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Grand set for major renovation

19th-century theater getting \$10 million upgrade

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Grand Oshkosh is fundraising for a major renovation of the 141-year-old theater that will add and update spaces at a price tag of \$10 million. The project will be a comprehensive remodel and renovation of one of Oshkosh's gems.

The capital project is a partnership between the city and The Grand with the city providing half of the funds and the theater raising the remainder. The \$10 million project includes a two-story addition, new first-floor lobby, second-floor lounge renovation and new facade on High Street. Other updates include the building's restrooms, windows, doors, theater seats and ADA access.

City Manager Mark Rohloff said the purpose of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) is to memorialize the fundraising

effort that The Grand is about to embark on. The MOU will serve as a symbol that "the city is in" and supports the project.

Rohloff said details need to be worked out, such as the adjacent former site of Gunderson Cleaners that has soil contamination that will need to be dealt with. Rohloff also mentioned the potential acquisition of land where Thompson Photography currently sits.

SEE **The Grand** ON PAGE 12

INSIDE



Plaza origins
Downtown landmark's creation detailed
Page 11

Bridge plans
Oregon-Jackson span scheduled reviewed
Page 8

Rohloff reflects on his city leadership

Outgoing city manager honored for his service

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Oshkosh's CEO is stepping away from governmental service and Mark Rohloff's successor has quite the pair of shoes to fill in 2025.

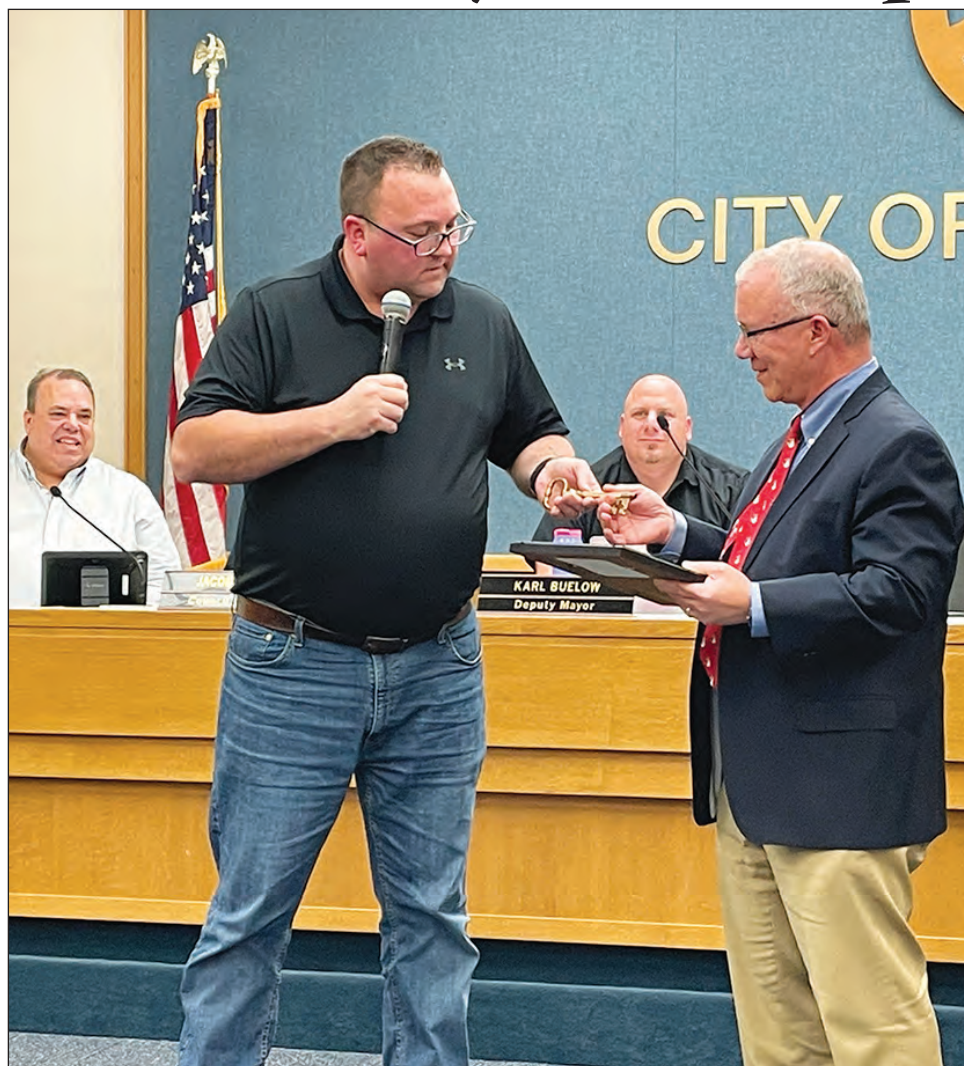
Rohloff started working as Oshkosh's city manager in 2008 and next month will be stepping down and away from work in the public sector and starting a new position in the private sector. He received several accommodations or recognition at last week's Common Council meeting from state and city officials.

