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Oshkosh Herald

Arbor Day planting

Oshkosh North junior Garret Munig works to plant a Mountbatten upright juniper in Akan Acres on Friday to celebrate Arbor Day. See the story on Page 12.

New equity plan keys on students

School achievement under closer scrutiny

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Area School District now has an equity plan in place designed to promote achievement and engagement for students by helping all learners.

The plan was approved by the Board of Education by a 5-2 vote with board members Tim Hess and Kelly DeWitt voting against. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) director Anthony Miller gave an overview of the plan that includes 40 points over many areas, including academic achievement and an anti-harassment policy.

"The core goal of the OASD equity plan is to provide all students with access to high-quality teaching and learning so that all students can achieve their potential," Miller wrote in the equity plan's executive summary. "This goal will increase the likelihood that all OASD students will be adequately prepared to fully engage and contribute to society."

In Hess' first meeting after being elected to the board, he spoke about his concerns with the plan, saying he believed there was not a way to evaluate if it is working.

"I understand the types of things we should be looking at," Hess said, while questioning how some areas can be measured.

He called for an amendment to add an evaluation plan to measure the success of some of the 16 categories that Miller

SEE **Student equity** ON PAGE 12

Supple leaves diamond to pursue career in sports media

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

The competitive softball playing career for Sydney Supple may be over.

But that doesn't mean the Oshkosh North alum is ready to step away from the game or walk out of the sports arena as a whole.

Supple, who starred as a member of the Northwestern University softball team, is currently working toward her master's degree in broadcast and digital journalism at the prestigious Newhouse School at Syracuse University. She hopes to parlay her experience, knowledge and passion as a play-

er into a career that keeps her in the softball and sports world.

"I knew I never wanted to leave softball or sports and this year has been a year for investing in my career," Supple said in a phone interview last week. "I've taken up so many avenues to see what I am really passionate about and also just to get my name out there in different ways."

Supple received her journalism degree



Supple

last spring from Northwestern – one of the most prominent journalism programs in the country, whose alumni include the likes of Christine Brennan, Mike Greenberg and Michael Wilbon – and had been accepted into the master's program at the school.

Instead of staying put, Supple opted to be part of the master's program at Syracuse giving her experience with two prestigious journalism and communication programs.

"I feel very fortunate to be able to study at arguably the top two journalism schools," Supple said. "It was a hard decision for me to make (to attend Syracuse). But after four years of writing, I really wanted the broad-

cast and digital aspect of the business and Syracuse offered me that."

Supple also had the opportunity to be the Sports Illustrated reporter for the Syracuse football team. She traveled with the team the entire season and finished that experience in January.

A few weeks later, she accepted a position with Softball America, a media outlet that creates content centered around collegiate softball. Supple provides analysis on trends within the game as well as breaking down the top teams in the country, while also cre-

SEE **Supple update** ON PAGE 21



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City staff reviewing ARPA applications

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh set aside about 25% of the \$20.5 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money it received for non-infrastructure projects for community groups – mainly not-for profit organizations. City officials are now reviewing applications from those groups with funds to be dispersed soon.

Of those funds, the city has about \$2.35

million still available. The previous council had discussed opening up the application process to the entire community after certain groups were told they could apply for funds while other nonprofit organizations believed the application process was completed.

Since the application process was reopened the city received 51 requests totaling more than \$12 million. City staff broke them down into categories for the

council with the top requests related to infrastructure, employment, child care, diversity and equipment.

ARPA funds must be allocated by the end of this year and projects using that money must be completed by 2026 per federal guidelines.

City Manager Mark Rohloff told the council he intends to bring the selected applications to the council all at once for approval.

Wisconsin St. bridge project seeks input

Oshkosh Herald

Proposed improvements to the State 44 (Wisconsin Street) bridge over the Fox River in Oshkosh are open to public comments by the state Department of Transportation (DOT) Northeast Region.

The project will prevent deterioration of the structure steel caused by corrosion through a new paint system that will preserve the integrity of the load steel members and extend the service life for the bridge, and reduce maintenance costs.

Construction is slated for the fall of 2026 into the spring of 2027. The bridge will remain open to marine traffic and motorists while there will be lane and sidewalk closures.

Details can be found at wisconsin.dot.gov under Projects, which includes maps of the project limits and location, scope and schedule, traffic impacts, displays and exhibits, and temporary business signing information.

Work will include removing the deteriorating paint system, repainting the structural steel members of the bridge and replacing the gate arms.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

May 1, 1919

Keep Steamer Here: It is understood that C.R. Clark and Capt. Wallace W. LeFevre, pioneer steambot operators here, have decided to retire from the business. That action will undoubtedly mean the sale or retirement of the last large steamer operating from this port. The Paul L. is owned by Clark and LeFevre. It is believed the loss of water transportation would create a real hardship and more expense for freight and passengers alike. It would be a real blow to Oshkosh to lose its last large water vessel, which would probably be the outcome if the owners retire. The Paul L has served well the ports of the Fox and Wolf Rivers. Last season the vessel made daily trips between Tustin, Fremont, and Oshkosh. It not only carried hundreds of passengers, but large amounts of freight from



The Paul L steamer is shown in Menasha in this undated photo.

livestock down to a wheel barrow. In the latter part of the season, the Paul L delivered large quantities of potatoes to the area. Concerned members of local commerce claim the withdrawal of the steamer would have greater impact to business than most people realize and suggest steps ought to be taken without delay to see that Oshkosh does not lose its one and only steam vessel now in service. Captain LeFevre has been in the boating business for 51 years on these waters and is planning to take a rest from his labors. Mr. Clark has other interests demanding his attention and wants to retire from steam boating.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, May 1, 1919

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Boys & Girls Club welcomes public to its new facilities

Oshkosh Herald

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh's latest facilities expansion – the Hyde Family Community Center, Verve Administrative Center and Amcor Teen Center – will be open to the public from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday with a ribbon-cutting at 3 p.m.

The building at 501 E. Parkway Ave. began its \$18.5 million expansion in October 2022 to better serve the needs of children and families. The recently completed fourth phase of the project includes a 30,000-square-foot building that houses the community, administrative and teen centers.

The Hyde Family Community Center brings together more than 24 local agencies to collaborate on service capabilities for families.

“One way to make Oshkosh a better community is to have a positive impact on kids,” said Doug Hyde, lifetime board member and former president and CEO of OshKosh B’ Gosh, a third-generation, family-owned company. “My parents cared deeply about Oshkosh and were very philanthropic in supporting the community as a vibrant, wonderful place to live and raise a family.”

The Verve Administrative Center features an 8,000-square-foot Amcor Teen Center on the second floor for ages 13-18 and a new administrative wing.

“We are honored to support the Boys & Girls Club’s Capital Campaign and are excited to see our Oshkosh Club thrive. It is a valuable investment,” said Kevin J. Ralofsky, president and chief executive officer of Verve, a Credit Union. “We are committed to leading the way in empowering young minds to become the compassionate leaders of tomorrow. We know

that with the right support, the youth in our communities can develop into the confident, community-minded people we know they desire to be.”

The club’s current Teen Center and administrative offices were renovated to become the new OshKosh B’gosh Middle School Center for ages 10-12, doubling the program space. In addition, club members have the new Community First Credit Union Multipurpose Field, a turf field with year-round access.

“This expansion and renovation allow us to create so many opportunities for the kids of Oshkosh, and with the addition of the Hyde Family Community Center, to serve additional families in a more impactful way,” said Tracy Ogden, Boys & Girls Club chief executive.

The final phase of the project, beginning construction in June, includes a second gym and new playground for the 450 children the club will be able to serve daily. Donations are being accepted at bgcosh.org or by contacting 920-233-1414, ext. 116 or tracyo@bgcosh.org.



Boys & Girls Club photo

The Hyde Family Community Center, Verve Administrative Center and Amcor Teen Center will be open to the public Sunday for their dedication.

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State judicial ethics panel rarely acts on complaints

Winnebago misconduct claims from 2023 pending

By Bethanie Gengler
OSHKOSH HERALD

When an attorney put a “LaKeisha Haase for Judge” campaign sign on his land in Omro last year, newly re-elected Winnebago County Circuit Judge Scott Woldt allegedly threatened to retaliate for supporting Woldt’s opponent, according to a complaint to the Wisconsin Judicial Ethics Commission (WJC).

Woldt was appointed to the Branch 2 bench in 2004 and subsequently elected to six-year terms in 2005, 2011, 2017 and most recently defeating Haase to retain his seat in a contentious election in 2023.

It wasn’t his first time being accused of misconduct. In 2021, the Wisconsin Supreme Court issued him a seven-day unpaid suspension for six incidents of misconduct from 2009-2016. Last year’s election was his first after being issued the sanction.

The WJC recently released its annual report detailing judicial misconduct investigation results, which may provide some insight into whether the commission found the newest allegations credible.

The report demonstrates that the majority of judges, justices and court commissioners accused of misconduct in Wisconsin rarely face serious repercussions.

Complaint process

Allegations of judicial misconduct are reviewed by the WJC panel, consisting of nine appointed members. It includes one judge from the Court of Appeals, a circuit court judge, two lawyers and five nonlawyer laypeople.

Complaints found to be within the WJC’s jurisdiction and “not patently frivolous or unfounded” are evaluated to determine whether they will be referred for investigation.

Allegations not meeting the criteria are dismissed.

Once WJC concludes an investigation, it may dismiss the matter with no action,

dismiss with expression of concern or warning, or file a complaint with the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court uses civil procedure to evaluate judicial misconduct and issue a final decision. Sanctions include reprimand, censure, suspension and removal from office.

A judicial misconduct suspension is uncommon, with only 15 judges suspended in the state in the past 45 years. Woldt is the only judge in Wisconsin suspended in the past three years.

Past misconduct

The Supreme Court sanctioned Woldt in 2021 for crude, sarcastic and undignified comments, intemperate remarks and twice displaying a handgun in the courtroom as a “prop.”

Among the incidents: calling a 13-year-old sexual assault survivor a “so-called victim,” while referring to her assailant as a “very smart man” with a low probability of re-offending, and chastising a domestic violence victim for requesting that her assailant be issued a fine and telling her not to contact police.

During a 2015 sentencing hearing for a developmentally disabled man, Woldt held up a handgun. The following year, he displayed a gun to a visiting group of high school students.

The Supreme Court wrote that five of the incidents occurred in just under a year and showed an “aggravating pattern of misconduct” requiring an unpaid suspension “to impress upon Judge Woldt the seriousness of his misconduct and the need for him to change how he treats the jurors, lawyers, litigants, witnesses, victims and staff with whom he interacts.”

Attorney complaints

Matthew Goldin has been a practicing attorney for 33 years and has an office in Oshkosh. He filed a formal request for investigation with the WJC last year, accusing Woldt of misconduct.

Goldin wrote that a week after Woldt was re-elected he was on the bench speaking to a group of students visiting his courtroom when he made comments “essentially scolding” the attorney for supporting Haase in the election.

The more serious incident took place

two weeks later during a social event at an Oshkosh establishment and was witnessed by two other attorneys, including one who confirmed to media she was first accosted by Woldt before he accosted Goldin.

Goldin wrote that during the event Woldt pulled him over and said the attorney was “dead to him” for putting a Haase campaign sign on his property and threatened to use his judicial power to punish the attorney, his clients and practice “for some sort of perceived entitlement to loyalty” unless Goldin paid him \$28,000 for the contested election.

Campaign finance records show Woldt’s re-election committee dispersed \$27,218 in last year’s spring election. Under Wisconsin law, a judicial candidate may not personally solicit or accept campaign contributions and judges are prohibited from accepting gifts, favors or loans from attorneys if they have come or are likely to come before the judge.

The code of judicial conduct also states that a judge, candidate for judicial office, or judge-elect “should not manifest bias or prejudice inappropriate to the judicial office.”

Every judge, candidate for judicial office, or judge-elect should always bear in mind the need for scrupulous adherence to the rules of fair play while engaged in a campaign for judicial office.”

Judicial complaints are not released publicly until the commission has found probable cause to make a recommendation to the Supreme Court.

The complaint against Woldt became a public record last April when it was filed as an exhibit in a motion to have him substituted in a case he was presiding over, where Goldin was representing the defendant.

The WJC in its yearly report wrote “the mere filing of a request for investigation does not entitle a complainant to the assignment of a different judicial official to hear a case.” Woldt recused himself from the case one day after the misconduct complaint was filed.

A review of Winnebago County Circuit Court records indicate Woldt is no longer presiding over cases where Goldin is the attorney of record, with all Goldin’s cases referred to other circuit court branches.

WJC 2023 annual report

Goldin’s complaint was one of 664 initial inquiries WJC received last year, of which it evaluated 42 requests for investigation and authorized eight investigations – about 1% of the total inquiries received.

Of the 42 requests evaluated, about 76% were involving circuit court judges. The vast majority were submitted by litigants, with only seven attorney complaints reviewed.

Allegations included demeanor/injudicious temperament, partiality/bias/prejudice, abuse of power, improper ex-

tra-judicial activity, improper political or campaign activity and misuse of prestige of judicial office, among others.

WJC concluded its eight investigations last year without filing any complaints with the Supreme Court. Two cases were dismissed with no action and six were dismissed with expression of concern or warning.

While it’s uncertain whether the complaint against Woldt was one of those dismissed with concern or warning, his conduct matches some of the behavior that the commission wrote was exhibited by judicial officials who were the subjects of dismissal.

WJC dismissed, with concern or warning, complaints including improper courtroom demeanor, bias, improper campaign activity and improper political activity.

Over the past five years, about 1% of the 4,211 initial misconduct inquiries WJC received were authorized for investigations and two complaints were filed in the Supreme Court, amounting to half of a percent of the five-year inquiry total.

Commission criticism

In the past five years, the WJC dismissed 96% of its investigations with no action or with expression of concern or warning, but the public will not learn the details of the misconduct unless the officials reveal it themselves. That’s because like many other states, deliberations and investigations are kept confidential unless the judicial official is charged.

Critics of the commission note that a judge hasn’t been removed from the bench in Wisconsin in nearly four decades. With the primary judicial repercussions being reprimands or temporary suspensions, it leaves little oversight on judicial officials’ behavior.

Nationally, about a third of judicial discipline cases each year are for failing to be patient, dignified and courteous, according to the National Center for State Courts.

The organization reports that in 2023, judicial officials were sanctioned for profanity, demeaning statements, name calling, sexually charged comments, inappropriate hugging, mocking gestures, aggressive questioning and misuse of the contempt power.

