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# South Main housing project launches

### Mill on Main to attract residents, businesses

By Jonathan Richie

Oshkosh's Sawdust District is about to see a change off South Main Street as a new development will be under construction until early 2026 for the first of three five-story residential buildings totaling around 300 residential units.

The Mill on Main development broke ground recently to add more than 100 units on the city's south side. Phase one includes a five-story building with 115 residential units and a first floor with retail and commercial space opportunities.

Developers plan on a 5,000-square-foot restaurant that will overlook the Fox River. The project consists of three mixed-use buildings in the area of South Main Street between 7th and 9th avenues with a total of about 300 residential units spanning from studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments.

T. Wall Enterprises is the developer with JLA Architects putting together the designs and Stevens Construction in charge of construction that is already underway.

"There will be plenty of space for a coffee shop and food options on the first floor with retail," Terrance Wall of T. Wall told the Herald before the ceremonial

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# **Knights move on**

Lourdes Academy downs Hilbert to advance Page 16



Photo by Michael Cooney

# Celebrating loved ones

Dancers from Ballet Folklorico Xanharati perform Saturday outside the Oshkosh Public Museum during its annual Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration that included traditional food, music, crafts and a community memorial altar.

# Former school's legacy secured with salvage effort

### Sacred Heart history preserved amid razing

By Dan Roherty OSHKOSH HERALD

After nearly a century as a spiritual and educational home to Catholic parishioners and students before its closing decades ago, Sacred Heart's original church and school is getting reverential treatment as it becomes a part of new beginnings.

Salvage efforts at the former Sacred Heart School building on the city's south side, built as a church and later serving as a school until 1997, are allowing the St. Jude the Apostle congregation to preserve pieces of its earlier history.

After a final inside look offered to the public in September before deconstruction got underway, the removal effort will create space for a new proposed eucharistic chapel.

In the meantime, the parish is having bricks and other artifacts from the building carefully recovered for both future use and mementoes. Inside items are being recovered, restored and sold through Crescent Moon Antiques and Salvage while individual bricks from the school building will be available later.

Crescent Moon owner Andres Lezama said they are doing all the general salvage and extraction – oak doors, maple floors, windows, furniture pieces - before turning it over to Architectural Relics for structural removal.

"When we're done, it's pretty much stripped down to the studs," Lezama said.

"It's very good in terms of waste reduction; we're basically utilizing every single piece that can be salvaged in that building."

Lezama said early visits inside uncovered forgotten items such as an original oak hutch with its missing

SEE Sacred Heart ON PAGE 8



Oshkosh Herald

The former Sacred Heart School on Knapp Street is in the process of being removed and salvaged on the St. Jude the Apostle campus.

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#### **Corrections**

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# City proposes \$233.5 million 2025 budget

The city of Oshkosh has released a proposed operating budget for 2025 that is 33% higher than this year's budget.

City officials spent two full workdays going over the 412-page spending plan. Highlights include:

- \$233.5 million operating budget.
- \$125.7 million for capital improvement projects.
- \$53.2 in the general fund.
- An increase in public safety spending to hire more police officers and add a fourth ambulance unit for the fire department.

The general budget, funded primarily by property taxes, has decreased 5.9% from last year.

City documents show a proposed tax levy increase of 2.83% will bring in about \$48.9 million to support the general fund.

City Manager Mark Rohloff wrote in the summary of the budget that the tax rate is set to drop about 32% due to the city's recent revaluation.

The tax rate is used to determine how much a property owner will pay and the tax levy represents the total amount of funds the city or any taxing jurisdiction can collect on the tax rate.

One large budget item for 2025 is the clearwell replacement project for \$36 million. The clearwells were installed between 1880s and 1961 and the Department of Natural Resources reported the city has not been in compliance with state regulations since 2007.

The clearwells hold the city's drinking water. The plan includes two square, aboveground clearwells that each hold 1 million gallons of water. A pumping station between the two clearwells will have a pumping capacity of 13.4 million gallons a day.

A neighborhood meeting was held last week at The Waters for nearby residents. The city will be hiring a landscape architect and installing Native American artwork somewhere in the area of the site.

There will be a budget hearing today (Wednesday) at City Hall.

# State Department of Transportation motorists' handbook updated

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offers an updated Motorists' Handbook that uses "plain language" principles to deliver driver information to state residents that is understandable and

The revised handbook focuses on mak-

ing language simple and straightforward while still providing important information related to the rules for the road and transportation safety. It has been updated to take up safety advances built into Wisconsin's road designs, including Diverging Diamond Interchanges, dynamic shoulder use and roundabouts. The highway signs

section also reflects the most up-to-date sign images.

The online interactive publication explains the process of getting and maintaining a Wisconsin driver license. Important safety topics, including dangerous driving behaviors and tips for handling emergencies, are also addressed. Embedded links take the reader to helpful resources.

The DOT's recent website update features enhanced ADA accessibility and a mobile-responsive design. Nearly every DMV service is now online at wisconsindmv.gov.

Oshkosh Garden

Club luncheon set

Oshkosh Garden Club will host its 24th

annual scholarship luncheon Saturday at

the Oshkosh Waterfront Hotel Ballroom,

"Harmony in the Garden" begins at

11:30 with lunch at noon, and will have

basket raffles and a silent auction. Pianist

Marshall Potter will accompany singers

Call 920 426-1084 for ticket availability.

The luncheon supports two graduating

students from the four area high schools

studying in various fields of science. Each

student receives \$1,000, and the scholar-

ships are renewable for three additional

Guidance counselors at the participat-

ing high schools have information on ap-

Connie Schuster and Khris Isham.

1 N. Main St.

years.

plying.

#### Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

#### Nov. 6, 1934

Three Make Jail Break: Sheriff's deputies are combing the city, watching railroad stations and roads leading out of the city for three escaped prisoners from the Winnebago County jail.

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Public Museum

The three prisoners who hailed from Janesville and Menasha, made their break for freedom during the election excitement. Sheriff Abell said the trio escaped through a door on the second floor which a jailer had forgotten to lock. All three were nearing the end of their sentences before the elopement. Once they made it through the unlocked door, the men descended a closed stairway from the workhouse to the jail yard and climbed over the fence.

Nov. 7, 1934

# Source: The Oshkosh Northwestern;





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# New police unit proposed to focus on homeless outreach

By Jonathan Richie OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Police Department's budget proposal for next year includes adding a new officer dedicated to calls relating to the homeless population in the city. The team would include a social worker to help individuals navigate the available resources.

Police Chief Dean Smith recently reported the department has seen a 59%

increase in calls related to the homeless population.

January Between and October 2023, the department received 552 calls for service regarding the homeless population. This year so far, the department reported



931 calls related to homelessness, with only 7% of those leading to enforcement actions.

A third of those enforcement actions were due to individuals having open warrants. The other enforcement actions involve welfare checks, drugs, weapons, thefts, a robbery and a sexual assault.

"I believe the most that the prevailing cause of homelessness is mental health and substance abuse issues," said Smith, who noted officers deal with people going through a mental health crisis on a daily basis.

He said the homeless community is split into two groups: those who are looking for help and those who are not.

"There are others within our community who do not want any help and, in fact, they just want to live on the street.

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Often times this segment of our population are the ones who have less-than-desirable encounters with the rest of our community and violate our ordinances and our laws," Smith said.

He then noted a high-frequency, low-offender program that the district attorney's office is set to launch next year.

"This is not a new problem for our community," Smith said.

The OPD plans to identify the needs of the homeless community and needs of surrounding businesses in order to brainstorm solutions.

"This is just the beginning of mitigating the homeless problem in the city," Smith said.

A behavioral health officer program was launched in 2021 and an officer with specific training teamed with a social worker to handle calls related to mental health. The team allows patrol officers to handle other calls the department receives daily.

"My vision is that this program will mirror what we have successfully done with our behavioral health officers program," Smith said.

The proposed homeless outreach team would consist of an officer dedicated to responding to homelessness along with a social worker who would be equally funded by the county and city. The team would focus on helping the homeless population navigate the resources available.

Part of the proposal is creating a satellite police station downtown. The department is still working on those details and believes a small station in the area would deter some of the activity police are seeing mostly in the Opera House

Square area.

'We are not criminalizing homelessness, but we are going to enforce the laws and we are going to enforce our ordi-

nances, and frankly if people are not following our community standards then we need to be addressing that," Smith



Submitted photo

# Pirate ship package

U-Haul Moving & Storage at 900 N. Koeller St. took part in a nationwide Halloween decorating contest held by the national company and created a pirate ship that's made 99% out of cardboard. Store general manager Kenneth Knoblock came up with the idea that turned into a 13-foot long and 12-foot high boat that took center stage at the store.



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# Arena unveils new management staff, concessions

### Herd season opens with service updates

By Jonathan Richie OSHKOSH HERALD

When the Wisconsin Herd play their first home game of the season at the Oshkosh Arena next week against the Grand Rapids Gold, fans can expect a more customer service-driven atmosphere along with new food options.

The new concessions were unveiled last week at a party hosted by management company VenuWorks, which was hired to run operations at the arena that span from food services to booking entertainment. VenuWorks operates more than 40 venues across the country with over 25 years of experience.

Food concessions will include deepfried cheese curds, pulled-pork sandwiches, chicken wings, fish and chip baskets, and nachos. The arena will have two executive chefs catering the VIP area before Herd games and other events.

The VIP area also will have a large buffet spread before events and Herd games. Most games will also have a carving station with specialty meats and a selection of desserts.

Over the summer, the arena was put up for sale for \$19 million by Fox Valley Pro Basketball owner Greg Pierce while Bayland Builders filed a civil foreclosure of mortgage lawsuit against the ownership.

