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INSIDE



MK Lofts Historic business site turns to housing Page 8

Public rides GO Transit begins new fare app system Page 3

County to vote on federal funds plan

Interest from ARPA set for general operations

By Bethanie Gengler Oshkosh Herald

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors is set to consider a resolution that would allocate \$1.4 million in interest earnings from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to fund county government projects and funnel future interest earnings to the county's general fund.

According to a memo from the county executive, the final rule from the U.S. Treasury on ARPA spending expressly allows interest on the federal funds to be placed in the general fund.

The county received \$33.3 million in federal pandemic relief in 2021 and 2022, which it designated the "Spirit Fund" to be spent in the spirit of ARPA.

The funds were divided into the categories of "county government projects" proposed by the county executive and department heads; and "government identified projects" intended to be a partnership among county departments and the community.

To date, the county has approved 65 projects and disbursed \$23.5 million in

SEE County earnings on Page 10



Photo by Michael Cooney

Lake fish survey

Jason Kohls records data while Kyle Olson returns a drum fish as other state Department of Natural Resources staff work at the counting table behind them Thursday for their annual fish survey of Lake Winnebago. The group spent eight hours on the boat doing 13 pulls, or trawls, starting off Neenah and then to the middle of the lake just south of Oshkosh.

Fire department notifies area municipalities of rate increase

Fee hike will help fund fourth ambulance unit

By Jonathan Richie Oshkosh Herald

Next year the Oshkosh Fire Department will have a fourth ambulance unit and increase what surrounding municiand population.

The new projections were delivered Aug. 30 to the municipalities to allow time for budgeting purposes. The 2025 projections have risen to \$31.20 per-capita service rate and \$37.77 for 2026.

Those increases would mean the Village of Winneconne will see a large increase in service rates and spend about \$78,000 in 2025. Village Administrator Logan Fuller said the increase will impact the general fund and although substantial it will not yet lead to a tax levy increase.



palities pay for services to help pay for it.

The Common Council voted after a closed session for the fire department to have a fourth unit to help cover the increase in calls that are primarily EMS calls for service.

Rate projections were sent out to the 11 municipalities that have agreements with Oshkosh. The city was offering services at \$3.60 per capita. The service charges are based on department revenue, expenses "The service is outstanding," Fuller said, "but it will affect the community and the general operating budget."

Fuller said last year there were plans to do more of a gradual increase over the

SEE Ambulance calls ON PAGE 11

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Fire Department EMS Division Chief Aaron Droessler shows off one of three new ambulances the department recently had delivered after waiting almost three years.

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

Publisher

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

Editor

City roundabouts get some visual attention

By Jonathan Richie Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh roundabouts have received a much-needed rejuvenation.

City landscape operations manager Travis Derks said the project has been a success.

"They look beautiful," Derks said, "much better than how they looked before."

Derks reported to the Common Council earlier this year that the Jackson Street and Murdock Avenue roundabout was the first to be installed in the city and since then, 11 more have been installed to replace traffic lights along Interstate 41 and U.S. 45.

He said that since initial installation there has been minimal maintenance on the interior of the roundabouts after they began to look overgrown. All 12 will have a similar look with medium-sized shrubs, trees and a rock ring to cut down on the use of mulch.

The roundabouts on Witzel and 9th avenues were completed last week along with Jackson Street/Murdock Avenue. The DOT had asked the city to delay the work at Oshkosh Avenue and Algoma Avenue but are scheduled to be completed



Oshkosh Herald

The roundabout at Jackson Street and Murdock Avenue looks quite different than it did earlier this year after a citywide rejuvenation of all 12 roundabouts in Oshkosh.

this week.

The plants are all salt tolerant so in the winter they won't wither and die when city trucks go through with salt brine when preparing for winter storms. All grass was taken out as well to help lessen the maintenance needed.

The project was made possible by the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and Oshkosh Convention & Visitors Bureau. The project cost just over \$200,000 with a private-public partnership funding some of it and the city budgeting \$150,000.

Herald acquires Winneconne News weekly

Oshkosh Herald

The Winneconne News is under new ownership by Oshkosh Herald LLC starting with this week's issue.

Becky LaDue continues in her role as editor that she has held since 2008 at the newspaper along with her staff at 908 E. Main St. in Winneconne. The Oshkosh Herald also acquired Rogers Printing at that location.

The Winneconne News has been printing its weekly community publication for 153 years and was owned and operated by



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the Rogers family since 1953.

The Winneconne News is the third newspaper under the Oshkosh Herald LLC umbrella with the Oshkosh Herald founded in 2018, and the Neenah News founded in 2022. Cumulatively the group reaches more than 55,000 homes and businesses in Winnebago County delivering local news and information and providing a cost-effective advertising vehicle for local businesses.

The paper can be reached at 920-582-4541 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday, by email at news@winneconnenews. com or online at winneconnenews.com.

Back in the Day



<u>Oct. 5, 1880</u>

Arsonist Reduces Fairgrounds to

Ashes: Fire destroyed most of the

fairgrounds on Tuesday. Officials claim

it was the work of an arsonist. Shortly

before midnight, flames ignited in the

mammoth Exposition Building, reduc-

ing it to ashes in short order. Also left

in smoldering ruins were the eating

house, and a long line of cattle and

horse barns. A fire was also started

in the grandstand but quick action by

bystanders extinguished the blaze be-

fore it could get started. It is evident

tempt was made to burn every build-

ing and structure on the ground. The

believed perpetrator now in custody

is William Hess, a vagabond sort who

that a deliberate and persistent at-

Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society



A sketch of the Exposition Building at the Oshkosh fairgrounds is shown from 1880.

has been seen roosting about town since the first of June. He was discovered on the grounds just after the fire broke out. Earlier last evening Hess was reported to be asking someone for matches to light his pipe. When arrested, he was asked if he had any matches. He said he did not as he did not smoke.

> Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Oct. 6, 1880

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

Corrections

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

About the newspaper

Published weekly and mailed free of charge Tuesdays for Wednesday delivery (may vary based on U.S. Postal Service and holidays) to more than 31,000 homes and businesses in the Oshkosh area.

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920-252-3633



Kodi Barthels 920-517-8348 Outstanding Agent



GO Transit shifting to new fare system through WisGo

Oshkosh Herald

Public transportation service GO Transit has adopted the WisGo fare collection system and mobile app that provides riders with mobile payments and fare capping, replacing the current Token Transit fare app by the end of the year.

WisGo is available through the Umo Mobility app where users can load their wallets and use WisGo to pay for bus fares. GO Transit now offers fare capping with additional rides free once the cap is reached, eliminating the need for prepurchased passes. Riders can pay as they go, with all rides contributing to the daily or monthly fare caps.

Regular fare riders pay \$2 per ride with a cap of \$4 per day, reduced-fare riders pay \$1 per ride with a daily cap of \$2 and the monthly fare cap is \$40.

GO Transit is offering free WisGo cards with a \$5 fare purchase through the end of the year. Riders can pick up and reload WisGo cards at the GO Transit Office.



City Hall or Oshkosh Public Library. Next year the cards will be available for \$2. Riders can also load their WisGo cards with money at various pass outlets around the city.

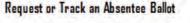
"Our goal is to make public transportation more accessible and convenient for everyone in the Greater Oshkosh area," stated Steve Tomasik, transit operation manager. "Fare capping provides equity for all riders as everyone pays the same whether they pay as they go or pay upfront.

He said nearly 200 riders used WisGo in the first 24 hours of being introduced.

The WisGo fare collection system also eliminates the need for transfers as riders will not be charged a fare within 90 minutes of paying a previous one. Fare capping and transfers are not eligible if paying with cash. Physical transfer passes will not be issued after Dec. 31.

For details, contact GO Transit at 920-232-5342 or visit oshkoshwi.gov/Transit.





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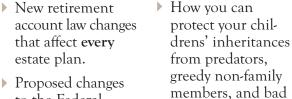
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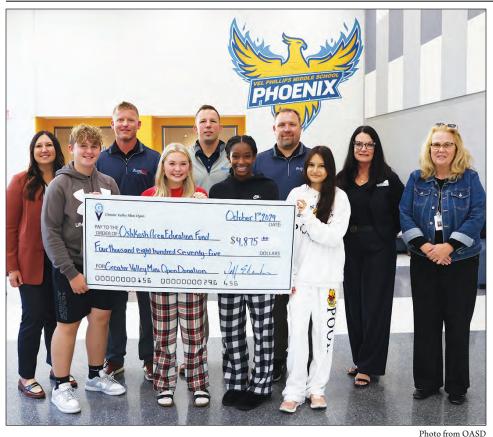
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Mini golf fundraiser

Aquire Restoration hosted the inaugural Greater Valley Mini Golf Open recently at Settlers Mill Mini Golf Course, which brought together local supporters, educators and businesses raising \$4,875 to benefit teachers and students in the Oshkosh Area School District. The fundraiser was created when Aquire Restoration approached the OASD Education Foundation, seeking a way to give back to local educators. More than 75 golfers participated in the tournament that featured a variety of hole competitions.

Smelly situation on south side gets attention

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Public Works Department is continuing to monitor a strong odor recently reported on the city's south side.

Following the reports of the smelly situation, the city has resumed using an

odor neutralizer in the sewer system. The chemical neutralizes hydrogen sulfide, which is often known as the rotten egg and gas smell.

"We're continuing to follow up on this odd situation," said Public Works director James Rabe said.



Child care training location secured for Advocap project

Oshkosh Herald

Community support agency Advocap has secured three acres of land on Jackson Street in Oshkosh to build a child care business startup facility that received funding from the city through its federal ARPA funds.

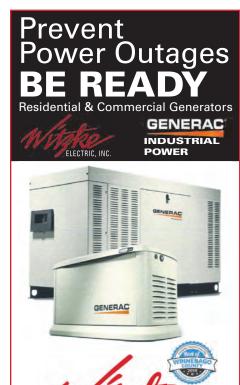
Amid the increasing demand for accessible child care options and ongoing staffing shortages, Advocap's incubator initiative is designed to empower low-income entrepreneurs to start their own in-home child care businesses.

Advocap will support child care entrepreneurs through its Business and Workforce Development Department, assisting with business plans, marketing, licensing, and training and development.

The city allocated \$217,660 to Advocap that will cover about 25% of construction costs. The project also received a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration that also will go toward construction. The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation has provided funding to equip the incubator with essential appliances.

Advocap is working with a local engineering firm on the design of the building and will create a capital campaign for the remaining project funding. The organization expects to break ground by mid-2025 with completion in early 2026.

Rental spaces will simulate an in-home child care environment, allowing participants to comply with care regulations while offering technical assistance and resources to succeed in their ventures as small business owners.



Each participant will have their own space within the incubator facility, according to Advocap's application to the city. The shared space will have separate incubators running their business independently and offer a flexible space to accommodate different age ranges and allow for new providers to move in when a business owner expands and moves out.

"With staffing shortages as one of the biggest hurdles for existing centers, we wanted to create a new path for aspiring child care providers," said Tanya Marcoe, Advocap executive director. "This incubator will do just that by helping individuals launch their own businesses while increasing child care availability in the community."

More than 60 individuals have expressed a desire to move their child care businesses into the incubator once it is operational.

The future facility's location is between the Christian Community Childcare Center at 3870 Jackson St. to its south and a dog kennel at 3792 Jackson.

Advocap is a private nonprofit dedicated to reducing poverty and promoting self-sufficiency in Winnebago, Fond du Lac and Green Lake counties. The organization's current workforce development programs includes skills enhancement and adult education programs that can access funding for child care, tuition and books.

Those interested in starting a child care business – in-home or center based – can contact Kathy or Libby at 920-922-7760.



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NEW Top Dog fundraiser returns to feature popular pets

Oshkosh Herald

Pet lovers can cast their votes to select the region's most popular dog and raise money for animals and children in northeast Wisconsin with the return of the NEW Top Dog competition.

Presented by Oshkosh Mid-Morning Kiwanis, the contest raised more than \$71,000 last year and has generated more than \$600,000 since 2020. Proceeds help fund local animal rescues and programs

that benefit children through the Oshkosh Mid-Morning Kiwanis Foundation.

