experienced group

#### Oshkosh Herald

There is plenty of state meet experience returning to the Lourdes Academy girls track and field team as the Knights look to be a title contender in Division 3 in La Crosse later this spring.

**Track & Field** PREVIEW

Head coach Tim Moore returns five athletes that competed at the state meet in either relays or individual events last year and that group

will form a strong nucleus the team can build around and be a force in the Trailways Conference and beyond.

"We are looking to be competitive in our conference to battle for a team title," Moore commented. "We have a lot of state experi-

## **Baseball preview**

FROM PAGE 18

this year.

"Although the season didn't unfold as we hoped, there were plenty of positives," Armatoski said. "We had a very young team that gained valuable varsity experience. All of our starters from last year are returning, so we are looking to build off what we started."

That is a rare position to be in and when it comes to the Knights, having every starter back will be crucial to the teams success this season.

Whenever something like that happens, it makes your job easier as a coach knowing where everyone will be one day to the next.

After seeing the team improve as the season went on, Armatoski is expecting even bigger things this season as the Knights could be one of the surprise teams in the Trailways North.

"Not only are we returning all of our starters from last year but we are also adding a few new players that should make an immediate impact," Armatoski said. "Our ultimate goal is to compete for a top spot in the conference."

For the Knights to accomplish that goal, it will take a collective team effort, but that will all start and stop with their duo of Hunter Stelzer and Josiah Lehman on the mound.

Both are expected to have great seasons on the mound to set the tone for the Knights, while Lehman will also see some time in center field.

Other players who will contribute on

ence over the last two years. ... We are excited about our opportunities to continue in those events and hoping to bring a few others to state as well."

Lourdes Academy will return half of its state title winning 3,200-meter relay team from last year in juniors Erin Moore and Dasha Averkamp and the Knights have plenty of contenders to round out the group from its state-qualifying cross country squad. Freshmen Annie Moore, Tessia Mroczkowski, Allison Stromske and Elizabeth O'Connor all ran for the Knights this fall and should help fill out the two longest relays, while also adding to the individual lineup in the middle distance and distance races.

Lourdes Academy also qualified for state last year in the 800-meter and 1,600-meter

the mound and in the field include Eli Humiston and Parker Slusarski as they were some of the bigger names from last year's roster.

If this team wants to take that next step offensively and really make some noise, it will have to come from Michael Roberts, an honorable mention all-Trailways North selection a year ago.

Looking to build off his impressive 2023 showing, Roberts was the best offensive player for the Knights last season and Armatoski is looking for a similar showing this season.

Should that happen, and should the overall experience from this team come together, Lourdes is poised to have an incredible season anchored by what they hope will be a conference title and lengthy postseason run.

"All I know is that we have a dedicated group of players who have high expectations and are willing to work hard," Armatoski said. "I look forward to seeing what relays and will have a number of individuals in those two races as well. Junior Natasha Konop and Averkamp are back from the 1,600-meter relay team that placed fifth, while junior Sabur Machiros, sophomore Kylie Rietz and Konop all ran on the 800-meter relay.

Konop and Erin Moore are the two returning state-qualifying individuals.

Konop is the team's top hurdler and placed eighth in the 300-meter hurdles at the state meet, while Erin Moore qualified for state in the 800 meters and nearly qualified in the 1,600 meters as well.

Coach Moore also believes that sophomore Lucy Schade and freshman Celia Ralofsky will contribute to the team this year in the sprints and sprint relays.

The Lourdes Academy boys do not have any returning state qualifiers but will be led by seniors Jok Machiros and Joshua Rucinski, who will anchor the teams relays. Sophomore Isaak Rucinski also returns and will also be a part of the relays as well as running anywhere from 100 meters to 400 meters.

Mat Yaggie missed last season due to injury but is expected to compete in the hurdle events, while junior Wade Lindahl is a newcomer to the team and could help out in the 200 and 400 meters.

Coach Moore also has a trio of freshmen in Henry Spanbauer, Cameron Kapral and Zach Foster, who will share the middle distance duties after running cross country in the fall.