Attorney Paul Swanson was then appointed as the receiver to manage legal interests for the arena and hired VenuWorks to oversee the facility.

**ESCROW Accounts** 



Oshkosh Herald

New food options will be available at Herd games this year and the arena's new management company has plans to add events starting next year. Arena executive director Andy Linton shows off the new concessions at a VIP event.

VenuWorks, said the company has big plans for the arena in the coming weeks. VenuWorks specializes in attracting events to midmarket venues and he said the 4,000-seat arena in Oshkosh is a great fit for the company.

When Cook first visited the arena, he knew it was a special place.

"There's something here," Cook said. "There's a vibe here and you can feel it."

In the months since VenuWorks stepped

www.ripplecu.org

director Andy Linton have been meeting with community members and gathering feedback on what the arena can improve

"The three things we continued to hear was the arena needs better food, the lines are too long and there's a lack of events," Cook said. "We are addressing each of those areas with things like the grab-andgo food options."

The arena will continue to be a cashless facility and the grab-and-go option will allow fans to get nachos, pretzels, soda and beer more quickly and get them back in their seats. Fox Brewing Co. will have a new stand where fans can purchase locally

VenuWorks has hired more than 75 people to work at the arena and still has openings for bartenders and other positions. Cook said they plan on hiring around 100 local employees for Herd games and other events such as concerts.

"The local talent is who we want to attract to work here," Cook said.

The arena is also seeking nonprofit group partners representing schools, public safety, churches and the community to staff the four concession stands during home games. Groups receive 10% of gross sales along with tips, with a minimum \$250 guarantee. More information is available at oshkosh@venuworks.com or calling 920-641-5942.

Cook told the Herald they have four or

**SINCE 1988** 

five events lined up for early 2025 and announcing those shows could come soon. He said VenuWorks has connections with talent agencies that will be able to pitch Oshkosh as a tour stop for their artists.

Herd team manager Steve Brandes said the team is excited for the new season.

"These are all good things for the team. We're excited to get the season going and to have fans back here for the home opener," he said.

The G-League affiliate for the Milwaukee Bucks have been in Oshkosh since the team's founding in 2017. The Herd are the primary tenants at the arena, which sits on the former site of the Buckstaff Furniture plant just off South Main Street.

There were various reports from news outlets outside of Oshkosh speculating the Herd could be leaving the city, which Brandes said was not an option for the team.

"We were never planning on leaving Oshkosh," said Brandes, who added the team is happy to be working with the professionals at VenuWorks.

Cook said the partnership is a winning scenario for the Herd, VenuWorks and community.

The Herd kicks off the new season Friday on the road against the Iowa Wolves before opening at home Nov. 15 against the Grand Rapids Gold. Head coach Beno Udrih is starting his second season at the helm of the team.









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# Medical billing fraud charges contested, restitution sought

By Jonathan Richie OSHKOSH HERALD

A woman accused of fraudulent billing about \$300,000 at an Oshkosh medical clinic has pled not guilty.

Katie Niemuth, 40, was in Winnebago County court with her attorney Michael Lim last week and pleaded not guilty to theft and false representation greater than \$100,000, and misappropriating ID information to obtain money. If convicted, she could face up to 10 years and six months in prison followed by up to eight years of extended supervision.

Charges were filed in 2022 but dismissed as the Wisconsin Department of Justice Medicaid Fraud Control and Elder Abuse Unit (MFCU) began investigating the case.

According to the criminal complaint, the owner of an Oshkosh clinic contacted police about the alleged theft in July 2021. An employee looking at past transactions noted a payment of \$2,130 that was not added to the business' bank account. There were similar payments not added to the account in the amounts of \$8,711, \$7,708 and \$5,326.

The business contacted United Healthcare insurance company and learned two of the payments went to a Square account that Niemuth owned. When police spoke to Niemuth, she stated she would transfer the money into another account she owned and then withdraw the amount from an ATM before giving it to the clinic owner

Police allege the money was instead transferred into a checking account Niemuth controlled.

Another employee at the clinic told po-

lice she believed Niemuth was double billing and noticed the ledger was not adding up. When the employee questioned her about it, Niemuth allegedly told her to "keep her nose out of (it)."

An Oshkosh police detective obtained a subpoena for Niemuth's account and identified more than \$100,000 that went into her account that should have gone into the business account.

An MFCU investigator went over Medicaid billing at the clinic between 2019 and 2022 from one counselor that had worked at the clinic. Niemuth worked at the clinic in 2020 and 2021, during which time the amounts billed to Medicaid were much higher than in 2019 and 2022.

The investigator contacted several former patients of the clinic. Two separate parents said their child had visited the clinic no more than five times but both children's Medicaid IDs were billed for 34 visits.

Another patient said they had gone to the clinic five times or fewer and their Medicaid ID was billed for 73 appoint-

A fourth patient said they had gone to the clinic a significant number of times and the billing seemed appropriate, but her daughter's Medicaid ID was billed 70 times between 2019 and 2021 even though her daughter was never a patient there

An investigator looked at Medicaid billing before and after Niemuth's employment at the clinic and conservatively estimated her fraudulent billing resulted in the overpayment of more than \$294,000.

There are multiple victims outlined in the complaint. Two have made restitution requests. Victim 1 in the case is a business and Victim 2 is a former employee and the third restitution request comes from an insurance company.

Victim 1 is requesting \$110,000, victim 2 is requesting \$866 and the insurance company is requesting \$25,000, totaling \$135,866 in restitution. The county has a 10% victim witness surcharge on restitution and the county would collect

\$13,586.60. The total restitution Niemuth would have to pay if she does not contest the amount would be \$149,452.60.

If Niemuth does contest, there will be a restitution hearing in which the defense could call witnesses to explain their restitution amounts. There is a plea/sentencing hearing scheduled Feb. 10 in front of Judge Michael Gibbs.

# Suspect in stabbing pleads not guilty in homicide case

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

An Oshkosh man remains in custody as he faces charges for allegedly stabbing a man who died outside an Oshkosh pizza place in August.

Sybastian W.L. Crossman, 23, appeared via video call last week as he entered a not-guilty plea to first-degree reckless homicide. If convicted, he faces up to 40 years in prison followed by up to 20 years of extended supervision.

There was also a bond hearing scheduled last week but that has been delayed until Crossman's attorneys can attend the hearing. Crossman is represented by Trisha Fritz and Timothy Hogan, but in court last week was represented by Danielle Gorsuch on behalf of Fritz and Hogan

Gorsuch argued that Fritz or Hogan should be present for the bond hearing.

In a bond modification motion, Crossman's attorneys argued his cash bond should be lowered from \$500,000 to \$10,000 while Crossman would live with his mother and stepfather and is a lifelong Winnebago County resident.

The motion also alleged the victim and other men antagonized Crossman and that these factors should be considered for lessening his bond.

According to the criminal complaint, Oshkosh police were dispatched to a restaurant in the 500 block of High Avenue in the early hours of Aug. 10 where they saw a man lying on his back with a puncture wound to his abdomen.

He was later pronounced dead at 3:26 a.m.

Crossman and another individual, Evan Mack, were at the restaurant before the incident. Police were shown video by the manager that allegedly showed Mack and Crossman involved in the physical altercation inside the restaurant with a group of young men.

Police said Crossman and Mack appeared to be the aggressors when four

men between ages 19 and 21 entered the restaurant. Video allegedly shows one of the four men with a cellphone in his hand before Crossman knocked it out of his hand.

Punches were thrown and other employees intervened before the altercation moved outside into the parking lot. Mack and Crossman reported they were getting jumped by the four men.

One of the men said two people were fighting with Mack and the other two, including the victim, were fighting Crossman.

One witness told police they saw Crossman hit the victim in the chest and the victim collapsed. They initially believed the victim was only punched but now knew he was stabbed.

Crossman was taken into custody around 3:30 a.m. Aug. 11. He told police that he and Mack ran into the group outside an Oshkosh bar and they robbed him two weeks before the stabbing incident. He said he didn't tell the police about the robbery because it was \$25 and didn't want to escalate the situation.

Another witness told authorities that the two groups had history going back about four years when Crossman called someone a racial slur in a text. Crossman allegedly was forced to apologize to the group a few weeks ago outside an Oshkosh bar on North Main Street and video of the event was taken.

Crossman allegedly told police, "I pulled it, but I didn't stab him. He ran into it."

The doctor who conducted the autopsy reported the shape of the wound was consistent with a double-edged blade or knife. Crossman told police he had a switch-blade but tossed it somewhere after fleeing the scene.

Crossman is in court today for his bond hearing and is scheduled to be back in court in January for a potential plea hearing.





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Film with local ties gains some national traction

### 'Last Rung on the Ladder' plays in Las Vegas

By MaryBeth Matzek

A short movie partially filmed in Oshkosh debuted Oct. 25 at KingCon - a festival dedicated to all things Steven King – in Las Vegas.

"The Last Rung on the Ladder," a 25-minute adaption of the 1978 King short story, was filmed at Oshkosh's historic Venue 404 in February 2023. Last January, the film debuted at Venue 404 and was screened again during Sawdust City Fright Fest on Oct. 12.

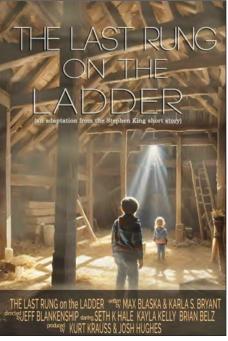
"There's a lot of interest in all things Steven King and to be invited to KingCon is special," said co-producer Kurt Krauss. "A lot of people will be seeing it."

The movie focuses on award-winning author and mental health advocate Lawrence Gatlin, who recounts his estranged sister's tragic life events while attending a gala in his honor. Throughout the awards banquet, the Carnival Barker of Despair appears to him, pointing out his failures.

