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District seeking input on referendum

Question needs board approval for April vote

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education began deliberating plans for a spending referendum that could be on the ballot in April.

District officials have been holding community feedback sessions since September. A month before that, Superintendent Bry-

an Davis outlined the second phase of the district's four-phase plan to consolidate facilities as the district continues to see and forecast declining enrollment.

Phase two would consolidate the west side of the district, update buildings, ensure all district buildings are ADA compliant and adjust classroom sizes. Another large portion of the referendum would be a new auditorium at North High School.

The board will need to decide by Jan. 21 if it wants to put a referendum on the April 1 ballot for a \$195 million facilities plan.

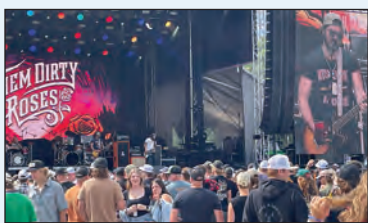
District officials have stated that paying off debt earlier from the 2020 referendum is part of an attempt to keep the tax levy low and not raise taxes if the potential referendum passes.

As part of the 2025 budget, the board approved paying \$21 million off the current debt.

Julie Conrad-Peters, assistant superintendent of operations, discussed the community feedback that drew responses from

SEE **Funding question** ON PAGE 13

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Oshkosh Herald

Holidays helpers

One of the 14 pallets of Kraft Mac & Cheese is loaded up to head to the Oshkosh Area Food Pantry thanks to a donation from Amcor, who gave away 78,000 boxes nationwide ahead of the holiday season. Another 14 pallets went into northern Winnebago County. See story on Page 2.

Homeowners receive informational letters on lead pipes

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

If you have received a letter last week stating there is confirmed lead piping in your house or that it is unknown what material your water lateral is made of – you're not the only one.

The city sent out more than 11,000 letters informing residents that their water laterals either contain lead or unknown material. The letters are part of an Environmental Protection Agency mandate that says the city must have an inventory of the material of lead laterals in the city. The water lateral brings water into your home from the water main.

There is a public side and private side of the lateral. The private side is the responsibility of the homeowner and the Public Works Department is responsible for the side that connects with the system. There is a citywide map of all properties that shows whether the public or private side of the pipe is lead.

The letters are for informational purposes and do not require the homeowner to take any immediate action, but provide material to understand the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) policy.

"We're encouraging people to take steps to limit their exposure to lead in the water," assistant public works director Steve

Gohde told the Herald.

This includes flushing the lines, cleaning the aerator in the faucets, using cold water for drinking and cooking, and using a lead-removing water filter.

According to Gohde, there are 5,426 public laterals that contain lead and 57 public laterals that are unknown. On the private side, there are 2,605 confirmed lead laterals and 6,495 unknown laterals. Gohde said those numbers change as the department collects additional information.

If the private side is lead the homeowner is responsible for paying to have it replaced. The city does not currently have

a large-scale plan to replace the public laterals but will continue replacing ones that are in conjunction with infrastructure plans or other high-priority projects.

The LSLR policy is funded through financial assistance from the state Department of Natural Resources. The city pays a prequalified contractor to replace the line and the homeowner then pays the city. The city will pay up to \$5,400 to replace the private lateral with the homeowner responsible for paying half of that amount plus any additional amount if it costs above \$5,400.

SEE **Lead lines** ON PAGE 13



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Amcor donates mac and cheese to pantries

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

One of every three Winnebago County residents will face food insecurity this year, which can lead to them skipping meals.

As the holiday season approaches, one Oshkosh company's charitable donation will go to thousands of residents.

Amcor has donated 78,000 boxes of macaroni and cheese to two local food pantries, who will spread the food across the Fox Valley to ensure the donation has an impact this time of year.

The mac and cheese filled 28 pallets, 14 for St. Joseph's Food Program in Menasha for distribution in Menasha, Neenah, Kimberly and Appleton pantries, and

Oshkosh Area Community Pantry getting the remaining 14 pallets. OACP executive director Ryan Rasmussen said the mac and cheese will be distributed to pantries in Oshkosh, Omro and Winneconne.

"It's a phenomenal donation," he said. "It's especially important during the holiday season."

Chair of Amcor Cares Ethan Haas said the company has a great relationship with Kraft Heinz Co. as it makes the packaging for its food products.

Along with donations to the Fox Valley, Amcor will be sending thousands of boxes to Asheville, N.C., where there is an Amcor plant, and will help the area after a recent hurricane.

The Oshkosh Area Food Pantry serves

2,300 families a month and is on pace to provide 2.5 million pounds of food to area residents this year. Rasmussen said more than 30% of county residents will face food insecurity this year and 54% of students in the school district regularly face food insecurity.

"It's a real issue facing our community," he said.

Rasmussen said the most requested items this time of year are turkeys, stuffing, cranberry sauce and soups. Then in December the pantry looks for more holiday baking items.

"Anything you like to bake with is a great donation in December," he said. "These donations help everyone to enjoy the holiday season."

EAA ready for holidays with multiple events planned

Oshkosh Herald

The EAA Aviation Museum welcomes the holiday season with several events between Thanksgiving and the new year.

The museum holds its traditional Christmas in the Air open house Dec. 7 featuring performances from local music, choral and dance groups. Santa Claus will arrive by helicopter (weather permitting) at noon followed by a tree lighting ceremony and photos. Children can also write letters to Santa that he will take with him on his flight back to the North Pole.

The annual Wright Brothers Memorial Banquet on Dec. 13, which honors the spirit and achievements of Wilbur and Orville Wright, features speaker Paul Dye, the longest-serving flight director in NASA history. Dye will recount his experiences serving in a leadership role for 38 space shuttle missions.

Beginning Friday, the EAA grounds hosts the Oshkosh Celebration of Lights for the second consecutive year. Visitors can drive through the grounds viewing the light displays along the route. The event will be open daily from 5:30 to 9 p.m. through Dec. 31. Santa will be available for visits from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 23. More information can be found at Oshkoshcol.org.

The Celebration of Lights path will also be part of the route for the 22nd Race for the Light 5K Run/Walk presented by and benefiting Oshkosh Area United Way at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 7. The route begins at the EAA Youth Education Center and takes runners through the Celebration of Lights display. Online registration costs \$35 and includes a T-shirt and a set of jingle bells.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Nov. 25, 1929

Student/Pilot Are Crash Victims:

Two men were fatally injured when their plane crashed shortly before noon today a half-mile west of the golf grounds on Highway 26 north of Oshkosh near Neenah. Aviation pioneer Roy Larson was giving a student, William Weid, flying lessons when the accident occurred. Investigators say the training included putting the plane into an intentional tailspin for the student to learn how to correct it – a requirement to get your license. The exercise began at 5,000 feet and according to witnesses on the ground, the plane never recovered, heading to the ground. Despite the student's desperate efforts to bring the plane out of the spin, the



Photo from Ben Joas

Roy Larson is shown in a Standard J-1 aircraft in this 1922 photo.

aircraft did not respond. It is believed Roy Larson, riding in the rear seat, took the control stick in his compartment, but was fighting the student doing the opposite up front. As the two men struggled for control, the plane dove nose first into the ground. Weid was seriously injured and was pronounced dead upon arrival at Theda Clark Hospital. Larson died three days later, Nov. 28, Thanksgiving Day.

Source: "Oshkosh: Land of Lakeflies, Bubblers and Squeaky Cheese" by Randy Domer

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Gun deer hunters take on seasonal challenges

Oshkosh Herald

Hunters in Wisconsin headed out for the nine-day gun deer season Saturday that runs through Dec. 1, the latest nine-day window within which the season may occur. Wildlife officials note the late start, mild weather forecast and other trends could potentially limit this year's harvest.

Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist Josh Jackl from the Winnebago County team in Oshkosh talked about the mix of factors that play a role in what the deer harvest will look like locally and statewide.

"Deer hunter numbers are down and that's been the trend for the last few years, probably 1 or 2 or 3% every year," said Jackl, who added that the county has been showing good hunter participation and deer harvests.

"In Winnebago County we're trending above the five-year average for harvest in the county total. Interestingly, too, the youth hunt for this year in Winnebago County was well above the five-year average.

"But we're talking small numbers. Youth hunt in Winnebago County alone was only 65 animals this year. So very small numbers, but the trend is definitely higher than it has been in the past."