"We have an influx of new upperclassmen and a large group of freshmen contributors. We are a young team so competing at a high level at every meet will get us on track for the postseason," Tim Moore commented "We are excited to compete at a high level in conference which will lead our boys to getting a few events to state."

#### Valley Christian

The Warriors' roster doesn't sport any seniors but a large number of multi-sport athletes who will be able to compete at a varsity level.

Among the group of returnees for the girls are sprinters Alaina Wojtowski, a junior, and Anna Sawicki, a sophomore, while sophomore McKenzie Murphy in the distance events and sophomore Anna E. Giannopoulos in the throws also return from last year.

Wojtowski and Murphy both qualified for sectionals last spring.

The Warriors should also get a boost from freshman Mya Moran in the distance events and sophomore Lizzie Fink in the sprints and jumps.

The boys have one returning sectional qualifier in junior sprinter Ethan Robson, while fellow juniors Josh Johnson and Brady Patterson will also see action in the fastest races.

Sophomore Jonah Menet also returns to give the Warriors a point-getter in the distance events.

Head coach Trevor Kehoe also expects sophomore Mathias Behling in the sprints and jumps and freshman Ben Curtis in the throws and sprints to contribute this season.

#### **Oshkosh** North

State qualifier Logan Schettle will be one of the top returners for the Spartans.

Schettle qualified for state in the 100 meters and then anchored the Oshkosh North 400-meter relay team that made it to La Crosse as well. Senior Jelani Hernandez was an alternate on the relay team and should join Schettle to give North a 1-2 punch in the sprints.

Seniors Liam Murphy in the jumps and

SEE Track & field ON PAGE 20







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## **Prep sports roundup**

#### **SOFTBALL**

### **Oshkosh West opens** season with pair of wins

The Oshkosh West softball team opened the 2024 season by dispatching a pair of opponents inside the UW Oshkosh Dome last Thursday.

The Wildcats knocked off West De Pere 14-4 in six innings in the first game and then topped Green Bay Notre Dame 9-6 in the second game.

Chloe Tritt fueled the win in the first game going 4-for-4 with a pair of doubles and three RBIs.

Alexia Monroe added three hits and a pair of RBIs, while Laina Hammen added a pair of hits. Both Hammen and Tritt also scored three runs in the game.

Emmy Reichenberger also belted a three-run home run in the win.

Alayna Sadowska earned her first win of the year, scattering 11 hits while striking out three in six innings.

In the second game, the Wildcats secured the win by scoring three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning after Notre Dame had pulled within a run with three runs in the top of the frame.

Hammen finished 3-for-3 to lead the offense, while Sadowska chipped in a pair of hits and three RBIs.

Monroe earned the win in the circle striking out five in 5 1/3 innings before

## UWO basketball player on All-America Team

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh women's basketball player Kayce Vaile has been named to the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) NCAA Division III All-America Honorable Mention Team.

Vaile, from Greendale, followed up her first All-Region recognition from D3hoops.com with her first career All-America honor from the WBCA.

She finished the 2023-24 season ranking

Sadowska pitched the final 1 2/3 innings to get the save.

### SOCCER Wildcats rally to win opener over Redwings

Oshkosh West scored a pair of goals in the second half to upend Sheboygan South, 2-1, in a nonconference game last Thursday.

The Wildcats trailed 1-0 at halftime but got a goal from Ellianna Noe less than three minutes into the second half to tie the score. Morgan Toman assisted on the tally.

West then scored the game winner with less than two minutes to play as Taylin Heiman delivered the game-winning goal.

Hannah Wolf made two saves in goal for West.

#### **TRACK AND FIELD**

### Konop posts victory to lead Lourdes Academy

Natasha Konop darted to a win in the 60-meter hurdles to lead the way for Lourdes Academy at the Rosholt-Webko-Politos Invitational hosted by UW-Stevens Point on Saturday.