"The message of the movie is to keep reaching out to someone with a mental illness and to keep helping those who are struggling," Krauss said. "Here, Lawrence was being recognized for so many people, but his sister is the one person he couldn't help."

Since the movie's premiere, it has played at The Basin Short Film Festival in Stevens Point, the Door County Film Festival and at a barn in Verona, near Madison, where parts of the movie were filmed. The film is also scheduled to play at the Early Ethos Film Awards in California.





"The feedback to the film is really positive," Krauss said. "The movie makes a connection with those who watch it."

The film was written by Karla S. Bryant and Max Blaska. Blaska, who suffers from anxiety and depression, hoped the film helps break down the stigma surrounding mental illness. By picking "The Last Rung on the Ladder," he was able to write about the stigmas of mental health and suicide as well as family dynamics.

"(Blaska) used his creativity to work his way out of despair," Krauss said.

Blaska won the rights to making a film adaptation of the King's work through the Dollar Baby program, which allowed students, theater producers and aspiring filmmakers to adapt one of his stories for

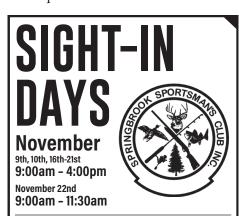
\$1. The program ended in 2023.

"The Last Rung on the Ladder" also became the springboard that launched The Mental Health Warrior Film Festival in Madison, which Blaska founded.

Blaska was familiar with Venue 404 and its use during the making of Michael Mann's "Public Enemies" in 2008 where he was a stand-in for actor Spencer Garrett. He also knew the venue's events manager and thought the location would be ideal for the film's banquet scenes, which were filmed in 2023.

Beyond the location, several area professionals also helped with the making of the film. Oshkosh-based cinematographer Ethan Young VerKuilen and photographer Dave Burke worked on the movie, as did

actors Franki Jo Moscato and Zachary Lulloff. Dozens of Oshkosh natives appear as banquet attendees in the movie.



5923 Springbrook Road, Omro 920-685-5350



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### **Sacred Heart**

FROM PAGE 1

glass doors discovered separately in another part of the basement. Along with other small treasures found, it has already been restored to its original condition.

"The quality of construction throughout the roaring '20s is second to none," he said. "Dense and flawless oak combined with old world craftsmanship can be found as we remove a door, with instructions written in German on a door jamb. Wavy glass that exhibits the authenticity of the building is yet another treasure that can be found in the windows and each door transom."

Architectural Relics will also be salvaging much of what it takes down as it deconstructs 34,000 board feet of red pine and hemlock floor joists, along with roofing, tin ceilings and maple flooring, all under the advisement of the church's abatement group.

In the now-shuttered building, the former classrooms, cafeteria and hallways

still hold their memories with remnants of blackboards, bubblers and supply cupboards preserving traces of an active school building.

An extensive review by the Sacred Heart School Building Committee, which included a yearlong analysis of the structure, consultations with the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay and facilities experts, concluded this spring that neither saving nor selling the building was a viable option.

"The building will be taken down brick by brick," said Deacon Brad Gallenberg, who also serves as the congregation's business manager. Architectural Relics was chosen as a company able to deconstruct the building – amid some asbestos removal – instead of other bids that proposed crushing and burying much of the structure.

"It's exciting because we're not just wrecking it with a wrecking ball; it's literally coming down brick by brick, so that as much of the building can be saved as possible," Gallenberg said.

"All the structural wood, all the inside



Photos by Andy Ratchman

Above: One of the former classrooms at Sacred Heart School is shown with its long blackboards.

At right: A view down the hallway at Sacred Heart School ahead of its ongoing deconstruction.

structural brick, all the wood floors – all of that is going to be saved."

Lazama said recovered materials will be repurposed into neighboring homes, commercial buildings and residences throughout the country, including a new family home in Appleton that will incorporate existing hutches, wood moldings, bead board, stairs, doors and glass.

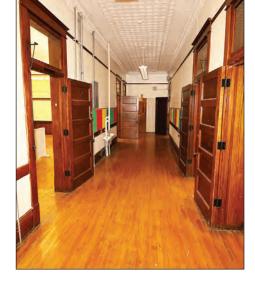
An adoration chapel is planned for the location once cleared pending diocese approval, and many of the estimated 150,000 Sacred Heart bricks would be incorporated in the new spiritual space in the neighborhood named after the former parish.

The original Sacred Heart church and school were built in 1906 at 5th and Knapp to create a new home for Roman Catholics in the city's 6th Ward who had been going to St. Vincent de Paul for services and schooling. Parishioners dug out the basement by hand, church records show, with the school on the first floor and the church space on the second.

Sacred Heart's congregation expanded over the decades and led to a new church with 100-foot bell tower next door that held its first Mass in 1939. That ultimately became St. Jude the Apostle Church in 2007 with the merger of south-side parishes St. Vincent de Paul, St. John the Evangelist and Sacred Heart.

Former parishioners and community members have captured images and video of the former school's interior as others catalog artifacts.

Andy Ratchman from Camera Casino, who along with his sister and father all went to the west-side grade school, filmed the inside spaces ahead of the demolition so that parishioners and residents would be able to view the rooms and hallways af-



ter it became too unsafe to allow visitors.

"We're going to put some stuff up online or maybe put a little book for the church to give out – memories throughout the years," Ratchman said.

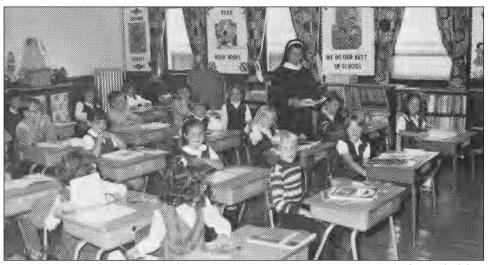
His father, Jay, spent his grade school years at Sacred Heart in the late 1950s and recalls when his basketball team played on the second floor until it had to be abandoned due to too much pressure on the aging floor.

"We used to play upstairs right where the church was. It was a court with only one basket on one end," said Jay, whose eighth-grade class was the last at the school before Lourdes Academy changed its class structure.

Nuns comprised most of the teaching staff at that time, and in an earlier era lived in the upstairs space before a convent was built next to the business office.

The Adoration Chapel project is in the architectural phase as the church works with the Diocese of Green Bay that Gallenberg said is intended for citywide use with anticipated completion next year in late fall.

"While we are not doing any active fundraising currently, we do encourage people to send donations if they would like to with a memo: Adoration Chapel," Gallenberg said. "We have had some donations come in already."



Sacred Heart School photo

A full classroom at Sacred Heart School is shown in this undated photo.



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NOVEMBER 6, 2024 OSHKOSHHERALD.COM | PAGE 9



Oshkosh Hera

City officials and developers ceremonially break ground near 7th Avenue and South Main Street for the first phase of the Mill on Main development that will add more than 100 apartments to the area with retail and commercial space.

### Mill on Main

FROM PAGE 1

groundbreaking. "Where we're standing now will be big green space with access to the Riverwalk."

There are plans for a dog park for the residents and other outdoor amenities as the project gets into the next phases. Wall said the first phase will be completed in early 2026 and are hoping to begin leasing units in late 2025.

The project was first approved by the city in 2022 and has been delayed for several reasons, but developers are confident in their new timeline for construction and leasing.

Wall added that unlike other municipalities across the state, Oshkosh has been easy to work with for the developments with multiple team members applauding city staff for making the process as smooth as possible.

Community development director Kelly Nieforth worked with T. Wall going back to 2022 when the land was sold to the developers. Nieforth said mixed-use construction will be beneficial to expanding the downtown footprint south of the river.

"This is a sign that Oshkosh is open for business," council member DJ Nichols

said.

Nichols and council member Jacob Floam attended the groundbreaking and were both excited for the growth that this project will bring to the Sawdust District. The development will replicate the mixeduse buildings along North Main Street that have commercial on the ground floor and residential above.

City Manager Mark Rohloff spoke about Mill on Main bringing in new residents as well as new businesses.

"This is going to bring more vibrancy to the downtown as well as highlight our Riverwalk," Rohloff told the Herald. "We're glad they've chosen Oshkosh to transform this area of the Sawdust District."

Wall said his company prefers these types of projects that can revitalize downtown areas.

Plans for future phases also include dock slips along the Fox River, pickleball courts and an outdoor amphitheater.

One of the shovels used in the ground-breaking ceremony will be donated to the Oshkosh Public Museum as a historical piece. Rohloff said the museum has several ceremonial shovels from earlier ground-breakings, including when the Oshkosh Corp. broke ground in 2018 for the company's global headquarters.

# **♦** N

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# **Business news roundup**

Ripple Credit Union celebrated its new brand launch last week at 429 N. Sawyer St. as the former Health Care Credit Union refreshed its name and brand. Ripple Credit Union was chartered in 1960 as Mercy Medical Center Credit Union and in 1977 changed its name to Health Care Credit Union to provide products and services to anyone working in the health care field. In 2014, membership voted to open their charter to anyone living or working in Winnebago, Outagamie or Fond du Lac counties. The new name and tagline "Small Waves. Big Possibilities" reflect the credit union's philosophy that small, positive changes can have a profound ripple effect on the financial health of its members. The name also pays homage to the area's surrounding lakes and waterways.

Automotive News announced that **Bergstrom Automotive** has been named one of the nation's top dealership groups to work for in 2024 with 16 dealerships.

Bergstrom Automotive was recognized out of 17,000 automotive dealerships in the country and is the 12th consecutive year it has been recognized. Automotive News, working in conjunction with Workforce Research Group, evaluated the dealership's total operations from the perspective of those who work there. It identified dealerships that are excelling in employee engagement, workplace satisfaction and talent retention.