The independent news organization AbusiveDiscretion, which reports on judicial misconduct, wrote in April that recent judicial ethics news stories have “ignited a debate about the complex intersection of personal relationships, political influence and impartiality within the judicial system.”

While the public may never learn whether Woldt experienced repercussions for his alleged actions last year, the organization noted “it’s essential for judges to be cognizant of the potential conflicts of interest and the appearance of impropriety to maintain the public’s trust in our judiciary.”



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Oshkosh Herald

Read Elementary School student Messiah helps muralist Neo Medina with artwork outside the school last week.

Mural project brightens Read school

Oshkosh Herald

A new mural was created in the refurbished Read Elementary School playground area last week by a professional artist with assistance from students and volunteers.

As part of a revitalization of the playground and spaces around the building, the mural adds to colorful new playground equipment, including a fire truck-themed play set, musical instruments and swings.

Medina is a University of Wisconsin Oshkosh graduate who has created several murals with youth in Appleton through projects with the Boys & Girls Club and Appleton Area School District.

Like many of Medina's projects, the mural at Read features portraits of students in bright colors. Project organizers said

the artwork will elevate the vibrant and diverse identities of the students and help to build a positive school community. She said the mural will also help to share this empowering message with the neighborhood.

Students of all grade levels participated in the mural project over three days with community volunteers assisting the artist and students. All participants and the school's families and neighbors celebrated the mural's completion this Tuesday.

The mural project is supported by ArtScore, a partnership between the Paine Art Center and Gardens, UW Oshkosh and Oshkosh Area School District. The playground project has been supported by more than 20 businesses and organizations, as well as many individuals.

Two facing weapons, drug charges after pub crawl

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

An Oshkosh man is facing multiple felony charges after an incident during a campus-area pub crawl.

Lamont A. Brown, 20, is charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and two counts of felony bail jumping. He was also charged with misdemeanor possession of THC and possession of amphetamine/LSD/psilocin. Each count has a repeater modifier attached that could bring a longer sentence if convicted.

The Oshkosh Police Department called the pub crawl an "unsanctioned yearly event" that results in an increase in house parties in the city.

"Members of the Oshkosh Police Department's Mobile Field Force worked diligently throughout that day to increase the presence of law enforcement in the residential areas near the campus," a statement from police said.

At Brown's initial appearance, Court Commissioner Eric Heywood set his cash bond at \$20,000.

According to the criminal complaint, on the night of April 13 there were reports of multiple shots fired in the area of Scott Avenue and Wright Street. An officer spoke to witnesses that believed the shooter was in their house.

One of the witnesses told police after he heard shots fired a man came into their home saying he was trying to get away from the shooting. Brown allegedly showed one of the witnesses a black handgun.

When officers cleared the residence they saw a man matching the description the wit-

nesses gave police of Brown. He was searched by police and 3.6 grams of marijuana was found. Another search at the Winnebago County Jail found 2 grams of MDMA.

Officers searched the house and found a black pistol with an extended magazine with a 31-round capacity and 25 live rounds in the gun and one in the chamber.

Brown remains in custody and is scheduled to be back in court for a hearing Monday.

Police responded to 100 calls for service during the pub crawl, arrested five and wrote 48 citations - three for underage drinking and 39 for open intoxicants.

The second arrest was a Milwaukee man charged with misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct and carrying a concealed weapon. Court documents allege the man was seen by police pushing or hitting another man and when officers placed him in handcuffs a pair of brass knuckles was found in his pocket.

His case is set for a plea/sentencing hearing May 13 in front of Judge John Jorgensen.



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Hrnak's Flowers and Gifts celebrates 100 years

Business grows all its garden center plants

By MaryBeth Matzek
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Known for helping others celebrate major life events, Hrnak's Flowers and Gifts has its own celebration to commemorate – its 100th anniversary.

Owner Patti Kent, who purchased the business in 2005, attributes Hrnak's longevity to understanding what customers are looking for and providing high-quality products.

"I believe our success is due to us keeping up with the ever-changing floral industry trends as well as our long-term employees, customer dedication and support from the community," she said. "Our florists are committed to creating beautiful, hand-arranged floral gifts for any occasion — that's what we are known for."

Hrnak's Flowers and Gifts, 1307 W. 9th Ave., provides a wide variety of flower arrangements, sells outdoor plants in its garden center and offers seasonal and all-season gifts and decor.

The shop has nine greenhouses where it grows all the plants it sells in the garden center. Kent said if someone wants to order their flowers before the planting season begins, Hrnak's will put them on the side and take care of them until the ground is ready for planting.

"What sets Hrnak's apart is that not only are we a full-service florist with a gift shop, we are the only florist in Oshkosh that has a grower on staff, which allows us to grow our own annuals, hanging baskets, herbs and vegetables for our garden center," Kent said.

Hrnak's also ranks in the top 2% of the

Teleflora national network that people can order flowers from.

Founded in 1909 as the Ward B. David Co., Marcel Hrnak Sr. bought the company in 1924. At that time, the business had a greenhouse on 9th Avenue and a store on Washington Street. During the Great Depression, the Washington Street shop was moved to the greenhouse location.

In 1937, Marcel "Bud" Hrnak Jr. joined the company and the shop was moved to a different location on Washington Street. At about that time, the business was renamed Hrnak's Flower Shop. Bud Hrnak bought the business in 1946 and in 1954, the 9th Avenue location was expanded and the store moved back where it remains.

In 1976, Dave Geurden purchased the shop and renamed it Hrnak's Flowerland. When Kent purchased the business, she changed the name to Hrnak's Flowers and Gifts.

"We want to express how very grateful, blessed and thankful we are for all of our customers, employees, vendors and the community. Hrnak's would not be where it is today without all of the help and support that we've received from everyone involved," Kent said.

May is Hrnak's busiest month of the year as people begin buying plants for their outdoor gardens and includes Mother's Day, one of the most popular holidays to send flowers.

"There's also proms, graduations, confirmations and dance recitals" in May that keep the store busy, Kent said, adding employment increases to 14 during the busy seasons.

Hrnak's will mark its 100th anniversary from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday with 10% off garden center products. Kent said the first 100 customers will receive a free plant along with a \$5 coupon for a future product.



Photos from Hrnak's Flowers

A Ward B. Davis Co. truck is shown from the 1930s before the Hrnak's name was adopted. Below, the current greenhouse is seen as another growing season gets underway.



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Historic preservation also makes good economic sense

By Nikki Stoll Olthoff
OSHKOSH LANDMARKS COMMISSION



While some may associate historic preservation as just “saving pretty buildings,” there is an aspect that is often overlooked: economic impact. Economics is a study of scarcity, and how people utilize resources. Historic preservation maximizes the utility of scarce resources through preservation and adaptive reuse.

Cities that have made historic preservation a priority can be rewarded with an often-intangible quality of uniqueness and a sense of place: a city that has soul. While developers may try, new construction rarely invokes those same feelings.

The placemaking ability of preservation can ignite commercial growth in a neighborhood or city. Recent examples in Oshkosh include The Howard, Gibson Social Club and, currently under renovation, the Northwestern building. One can feel the sense of pride and excitement

as these types of projects unfold in the community.

These projects serve as a catalyst to revitalizing underserved areas and communities. Small business development can also thrive in historic neighborhoods, with the inherent mixed-use nature of the architecture: storefronts on the street level and housing above, in a walkable district.

As Millennials and Gen-Z saturate the workforce, they are looking for authentic, vibrant neighborhoods to live and work in. A city like Oshkosh, with a public four-year university, can help deter brain drain by investing in our downtowns and historic mixed-use development. The

Britannica Dictionary defines brain drain as “a situation in which many educated or professional people leave a particular place or profession and move to another one that gives them better pay or living conditions.”

A variety of housing options, particularly affordable housing, is a major piece to our economic viability and deceleration of brain drain. Some recent adaptive reuse examples in Oshkosh include the Smith School Lofts and Waite Rug Place.

Merrill School would have been an excellent candidate for affordable housing via adaptive reuse. However, it appears we will be losing this gem to the landfill at a time when our city needs more housing and inclusive community development that can be achieved using existing building stock. Sustainable infill and reuse also helps to curb the inefficiency of low-density sprawl development.

The local economy also benefits from restoration of historic properties over new construction. Preservation is very labor intensive. According to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, typically, 50% of new construction costs go toward labor. In a typical historic rehabilitation project, up to 70% of the total cost goes towards labor. This labor is nearly always hired locally and requires skilled craftspeople.

Materials used in new construction are typically purchased elsewhere, whereas restoration projects tend to utilize materials purchased locally. Furthermore, when properly maintained over the years, historic buildings will far outlast new construction’s average lifespan of 30-50 years. The reason for this lies in the superior ma-

terials and craftsmanship used in historic structures that are no longer available today, such as old growth timber.

Communities with intact historic architecture can also benefit from heritage tourism. According to a study by Edge Research, Millennials and Gen-Z show a strong preference for dining and shopping in historic places. In another study by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 79% of respondents stated that they sought out historic places to visit on their travels.

In Oshkosh, this means that those people are probably spending money downtown and in neighboring areas, benefiting our small businesses over chain establishments.

Unfortunately, we live in a world where we sometimes must defend our heritage and belonging in economic terms. While some seemingly intangible benefits like health and walkability, sustainability and sense of place may be hard to pin down to a dollar amount, the economic benefit of preservation is a growing field of research.

Even Harvard economist John Kenneth Galbraith understood this in 1980 by stating, “The preservation movement has one great curiosity. There is never retrospective controversy or regret. Preservationists are the only people in the world who are invariably confirmed in their wisdom after the fact.”

Historic preservation is an incremental economic development strategy. It’s a long-range investment to stabilize a community. Think of it as the base or fabric of a community atop which an economy can thrive. Our heritage is an asset, not an obstacle.

Fox-Wolf Watershed Cleanup returns

Although Earth Day events in Wisconsin may feature trash cleanups, they can also face late-season snowstorms, which is why the largest volunteer trash cleanup event in northeast Wisconsin happens on the first weekend in May.

The 12th annual Fox-Wolf Watershed Cleanup is planned for Saturday morning at 70 cleanup sites, including many in Winnebago County, with 1,686 volunteers signed up to spend the morning cleaning up a local park, trail or boat launch.

Last year’s event had a similar number of volunteers and locations, and participants removed 3.7 tons of garbage and

debris from area waterways. All volunteers are invited to a picnic after the cleanup at Pierce Park in Appleton.

Thirty businesses, organizations and communities have provided financial sponsorship of this event led by the non-profit Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance to keep it free for volunteers. Sponsors include Community First Credit Union, 4imprint, city of Oshkosh, Essity, Amcor, the Community Visions Fund of Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region, Evergreen Credit Union, Fox Communities Credit Union and Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.

Media company founder to speak at UWO

Oshkosh Herald

Jim VandeHei, alumnus, author and co-founder of the media companies Politico and Axios, returns to the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh to deliver keynote addresses at two spring commencement ceremonies.



VanderHei

The 1995 UWO graduate will speak at the 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. May 18 commencement ceremonies in Kolf Sports Center.

“Jim is a remarkable thinker, writer, leader and entrepreneur,” Chancellor Andrew Leavitt said. “His UWO education was an essential element in fueling a career and life that has led to interviews with presidents and the creation of companies redefining how our world receives and consumes news. Jim’s curiosity, courage and creativity are of a type and a mix we hope to inspire in every UWO student.”

VandeHei was honored by UWO in 2011 with an honorary degree recognizing his work as co-founder and executive

director of Politico. He went on to launch Axios, which continues to revolutionize the news industry. He is also a 2008 recipient of the Chancellor’s Medallion.

“Take away the UWO professors who took personal interest in developing me, and I would still be delivering pizzas,” VandeHei said. “Go Titans!”

He co-authored the 2022 book “Smart Brevity: The Power of Saying More with Less and this spring “Just the Good Stuff” will be released with reflections on leadership and memories about his formative UWO experiences.

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FDI-18160-A AECSPAD 05/2024

Search warrant leads to trio of arrests on drug charges

Walnut Street home previously investigated

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Two Oshkosh men are facing multiple drug-related felony charges after a search warrant executed at a house on Oshkosh's Walnut Street, the second drug-related search warrant executed at the house since December.

Virgil L. Gipson, 44, is charged with two counts of manufacture/deliver cocaine (less than a gram), possession of cocaine (second offense), possession of methamphetamine, three counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor disorderly conduct.

Brad E. Combs, 45, is facing charges of felony possession of cocaine (second and subsequent offense) and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia.

Oshkosh police reported the search warrant was conducted by a SWAT team and vice and narcotics unit April 9 and resulted in 11 arrests. Eight were arrested for outstanding warrants while police referred charges for three other individuals. Gipson was one of them and others included a 74-year-old man and 61-year-old woman.

Gipson's cash bond was set at \$1,000 by Winnebago County Court Commissioner Eric Heywood during an initial appearance April 10. Online records show Combs and Gipson are no longer in custody.

District Attorney Eric Sparr said more charges could be coming after the charges recommended by police get to his desk, which could take up to two weeks.

According to the Gipson criminal complaint, police arranged for a confidential informant to make two purchases of crack cocaine in March at the home. The first buy was for \$40 and the informant was allegedly given 0.8 grams of crack cocaine from Gipson.

The second buy was also for \$40 with the informant receiving 0.6 grams of cocaine. A third buy was planned for early April but Gipson didn't show up during the agreed-upon time.

The complaint describes an incident April 5 where Gipson allegedly broke a glass bottle over a person's head in argument over the selling of a vehicle to Gipson, which had a lien on it and was repossessed.

A search warrant was executed April 9 at 1402 Walnut St., where Gipson was found in an upstairs bathroom. When searching a room identified as Gipson's bedroom, police allegedly found 5.9 grams of cocaine and 0.5 grams of methamphetamine.

Gipson told law enforcement he did not live there and had not sold any drugs "hand to hand."

County records show 1402 Walnut St. is owned by Craig Diener, who was arrested and charged with maintaining a drug trafficking place last year. He pleaded no contest, was found guilty and sentenced to 18 months' probation in March.

Combs was arrested the week after the search warrant was executed and officers allegedly found 2.8 grams of cocaine on top of a digital scale. On April 17, officers

returned to the home and Combs was found hiding upstairs.

Combs' signature bond was set at \$1,000 by Heywood at his initial appearance April 19. He is scheduled to be back in court Thursday.