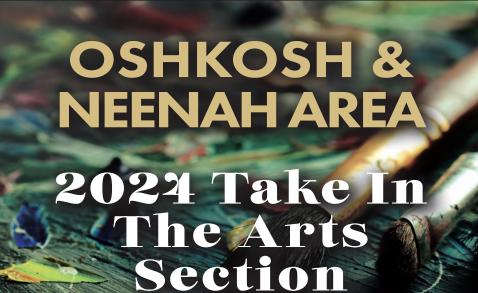
Konop, who was seeded first after the preliminaries, finished with a winning time of 9.71 seconds in the finals, which was more than six-tenths of a second ahead of the rest of the field.

second in the WIAC with 8.2 rebounds

per contest and 1.5 blocks.

Vaile passed Kristin Steckmesser for second in program history in blocks during the NCAA Championship, now sitting at 82. Cathy Tryon is the school record holder with 149 in two seasons.

Vaile was also named to her second consecutive All-WIAC Team after the conference tournament.



Erin Moore earned a pair of runner-up finishes for the Knights, taking second in both the 800 meters and 1,600 meters, while the Lourdes Academy 800-meter relay team also took second.

Kylie Rietz added a third place in the 60 meters with Bree Kane placing fifth in the long jump and seventh in the high jump at the meet. Dasha Averkamp added a seventh place in the 400 meters, while Annie Moore was eighth in the 800 meters.

On the boys side, Mat Yaggie had the top finish for the Knights taking third in the 60-meter hurdles.

Cameron Kapral was fourth in the 400 meters, while the Knights' 800-meter relay team was sixth.

### Spartans compete at Red Hawk Challenge

The Oshkosh North boys track and field team had three top-five finishes to highlight the performance at the Red Hawk Challenge held last week at the Wilmore Center at Ripon College

Joshua Zietlow posted the highest finish for the Spartans taking third place in the 400 meters. Bryce Ott tied for fourth in the high jump, while Logan Schettle finished fourth in the 60 meters and added an eighth place in the 200 meters.

North's 1,600-meter relay team of Zietlow, Cooper Snell, Tremaine Chapman

## **Track & field**

#### FROM PAGE 19

Chase Reyer in the distance events also return for head coach Steve Danza.

Schettle and Hernandez should have some help in the sprints from junior Josh Zietlow and sophomores Jamare Scott and Evan Auler, while junior Harrison Bell in the hurdles and jumps, sophomore Andrew Oehler in the throws and sophomore Bryce Ott in the high jump will also contribute on the varsity squad.

The North girls will have a strong contingent of varsity returnees this season led by seniors Nyedeng Awak, Abby Schloskey, Maddy Fabiano and Nora Flanigan in the sprints, Anabel Mitchel in the distance races and Jen'nycia Haynes in the jumps.

Juniors Lehna Mitchell in the distance races, Ariana McDowell in hurdles and Noelle Dutschek in throws as well as sophomores



and Clayton Sagataw picked up an eighthplace finish.

The top finisher of the girls team was the 1,600-meter relay team of Alai Awak, Hanorah Flanigan, Anabel Mitchell and Dahlyla Darden, which placed third at the meet.

Awak and Anabel Mitchell added fifth and seventh place finishes in the 400 meters, respectively, while Lehna Mitchell was seventh in the 1,600 meters.

### Wildcats post top finishes at showcase meet

Both the Oshkosh West girls and boys track and field teams had some strong showings at the Ripon College Showcase meet held recently.

The girls team had a pair of second-place finishers in Kylie Triebold in the 400 meters and Marissa Dutscheck in the shot put.

Allison Simmons posted a pair of fifth places in the 60-meter hurdles and the triple jump, while Kyana Williams was seventh in the 200 meters and Hailey Mynyk and Catherine Baerwald tied for seventh in the pole vault.

For the boys, Antoni Olszewski in the 60-meter hurdles and Ethan Pinkerton in the pole vault each finished second to lead West.

Chase Brandl added a fourth place in the 200 meters and Clark Howell picked up an eighth place in the triple jump.

Alai Awak in sprints and jumps and Shylee Yenter in throws also return.

Head coach Michelle Carbiener also looks for freshmen Promise Shehi, Elise Geffers and Dahlyla Darden to add depth in the sprints and jumps, while fellow freshman Adri Clark will compete in the distance rac-

"This year we have more depth in the sprints which will help us fill more events without sacrificing the relays," Carbiener commented. "I look forward to seeing what this team can accomplish. I foresee a big step forward for our team this season."