Eight animal shelters and rescues are paired with breweries in individual contests, with dog owners paying \$10 to enter their pups in the photo contests. Community members pay \$1 per vote and winners selected in individual contests with an overall top vote-getter crowned NEW Top Dog.

The winning dog in each of the contests has a special beer created in their honor,

Lake Butte des Morts bridge gains updates

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Herald

lower level.

All construction on a \$2 million rehabilitation project on the Interstate 41 Lake Butte des Morts causeway between State 21 and U.S. 45 in Oshkosh has been completed, the state Department of Transportation announced last week.

The project that began May 28 included removing and replacing structure approaches for northbound and southbound I-41 bridges over the main channel of Lake Butte des Morts, replacing and relocating a 100-foot section of cable barrier

Children and their families are invited

to join the Northeast Wisconsin Ameri-

can Chemical Society and Oshkosh Pub-

lic Library for Picture Perfect Chemistry,

a free National Chemistry Week program

from 4 to 6 p.m. Oct. 23 in the library's

At this drop-in program, participants

will learn about photography and modern

imaging using sunprint paper and black

lights, and mixing of colors with tissue pa-

on the west side of I-41 near the 45 interchange, and removing and replacing safety and weight enforcement facilities near the lake's northern shore.

The project, which the DOT said finished on time and on budget, will extend the life of the bridge and provide a smoother transition for motorists from the bridge approaches to the Lake Butte des Morts causeway.

The new media cable barrier will protect vehicles from crossing into oncoming lanes of traffic.

Chemistry Week event features public program

per painting and with colored lights.

In recognition of Mole Day - honoring Avogadro's Number, the basic measuring unit in chemistry - kids will learn about atoms and the mole, a fundamental unit of chemistry. Free print copies of the National Chemistry Week edition of Celebrating Chemistry will be available.

This program is a post-festival event of the Wisconsin Science Festival. National Chemistry Week celebrates the importance of chemistry in everyday life.

with their photo on the can. The secondthrough 10th-place dogs are also featured on the back of the beer can and all winners receive prize packages. Shelters and rescues with the most votes across all their entries win bonus cash awards.

NEW Top Dog runs through Oct. 26. This year's participating shelters/rescues and their brewery partners are Oshkosh Area Humane Society and Fifth Ward Brewing Co., Lakeshore Humane Society and Craft Creek Brewing Co., Saving Sully Dog Rescue and Bare Bones Brewery, Misfit Mutts Dog Rescue and Cocoon Brewing Co., Sandi Paws Rescue and Fifth

Ward Brewing Co., Neenah Animal Shelter and Stone Arch Brewery, Wild 'N' Free Rescue and McFleshman's Brewery, and Mitt Liebe German Shepherd Dog Rescue Rescue and Hop Yard Ale Works.

Supporting sponsors will match the funds raised on designated days by online voting. Match day sponsors include Thrivent, West Side Tire & Auto, Pool Works Inc., TJ's Harbor Restaurant, Fox Communities Credit Union, Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, Castle Pierce and Greene's Pour House. Match days will be announced on Facebook and Instagram.

Women's Association style show set

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Area Women's Association (OAWA) presents its 38th annual Benefit Style Show on Oct. 29 at the Oshkosh Convention Center

This year the OAWA is supporting five organizations: the Damascus Road Project, Knitted Knockers, Labor of Love, Christine Ann Center Domestic Abuse Services and the Miss Oshkosh Organization Scholarship Fund.

TV; and Ryan Rasmussen, Oshkosh Area Community Pantry director, are emcees for the evening. The evening will showcase holiday fashion trends from 13 local stores. In addition to the style show, guests will have the opportunity to bid on items and participate in raffle prizes.

Doors open at 4:30 p.m. for a cash bar, followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and the style show at 7 p.m. Table reservations are available by contacting Jaye at 920-233-5712. Sponsorships and silent auction donations are being sought.

Aisha Morales, news anchor at WBAY

K-C diaper donations received by United Way

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Area United Way (OAUW) took in a donation of 75,000 diapers from Kimberly-Clark Co. last week that are being stored in its Community Vault and made available to local agencies that serve families in need across the area.

OAUW facilitates group diaper pack opportunities where volunteers assemble

diaper packs for distribution that help ensure they reach the families who need them most. According to the National Diaper Bank Network, one in two U.S. families struggles to provide enough diapers to keep their babies clean, dry and healthy. Additionally, one in four parents reports missing work or school due to the inability to afford diapers for child care.



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Oshkosh Herald

A former Oshkosh man was found guilty of possession of child pornography in a plea deal with the state that helped him avoid a jury trial and potentially more than 100 years in prison.

Winnebago County Circuit Court Branch 1 Judge Michael Rust found Jacob J. Boudreau guilty of possession of child pornography after he pleaded no contest.

In court last week, Boudreau's attorney John Carroll announced that Boudreau would plead guilty to two of the 12 felony

Motorcyclist suffers fatal injuries in crash

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh police are investigating a fatal crash involving a motorcycle and vehicle last Wednesday on 9th Avenue and Graceland Drive just west of Interstate 41.

Police reported that the 21-year-old motorcyclist died at a hospital after he was transported for medical treatment shortly after 8 p.m. but have not identified the victim. An obituary in today's Herald for Kaleb D. Breding, 21, states he was the victim

counts of possession of child pornography. The remaining 10 counts have been dismissed but read in for sentencing purposes.

Boudreau, 30, has been in custody at the Winnebago County Jail since his arrest in March.

The high-profile case is linked to former Outagamie County human resources director Adam Westbrook and former Racine County sheriff's deputy Preston Kite. Westbrook and Kite had been using Snapchat to share videos of child pornography.

of a motorcycle crash.

9th Avenue between Cumberland Trail and Washburn Street was closed to local traffic around noon Oct. 2 after the accident. Police reported the motorcycle was traveling west on 9th and a vehicle was southbound on Graceland when the crash occurred.

No information has been released about either driver. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Oshkosh Police Department at 920-236-5700.

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Westbrook plead guilty to one count of distributing child pornography in federal



court in September. Kite is facing 45 felony counts, including possession of child pornography, child sexual exploitation, exposing genitals and bestiality in two Racine County cases. Both cases are set for a plea hearing Nov. 22.

According to the criminal complaint, Boudreau's Snapchat profile was identified as the Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation was investigating Kite.

Boudreau, who owns Show Worthy Pet Salon and Boutique in Menasha, was taken into custody March 6. He told officers Westbrook was a client and acknowledged there were explicit Snapchat images that were taken inside his business.

Boudreau's cellphone was recovered as part of the warrant, on which 10 images of child pornography were found.

Boudreau's former roommate Noah Thiel, 21, is facing four bestiality-related felony charges in an Outagamie case.

Boudreau is scheduled to be back in Winnebago County Court on Dec. 16, where he faces up to 15 years in prison for each count followed by up to 10 years of extended supervision.

Pedestrian killed in hit-and-run incident

Oshkosh Herald

One man is in custody after a pedestrian was struck and killed early Saturday morning.

Oshkosh police reported the crash took place before 3 a.m. Saturday near the intersection of New York Avenue and Goss Court. When officers arrived on the scene they found a pedestrian lying in the roadway and appeared to have been struck by a vehicle.

The vehicle left the scene before officers arrived; initial reports suggest the vehicle may have traveled west after the crash. Lifesaving measures were attempted on the victim but the unidentified person was pronounced dead at the scene.

The crash remains under investigation and police are encouraging anyone in the area that may have a security camera to review the footage between the hours of midnight and 3 a.m. Saturday.

Police announced over the weekend they have a 21-year-old Oshkosh man in custody. Winnebago County Jail records show Drake J. Dodge was booked into the facility Saturday on charges of hit-and-run resulting in death. Official charges had not been filed by press time.

Education advocates release voter guides

Oshkosh Herald

In cooperation with the League of Women Voters in Winnebago County and Appleton/Fox Cities, Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education (FCA4PE) surveyed all legislative candidates in the area with the responses released in its K-12 Public Education Voter Guide.

Eleven legislative districts were surveyed with 13 candidates responding and nine others who did not respond. The nonpartisan group did not identify candidates by political party and encourages

voters to use the issues to inform their opinions.

The survey asked for written responses on the issues of public school funding, special education reimbursement, private school vouchers and mental health concerns.

The voter guides can be found on the Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education Facebook page.

Education funding makes up about a-third of Wisconsin's biennial budget that supports the more than 80% of Wisconsin children who attend public schools.



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Business grows mission to help disabled gain independence

Focus on Freedom offers children, parent programs By MaryBeth Matzek

Herald contributor

Marla Kopecky Penney worked for 20 years with people who had disabilities and noticed a gap between the support systems at home, in the community and at school.

She decided to launch Focus on Freedom to help those families in 2019. Five years later, the organization is busier than ever.



"I noticed there wasn't a lot of wraparound care, independent living skills or

Penney

career planning for disabled children and adults," Penney said. "We come in and provide these much-needed training and skills."

Focus on Freedom works with clients in Winnebago and Outagamie counties starting at age 8 who have physical, cognitive or developmental challenges, including autism, Down syndrome and cerebral palsy. The program is paid through the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) waiver program.

The business offers multiple programs for clients including daily living skills training, career planning and respite care. For caregivers, Focus on Freedom provides communication coaching, communication consulting and foundations in caregiving programs.

"Through our personalized, one-on-one training, we focus on building self-confidence and empowering individuals with disabilities to reach their goals and live as independently as possible," Penney said.

Daily living skills training helps customers master age-appropriate daily routines and activities independently, such as hygiene skills, food preparation and doing the laundry.

"Daily living skills can also be about finding hobbies whether it's putting a puzzle together or working on arts and crafts since for many children, technology is their sole source of leisure," Penney said. "We also practice going out in restaurants and how you behave in one type of restaurant is different than a fast-food restaurant."

Penney also provides clients with career planning assistance. For many students with disabilities, they are not sure of what they will do after high school. She works with students to uncover their interests and chart a plan forward.

"Some students want to attend college so what does that look like for them? For example, we can focus on study skills," Penney said. "We also talk about emailing teachers and not being afraid to ask questions."

For students unsure of what they want to do after high school, Focus on Freedom offers job shadowing opportunities.

"A client may have one view of what a career is like versus the reality, so job shadowing helps with that," she said.

Focus on Freedom also provides programs for families, including a communications program. Parents are also asked to attend a fundamental skills program since "there's no manual on how to parent children with disabilities," Penney said. "We provide the family and client with communication supports and talk about modeling behavior for their child."

Some children with disabilities, for example, take what parents say literally. If a parent says, "I'll be there in a minute," they think it will really be a minute so Focus on Freedom employees help parents learn how to phrase things so their child understands correctly.

Focus on Freedom continues to work with clients as long as there are more goals for them to achieve and they are making progress.

For people living outside of Focus on Freedom's service area or who are on a waitlist, they can sign up for assistance through Empower Freedom. The program provides quick read articles, social stories to help children learn different skills and quick link resources. There is a fee, but Penney said it's reasonable since she wants families to feel empowered.

"My goal is to help as many families as possible," she said.

Drivers needed to get veterans to health care appointments

Oshkosh Herald

Volunteers to drive veteran patients to their appointments at the Green Bay and Appleton VA facilities for health care appointments are being sought in support of interested in serving veterans. Drivers are needed weekdays and typically can expect to work once a week for an average of four hours per shift.

Volunteers use official government-owned DAV transportation vans and fuel cards and undergo Department of Veteran Affairs orientation and training.



Focus on Freedom works with clients who have physical, cognitive or developmental challenges.



the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 17 transportation program in Winnebago County, a partnership with the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

The Oshkosh DAV is currently short staffed of volunteer drivers and needs individuals who have a clean driving record, can pass a simple background check and



More information is available from Kyle Newkirk, VA volunteer coordinator, at 920-431-2639 or at Kyle.Newkirk@ va.gov.