The population of the white-tailed deer

Jobless rate holds at 2.3% in Winnebago County

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area and Winnebago County saw its unemployment rate stay unchanged at 2.3% between September and October, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

The city of Oshkosh's jobless rate dipped from 2.6% to 2.5% in October, while Neen-

ah's also went down from 2.2% to 2.1%. Last October's jobless rate in the Oshkosh-Neenah MSA and Winnebago County overall was at 2.5%.

The non-seasonally adjusted data shows jobless rates in Metropolitan Statistical Areas decreased or stayed the same in 10 state metro areas over the month and decreased in all 12 metro areas over the year.

He said a new rule for this year is that air guns are allowed for deer hunting on a regular rifle license, though he did not expect many people to be doing it this year.

Jackl also said there has been little impact locally from chronic wasting disease (CWD) with only one positive deer confirmed in the county in March 2023.

The archery season in Winnebago County started in the middle of September and runs to the end of January. Jackl said they are seeing a growing percentage of harvests from bow hunters, which includes vertical bow, crossbow and longbow.

Weather always has an impact on opening weekend, and the expected lachaven't will not help hunters while recent rains may limit access in some lower wetland areas that hasn't frozen yet.

Jackl said the late start to the gun season usually indicates the rut is farther away from being peak, which usually equates to a lower harvest because of less rut activity. But he added that most successful hunters do their scouting ahead of the season and know what to expect when they get out there to benefit their hunting.

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Photo by Michael Cooney

Tyler Wegner is shown near his Winnebago County home west of Oshkosh in a wooded area where he has harvested a buck with his bow this season and hopes to have continued success during gun season.

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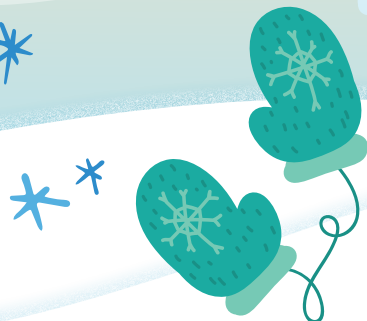
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XRoads41 announces 2025 lineup with country stars

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The XRoads41 festival will be back next summer for a second year and country continues to be the favored genre.

The Oshkosh Festival grounds will be packed with music fans between Aug. 7 and 9 as Cody Johnson, Kane Brown and Parker McCollum are set to headline the three-day festival.

The 2025 lineup also will include Jessie Murph, Nelly, Koe Wetzell, Ian Munsick, Rodney Atkins, Redferrin, Josh Melo, and The Castellows, with additional artists to be announced later.

Johnson's recent album "Leather" was nominated for 2024 Album of the Year by the Academy of Country Music Awards. Despite releasing music since 2006, he won the iHeartRadio Music Awards' best new country artist honors in 2023.

Brown is currently touring Australia as the country singer has taken little time off since releasing his debut single "Used to Love You Sober" in 2015. Brown's fourth

album "The High Road" is scheduled to be released in late January.

McCollum, who rounds out the headliners, was named new male artist of the year in 2022 by the Academy of Country Music Awards.

The XRoads41 lineup mirrors last year's with a heavy concentration of country acts and the ability to bring in other acts with rapper Nelly coming this year to Oshkosh.

The Castellows are a country trio of sisters who moved from Georgia to Nashville and have quickly become a group that Music City is talking about.

Organizers told the Herald there are plans to unveil a second festival in the future.

Tickets are on sale now with three-day passes available for general admission, VIP standing room only and VIP reserved, which comes with reserved seats. General admission passes start at \$119 with VIP reserved costing \$519.

There are also passes for camping and parking on site. Tickets and more information are at xroads41.com.



Oshkosh Herald

Music fans attend last year's inaugural XRoads41 festival at the Oshkosh Festival grounds.

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Special education director retiring

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Area School District director of special education Linda Pierron will be retiring at the end of the 2024-2025 school year after 12 years with the district and a 30-year career in public education, the district announced last week.



Pierron

Under Pierron's leadership, the OASD has launched initiatives such as the Brewing Futures accessible food truck, student-run cafes, the Project Search internship program, and adaptive sports and motor development programs – all with the goal of empowering and enriching the lives of students with special needs.

"Ms. Pierron's impact on our district and community is immeasurable," said Bryan Davis, district superintendent. "We

are incredibly grateful for her leadership and are proud of the remarkable programs she helped bring to life."

Her collaborative approach with partners such as the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh has been credited with further strengthening the district's ability to meet the diverse needs of students.

"I am most proud of the relationships we've built, the support we've provided to students and families, and the advocacy we've been able to champion on behalf of all learners," Pierron said. "There are such beautiful things happening in our public schools, and I'm honored to have played a role in creating an environment where every student can truly thrive."

Pierron joined the Oshkosh Area School District in 2013 after serving in the Menasha Joint School District and as a director at CESA 6. The district is developing a transition plan and will begin a search process to fill the position.



Oshkosh Herald

End of an era

Merrill School is in the process of being torn down on New York Avenue. After demolition is complete the district has plans to put an athletic facility and green space on the site that will have a memorial for the school built in 1901.

District starts community engagement initiative

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Area School District has launched the Oshkosh Schools Academy, a six-month program to provide residents the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the district's mission and strategic priorities.

"The Oshkosh Schools Academy is an excellent way for our community to get an inside look at the operations, leadership and governance of the Oshkosh Area School District," said Bryan Davis, schools superintendent. "We are excited to offer this immersive program and look forward to engaging with participants who are passionate about understanding and supporting public education in Oshkosh."

The program will kick off in January and

run through June, with monthly sessions covering district operations, academic priorities, staff development and community engagement. Participants will also engage in a book study on the book "Schools Cannot Do it Alone" by Jamie Vollmer.

There will be one monthly session from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the district administration office.

Applications for the academy are now being accepted until Dec. 11. The program is limited to 20-30 participants. If more than 30 apply, participants will be selected randomly. Those not selected will be added to the waiting list for the 2025-2026 program.

For more information, including the application form and program details, visit oshkosh.k12.wi.us.

Assistant school superintendent honored

Oshkosh Herald

Samuel Coleman, assistant superintendent of instruction for the Oshkosh Area School District, has been recognized as 2024 Man of Excellence in the Wisconsin Leadership Community Choice Awards.



Coleman

In its sixth year, the awards recognize exceptional leaders who have made significant contributions to their fields. Coleman was honored at an awards ceremony in October in Madison.

"I am truly humbled and honored

to receive this recognition," Coleman said. "Education is my passion, and promoting excellence in our schools has been a deeply fulfilling part of my career."

Coleman oversees prekindergarten through grade 12 academic programs, alternative education and professional development for district staff. With more than 16 years of experience in public education, he has held leadership roles in Milwaukee, Virginia and Shorewood.

Last year, Coleman was named one of Madison 365's Most Influential Black Leaders in Wisconsin for 2023, recognizing his significant contributions to the state's educational landscape.



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High schools exceed; math, literacy results still lagging

Officials say low scores don't reflect potential

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

In Oshkosh high schools, students are exceeding expectations on state report cards, yet younger students continue to struggle with mathematics and literacy proficiency as the school district continues efforts to improve those achievement scores.

Similar to what the Board of Education heard last November, only 40% to 49.9% of students between grades three through eight score proficient in math and literacy according to the spring diagnostic tests.

District assistant superintendent of instruction Sam Coleman did not mince words before presenting the math and literacy data to the board at its recent meeting.

"First of all, the data that we'll share is not data that we're proud of, nor do we believe this outcome data reflects the potential of our students, the hard work of our teachers and the support that they're receiving from our administrators and support staff," Coleman said.

"Instead, we know this outcome data confirms the case we made throughout last year for the need to make significant investments in the instructional materials for both math and literacy."

The data was compiled from last year's tests and evaluations. Since that time, administrators have made several moves to improve math and literacy proficiency.

Director of elementary schools Kim Brown presented the literacy data and director of elementary schools Erin Kohl reviewed the data for math.

In math, there are large gaps between students who are economically disadvantaged compared to those who are not. Around 32% of students who are economically disadvantaged are proficient in math compared to around 65% proficiency in students who are not disadvantaged. It's a similar trend for students with and with-

out disabilities and students learning English compared with students for which English is their first language.

"We continue to have concerning achievement gaps in those areas," Kohl said.

The gaps in literacy show a similar trend with students receiving special education services, non-English learners and economically disadvantaged students scoring less proficient than their classmates.

"We have gaps that we are working on closing," Brown told the board.

Math and literacy scores were broken down by race and also show a large gap in those subdivisions. White students were about 57% proficient and Black students were less than 13% proficient in literacy. In math there is a larger gap with white students testing just under 58% proficient and Black students just under 10% proficient, based on the Forward Exam data.