#### **Oshkosh West**

Senior thrower Marissa Dutscheck and senior sprinter/jumper Kyana Williams return for the Wildcats after qualifying for the state meet last season.

Dutschek qualified in the shot put, while just missing out competing in La Crosse in the discus and should be one of the top throwers in the Fox Valley Association this season. Williams qualified for state in the long jump and also competed at state in the Wildcats' 400-meter relay.

Oshkosh West had two other athletes compete at state last season in sophomore Sydnee Nelson and junior Stella Pahlow, but neither competed as individuals at a recent meet in Ripon.

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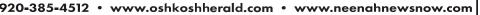
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Senior Allison Simmons in the hurdles and jumps has also gotten off to a fast start this season.

The boys have two returning state qualifiers in senior hurdler Antoni Olszewski and senior pole vaulter Ethan Pinkerton.



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## Stress management crucial Obituaries to maintain heart health

#### ThedaCare Communications

Maintaining a healthy weight, eating right and exercising are all important to heart health - and so is managing stress. According to the American Heart Association, chronic stress can contribute to heart disease - the leading cause of death in the United States.

Everyone experiences stress, and it's not all negative. Some forms are positive and can motivate change when it isn't serving us.

At the same time, long-term, unmanaged stress can pose health risks. It may

lead to high blood pressure, which can pose a risk for heart attack and stroke.

Stress can also prompt the release of cortisol, a hormone that can increase blood cholesterol, blood sugar, blood pressure and Moldenhauer triglycerides. Those



are all common risk factors for heart disease, explained Michele Moldenhauer, a licensed professional counselor with ThedaCare Behavioral Health, who also works with cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation patients.

Stress can lead to irritability, anger, impatience, anxiety, racing thoughts, depression and feeling overwhelmed. When people feel that way regularly, they're more likely to develop poor lifestyle habits or other unhealthy coping strategies, according to Moldenhauer.

Unmanaged stress can lead to behaviors that can affect heart health:

· Poor eating habits due to a lack of motivation to cook or eat nutritious meals

· Emotional eating that leads to consuming foods high in sodium, sugar and fat

- Smoking
- Use of nonprescribed drugs
- Excessive drinking
- Disrupted sleep

Other factors can arise as well. Exercise and connecting with other people are important factors in lowering stress and improving heart health. However, when a person is overwhelmed from chronic stress, they are less likely to exercise and engage with other people, Moldenhauer said.

"People may begin to isolate and have negative self-talk, which can lead to more depressive feelings," she said. "When there is low motivation and lack of interest in life, people may decide to quit taking their medications or not take them consistently as prescribed. This can result in compromised physical and mental health." Research also shows that people with depression can have stickier platelets, making it more likely that a person with heart disease will have a heart attack, according to an article by Johns Hopkins Medicine. By treating the depression, the platelets can become less sticky again, Moldenhauer noted. In addition, high levels of stress can lead to anxiety, which can promote inflammation in the body. This can include damaging artery linings and setting the stage for the buildup of coronary plaque, according to a Harvard University study. Both can lead to heart disease. While high levels of chronic stress can lead to both physical and mental health problems, it's important to note that stress is very treatable. Moldenhauer shares

#### some strategies:

• Treat physical illness. Take all medications as prescribed and seek medical attention when needed.

• Eat regular, healthy meals. Good nutrition is essential for healthy physical and mental functioning. Avoid foods with too much sugar, including high-carbohydrate foods that can make people feel overly emotional by causing rapid rises and crashes in blood sugar levels.

· Avoid nonprescribed, mood-altering drugs. This includes coffee and other caffeinated beverages. Caffeine can interfere with sleep and lead to feeling jittery and anxious.

• Develop a sleep/wake routine. A consistent sleep/wake routine helps signal the brain that it's time for sleep. Go to bed and get up at the same time every day.

• Practice good sleep hygiene. Stop using electronics two hours before bed, as the blue light emitted interferes with the body's ability to produce melatonin, which is needed for good sleep. Avoid evening exercise, as this can lead to a second wind and that makes it harder to get to sleep.