Regional leaders **Mike Friese** of Encapsys LLC, **Kelly McCartney** of Jewelers Mutual Group and **Bethany Skorik** of Fincantieri Marine Group have been named to the board of directors of New North Inc., the regional economic development corporation for the 18 counties of northeast Wisconsin. Additionally, **Mike Vogel**, senior vice president at Nicolet National Bank and part of the New North board of directors since October 2022, has been approved as a member of the organization's executive committee.





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Page 10 I oshkoshherald.com November 6, 2024

# Should Winnebago County adopt a sales tax like others?

There are 72 counties in Wisconsin. Sixty-nine of those have chosen to enact an optional 0.5% sales tax. Two counties, Racine and Waukesha, have active proposals to adopt the 0.5% sales tax.

That leaves just one county in Wisconsin - Winnebago - that neither has a sales tax nor an active proposal to adopt one. What gives?

Foremost it is important to remember that local governments, including counties, have limited revenue-generating options. In Winnebago County, those major revenue sources are funds from the state and federal government, user charges, and of course the property tax levy. Intergovernmental revenues are generally functions of state and federal budget decisions, while property tax levies are decided locally (but guided by rigid state rules).

However, as mentioned, Wisconsin began allowing counties to adopt a sales tax in 1969 as an additional revenue source.

A sales tax, like any tax, has pros and



cons. Because it taxes consumption, it is regressive. A family of four with a household income of \$50,000 is paying the same tax on purchases as a family of four with a household income of \$100,000. Hence, the tax hits the lower-income family harder.

A major benefit of a sales tax is that it generates revenue based on economic activity, including from folks who live outside the taxing jurisdiction. Think of major events like EAA AirVenture. The economic activity is great for local Oshkosh businesses, but a sales tax would also make it a major revenue generator for Winnebago County government.

Of course a sales tax would be, well,

a new tax. It follows that there will be opposition from residents who already feel the local government tax burden is excessive. The decision to adopt or not adopt a sales tax in Winnebago County will be a political one, as it requires the passage of an ordinance by the County Board.

Whatever your position on a sales tax, it is worth learning a bit about how it would work in practice.

Under Wisconsin law there are restrictions on how revenue raised from the adopted sales tax can be used. According to the nonpartisan Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau: "Funds received from a county sales and use tax may be budgeted by the County Board to reduce the amount of the countywide property tax levy or defray the cost of any item which can be funded from a County-wide property tax." In other words, sales tax revenue will either reduce the current property tax levy, or fund things that would otherwise be placed on the property tax levy.

The Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau estimates a Winnebago County sales tax would generate \$16 million to \$17 million annually. In 2025, Winnebago County is budgeting to collect \$72,704,013 in property taxes, so sales tax revenue would equal about 23% of that amount. In my opinion the strongest argument in favor of a sales tax is the fact that we currently are an island by not having it.

If you shop in Outagamie County, which collected \$22.3 million in sales tax revenue in 2021, you are helping to reduce the property tax burden on Outagamie County residents. When an Outagamie County resident shops in Winnebago County, Winnebago County residents do not receive the same benefit.

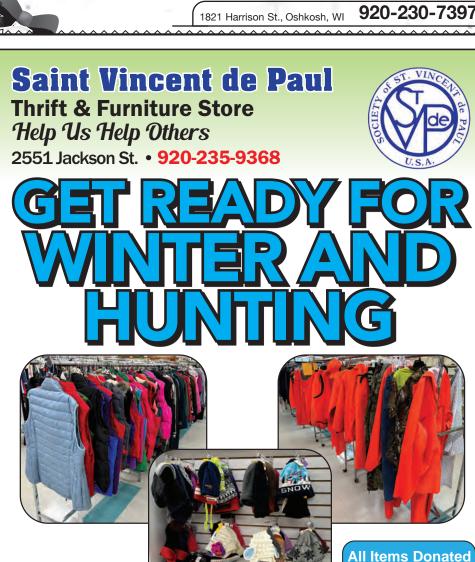
As I said, the decision to adopt or not adopt a sales tax will necessarily be a political one. It is absolutely true that purchases in Winnebago County will be more expensive with a sales tax. Every purchase would have an additional 1 cent per dollar tacked on. But it is also true that the overall fiscal burden placed on Winnebago County residents by county government would be reduced if a sales tax were put in place due to the purchases made by non-county residents.

The question is, can we stomach the idea of a new tax given the overall fiscal benefit?

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











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Shrimp

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14.99 750 ml Bottle Kim Crawford **White Wines**  November 6, 2024 OSHKOSHHERALD.COM | Page 15



Photo by Michael Cooney

### **Not So Board**

The 11th annual Northeast Wisconsin Gameapalooza Board Game Convention was held at the Culver Center on the UW Oshkosh campus on Saturday.

# EAA banquet features longtime NASA chief

Oshkosh Herald

Paul Dye, the longest-serving flight director in NASA history, is this year's featured guest speaker at the Experimental Aircraft Association's annual Wright Brothers Memorial Banquet on Dec. 13 at the EAA Aviation Museum.

Tickets are available at the museum website with attendance limited to 350.

Dye was in a leadership position for 38 space shuttle missions, nine of which he served as lead flight director. Coordinating the work of thousands of mission planners, flight controllers, trainers and astronauts, Dye spent 20 years in the center seat of Mission Control. Before that he was a systems flight controller and an International Space Station flight director before his retirement in 2013.

Dye is also a renowned authority on amateur-built aircraft, having previously served as editor-in-chief of Kitplanes mag-





azine and as a member of EAA's Homebuilt Aircraft Council.

EAA's annual Wright Brothers Memorial Banquet honors the Wright brothers' successful flights at Kitty Hawk, N.C., on Dec. 17, 1903, that began the era of manned flight.





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# Calendar of events

#### Thursday, Nov. 7

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

#### Friday, Nov. 8

Rebel Alliance Theatre: "A Bright New Boise," 7 p.m., First Congregation Church, 137 Algoma Blvd.

Toast to a Century: A Sparkling Celebration and Benefit, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Public Museum

#### Saturday, Nov. 9

Holiday Wonders Shopping Expo & Craft Fair, 10 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Rebel Alliance Theatre: "A Bright New Boise," 7 p.m., First Congregation Church, 137 Algoma Blvd.

Meet the Author: Kelley Nelson, 10 a.m., Caramel Crisp Corner Bookstore, 200 City Center

#### Monday, Nov. 11

Veterans Day ceremonies, 10:45 a.m., American Legion Post 70, 1332 Spruce St.

#### Wednesday, Nov. 13

State Street Center Craft Fair, 11 a.m., 206 State St.

#### Friday, Nov. 15

Grand Rapids Gold at Wisconsin Herd, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Rebel Alliance Theatre: "A Bright New Boise," 7 p.m., First Congregation Church, 137 Algoma Blvd. Comedy Night, 7:30 p.m., Bare Bones Brewery, 4362 County S

#### Saturday, Nov. 16

TEDx Oshkosh, 8:30 a.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Rebel Alliance Theatre: "A Bright New Boise," 7 p.m., First Congregation Church, 137 Algoma Blvd.

Grand Rapids Gold at Wisconsin Herd, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

#### Sunday, Nov. 17

Fox Valley Vintage Fest, noon, Oshkosh Convention Center

Handmade & Hand Poured Holiday Mini Market, noon, Flights Wine and Cocktail Club, 607 S. Main St.

Tuesday, Nov. 19

Sioux Falls SkyForce at Wisconsin Herd, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

#### Thursday, Nov. 21

EAA Speaker Series: Skip Holm, 7 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum

#### Friday, Nov. 22

Holiday Hop! live music, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

#### Saturday, Nov. 23

Lourdes Academy Craft Show, 8 a.m., 110 N. Sawyer St.

Craft/bake sale, 8 a.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2450 W. 9th Ave.

Holiday Wine Walk, 1 p.m., downtown Oshkosh

Winnebagoland Barbershop Chorus Holiday Harmony Charity Benefit Concert, 6:30 p.m., St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 808 N. Main St.

A Sawdust City Frightmas, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.



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Page 16 I oshkoshherald.com

# Knights grind out playoff victory over Hilbert

By Steve Clark

Lourdes Academy football coach Kevin Wopat knew that Hilbert had made a mistake.

He didn't even have to see the play.

"As soon as I saw them throw it there, I thought ballgame. Ryder has got this," Wopat said. "They didn't know they were attacking our smartest player."

Ryder Mullen's game-sealing interception put an exclamation point on a strong defensive second half for the Knights, who rallied from an eight-point deficit early in the period to earn a hard-fought 35-27 victory in a WIAA Division 7 Level 2 playoff game last Friday on JJ Keller Field at Titan Stadium.

Mullen picked off Nate Huettl's pass to the left flat with less than a minute to go and the Wolves' driving for a potential tying score. On third-and-5 from the Knights' 14-yard line, Huettl dropped back and lofted a pass toward running back Brody Hein – Mullen made sure it



# WIAA Playoffs

#### Division 7

Level 3 games
(all games Friday, 7 p.m.)
Lourdes Academy at Edgar
Boyceville at Spring Valley
River Ridge at Potosi/Cassville
Johnson Creek at Ken. St. Joseph
never got there.

"My responsibility was to drop into the flat and I saw No. 42 run out to me and I was like, I'm going to get this ball," said Mullen, who ran a couple of steps before taking a knee after the interception. "It was awesome. This is a great group of guys and we work really hard and to be able to take it away from another team to keep going another week is awesome."

The Knights had to run one play after the interception – a kneel down from quarterback Wade Lindahl – to seal the win and become just the fourth Lourdes Academy team to advance to Level 3 of the WIAA playoffs.