Earlier this year, the board approved adopting a new math curriculum with teachers receiving coaching and using other systems to support their actions in the classroom. There were similar issues with the materials being used in literacy. Coleman, who joined the administration in the summer of 2023, made a similar presentation last November.

When compared with other districts in the area such as Winneconne, Neenah and Fond du Lac, Oshkosh scores are lagging behind area schools besides North Fond du Lac and Menasha in math and literacy. The district ranks almost 5 percentage points behind the state average on proficiency scores.

Board member Stephanie Carlin pointed out it is not a fair "apples to apples" comparison when evaluating Winneconne and Kimberly school districts to Oshkosh. She said Appleton is a closer comparison based on the size of the student body.

The OASD has about 9,100 students, Appleton has more than 15,000 and Winneconne, which scores the best in math and literacy, has fewer than 2,000 students.

In 2019, the state average for math was 43% and was 42% in Oshkosh. In 2024, the state average grew to 53.1% while Oshkosh was at 48.6%. Part of this trend is linked to the pandemic as the state average and most other districts in the area saw a drop from 2019 to 2021.

Board member Barbara Herzog said if she had a student in the district who was economically disadvantaged she would be concerned by the data.

"We have to start seeing some big changes here," she said. "We hear this year after year that we have these plans, which I celebrate, but we have to see results. There are children behind each of these scores."

She questioned whether the district is doing the students a disservice by only having students graduation ready instead of college and career ready.

"Are we really doing them a disservice in that if they're graduating with these types of numbers – are they just graduation-ready or are they truly going to be able to support themselves going into higher ed and being contributing members of society," Herzog said, "or are we just turning out kids who will be able to get a minimum wage job and that's going to limit them?"

She told administrators that if they don't have the tools to improve the data there needs to be more requests to the board for what is needed to help improve those scores.

The state average in literacy is 51.1% proficiency and Oshkosh is 47.3% proficient, based on the Forward Exam. One positive number is a huge improvement from 2023 to 2024 scores with Oshkosh showing 33.1% proficiency in literacy in 2023 and 47.3% proficiency in literacy in 2024. In that same time the state average rose from 39.2% proficient to 51.1% proficient.

"We're moving towards our goal but we're hoping for an even bigger impact as we implement our new curriculum," Brown said.

Kohl said the district has set goals for

50% of students in grades three through eight to be proficient in math by next spring when the Forward Exam is taken. The district has set a goal of 62% of these students being proficient by the time of the iReady tests next fall.

Brown said the district has set a goal of 45% of students in grade three through eight will be proficient in literacy by next spring. Then by next fall the district has set a goal of 60% of students being proficient in literacy by the iReady tests in the fall.

"We are maintaining our stance that we are responsible for everything in our control to promote student success through asset-based thinking and quality instructional strategies," Coleman said. "We've set rigorous goals and policy for reading and we also have rigorous goals established for math and we're supporting the growth towards those goals with the focus on rigor and engagement in our professional development and our culture."

Board member Molly Smiltneek said she didn't hear the urgency in the administrators' presentation and wanted to hear examples of what the district is doing.

"Our numbers are still terrible and to me it looks like they're getting worse," she said.

"Our Black and brown kids are just as smart as our white students. Our kids who are economically disadvantaged have as much potential as anybody who is not economically disadvantaged and yet we are failing them – what are we doing about it?" Smiltneek asked.

Coleman said the district is engaging with these students more than in the past and providing teachers and support staff with strategies to get the students more engaged in the classroom at higher levels.

High school report cards show a different picture with both West and North students exceeding expectations on the state level.

"Student achievement is our top priority, and our school report cards provide us with a valuable measure of the impact of our efforts," Coleman said. "With this in mind, the OASD is committed to setting ambitious goals and continually refining our approach to ensure we keep growing and reaching our full potential."

State report card results are released every November and compiled by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction based on Wisconsin Forward Exams, attendance rate, graduation rates and performance on Pre-ACT and ACT scores.

The report cards on the 2023-2024 school year show an improvement from 68.4 to 69.7. Both West and North high schools continue to exceed expectations, a title they also earned last year.



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Valley Christian School celebrating 50-year legacy

Oshkosh Herald

Valley Christian School is marking 50 years of transforming lives in what began as a small gathering of like-minded families with a vision for Christ-centered education that has impacted generations of students and families.

Founded in 1974, Valley Christian School started with 11 students in the basement of Bethel Baptist Church in Oshkosh, growing as more families embraced the educational opportunity. In 1993, after several relocations and in need of a place to house the school, Harold and Sally Eichstadt gifted the school 15 acres on Vinland Street.

The school needed to raise the money for construction and the dream was realized in 1994 when Oshkosh Christian School began holding classes in their new building. This remains the current location of the main campus at 3450 Vinland.

“For 50 years, we have been dedicated to fostering an environment where students can grow not only academically



Photo from Valley Christian

A recent dinner gathering at the Oshkosh Convention Center was one of the events commemorating the 50th anniversary of Valley Christian School.

but spiritually,” said Brad Dunn, who has served as head administrator since

2012. “It has been a privilege to see so many students not only excel in their

studies but also develop a deep, personal relationship with Christ.”

Valley Christian currently serves 775 students from prekindergarten through 12th grade on its Oshkosh and Neenah campuses. Beyond the core academic subjects, the school offers character development, community service and leadership.

Plans for continued growth include new campus facilities, enhanced technology in the classroom and more opportunities for students to engage in global missions and community service.

“We are excited about the future,” Dunn said. “While we honor the rich history and traditions that have brought us to this point, we also embrace the opportunities ahead to continue impacting the world for Christ.”

The school has had a series of events celebrating their anniversary including an alumni brunch, a '50s themed birthday party for the entire school and a dinner gathering at the Oshkosh Convention Center.

Town’s EMS team gains grant funding

Oshkosh Herald

The Town of Oshkosh Emergency Medical Service (EMS) team was one of several emergency response departments serving rural communities in Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota awarded a total of \$731,000 for equipment needs and programs through Compeer Financial’s Fund for Rural America.

A total of 173 grants were extended by the Farm Credit cooperative’s giving program, including 13 collaboration grants for equipment shared across multiple

departments. The Town of Oshkosh received \$4,000 that will go toward extrication turnout gear.

The Emergency Response Equipment Grant program was enhanced three years ago when the Fund for Rural America added the Emergency Response Equipment Collaboration Grant, underscoring teamwork among volunteer fire, rescue and ambulance departments in rural areas.

The Fund for Rural America has awarded more than \$4 million in grants supporting rural first responders since 2018.



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Boys & Girls Club Youth of Year named

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh named Zachary "Zach" S. as its 2024-2025 Youth of the Year representative during the Youth of the Year Dinner recently.

High school students from the club compete for the honor that highlights their commitment to community service, leadership, academic excellence and personal growth. Zach competed against five exceptional peers: Mercedes B., Ayden C., Amiyah T. (Oshkosh West High School), and Caleigh S. and Isabel V. (Oshkosh North).

Zach receives a \$10,000 scholarship from the Charles F. Hyde Jr. Scholarship Endowment to pursue higher education. He will also represent the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh at the state-level competition in Madison this spring, vying for the Wisconsin Youth of the Year title and additional scholarships.

Zach also participates in the teen Keystone Leadership group, excels academically as a 4.0 student at Oshkosh North, a member of the Polaris National Honor Society, and a two-time recipient of the President's Award for Educational Ex-



Submitted photo
Zachary S. was named Youth of the Year by the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh.

cellence. Zach's extracurriculars include varsity bowling, junior varsity tennis and math teams. He volunteers with Father Carr's holiday meal deliveries, Celebration of Lights and the club's e-recycling drive.

Business news roundup

Clarity Care Inc. recently named **Steve Horstmann** as its chief executive officer, replacing Barb Salemi as she transitions to a part-time role as of Dec. 1. The nonprofit organization at 424 Washington Ave. provides services for individuals with varying abilities so they can achieve independent lives. "Clarity Care is an exceptional organization that gives individuals not only with disabilities, but different abilities, an opportunity to succeed and feel respected. I couldn't be prouder to join Clarity Care where their mission has been going strong for over 50 years," said Horstmann, who was a longtime administrator at health care facilities in Minnesota.

Michaels, a national arts and crafts supply store chain, held a grand opening for its new Oshkosh location at 1530 S. Koeller St. earlier this month. The new store features self-checkout registers, a custom framing center and assortment of supplies and components for arts, crafts, framing, floral, kids' crafts, DIY, yarn, beading and scrapbooking.