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Miles Kimball project joins South Main neighborhood

MK Lofts development revives historic location

By Dan Roherty Oshkosh Herald

The former Miles Kimball building at South Main and 9th Avenue is welcoming its first housing tenants as the new apartment development weathered supply-chain and other challenges since renovations began on the historic location in 2021.

MK Lofts becomes the Sawdust District's first new housing addition to open on South Main Street ahead of other projects in the works to transform the former industrial and manufacturing neighborhood. CR Structures Group restored the early 1900s building into 28 units while preserving the original framework of the former home to national merchandiser Miles Kimball Co. Before that it housed A. Streich & Brothers Wagons, which built beer and other horse-drawn delivery wagons.

"One of the most remarkable aspects is that this 120-year-old mass timber structure allowed us to preserve the original wood beams, columns and soaring 13foot wood ceilings, which we've beautifully exposed in the units," said Kip N. Golden, executive vice president for CR Structures. "The result is a collection of truly stunning and unique apartments."

The city had worked with earlier redevelopment plans for the building that included two separate tax increment district (TID) agreements to help housing and other projects get off the ground on the south side.

"Over the years, many proposals were made for the site, some even suggesting demolition. We're proud to have saved and revitalized this piece of Oshkosh's history for the community," said Golden, who noted overwhelming response from residents sharing stories and historic photos of their grandparents or relatives who worked there during its earlier business era.

Supply-chain disruptions, inflation and



MK Lofts (above) is accepting applications for tenants to apply for one of the 28 housing units at 851 S. Main St. At right, the Miles Kimball Co. site on South Main Street is shown in this undated photo.

workforce shortages currently common to the construction industry slowed the \$6.5 million project, but the local investors behind MK Lofts are now taking leases ranging from \$999 for studio units to \$1,800 for two-bedroom units.

"Despite these obstacles, I'm incredibly proud of our team at CR Structures Group for stepping up, meeting these challenges head-on, and bringing this project to fruition," Golden said.

Miles Kimball Co. was a national leader in the direct merchandise business cards, gifts, household items, food products – starting in 1935 when Kimball began to market personalized Christmas cards before producing catalogs at that location.

Alberta Kimball took over as president of operations after husband Miles' death

in 1949 and expanded the business with more than 46 million catalogs produced by 1992. The corporate name later became Silver Star Brands to reflect several other names under its ownership.

Miles Kimball Con

Next up for that neighborhood's housing surge is the three-building, 295-unit Mill on Main project across the street being built by T. Wall Enterprises, expected to break ground in November and offer leases in 2026. Just north of MK Lofts on the same side of Main is a 1.3-acre lot targeted for a 92-unit residential development.

Golden welcomes those housing projects along with the retail and other business growth they are expected to help generate.

"There's a saying, 'A rising tide lifts all boats,' and I believe that holds true for this area," Golden said. "The surrounding developments will complement our own and help bring even more activity to this growing redevelopment zone."

Public library calendar

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

0ct. 9

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

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

Career Ready, 12:30-1:30 p.m., adults

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

Read to a Dog, 4-5 p.m., grades K - 5 **Oct. 15**

- LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.
- Winnebago Free Legal Assistance Clinic, 4:30-6:30 p.m., adults
- Genealogy Club: Using Online Data-

0ct. 19

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

Coding Club, 1 p.m., teens **Oct. 20**

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

0ct. 21

Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m.

0ct. 26

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

Read to a Dog, 10-11 a.m., grades K-5 NaNoWriMo 2024: Intro to NaNoWriMo, 10 a.m.-noon

0ct. 27

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

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

Oct. 10

Baby/Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m. LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-5 p.m.

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

Chess Club, 5-7 p.m., all ages

0ct. 11

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

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

0ct. 12

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

0ct. 13

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

0ct. 14

Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m.

bases, 6 p.m., adults

0ct. 16

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

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

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

0ct. 17

Baby/Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m.

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

0ct. 18

Librarian Learns, 9 a.m., YouTube LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-5 p.m.

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

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

Read to a Dog, 4-5 p.m., grades K-5

0ct. 22

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

Drop-in Tech Help, 1-3 p.m., adults Banned Book Club, 6:30 p.m., adults

Oct. 23

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

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

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

0ct. 24

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

Chess Club, 5-7 p.m., all ages

0ct. 25

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

Oct. 28

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

Read to a Dog, 4-5 p.m., grades K-5

0ct. 29

Genealogy Club: Building Family Trees, 10 a.m., adults LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

Oct. 30

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

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

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

0ct. 31

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

Chess Club, 5-7 p.m., all ages

First Congregational celebrates 175 years of changing lives

By Cheryl Hentz

First Congregational Church in Oshkosh, which turned 175 years old this year, is finalizing plans to celebrate that milestone and several other events during a special jazz worship service at 10 a.m. Sunday at 137 Algoma Blvd. that is open to the public.

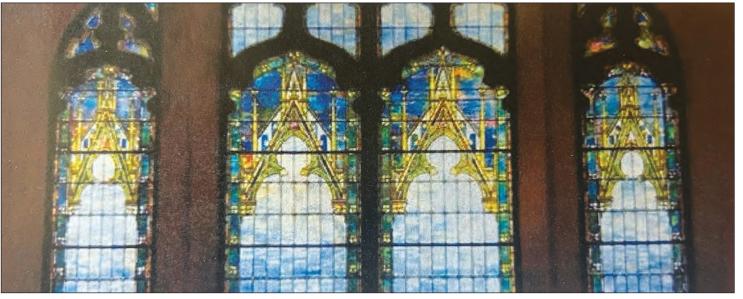
The theme for this service – Celebrating the Past with Gratitude and Living into the Future with Joy and Courage - gives thanks for 175 years of faith and community impact by the people of the church, acknowledgement of trying times of the past while looking toward new paths of ministry to the church and community beyond its walls.

It is a pivotal time for the congregation as it comes out of the pandemic, bid farewell in August to the retiring Rev. Nancy Taylor after nearly eight years of leadership, and welcoming the 25th pastor of the church, the Rev. Julie Eklund.

The Revs. Ralph and Carol DiBiasio-Snyder, co-pastors from 1988 until their retirement in 2015, will offer some historical insights while looking ahead. As part of that look toward the future, Eklund has recorded a video greeting for the service.

There will be no formal sermon but the preaching will be in the music. Congregational singing will be accompanied by organist/pianist/choir director Bridget Duffy-Ulrich. The church's other organist/ pianist and former choir director, Joanne Peterson, will perform an organ postlude.

The service will feature local jazz trio Janet Planet, John Harmon and Mark Urness, who will perform pre-service music, as well as seven pieces of music - includ-



Stained glass windows at First Congregational Church were made and installed by the Tiffany Co. in 1911.

Submitted photos

ing some newly released songs. The musical event is sponsored by the Jim Weiland Memorial Fund, honoring a longtime FCC member who loved playing piano and performing at concerts and other events with local groups and combos, including Geriatric Jazz.

After worship, everyone is invited to the church's Fellowship Hall for a social time.

First Congregational Church was formed - "gathered" is the proper Congregational term - on July 9, 1849, when 12 early settlers in the community signed a covenant to form a church. By a vote of 10 to 2 they chose to be a Congregational church, rather than Presbyterian or other denomination. These charter members, and those who quickly followed them, were of New England stock, among the first white settlers in the city.

They built their first sanctuary on Main

Street but soon outgrew it and started a new building on the site of the church's present-day educational building. That building was lost in a fire in 1870, and a new sanctuary built in 1873.

The church windows were made by the Tiffany Co. in New York and installed when the sanctuary was built in 1911. In January 1912, the church's current sanctuary designed by noted architect William Waters was dedicated.

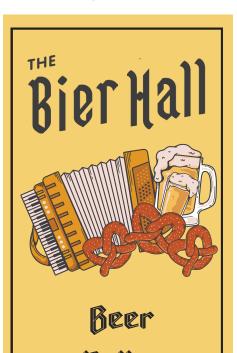
FCC's impressive pipe organ, also installed in 1911, was commissioned and built by Casavant Freres, French-Canadian organ builder in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec. It has long been recognized as one of the finest instruments of its kind in the Midwest. Groups come from miles around to perform recitals at FCC, using its pipe organ as accompaniment.

FCC is part of the United Church of



Organ pipes for First Congregational Church's Casavant pipe organ, commissioned, built and installed in 1911 by Casavant Freres, a French-Canadian organ builder.

Christ nationally, a denomination that welcomes and embraces all people into the life and ministry of the church.



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County earnings

from Page 1

ARPA dollars, according to the county's new online Spirit Fund dashboard.

With not all ARPA dollars having been disbursed, the county has continued to collect interest earnings on the money, which now amounts to \$2.5 million. Of that, \$1.4 million in interest was earned from the funds in the government identified projects category and an additional \$152,000 in that category has not been allocated.

The ARPA Strategy and Outcome Commission held two meetings in September to discuss the interest and how to proceed with the remaining resources.

Under a proposal from the county executive's office, the interest and remaining unallocated government identified project funds with a combined total of \$1.5 million would be used for county government projects. Interest accrued beginning Nov. 1 would be moved to the general fund for use in county operations.

Examples of county government proj-



ects funded with ARPA dollars include a Facilities Condition Assessment and a Facilities Master Plan, which are planning documents that the executive's office wrote are overdue and their completion necessary for budgeting decisions moving forward.

"Based on those documents, the county would be in (a) better position to ensure effective investment of the remaining dollars," the county executive's office wrote.

Aside from decisions on the interest earnings and unallocated funds, the ARPA Commission also approved funding several county needs including \$400,000 for demolition of an airport hangar; \$700,000 for a road paver; \$505,000 for a chip spreader; and \$125,405 for the purchase of two vehicles and installation of equipment for the morgue.

Several representatives from the Larsen-Winchester Sanitary District have attended the last few ARPA Commission meetings to voice concerns over state regulations on ammonia and phosphorus discharge limitations, which the existing treatment facility is unable to meet. To comply with the unfunded mandate, the total estimated project costs are \$4.6 million. Larsen-Winchester representatives asked for ARPA assistance to offset the cost.

The commission members discussed the fairness of awarding ARPA dollars to Larsen-Winchester at this late stage in the distribution process and did not take any action on the request.

The County Board will review and vote on the recommendation to allocate the interest earnings to the county government and the latest approved ARPA expenditures at an upcoming meeting.



Oshkosh Herald

Chamber welcome

Wrightway Home Improvement celebrated its new store at 1951 S. Washburn St. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce on Thursday. The company started in Fond du Lac in 1976 and opened the new Oshkosh showroom in August.

Whooping cough cases on increase in county

Oshkosh Herald Pertussis, more commonly known as

whooping cough, has been increasing in Wisconsin and nationwide in the past few months.

As of Sept. 30, Winnebago County had 21 confirmed cases, compared with only one case in 2023.

Bacteria causes pertussis and easily spreads from person to person by contact with an infected person's saliva through talking, coughing or sneezing.

Winnebago County Public Health recommends residents contact a medical provider if they have symptoms or suspect they've been exposed. Infected people can spread pertussis up to three weeks after the cough begins if they are not treated with antibiotics. Initial symptoms may be similar to the common cold and can last for one to two weeks. Symptoms can progress to an uncontrollable, violent cough that makes it hard to breathe.

Pertussis affects people of all ages but can be serious or result in hospitalization for babies under 1, pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals. Older siblings, parents or caregivers who might not know they have the disease can spread it to babies before symptoms appear.

Contact a medical provider or check the Wisconsin Immunization Registry on vaccination status. Winnebago County Public Health offers the DTaP and Tdap vaccines for those eligible. For more information on the Vaccine for Children Program eligibility, call 920-232-3000.

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Ambulance calls

from Page 1

next three years instead of a large increase, and that the village had about a month to decide if they wanted to opt out of the agreement. The contract between the village and Oshkosh expires at the end of 2026.

"Staying with Oshkosh is best for the village because we want people to know when they call 911 they will get incredibly great service," Fuller said.