"I don't think we are good enough to blow anybody out, but we are good enough to play with anybody. I give the kids a lot of credit," Wopat said. "They found a way to make this last game at Titan (Stadium) a memorable one."

Hilbert scored in the final 30 seconds of the first half to take a 21-13 lead at intermission and held the Knights' offense without a point in the third quarter.

However, Lourdes Academy closed the gap when Brady Ridenour snatched a Hein fumble out of the air and returned it 27 yards for a touchdown. The Knights



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Lourdes Academy's Braden Studinski hauls in the first of two second-half touchdown passes in the Knights' 35-27 win over Hilbert in a WIAA Division 7 Level 2 playoff game on Friday night.

went for the two-point conversion and failed to trail 21-19.

Hilbert answered on its next possession to stretch the lead back to 27-19 but Lourdes countered with a 10-play, 82-yard drive that was capped by a Lindahl to Braden Studinski 23-yard touchdown pass on fourth-and-6. Lindahl's two-point conversion tied the score at 27.

"The biggest part of the game was who was going to be tougher and in the first half, we struggled a little bit with that obviously," Lindahl said. "The second half, the whole thing was the tougher team was going to win and I feel like the tougher team won."

Lourdes Academy forced another fumble on Hilbert's first play of the next possession and the Knights quickly turned it into points.

Four plays after recovering the fumble, Lindahl and Studinski connected again – on the exact same play – this time from 14 yards out as the Knights surged in front 35-27.

"Braden didn't touch the ball the whole first half but he really came up clutch when we needed him," said Lindahl, who finished 18-of-23 for 186 yards. "Those were great play calls by Coach Wopat."

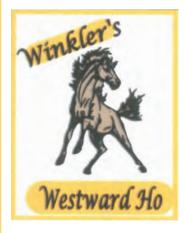
Wopat said they were targeting a specific Hilbert defensive back with the calls but that Lindahl and Studinski made the plays work.

"Braden did a great job getting a little separation and Wade put both of those right on him," Wopat said. "Every coach wants to play from ahead but especially with a power team like Hilbert. Once we got the lead, I knew they were going to have to play faster than they like and probably go to some plays they didn't

SEE **Lourdes football** ON PAGE 19







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# Lourdes Academy's Moore takes seventh at state meet

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Lourdes Academy's Erin Moore knows what it takes to run a fast race on the course at The Ridges Golf Course.

The experience from three previous trips to the WIAA State Cross Country Meet will do that.

Moore took a more even-keeled approach to this year's run and turned in her fastest time in her final state appearance, placing seventh in the Division 2 field on Saturday.

"Last year, I went out on that course with a little harder pace for that first mile and it completely did not go well after that," Moore said. "This year, going at an even place, it's easier for me to go up and down the hills."

Moore got off to a strong start and was just outside of the top 10 after the first mile. She moved up to as high as sixth at the two-mile mark before finishing seventh to claim her first top-10 finish at a state cross country meet.

Her time of 18-minutes, 38.5-seconds was more than a minute faster than what she ran as a junior when she placed 16<sup>th</sup> in the Division 3 field. Her previous best finish was 15<sup>th</sup> in Division 3 as a sophomore.

Moore was one of just eight runners in the 152-runner Division 2 field to finish under 19 minutes and she finished about a minute behind individual champion Emmerson Drobac of Deerfield/Cambridge.

"It was the first time I never died on that course. I felt strong the whole way," Moore said. "I liked the plan of going out with a more even pace so that's what



Photo by Doug Sasse

Lourdes Academy's Erin Moore runs down an incline during the WIAA Division 2 State Cross Country Meet on Saturday in Wisconsin Rapids.

we did."

Moore was one of two Lourdes Academy girls to make the Division 2 field, although senior Dasha Averkamp was unable to finish the race.

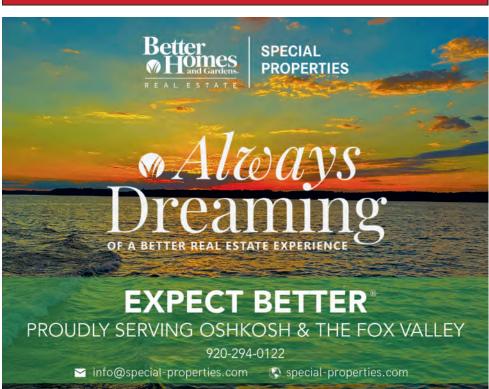
Averkamp was in the top 50 after

the first mile and was in 57<sup>th</sup> place at the two-mile mark, but according to Lourdes Academy head coach Tim Moore, became dehydrated and had to step off the course and went down to the ground.

Averkamp, who was also making her fourth appearance at the state cross country meet, was ahead of the pace she ran last year when she finished 63<sup>rd</sup> in

SEE **Cross country** on Page 18









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### **Prep sports roundup**

#### **SWIMMING**

#### Wildcats third, Spartans sixth at FVA meet

Kiersten Dietschweiler won a pair of events to help boost Oshkosh West to a third-place finish at the Fox Valley Association meet on Saturday.

The Wildcats totaled 377 points at the meet to finish behind only Appleton North (514) and Neenah (394). Oshkosh North/Lourdes Academy finished sixth with 233 points.

West earned the finish by placing first in five different events in the meet with Dietschweiler being a part of three of them.

Dietschweiler won the 500-yard freestyle setting a FVA meet record with a

time of 5:04.66 and also posted a 1-2 finish with Etta Yonke in the 200-yard freestyle. The sophomore then also teamed with Yonke, Samara Zeinert and Sarah Draxler to win the 400-yard freestyle relay, while the foursome also took second in the 200-yard medley relay.

Zeinert picked up a win in the 100-yard backstroke and added a second place in the 50-yard freestyle, while Yonke added a victory in the 100-yard freestyle.

Neva Schlies added a second place in the diving competition for West.

Natasha Konop and Grace Penzenstadler earned the top finishes for North/ Lourdes with third places. Konop was third in diving while Penzenstadler was third in the 100-yard butterfly.

Penzenstadler added a fifth place in the

100-yard backstroke, while Addison Perzentka was fifth in the 50-yard freestyle. North/Lourdes also finished fourth in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a foursome of Penzenstadler, Ashlynn Anderson, Teya Zinth and Perzentka.

#### **VOLLEYBALL**

### Oshkosh West falls to Slinger at sectionals

The Wildcats came up short against the fourth-ranked Owls, falling in a WIAA Division 1 sectional semifinal, 25-15, 25-16, 25-15 last Thursday in Manitowoc.

Sydnee Nelson led the Wildcats with 12 kills, but no other West player had more than three.

Other team leaders for West were Ma-Kaelyn Clark with 16 assists, Elaina Butz with 14 digs, Emma Liebergen with three aces and Kirsten Klatt with 2.5 blocks.

#### SOCCER

#### Lourdes/Valley ousted by top-seeded Kiel

The Knights had their season end with a

3-1 loss to Kiel in a WIAA Division 4 sectional semifinal last week.

Lourdes/Valley was the only team to score a goal in the playoffs on Kiel, who advanced to state with a 4-0 win against Sturgeon Bay on Saturday.

Lourdes Academy/Valley Christian finishes the season with an 11-3-5 record and was unbeaten in the Flyway Conference.

#### **GOLF**

#### **Trio of Spartans** honored by GCAW

Three members of the Oshkosh North girls golf team have been recognized by the Golf Coaches Association of Wisconsin for earning Academic All-State

Maggie Lynch, Brooke Peters and Samantha Leib were recognized.

In order to earn Academic All-State honors, golfers must be a sophomore, junior or senior with at least a 3.25 grade point average and compete in 75 percent of the team's varsity meets during the sea-



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# **Cross country**

FROM PAGE 17

the Division 3 race.

Lourdes Academy was also represented at the state meet on the boys side by sophomore Henry Spanbauer, who finished 66th in the Division 3 boys race.

Spanbauer was in 82<sup>nd</sup> place after the first mile but moved up to 69<sup>th</sup> place by the mile-two marker. He finished with a time of 18:01.2.

"We didn't know what to expect and Henry ran awesome for the first time," Tim Moore said. "It's a privilege whenever you get a chance to run this late in the season and Henry realizes that. Just getting (this experience) under his belt for the next couple of years, he's really going to be able to attack this course."

Spanbauer was one of four sophomores in the Knights' lineup for the sectional meet, as Lourdes Academy did not have any juniors or seniors on the roster.

Having such a young team, Tim Moore said that having a runner with state experience will definitely help the entire group.

"It's the best way to end this year for these boys. They were excited for Henry," Tim Moore said. "It shows the work they have all been doing. We didn't get there as a team, but we were represented and that is the first step."

#### Collins competes at state for Wildcats

Oshkosh West senior Celso Collins ran in the Division 1 boys race, placing 119<sup>th</sup> out of 190 runners.

Collins got off to a strong start and was



Lourdes Academy sophomore Henry Spanbauer qualified for the state cross country meet for the first time and finished in 66th place in the Division 3 boys race.

76th after the first mile but couldn't quite keep up the pace as he slipped back in the

This was Collins' first trip to the state meet.

Collins is the first Oshkosh West runner to compete at the state meet since Elijah Geffers in 2021.





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Max Behnke (67) and the Lourdes Academy defense reacts after getting a stop against Hilbert on Friday night.

### Lourdes football

FROM PAGE 16

want to go to."

The Wolves were able to march down the field in the final minutes. Hilbert converted a fourth-and-12 on a run by Ari Sevela and dropped a potential touchdown pass two plays before Mullen's interception.

"We are just gritty and we play hard," Mullen said. "We love to take the ball away from the other team and we did. That's what won us the game."