• Get regular exercise. Physical activity can burn off nervous energy, help with relaxation and release feel-good endorphins.

• Stay engaged. Connect with others and do healthy activities, such as hobbies, that may bring enjoyment.

• Seek professional help from a counselor. If the above tips don't lower your stress levels, seek help. Sharing your concerns with a counselor can help you feel better.

For those who have experienced a heart attack or other cardiac event, it's important to seek out specialized help to manage the stress and trauma that often follow.

After a heart attack, managing stress and mental health issues is just important as going through the physical aspects of cardiac rehab, Moldenhauer said. A National Institutes of Health study found that depression affects up to 40% of patients after they have suffered an acute cardiac event, while 50% of patients deal with anxiety. Meeting with a counselor after a cardiac event can be a crucial part of the healing process.

"Counselors can listen to an individual's experiences and struggles," Moldenhauer said. "Sharing problems with a counselor means that the person doesn't have to work through this on their own. Counselors also can help people learn skills or strategies for coping with stress, anxiety, depression, or post-traumatic stress disorder in healthy ways."

#### Patsy Ann Creapo

Patsy Ann Kellett Creapo transcended on Sunday, March 24.



1936, ahead ofher time, she lettered in basketball at Weyauwega High School; she was an avid hunter, but the day JFK was assassinated she put her rifle down. Loving the ocean, Pat

Born February 6,

would swim off Coronado Beach when she and husband, Ralph William Creapo (preceded her), where Ralph served as a Naval deep-sea diver in San Diego, CA.

Believing in equality, justice and freedom, Patsy fought for the Equal Rights Amendment. A County Hunter, she contacted every county in the US via code on her ham radio. She enjoyed campfires, nat-

#### Vernon Russell Staerkel

Vernon "Vern" Russell Staerkel, age 55, passed away on March 23, 2024, in



Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He was born to parents, Vernon W. and Shirley (Schlichting) Staerkel on May 16, 1968, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

After high school Oshkosh West, at Vern attended UW

Oshkosh and was part of the Sigma Pi fraternity ( $\Sigma\Pi$ ). He received his bachelor's degree and went on to an over 25-year career in radio advertising at Midwest Communications as well as a co-owner of Star Rental Properties with his brother.

Vern and the mother of his children, Monica Ceisel, raised three wonderful children, Morgan, Jakob and Riley. His proudest accomplishment were them and how proud he was of all three.

He was an avid Green Bay Packers football fan, he never missed watching or frequently attending games, especially when Brett Favre was leading the team. Vern was able to travel the world and fulfill his passion for scuba diving and exploring. His travels brought him anywhere from Australia and Europe to yearly trips with his kids to Walt Disney World. Nothing compared to what Maui, Hawaii meant to him and his family, which is why part of his ashes will be scattered there by his children in the future.

Vern is survived by his children, Morgan, Jakob and Riley Staerkel; mother, Shirley Staerkel; sister, Victoria Staerkel; brother, Kent (Jodi) Staerkel; nephews, ural waterways, her pond, birdwatching. reading, music and loved her cats.

Raising 3 independent women, she



taught her daughters to stand up against all odds for their beliefs: Jane Creapo Hamilton (Jesse Martinez), Kari Johnsen, and Janet Creapo. Grandchildren: Heather Creapo (GC Kyle DiLeonardo (Nessa)

& Felicity DiLeonardo: GGC are Christen-CJ & Alessandro), Jeremiah Johnsen, Sean Johnsen (Heather, GGC Ava & Cade), and Kelsey Johnsen Sallam (GGC Ayden, Autumn, Lincoln, River).

Special thank you to caregivers Felicity DiLeonardo, Kristi Redmann and Judy Buchanan.

Patsy lived well.

Courtney Kraut, Tyler Staerkel, Cody Staerkel and Dawson Kraut; as well as many friends.

Preceding him in death was his father, Vernon W. Staerkel, in 2023.

Visitation will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, 400 N. Sawyer St., Oshkosh, Wisconsin on Friday, April 12, 2024, from 10:00am to 11:30am, with service to follow by Pastor Jeffrey Knoll. His final resting place will be at Lake View Memorial Park Cemetery, 2786 Algoma Blvd., Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund is being established in his honor.