The fourth ambulance unit would cost \$782,195 and includes salaries for eight firefighters, all licensed paramedics. The department has a top rating of Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class 1 and was named Wisconsin's 2022 EMS Service of the Year.

Oshkosh's cost will be covered by a combination of city funds and money coming in from the service rate increase.

The rate increase will help but there will still be long response times to some of the distant areas the Oshkosh Fire Department covers. The average response time in the city last year was 6 minutes and 50 seconds. The average response to the Town of Poygan, which is the farthest according to OFD data, took 29 minutes and 9 seconds. The average call in Oshkosh can be handled in an hour with the unit back to the station and prepared for another call. If a call comes in for the Town of Utica it can take up to 2 hours and 15 minutes to get that unit back to the station.

About 85% of department calls are for EMS services, which Stanley said is typical nationwide.

In August, Stanley presented data showing the need for a fourth ambulance unit based on the amount of time the three units were spending on calls outside of Oshkosh.

The three-ambulance system has been in place since 2005 and designed to cover 25 square miles and 67,000 people, not the 250 square miles and 100,000 it currently serves.

Stanley told the council the three-unit system was no longer sustainable. He told the Herald last week that given the population and demographics of the area, the department will most likely need to expand to a fifth unit in the next five to six years.

The Fire Department recently had three new ambulances delivered that were ordered about three years ago as part of its general replacement process.

Mental health first aid training session offered

Oshkosh Herald

NAMI Oshkosh and Trinity Episcopal Church are sponsoring mental health first aid training, a skills-based course to give people the tools to identify, understand and respond to someone who might be struggling with a mental health or substance use challenge.

The session is set from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 9 at the church, 203 Algoma Blvd.

Mental health first aid prepares partic-

ipants to interact with a person experiencing a mental health crisis and connect them with appropriate support and resources when necessary.

The training will be taught by Anita Kinsley, a Trinity parishioner and certified instructor. Training materials, breakfast, lunch, snacks and beverages will be provided by NAMI Oshkosh.

For information or to sign up, call 920-657-1148 or email info@namioshkosh.org.





Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Fire Department has three new ambulances in the fleet as part of general replacement of vehicles. The department will be adding a fourth ambulance unit next summer to keep up with the call increases.

The ambulances were set up last week to ensure they have the same inside system as the ambulances currently in use.

EMS Division Chief Aaron Droessler said it's important for EMS personnel to know where a piece of equipment is in the critical time on a call.

"These are sorely needed and we're ready to get them on the road," he said.

The new ambulances were set to be on the road this week with a slightly different color scheme to match the fire engines.





Mini truck carries flowers where they're needed

By MaryBeth Matzek HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Sami Schmidt was so excited to launch Mobile Mini Truck that she started before finding the truck she needed for her mobile flower truck busi-

ness.

April 2023, In Schmidt began meeting with people about different events they would need flowers for as she and wife Emily hunted to find the right truck, which they would use to take



Schmidt

to events and display their flowers. They found the vintage pale yellow 1969 Dodge pickup truck that July while seated in a diner scrolling through Facebook Marketplace.

"Another possibility fell through. We saw the ad and went to look at the truck and everything fell into place," Sami Schmidt said.

Schmidt, who has an interior design de-



gree from Fox Valley Technical College, worked in interior and commercial design when she decided to launch her own business.

"I knew I wanted to work for myself and looked at several different options and settled on the mobile flower market," she said. "The truck is great. It's mobile so we can take our business to different places and it's a great way to meet people. People either come up to ask questions about the truck, the flowers or both."

The distinctive truck includes custom-built holders in the truck's bed that fit Mobile Mini Truck's flower buckets that Schmidt handpicks at various women-owned flower farms, including North Road Flower Farm in Pickett, a vendor at the Oshkosh Farmers Market.

The resulting overall displays can be rented out for a variety of events.

Mobile Mini Trucks can be booked for special events such as bridal showers, weddings and birthday parties. The truck also attends events such as farmers markets where they sell flowers. Coming up, the



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Sami Schmidt's mobile flower business can be found at a variety of area locations.

business will attend multiple fall-related events such as Octoberfest in Appleton.

"We're excited about the exposure we will have at the upcoming events. Our business continues to grow through word of mouth or people see us at an event, start asking questions and that leads to more bookings," Schmidt said, adding the truck is "pretty booked" for September and October.

She gets her flowers from a handful of women flower growers, including one wholesaler. Schmidt chooses the flowers based on the growers' input and what's in season.

"I think it's important to support other women-owned businesses," she said.

As the only flower bar with a truck in the area, Mobile Mini Trucks stands out, Schmidt said.

"We are pretty unique and get requests to travel to the Milwaukee or Madison areas for events," she said.

While Sami handles the customer-facing side of the business, Emily focuses on the behind-the-scenes activities, such as billing. She also led the truck's build-out.

The truck is in operation from May through the end of October. During the rest of the year, Mobile Mini Trucks focuses on indoor activities such as birthday parties, weddings, indoor classes or bloom bars, where people can put together their own bouquets using the flowers provided.

"We are definitely more experience orientated with our activities during the winter," Sami Schmidt said. "We have threetiered stands that hold our flower buckets that we can easily bring indoors for events or classes."

Schmidt envisions the flower truck as the first in what she hopes is a business featuring several different types of trucks.

"I could see us having a book truck or a tap truck," she said. "This is just the beginning, which is why I named the business Mobile Mini Trucks instead of having the word 'flower' in the title."

For more information, visit mobileminitrucks.com.





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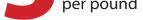
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Thursday, Oct. 10

Vietnam Veterans Memorial, noon, Sunnyview Exp Center

Angelica Contreras artist talk and reception, 5 p.m., Allen Priebe Gallery, 1001 Elmwood Ave.

Spirits of the Grand tours, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Friday, Oct. 11

Downtown Oshkosh Farmers Market, 8 a.m.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Sunnyview Expo Center

Streets of Hope, 6 p.m., Becket's Atrium, 2 Jackson St.

Eric Genuis piano concert, 6:30 p.m., Father Carr's Place 2B, 1062 N. Koeller St.

Sawdust City Fright Fest, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St. Spirits of the Grand tours, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Saturday, Oct. 12

Downtown Oshkosh Farmers Market, 8 a.m.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Sunnyview Expo Center

EAA Space Day, 10 a.m., EAA Aviation Museum

Family Discovery Days, 11 a.m., Oshkosh Public Museum

Oktoberfest at Fletch's, 4 p.m., Fletch's Local Tap House, 566 N. Main St.

Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra: Pumpkin Spice, 7 p.m., UW Oshkosh Arts & Communication Building

Sawdust City Fright Fest, noon, Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Spirits of the Grand tours, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Sunday, Oct. 13

Vietnam Veterans Memorial, until noon, Sunnyview Expo Center

Oshkosh Photo Walk, 4 p.m., Becket's, 2 Jackson St.

Tuesday, Oct. 15

"America and Lewis Hine," 7 p.m.,

Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Wednesday, Oct. 16

Quilting Field Trip Through the Natural World with Anita Carpenter, 5:30 p.m., Culver Family Welcome Center, UW Oshkosh campus

Friday, Oct. 18

Antiques Sporting, Advertising & Collectible Show, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Riverside Cemetery tours, 4:30 p.m. Brews in the Zoo, 5 p.m., Menominee

Park Zoo "A Nightmare on Elm Street 3," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Paranormal Investigation at Morgan House, 6 p.m., 234 Church Ave.

Saturday, Oct. 19

Antiques Sporting, Advertising & Collectible Show, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Zooloween Boo, 11 a.m., Menominee Park Zoo

Downtown Oshkosh Spooky Stroll, 2 p.m., North Main Street

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

Sunday, Oct. 20

Fall Craft Show, 10 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

Run With the Herd, 8 a.m., Oshkosh Arena

Community Kids Fall Fest, 2 p.m., Oshkosh Community Church

Monday, Oct. 21

Glow Yoga, 6 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Thursday, Oct. 24

Mary Mack Comedy Show, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Saturday, Oct. 26

Trunk or Treat & Haunted Hallway, 2 p.m., Wesley United Methodist Church 761 Florida Ave

Squasharama, 10 a.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, 491 Old Oregon Road

Thursday, Oct. 31

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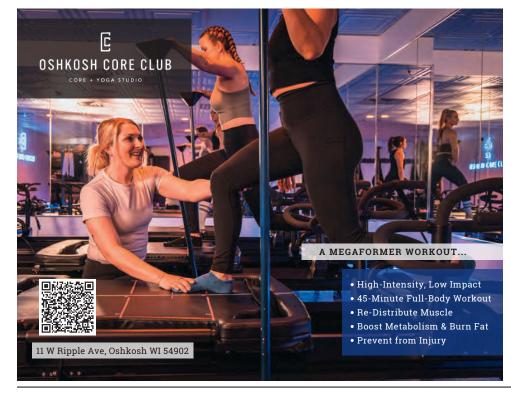
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Demler excels at setting the table for Warriors

By Tim Froberg Herald contributor

Setters are considered to be the quarterbacks of their volleyball teams.

Meet Maliha Demler, the Jordan Love of the Valley Christian Warriors.

The Valley Christian setter was a firstteam all-Trailways East selection as a junior and is the Warriors' all-time program leader in assists. Demler broke Lizzy Jonas' previous team record of 2,190 assists earlier this season.

Demler is also a team captain and leader.

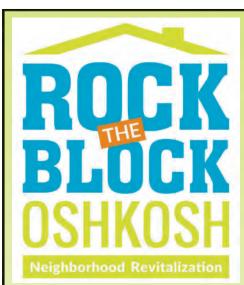
"Maliha has been a great leader for our program and has had a great career here," said Valley Christian coach Lizzy Potratz. "What I appreciate more than her setting has been her humility and how she leads by example. She sets a great example on and off the court and is a natural leader.

"Being a vocal leader is not Maliha's strength, but she has filled that role many times and pushes her teammates. She is great with words and when she has something to say, you can tell the team is listening."

Demler is a fourth-year starter, who generated 791 assists, 49 kills and 42 service aces her junior year and 667 assists, 33 kill and 41 aces as a sophomore. She broke into the Warriors lineup as a freshman in 2021 and had 302 assists, eight kills and 12 aces.

"One thing I really appreciate about Maliha is that she will step outside her comfort zone to do what is necessary," said Potratz. "She is coachable and willing to do what you ask of her. We couldn't ask for a more humble leader."

Demler has been a setter since she start-



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Valley Christian senior Maliha Demler is a returning first-team all-conference selection as a setter and has the Warriors primed for another lengthy postseason run.

ed playing the game in the fifth grade.

"I like being in the middle of everything," said Demler. "I really like the idea that when you get a good set, your hitters have a good chance of getting a good hit."

Volleyball and the setter position runs in Demler's family. Maliha's mother, Jennelle, was a setter in her prep volleyball days at Faith Christian School in Williams Bay and went on to play college volleyball for two years at Marantha Baptist Bible College.

Maliha also has a cousin, Taylor Birr, who was a standout setter at Pulaski High

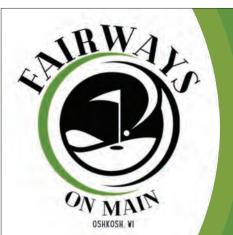
School and later played college volleyball at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Maliha's father, Jason Demler, was a four-year boys' basketball starter at Valley Christian.

"I guess it (setting) is in my blood because my mom was a setter," Demler said. "My mom might give me some advice on how to be a leader, but she doesn't try and coach me on how to play. My cousin (Birr) was someone I always looked up to and she was a big influence on me playing volleyball and being a setter."

Setting involves far more than just bumping the ball for hitters. The setters are responsible for calling plays and various sets.

"If anyone watches me play, I'm holding up fingers telling them what to run," she said. "I like that one-on-one connection you have with your hitters and passers."

Demler is a rarity among prep volleyball



Senior Spotlight

players in that she does not play club volleyball during the non-prep season.

"To be honest, the main reason I don't do it is because I'm very involved with my church," Demler said. "It's something I'm very passionate about. A lot of tournaments and club practices happen on Sundays when I want to be at church or there are practices on Wednesday nights when I go to youth group. It (volleyball) isn't something I want to prioritize over church."