The Lourdes Academy defense forced Hilbert into punts on its first two possessions of the game, with the second kick leading to an 80-yard punt return for a touchdown by Lucas Neuens.

Hilbert answered with a touchdown drive to take a 7-6 lead but Lindahl connected with Adam Dinnegan for a 32yard touchdown late in the first quarter as the Knights pulled back in front 13-7.

Hilbert then scored twice in the second quarter to take the lead at halftime, setting the stage for the second half dra-

"We knew it was going to be hard and each and every one of the guys did their part and it worked," Lindahl said. "We've had that battle characteristic as a team all year."

Wopat believes that the team's attitude was formed during the Knights fourgame losing streak that left them 1-4 to start the year.

Lourdes Academy has rattled off six straight wins since.

"We got punched a lot early in the season and we had to learn a lot about ourselves in those moments and I think that's what's transpired in the playoffs," Wopat said. "The third quarter, it could have gone to a two-score game a couple of times but the kids held tough, forced a fumble and I think that swung everything



back to our side."

In addition to his fumble return for a touchdown, Ridenour led the Knights with 36 yards rushing, while Studinski finished with five catches for 100 yards. Neuens added seven catches for 32 yards before leaving with an injury in the sec-

Defensively, Michael Santiago and Max Behnke each registered 12 tackles in the win, with Santiago posting 10 solo stops.

With the win, the Knights will advance to play at top-seeded and defending state champion Edgar on Friday in Edgar.

The Wildcats won its first two playoff games by a combined 53-0 margin and have registered six shutouts on the season. The most points Edgar has allowed this season was 21 in a Week 9 win over Abbottsford.

Offensively, the Knights have scored at least 26 points in 10 of 11 games this season – the one that didn't hit the mark was a 21-8 loss to Division 5 powerhouse Stratford and have scored 35 points or more in eight of 11 games this season.

The Wildcats are led by running back Will Hackel and Maverick Butt, who have combine for more that 1,600 yards on the ground. Hackel is averaging 8.7 yards per carry, while Butt - who is also Edgar's second-leading receiver, averages 6.3 yards per carry and has scored 17 touchdowns.

Quarterback Tucker Streit has thrown for 763 yards and 15 touchdowns with just two interceptions.

"They are one of the top, most storied programs in state history and it's cool for our kids to go and see where we are at, Wopat said. "We're going to prepare, give it our best and see if we can't be in the game in the fourth quarter. All we need to do it is that one time. Maybe the percentages are low, but we are going to do our best to get into a position to outplay them one time and see what happens."



# Titans take down Blugolds

Oshkosh Herald

Brooks Blount threw for three touchdowns and ran for two more and Trae Tetzlaff picked up another record as the UW Oshkosh football team toppled UW-Eau Claire, 42-31, on Saturday at Carson Park.

Tetzlaff became the record holder for most career touchdowns in Titan history, hauling in a pair of scoring passes. He caught a 31-yard touchdown pass from Blount in the first quarter and then caught a 12-yard scoring pass in the second quarter to give him 28 career touchdown receptions. He broke the record that was held by Sam Mentkowski and is currently 10th alltime in WIAA history in the category.

In addition to the two touchdowns passes to Tetzlaff, Blount also connected with Clayton Schwalbe on a 5-yard touchdown pass. The senior quarterback finished 21of-25 for 311 yards.

Justice Lovelace led the Titans on the ground with 130 yards on 17 carries.

The Titans, who were ranked ninth in last week's D3football.com poll, trailed early on as Eau Claire scored on its opening possession.

Blount's 3-yard touchdown run on UW Oshkosh's first drive tied the score with the first scoring strike from Blount to Tetzlaff earned the Titans their first lead and UW Oshkosh was in front 14-7 at the end of the first quarter.

UW Oshkosh then led 28-24 at halftime and posted the lone touchdown in the third quarter on a Blount 6-yard touchdown run.

Lovelace scored on a 3-yard run early in the fourth quarter to extend the Titans' advantage to 42-24 before the Blugolds added one score for the final margin.

The Titans finished with a season-high 455 yards of total offense in the game and scored 42 points for the second straight week.

Kyle Dietzen had 13 tackles to lead the UW Oshkosh defense, which held Eau Claire to just 71 yards rushing.

The Titans, who are tied with UW-Platteville for the top spot in the WIAC with 4-1 records, are slated to host UW-Stout on Saturday on JJ Keller Field at Titan Stadium. The Blue Devils are coming off a 33-31 loss to UW La Crosse on Saturday.







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# Veterans ready to anchor roster for Wisconsin Herd

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Justice Winslow flashed a little bit of wry smile as he carefully broached the topic.

One of the newest members of the Wisconsin Herd was recounting his top three experiences in basketball at the team's media day and knew that one of them might ring a little close to home for some fans.

"Winning the national championship at Duke. Just a good comeback win against, you know, the home state team here," Winslow said as the grin made its appearance. "There was a controversial play in that game where a lot of people might have thought I touched the ball ... but I didn't touch it."

Winslow likely hopes that fans can put that game – which was the 2015 NCAA Championship game – behind them as he takes the court this season for the Herd. He is one of a couple of NBA veterans on the Wisconsin roster, who will be counted on for leadership with the young group.

Both Winslow and state native Henry Ellenson have a vast wealth of basketball experience to draw from and that was a key reason both players were added to the roster.

"I think that's always good to have that balance on the team between the young and the older players," said second-year head coach Beno Udrih, who was teammates with both Ellenson and Winslow



Rice Lake native Henry Ellenson is happy to be playing in his home state and hopes to be one of the leaders for the Wisconsin Herd.

in the NBA. "The older players know the ropes on how to be a pro on and off the court and the message shouldn't always come from the coach or general manager on how to act. It's always helpful to have experienced players on the roster."

Winslow said that his past relationship with Udrih was one of the reasons he signed with the Herd as he looks to make the climb back to playing in the NBA.

"My relationship with Beno played a huge role. It was someone I was familiar with, someone I trusted and believed in and he showed that same energy and reciprocated it back to me," Winslow said. "My main focus is getting back in the NBA and getting different offers from different leagues, I just felt this was the best league to keep me on that path."

Ellenson also acknowledged being a former teammate with Udrih, but after spending the last two seasons playing in Spain, the chance to play close to home was too good of an opportunity to pass up for the Rice Lake native and former Marquette University standout.

"It's a great feeling. The last time I was able to play in Wisconsin was for Marquette and that was over nine years ago," said Ellenson, a former first-round pick of the Detroit Pistons. "It's a great opportunity to be back home and playing in front of family and friends and I think you will see a lot of those in the stands."

Ellenson has already had multiple stops in the G-League prior to signing with the Herd, but feels like he is playing the best basketball of his professional career right now and hopes to be a leader on this year's squad.

"I feel like I've grown a lot as a player. I think I can bring a lot of leadership being one of the oldest guys on the team – that's the first time where I can actually say that," Ellenson said. "I can help be a voice in the locker room and show some leadership at times this year. The teams that I have been on that have been most successful have been connected and I think that's something I can bring to the table."

The Herd roster may be anchored by its two veterans, however, both Udrih and general manager Arte Culver are expecting to see a lot of assignment players from the Bucks.

The team has three two-way players on the roster in Liam Robbins, Ryan Rollins and Stanley Umude, while the Bucks top two picks from last summer – AJ Johnson and Tyler Smith – are both young players.

Johnson will likely see a wealth of action with the Herd as the first-round pick – who played professionally in Australia last season – learns the NBA game.

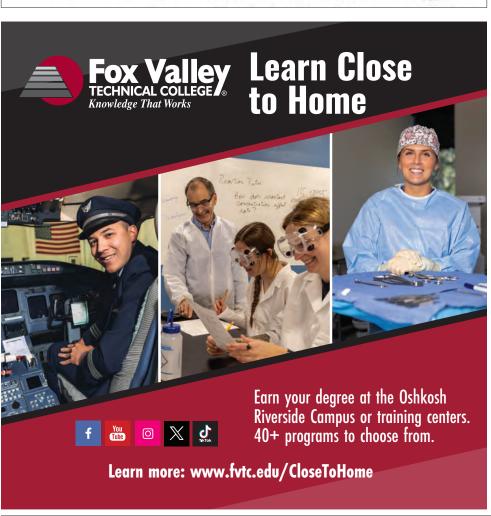
"AJ is only 19 and he has got a lot to learn. He is eventually going to be a point guard and this year we will give him that opportunity in smaller doses," Udrih said. "He's very talented. He's got a bright future ahead of him. He's hungry to succeed. This will be a great development year for him. I'm excited to work with him."

Culver said that is one of the main functions of the Herd franchise – to help develop players for the Bucks.

"Organizationally, our biggest goal is how can we be a service to the Bucks and one of those ways is developing young players like AJ," Culver said. ""Hopefully, when people see us play it will remind them of the Bucks. But in the G League, there is a versatility, there is a grit and a resilience to the successful teams in the G League and that's what we will bring."

The Herd will open the season on Friday at the Iowa Wolves. The team's first home game will be the following weekend when they host the Grand Rapids Gold on both Friday and Saturday at the Oshkosh Arena.









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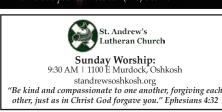
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### **Obituaries**

#### **Cheryl Jane Toson**

Cheryl Jane Toson, of Oshkosh, WI passed away on the afternoon of Tuesday,



October 29, 2024. She made her transition wrapped in loving arms, serenaded by Patsy Cline, with the warm sun on her face. She would have turned 71 years old on November 10, 2024.

Cheryl and her husband Ken recently celebrated their 21<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on October 16. She always said Ken was her Godsend. He loved and cherished her, supported her endlessly, and always knew how to make her laugh. They had a true connection and made quite the comedic pair.