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## **Obituaries**

#### Neil C. Starke Jr.

On Thursday, March 21, 2024, Neil C.



Starke Jr. died unexpectedly at his home. Neil was the son of Gladys (Schuster) and Neil Starke Sr. He attended South Park elementary and middle school, and graduated from Osh-



kosh High School. Neil was preceded in death by his parents and foster niece Payee. He is loved and will be missed by his sister Ellen (Bruce) Mueller, nephew Wade Mueller, nieces Megan (Shyam) Kan-

tara, Trisha (Simon Troupe), Tiffany, Eliz-

abeth (Chee Vang) and Mai Der Mueller, and Alli (Miles) Oney. He also leaves behind his ex-wives, Lorrie Starke, Judy Brouillard, former fiancée Teresa Souther, grandnieces Lydia and Greta Troupe, Esmay Kantara, and Aleah Oney, his cat Zeke, along with many cousins and close friends.

As a lifelong lover of music Neil played drums and guitar, sang in numerous choirs, and after retirement began piano lessons. Neil also enjoyed his Harley Davidson motorcycle, spending time with friends and loved ones, and caring for his cat Zeke. A big fan of animals in general, over the course of his life Neil had two puppies, a monkey, hamsters, a parakeet, rabbits, a dog, a chicken, turtles and several cats as pets. Neil's Christian faith was important to him and matched his huge heart and desire to do good in this world. Neil will be remembered as a good and kind person who was quick with a joke and always willing to help others.

A Celebration of Neil's life will take place on Saturday, March 30, 2024, at the Havenwood Heights Club House at 333 North Westhaven Drive, Oshkosh. Visiting begins at 11:00 a.m. service at 12 noon, lunch to follow.

Mueller Funeral Home-Winneconne is assisting the family. If you wish, please

#### **Jeffrey W. Pitz**

Jeffrey W. Pitz, age 57 of Oshkosh, passed away on March 31, 2024. He was born on May 24, 1966 to the late Bernard "Bernie" and Nancy (Davies) Pitz.

Funeral arrangements are currently pending with Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes, 920-231-1510.



submit online condolences/memories to muellerfh.net.

Obituary submitted by Ellen Mueller.



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## Obituaries

#### Harvey K. Jacobson

Harvey K. Jacobson, 93, of Oshkosh, died December 8, 2023 in Oshkosh, WI.



2023 in Oshkosh, WI. Dr. Jacobson was professor emeritus of journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Jacobson was born

Jacobson was born Sept. 19, 1930, at Langdon, N.Dak., to Carl and Helen

(Swenson) Jacobson. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, 1952-1954. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of North Dakota and the Ph.D. in mass communications from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Jacobson married Borghild Schoberg June 10, 1962, at Moorhead, Minn. and they lived in Madison, Wis., Grand Forks, N. Dak., and Ann Arbor, Mich., before moving to Oshkosh in 1984.

Jacobson's career was devoted to journalism, higher education administration, teaching and research. He reported and edited for the Fargo Forum in the 1950s. He also served in executive, administrative and faculty positions at the University of North Dakota and the University of Michigan for more than 25 years. Jacobson accepted a faculty position at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in Fall 1984 and served as professor of journalism until June 1993, when he retired. Jacobson was active in professional and educational organizations at local, district and national levels. He won several awards for publications, programs and professional leadership and authored more than 130 journal articles and publications. Jacobson was a member of First English Lutheran Church, Oshkosh. Over time, he served on committees and boards of Lutheran congregation in North Dakota, Michigan and Wisconsin, and served on committees and task forces of the American Lutheran Church at synod and national levels.

Jacobson was preceded in death by his wife of 32 years, Borghild, who died in 1994, and three brothers, Orville, Claude and Floyd, and a sister, Gloria Soli. Survivors include a son, Paul (Anne) Jacobson, Ferndale, Mich.; a daughter, Maren McCue, Chelsea, Mich.; and two grandchildren, Jourdan and Jacob McCue, Chelsea, Mich.