Healthcare Credit Union earlier this month unveiled its new name and brand, **Ripple Credit Union**, at 429 N. Sawyer St. in Oshkosh. The rebranding effort with 44 North Advertising & Design included a new tagline: "Small Waves. Big Possibilities." Established in 1962 by a group of nurses at Mercy Medical Center in Oshkosh, the credit union has about 2,500 members.

Sean Elliott, vice president of advocacy and safety for the **Experimental Aircraft Association**, has received the Federal Aviation Administration's Friend of Safety Award, recognizing his work and collabo-

ration on behalf of aviation safety. Elliott received the FAA award for his involvement in multiple safety initiatives that included chairing the FAA's General Aviation Joint Safety Committee, as well as his work on behalf of homebuilt aircraft, warbirds and air show operations. Elliott has been in his current role since 2010 and previously served as EAA's director of flight operations. He came to Oshkosh in 1996 as executive director of the National Association of Flight Instructors from 1996-2004.

The **Universities of Wisconsin Board of Regents Business Award** was presented to **ThedaCare** last week by UW President Jay Rothman, Regent Desmond Adongo and UWO Chancellor Andrew Leavitt. The award recognizes university collaborations throughout the state that are vital to Wisconsin's economic strength and vibrance. ThedaCare continues to be a strong UWO academic partner and a consistent employer of UWO Titans.

The **Leapfrog Group** has awarded 19 Advocate Health hospitals, including **Aurora Medical Center Oshkosh**, an "A" rating for excellence in patient safety on its fall 2024 patient safety report card - the most A's received by the health system's network. Leapfrog analysts use publicly available data to look at 22 different safety measures and assign grades based on how well hospitals are doing to protect patients from harm. Measurements include the hospital's ability to prevent errors, accidents, injuries, and infections. Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades are assigned to nearly 3,000 general acute-care hospitals across the nation twice a year.

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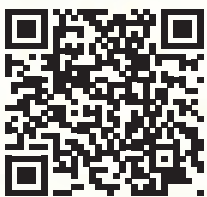
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Photo from The Grand

The high-energy entertainment of B2wins returns to The Grand Oshkosh for a holiday-themed concert Dec. 7.

Dynamic duo B2wins returns to Grand

Oshkosh Herald

B2wins, a high-energy group that captivates audiences with their special renditions of crowd favorites and engaging live show, return to The Grand Oshkosh on

Dec. 7 for a Sounds of the Season concert.

Growing up in the violent, impoverished slums of Rio De Janeiro, the twins began playing classical music on violins their father made.

They used music as an escape from their reality and began teaching others in their neighborhood.

After being featured on National Public Radio, the twins were invited to the U.S. on music scholarships in 2008. For the past decade they have been using music to make the world smile.

After the performance, Fox Valley songwriter and producer Joe Sly will perform in an AfterGlow in The Grand Lounge.

Tickets for the 7 p.m. show can be purchased at TheGrandOshkosh.org, calling the box office at 920-424-2350 or in person at 100 High Ave.

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Calendar of events

Wednesday, Nov. 27

Power Play Trio, 7 p.m., Fountain Tavern, 3696 Stearns Drive

Thursday, Nov. 28

Festival Foods Turkey Trot, 8 a.m., Oshkosh Seniors Center

Friday, Nov. 29

Oshkosh Celebration of Lights opens, 5:30 p.m., EAA AirVenture grounds (through Dec. 31)

Iowa Wolves at Wisconsin Herd, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Saturday, Nov. 30

Iowa Wolves at Wisconsin Herd, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Small Business Saturday, 11 a.m., downtown Oshkosh

Sunday, Dec. 1

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

Wednesday, Dec. 4

Christmas with Lori Line, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Thursday, Dec. 5

Downtown Oshkosh Holiday Parade, 6:15 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 6

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

Twas a Girls Night Before Christmas, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Saturday, Dec. 7

EAA Christmas in the Air, 10 a.m., EAA Aviation Museum

Cookie Walk, 9 a.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, 491 Old Oregon Road

Race for the Lights 5K Fun Run/Walk, 4:30 p.m., EAA Youth Education Center

Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra, 3 and 7 p.m., UW Oshkosh Music Hall

Live Nativity, 4-7 p.m., Martin Luther Church, 1526 Algoma Blvd.

Oshkosh Gallery Walk, 6 p.m., downtown

Comic Daren Streblov, 6:30 p.m., Calvary SonRise Church, 222 Church Ave.

B2wins: Sounds of the Season, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Sunday, Dec. 8

Oshkosh Area Community Band Christmas Sing, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Tuesday, Dec. 10

Deck the Runway, 5 p.m., Oshkosh Country Club, 11 W. Ripple

Erin Krebs and Friends, 7 p.m., The Waters, 1393 Washington Ave.

Christmas with John Berry, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Wednesday, Dec. 12

Sister's Christmas Catechism, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Oshkosh Symphony sets holiday concert

Oshkosh Herald

In its 83rd season, the Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra (OSO) continues the holiday tradition Dec. 7 with performances at 3 and 7 p.m., the first being a family concert and the second a full program. Concerts are held in the UW Oshkosh Arts & Communication Music Hall.

Titled "Peppermint Mocha," the concert features singer Daniel LeClaire, a soul/R&B/jazz vocalist from Neenah. He will perform music inspired by Mannheim

Steamroller's popular settings of the most enduring holiday carols and lead the audience in singalongs of traditional carols.

Also featured is a reading of Hans Christian Andersen's classic, "The Steadfast Tin Soldier," set to the music of opera composer Georges Bizet. Narrating is educator Sharon Chmura-Moore, who directs Acton Academy.

"Mannheim Steamroller's holiday tunes are unforgettable modern classics. It was necessary to arrange for full orchestra and voice," stated music director Dylan Chmura-Moore "The Steadfast Tin Soldier" is Nutcracker-light. It's the same themes just told with narration instead of dance."

Concert partners are Oshkosh Area Community Pantry and Elsewhere Market & Coffee House. OSO will receive nonperishable donations for the pantry and Elsewhere has crafted a specialty coffee, a mint mocha, to promote the concert.

Tickets are \$15, and free for ages 18 and under. UW Oshkosh students with a Titan ID also have free admission. Tickets may be purchased in advance at oshkoshsymphony.com.

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Funding question

FROM PAGE 1

18 different sessions with more than 300 community members. There was also a session to hear feedback from school staff.

Community feedback was overall positive, stating the plan is clear and consolidation of facilities is important. When the presentation was shown to staff before the school year began, responses differed as they focused on the learning environment.

There were positive comments regarding fewer staff members traveling between schools as part of the consolidation, bigger and better classrooms, and that the plan is forward thinking. Staff members were clear in their responses that air conditioning needs to be installed in every building, especially at the elementary schools.

Board member Molly Smiltneek questioned whether the classroom sizes and the learning environments will be dealt with as the district continues to get negative responses about the environment at the new Vel Phillips Middle School, which was built through the 2020 referendum.

"We didn't necessarily get it right, especially at Vel," she said of the learning environment at the middle school.

Smiltneek was concerned about the student learning environment and staff retention at Vel Phillips and the new Menominee Elementary School.

"What are we going to do to make (new facilities) successful learning environments on day one?" she asked.

Conrad-Peters said that during the community feedback there was support to complete phase two and move on to phase three, which calls for building a new West High School.

Board member Chris Wright said he has

Scope of referendum

- Replacing/rebuilding South Park Middle School.
- Repurposing Perry Tipler Middle School for an alternative school sites and recreation department offices.
- Close/sell the downtown recreation center building.
- Close/sell Roosevelt Elementary School.
- Expand Carl Traeger, Franklin and Oakwood elementary schools to all accommodate 600 students.
- Convert Shapiro STEM Academy to a pre-kindergarten center.
- Build North High School Auditorium.

heard from multiple residents, including those in youth programs, that there isn't enough space to provide the extracurriculars that students want.

"We just don't have the gym space," he said.

Wright said he has heard from families that have left the district and their children now go to Neenah because of the new facilities and space.

One other specific part of the proposed referendum is the conversion of Shapiro STEM Academy into a prekindergarten center. Smiltneek said it was important for the district to get the project right as the need continues to grow.

"We're at a crisis point for early childhood in this community and across the country and we cannot overlook the impact that doing an early learning center could have - both positive and negative," she said, while requesting more communi-

ty feedback.