Cheryl had a way of understanding and connecting with people. She took interest in life's deeper meanings and enjoyed various spiritual studies. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Superior with honors in Social Work and used her gifts to do what she loved, helping others. She spent many years working for non-profit organizations in Duluth, MN and was deeply involved in the AA community, where she found camaraderie and support.

Cheryl cherished moments with family the most. She collectively referred to her daughters Rikki and Crystal, as "her heart," and loved them beyond measure. She especially found joy in the company of her grandchildren and embraced each moment with love and warmth. Cheryl

always looked forward to visits with her family from Superior, and held a special place in her heart for her Mother-in-Law Marilyn, as well as her bonus sons Kenny Jr., and Peter.

Cheryl demonstrated profound and unwavering inner strength in the face of life's struggles, used her wisdom and insight to help others, practiced forgiveness, never stopped seeking deeper knowledge, and maintained her sense of humor until the end. She was loved dearly, and her presence will be missed by many.

Cheryl is survived by her husband, Kenneth Toson; children, Rikki (Matt) Cantin and Crystal (Tyler Mossberger) Tokarczyk; bonus children, Kenneth R. Toson Jr. and Peter Toson; grandchildren, Christopher Boder, Talon and Kip Mossberger, Kenna Toson; Mother-in-Law Marilyn Toson; siblings, Charles (Cheryl) Jacobson, John (Tammy) Jacobson and Lynne (Al) Babcock, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Cheryl was preceded in death by her parents, beloved Aunt Jackie, and her German Shepard Ceda "aka Baby Girl," with whom she shared an incredibly special bond

Cremation has taken place, and a service will be held at a later date.

During this time of loss, Cheryl's family wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to the devoted staff of Theda Clark and Cherry Meadows for their care and compassion.

# KONRAD-BEHLMAN

Jean A. Schmidt

Jean A Schmidt, age 80, went to her

Lord and Savior surrounded by loved

ones at her home on



ones at her home on the morning of October 31, 2024. She was born to the late Harold and Therisa (Arendt) Hass on March 3, 1944, in Nekoosa, WI. She married the love of her life Dale Schmidt on Septem-

ber 17, 1966, and were together until his passing in 2022.

Jean had many passions in her life. The most important being her Family. She was a dedicated to being the best wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Jean loved spending time with her family as much as she could. In her Free time Jean loved various activities. She had a love for puzzles, word searches, board games and western shows. She worked hard for those she loved and love those she cherished hard.

Jean's love for sports was truly inspiring as a Soccer coach. For the love for sports was evident in her team success. She guided her team to three back-to-back championships it was pure dedication. Her enthusiasm was contagious, and she glowed with pride sharing this accomplishment, Jean adored football with the Green Bay Packers holding the top spot, while also enjoying the Wisconsin Badgers football team and the Milwaukee Bucks basketball team captivating her heart. She was incredibly dedicated to WWE wrestling.

Jean is survived by her children, Patrick (Lori) Schmidt, John (Lowes) Schmidt, Kevin (Darla) Schmidt, Paul (Wendy) Schmidt and Teresa Schmidt (William). Jean will dearly miss all her grandchildren and most ardently miss her great grandchildren

In addition to her parents and husband, Jean was preceded in death by her brothers Lawrence, Leon, Clifford, Jimmy Hass and sister Mary Weber.

A celebration of life will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes-Westside (100 Lake Pointe Dr) on Friday, November 8, 2024, from 10AM until noon; with some of Jeans family sharing memories at noon. A burial will take place at Lake View Memorial Park.

# KONRAD-BEHLMAN



#### **Berniel L. Tritt**

Berniel L. Tritt, 93, passed away at Aspire Senior Living in Oshkosh on Friday,



November 1, 2024, following a battle with dementia. He was born to Gerald and Hilda (Schmude) Tritt on September 24, 1931. On December 1, 1951, he married Lorraine M. Brennand at St. Mary

Catholic Church in Winneconne. They celebrated 68 years together until her passing in 2019.

Berniel left school at an early age to help Grandpa Schmude on his farm and then helped his father on the farm when he became ill. From there he began working for a local farmer and hauling milk, he often said the milk cans weighed more than he did. In the early '50s he served his country in the United States Army. After his service he began his career as a heavy equipment operator at Courtney & Plummer which became 4X Corporation and eventually Michel's Corporation. Berniel quickly acquired his career long nickname of "Termite". He was still helping out at Michel's in his 80's when they would ask him to cover someone's vacation time and load tucks in the local quarry.

Over the years he lived in different places, but most were the 50 plus years in the Town of Vinland where he served on the volunteer fire department for 18 years. Berniel farmed there with the help of the boys until they left home. He was an avid deer hunter and bowler, enjoying both well into his 80's. After retirement Berniel helped Lee with his rental business

as maintenance man. Later he became part of the pit crew with Lee Tritt Motor Sports.

Berniel is survived by his two sons, Scott Tritt and Lee Tritt; grandson, Evan Tritt; step- granddaughter, Amanda Sytek; and two step-great-grandchildren, Bradley Tritt and Zach Sytek. He is further survived by two sisters, Beverly Rehfeldt and June Smith; one brother, Delroy "Del" Tritt; sister-in-law, Gwen Bartels; and brother-in-law, Lester Brennand.

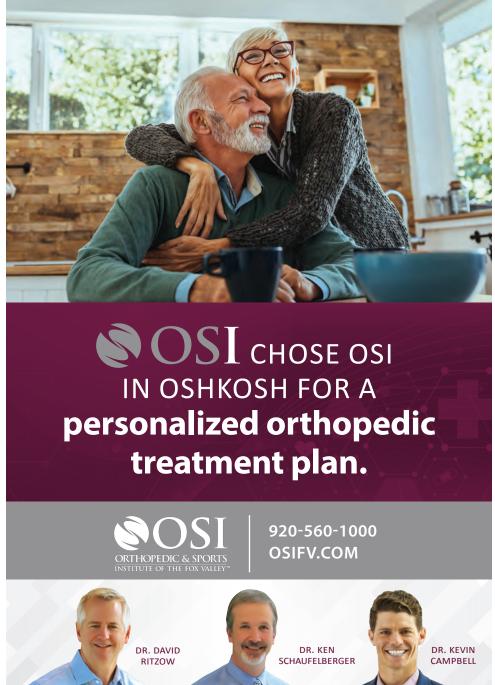
Berniel was preceded in death by: his wife, Lorraine; parents, Gerald and Hilda Tritt; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Lester and Catherine Brennand; sisters, Elaine Collins, Carol Hinz, Janet Ticks, and Arleta Tritt; brothers, Gerald Tritt and Sherden Tritt; sisters-in-law, Carol Brennand, Catherine DeWitt, Irene Brennand; brothers-in-law, Lloyd Collins, John Hinz, Edward Rehfeldt, Harry Smith, David Brennand, Vern DeWitt and James Bartels

Berniel's family would like to thank the staffs of AseraCare Hospice and Aspire of Oshkosh for their care over the last years.

A visitation for family and friends will be on Friday, November 8, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church 900 Geiger St. Neenah. A funeral Mass will be held on Friday at 12:00 noon at the church with Fr. Bob Kollath officiating. Burial will be in the Calvary Cemetery, Oshkosh.

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





### **Obituaries**

#### **Mary Jane Brunson**

Mary Jane (Lewis) Brunson, age 75 of Oshkosh, passed away after a courageous



battle with pancreatic cancer on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, with family by her side. Mary was born in Berlin, WI on April 11, 1949 to the late Gordon and Bernice (Dalka) Lewis.

Mary was a member of St. Jude the Apostle Parish. She worked at AT&T in the commercial accounts department. She found joy in the simple pleasures of life - shopping, traveling, watching movies, playing Scrabble, and sipping on a glass of wine. Her greatest pride was her grandchildren.

Mary is survived by her son, William "Dusty" (Heidi) Gerrits, Waupun; daughter-in-law, Angie (Brett) Loomans; grandchildren, Will (special friend, Lauren) Gerrits, Jake Gerrits, Emma (fiancé, Trey) Gerrits, Brody (special friend, Ruby) Gerrits, and Rhett (special friend, Josie) Gerrits; siblings, Cindy Daye, Oshkosh, Debby (Matt) Drager, Princeton and John (Ronda) Lewis, Princeton. She is further survived by many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Mary was preceded in death by her son, Aaron "Beezer" Gerrits; sisters, Diane Lewis and Linda Day; nephews, Jarred Stock and Justin Lewis; great-niece, Briella Drager; brother-in-law, Jeff Daye.

A private memorial was held in Mary's honor on Monday, November 4, 2024.

The family would like to send a spe-

Joann M. Ebersberger

hkosh, passed away on Sunday October

Joann Marie Ebersberger, age 92, of Os-

27, 2024. Joann was

born in Oshkosh on

September 23, 1932

to the late William

and Rose (Baier)

Mauritz. She married

Mathias Ebersberger

on February 1, 1964.

After their children

were grown, Joann

cial thank you to the ThedaCare Hospice Team. You are angels on earth.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Aaron Gerrits Rhemody Foundation (AGRF), which was established in honor of her son, Aaron "Beezer" Gerrits who passed away in 2010 from brain cancer.

#### ONRAD-BEHLMA FUNERAL HOMES!

Levi Ebersberger, one brother; William Mauritz and one sister; Barbara Vajgrt. She preceded in death by her parents, stepmother; Jane Troxell and her husband; Mathias.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday March 28, 2025 at 11 am at St. Jude Parish (Sacred Heart Church, 519 Knapp St). Visitation will be held at the church on Friday March 28, 2025 from 9:30 am until the time of Mass.

In Lieu of flowers, please consider sponsoring a mass at St. Jude parish in her honor.