Court records show police were surveilling the home April 11, after the search warrant was executed, and arrested a Waupun woman for possession with intent amphetamine/methamphetamine and possession of narcotic drugs. Kaitlin J. Bunker, 26, was also charged with misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of amphetamine/LSD/psilocin.

The complaint alleges on April 11 police officers were watching the home and saw Bunker go inside 1402 Walnut St. and come back out 2-3 minutes later. Police made contact with Bunker while she was

parked in the driveway. A K9 unit was called to the scene for an exterior vehicle sniff.

Bunker told an officer there was a large amount of money in an envelope in her vehicle from a recent house sale and not related to drugs. The officer reported it was an odd statement because he did not ask about dealing drugs.

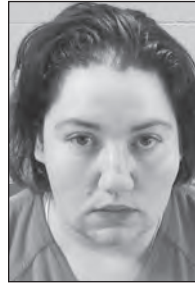
The K9 alerted to the odor of narcotics from the vehicle, which was searched and officers found a marijuana vape pen. Bunker also surrendered two small plastic bags, one containing methamphetamine and the other with various pills along with methamphetamine.

She allegedly admitted to officers she was a "runner" for friends that need drugs and that four times a week she purchases and retrieves drugs from dealers.

Bunker's signature bond was set at \$1,000 by Heywood. Online records show she is no longer in custody. Bunker was scheduled to be back in court this Monday.



Gipson



Bunker

Prostitution-related arrests can go to alternative program

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh police recently announced arresting seven men in an undercover prostitution investigation on the city's south side but court records show no one has been charged in the case.

Police reported six men ages 35-57 were being charged with pandering, a misdemeanor in Wisconsin, on April 11. One was arrested for pandering and possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Online court records do not show anyone being charged with pandering in Winnebago County since February. District Attorney Eric Sparr said that some of these charges would not be available to see in online records if the defendant was offered and agreed to participate in a diversion program.

Sparr spoke with the Herald last week and said he has not yet received the recommended charges for the seven men arrested but explained his office's process for deciding whether to file formal charges when it comes to prostitution or pandering cases.

"Our decision-making process on those is a little bit more nuanced than just did the person commit the offense. We want to look at is there some good that's going to be done by putting a case into the criminal court system," Sparr said.

The people often charged in these cases are individuals that have a record of similar behavior. There are alternatives to the

traditional court system for these offenders, including a one-day program through ThedaCare called AIM – awareness and information for men – and offered to first-time offenders.

The program is "designed to educate men on the damaging impact their decision to purchase another individual has on everyone – the prostituted individual, the men themselves and their families, the criminal justice system, and the entire community," a ThedaCare pamphlet explains.

The program's goal is to challenge men to understand how their choices contribute to sex trafficking in hopes of preventing future offenses. AIM offers "hope and change to men through greater understanding of their sexual and addictive behaviors."

Participants can be referred by prosecutors, judges, law enforcement, probation officers and attorneys.

Sparr said there is also diversion programming for the women or parties engaging in prostitution who are not the customers. While there is no specific program for people engaging in sex work, there are assistance options to get help for what may have led them into the work such as drugs, employment issues and mental health.

Public affairs crime prevention officer Kate Mann told the Herald that a total of six hours of work went into the undercover investigation.



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Frugal Fashion marking 25 years of affordable styles

By Jennifer Parmley
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

A longtime Oshkosh business will celebrate its 25th anniversary July 1, a sign of a loyal customer base and the desire for affordable clothing.

Frugal Fashion, 420 N. Main St., is a consignment boutique offering men and women's regular and active apparel, as well as jewelry, handbags, accessories and small home decor items.

"We have a little bit of something for everyone," owner Danielle Heltz said. "Clothes are getting to be so expensive, so I've been actually having a lot more new faces come in the last six months."

Many of those new faces, Heltz said, are surprised to discover the shop. Its location has moved a few times over the years. Marylyn Ochowicz originally opened the business in 1999 in the former Sunlite Dairy ice cream shop downtown. She sold it to Heltz's mother, Wendy (Wilke) Hemmings, in May 2012 who then moved the business to Winneconne where it thrived until construction of a new bridge there began as part of the State 116 project.

In 2017, Wilke Hemmings moved the business back to 452 N. Main St. and merged with Action Dancewear. Heltz took over in 2019, right before the pandemic hit.

"That was pretty rough with the mandatory shutdown, but we made it go," she said.

The desire to add men's clothing to the mix prompted the move to the current location.

"When this space became available, I jumped," Heltz said. "I love the ambiance of historic downtown Oshkosh."

The consignment process involves sellers bringing in items they want to sell for consideration. Heltz welcomes drop offs by appointment only, limited to 30-35



items at once. She makes sure things are sellable, looking for stains, missing buttons, wear and tear or pilling, for example. Shoes need to be in good condition so the



Danielle Heltz is owner of Frugal Fashion.

Photos by Jennifer Parmley
Frugal Fashion is marking 25 years in downtown Oshkosh this year.

new owner can break them in (no cracked or peeling leather, etc.).

"After the item sells, we split the selling price 50-50," Heltz said.

Kathy Steffen has been consigning and shopping at Frugal Fashion for years, even helping Heltz's mother in the store hanging clothes or going through bins. The Oshkosh resident, a director of sales and leasing for an assisted living business, said she's always on the hunt for professional looks at a good price.

"I love the selection and the layout, and the items are fairly priced," Steffen said. "I have found some absolute treasures there, even new things with the tags on. I like the variety."

Steffen said 80 percent of the clothing in the spare bedroom she converted to a large walk-in closet is from Frugal Fashion.

"I just keep adding and adding and I keep things nice so I can consign when I get tired of them," she said. "I'm not really a mall shopper, per se, and I stop in by Danielle twice a week sometimes. I have always referred Frugal to my friends."

Heltz participates in downtown Oshkosh events and regularly announces sales and clearance events on the shop's Facebook page.

"At least once a month I do a clearance special as I'm trying to rotate stuff out and bring new items in, especially during season changes," she said. "I love seeing the things that people bring in and getting to know new people coming in."



County leadership program seeks youth advocate

Girls ages 13 to 17 who live or attend school in Winnebago County can now apply for the position of Miss Rural Winnebago through May 31.

Applicants don't need rural or agricultural background but should be willing to serve in their community. Applicants will participate in a committee interview and communication training June 8, from which the crowned candidate will have the opportunity to go on various tours to learn more about Winnebago County, volunteer at local events, and develop personal and professional skills during her one-year term.

Those interested can email missruralwinnebago@gmail.com or visit missruralwinnebago.wixsite.com to obtain the application.

The Miss Rural Winnebago program has been in place since 1969. The program is supported by the Waukau Youth Group.

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Local brewing holds strong amid national drawdown

By Lee Reiherzer
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

All is not well in the world of beer. American beer sales are trending steadily downward, and craft breweries are failing at an unprecedented rate. Yet there's little evidence of such withering here. Last year, Oshkosh's three breweries – Bare Bones, Fifth Ward and Fox River – each saw their sales volume increase.

"Maybe it's just that we're a couple of years behind the trend," says Ian Wenger, co-owner of Fifth Ward Brewing.

Wenger may be half joking, but the concern is genuine. When it comes to beer, Oshkosh has a history of being slow to adopt national trends. If the local homebrewing scene is any indication, though, this may be one trend that skips the city altogether.

Homebrewing has been looked upon as a bellwether for the craft beer industry. In fact, the struggle that now besets craft brewers was preceded by a sharp downturn in homebrewing. Membership in the American Homebrewers Association has fallen by 35 percent since 2018, and the organization has canceled its annual conference for 2024.

Over the past three years, however, the Society of Oshkosh Brewers homebrewing club has increased its membership by 35 percent. The club now has 69 members.

Scott Westpfahl has been president of the Society of Oshkosh Brewers (the SOBs) since 2021. He has no doubts about what makes the Oshkosh club different.

"We have a lot of people here who are



Photo by Lee Reiherzer

Members of the Society of Oshkosh Brewers homebrewing club are shown at a gathering at Fifth Ward Brewing.

truly invested in the club," Westpfahl says. "It's a very active membership. It makes all the difference. And we're so tied into the community. The SOBs are engaged with every brewery, cidery, meadery and distillery in the region."

At Fifth Ward, brewery co-owner Zach Clark takes a similar view. "I go around to a lot of other towns on sales calls, and one thing you notice here is that the enthusiasm hasn't died down the way it has in some places. We see it in our taproom. People want to go out and do things and be active. I mean, we have a pretty advanced crowd coming in here. They've evolved along with us. You don't see that everywhere."

Clark says it probably helped that the craft beer scene in Oshkosh didn't grow as quickly as it did in some larger cities.

"It happened more gradually here, and I think that's meant that we've never had the oversaturation that you see in other places where there might be too many breweries, and people kind of losing interest because it's just too much to keep up with. I think people around here have remained engaged with what's going on."

The engagement is an expression of social life in a city where tavern culture has been foundational. Wenger sees a shift taking place.

"I know that some of our taproom regulars are people who used to spend more time in bars, but maybe they just wanted a different sort of atmosphere. We see a lot of the same faces, and they might be with their families and they're getting together, and they can all feel comfortable here. I

don't know if that kind of thing is happening in the bars so much anymore."

Fifth Ward is looking to build upon its taproom success. Clark and Wenger are exploring the possibility of opening a second taproom in the area. After doubling the capacity of its brewery over the past two years, Fifth Ward became the largest producer of beer in Oshkosh last year, selling 1,480 barrels.

"We could already make twice as much beer here as we do now, so we absolutely have the capacity to supply another taproom," Clark says. "The question we're thinking about is how far do we want to go in that direction? We're trying to figure out where the equilibrium is."

For Oshkosh homebrewers the future appears as promising, but far less complex.

"I mean, for us it's all about having fun," Westpfahl says. "And right now we have such a great group that's really invested in the overall experience of being an SOB. We're in a good place."

The Society of Oshkosh Brewers invites the community to get a taste of the SOB experience Saturday when the club will hold its annual Big Brew from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at The Cellar homebrew shop at 465 N. Washburn St. The event is open to the public and will feature brewing demonstrations and German-inspired dishes from the Ginger German's Gastro-Truck.

Lee Reiherzer has been writing about Oshkosh's beer and its brewing history since 2010 when he launched the Oshkosh Beer website. He is co-author of "The Breweries of Oshkosh" and author of "Winnebago County Beer."

Business news roundup

Oshkosh Defense has been awarded an additional delivery order valued at \$40 million for procurement of remotely operated ground unit for expeditionary fires (ROGUE-Fires) to be used in the Navy/Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System. Developed for the U.S. Marine

Corps, ROGUE-Fires is an unmanned ground vehicle that leverages the company's JLTV off-road mobility and payload capacity and its vehicle technologies to support ground-based anti-ship missile operations. The launch platform is capable of handling various weapon payloads. In October 2023,

Oshkosh announced the contract to begin low-rate initial production from the Marine Corps Systems Command.

E-Power Marketing celebrated more than 25 years in business with a new location in the Oshkosh City Center that was recently

marked with an Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting ceremony. The company creates digital marketing campaigns that support business goals through digital advertising, content marketing, social media, SEO, web development and email marketing. More information at epower.com.



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Decency beats domination when it comes to discourse

About a month ago my son and I were driving behind a truck whose back window was plastered with stickers stating, in profane language not suitable for print, that the owner was a jerk and proud of that fact. My son asked me: Why would someone put those stickers on their car?

I had no good answer. I cannot fathom why someone would embrace an identity that is based on being mean to others. Yet when I watch political ads, scroll through Facebook, or even just listen to political conversations, it is obvious that such vitriol is common in our current moment.

Why do we collectively find basic decency in our public discourse so hard, and why do we so often equate decency with



Michael Ford
UW Oshkosh
associate professor

weakness? Perhaps it is disagreement about what it means to be decent. I go back to the golden rule, i.e., treat people the way you would want to be treated.

But the problem is we suspend the golden rule when it comes to politics and culture. People like politicians who fight. We justify lying, dismissal of evidence, hypocrisy, juvenile name calling

and worse if such behavior is in pursuit of goals that align with our ideological preferences.

We may not like the behavior. We may even condemn it. But we tolerate it nonetheless in the belief that the end goal will make it all worth it.

The problem, in my opinion, is the faulty premise that a permanent political victory can be obtained. The “right and good” ideology, however one defines it, cannot prevail in places as politically diverse as Wisconsin and Oshkosh. Political power, and even ideology itself, is amorphous and unstable.

Today’s Republican and Democrat is very different than a Republican and Democrat from 2004. Local issues change dramatically over time. There is no way one ideology can win in a truly pluralistic democracy. Nor should we want it to, a government representing 50% of the people is not a truly representative government.

I am sensitive to the argument that nothing can be gained without a struggle, that progress will only come through the vanquishing of an opponent. I can understand this attitude when I am watching a basketball game, not when I am watching a political debate.

Societal progress occurs when an acceptable path forward is found on an issue. Acceptable rarely means anyone is 100% happy, but it does mean a critical mass of people buy into the path forward, and that a role for people of differing opinions has been articulated.

A lack of decency makes common action, in both agreement and disagreement, impossible. When I proclaim my

political opponents to be illegitimate, evil, stupid or worse, I am denying them a role by saying they have no right to participate. Worse yet, it creates a cycle of retribution where political power is used to harm opponents rather than advance society. It is not a sustainable approach in a democracy.

I have found in my own career that decency is often equated with weakness. Being kind to someone with whom you disagree is interpreted as empowering someone on the “wrong” side of an issue. So many times I have been asked why I did not make a public statement, or publicly decry something or someone.

My answer is always the same: There is nothing strong about humiliating someone, all it does is make a political disagreement personal in a way that makes it harder to work constructively with them in the future. I would rather be decent and effective than self-rioting but ineffective.

The fight for decency is an uphill battle in the current era. I do not have the answers, but I will conclude with an enlightening quote from the late political commentator Charles Krauthammer worth remembering this political season:

“Every two years the American politics industry fills the airwaves with the most virulent, scurrilous, wall-to-wall character assassination of nearly every political practitioner in the country – and then declares itself puzzled that America has lost trust in its politicians.”

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



Winnebago County Fair photo

Lexi Novak (left) was crowned Winnebago County Fairest of the Fair and will be assisted this year by first runner-up Izzy Braasch.

Winnebago Fairest of the Fair named

Oshkosh Herald

Winnebago County Fairest of the Fair for this year is Lexi Novak of Neenah, who was crowned April 20 as the newest ambassador for the County Fair being held July 31 through Aug. 4 at Sunnyview Expo Center.