The vote on whether to move forward on the referendum could take place at the Jan. 8 meeting. But since the meeting is a day after the state deadline for referendum questions to appear on the spring ballot, Davis said the board may need to hold a special meeting to vote on the question.

Board member Tim Hess said he would like to see feedback from residents on the proposal after they get their tax bill. The city passed its 2025 budget last week and for its portion of the tax bill the city has

lowered the levy.

If the district does not put the referendum question on the ballot next spring, it has contingency plans for 2026 in either spring or fall, as there is no fall election in odd years. The Nov. 3, 2026, election could see a higher turnout than most spring elections due to the Wisconsin governor's race being on the ballot.

More information on phase two of the facilities plan can be found at oskosh.k12.wi.us and allows residents to share their feedback.

Lead lines

FROM PAGE 1

The previous policy revolved around the homeowner paying for the replacement and being reimbursed by the city, but that policy is no longer in place. The homeowner can either pay the full costs up front or set up a 10-year payment plan with a 2% interest rate.

There are also community development block grant opportunities for low-income homeowners considering replacing the line.

Gohde reiterated there is no action that needs to be taken if you received the letter but there could be something passed by the state Legislature in the future that would require lead pipes to be removed.

There are many health effects that can be caused by drinking water containing lead and they affect all age groups. Infants can have decreases in IQ and attention span, and lead exposure can lead to learning and behavior problems in children. Adults can have increased risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney or nervous system problems.

The letters came with a QR code to

online resources. There is also an online form for residents who have the private side confirmed not lead and public side confirmed lead. After filling out the form there is a ranking system that will prioritize public lateral replacements.

The system will rank the property to determine where it falls on a scale of 1 to 7 with a 1 calling for immediate replacement due to a leak or failed line. The second priority is laterals that are part of an upcoming capital project.

The rankings continue with public health concerns, schools and day cares, homes with pregnant woman and children under age 7, properties with residents that have compromised immune systems and then everyone else.

Gohde said there are properties with health concerns and the city is trying to get those replaced before the end of the year.

Several letters sent out were to homeowners who have unknown material in the water lateral and will need to sign up for an inspection, which involves someone coming into the home to determine the lateral status.

More information can be found at oskoshwater.com.

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<p>2/\$12 Groundwork Organic Whole Bean Coffee -8 flavors, 12 oz.</p>	<p>2/\$5 Endangered Species Chocolate Bars -6 flavors, 3 oz.</p>	<p>2/\$9 Once Again Graham Crackers & Sandwiches -Assorted Variety, 7.95 oz.</p>
<p>\$9.99 Rudi's Breakfast Sandwiches -Assorted Variety, Regular & Gluten Free</p>	<p>\$5.99 Bee Harmony Raw Honey -5 flavors, 12 oz.</p>	<p>\$11.99 Mocktails Canned Beverages -5 flavors, 4 pack - 6.8 oz. cans</p>
<p>\$6.99 Redd's Wicked Cherry Hard Cider -12 pack - 10 oz. cans</p>	<p>\$3.99 Point Oktoberfest -6 pack - 12 oz. bottles Stevens Point, WI</p>	<p>2/\$9 Hinterland Oktoberfest -6 pack - 12 oz. cans Ashwaubenon, WI</p>

Offers valid 11/29-12/1/2024, while supplies last. Must be 21+ to purchase alcohol.

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Sun. 9 AM - 7 PM

State voters back tax funding for school districts

Wisconsin Public Radio

Many Wisconsin school districts successfully made the case to voters that schools were in need of additional tax support.

Voters in 137 school districts were asked to approve increased funding for schools. An analysis by the Wisconsin Policy Forum found 107 referendum questions passed, while 30 failed.

Ari Brown, a researcher with the Policy Forum, said the outcome is better than expected, but shows that overtime school

districts have gotten better at choosing when to put referendums on the ballot and how to word the questions.

"In general, a school district is going to try to avoid going to referendum unless it knows with a pretty high degree of certainty that it has a good chance of succeeding," Brown said. "That said the passage rate is still lower than in all presidential and mid-term election years since 2014."

State Superintendent Jill Underly said she believes voters realized the value of public education and understood schools need sustainable funding to operate.

"Our state Legislature has severely underfunded public schools for well over a decade, and it has led to a record number of districts going to referendum to try and fix severe financial constraints on their own," Underly said in a statement. "Too many communities were forced to vote Tuesday whether to increase property taxes just so their local schools can pay staff, heat and cool their buildings, and provide a quality education."

School districts are funded by a mix of

taxpayer dollars, state and federal aid.

The 2023-25 state budget included an annual funding increase for public schools of \$325 per student to the state-imposed limit on revenues districts can receive in school aids and local property taxes combined.

While this provides some relief, school districts say it didn't catch them up from a freeze in state revenue caps in the previous two-year budget, or the declining enrollment many public school districts are experiencing.

Wisconsin ended its 2024 fiscal year in June with a \$4.6 billion state budget surplus. The state's "rainy day" fund hit a record-high of \$1.9 billion.

"We must reinvest in our public schools and the future of our kids," Underly said. "The upcoming biennial budget provides yet another opportunity for the legislature to uphold its responsibility to appropriately fund public schools, and to stop forcing Wisconsin communities to make impossible choices."

Voters in Madison approved two refer-

endums totaling more than \$600 million. The first, for \$100 million, will help the school district cover its operating costs. The second, for \$507 million, will renovate and replace aging buildings.

In a statement, Superintendent Joe Gothard and school board president Nichelle Nichols said the "yes" votes mean the district will be able to attract quality staff and expand programs including 4K and early literacy, multilingual education and career exploration in middle school.

Other school districts to pass referendums include Green Bay, Wauwatosa, West Allis, Cudahy, Franklin, Glendale-River Hills, Eau Claire and Superior.

The Green Bay Area Public School District's \$183 million referendum will pay to enhance safety and security at secondary schools and address deferred maintenance projects at several elementary schools.

"I am overwhelmed by the support of our community for the students and staff in the Green Bay Area Public School District," Interim Superintendent Vicki Bayer said in a statement.

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Lung Cancer awareness increases knowledge and advocacy

ThedaCare Communications

While most nonsmokers might think they are not at risk for lung cancer, that is not always accurate. While it's true that most cases of the disease are linked to smoking, an estimated 10% to 20% of people with lung cancer have never picked up a cigarette.

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month and calls for increasing knowledge and advocacy around the disease. Nearly 250,000 Americans receive a lung cancer diagnosis each year. Lung cancer is the third-most common cancer in the United States, and it remains the leading cause of cancer death.

It's especially important for people with a history of smoking to get screened for lung cancer. At the same time, everyone should know the signs and symptoms of lung cancer.

"If something feels amiss or you're experiencing a new symptom such as cough, shortness of breath, or fatigue for a sustained period of time, it's always a good idea to check in with your primary care provider," said Dr. Shanelli Fernando, a radiation oncologist with ThedaCare Cancer Care.

Each year, about 20,000 to 40,000 non-smokers throughout the United States are diagnosed with lung cancer, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A non-smoker is defined as people who have never smoked or smoked fewer than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime.

While some non-smokers develop lung cancer for no clear reason, researchers attribute many cases to two main culprits: secondhand smoke and radon.

Secondhand smoke is defined as exposure to tobacco products. It can cause disease and premature death among people who do not smoke. There's no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Even brief exposure can cause immediate harm, the CDC states.



Fernando

Radon is a naturally occurring gas that can leak into your home and is common in Wisconsin. An estimated one in 10 homes in Wisconsin has high radon levels, according to the state Department of Health Services.

The agency recommends people have their home's radon level tested. If the result comes back high, homeowners can consider installing a radon mitigation system.

Factors including air pollution and a family history of lung cancer also can contribute to an increased risk for developing the disease.

"Lung cancer symptoms are the same

regardless of whether you're a smoker or not," Fernando said. "While the disease often doesn't have symptoms in its early stages, some people will develop signs."

Watch for these symptoms:

- Coughing: Lung cancer can cause a cough that doesn't go away or gets worse. It also may lead to coughing up bloody or rust-colored phlegm.

- Wheezing and shortness of breath: You may develop wheezing — a high-pitched whistle when you breathe, or difficulty drawing a breath.

- Infections that don't resolve: This could be a case of bronchitis or pneumonia that doesn't go away or keeps coming back, despite treatment.

- Chest pain: The discomfort often

worsens with deep breathing, coughing or laughing.

- Hoarseness: Your voice may become quiet or raspy.