Funeral services will be held at Evergreen Retirement Community on April 13th at 10:30 a.m. led by the Rev. John Wills, pastor at First English Lutheran Church of Oshkosh and the Rev. Steve Wood, Evergreen chaplain. Visitation will be at Evergreen from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service. A reception at Evergreen will follow the service. Burial will be at South Pembina Lutheran Church Cemetery, Loam Township, rural Langdon, N.Dak., on July 6th. Email hkj. burialinfo@gmail.com for further burial details.

The family requests that those wishing to give memorials direct them to the Evergreen Foundation Benevolence Fund

#### Neil Starke

Neil Starke passed away unexpectedly Thursday, March 21, 2024. He was born September 27, 1951, to the late Neil Sr. and Gladys (Schuster) Starke.

He attended Oshkosh West High School, graduating in 1971. For 25 years Neil worked at Park View Health Center in various roles, and then at Pacur Manufacturing for 10 years before retiring. Neil was very proud of being a friend with Bill W. for 43 years. He enjoyed making other people laugh even when his jokes were bad. Neil also enjoyed riding motorcycles, fishing, and gambling.

While working at Park View Health Center, he met Judith Brouillard and they were married on May 16, 1998. Although they later divorced due to his inner demons, they remained close friends. He would often tell her that she was the love of his life and wished he wouldn't have divorced her.

#### **Carl Sosnoski**

Carl Sosnoski, age 78, of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully at his home on Thursday evening, March 28, 2024.

Funeral arrangements are pending and

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or the First English Lutheran Church Music Fund.

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Neil is survived by his ex-wife, Judy; his daughter; sister and brother-in-law; several nieces and nephews; and his close friends, Nancy and Dave Ellefson.

If you wish, donations in Neil's name can be made to the Oshkosh Area Humane Society; a place Neil adopted several animals from, including his latest cat, Zeke. Donations can also be made to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Depression and mental illness are very real. If you are ever in need of help, the Suicide and Crisis lifeline provides 24/7 free and confidential support at the national number 988 or 988lifeline.org.

Mueller Funeral Home-Winneconne is assisting the family. If you wish, please submit online condolences/memories to muellerfh.net.

Obituary submitted by Judy Brouillard

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#### Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: RYLAN ROBERT LARSEN

By (Petitioner): Nina Marie Larsen

By (Co-Petitioner): Melissa Ann Larsen

Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2024CV000224

#### NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Rylan Robert Larsen To: Rylan Rose Larsen Birth Certificate: Rylan Robert Larsen

IT IS ORDERED: This Petition will be heard in IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: SAVANNAH ALEXIS LOPEZ

Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2024CV000207

**NOTICE IS GIVEN:** A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person

listed above: From: Savannah Alexis Lopez To: Savannah Alexis Moreno Birth Certificate: Savannah Alexis Lopez

#### IT IS ORDERED:

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin: Judge's Name: Hon. Daniel J. Bissett

Place: Winnebago County Courthouse Room 531

415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Date: April 17, 2024 Time: 11:00 am **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:** Notice of this hearing shall be nublicatio 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Oshkosh Herald a newspaper published in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin. BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: March 5, 2024 /s/ Hon. Daniel J. Bissett Run: March 20, 2024, March 27, 2024 and April 3, 2024

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED

ABOVE AS DEFENDANTS(S): You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above.

The lawsuit will be heard in the following Small Claims court: Winnebago County Courthouse Courthouse Telephone Number of Clerk of Court: 920-236-4858 Courtroom/Room Number: Room 150 OR VIA REMOTE VIDEO OR PHONE

Address: 415 Jackson St, Oshkosh WI 54901 Date: 4/24/2024 Time: 11:00 a.m.

If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgement against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

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Place: Winnebago County Courthouse Room 531

415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Date: April 18, 2024 Time: 1:30 pm **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:** Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Oshkosh Herald a newspaper published in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin. **BY THE COURT:** 

DATE SIGNED: March 11, 2024

/s/ Hon. Daniel J. Bissett Run: March 20, 2024, March 27, 2024 and April 3, 2024 WNAXLP

> STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY

WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, WINNEBAGO COUNTY Small Claims Publication Summons And Notice Case No: 24 SC 633

AUTOMAX FINANCIAL, LLC W133N8569 EXECUTIVE WAY MENOMONEE FALLS, WI 53051

Plaintiff(s)

NADYA LYNN WILKER 736 JEFFERSON STREET OSHKOSH, WI 54901 Defendant(s). You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date my filing a written Answer with the clerk of court **before** the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.