Novak will be graduating from University of Wisconsin-Whitewater this spring with a degree in English education and minor in theater education. She has been involved with the fair since eighth grade as a youth exhibitor and was a camp counselor with the Winnebago County 4-H camp for three years before becoming a full-time counselor for the YMCA.

First runner-up is Isabelle Braasch from Oshkosh, who is currently attending Fox Valley Technical College to earn an asso-

ciate degree in animal science, agriculture accounting, and agribusiness science and technology. She has been a member of the National Professional Agricultural Student Organization and Oshkosh West FFA.

Fairest of the Fair is a marketing and public relations position that promotes the variety of opportunities – educational, agricultural, social, cultural and commercial – available at the Winnebago County Fair and its related industries. That person also welcomes guests, appears at events, interacts with youth exhibitors and engages fair attendees.

Former Fairest of the Fair winners were invited to attend the crowning ceremony along with reigning ambassador Amber Hammond.

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Oshkosh, Wisconsin – April 2024 – Panoramic Financial Solutions, a private wealth advisory practice with Ameriprise Financial in Oshkosh, was named to the list of “Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams” published by Forbes. The list recognizes financial advisors and their teams who have demonstrated high levels of ethical standards, professionalism, and success in the business.

The rankings are based on data provided by thousands of the nation’s most productive advisors and their teams. Panoramic Financial Solutions was chosen based on assets under management, industry experience, compliance record and best practices in their practice and approach to working with clients.

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Source: Forbes, “Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams,” Jan. 9, 2024.

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File # 5269469 (Approved until 1/31/2026)

Student equity

FROM PAGE 1

identified that could be improved across the district, including trends and patterns in disciplinary actions. The amendment failed with Hess and DeWitt being the only supporters.

“There’s a whole bunch more out there that we should be measuring,” Hess said. “We need to look past just – are we doing things – but we need to evaluate the things that we’re doing effective.”

Superintendent Bryan Davis said there are evaluations within the plan and did not see a need for an additional one and was unsure what it would look like or contain.

“To put an evaluation document together I would just need more time to be able to think through how that would fit. There are evaluations that are baked in here,” Davis said.

Davis explained there will be monthly workshops on the equity plan that will be how the board and district administrators measure parts of the plan. During those workshops, Davis believes the board and administrators will learn how the plan is impacting reading scores, math scores and AP placement courses.

Miller will report to the board annually on how the district is doing on parts of the plan along with monthly reports on trends and patterns in disciplinary actions.

“It is important to note that the path toward equity is not static but a dynamic process that demands our unwavering commitment to reflection, learning and growth. To this end, the OASD Equity Plan will undergo annual reviews and revisions, ensuring it remains responsive to the evolving needs of our students and the broader community,” Miller wrote.



Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh North junior Charlie Clark moves dirt as he plants a young Sienna Glen maple in the school’s Akan Acres on Arbor Day.

North students dig in for Arbor Day

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

In celebration of Arbor Day on Friday, trees were planted by Oshkosh North High School students in the Communities class in an effort to beautify Akan Acres.

Akan sits on 12 acres behind the high school and students Charlie Clark, Garret Munig and Connor Palmquist led the project by researching what types of trees would be best for the area.

Travis Derks, city of Oshkosh landscape operations manager, spoke to a group of students on Akan Acres about the importance of planting the right trees.

North juniors Clark, Munig and Palmquist researched which trees would fit best to beautify the space in hopes of becoming a Tree Campus. Oshkosh has been recognized as a Tree City by the Arbor Day Foundation for 43 straight years.

Clark planted a Sienna Glen maple, Munig planted a Mountbatten upright juniper

and Palmquist selected a Redpointe red maple. This is the second year of a partnership between the Communities class and city. The partnership helped pay for the trees along with some fundraising the students organized.

Rick Leib, who teaches the Communities class, said this is the second year there was a project in Akan Acres with students taking away a useful lesson in community engagement.

“Seeing students use their knowledge, skills and passions to have a positive impact on their community is everything,” Leib said. “Students take away a habit of civic engagement that they can use as they enter the world as adults.”

Last year a student placed eight different bird feeders around Akan Acres. Leib said the student researched bluebirds – their preferences for light, food and water – and that informed where the birdfeeders would be placed.

Arbor Day was first proposed in 1872 in the United States as a tree planting holiday to be celebrated in the Nebraska Territory by newspaper editor and secretary of the Nebraska Territory J. Sterling Morton. It is estimated that on April 10, 1872, more than a million trees were planted in Nebraska.

Wisconsin has celebrated Arbor Day on the last Friday in April since 1883. Other areas around the world have it on different dates to coincide with the best tree planting weather.

If interested in supporting enhancements and continue beautifying Akan Acres, email communitiesonhs@gmail.com.



Booster Club

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Lourdes Academy
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Saturday, May 11, 2024
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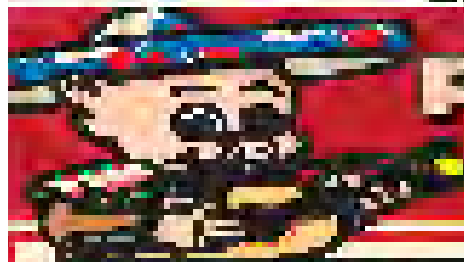


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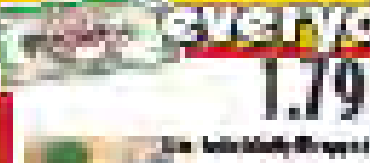





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Calendar of events

Wednesday, May 1

Merrill and Washington schools farewell tours, 5 p.m. (Merrill) and 6 p.m. (Washington)

Thursday, May 2

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

Friday, May 3

Jewelry, craft, rummage and bake sale, 9 a.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 370 Bowen St.

Chrissy Whitehead: In My Own Little Corner, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh Morgan House evening tours, 6 p.m., 234 Church Ave.

Oshkosh Area School District Gala, 6 p.m., The Waters, 1393 Washington Ave.

Traveling Suitcase and Horace Green, 10 p.m., Fletch's Local Tap House, 566 N. Main St.

Saturday, May 4

Oshkosh Bird Fest, 6 a.m., Lakeshore Park pavilion

Lakefly Book Fair, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

NAMI Oshkosh 5K, 9 a.m., Oshkosh North High School

African Violet Show, 10 a.m., St. Jude the Apostle Church Hall, 531 Knapp St.

Military History Day, 10 a.m., Military Veterans Museum and Educational Center, 4300 Poberzny Road

American Black Belt Academy annual tournament, 8:15 a.m., Lourdes Academy

Jewelry, craft, rummage and bake sale, 9 a.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 370 Bowen St.

Beaming's Day at the Derby, 4 p.m., 2692 County GG

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

"Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Sunday, May 5

Mid-Wisconsin Chippers: Artistry in Wood, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

Boys & Girls Club Oshkosh open house, noon, 501 E Parkway Ave.

African Violet Show, 11:30 a.m., St. Jude the Apostle Church Hall, 531 Knapp St.

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

Thursday, May 9

Oshkosh North spaghetti dinner, 5 p.m., 1100 W. Smith Ave.

Michael Martin Murphey, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Saturday, May 11

Downtown Oshkosh Spring Wine Walk, 2 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Repair Cafe, noon, Downtown YMCA Richard's School of Dance 75th anniversary show, 12:30 and 6:30 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Historic Osh Hop, 11 a.m., Oshkosh Public Museum, 3 p.m., reception at The Howard

"Alive Again: A Tribute to Chicago," 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Power Play Trio, 7 p.m., Oblio's Lounge, 434 N. Main St.

Star Six Nine, 7 p.m., Mabel Murphy's, 701 N. Main St.

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

Sunday, May 12

Mother's Day 5K Run & Walk, 7 a.m., Winnebago County Park

Paine Art Center & Gardens free admission on Mother's Day, 9 a.m.

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

Tuesday, May 14

"A Taste of Ireland - the Irish Music & Dance Sensation," 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Thursday, May 16

EAA Aviation Museum Speaker Series: Coast Guard Helicopter Rescue, 7 p.m., 3000 Poberzny Road

Friday, May 17

Oshkosh West forensics team fundraiser, 5 p.m., Copper Hall, 203 Otter Ave.

Saturday, May 18

Festival of Spring, 9 a.m., Paine Art Center & Gardens

Heartland Elite Allstar Rugby Tournament, 9 a.m., Winnebago County Community Park

Jerry Unger with The Fog, Anjie's Bar, 6 p.m., 413 Ohio St.

Morgan House Tea Party, 11:30 a.m., 234 Church Ave.

Oshkosh Garden Club plant sale, 8 a.m., Oshkosh Public Museum

"The Super Mario Bros. Movie," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Sunday, May 19

Local Children's Author Fair, 1 p.m., Caramel Crisp Corner, 200 City Center

Heartland Elite Allstar Rugby Tournament, 9 a.m., Winnebago County Community Park

Local Children's Author Book Fair, 1 p.m., Caramel Crisp Corner, 200 City Center



Photo by OFAA

Fine Arts Association show

Thirty-two artists entered and showed 82 works at the Oshkosh Fine Arts Association's April 20 event at the Oshkosh Farmers Market in the Oshkosh Arena. Juror Pat Reiher (shown) evaluated the artworks, from which the award winners are eligible to enter the Association of Wisconsin Artists show later this summer.

AirVenture Theater in Woods programs set

The Royal Canadian Air Force's centennial, renowned aerospace designer Burt Rutan and the future of spaceflight are all part of the Theater in the Woods schedule at EAA AirVenture set for July 22-28 at Wittman Regional Airport.

Theater in the Woods programs include:

- 7 p.m. July 21: "An Evening with Champions" traditional "pre-game" show, with aviation personalities.

- 7 p.m. July 22: "Life, The Universe and Everything Else" with Burt Rutan.

- 7 p.m. July 23: "Turning the Tide in WWII and D-Day 80th anniversary" featuring Timeless Voices interviews with D-Day vets, plus in-person commentary from those who keep historic aircraft flying.

ing.

- 6:30 p.m. July 24: EAA WomenVenture, featuring female helicopter pilots.

- 7 p.m. July 25: Royal Canadian Air Force 100th anniversary with the Canadian Forces Snowbirds, as well as insights from those who fly, restore, and display historic RCAF aircraft.

- 7 p.m. July 26: NASA and the next steps for space exploration, including the Artemis II mission to the moon.

- 6:30 p.m. July 27: U.S. Air Force Materiel Command, with highlights of what it takes to test aircraft and systems used on the front lines.

Other special guests and highlights will be announced as they are finalized.

State DHS cites child vaccination providers

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) awarded its annual Wisconsin BigShot awards to 208 Wisconsin health care providers for their efforts to protect children against vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) and pertussis.

Among providers recognized were Aurora Health Care-Oshkosh and The daCare Physicians Pediatrics-Neenah in

the Hepatitis A vaccine category, and The daCare Physicians Pediatrics-Neenah in the MMR category.

The BigShot award recognizes providers leading the way in protecting children's health by ensuring their pediatric patients are up to date on their routine childhood vaccinations, based on 2023 immunization data collected by the Wisconsin Immunization Registry.

Mercy Hospital volunteers set annual plant sale

Mercy Hospital Volunteers are hosting their annual Geranium and Plant Sale from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. May 15 and May 16 at Ascension Mercy Hospital, 500 S Oakwood Road, in the parking lot at 9th Avenue and Oakwood.

Pre-orders can be placed until May 10

at the Mercy Hospital Gift Shop, Volunteer Services office or by emailing mhvolun@ascension.org.

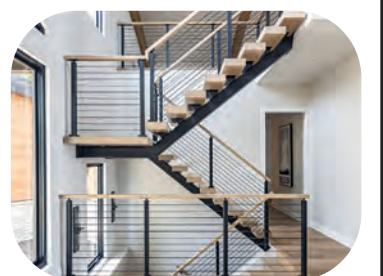
Featured at the sale are quality plants grown for Mercy by Hrnak's Flowerland. All proceeds help fund hospital and community health care programs and scholarships.



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Public library calendar

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

- May 1**
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
- May 2**
Baby/Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Chess Club, 5-7 p.m., all ages
- May 3**
Archive Dives, 9 a.m., YouTube
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-5 p.m.
Tween Book Club, 4:30 p.m.
Young Adult Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades 9-12
- May 4**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9-4 p.m.
Birdhouse Painting, 10-noon, all ages
- May 5**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4 p.m.
Drop-in Tech Help, 1:30-3:30 p.m., all ages
- May 6**
Book Buzz, 8 a.m., YouTube
Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m., preschoolers
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
- May 7**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
- May 8**
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
- May 9**
Baby/Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Afternoon Book Club, 1:30-3 p.m., adults
Chess Club, 5-7 p.m., all ages
- May 10**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-5 p.m.
Elementary Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades K-3
- May 11**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9 am.-4 p.m.
Early History of Oshkosh Truck, 10 a.m., adults
- May 12**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4 p.m.
- May 13**
Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m., preschoolers
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
- May 14**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Oshkosh Area Music Teachers Association Spring Recital, 6:30 p.m., all ages
- May 15**
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
- May 16**
Baby/Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m., ages 1-4
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Chess Club, 5-7 p.m., all ages
Wonderlab, 5:30 p.m., grades K-2
Not Your Classic Book Club, 6 p.m., adults
- May 17**
Librarian Learns, 9 a.m., all ages, YouTube
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-5 p.m.
Tween S.T.E.A.M., 4:30 p.m., grades 3-5
- May 18**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9 am.-4 p.m.
Saturday Surprise, 11-noon, ages 5 and older
- May 19**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4 p.m.
- May 20**
Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m., preschoolers
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
- May 21**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Winnebago Free Legal Assistance Clinic, 4:30-6:30 p.m., adults
Banned Book Club, 6:30 p.m., adults

- May 22**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults
- May 23**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Chess Club, 5-7 p.m., all ages
- May 24**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-5 p.m.
- May 25**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9 am.-1 p.m.
Library closes at 1 p.m. (summer hours)
- May 26**
Library closed (summer hours)
- May 27**
Library closed: Memorial Day
- May 28**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
- May 29**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m., adults
- May 30**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
Chess Club, 5-7 p.m., all ages
- May 31**
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-5 p.m.