- Poor appetite and weight loss: You may experience loss of appetite or lose weight without trying.

- Feeling tired or weak: You may feel fatigued, even with adequate rest.

It can be tricky to pinpoint lung cancer symptoms because many can occur with common illnesses and ailments such as colds, viruses, and allergies, Fernando explained.

"We hope everyone will be aware of their bodies, and get medical care for symptoms that are concerning," she said. "Seeing your doctor will help you get the treatment you need."

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Submitted photo

Spartan signs

Oshkosh North senior Emma Niemczyk signed her National Letter of Intent last week to attend and play softball at Drury University. Niemczyk was flanked by her parents, Jenny and Mike, and her sister Chloe.

Prep sports roundup

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Knights take down Coleman in opener

Lourdes Academy held Coleman to less than 15 points in each half and picked up a season-opening 64-27 win on the road last week.

The Knights took a 12-point lead at half-time and then outscored Coleman 39-14 in the second half to roll to the win.

Delaney Ruedinger paced the Knights with 23 points, including three 3-pointers, in the win.

Hailee Bauer added 18 points, eight assists and five steals as the duo were the only double-figure scorers for the Knights. Aubrey Schettle was the next highest scorer with five points.

Sabur Machiros led Lourdes Academy with eight rebounds.

The Knights won the game despite making just 5-of-21 3-point attempts and finishing 1-of-5 from the free-throw line.

Valley Christian starts season with two wins

The Warriors won a pair of games last week to open the season. Valley Christian beat Little Chute, 58-38, Tuesday and then followed it up with a 50-31 victory over Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah on Thurs-

day.

Against the Resorters, the Warriors allowed just 11 points in the first half in building a 16-point lead and then cruised to the win in the second half.

Mya Moran led three players in double figures for Valley Christian with 18 points, while Paige Boevers and Lizzie Fink chipped in 12 and 10 points, respectively.

Valley Christian also had three double-figure scorers in the win over Little Chute, two of whom put up double-doubles.

Moran finished with 18 points and 15 rebounds, while Boevers added 11 points and 10 rebounds, while also picking up a team-high five assists. Fink led the team with 19 points.

Mackenzie Grammer and Eavie Hefernan added nine and eight rebounds, respectively, for Valley Christian, which finished with a 50-36 rebounding advantage.

Wildcats kept quiet by De Pere

Oshkosh West ran into a potent De Pere squad in its season-opener Thursday night and dropped a 74-24 decision.

Maddie Rasmussen was the leading scorer for the Wildcats with seven points, with Kinsee Nelson finishing as the next highest scorer with four points.

The Wildcats trailed 31-14 at halftime.

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Mitchell-led Spartans aiming high in FVA race

Oshkosh Herald

There is little doubt as to who the leader of the Oshkosh North boys basketball team will be this year.

Reigning Player of the Year in the Fox Valley Association Zay Mitchell, who recently signed his National Letter of Intent to attend Iowa State University next year, returns to the Spartans after a standout junior season and seems primed to have an even bigger season this year.

But in order to repeat the FVA title the team won last year, it's going to take more than one player. And the Spartans are ready to prove they are more than just a one-player show.

"Depth will be a strength for us. We had a lot of guys gain experience last year," commented head coach Brad Weber, the Coach of the Year in the FVA last season. "We need to stay healthy, keep the bigger picture in mind and never forget what makes us special."

Mitchell is one of nine returning players who saw regular varsity playing time for the Spartans last season and certainly made the most of his time on the court.

The versatile 6-foot-7 forward finished second in the conference in scoring at 25.7 points per game, while also leading the team in rebounds and blocks and ranking second in assists and steals. He shot nearly 38 percent from behind the arc and 81 percent from the free-throw line while attempting a team-high 157 foul shots.

North will also return junior Bryce Ott, who averaged 10.2 points per game and was an inside-outside threat for the Spartans. Ott, who was an honorable mention



File photo

Oshkosh North's Zay Mitchell averaged 25.7 points and 8.6 rebounds per game last season and was named the Player of the Year in the Fox Valley Association.

all-FVA selection last season, is recovering from an injury suffered during the football season and may miss some time at the beginning of the season.

Seniors Stefan Stojilovic, Jon Coleman and Devin Garland along with juniors

Jackson Anderson, Max Rohr, Dalton Clark and Owen Weber also return after seeing regular minutes last season and should all showcase increased production this season. Stojilovic averaged the most points among that group at about four points per game, while Anderson chipped in roughly three points per contest.

Senior Jaykwon Jones and juniors Tylan Lister, Fred Ware and Kallum Larson-Poeschl are also projected to be in the rotation for the Spartans.

The large number of options to put on the court should give the Spartans plenty of offensive production, while also allowing the team to adapt defensively to what an opponent features. Weber believes both will be strengths of the team because of the depth of the roster.

Oshkosh North finished three games ahead of Neenah in winning its first conference title since the 2017-18 season and will likely have to fend off some familiar programs if the Spartans are going to repeat.

Both Kaukauna and Appleton North return multiple players who earned all-FVA recognition last season, while perennial powerhouses Neenah and Kimberly could also figure into the mix.

Kaukauna senior Keegan Van Kauwenberg and Hortonville junior Ethan Joling join Mitchell as returning first-team all-FVA performers from last season.

Oshkosh West

The Wildcats return a wealth of varsity regulars and will look to climb up the standings in the rugged FVA this season.

Although West did graduate its top two

scoring threats from last year, the Wildcats have six players who played in at least 21 games coming back who averaged between 2.2 points and 7.2 points per contest.

Head coach Dan Weisse believes the team will bring strong team chemistry and leadership to the court this season and will be led by a quartet of senior captains.

Senior Collin Carns is the top returning scorer for the Wildcats having averaged 7.2 points per game, while knocking down a team-high 39 3-pointers last year. Fellow senior Noah Gelhar averaged just over five points per game and was the team's top rebounder last year. Rounding out the foursome are perimeter players Sam Gibson and Sam Benesh, who combined to average about seven points per game.

In addition to the senior foursome, junior Joey Ware and sophomore Tyler Moderson, who averaged seven and five points per game, respectively, also return after being a part of West's regular rotation last year.

Ware will join Gelhar as two of the taller players for the Wildcats and will hopefully help West battle on the boards, although Weisse believes it will be a job that everyone on the court will have to help with.

"We do not have great size so we will need to team rebound and be ready to react when the ball comes off the rim," Weiss commented. "We will need to play team basketball and be locked in every game. We must be able to knock down perimeter shots, something that we have not been