Demler also plays prep tennis and is part of a special coed program in which girls often find themselves competing against boys. Demler played doubles competition the past few years with another Warriors' volleyball player, Stella Wright, who has graduated.

"Personally, I enjoy playing against boys because it forces you to improve your game," Demler said. "Stella and I didn't win too many matches, but we won some and we definitely progressed as the season went along. Tennis is more of a fun sport for me. I never put too much pressure on myself."

Demler is a high-honors student at Valley Christian with a grade-point-average close to 4.0. She plans to attend Fox Valley Technical College next fall and major in business management.

"My dad owns a business (Jireh Brick and Stone)," said Maliha. "Watching him be his own boss has kind of rubbed off on me. Starting my own business some day is the goal."

With Demler at the controls, Valley Christian is enjoying a strong volleyball season. The Warriors were a Division 4 sectional finalist last season and hope to take another step in 2024 and advance to the state tournament at the Resch Center.

"My teammates are so versatile," Demler said. "Everyone can play anywhere and that makes it more fun. I'm very excited about where we can go in the postseason."

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Spartans clinch first playoff berth since 2016

By Steve Clark Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh North football team had plenty of reason to celebrate after Friday night's 58-13 thumping of Green Bay West.

Playing on their home turf field for the first time was certainly special and it's always a plus when a team can enjoy a victory in its annual Homecoming game.

But maybe the biggest reason there were as many ear-to-ear smiles by the guys toting their helmets and wearing the eye black as there were is because the triumph means that Oshkosh North will be WIAA playoff bound for the first time since 2016.

"It's amazing. It's a great feeling and prideful for our school," senior linebacker Connor Palmquist said. "We are going to the playoffs which is something that hasn't been done here in forever. I can't ask for anything more from these guys. The energy is amazing."

The Spartans rode a 28-point first quarter to a 42-7 halftime lead and had no trouble dispatching the Wildcats to improve to 4-1 in the Fox River Class Conference South.

And for a program that has won just six games in the last three seasons and scored just 76 points in finishing 1-8 in 2023, the turnaround the Spartans have shown is remarkable.

"We keep preaching we are a playoff team and it feels really good," Spartans head coach Luke Ott said. "The kids believe they are where they need to be. We are beating teams that we should and controlling a lot of our own destiny."

The Spartans seized control against the Wildcats right from the get-go, marching 65 yards in nine plays on its opening possession for a touchdown.

North never faced a third down on the march, which was capped by a beautiful laser throw from Bryce Ott to Logan Schettle in the back of the end zone for a 12-yard touchdown.

The Spartans' defense then forced a three-and-out and needed just three plays of their own to add to the lead, with Jamare Scott taking a pitch around the right side for a 3-yard touchdown run and a 14-0 lead less than six minutes into the game.

Scott, who had a 27-yard run to set up the score and finished with 102 yards on just 12 carries in the game, said the Spartans' prolific passing game has helped open things up for him on the ground.

"When Bryce is throwing the ball, it opens up the run game for me. I love having a quarterback who can throw the ball," Scott said. "I have way more confidence coming into Friday nights now (compared with last season) because I know we have a good chance of winning against the teams we play."

The only hiccup of the first half for North came after taking the 14-0 lead, when West struck for a 71-yard touchdown pass on the first play after the kickoff.

That was the only first down the Spartans allowed on the first five possessions for the Wildcats, forcing three three-andouts while also getting an interception by Jaykwon Jones.

SEE North football ON PAGE 24



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Oshkosh North's Jamare Scott (26) follows the block of Jackson Anderson during Friday



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Valley Christian drops five-set thriller to Crusaders

By Steve Clark Oshkosh Herald

Valley Christian scored the final three points of the fourth set to extend the match and then took the lead early in the fifth set, but couldn't hold off Central Wisconsin Christian last Thursday night.

In a matchup of the top two teams in the Trailways East it was the Crusaders that managed to hand the Warriors 23-25, 25-21, 25-19, 26-28, 16-14 loss inside a jam-packed Valley Christian High School gym on the team's Dig Pink night.

"They can fight and they can come back. It is completely in them," Valley Christian head coach Lizzy Potratz said. "I'm super proud of them and we will learn from this. We have had some really good comebacks but this was not the performance we needed and they realize that."

The Warriors ended up playing their second five-set match in three days after knocking off Lourdes Academy on Tuesday.

Thursday night's showdown nearly





maekosciuk@winneconnenews.com

didn't make it to a fifth set as the Warriors had to fight back from the Crusaders having match point twice in the fourth set.

Anna Giannopoulos' spiked through a Crusader block saved the first match point and tied the fourth set at 24 before Central Wisconsin Christian surged back in front 26-25, but missed a serve to again even the match.

Brynn Weinaug then served out the set for Valley Christian as the Warriors evened the match at two sets apiece.

"They have done it before and so we know we can come back," Potratz said. "They are showing the fight and the fact they have that kind of fight is huge."

Lizzie Fink opened the fifth set with a kill to stake the Warriors to the early lead and Valley Christian scored seven of the next 11 points to take an 8-4 advantage.

Central Wisconsin Christian answered back by rattling off eight straight points to take the lead before a Halle Weyenberg kill stopped the Crusaders' string.

A kill from Giannopoulos and a stuff block from Alaina Wojtowski brought

the Warriors to within a point before the Warriors had another run of three straight points – two kills from Giannopoulos and an ace from Weyenberg – to take a 14-13 lead and earn Valley Christian a match point. The Warriors, however, weren't able to finish things off as Central Wisconsin

match against Central Wisconsin Christian.

to finish things off as Central Wisconsin Christian scored the next three points to collect the win and drop the Warriors into sole possession of second place in the conference.

"I think their effort was just a little but better than us tonight," Potratz said. "Credit to them, they came and fought. They had bodies flying all over and that makes the difference in volleyball." Valley Christian took its biggest lead of the first set 1t 14-10 on an ace by Giannopoulos buit the Crusaders answered with five straight points to regain the lead and neither team led by more than three points the rest of the set.

Oshkosh Herald

Fink's spike through a Crusaders' block got the Warriors to set point at 24-21, while a tip from the junior after Central Wisconsin Christian had closed to within a point earned Valley Christian the win and a 1-0 lead.

The Crusaders took the lead for good at 15-14 of the second set and held Valley Christian off the rest of the way to even

SEE Valley Christian ON PAGE 24

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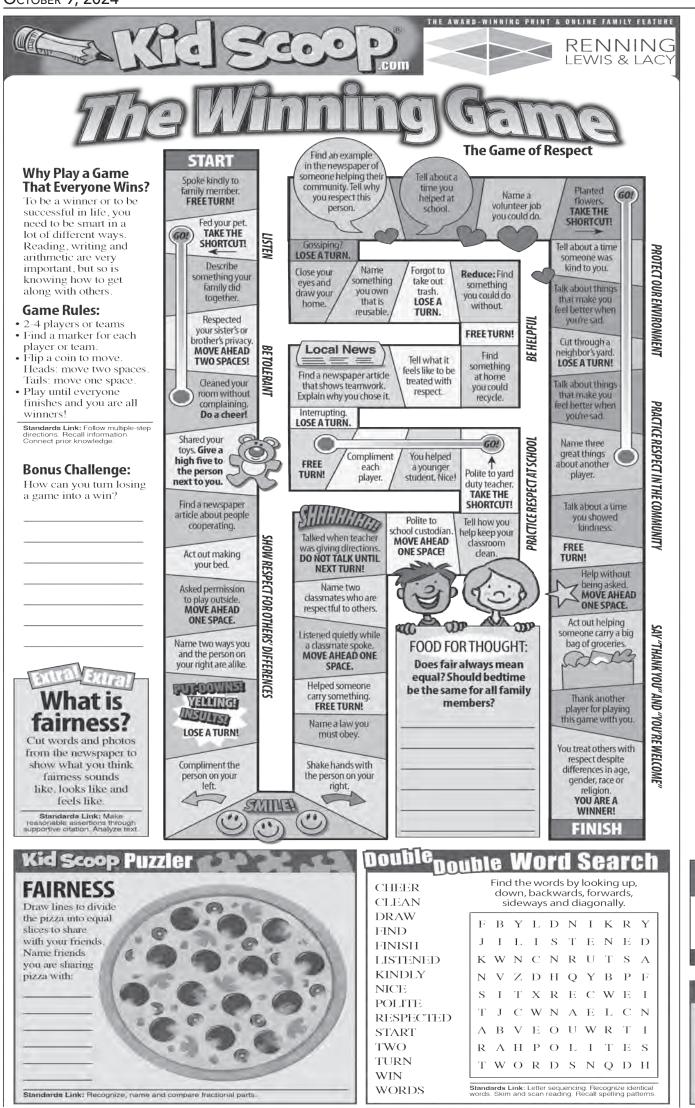


Valley Christian's Anna Giannopoulos drills a spike over a pair of blockers during Thursday's

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TWO	SOMEONE	Someone
PEOPLE	SHARING	Picking
SHAKING	WITH	UP
HANDS	ANOTHER	Litter
SOMEONE	Someone	SOMEONE
BEING	Listening	SAYING A
KIND TO	With	KIND
ANIMALS	Respect	WORD
FRIENDS	SOMEONE	SHOWING
HELPING	SAYING	A
EACH	"I'M	POSITIVE
OTHER	SORRY"	ATTITUDE
HOLDING A DOOR OPEN FOR SOMEONE	SOMEONE SAYING "PLEASE"	SOMEONE SAYING "THANK YOU"
TWO	Someone	Someone
PEOPLE	Sharing	Picking
SHAKING	With	UP
HANDS	Another	Litter
SOMEONE	SOMEONE	SOMEONE
BEING	LISTENING	SAYING A
KIND TO	WITH	KIND
ANIMALS	RESPECT	WORD
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HELPING	SAYING	A
EACH	"I'M	POSITIVE
OTHER	SORRY"	ATTITUDE



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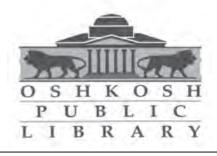
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Prep sports roundup

FOOTBALL

Big second half lifts Wildcats to FVA win

Oshkosh West scored all 21 points after halftime and secured its first Fox Valley Association win of the season Friday with a 21-6 victory at Appleton East.

Landon Ubrig threw for a touchdown and also ran for a score to lead the Wildcats. He connected with Alex Dyken for a 38-yard touchdown to get West on the scoreboard in the third quarter and then made it 14-0 with a 19-yard scoring run in the fourth quarter.

The Wildcats built a 21-0 lead when Connor Gibbs returned an interception 36 yards for a touchdown.

Ubrig finished 9-of-21 for 94 yards passing, while Chase Brandl led the team with 40 yards rushing and also caught a team-high four passes for 37 yards.

Eddy Schroeder and Zach Bartels each had nine tackles to lead the West defense.

Knights rout Dodgeland for second straight win

Wade Lindahl threw for 310 yards and six touchdowns and Lourdes Academy jumped out to a 35-point lead after the first quarter en route to a 55-19 thumping of Dodgeland in a Trailways Conference game Friday.

It was the second straight win for the Knights, who need to win their next two games to automatically qualify for the playoffs.

Lindahl threw four touchdown passes to four different receivers in the first 10 minutes of the game, connecting with Braden Studinski, Adam Dinegan, Mat Yaggie and Ryder Mullen for the scores. Brady Ridenour then scored on a 43-yard touchdown run to cap the opening period.

Lindahl, who finished 19-of-26, also threw touchdown passes to Michael Santiago and Henry Geck in the game, while Jacob Bogardus returned a fumble 40 yards for a touchdown for the Knights' final score.

Ridenour led the team with 63 yards rushing on just four carries, while Studinski led the receivers with four catches for 90 yards.

Warriors dominated by Abundant Life

Valley Christian trailed 36-0 after the first quarter and never recovered in falling to Abundant Life, 52-8, in a nonconference game Friday.

The Warriors were held scoreless for the first three quarters of the game before scoring in the fourth on a touchdown run by Matthias Behling.