Grace Bible Church sets Family Conference

Grace Bible Church is hosting a three-day Wisconsin Grace Family Conference beginning at 6:30 p.m. May 17, featuring speakers from Wisconsin and Indiana with the theme Fight for Your Family – Raising up Courageous Generations. The event at 145 W. 24th Ave. will consist of seven sessions. Older children and youth are encouraged to attend. A free

lunch and supper is provided Saturday and there will be a nursery and children's class throughout the conference. For more information, call pastor Timothy Board at 608-403-7677 or Randy Hughes at 920-203-4823, and participants are asked to respond by May 1 to allow the planning for meals on Saturday. More information is at familybibleconference.rsvpify.com.

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Photo by Michael Cooney

Evan Dahl of Oshkosh checks out the "breweriana" of Scott Schessow (right) at Saturday's Breweriana Show at Fifth Ward Brewing.

Brewing's colorful history captured by collectors

Oshkosh Herald

Beer memorabilia from Oshkosh and beyond was on display Saturday from 33 vendors at the biannual B'Gosh It's Good Breweriana Show.

Fifth Ward Brewing Co. hosts the event managed by Jared Sanchez, who said the show has grown to almost 80 tables with colorful brewing history that draw exhibitors and visitors from across the Midwest.

"I am one of the original group that lived in the college house where this brewery started and on UW's campus," said Sanchez, a friend and former college roommate of Fifth Ward owners Zach Clark and Ian Wenger.

"Beer memorabilia is a huge hobby and there's a lot of people that love the history of breweries within America and there's many different people here that represent a lot of the national collector groups."

The National Association Breweriana Advertising (NABA) is made up of more

than 1,400 collectors of beer "breweriana" – signs, trays, crates, coasters, openers, cans, bottles – from the 1800s through the present day.

Scott Schessow is an exhibitor from Fond du Lac who appreciates Oshkosh's brewing history and has been collecting items for almost two decades from shows and estate sales while connecting with friends and others who collect. He said buyers appreciate the history and art behind beer memorabilia.

"It's got great graphics, cool history," he said. "It's just fun to find stuff and decorate, and have cool stuff to look at."

NABA's next show at Fifth Ward is Oct. 5 while others are held in the Milwaukee and Green Bay areas. Sanchez said Oshkosh's is a niche show that keys on local brewing history.

"It's cool to have a show like this, just miles away from the original breweries that used to supply this city with beer," he said.

Hockey club theft case delayed

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

An Oshkosh woman who allegedly stole more than \$100,000 from the Oshkosh Youth Hockey Association has gotten another extension from the court before she pleads to the charge she is facing.

Randi R. Burris, 42, faces a maximum of five years in prison followed by up to five years of extended supervision if convicted of theft in a business setting greater than \$10,000.

Burris, who was charged in September, arrived late to court Monday morning with attorney Amanda Belville, who asked Judge Bryan Keberlein for more time to go over the documents and financial information filed by the state.

Belville and Burris were in court in February and made the same request as Belville stated that she had yet to go through the evidence presented by the state. Now the case is set for a three-hour hearing in June that will include a plea/sentencing hearing and a restitution hearing.

As the victim in the case, the hockey association is seeking \$115,000 in restitution. Victim impact statements have been filed with one person stating Burris' actions were selfish and left the group without trust, hope, money, charitable status, \$50,000 for unpaid bills and a "severely tarnished reputation."

They went on to request Burris be held responsible and pay the restitution back in full. They also request she go through counseling, theft awareness classes and provide the victims in the case a verbal and written apology.

"While time behind bars feels necessary, it should be limited to allow her to move on with her life and take on her new responsibility of repayment."

Another victim wrote, "Many families suffered a financial loss as a result of this but our children are the true victims in all this and I would hope an example is set for our children to learn that people are 100% held accountable for crimes they commit."

Oshkosh police were contacted March 29, 2023, about a woman who wanted to confess to theft. Burris came to the police station and admitted she had been stealing from the organization for about eight years.

Burris was the treasurer for the organization for 10 years, which gave her access to the accounts and the organization's debit card to take money out of the ATM for her own benefit. She used the money on personal things such as gas, groceries and gifts.

Burris told the officer she started by taking small amounts that became a "slippery slope" and allegedly would withdraw about \$500 once or twice a month.

An official with the association told police they were unaware Burris was taking money from the group and that no one with the association consented to her taking the funds.

The complaint says over the next several months police coordinated with the association and Burris to gather more information. Burris admitted she produced a fake treasurer's report for the association to cover up the theft.

Burris told authorities she didn't know why she stole money but that she was able to do so because of the lack of oversight in her role. The association worked with a volunteer accountant who reported the association suffered an estimated loss of about \$104,000 when they looked at bank statements from January 2017 to March 2023.

Burris is scheduled to be back in court for the restitution hearing along with the plea/sentencing hearing June 25.

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Oshkosh West alum making pitches in minor leagues

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Former Oshkosh West pitcher Riley Frey is making his best pitch to move up in the minor leagues.

Frey is in his first full season in the Atlanta Braves organization after being drafted in the 19th round out of UW-Milwaukee in last year's draft. He is currently playing with the Augusta Green Jackets in the Carolina League and gotten off to a strong start in the 2024 season.

Through three starts and four appearances Frey, a lefty, is 2-0 with a 2.20 earned run average. In 16 1/3 innings, he has allowed just four earned runs, while totaling 21 strikeouts to just three walks.

"Obviously, it's something you dream

about as a kid," Frey said in a recent phone interview. "It's in the back of your mind growing up and you always wanted it to happen. I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity and I take advantage of every day I can."



Frey

Although this is Frey's first full season in the minor leagues, he isn't a stranger to the Green Jackets.

After reporting to the Braves last summer and making a few starts in rookie ball, Frey was elevated to Augusta late in the season and made five starts, compiling a 1-1 record with 24 strikeouts in 18

innings.

"It was a cool feeling getting that first win," Frey said. "Being new to (professional baseball) and to get a win, it settles you in a bit more. You feel more comfortable for sure."

Frey downplays wins and losses for the most part at this point of his career.

For him, it's about learning each time he takes the mound and taking care of what he can control.

"You have to compete and if you get a win, you get a win. Same with a loss. You just have to keep going and look forward to the next one after you are done," Frey said. "It all comes back to me and what I can control and what I can produce as a pitcher each start."

Frey was pitching in the prestigious Cape Cod League last summer when he got drafted by the Braves.

He figured he would be a day three selection – rounds 11 through 20 – so when that day of the draft arrived his agent said to be ready.

"He told me to keep my phone on me so I warmed up with my phone on me and everything," said Frey, who played for the Orleans Firebirds in the league. "We were actually lined up for the anthem when I got the call and found out I was getting drafted. It was pretty cool."

Frey immediately returned to Milwaukee after getting drafted and was able to see family and friends and celebrate with them. A few days later, he was off to Florida to the Braves' training facility to begin his professional career.

Frey returned to the training facility for his first spring training experience. He said he enjoyed the experience but it was obvious that this was now a job.

"I like coming to practice and getting better but it's a lot. I think we only had two or three days off all of spring training," Frey said. "But you're in Florida in February and March so you can't really complain."

Frey found out at the end of spring training that he would be returning to Augusta and hopes to improve on specific things.

"I pitch a little uniquely. I step toward first base and pitch across my body so I use some deceptiveness," Frey said. "I wouldn't say I want to add anything, but certain pitches need to be sharper for sure in certain counts and certain locations. Just making those sharp edges finer."

It wouldn't be surprising for Frey to encounter some adversity during the long minor league season, but he's been through a challenging time already.

Coming into his senior season at Oshkosh West, Frey was expecting to have a big year for the Wildcats only to have the entire campaign wiped out by the COVID pandemic.

"It was kind of scary. I played basketball and the season had just ended. Pitchers and catchers (starting practice) was the next week and that got banged," Frey said. "We were wondering when we were in lockdown and then we found out it got cancelled."

"Obviously, you want that back. A lot of good things baseball-wise have happened to me afterward but to have one last season with guys I grew up with, yeah I wish I had that."

Frey had already committed to UW-Milwaukee before his senior season and went on to have a successful career with the Panthers.

SEE **Riley Frey** ON PAGE 25

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Supple update

FROM PAGE 1

ating her content.

In addition, she has started calling softball games for the Big Ten and ACC networks, getting her on the road and behind the mic every weekend during the season.

"I've been doing a series every weekend since the conference season started," said Supple, who said she was heading out for the eighth weekend in a row to broadcast. "I've been back at Northwestern, been to West Point and to North Carolina. It's been amazing. I'm definitely maxing out my time."

Although Supple is open to working around any sports, she has narrowed her top two down to football and softball.

She shares a passion for both sports but approaches her work for each in a different way.

For football, it's all about the players and their stories and that's what she focuses on whether it is as a sideline reporter on a television broadcast or working for a print outlet.

"I loved this fall being able to be on the sideline, be in the press boxes and to be the one interviewing the coaches and players during the week, before games and after games," Supple said. "Obviously I didn't play, so for me it's the stories behind the athletes. I want to know the human side."

When the calendar shifts to softball season, Supple feels very comfortable in the broadcast booth as a color commentator.

In the role, she can use everything she has experienced over the course of her playing career to relate what's happening to the viewers.

"I love the X's and O's because that's kind of my playing field. That's where I feel like I can excel in explaining the game and teaching the game," Supple said. "My biggest goal from every broadcast that I do is that anyone listening can walk away learning one thing. I want the 10-year-old girls to be able to understand what I am saying just as much as the 15-year head coach of a high school program or travel ball program."

"You will often hear me say that 'If I were the player, in this situation, this is what I

would be thinking.' That's where I feel I am equipping the younger girls to be able to take something from it."

Covering softball has certainly helped ease the transition away from playing, but Supple admits that not a day goes by where she doesn't think about being on the diamond and in the pitching circle.

"Every day I miss it," Supple said. "As much as I like what I am doing and am thankful for these opportunities, there has also been a part of me that's mourned because there is nothing like having the bat or ball in your hands and being in the dugout with your team. It was something I cherished then and I cherish now even more."

"I think that's why I feel so grateful that I'm going into a career where I never have to leave the sport. It's different and it's going to take a while to set in, but I get to go hang with teams before a broadcast and have those feelings again. Nothing will truly replace how special a feeling it is to step on a diamond in your cleats."

Supple will be returning to Oshkosh the

first weekend in August to put on a two-day softball clinic for area youth at the field she helped build at Rainbow Park.

She plans to bring many of her teammates from Northwestern's World Series team to work with the participants as well as other collegiate players from Wisconsin who went on to other Division 1 schools.

For Supple, it's not only a way to give back to the community she came from, but to also show what can be accomplished. She is thankful for the list of mentors she's had in her journey – she counts Brennan, Bucks' play-by-play announcer Lisa Byington and Northwestern alum Ndidi Massay with CBS Sports among her most influential – and hopes to provide inspiration for the younger generation.

"I really want to be able to give back to Oshkosh and Wisconsin so more people can see I was from here I did this," said Supple, who also planned a visit to an Oshkosh North practice during a recent trip home. "The trail that the women have blazed for me, my goal is that I continue to make it even wider for the women to follow."

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Prep sports roundup

BASEBALL

Angell leads Spartans to win over Wildcats

Colton Angell threw a five-inning one-hitter and went 3-for-3 at the plate to lead Oshkosh North past rival Oshkosh West, 10-0, last Tuesday.

Angell struck out 10 and walked three on the mound with the Wildcats' Eddy Schroeder collecting the lone hit off Angell.

The Spartans scored four runs in each of the first two innings and then scored two runs in the bottom of the fifth to end the game by the mercy rule.

Carson Steinbeck, Shaun Gavin and Connor Palmquist added two hits apiece for North, while Steinbeck, Gavin and Angell each finished with two RBIs.

Gavin fans 14 as Spartans pull out close win

Shaun Gavin struck out 14 batters in 6 1/3 innings and the Spartans scored a run in the top of the eighth to pull out a 4-3 win over Wausau West on Friday.

Gavin allowed only one hit and two walks while giving up one run before reaching his pitch limit. Jackson Anderson got the win pitching the final 1 2/3 innings with two strikeouts.

Oshkosh North scored a run in the sec-

ond and added two more in the fourth but Wausau West rallied for three runs in the bottom of the seventh to even the score.

Anderson and Zach Kiffmeyer each scored two runs in the game for North, which totaled four hits. Max Kесе picked up an RBI.

The day before, the Spartans lost to Kimberly, 3-0. Colton Angell had both of the Spartans' hits in the game, while Kiffmeyer allowed just two hits and three runs - two of which were earned - in six innings.

Oshkosh West can't stop Polar Bears

The Wildcats outscored Hortonville 4-2 over the final three innings but couldn't overcome a 7-0 deficit in a 9-4 Fox Valley Association loss Thursday.

Landon Ubrig went 3-for-3 to lead Oshkosh West, while Ricky Ludwig finished with two hits and two RBIs. Jaxon Prill also chipped in two hits, while Eddy Schroeder scored a pair of runs for the Wildcats.

Lourdes/Valley splits with Cambria-Friesland

Lourdes Academy/Valley Christian knocked off Cambria-Friesland 11-9 last Tuesday but lost to the Hilltoppers, 8-7, in Trailways North action last week.

Hunter Stelzer and Nolan Gibson each

finished with three hits and three RBIs in the win. Parker Slusarski and Michael Roberts each chipped in two hits apiece while both scored three runs.

Tristan Gomez got the win in relief as the Knights overcame six unearned runs.

In the loss to the Hilltoppers, the Knights scored three runs in the top of the seventh to tie the score before Cambria-Friesland answered with one in the bottom of the inning to earn the win.

Gibson and Eli Humiston each had a pair of hits in the game for the Knights, while Michael Santiago, Gibson and Stelzer each drove in two runs.

SOFTBALL

Wildcats' offense erupts in win over Terrors

Emmy Reichenberger went 3-for-4 with a pair of RBIs as the Oshkosh West offense racked up 17 hits in a 16-2 thumping of Appleton West last Thursday.

Marnie Grey, Chloe Tritt and Kylie Hielsberg each chipped in two hits as 12 different players had at least one hit and 11 different players scored at least one run in the game.

West scored five runs in the third inning to take a 7-0 lead and then scored three runs in the fourth and six more in the fifth for its total.

Alexia Monroe struck out seven in four innings to get the win.

The win was part of a 2-2 week for the Wildcats, who also beat Hortonville, 3-1, with Monroe and Reichenberger each notching two hits. Alayna Sadowska struck out three and allowed just four hits in seven innings to earn the win.

Earlier in the week, West fell to Watertown 10-7 despite Colleen Fitzpatrick going 4-for-4 with three RBIs and Reichenberger getting two hits.