Joann's family would like to thank everyone who provided love and care at Courtyard Assisted Living, in Oshkosh. The family is very appreciative of the exceptional care provided through St. Croix Hospice.

HOMES FUNERAL

#### **Diane Colon**

Diane Colon, 71, of Oshkosh WI, passed away peacefully on September 8th



REAL ESTATE

at the Aurora Hospital Oshkosh. She was born May 5th, 1953 in Massachusetts to Clarence and Hazel but had moved and lived in Oshkosh for the last 35 yrs.

Diane is survived by her significant oth-

er of 30 years together, Daniel Borski; two sisters, Linda and Sandra; three brothers, Jimmy, Gary and Richie; niece, Natalie (Emalyn) and nephew, Paul (Peyton, Ava, Xaniah, Kiana, Genevieve, and Arianna);

along with many other loved ones.

Diane was the sweetest person with a beautiful soul. She cared for everyone and always helped in any way she could. She had a bright energy and an infectious smile that would light up a room when she walked in. In her spare time, she loved to craft, play cards, play bingo, play machines, and socialize with friends and family. She will be missed by many and we will forever carry her memories in our hearts.

Friends and family are invited to attend her memorial service being held on Tuesday, November 12th at 10am at the First English Lutheran Church in Oshkosh, WI. A burial service will be held in the spring of 2025 in Vermont where she may rest peacefully next to her mother.

worked at the Oshkosh Public Library. She was a faithful member at St. Jude Parish (Sacred Heart Church). She will forever be remembered as a loving mom and dedicated homemaker.

Joann is survived by two sons; John (Tana Kinder) Ebersberger of Sacramento, CA and Steven Ebersberger of Oshkosh, two grandsons; Connor and

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### **Obituaries**

#### Susan E. Guenther

September 15, 1943 - October 7, 2024 Susan Elizabeth Guenther passed away



unexpectedly Monday, October 7th at her home in Franklin, WI.

Susan was the sister of Robert "Bob" (Jo Ellen) Guenther, Thomas (Patti) Guenther, Sr. and is further survived by nieces,

nephews, cousins, many dear friends and her beloved cats, Lizzy and Ellie.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Susan moved to Chicago where she briefly worked at St Luke's hospital in the food service department. She moved to Milwaukee and began her career at Wisconsin Electric Company where she worked in their food service department, and eventually became director of the department. After over 20 years of loyal service, she moved on. Susan began to search for a new job and it ended up being a blessing as she found her dream job at Reiman Publications' Taste of Home magazine working as a recipe tester.

Susan enjoyed sports, whether it was playing tennis or golf or watching them on TV. She also was a huge fan of both Badgers football and the Green Bay Packers. Susan also enjoyed watching a good horse race on TV and could be found every now and again doing a bit of gambling at Potawatomi Casino. She loved good old time Rock & Roll music of the '50s and '60s and would attend the theater whenever she had the chance, with "Guys and Dolls" being one of her favor-

Susan was a free spirit who spoke her mind and had a personality which endeared her to others. She knew how to enjoy life and loved spending time with both family and friends, especially the "Girls Club" A.K.A. "The Webco Girls". She was a fantastic hostess, whether it was for a large celebration or an intimate gathering, Susan knew how to make the occasion special for everybody. To those who were fortunate enough to have known her, Susan will be remembered as a kind, classy lady who was always ready to give of herself.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Robert C. and Elenore E. Guenther.

In accordance with her wishes, no formal funeral services will be held.

Susan loved cats and gave many a good and loving home over the years. If you would like to remember Susan with a memorial contribution, the family suggests your donation be made to a no-kill cat rescue of your choice.

A Celebration of Susan's life will be held at a future date in Oshkosh, WI.



#### **David C. Wissink**

David "Digger" C. Wissink, age 60, passed away on Thursday, October 24,



2024, at Ascension Mercy Hospital, Oshkosh, WI.

David was born on August 28, 1964, son of Donald and Carole (Hoppe) Wissink. After graduating from Oshkosh North High School he at-

tended a horticulture school in Mequon. Dave owned and ran his own landscaping business for 30+ years. When he wasn't working, Dave enjoyed the outdoors fishing and hunting. His most enjoyable moments were taking his great nieces and nephews to the candy store when up north by the cabin.

Digger had the biggest heart. He had a gift to make people laugh and was the life of every party. He will be missed. Give Patti a hug from all of us.

David is survived by his parents, Donald (Carole) Wissink; siblings, Randy (Anna) Wissink, twin brother Dan (Linda) Wissink, and Sandy Klinger; nieces and nephews, Christina (Keith) Schicker, Emily Wissink, Ali Wissink, Andy (Angie) Parker, Joe (Kate) Parker, Sara (Nick) Gilpin, Shane Wissink, Ashley Wissink, Alexis (Mark) Van Eperen, and Adam (Mallory) Klinger; as well as numerous cousins, great nieces and nephews, extended family, and friends. Included in his many friends is his cousin, Mike Wissink, who he shared a special bond with. David is preceded in death by grandparents, Clarence (Ann) Wissink and Edward (Myrtle) Hoppe; sister, Patti (Bill) Parker; and his dogs, Misty and

Visitation for David will be held from 3:00-4:00pm at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1860 Wisconsin St. Oshkosh WI, on Friday, November 8, 2024.

A memorial service for David will follow visitation at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 4:00pm on Friday, November 8, 2024 with Pastor Connie Weiss officiating.

In lieu of flowers a memorial for David is being established.



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#### Legal Notices

STATE OF WISCONSIN **CIRCUIT COURT** WINNEBAGO COUNTY CASE NO. 2024CV000915

DIANE L. PUTZER: and STEPHEN P. PUTZER Plaintiffs,

PROGRESSIVE UNIVERSAL INSURANCE COMPANY, and JOSEPH P. PAGANO Defendants.

PROGRESSIVE UNIVERSAL INSURANCE COMPANY, and NETWORK HEALTH PLAN, Involuntary Plaintiffs

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

TO: JOSEPH P. PAGANO 1429 W. Bent Avenue Oshkosh, WI 54901

#### **PUBLICATION SUMMONS**

You are hereby notified that the Plaintiffs named above have filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The complaint, which is attached, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within 45 days of receiving this

summons, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is Clerk of Courts. Winnebago County Courthouse, 415 Jackson Street, P.O. Box 2808, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 54903-2808, and to Apex Accident Attorneys, LLC, Plaintiffs' attorney, whose address is 3475 Omro Road, Ste. 200, P.O. Box 2845, Oshkosh, WI 54904-2845. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If no complaint accompanies this summons you must respond within the 40 day period with a written demand for a copy of the Complaint by mailing or delivering said written demand to the court and to the Plaintiffs attorneys at their respective addresses listed above. If you do not provide a proper answer to the Complaint or provide a written demand for said complaint within the 40 day period, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated this 31st day of October, 2024

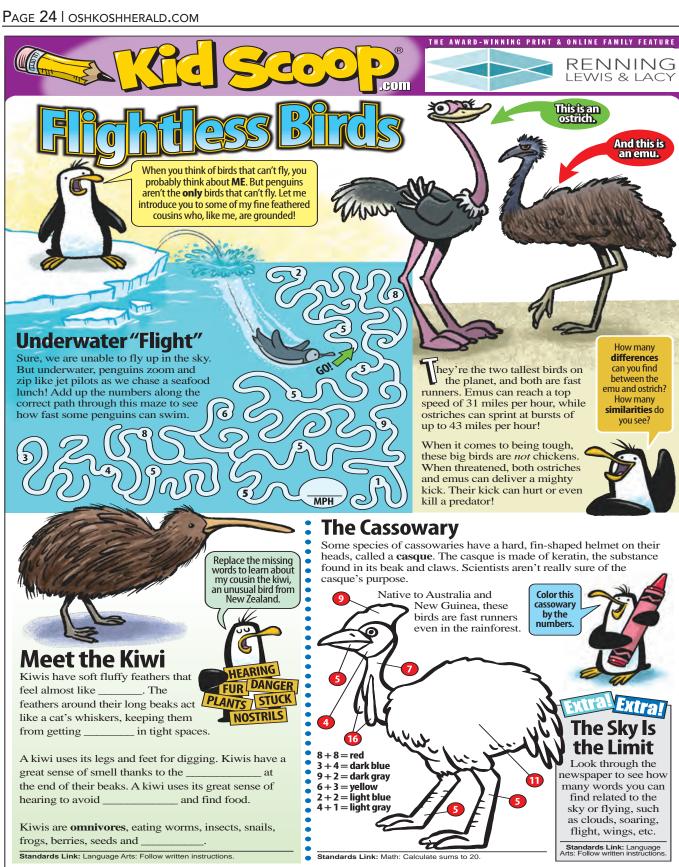
APEX ACCIDENT ATTOR-NEYS, LLC

Electronically signed by George W. Curtis George W. Curtis Attorney for Plaintiff 3475 Omro Road, Ste. 200 P.O. Box 2845, Oshkosh, WI 54903-2845 (920) 233-1010 State Bar No: 1008548

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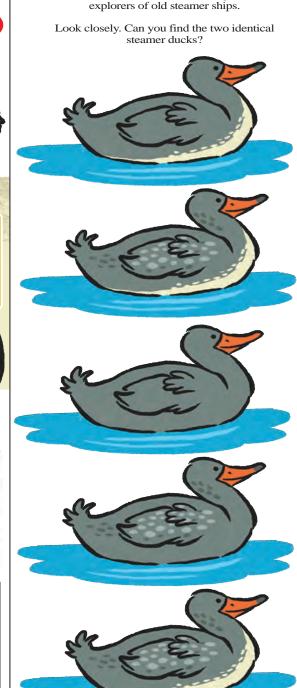


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