SEE **Boys basketball** ON PAGE 18



2024-2025 Oshkosh High School Boys Basketball Schedules

LOURDES ACADEMY	OSKOSH NORTH	OSKOSH WEST	VALLEY CHRISTIAN
12/3 @ Horicon 7:15 PM	12/3 Manitowoc Lincoln 7:15 PM	12/6 @ Appleton West 7:30 PM	12/3 Wayland Academy 7:15 PM
12/6 Wayland Academy 7:30 PM	12/6 Kaukauna 7:30 PM	12/10 @ Oshkosh North 7:30 PM	12/6 @ Oakfield 7:15 PM
12/10 @ Central WI Christian 7:15 PM	12/10 Oshkosh West 7:30 PM	12/17 Appleton North 7:30 PM	12/9 Green Lake/Princeton 7:15 PM
12/13 Valley Christian 7:30 PM	12/17 @ Appleton East 7:30 PM	12/20 @ Kimberly 7:30 PM	12/13 @ Lourdes Academy 7:30 PM
12/17 Markesan 7:00 PM	12/20 Appleton North 7:30 PM	1/3 Fond Du Lac 6:00 PM	12/16 Horicon 7:15 PM
1/3 North Fond Du Lac 7:00 PM	1/3 @ Neenah 7:30 PM	1/7 @ Kaukauna 7:30 PM	12/20 @ Dodgeland 7:15 PM
1/7 @ Valley Christian 7:15 PM	1/7 Kimberly 7:30 PM	1/10 Appleton East 7:30 PM	12/30 @ Sevastopol 7:15 PM
1/10 Hustisford 7:15 PM	1/10 Hortonville 7:30 PM	1/14 @ Neenah 7:30 PM	1/3 @ Hilbert 7:15 PM
1/16 Oakfield 7:15 PM	1/14 Fond Du Lac 7:30 PM	1/17 Hortonville 7:30 PM	1/7 Lourdes Academy 7:15 PM
1/21 @ Dodgeland 1 2:30 PM	1/17 @ Appleton West 7:30 PM	1/21 @ Ripon 7:15 PM	1/16 Hustisford 7:15 PM
1/21 @ Dodgeland 5:45 PM	1/24 @ Kaukauna 7:30 PM	1/24 Appleton West 7:30 PM	1/17 @ Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah 7:15 PM
1/21 @ Dodgeland 7:15 PM	1/25 @ Oshkosh West 6:30 PM	1/25 Oshkosh North 6:30 PM	1/21 Rio Community School District 7:15 PM
1/30 Horicon 7:15 PM	1/28 Beaver Dam 7:15 PM	1/31 @ Appleton North 7:30 PM	1/27 Stockbridge 7:15 PM
2/4 Wayland Academy 6:15 PM	1/31 Appleton East 7:30 PM	2/4 @ Appleton North 7:30 PM	1/30 @ Wayland Academy 7:15 PM
2/10 Omro 7:00 PM	2/4 @ Appleton North 7:30 PM	2/7 Neenah 7:30 PM	2/4 Oakfield 7:15 PM
2/13 Central WI Christian 5:45 PM	2/7 Neenah 7:30 PM	2/10 Menasha 7:30 PM	2/7 @ Horicon 7:15 PM
2/24 @ Laconia 7:15 PM	2/14 @ Kimberly 7:30 PM	2/14 Kaukauna 7:30 PM	2/10 Cambria-Friesland 7:15 PM
2/27 @ Oakfield 7:15 PM	2/18 Hortonville 7:30 PM	2/18 @ Appleton West 7:30 PM	2/13 Dodgeland 7:15 PM
	2/20 @ Fond Du Lac 7:30 PM	2/21 Neenah 7:30 PM	2/18 Central WI Christian 7:15 PM
	2/27 Appleton West 7:30 PM	2/27 @ Hortonville 7:30 PM	2/21 Central WI Christian 7:15 PM
			2/24 Marion 7:00 PM
			2/27 Hustisford 7:15 PM

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*Schedules subject to change

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Boys basketball

FROM PAGE 17

able to do consistently for the past few years.”

In addition to the nucleus of returning players, Weisse said that juniors Brayden Kufel, Malakai Herlihy and Kole Stauffacher along with sophomore Henry Weis could compete for varsity playing time.

Lourdes Academy

The Knights will have almost a completely new roster as they graduated all five starters – four which earned all-conference mention in the Trailways East – and four of their top five scorers from a year ago.

Leading the group of returning players is senior Braden Studinski, who averaged just over five points per game last year. Studinski will be counted on to play a much bigger role in the offense this season.

Juniors Brady Ridenour and Quin Rurark along with senior Anthony Behnke were key reserves last year for the Knights and will be counted on to be bigger contributors this season. Sophomore Lucas Neuens emerged as an offensive threat last season for the Knights but will be out much of the year due to an injury suffered in football.

Head coach Brett Baehman also expects junior Parker Slusarski and sophomores Jackson Buttke and Harlan Kuehn to be in the mix as well.

“We will experience a fair amount of growing pains early on in the season but it is important to not allow our players to get discouraged,” commented Baehman. “We

not only face inexperience from a varsity level perspective, but we also lack familiarity with our teammates as well. The faster we can gel as a true team, the better off we will be.”

Valley Christian

First-year head coach Isaiah Gumness hopes to turn around the program for the Warriors, who have won only five games the past two seasons.

Gumness coached at Winneconne last season and had been involved with the Wolves program for the past five seasons.

Gumness will have a fairly experienced roster as he takes over at Valley Christian, which returns three of its top four scorers from a year ago.

Seniors Brady Patterson and Joshua Johnson led the Warriors on offense last season, averaging 9.0 and 7.8 points, respectively. Patterson did most of his work on the perimeter where he made 54 3-pointers last season, while Johnson’s scoring came mostly from inside the arc and will be one of the top offensive options for the team again.

Fellow senior Cade Kraus was the fourth-leading scorer for the Warriors last season at just under five points per game.

In addition to that senior trio, juniors Mathias Behling, Derek Wallace and Isaiah Hyvonen will also be counted on to increase their production from a year ago and will be key members of the Warriors’ rotation.

“We have plenty of athletes (and) all are very coachable and eager to learn,” commented Gumness. “We have a base we can build a lot on. I’m excited to see what we can do.”



Submitted photo

B&G Club fundraiser

The annual Sawyer Golf Outing at Utica Golf Course raised \$7,000 through donations from businesses, family and friends. Dave Zeinert (left) is shown with Jamie Wilcox at Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh earlier this month to present a check for Camp Radford.

Ambassadors win Winter Worlds tourney

The Oshkosh Ambassadors 75 team brought home a world championship at the SSUSA Winter Worlds Tournament in Phoenix recently.

After going 1-3 in seeding games, the team went undefeated in bracket play to claim the title.

Leading hitters on the team were man-

ager Rick Rolloff and Bob Amundsen with batting averages of .812 while also providing some power hitting with each contributing home runs. Lead-off hitter Richard Fralick hit .777 while also contributing a home run.

The win qualifies the team to participate in the Tournament of Champions in 2026.

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Photo from OFD

The annual Oshkosh Fire Department Food and Toy Drive begins next week with its first neighborhood visit Monday.

Fire department bringing holiday joy

Oshkosh Herald

Firefighters of the Oshkosh Fire Department, Oshkosh Police Fire Equipment and their families have organized the 26th annual Oshkosh Food and Toy Drive with the first of five collections set for between 5 and 5:30 p.m. Monday.

They will be back in the streets of Oshkosh on five separate collection nights with high school students in the Communities at Oshkosh North program helping raise awareness of the giving program.

"Having our students help promote and work this event is a great way for our students to understand what it means to be

part of a community and help to make a difference," said Rick Leib, social studies teacher in the Communities program, which is creating awareness posts on Facebook, Instagram and X.

Nonperishable food items, new unwrapped gifts, wrapping paper and tape, batteries, and cash donations are all accepted. The new toys and food collected are given to the Oshkosh Salvation Army who distributes them to area families.

To find out the location of each route, go to facebook.com/OshkoshFoodToy. Families may also drop off donations at any of the six Oshkosh fire stations.



WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION SUNDAYS 9:30 AM
 203 ALGOMA BLVD., OSHKOSH, WI 54901
 OSHKOSH-EPISCOPAL.ORG (920) 231-2420

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
 Sunday Worship: 9:30 AM | 1100 E Murdock, Oshkosh
 standrewsoshkosh.org
 "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

River of Life Church - Oshkosh
 440 W. South Park Avenue • Oshkosh, WI 54902
 (920) 230-2444
 Sunday Morning Service: 10:00 am
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 6:30 pm
 Preserving God's Love while encouraging families with healing and salvation!

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 2450 W 9th Ave • Oshkosh • 54904
 920-231-0530
 Sunday Worship: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
 Thursday Worship: 6:30 PM
 Proclaiming Christ's Word Through Truth, Innovation & Fellowship
 goodshepherdinoshkosh.com Good Shepherd Lutheran Church-Oshkosh

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 Called to make disciples. Sent to share Christ.
 SUNDAY WORSHIP 9 AM In-person and on YouTube
 Christian Ed: Ages 4 Years - Adult
 240 W 9th Avenue, Oshkosh
 920.232.4730 | peaceoshkosh.org

Immanuel Lutheran Church
 WELS • 338 N. Eagle Street, Oshkosh, WI
 We are a traditional, small church FAMILY. Come and join us for Worship Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
 We continue to use the "Red" Christian Worship 1993 Hymnal
 immanuel-oshkosh.org

Sola Scriptura | Scripture Alone
 Sunday Worship 10:00am
 Providence Bible Church
 N4259 State Road 49 Poy Sippi, WI 54967
 920-410-8033
 provbiblechurch@gmail.com

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church & School (LCMS)
 Worship: Sun. 9:00 am; Thurs. 7:00 pm
 Christ-Centered Education for children and adults
 370 Bowen St. | 819 School Ave.
 (920) 235-7440 | (920) 235-1730
 www.trinityoshkosh.org

Obituaries

Robert J. Misky Jr.

Robert "Robin" J. Misky Jr., age 75, passed away unexpectedly on October 10, 2024, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He was born to parents Robert and Genieve (Brown) Misky on February 6, 1949, in Wisconsin.

At the age of 14, Robin started playing the drums at his Uncle Roy Misky's supper club "The Roxy." The band was called The Roxy Trio. After that he played with other bands including The Ravons & The Syndicate of Sound. For over 40 years, he was able to travel in and out of the state performing and recording albums with Skip Arnie & The Dukes and "Big City Bob and the Ballroom Gliders."