West also lost to Neenah 4-0 on Friday as they were held without a hit. Sadowska struck out six in six innings but took the loss.

Oshkosh North drops pair of one-run contests

The Spartans ran into some tough competition last week and finished 1-3 in four games, including a pair of one-run losses.

North scored three runs in the top of the first against Hortonville on Friday and led 5-2 after adding two runs in the third but couldn't hold off the Polar Bears in a 6-5 loss.

The Spartans pounded out 16 hits in the game, with Olivia Borowitz, Sophia Housworth and Allie Leib each going 3-for-4. Borowitz also drove in three runs for North.

Emma Niemczyk, Lauren Geer and Ava Hanson each added two hits in the game for the Spartans.

North also lost 1-0 to Kimberly earlier in the week with Geer and Housworth logging the only hits for the Spartans. Brooke Peters allowed just two hits and struck out three but took the loss.

The Spartans also ran into top-ranked Kaukauna last week and lost 7-1. Hanson and Leib tallied the only hits, with Leib driving in North's lone run.

North's lone win of the week came in a 14-3 victory over Appleton West. Borowitz, Housworth, Leib and Anna Borth

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 23

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WNAXLP

Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 22

each finished with three hits in the game, while Borowitz also finished with a team-high three RBIs.

Lourdes splits pair with Wayland Academy

Aubrey Schettle went 6-for-7 in the two games as Lourdes Academy split a pair with Wayland Academy, losing the first game 18-15 before bouncing back to take the second game 16-4.

Schettle hit for the cycle between the two games, totaling three singles, a double, a triple and a home run on the day.

Ella Slusarski finished 5-for-8 in the two games while she and Faith Blanchard also added home runs on the day.

Reagon Jabor and Reagon Proud each picked up three hits in the first game for Lourdes Academy.

SOCCER

Oshkosh West notches two ties at tourney

Oshkosh West earned a pair of ties at the De Pere Tournament over the weekend, earning a 1-1 score against Bay Port while posting a 0-0 against Germantown.

Morgan Toman tallied the Wildcats lone goal against the Pirates with Rilyn Polakowski collecting the assist. Hannah Wolf finished with eight saves in goal.

Wolf also had eight saves in the match against Germantown.

Earlier in the week, West lost a 5-2 decision to Appleton East in a Fox Valley Association match.

Toman and Elianna Noe scored the Wildcats' goals in the game, while Brenna Gehri and Taylin Heiman finished with assists. Wolf made eight saves.

Oshkosh North downs Shawano

The Spartans scored a 2-1 nonconference win over Shawano on Friday to improve to 3-4-2 on the season.

Ava Duran opened the scoring less than four minutes into the game, while Nella Schultz tallied the Spartans' second goal later in the first half off an assist from Natalie Kossolapov.

North dropped a 2-1 decision to Seymour earlier in the week.

Lourdes/Valley posts pair of easy wins

The Lourdes Academy/Valley Christian squad notched a pair of 5-0 victories last week.

The Knights beat Lomira on the road to remain unbeaten in Flyway Conference play and improve to 5-0-1 overall on the year.

Delaney Ruedinger scored three goals in the win, while Ellie Koch and Natalie Edwards each finished with one. Allie Huizenga and Koch each chipped in two assists, while Charley Mullen had one.

Earlier in the week against Campbellsport, Mullen and Koch each scored a pair of goals, while Ruedinger added another. Huizenga and Edwards were credited with assists in the win.

Hailee Bauer and Kenzie Grammer combined for the shutout in goal.

GOLF

Oshkosh West falls short against Neenah

Jaxen Lloyd shot a 45 to lead the Wildcats but West dropped the Fox Valley Association dual meet to Neenah 162-197 at

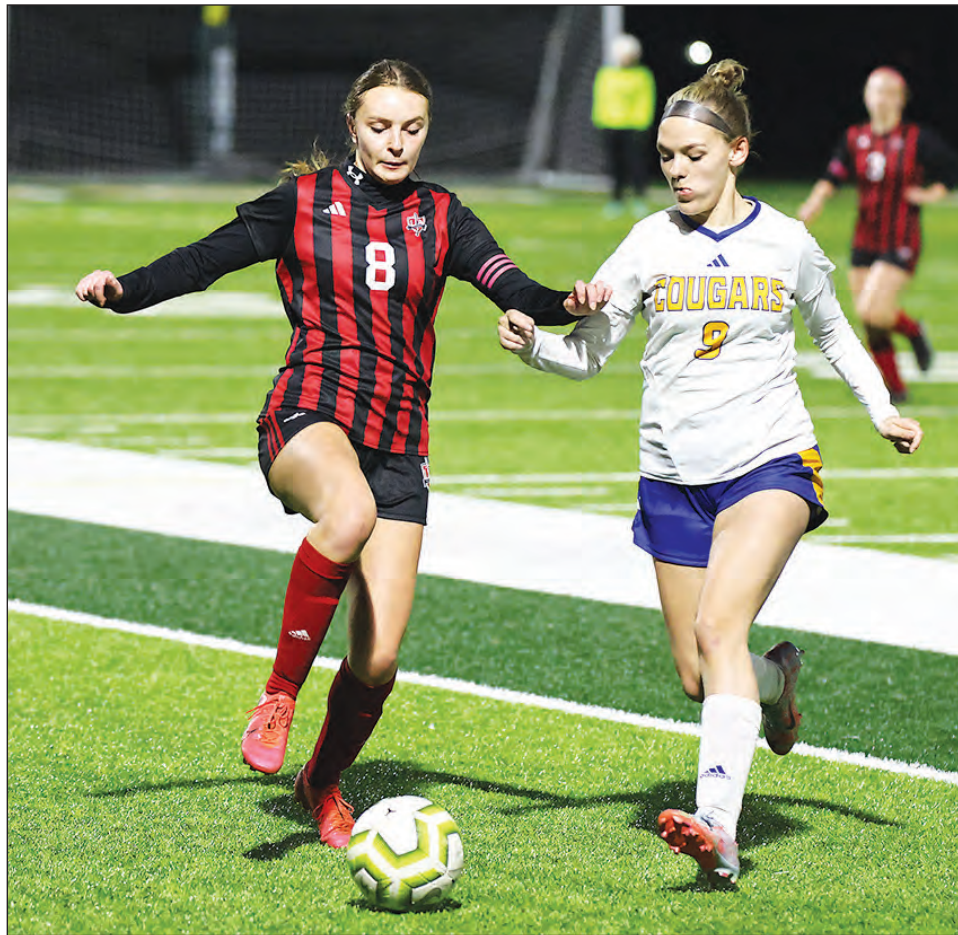


Photo by Andy Ratchmann

Lourdes Academy/Valley Christian's Melanie Tushar (8) battles for possession of the ball with a Campbellsport player in a match last week.

Ridgeway Country Club.

Caden McKone added a 48 for the Wildcats.

West also came up short against Fond du Lac last week, 174-202. Lloyd shot a 46 to pace the Wildcats, while Ethen Tsai added a 49 and McCone and Collin Rice shot 53 and 54, respectively.

Chopp leads Spartans against Fond du Lac

Dan Chopp shot a 46 to lead Oshkosh North but the Spartans fell to Fond du Lac 173-194 at Rolling Meadows Golf Course on Friday.

Warren Seely followed with a 48 and Owen Weber added a 49 for the Spartans. Christian Geffers and Jack Anderson each shot 51s.

On Tuesday, North picked up a victory beating Appleton North 164-170 at Westhaven.

Weber and Chopp led the way with 38 and 39, respectively, while Seeley added a 42. Geffers was next for the Spartans with a 45.

North also nearly knocked off Neenah, losing by three shots at Ridgeway Country Club. All four scoring golfers shot in the 40s for the Spartans with Seeley leading the way with a 44, Geffers and Chopp each shooting 46s and Weber adding a 48.

Lourdes/Valley stays unbeaten in Trailways

The Knights racked up another two wins in Trailways mini-meets, winning two separate events at Lawsonia Golf Course last week.

Cooper McLaughlin was medalist for the first meet with a 41, while Jackson Buttker added a 43, Lucas Neuens had a 48 and Calvin Tollard chipped in with a 54.

In the second meet at Lawsonia, it was Buttker posting a 39 for medalist honors. McLaughlin added a 42, while Neuens and Tollard each shot 48s.

TENNIS

Oshkosh West rolls through busy week

Oshkosh West had a successful week on the courts with a trio of dual meet wins, starting with a 6-1 victory over rival Oshkosh North.

Ryan Jorgensen and Yoseff Edsell punctuated the win with a 6-0, 6-1 win at No. 1

doubles, while Kole Stauffacher dropped just two games at No. 2 singles and Jacob Stinski lost only three games at No. 1 singles.

Anderson Ruth at No. 3 singles and Jace Koepsell at the No. 4 flight also posted singles wins for West, while the No. 2 doubles pairing of Reid Potter and Gavin Steiner also won for the Wildcats.

Quasi Alqawasm and George Tapia won at No. 3 doubles for the Spartans' lone win.

West also posted FVA victories over Appleton East (5-2) and Appleton West (4-3) last week.

Stauffacher posted a perfect 6-0, 6-0 win at No. 2 singles and the tandem of Jorgensen and Edsell also won 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1 doubles in the victory. Stinski and Ruth also added singles wins, while Potter and Steiner were winners at No. 2 doubles.

Stinski provided the lone singles win against Appleton West while the Wildcats swept the three doubles matches getting wins from Jorgensen and Edsell, Potter and Steiner and Quenten Prickett and Jacob Lemke.

Over the weekend, West went 4-1 at the Wausau West Tournament, scoring wins over Rhinelander, Bay Port, Pulaski and Wausau West while falling to Menomonie.

Stauffacher went 5-0 at the tournament at No. 2 singles, while Jorgensen and Edsell at No. 1 doubles also posted a perfect record to lead the Wildcats.

Oshkosh North drops FVA duals

In addition to losing to Oshkosh West, the Spartans fell in FVA dual meets to Appleton North and Kimberly last week.

Konrad Bowlus-Jasinski at No. 1 singles posted the only win for the Spartans against the Lightning, while Kimberly scored a 7-0 win over North.

TRACK AND FIELD

Moore, relay post wins for Lourdes Academy

Erin Moore breezed to a win in the 800 meters and then helped lead two Knight relay teams to strong finishes – including a win – at the Heimark Northstar Invitational at Waukesha North on Saturday.

Against a field of predominantly Division 1 teams, Moore won the 800 meters by a whopping 11 seconds for the top

individual finish of the night for Lourdes Academy.

She was then joined by Dasha Averkamp, Annie Moore and Melanie Tushar in winning the 3,200-meter relay. Moore, Averkamp, Natasha Konop and Kylie Rietz finished fourth in the 1,600-meter relay.

Schettle leads Spartans at FVA triangular

Logan Schettle won two individual events and finished second in another as Oshkosh North finished a close second to Fond du Lac in a Fox Valley Association triangular.

Schettle won the 100 meters and 200 meters and finished second in the long jump. He also teamed with Evan Auler, Anthony Nguyen and Jelani Hernandez to win the 400-meter relay.

Devin Williams in the 400 meters, Chase Reyer in the 800 meters and Bryce Ott in the high jump also posted individual wins. The team of Hernandez, Williams, Cooper Snell and Joshua Zietlow won the 1,600-meter relay.

Hernandez in the 100, Williams in the 200 and Snell in the 400 meters were each second.

The North girls were led by the hurdle events where Maddy Fabiano and Ariana McDowell went 1-2 in the 100-meter hurdles and Dahlyla Darden and McDowell finished first and second, respectively in the 300-meter hurdles.

Alai Awak added a first place in the high jump and was second in the 200 meters, while Anabel Mitchell in the 400 meters, Adri Clark in the 1,600 meters and Brianna Schulte in the pole vault were each second.

North also competed in the weather-shortened Neenah Invitational on Friday with Schettle placing second in the 100 meters and Awak tying for third in the high jump.

West boys take second at FVA quad

The Wildcats netted two 1-2 finishes to lead the way to a second-place finish last week as hosts of the FVA quadrangular Tuesday.

Benediction Kakola and Morgan Tibbits were first and second, respectively, in the 100 meters, while Ethan Pinkerton and Landen Egnoski were first and second, respectively in the pole vault.

Garth Martell added a first place in the shot put and took second in the discus, while Jeevan Ambati in the long jump and Mateo Romero in the triple jump each finished first.

West was also second in both the 400-meter, 800-meter and 3,200-meter relays.

The West girls were fourth at the quadrangular in Kaukauna on Monday.

The Wildcats had five second-place finishers at the meet in Kylie Triebold (400 meters), Shophia Geis (100-meter hurdles), Marissa Dutschek (shot put), Carly Salzer (high jump) and Kyana Williams (long jump).

West also competed at the weather-shortened Neenah Invitational on Friday.

Reid Polak finished first in the 100 meters, while Egnoski in the pole vault and Martell in the discus also finished first. Owen Heim was second in the long jump, with Antoni Olszewski, Ambati and Nathan Stiefvater taking third, fourth and sixth in the 100-meter hurdles.

For the girls, Sydnee Nelson in the 100 meters and Allison Simmons in the triple jump were each first, with Salzer taking second in the high jump and Dutschek finishing third in the shot put.

Lourdes Academy's McLaughlin caught golf bug early

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

A set of Fisher-Price toy golf clubs arrived at the family home a day after Cooper McLaughlin was born. It was a gift from a friend.

The toddler quickly took to the toy clubs and McLaughlin has never strayed far from the complex game of golf.

The Lourdes Academy senior is one of the top golfers in the Oshkosh area. He's a two-time WIAA state qualifier who finished eighth at the 2023 Division 3 state meet with a 167 score and tied for 22nd at the 2022 meet with a 177. He missed qualifying for state by a single stroke as a freshman.

McLaughlin was the Trailways Conference player of the year the past two seasons and has an excellent chance of pulling off the trifecta.

"State is going to be a little more challenging this year because we've moved up to Division 2," McLaughlin said. "But there's no reason why I shouldn't be able to perform at a high level. I'm just looking to compete this spring and be a varsity number one."

McLaughlin had a terrific start to the 2023 state tourney, shooting an opening-day nine-hole total of 77. However, he followed with a 90 the second day to fall out of the top five.

"I was tied for second after the first day, but let things get away from me that second day," he said. "It was a tough day. I left a lot out there. I'd love to have that day back."

McLaughlin carries a nine-hole average of 39.7. He's solid in all areas, but his strength is his short game.