Valley Christian was held to 170 yards of total offense in the game.

Ethan Millar and Mason Everts each had eight tackles to lead the Warriors. **TENNIS**

North fourth, West fifth at FVA tournament

The Oshkosh North No. 2 doubles team of Hailee Valdez and Morgan Kolodzik finished third to lead the Spartans at the Fox Valley Association meet last week.

North finished fourth at the tournament and placed fourth overall in the final standings. Oshkosh West placed fifth at the tournament and tied for fifth with Appleton West in the overall standings.

North got fourth-place finishes at the top three singles flights at the tournament with Loria Dao at the No. 1 flight, Ariana Bauer at the No. 2 flight and Kara Cummings at the No. 3 flight earning the finish. The No. 1 doubles team of Emma Niemczyk and Liv Boroqitz also placed fourth for the Spartans.

The other finishers for North were Brianna Wilson, sixth at No. 4 singles and the No. 3 doubles team of Jasmin Vey and Rica Hanson, which placed eighth.

The Wildcats' best finishers on the day were Kyra Ahrens at No. 4 singles and the No. 3 doubles team of Kinsey Koepsell and Emma TeLindert, who were each fourth at their respective flights.

The No. 1 doubles team of Megan Jorgensen and Madelyn Marino took fifth, while Allison Augustine at No. 1 singles, Samantha Burns at No. 2 singles and Maddalyn Meartz at No. 3 singles each finished sixth along with the No. 2 doubles team of Allison Borgmann and Macie Ruh.

VOLLEYBALL

Valley Christian edges Lourdes Academy in five

The Warriors and Knights collided at The Castle at Lourdes Academy in a Trail-

ways East tussle with Valley Christian pulling out a 25-18, 27-25, 23-25, 17-25, 17-15 win.

Lizzie Fink led three players with double-digit kills with 17 for the Warriors, while Anna Giannopoulos added 15 and Raven Meyer chipped in 12. Giannopoulos also led the team with 21 digs and seven aces.

Maliha Demler finished with 43 assists and added 10 digs. Aubryn Lehman also chipped in 14 digs.

For the Knights, Sabur Machiros led the way with 14 kills, while Delaney Ruedinger and Bree Kane added 12 and 10 kills, respectively.

Celia Ralofsky led Lourdes Academy with 31 assists, while Libby Guerrero led the team with 22 digs followed by Ruedinger with 15 and Reagan Jaber with 14.

Wildcats suffer first FVA loss of the season

Oshkosh West was dealt its first Fox Valley Association loss of the season last Thursday in a 25-18, 27-25, 25-18 loss to league-leading Kaukauna.

The loss drops West to 5-1 in FVA matches and into a tie with Kimberly for second place in the conference.

Sydnee Nelson racked up a whopping 18 kills with a .500 hitting percentage to lead the West hitters, while Maeve Lasky had eight kills. MaKaelyn Clark finished with 29 assists in the match.

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 23

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Prep roundup

from Page 22

Elaina Butz chipped in a team-high 18 digs and four aces.

Lourdes Academy posts sweep of Hustisford

Sabur Machiros and Delaney Ruedinger each had nine kills as the Knights rolled to a 25-8, 25-14, 25-9 sweep of Hustisford in a Trailways East match Thursday.

Bree Kane chipped in seven kills.

Celia Ralofsky and Grace Meyers finished with 25 and 11 assists, respectively, for the Knights, while Ralofsky and Reagan Jaber each had five aces and Hannah McDowell had four aces.

Libby Guerrero totaled a team-best 13 digs.

On Saturday, Lourdes Academy finished 2-3 at the Wrightstown Invitational, posting wins over Mishicot and Hilbert, while falling to Winneconne, Wrightstown and Valley Christian.

Oshkosh North falls to Kimberly

The Spartans couldn't keep up with Kimberly in a FVA dual meet last week.

Oshkosh North lost in three sets, 25-13, 25-9, 25-13.

<u>GOLF</u>

West's Hammen advances to sectional tourney

Oshkosh West senior Hailey Hammen earned a spot in the WIAA Division 1 sectional tournament after placing 18th at the regional tournament at Old Hickory Golf Course last week.

Hammen finished with a round of 102 to edge Beaver Dam's Kamryn Albert by one shot to grab the final individual qualifying spot. Hammen was set to compete at sectionals Tuesday.

The Wildcats finished tied with Fond du Lac for seventh place at the regional tournament, led by Hammen's effort. Kennedy Footit added a 110, while Lyla Wesenberg added a 113. Valerie Mantia and Ava Wesenberg each shot 123s.

Oshkosh North finished ninth in the team standings. Maggie Lynch paced the Spartans with a 108, followed by Sammie Leib with a 116, Willow Standke with a 119 and Brooke Peters with a 120.

<u>SWIMMING</u>

Wildcats dominate dual meet with Patriots

Samara Zeinert led a sweep of the top three places in the 50-yard freestyle and was

joined by Kiersten Dietschweiler in being a part of four wins as Oshkosh West rolled to a 122-61 win over Appleton East in a Fox Valley Association dual meet last week.

Zeinert was followed by Etta Yonke in second place and Molly Dudzinski in third as West dominated the 50-yard freestyle. Zeinert also added a win in the 100-yard backstroke where she finished about 12 seconds ahead of the rest of the field.

Dietschweiler earned her two individual wins in the 100-yard butterfly and 500yard freestyle and then joined Zeinert on the winning 200-yard medley and 400yard freestyle relay teams. Kate Horejs and Sarah Draxler rounded out the 200yard medley relay team, while Yonke and Dudzinski completed the 400-yard freestyle relay team.

West also had three events where it finished in first and second place. Yonke and Horejs were first and second, respectively, in the 200-yard freestyle, while Dudzinski and Draxler posted the 1-2 finish in the 100-yard freestyle. Dietschweiler and Horejs earned the finish in the 500-yard freestyle.

The Wildcats also won the 200-yard freestyle relay with a team of Hailey Knutson, Horejs, Draxler and Yonke.

Earning second places in the meet for West were Grace Whitcomb in the 200yard individual medley, Layla Leinen in the 100-yard breaststroke and Neva Schlies in diving.

CROSS COUNTRY

West girls second at night race in Lake Mills

Abby Tercha posted a top 10 finish to lead Oshkosh West to a second-place finish in Division 1 at the Nightfall Classic on Saturday night in Lake Mills.

Tercha finished seventh overall to pace the Wildcats, while the next four West runners all finished within 10 places of each other. Coraline Strebelinski led the group in 19th place, while Rowen Stellpflug and Mila Crowe were 24th and 25th, respectively, and Haylee Hullar was 29th.

West finished tied with Fort Atkinson at 95 points but earned the second place team finish with sixth-place runner Gwen Liptow's 32^{nd} place. Waunakee won the team title with 27 points.

The West boys finished ninth overall at the meet and were led by Carter Crowe and Celso Collins, who placed 24th and 26th, respectively. Juan Collins was close behind in 29th with Owen Moon in 85th place and Arjen Karns in 96th place rounding out the scoring runners for the Wildcats.

Averkamp, Moore lead Knights at Nightfall Classic

Dasha Averkamp was eighth and Annie

Moore took ninth to pace the Lourdes Academy girls in a fifth-place finish in the Division 3 field at the Nightfall Classic held in Lake Mills on Saturday.

Khloe Bunton was the next Lourdes Academy runner to finish in 48th place, followed by Allison Stromske in 54th place and Tessia Mroczkowski in 66th place.

The Lourdes Academy boys placed 11th overall and were led by Henry Spanbauer in 12th place. Mason Piechowski finished 41st followed by Zach Foster in 58th, Cameron Kapral in 89th place and Henry Achterberg in 176th.

Mitchell leads Spartan runners at Pulaski

Lehna Mitchell earned another top-10 finish to lead the Oshkosh North girls at the Pulaski Invitational last week.

Mitchell placed ninth overall at the meet as North finished 10^{th} among the 16 teams.

Rounding out the scoring runners for the Spartans were Gabi Pereira da Silva in 45^{th} place, Tianna Hayes in 49^{th} place, Alai Awak in 65^{th} place and Adri Clark in 70^{th} place.

The North boys finished 12th overall and were led by Jay Weber in 28th place, followed by Davante Kieya in 52nd place. The rest of the scoring runners for the Spartans were Blake Lederhaus in 86th place, Konrad Bowlus-Jasinski in 92nd place and Matthew Indergand in 95th place.

Moran paces Warriors at Rosholt invitational

Mya Moran secured a 12th-place finish to lead the Valley Christian girls cross country team to a seventh-place finish at the Rosholt Invitational last week.

McKenzie Murphy also earned a top-20 finish, placing 18^{th} overall with Kendra Sandahl (52^{nd}), Nykole Van Groll (65^{th}) and Eavie Heffernan (70^{th}) also scoring for the Warriors.

On the boys side, Valley Christian finished ninth overall with Jonah Menet leading the Warriors in 12th place. Silas Johnson was the next Valley Christian runner to finish in 38th place, followed by Simon Menet in 49th, Zachary Werner in 51st and Joshua Sandahl in 75th.

<u>SOCCER</u> Strange's goal helps Wildcats earn tie

Mason Strange scored in the 78th minute to lift Oshkosh West into a 1-1 tie with Homestead in a nonconference match at home Saturday.

Parker Gerlach assisted on the goal, which knotted the score after Homestead took the lead in the first half. Owen Ervin made nine saves in goal for the Wildcats.

In a Fox Valley Association game last week, Brandon Palomaki scored early in the match against Neenah but the Wildcats couldn't hold off the Rockets in a 2-1 loss.

Strange assisted on the goal, while Ervin posted 10 saves in net.

Knights pick up Flyway win over Mayville

Lourdes Academy/Valley Christian earned a 3-0 win over Mayville in a Flyway Conference match last week.

The Knights scored all three goals in the second half to earn the victory with Noah Bolorsush, Kaleb Richardson and Jackson Buttke picking up the tallies for Lourdes/ Valley.

Richardson, Buttke and Isaak Rucinski all registered assists in the win, while Will Loker made three saves in goal to earn the shutout.

Earlier in the week, Lourdes/Valley posted a 3-0 win over Clintonville, with Rucinski, Richardson and Buttke tallying the goals for the Knights. Richardson, Buttke and Quin Ruark had assists and Loker made two saves to earn the shutout.

On Saturday, the Knights played to a scoreless tie with Roncalli, with Loker notching five saves in goal for Lourdes/Valley.

Spartans blanked by Hortonville

It was a rough outing for Oshkosh North last week as the Spartans managed just five shots in a 6-0 loss to Hortonville in a FVA matchup.

Lungwe Ranadhani made six saves in goal for the Spartans.









Second-half barrage lifts North

By Dustin Riese Herald contributor

Oshkosh North erupted for four second-half goals and bounced back from a rough outing the game before to collect a 4-0 win over Plymouth in a nonconference match Thursday.

Shepherd Johnson scored early in the second half to ignite the scoring barrage as the Spartans halted a two-game losing skid.

"It was a good win for us on a couple of levels," Spartans head coach Sean Johnson said. "It was good for the players' psyche. We have been struggling with inconsistency and the players have been frustrated. Hopefully, we can build on the positive feelings and build some positive momentum."

The second-half barrage came after a rough start to the match for the Spartans, who weren't able to generate much offense and nearly conceded an own-goal over the first 15 minutes.

The Spartans had a couple of scoring opportunities to close out the half, though, but had a free kick clank off the goal post, while a rebound shot from Mto Wasekye Jean was saved by the Plymouth goalkeeper to send the game into intermission scoreless.

Despite those missed chances, the opportunities seemed to awaken the North offense and the Spartans came out firing in the second half.

Shepherd Johnson scored from about 40 yards out three minutes into the second half to get the ball rolling for the offense and North never looked back once it got the lead.

Jean extended the lead to 2-0 about two minutes later after the Spartans peppered the Plymouth goal with a bevy of shots.