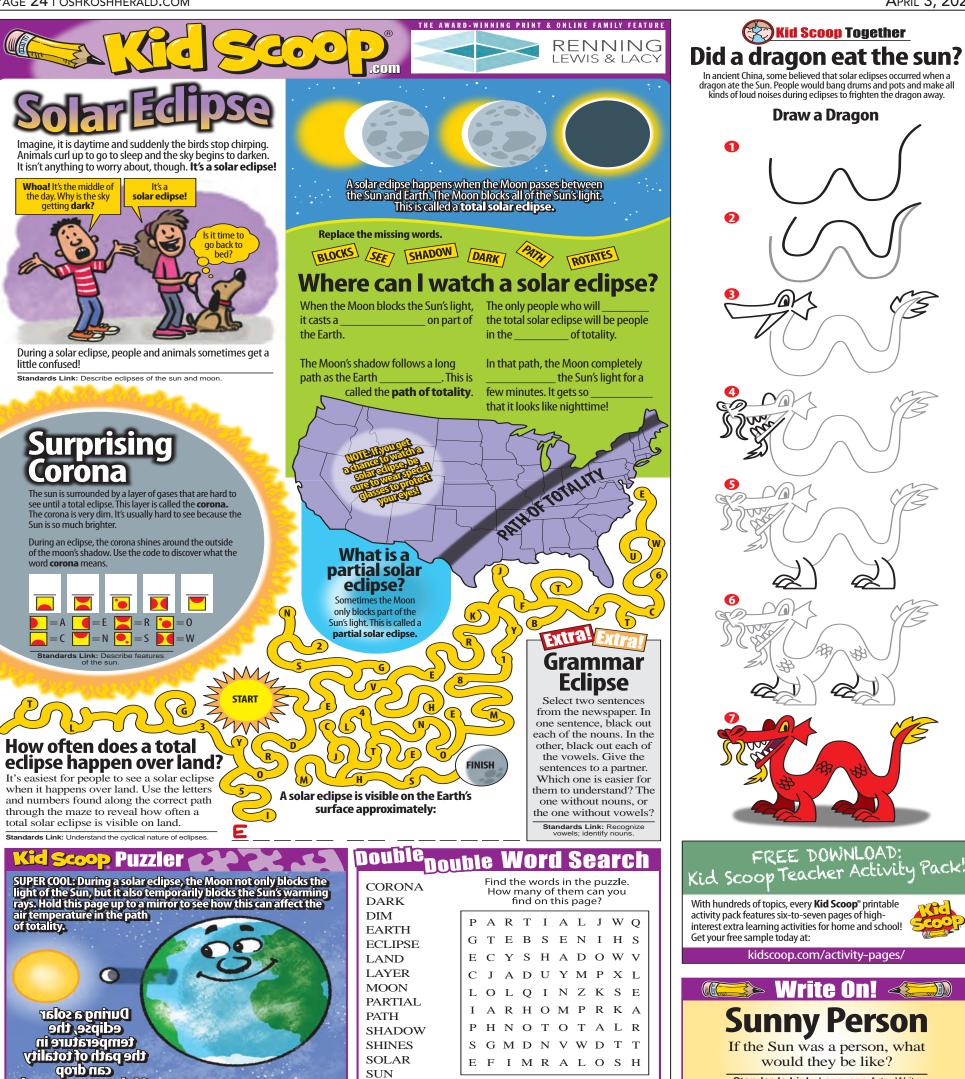
Dated: 3/27/2024 /s/ Amy M. Bentley Salberg Tuffnell Law, SC 933 N. Mayfair Road, Suite 325B Milwaukee, WI 53226 Phone: 262-353-9556 Bar No: 1025449Run April 3, 2024, April 10, 2024 and April 17, 2024 WNAXLP

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