Robin was married in 1967 to Pamela Reynolds. He is survived by Pamela, his son Jeff Misky; many cousins, including but not limited to Jeff Horn and Barb Weininger; good friends, Steve Lenz, Bob Rice and Dick Stark; and many others.

Preceding him in death was his parents; Robert and Genieve (Brown) Misky; significant other, Carrie; cousin, Mark Horn; and other relatives.

A Celebration of Life featuring food, drink and conversation is from 6-7:30 pm on Wed., Dec. 4, 2024 followed by a memorial concert featuring Alligator Recording Artist Billy Branch starting at 7:30 pm. These events will take place at LaSure's Banquet Hall, 3125 S. Washburn, Oshkosh.

The Misky family invites all friends, acquaintances and fans of Big City Bob to this event and thank all of his supporters through the years.

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AUSSIE DOODLE PUPS Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$600 715-255-2661 (#269146)11/26

BOSTON/RAT TERRIER PUPS Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$500 715-255-2661 (#269146)11/18

CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL Born 10/4. Registered shots, DEW, vet ck'd \$800 715-644-5726 (12/2)

CAVAPOO PUPS Vaccinated dew \$250 715-223-0782 (12/2)

For Sale: Hay, Good grass mix, no rain. Rounds and small squares. Best time to call 6-8am 920-878-0005 or 9208780288 Free delivery within 100 miles of Appleton, WI

FOR SALE CAVALIER PUPS. Ruby & Blenheim 3-M-2-F cute and friendly Ready 11-18 \$500. OBO 715-223-7440 (11/26)

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

HAVAPOO & YORKI PUPS!! Shots, DEW & Vet Ck'd. Very cute nice colors Ready To Go NOW! 715-937-4425 (11/26)

HOLIDAY GIFT, CRAFT COLLECTABLE SALE!! Sat. Nov. 30th at the fabulous RESCH EXPO CENTER, GREEN BAY. 500+ Vendors (8am-4pm) Meet and Greet, The Grave Digger... GILBERT BROWN. Free parking for info www.

AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS. Shots Vet ck'd. Wormed. \$600-\$700 Can deliver 715-255-2661 (#269146)

ALL NAT. GRASS FED BEEF. Butchered Jan 14th

zurkoprograms.com or 715-302-0932 (11/26)

HORSE DRAWN SLEIGH RIDES ROCKING W STABLES. Dec 16-Jan 1 Beautiful trails Great Family Fun. Can handle all size groups & private parties! Info 715-617-6779 or www.rockingstables-kartway.com (12/16)

REGISTERED CAVALIER KING CHARLES PUPS. Shots, Dew, Vet Ready Dec. 16 Can deliver \$950 715-470-0458 Call (#509642) 11/26

SHIBA/SHELTIE AND COLLIE'S HELTIE PUPPIES. They like people \$120 each 715-223-1119 (11/18)

WHOODLE PUPS Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$700 715-255-2661 (#269146)11/18

WOW!!! ZURKOS MASSIVE HOLIDAY GIFT & CRAFT SHOW. Sat Dec. 21 at the Fabulous Appleton Expo (Downtown Appleton 150+ Holiday Vendors. Info. www.zurkoprograms.com or 715-302-0932 (12/2)

WOW!!! ZURKOS MASSIVE HOLIDAY GIFT & CRAFT SHOW. Sat Dec. 7th at the Fabulous Central Wis. Expo in Rothschild. 150+ Holiday Vendors. Info. www.zurkoprograms.com or 715-302-0932 (12/2)

Miscellaneous

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-748-6332

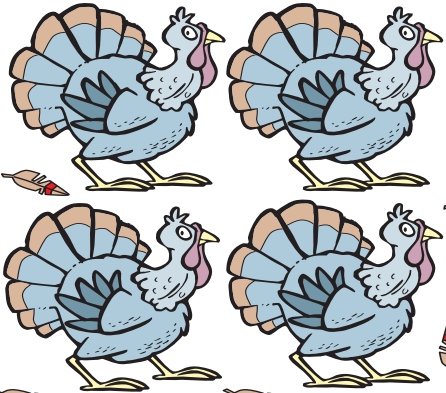
DON'T DO THIS PAGE ALONE: This special *Kid Scoop* Thanksgiving page is designed for you to do with a friend or family member. So find someone to share the fun!

Thanksgiving Together!

Turkey Tracks
Have your partner use a RED crayon and you use a BLUE one. Which turkey will reach the finish line first? On your mark, get set ... GOBBLE!

Who can find the most turkey feathers on this page in 60 seconds?

Find the turkey that is different.



A Slice of PI

All of these words start with the letters P-I. Read the clues and work together to fill in the missing letters.

1. O
2. K
3. C
4. T
5.

1. A heavy musical instrument with keys.
2. A small cucumber preserved in brine.
3. A meal packed to eat outdoors.
4. A person who robs ships at sea.
5. A platform over water that starts at the shore.

Your Riddle, My Riddle

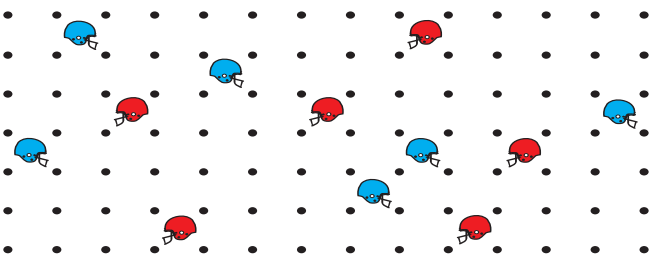
You circle every other third letter to reveal the punch line to your riddle. Your partner circles every third letter to reveal his or her punch line.

What's the best thing to put in a pumpkin pie?
**ACYTBONMUSQRP
BTJSENBKWTGZH**

What smells the best at Thanksgiving?
**ACYTBONMUSQR
VWNJSOCWSUTE**

Standards Links: Life Skills: Share a task with others.

Football Fun You use a BLUE crayon and your opponent uses a RED crayon. Take turns connecting two dots each time. The person who completes a square gets one point. A square with a football helmet in it is worth three points!



Extra! Extra! Rhyme Time

Browse the newspaper for 10 words that would make good halves of a rhyming pair. Then have your partner scour the newspaper for words that rhyme with each of the ones you chose. Switch roles and try it again.

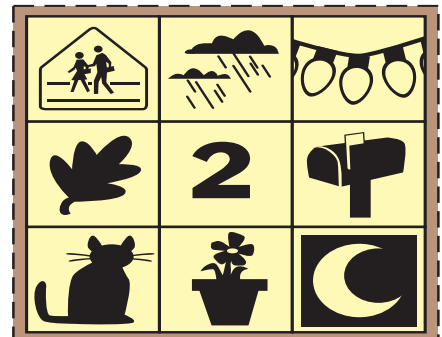
Standards Links: Vocabulary: Identify rhyming patterns and words.

FINISH

Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

After Dinner Bingo

After dinner, take a stroll around your neighborhood with friends or family members. On this walk, each of you take one of the cards below and cross out items as you see them. First one to black out the card wins!



Standards Links: Investigation: Record information about the living world.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Practice saying **Thank you** in seven different languages! Match the **Thank you** to the country from which it comes.

- Tak** (tak)
- Gracias** (gra-see-us)
- Merci** (mehr-see)
- Kiitos** (kee-toas)
- Danke** (dahn-kah)
- Arigato** (ahree-gah-tow)
- Dziekuje** (dsyne-koo-yeh)

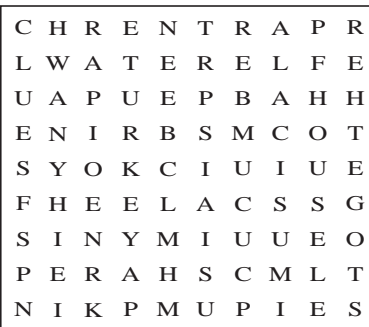
- FRANCE**
- DENMARK**
- JAPAN**
- POLAND**
- FINLAND**
- MEXICO**
- GERMANY**

Standards Links: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- TOGETHER
CUCUMBER
PUMPKIN
PARTNER
MUSICAL
FAMILY
TURKEY
BRINE
SHORE
WATER
SHARE
HOUSE
CLUES
PIE

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.



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

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kidscoop.com/activity-pages/

Write On!
I am thankful for ...
What people, places and things are you thankful for?



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