North goalkeeper Lungwe Ramadahni then got into the scoring mix in the 61st minute when he converted a penalty kick after Plymouth was whistled for a yellow card in the penalty area.

The Spartans would tack on a fourth goal in the 67th minute from Daudi Makechi to close out the scoring.

"We were working on a new tactical alignment and we're committed to getting our reserves more playing time," Johnson said. "Accomplishing that in the context of a win is always helpful.

"Plymouth is a great program. I really respect what they do and the tradition they have. They are a challenging opponent and it took us a while to solve the challenge in our favor."

Run with the Herd annual event set at arena

Oshkosh Herald

The Wisconsin Herd will host its third annual Run with the Herd 5K & 1K Family Fun Run on Oct. 20 that starts and finishes at the Oshkosh Arena.

The routes will take runners through downtown Oshkosh. The 5K competitive run will start at 8 a.m. with the 1K family fun run to follow. All runners are invited to stay for a Fan Fest at the arena with food, refreshments and activities.

Participants can register at bit.ly/runwiththeherd. There will be limited parking available in the arena parking lot.



North football

FROM PAGE 19

"We locked in after that touchdown," Palmquist said. "We got the troops together and got everybody riled up. We got everybody focused after that."

Bryce Ott connected with Scott for a 47-yard touchdown on a screen pass as North regained a 14-point lead.

Ott then found Dalton Clark for a 35-yard touchdown pass to cap the four-touchdown first quarter for the Spartans.

Clark added a 45-yard punt for a touchdown in the second quarter - his second straight game with a punt return for a score – and then hauled in a 17-yard touchdown pass from Ott to push the lead to 42-7 with still more than seven minutes left in the first half.

Ott, who hadn't played in the second half in either of the past two games, finished 9-of-11 for 166 yards and five touchdowns. Over his last three games after coming back from injury, the junior signal-caller is a combined 26-for-32 for 401 yards and has thrown 17 touchdowns without an interception this season.

"Bryce brings the energy and leader-

Valley Christian

FROM PAGE 20

the match.

The Warriors took an early 6-3 lead in the fourth set - highlighted by two kills from Raven Meyer and an ace from Maliha Demler - but Central Wisconsin Christian scored seven of the next eight points and stayed in front the rest of the set.

Giannopoulos had a huge night for the Warriors finishing with 27 kills - and just five errors - to lead the Valley Christian hitters, while also finishing with a teamhigh 20 digs.

"Anna was definitely going after it tonight," Potratz said. "We know it's in her.

ship and focus to the offense. When he has a little swagger, it means our offense is usually going to play well," Luke Ott said. "Our receivers are making plays for him and Jamare is doing a great job. Our kids are dialed in."

Bryce Ott added his final touchdown pass on the first drive of the third quarter, connecting with Schettle for an 8-yard score, while Charlie Clark tallied the final North touchdown on a 1-yard run in relief of Bryce Ott.

Oshkosh North is now in a three-way tie for second place in the FRCC South along with Menasha and Sheboygan North and will travel to face the Golden Raiders on Friday. The Spartans will then wrap up the regular season at Green Bay Notre Dame, which is undefeated and ranked No. 1 in the state in Division 3.

But no matter what happens the next two weeks, the Spartans will have at least one more game on the schedule after ending its playoff drought.

"It feels great to finally be in the playoffs. We are the first team in a long time to make it and now we are on the wall of the weight room (where playoff teams are posted)," Scott said. "It definitely feels worth all of the work to get the switch and make the playoffs."

She does so many good things for us."

Fink added 11 kills for the Warriors, while Meyer added nine and Demler racked up 48 assists in the match.

Weyenberg and Aubryn Lehman each chipped in 19 digs with Demler adding 10.

The Warriors will wrap up the regular season next Tuesday with a nonconference match at Berlin before heading into the WIAA Tournament where they will look to make their second straight trip to sectionals.

"I don't think we have truly peaked as a team yet," Potratz said. "We can clean up a few of the things we need to clean up and they are a team to be reckoned with. If they can stay consistent, I don't think there is anybody they can't beat."



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Sports specialization can generate more overuse injuries

ThedaCare Communications

The popularity of professional athletes and sports events can lead kids and their parents to dream of sports stardom and scholarships. This has also led to a new trend that is concerning – sports specialization.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and National Athletic Training Association warn against sports specialization at a young age. They point to studies showing it can lead to an increase in overuse injuries, overtraining, and burnout.

"We understand that parents want the best for their kids," said Dr. Nickolas Linkous, a sports medicine and orthopedic surgeon with ThedaCare Orthopedic Care. "Some may believe that focusing on a single sport can lead to greatness. Unfortunately, it can also lead to physical and mental health issues. Participating in multiple sports is better for a child or teen's physical and psychological health."

When children participate in the same sport for most of the year, they are at higher risk of developing an overuse and other types of injuries, according to a study from the American Journal of Sports Medicine. Common overuse injuries include tendon damage, stress fractures, and knee and joint pain.

"When kids play only one sport, it often doesn't provide time for the child's body to rest or recover. A small injury can get worse quickly," Linkous explained. "Resting is important, especially as children's and teens' bodies are still growing. Repetitive motion is tough on their bones and muscles."

Beyond physical issues, training for a single sport throughout the year can potentially lead to burnout or psychological stress. The constant pressure to compete can be difficult for kids and teens. This comes on top of regular stressors, such as fitting in with peers and performing well in school.

Kids spending a lot of time at their sport also may miss out on valuable social interactions with their peers who are not a part of that activity. In addition, they may become overly anxious about their playing time and performance.

"It's important for children to have time to play and participate in non-sports activities," Linkous said. "It's all about balance. Parents should try to avoid overscheduling and spending too much time on any single sport."

Linkous recognizes there's a lot of pressure for children and teens to specialize. However, it's best to hold off as long as possible.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends delaying specialization for most sports until after puberty (around 15 or 16 years of age for most kids). This will minimize the risks and lead to a higher likelihood of athletic success.

The National Athletic Training Association suggests tips to vary your child's sports activities:

• One at a time. Children and teens should play only one sport per season.

• Eight-month rule. A teen or child should not participate in the same sport for more than eight months of the year.

• Hours per week. Young athletes should not participate in an organized sport or activity more hours per week than their age. For example, a 10-year-old should not practice or play their sport for more than 10 hours per week.

• Rest days. Kids and teens should have two days per week when they are not practicing or playing their sport.

• End-of-season break. When a season ends, kids should step away from that sport to provide their body time to physically and mentally recover. Jumping from a sport's club season right into a school season raises the chance for injury or burnout.

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Charlene Oppor

Charlene "Charlie" Oppor, 80, died peacefully on September 17, 2024. Char-



lie was born in Milwaukee, WI, on July 24, 1944, where she was lovingly adopted by her parents Leonard and Marie (Leichtfuss) Boettcher of Manawa, WI.

She is survived by

her children, Troy (Stephanie) Oppor, Ron Oppor, Scott (Brenda) Oppor and Ginger (Kenny) Kafer; grandchildren, Joshua Oppor, Cecelia (Wyatt) Coughlin, Nathan (Kelsey) Oppor, Cavin Oppor, Thomas Metyk, Trenton (Tiffani) Metyk and Destiny (Austin) Mitzel; great-grandchildren, Airalyn and Caroline Oppor, Hadley Coughlin, and

Richard J. Van Densen

Richard 'Rick' J. Van Densen, age 63, passed away on October 3, 2024. He



was born on April 12, 1961, at Mercy Hospital in Oshkosh to Richard G. and Joan C. (Hiltz) Van Densen.

Rick's love for life was contagious. He enjoyed cruising the

town on his moped, collecting classic car models, listening to country music, going out to eat and spending time with family, friends and pets.

Rick is survived by his siblings, Charles (Jane) Van Densen, Amy (David) Moore; brother-in-law, Steve Carpenter; and nu-

Adaline Oppor.

Charlie is preceded in death by her parents, Leonard and Marie Boettcher.

The funeral ceremony to honor Charlie's life will be held at Seefeld Funeral Home on October 12, 2024. Visitation will be from 10 am to 11 am, the service will follow at 11 am.

Immediately following the service, the burial will take place at Union Cemetery in Symco, WI.

Memorials should be made to the American Parkinson Disease Association at https://www.apdaparkinson.org or call 1-800-233-2732; or consider a Parkinson's charity of your choice in honor of Charlie.

For complete obituary see seefeldfuneralhome.com



merous cousins, nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard G. and Joan Van Densen; and sisters, Debra Carpenter and Diane Van Densen

A funeral service will be held on Friday October 11, 2024 at Seefeld Funeral Home, 1025 Oregon Street, Oshkosh WI with visitation being held from 2 pm to 4 pm, service will begin at 4 pm.

Rick passed away from complications of progressive supranuclear palsy. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: https://www.psp.org/iwanttohelp

All those that knew Rick will miss his smile.





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Kaleb David Breding

It is with deep anguish to announce the untimely passing of Kaleb David Breding,



at the very tender age of 21, on October 2, 2024. He passed away tragically as a result of a motorcycle accident. His loss was completely unexpected, and his family and friends are profound-

ly saddened with the loss.

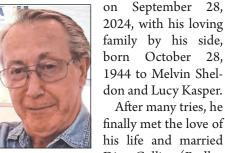
Kaleb was born on March 7, 2003, in Wausau WI to Crystal Jean Skifstad (Saverda) and Daniel David Breding. Kaleb spent most of his life in Oshkosh WI. He attended Oshkosh West High School where he met the love of his life, Makayla Ann Rost in 2019. They graduated together in 2021 and spent the remainder of his life together.

Kaleb was survived by his loving and adoring parents, Shane and Crystal Skifstad, the love of his life, Makayla Ann Rost (21), his siblings Calli E. Skifstad (20), Aiden A. Cross (16), Ethan G. Skifstad (8), his loving grandparents, aunts & uncles, cousins, and many others who loved him. He was preceded in death by his Grandpa Lumpy, Great Grandma Jean, Great Uncle Joe, and a few friends taken too soon.

Kaleb enjoyed riding scooters, playing video games, and skateboarding in his early years. He loved airplanes and he always dreamt of becoming a pilot. As he got old-

John M. Sheldon

John Michael Sheldon passed away peacefully after a long battle with COPD



family by his side, born October 28, 1944 to Melvin Sheldon and Lucy Kasper. After many tries, he finally met the love of his life and married Dian Collins (Radke,

Vickery) on February 4, 1989.

John worked for Mercury Marine in the prop department for 37 and a half years. He was an avid Packer fan, who was quite an armchair quarterback. His family enjoyed having stories of his antics from his younger years.

He was blessed with a huge family. Surviving him are his wife, Dian Sheldon; children, Kim (Rick) Rothe of Killeen, TX, Thomas Radke (Chari Kempf) of Oshkosh, Tracey (Craig) Doehling of Athol, ID, Ted Radke (Christy Steinert)

er, he spent his time going to car shows, riding his motorcycle, and spending time with his friends, doing what 21 year olds do.

His infectious smile lit up the room and was the life of whatever party he attended. He had an unforgettable sense of humor and a memorable laugh that usually included knee slaps. He could talk with anybody, and never feared a deep conversation. Kaleb loved to travel, with his favorite place being Nashville. He dreamed of traveling the world with eyes wide open, with the love of his life, to such places as Mexico, Jamaica, and Japan.

Kaleb positively impacted those he came in touch with. He was caring, loving, and genuine. Kaleb made sure to spend special moments with his little brothers and family. He was conscious about his health by eating right as well as making time to work out. Kaleb was curious about how things worked and always tried to find the "why" in life from a young age.

Please join us in reminiscing on how Kaleb made an impact on all our lives on Thursday, October 10, 2024, from 3:00 pm-7:00 pm at Fiss-Bills Poklasny Funeral Home, located at 865 S. Westhaven Drive, Oshkosh WI. Burial Services are scheduled for 10:30 am on Friday, October 11, 2024, at Riverside Cemetery located at 1901 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh WI.