"He has good soft hands and when he gets to within 150 yards, it's a pitching wedge for him," said Lourdes/Valley Christian coach Greg "Mac" McLaughlin, who is Cooper's father. "He's a very astute, very cerebral golfer."

McLaughlin drives the ball well but admits that he's no power hitter.



Submitted photo

Lourdes Academy's Cooper McLaughlin is a two-time state qualifier who finished eighth in Division 3 last year.

"I've never been able to hit the ball necessarily as far as everyone else," he said. "With me it's more about course management than hitting long drives."

"Putting is one of my strengths. When I was a sophomore at state, I had one of the worst putting experiences I've ever had. So I worked hard to improve that

part of my game."

Golf is McLaughlin's lone prep sport and an enormous part of his life. When he's not playing the game, McLaughlin works part time at Golfers Outlet in Oshkosh. He's also been involved the past few summers in a youth development program at Rolling Meadows known as

Senior spotlight

First Tee that teaches golf and character skills.

"I'm pretty much around the game all the time," McLaughlin said. "What isn't there to love about golf? I just love being out on the course in the peace and quiet. It just gets you into your own head space. It's a great way to clear your mind."

Having his father serve as coach has never been an issue for Cooper. And Mac has never had a problem with his dual role as Cooper's coach and parent.

"To tell you the truth, it's been pretty easy," Mac said. "Cooper is very accomplished. He knows the game. He's not one who needs a lot of attention out there during meets."

Cooper added, "It's been very easy. We never butt heads. We're both invested in winning and trying to be the best we can be. I attribute a lot of the success I've had to my dad. He's invested a lot in developing my game and has really helped me get better."

Cooper's favorite golfers are Tommy Fleetwood and Paul Casey.

"I just like their swings, especially Tommy Fleetwood's swing," said Cooper. "It's unique, but he makes it work. It shows that you don't have to do everything perfect as long as you can make it work."

Cooper is also an excellent student in the classroom, carrying a 3.89 grade point average. He plans to attend the University of Minnesota next year and major in economics.

"I'm a big math guy, so an economics major to start looks good and will hopefully allow me to eventually go into law," he said. "When I was younger, I read a lot of books that really got me interested in the law, Psychology and sociologically - two other subjects that interest me - are a big part of the law degree. I would like to work in that sector someday."

McLaughlin isn't planning on playing college golf but is open to the idea if given the opportunity.

As for his current goals, McLaughlin is just looking to keep improving his game and helping his Lourdes team defend its conference championship.

"I'm surrounded by a lot of good players and that just helps me want to compete even harder," he said. "I strive to keep up with my playing partners. I'm hoping to average under 37 and hopefully that will help us win conference again."



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Lakeside youth services room to be dedicated

Oshkosh Herald

Lakeside Packaging Plus is opening a new space for Neenah youth with diverse abilities who can use it to cultivate relationships and lifelong skills. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is set for 4 p.m. May 29 at the 1040 Breezewood Lane location.

The Club Connect program will begin in June after construction is completed. Two summers ago, Lakeside Packaging began offering a 12-week Youth Community Summer Program at its Oshkosh facility for youth ages 14-19 with cognitive or physical disabilities to give them access to social and learning opportunities onsite

and in the community.

As the Oshkosh program has grown over two summers, the leadership at Lakeside Packaging wanted to bring the same program to families in Neenah. The program has been renamed Club Connect to emphasize the program's focus on connecting these youth with their community, peers and own future.

In 1962, a group of parents, teachers and volunteers came together to ensure their loved ones had access to opportunities that were purposeful. Now more than 200 youth and adults take part each year.

Most recently, the nonprofit has created an opportunity that will connect youth with disabilities to engaging community experiences outside of school. While out-of-school activities are available to the general population, some teens are not able to participate due to physical limitations or the need for additional support/modifications.

A local longtime partner and supporter of Lakeside Packaging is donating in-kind services to remodel this space and Fox Communities Credit Union has sent funds to offset expenses for the program.

"We can't wait to live out our mission through the expansion of our Club Connect youth programming to the Neenah area," state Lakeside Packaging chief executive Rob Servais. "Come and see for yourself all the fun things we have in store this year for our youth."

Riley Frey

FROM PAGE 20

He was a three-time second-team all-conference pitcher and led the team in starts, innings pitched and strikeouts his third and final season. He was also named to the all-Horizon League Freshman Team in his first year.

Those experiences at UW-Milwaukee helped prepare him to play at the professional level and have helped him feel comfortable taking the mound in the minor leagues.

"Obviously it's a job and you have to realize that when you first sign, but it is still baseball at the end of the day," Frey said. "The competition will get better at each level you climb but (moving up) that's ultimately out of my control as far as when. I just have to keep producing."

Oshkosh Ambassadors set to start 33rd season

The Oshkosh Ambassadors 65 team kicked off the 33rd season of the Ambassadors Senior Softball Club this week in the Northern Championships in Minneapolis.

The Ambassadors will be fielding five teams again this year. The 50's squad managed by Gary "Fish" Herring, 60's managed by Eric "Buck" Bockhorn, 65's managed by Dennis "Weeze" Wesenberg, 70's managed by Bob Mathe and the 75's

squad managed by Russ Rutz.

The teams will play tournaments in Waterloo Iowa; Rochester, Minn.; Little Canada Minn.; Quad Cities Iowa, Milwaukee and possibly Las Vegas, Ft. Myers and Phoenix.

Those interested in playing on one of the teams or helping with sponsorship can contact club president Jerry Diemel at 920-233-0735 or go to oshkoshambassadors.com.

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Obituaries

James Allen Smith

James Allen Smith, 87, passed away at home on April 23, 2024, with his dog and best friend, Sam, by his side. He was born on October 1, 1936, in Menasha, WI to Ruth R. Skrzypczak and Bradford Smith.

Jim graduated from Menasha High School in 1954. He then served in the National Guard for 2 years before beginning a career at Kimberly Clark. Jim worked his way up to a supervisory position, where he remained, until taking early retirement at 55.

At a young age, Jim purchased a small cabin on the River in Omro. With the help from his grandfather, he built this cabin into a home, where Jim spent the remainder of his life. Jim made many memories boating, fishing, hunting, taking casino trips, and endless Miller

High Life's. Of all his memories, his favorites involved his wife Judi, whom he married January 29, 1986.

Jim leaves behind his children, Scott (Beverly) Smith of California, Mike (Trish) Smith of Kentucky; step-children, John (Lisa) Krause Jr., Kimberly Schug, Justin (Scott) Krause-Brown; grandchildren, Danielle, Barik, Parker, Veronika, Aerial, Edward, Ruth, Harper and Michael Jr.; along with three great grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his wife, parents, brothers Gerald and Randall, son Morgan, and son-in-law Eugene Jr.

The family would like to extend a thank you to the compassionate staff at Aurora Hospital and Hospice, Amber at Pawsitively Radiant for her help with Sam, and Jim's neighbors for the help and care over the years.

Jim valued the concept of "paying it forward" through donations to various charities. In Lieu of flowers and money, please send a donation to a charity of importance to you.

 **Kwiatkowski Funeral Home**
425 Jefferson Avenue
Omro, Wisconsin 54963

Janice A. Graf

Janice A. Graf, age 77 passed away on April 14th, 2024, at Parkview Health Center in Oshkosh, WI, where she resided for the past two years because of complications with illness.

Jan was born December 21st, 1946, in Oshkosh, WI to Fred (Delores) Rates at Mercy Medical Center. At 14 years old, Jan became a model and then graduated from Oshkosh West High School in 1965. She then attended Technical College where she obtained her license to become a hairdresser.

On July 4th, 1970, Janice married Daniel Graf at Peace Lutheran Church in Oshkosh. They were happily married for over 53 years. They were blessed with a wonderful, caring daughter Brenda on April 25th, 1972. At that time Janice had become a full-time homemaker.

Jan and Dan enjoyed going to rummage sales and flea markets, playing cards and word games. They also loved to travel and some of their favorite places were

Graceland, Dollywood, Disney World, Mt. Rushmore and trips to Hawaii.

Jan had a large collection of dolls and teddy bears. She enjoyed spending time with her family, cooking, listening to music and was big fan of Elvis.

She is survived by her husband, Dan; daughter, Brenda (Mark) Larsen; brother, Fred (Janet) Rates Jr; granddaughter, Alyssa (Wes) Doberstein; grandson, Austin Larsen; great-grandson, Easton Doberstein and great-granddaughter Cara Doberstein. She also is survived by many nieces and nephews; brothers-in-law and close friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Fred (Delores) Rates Sr.; in-laws Al (Gina) Graf; brother-in-law, aunts and uncles.

There was a private ceremony held at Lake View Memorial Park in Oshkosh. A celebration of Jan's life will be held at a later date and all are welcome.

The family would like to give a special thanks to Jim Decker and all the nurses at Parkview Health Center for all the care they gave Jan and support to our family.

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William L. Garbrecht

William L Garbrecht, age 59 of Menasha died unexpectedly in his home. The Lord called him home on March 17th.

William (Bill) was preceded in death by his beloved wife Teena Garbrecht (Kabat) his father Kenneth Garbrecht and his brother Daniel. He is survived by his mother Audrey and his brother Andrew

He was born Sept 16, 1964 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Audrey and Kenneth Garbrecht. He married Teena Kabat Oct 20, 2007. She was one of the best joys in his life along with their cats Bert and Ernie!

He joined the Army Reserve Aug 15,

1985 and retired at the Rank of Sergeant William Garbrecht. He received numerous awards and medals, one of which was Soldier of the Year.

Bill has worked for Winnebago County since 2013

He was known for his sense of humor, he would imitate comedians and have you laughing so hard your side hurt! But that didn't compare to his Karaoke! He was a fun loving guy who was always polite and considerate to everyone! He will be missed by his friends and family!

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loved all of the shows as well as the slots and Elvis sightings.

She is survived by her son Peter (Erika), sisters... Sylvia Fisher and Violet (Wayne) Hinz, nieces, nephews, and special friend Lisa Lamb.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her sister Sallie Linke and numerous extended family.

Nancy will be missed by family and friends, but we all have wonderful memories and the great times we spent with her. Nancy, know you are in our thoughts every day, until we meet again, we will all treasure having been part of your life.

As Frank Sinatra crooned "My Way" and Nancy would karaoke... she had few regrets, she loved, she laughed, she cried, and did it her way.

At Nancy's request there will be no visitation or funeral.

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Nancy Helke

Nancy Helke, age 84, passed away at Eden meadows in Oshkosh on April 20, 2024. She was born on July 20, 1939, the daughter of Clarence and Martha Zblewski.

Nancy was always there for everyone, be it family or friends. She was a great listener and never judged anyone.

She was the most amazing sister I could have asked for, as well as the best mom to her son, Pete. She stood by him at all times and was always there for him. Everyone who knew her said she was such an interesting person who gave so willingly of herself.

Most of her working years were spent at Evergreen Manor. In her retirement years Nancy enjoyed trips to Las Vegas (what happened in Vegas, stayed in Vegas). She



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Lynda Lee Mohr

Lynda Lee Mohr, age 63, passed away on April 22, 2024, at her residence in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. She was born to parents, Ralph W. and Leanora M. (Muza) Mohr on December 20, 1960, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

She worked for local banks as customer service/financial auditor, along with other local companies as customer service and telecommunications representative. Lynda also loved animals, especially yellow Labs. She also was an avid reader of many genres. Lynda was a lifelong member of Emmanuel United Church of Christ. She found much joy spending time with her great-nieces, Gabi and Kenzi.

Lynda is survived by her sister, Leanne (Dan) Monroe; brothers, Larry Mohr and Les (significant other, Tammy) Mohr; nephew, Christopher Schwab; niece, Stephanie (Mauricio) Pereira da Silva; great-nieces, Gabi and Kenzi; as well as friends and other family.

Preceding her in death was her parents, Ralph W. and Leanora M. (Muza) Mohr as well as her beloved furry companions, Sam and Fuller.

In lieu of flowers, please feel free to donate to the Oshkosh Humane Society in her honor.

Per her wishes, no services will be held.

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Karen L. Norton

Karen L. Norton, age 74, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at ThedaCare Medical Center in Neenah due to a fall. She was born to the late Fred and Muriel (Woodstruck) Schrauth on July 30, 1949 in Fond Du Lac. Karen married Tom Norton in 1971.

Karen attended Oshkosh High School. In 2010, after a 41 year career at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Karen retired. Karen's retirement years brought her great joy, as she was able to spend time with family and

friends. Her fondest moments included trips to Door County, traveling the Great River Road and wintering in Pensacola Beach, Florida with her husband.

Karen is survived by her husband, Tom; sons, Ryan (Kelly) Norton and Eric Norton; grandchildren, Riley, Quinn, Hailee, and Soren; great-granddaughter Chloe; sisters Gail (Al) Beyer, Susie (Wayne) Youngworth, and Julie (John) Nicks.

Per Karen's wishes a Cremation has taken place and a private service will be held. In lieu of flowers, a donation to PBS (Public Broadcasting Station) Wisconsin can be made.

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Robert LaVerne Kruger

Robert LaVerne Kruger passed away on April 19th, 2024 of a heart attack followed by complications at Ascension Medical Group Wisconsin - Oshkosh. He was born on October 20th, 1980 to Gary E. Kruger and Mary L. (Schulz) Kruger In Madison, WI.

He is survived by his Mother, his daughters Lexi (Alex), Natalie, Josie, his son Austin, and grandson Greyson. Aunt, Uncle, and several other relatives. Siblings, Jon Kruger, Noel (Fred) Stephany, Jennifer (Justin) Kruger.

His Furbaby Aspen.

He was Preceded in death by his Father, Gary and his Grandparents.

Bob was a mechanic and loved racing his car "Black Sunshine". His racing logo was Zombie Racing. He liked Hard rock, going to concerts and collecting drumsticks whenever possible. He loved his children and family more than anything. He was kind, and loving.

Bob, you are forever in our hearts. Visitation will be held at Lake View Cemetery in the Chapel on May 9th, 2024 from 12-2pm. 2786 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

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Obituaries

Fredric C. Auclair

Fredric Carl Auclair, at age 73, passed away peacefully on March 9, 2024 surrounded by his loving family. Fred was born February 7, 1951 in Milwaukee to parents Carl and Delores Auclair. The family moved to Oshkosh in 1954.



Fred graduated in 1969 from Oshkosh High School where he excelled in athletics.