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of Eagle, WI, James Vickery (Shelly Brittnacker) of Waupaca, WI; John Sheldon II of Janesville, WI; Gary (Nika) Sheldon, Oshkosh, WI. He also had 18 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. He was further survived by aunts, uncles and many cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Melvin Sheldon and Lucy Kasper; stepfather, George Payne Sr.; sister, Susan Sheldon; and grandson Ryan Rothe.

A memorial service will be held at Good Shepard Lutheran Church, 2450 W. 9th Ave. Oshkosh, on Saturday, October 5, 2024, with visitation from 9am to 11am and services beginning at 11am. His final resting place will be at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Oshkosh, WI.

The family would like to thank the wonderful nursing staff at Aurora Medical Center.

In honor of John, please consider making a donation to your local Humane Society.



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from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Mueller Funeral

Home, 904 E. Main St. Winneconne, WI.

Visitation will continue on Friday, Octo-

ber 11 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary

Catholic Church, 210 Pleasant Dr., Win-

neconne, WI. A funeral Mass will be held

on Friday, October 11 at 10:00 a.m. at the

church. The Mass will be live streamed on

the www.stmarychurches.org site, use the

St. Mary's Winneconne Live Stream link.

Burial will follow at the St. Thomas Cem-

A memorial has been established in her

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Obituaries

Constance Lee Ertmer

Constance "Connie" Lee Ertmer, age 87, of Omro, WI, passed away peaceful-



ly on September 26, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. She was born September 14, 1937, in Freeport, Illinois to the late Ralph and Dorothy (Ertmer) Rife. Connie attended

Freeport Aquin High School in Freeport, IL. On September 1, 1956, she married Eugene "Gene" Francis Ertmer in Elizabeth, Illinois. She helped her husband with farming, raising both hogs and beef cattle. In 1973, Gene and Connie moved their family to Omro, WI to operate a dairy farm.

Matt R. Luther

Matt R. Luther, age 39, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, October 2,



2024, in Oshkosh, WI. He was born December 5, 1984, to Diane and Mark Luther in Oshkosh, WI. Matt's passion was sports, including watching, playing, umpiring or coaching.

He played basketball, football, baseball, softball, golf, paintball and darts throughout his life. His sister Molly was his number one fan! Matt and his mom had a great time doing the Final 4 Pool Tournament, watching the games and seeing which one did better predicting the final four. He was a true Cub and Florida Gator fan and wore their colors proudly.

He so enjoyed being around and working

James P. Watson

James P. Watson, age 97, was born May 5, 1927 to John Bowser Watson and



Madeline Moser Watson in Martinsburg, MO. He passed away October 2, 2024 with his wife at his side.

He entered the Merchant Marines at 16 where he served one year carrying supplies to the troops.

Following that he spent four years in the Army at the end of WWII. On his return he moved to Oshkosh. In 1961 he married Mary Sitter and suffered his first bout with skin cancer which he fought his entire life. They were married 63 wonderful years and had three children, Valerie (Bill) Wiley, Jane (Michael) Gordon and Larry (Sue) Watson.

In 1985, they sold the dairy operation and built a retirement home on a scenic, wooded parcel of the original farm. They traveled extensively throughout the U.S. pulling a travel trailer behind their pickup truck. When Gene passed in 2012, Connie moved to the City of Omro to be closer to family and friends.

Connie was an active member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Winneconne and Omro, where she often donated her time and delicious baked goods. Connie also volunteered regularly at the Food Pantry in Omro, WI. She enjoyed reading, cooking, painting and most of all spending time with her family. She was a very talented artist, painting many outdoor/nature scenes on canvas and Christmas ornaments for all her children and grandchildren. She was an avid golf-

with children, especially special needs children. He could relate to all kinds of kids. Maybe because he was a "big kid at heart."

Matt is survived by his mother and stepdad, Diane and Jim Keenan; sisters, Stacy (Keith) Frey and Molly (special friend, Jason) Luther; aunts and uncles, Debbie (Bryon) Huebner, Steve (Patti) Shew, Ann (Dan) Pistohl, Lynn (Reed) Miller, Jill (Mike) Duckett and Gail (William) Campbell; nieces, Madeline and Olivia Frey; many cousins including, Jennifer Keenan, Betsy (Lenny) Young, Stephanie (Travis) Goss, Evan (Christina)Pistohl, Connor (Andrea) Pistohl, and Alex Shew. Their children include Luke, Meagan, Brooke, Kyle, Kristie, Akeem and Isiah, Ethan, Abigail and Kyla, as well as many friends.

Preceding him in death were his father, Mark Luther; and grandparents, Wayne (Bernice) Shew and Ray (Doris) Luther.

family all over the U.S.

He Is survived by nine grandchildren, Steven, Erin (Steve), Denise (Cody), Nathan, Matthew, Ryan (Yuko), Tyler, McKenna (Colton) and Chase. Great grandchildren, Ethan, Abigail, Owen, Cooper, and Rayna due in February, brother Terry, sister-in-law Kay & brother-in-law Richard Wilson, sister-in-law Mary Kay Sitter.

He was preceded In death by his parents, brother John Watson, sister Sandy & husband Lee Culver, and brother-in-law Dennis Sitter. His mother-in-law Valeria Sitter and father-in-law Milton Sitter.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 11 am at St. Jude Parish (St. Vincent Church at 216 W. South Park Ave). Father Louis Golamari will be the celebrant. Visitation will be held at the church on Wednesday from er, bowler, and enjoyed watching sports teams. She was a dedicated fan of the Green Bay Packers, Wisconsin Badgers, Milwaukee Bucks, and several PGA golfers.

Connie is survived by her children, Randy (Debbie) Ertmer, Kathy Ertmer (Roy Magnuson), Terry (Pamela) Ertmer, Brian Ertmer (Anna Queram), Sue (Mark) Mitchell, and Phil (Gretchen) Ertmer; sixteen grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren; one brother, Tom (Nancy) Rife; and two sisters, Julie (Randy) Jobgen, and Marg (Tom) Gulovich.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gene; her parents; three siblings, Carol (Tippett) Fischer, Don Rife, Jack Rife; and one great-grandson, Jack Ebben.

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2024,

He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, a memorial is being established in his honor.

Very special thanks to his co-workers and friends at Kobussen Busses LTD and Willie Beamons who made Matt feel like he was part of their family.

"Love you Matt"



Classifieds Call 920.385.4512 to place your ad

Private party ads deadline is 4 p.m. Friday. \$15 for first 20 words

> Health Guar Ready Now 715-937-0916 no text

Brown & White Boston Terrier Male pup. Shots DEW Vet Checked \$300.715-654-0060

ck'd M-275 F-300 Pics available have both parents 715-669-3607

FRITZ BARN PAINTING rusty Roofs, Metal Buildings Free Est. 608-221-3510 920-821-6311

HAVANESE YORKIE PUPS. Tri-color shots vet checked 2 HAVAPOO male pups 715-937-4425

PLYMOUTH FURNITURE: QUEEN MATTRESSES FROM \$199 40 Styles on display! All Sizes Avail. PlymouthFurnitureWI.com 2133 Eastern Ave. Plymouth WI 920-892-6006 Open Daily

POMERANIAN - MINI - AUSTRALIAN SHEP

Friendly Cute and Playful. \$80 715-223-4780s

TOY POODLE PUPS 1-F 3-M Shots vet ck'd Non-Shedding F-\$700 M-\$600 call 715-990-7555

Garage/Estate Sales

Rummage Sale: 224 N. 7th Avenue, Winneconne. Friday and Saturday October 11 & 12. Large Selection from A through Z.

Miscellaneous

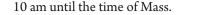
BUYING SALVAGE MOTORCYCLES-AT-VS-WATERCRAFT 920-850-9299 Local **Dealer Pickup**

COLLECTIONS OF OLD BASEBALL & FOOTBALLCARDS. From the 1950s, 60s. age spo autographs bobbleheads & Packers/ Braves items. Check your attic, basement & closets. We pay in CASH call Jeff 608-438-7702

BOSTON TERRIER PUPPIES Males/Females

CAVALIER POODLE PUPS Shots wormed vet

Jim and Mary enjoyed 39 years of retirement traveling to most states plus Hawaii, Japan, Alaska, and Mexico. He had a unique talent in embroidery, and appliques, making many Christmas stockings and tree skirts for people, friends, and



Thank you to Aurora Hospice for taking good care of him and the family. Words cannot describe how wonderful they were. He will be dearly missed by his family. FISS & BILLS - POKLASNY NERAL HOMES CREMATORY



Flexible hours, up to \$23/hour Roger 920-424-7575

Employment

SHARP

12 hours or less/week

Cost Cutters-Oshkosh (3 locations)

Cosmetologist/Barber

Flexible scheduling during our

business hours.

Chris or Lynn 920-215-4600 or text CC76

to 44000

Cost Cutters-Oshkosh (3 locations)

Receptionist

Preferably late afternoon, evenings, or

weekends

Chris or Lynn 920-215-4600 or text CC76

to 44000

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For Sale

AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS. Shots Vet ck'd. Wormed. \$700 Can deliver 715-255-2661 (#269146) 10/7

ALL NAT. GRASS FED BEEF. Butchered Dec. 10th Vac. Pak. Incl. Processing \$6.50lb. 715-250-2793

AUSSIE DOODLE PUPS Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$700-\$900 715-255-2661 (#269146)10/7

Border Collie pups \$350, German Shepard pups \$500, Cavapoo pups \$600. C/T 715-316-2617

CROSS PUPS 1-M \$250 1-F \$300 DOB 5-9 715-823-3052

Pomeranian pups Farm raised Sable color Pretty, Friendly Vet. Ck'd \$600 715-229-9088

Pure Breed GREAT PYRENEES Puppies \$200 OB0 920-404-9094

PUREBRED BEAGLE PUPPIES. Shots/wormed, \$500 Born June 15, Ready Now 715-680-0140 or 715-257-9316

PUREBRED GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS shots vet ck'd \$400 cash only Greenwood 715-267-6306

REGISTERD CAVALIER KING CHARLES PUPS. Shots, Wormed, Dews, Vet \$950 715-470-0458 Call Only will consider offers. (#509642)

SCOOTER PACKAGE: Near New Drive Ventura DLX 4-wheel 1) Anti-tip, 400# capacity, swivel captains' seat, headlight, battery charger, manual, keys, blue/red, many extras. 2) Swing Away Bruno ASL-250 Lift, easy to operate, class 3 2" Draw Tite, wire harness, manual. 3) Never used X-Large Heavy-Duty cover. \$2,999 Cash. Call/Text 920.379.8062

SHELTIE CROSS PUPS. Dewormed Very

WALNECKS MOTORCYCLE SWAP MEET WOODSTOCK IL. Sun. Oct 13th McHenry Co. Fairgrounds. 8am-2pm Admin. \$10 Booths \$50 Rain/Shine 630-985-2097

Real Estate/Rental

5.5 ACRE HORSE HOBBY FARM. Newer 2 story house 36x100 Barn w/Horse Stall's 30x50 Barn for storage 715-823-3052

(RANDON WI, (Forest County) 10 acres on a town road, power Land Contract Avail, \$89,000. Also 36 Acre Active gravel pit. For Sale Boulder&Stone 715-493-6121

FOR SALE: DIXIE LUNCH RESTAURANT & Fifth Avenue Supper Club at Antigo, WI. Oldest running cafe in the State of Wisconsin. Excellent gross business & financials. \$250,000.00. NOLAN SALES LLC, Marion, WI - 715-754-5221

or 800-472-0290. www.nolansales.com

OCTOBER 9, 2024



Oshkosh Showroom Grand Opening

Register to Win:

50" Television \$100 Mineshaft Gift Cards (2) \$50 TJ Harbor Gift Card \$50 House of Flowers Gift Card \$50 Reimer Jewelers Gift Cards (2) \$25 Kitz & Pfeil Ace Gift Cards (2) Fox River Brewing/Fratello's Gift Cards (2)

Enter now! Drawing to be held on Thurs. Oct 31st! *Come in today for Grand Opening Promotions! Offers expire 10/31/24. All appointments MUST be booked by 10/31/24*

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