Fred was a three-sport letter-winner in football, basketball and track and field but truly excelled on the football field. Fred was a three-year starter at tackle for the Indian football team and was a proud member of the 1968 Oshkosh Indian undefeated FRVC championship team that was voted number one in the state.

Fred's senior year he was a first-team All-

Fox River Valley Conference selection at tackle on both offense and defense and was voted FRVC "Lineman of the Year". Fred was also voted first team offensive tackle on the United Press International All-State football team that season, and was again honored as "Lineman of the Year".

As a senior, Fred showed he had more than physical strength by presiding as VP of the Letterman's Club whose members focused on raising money for their annual service project giving back to the community.

Following graduation Fred received a full athletic scholarship to play football at the University of Minnesota only to be sidelined by an arm injury two years in. But after successful surgery Fred went on to play two years with the Manitowoc Chiefs Semi-pro team.

In July of 1974 a Green Bay Packer scout attended a Chiefs scrimmage and was impressed enough to call and invite Fred to try out for the Packers. Per Fred, "I got the

great-niece Meredith Streeter-Erie, CO.

Patricia was preceded in death by parents Rexford and Marie Briggs.

Patricia graduated from Sault Area High School in 1965 and throughout her career served in a variety of roles. She always worked hard and strived to improve her skills and broaden her knowledge base. She retired in September 2008 from her role as Executive Director of Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission. Throughout the years she held a variety of positions in professional organizations such as NARO and BPW, as well as serving a term as Sault Ste. Marie City Commissioner. During her career she was honored to receive the ATHENA award, a national award recognizing her role in mentoring young professional women.

Patricia was a member of Sault Ste. Marie First Church of Christ and had found a new congregation at Oakhaven Church in Oshkosh since moving to the area.

Celebrations of Life and prayer services will be held May 11, 2024 at 11am at Oakhaven Church, 2175 Witzel Ave, Oshkosh, WI 54956 and August 20 at 11am at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested donations in honor of Patricia be directed to Chippewa County Animal Shelter or Soo Theatre in Sault Ste. Marie or the local charity of your choice.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

moved to Ellenton, Florida, and lived there for close to ten years. She became a member of Parrish United Methodist Church, where she volunteered at the church office and in the thrift shop. Ethel was also a member of Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church in Oshkosh.

Ethel is survived by her three children, Barry (Kathleen) Yarbro, Mark (Diane) Yarbro, and Susan (John) Zuckerman; grandchildren Peter (Michelle Gutierrez), Christopher (Amanda), Steven, Matthew (Tricia), and Amanda (Jeff Popp); and five great-grandchildren: Aaron, Quinn, Chloe, Carson, and Olivia.

Ethel was preceded in death by her husband Robert, her parents, her sister Juanita Prei of Wausau and her brother George, who died at age 14.

A memorial service is Saturday, May 4, 2024, at Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church with visitation beginning at 10:00 and the service at 11:00.

Memorials may be given to Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

call Monday morning, by afternoon I had signed a contract and Tuesday night I was in camp." One of Fred's favorite stories was how in a pre-season game against Chicago, he hit a Bears player so hard that the smack resonated throughout the stadium resulting in a fist-pumping tirade from their coach. Although his stint with the Pack ended with pre-season, his experience was a lifelong dream come true.

In 2010 Fred's athletic story was honored by his induction into the Oshkosh West Athletic Wall of Fame.

Post football, Fred worked for the Vinton Construction Company of Manitowoc. He followed that with multiple sales jobs and worked as a paramedic for Gold Cross Ambulance until he landed with Bergstrom automotive in 1996 where he worked until his retirement in 2016. Fred spoke fondly of the many long-lasting friendships he developed with his co-workers and customers through the years. During his time with Bergstrom, Fred became a big supporter of "Make a Wish" and put tireless effort into raising money for that cause.

Over the years Fred developed and refined a love for woodworking. He made everything from bird houses to furniture, both primitive to refined, always looking for the next challenge. He was often in the shop at 5 am before going to work. Fred filled their home, and the homes of family and friends, with his creations.

Fred also enjoyed the fruits of his labor in the garden, especially making pickles with Dawn and sauerkraut with buddies Bill Faulk and Dan Galica. He looked forward every summer to the blooming of his favorite ghost lilies.

Fred was a people person and made friends easily. He could turn a bread and milk run to the store into a two-hour expedition, never failing to stop and take a moment with each person he knew. He maintained strong relationships with many of his high school and football classmates, many of these friendships went as far

Anne Skidmore

Anne was born May 29, 1937, the daughter of Lee and Ethel Earle Skidmore, in Oshkosh, WI. She passed away April 23, 2024, in Visalia, CA.

She was preceded in death by infant daughter, Elizabeth, sisters Diana (Andrew) Hasley and Margaret Schuster, brothers Wayne (Dorothy) Skidmore and John (Nathalie) Skidmore, her parents, niece, Patricia Brown and nephew, Peter Schuster.

She is survived by sons, John Coumbe and Stephan Coumbe, and daughter, Mary A. Johnson (John Wu), 12 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren, and many friends. She dearly loved her children and grandchildren.

Anne took a very active part in positions at Algoma Blvd. United Methodist Church, Oshkosh, WI. She joined the church choir at age 15. Anne taught Sunday school for 10 years. She then became director of the kindergarten department, and then church school superintendent. Anne introduced and formed care groups with Dr. Connie Lee and Ann Johnson. She introduced the Christmas Walk to the city and formed the first walk with participating area churches. The Christmas Walk eventually expanded to churches on Oshkosh's south side.

Anne was co-director of the Midwest Conference of the United Methodist Church Family Camp with a pastor from New Berlin, WI.

Anne was a member of St. Joseph Cath-

olic Church folk group in Fond du Lac, WI and St. Francis Cabrini Church choir in West Bend, WI.

back as grade school. Among them are the group that make up the Friday breakfast club known as ROMEO (Really Old Men Eating Out). This group of men gave their full support to Fred in his last months by providing helpful deeds, but most importantly they gave him love and encouragement. Fred was immensely grateful!

Fred was a kind, generous man and loyal friend. Above all else, he was a loving family man. Fred married his wife Dawn (Marrier) June 25, 1977 and together they had two sons. Fred's greatest joy in life was spending time with his three precious granddaughters.

Fred is survived by his wife Dawn; sons Travis (Elise Velasco) of Long Beach California and Tyler (Kaylee) of Oshkosh; granddaughters Palmer and Baker Auclair and Rebelle Velasco. Fred is also survived by his sisters Kim (Jack) Francar and Candy (Scott) Weber; brothers-in-law Scott (Deb) Marrier and Kurt Marrier as well as nieces and nephews Aaron, Allison, Shane, Darrell, Chauncey and Shauna; and his countless friends.

Fred is preceded in death by his parents

Carl and Delores Auclair, his good friends Bill Faulk and Dave Bartels and his very special granddog Bud. Shortly after his passing the family also mourned the loss of Fred's beloved mother-in-law Hazel Ring.

Fred's family wishes to thank all those who offered help and support including: their neighbors Dave Otto and the Goltz family for their help with the yard and Dave Grable for answering our call at any hour; Gary Bucholtz for care of our apple trees; Dan Galica for being Fred's on call ride guy; and Karen Haines and Randy Domer for being a constant source of support both before and after Fred's passing.

Fred's family invites all who knew and loved him to gather with them in Celebration of Fred's Life. The celebration will take place on May 11, 2024 at the Elks Lodge #292, 175 W. Fernau Ave, Oshkosh WI. 12:00 doors open; 12:30 A Time to Remember; 1-5 Food and Friendship.

Ann participated in activities at Dale School while her children were students there.

From 1977-1979 she was an Outreach Worker and Meal Site Manager for Winnebago County Nutrition Program for the Elderly.

Anne graduated from UW-Oshkosh with honors and was a University Scholar. She received her Master's Degree in Education - Guidance. She was a member of Psi Chi (psychology honor society) and Kappa Delta Pi (education honor society). Several years later she was asked to be the guest speaker for new members of Kappa Delta Pi and their families at the Pollack House at UW-O.

Her last employment was at the Christine Ann Center where she worked with battered women (she, herself, had been a battered woman). She developed and co-facilitated a support group for elderly women with Beth Meltz of the Department of Social Services in Neenah, WI.

Anne loved to read, the arts, philosophical and spiritual discussions, and nature. She loved vacationing in Door County at Bill and Barbara Urbrock's condo in Egg Harbor.

At Anne's request, there will be no services.

My brilliant mother suffered from dementia at the end of her life. She wrote this obituary in 2007.

Patricia Briggs Shimmens

Patricia Marie Briggs Shimmens was born September 25, 1947 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, where she lived most of her life. She married Robert Shimmens on September 23, 1978. Robert and Patricia lived and worked in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan but moved to Oshkosh, Wisconsin after retirement. She departed this life on April 11, 2024.



Patricia was a kind, caring, and loving mother, wife, sister and daughter. She loved hosting large family dinners and was happiest when the family was together. She enjoyed reading and spending time near Lake Superior and Lake Michigan. Most of all she loved her husband and many dauschunds.

Surviving family members include her husband Robert -Oshkosh, daughter Christina Savoie and son Robert Peltier (Paula) - Sault Ste. Marie, grandsons Timothy Peltier - Las Vegas and Joseph Garber - Chicago, great-grandson Dominic Peltier of Sault Ste. Marie, sister Susan Streeter (Cecil) of Oshkosh, nephews Carl (Stephanie) Streeter - Erie, Co and Eric (Kristen) Streeter - Mahomet, IL, great-nephews Matthew Streeter-Erie, CO and Grant Rexroat-Indianapolis, IN and

Ethel Florence Yarbro

Ethel Florence Yarbro, age 98, passed away at Evergreen Retirement Community in Oshkosh, Wisconsin on the morning of Thursday, January 11, 2024. She was born to Charles and Florence (Olson) Simons on November 30, 1925, in Wausau, WI. She married Robert Lewis Yarbro on July 4, 1947, and they were together until his passing in 2007.



Ethel graduated from Wausau Senior High School in 1943 and worked outside the home for most of her adult life. In 1950, she and her husband moved to Oshkosh, where Ethel worked at Miles Kimball and Morgan Doors. She was also a long-time employee of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department.

In her free time, Ethel enjoyed sewing, reading, playing bridge, and sharing meals at the Roxy Supper Club with friends and family.

After retiring, Ethel and her husband

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



RENNING LEWIS & LACY

Buddy B. Beaver's Goals

Buddy shows us how to reach a big goal by breaking it down into smaller steps.

Beavers don't just use trees to build dams. When Buddy looks up at this tall tree, he sees food and housing for his family.

But chopping down a big tree can seem like an awfully big goal for a little beaver.

Buddy sees the **big job** as a series of **small jobs**.

Jobs that start as taking small bites of the tree, one at a time.

Buddy gnaws at the trunk of a tree, taking lots of tiny bites.

He chews and chews away at the tree trunk, until finally ...

... the tree topples over! Buddy takes the tree to a nearby stream and builds a home for his family.

Buddy's cozy home is built of trees and branches. He strips the bark off the tree and stores it to feed his family. Home sweet lodge!

Be Like Buddy: How to Reach a Goal

Sometimes there are things you want in life that are not possible right now. For example, maybe you want to buy something that is expensive. If you are serious about that purchase, make buying it a **goal**.

In order to reach that goal, be like Buddy. Make a list of small steps or small goals that would help you reach your big goal.

EXAMPLE: Angie wants to buy a new coat. The coat costs \$50.

Angie decides that instead of trying to earn \$50 all at once, she will make ten goals that will help her reach her big goal. She makes a goal of earning \$5. If she earns \$5 ten times, she will reach her big goal of \$50!



Extra! Extra!
Busy Builders
Beavers are builders. Look through the newspaper for examples of things people build. What are the kinds of jobs people do to build things?
Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

ANGIE'S GOAL: Earn \$50 for a new coat!

- Mowed the lawn: \$3.00
- Made my bed: \$0 (Mom expects me to do this every morning!)
- Walked the dog: \$2.00
- Took out the trash: \$1.00
- Did the dishes: \$2.00

How can Angie earn \$5? Put a check in the box next to each of Angie's jobs. If you checked the right boxes, they add up to exactly \$5.

If Angie can earn \$5 per week and save the money, how long until she will have enough money to buy the coat?

MY GOAL: _____

JOBS I CAN DO TO EARN THE MONEY:	HOW MUCH I CAN EARN:
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

HOW LONG UNTIL I REACH MY GOAL? _____

Kid Scoop Together: Busy Beavers!
Busy beavers chewed some words from this list of fun beaver facts. Replace the words to find out some amazing things about beavers.

AGE SLOW COIN
ALARM TAIL YEARS
WEIGH BARK TREES

- Using their broad, scaly _____, beavers will forcefully slap the water as an _____ signal to other beavers in the area that a predator is approaching.
- Beavers are _____ on land but using their webbed feet, they are very good swimmers. A beaver can stay under water for up to 15 minutes.
- Beavers are **herbivores**. They like to eat the _____ and wood of _____. They also eat pondweed and water lilies.
- Adult beavers are around three feet long and have been known to _____ over 55 lb (25 kg). Females are as large or larger than males of the same _____.
- Beavers can live up to 24 _____ in the wild.
- The beaver is the national animal of Canada, and is on the Canadian five-cent _____.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

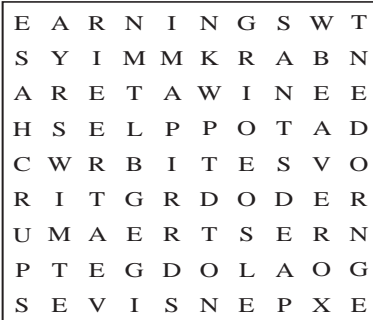
Can you put these mixed-up beaver facts in the correct order?

- are powerful swimmers that can swim
- the second largest in the world. Beavers
- shut to keep water out. Transparent inner eyelids
- underwater for up to 15 minutes.
- When a beaver swims underwater, its nose and ears
- built-in swimming goggles!
- Beavers are the largest rodent in North America and
- close over each eye to help the beaver see like

Double Double Word Search

- EXPENSIVE PURCHASE
EARNING EYELIDS
TOPPLES RODENT
BEAVER STREAM
LODGE WATER
BITES BARK
SWIM GOAL
TREE

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



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

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Write On!
A penny saved is ...
Finish this story.

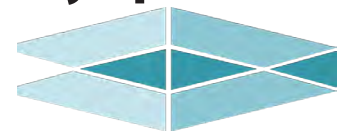


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YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR
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