State Assembly Rep. Lori Palmeri presented Rohloff with a citation from the state Legislature for his more than 40 years of government service. Palmeri previously worked with Rohloff when she served on the Common Council and as mayor. She said she learned so much from him when they worked together.

Palmeri said one important accomplishment of Rohloff's career is his work in Madison with shared revenue that brings more state money to municipalities. Oshkosh received almost \$2 million in state revenue recently as part of the largest increase in shared revenue in Wisconsin history for cities, towns and counties.

Rohloff received a commendation from Gov. Tony Evers for his lifetime of public service. The city also gave him a plaque of commemoration with Mayor Matt Mugerauer thanking Rohloff for his dedication to Oshkosh with tireless and selfless service.

"You've helped guide us through both growth and change – always keeping the best interest of our citizens at the forefront. Your legacy will be felt for years to come in the projects, the policies and the partnerships that you've built," Mugerauer said. "I can without a doubt say you are leaving Oshkosh in a better place than



Oshkosh Herald

City Manager Mark Rohloff receives the Key to the City gifted to him by Mayor Matt Mugerauer, who said Rohloff was leaving the city in a better place than when he arrived in 2008.

Board refines scope of school spending vote

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Area School District officials have slightly adjusted what will be a part of an almost \$200 million referendum the voters will be asked to approve next spring.

Superintendent Bryan Davis is looking to get a referendum question in front of the Board of Education today (Wednesday) and have it approved before the Jan. 21 deadline to have a facilities referendum on the spring election ballot.

The Herald previously reported the district was looking at a potential \$195 million facilities referendum earlier this

SEE **Referendum** ON PAGE 18

Inside:

Fitzpatrick to serve as interim city manager / Page 2

when you started."

Rohloff also was handed the most prized possession – a key to the city. Leading up to his retirement he has received several other recognitions at the state and local level.

"It's been an honor to serve this community – great elected officials, great staff

and just a great community," Rohloff said, holding back tears.

The Herald sat down with Rohloff earlier in the week to reflect on his career in Oshkosh. He said his greatest accomplishment as city manager is not necessarily in physical entities or a specific project but more of an attitude.

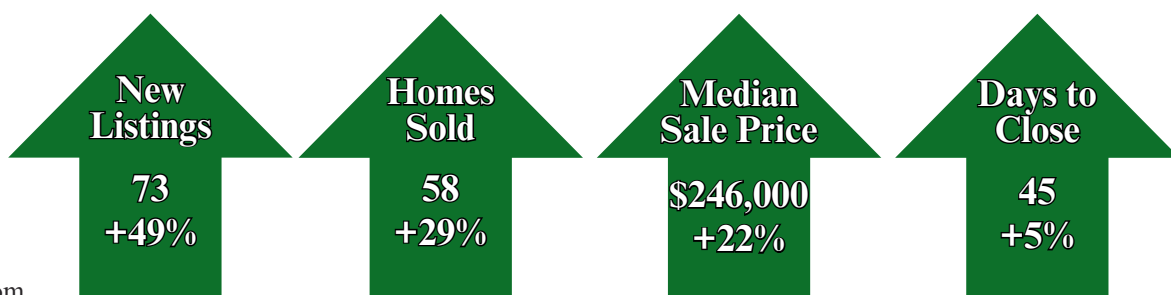
"The city was kind of down in the mouth with flooding," Rohloff said. "It was just a matter of getting everyone's confidence up

SEE **Rohloff** ON PAGE 28



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Oshkosh MarketWATCH - Nov 2024 vs Nov 2023



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

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

Oshkosh Herald LLC,
36 Broad St., Suite 300, Oshkosh.
An E-edition of the newspaper can be accessed at
www.oshkoshherald.com.

Snowmobile safety emphasized ahead of season

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages snowmobilers ready to take advantage of winter's snow to keep safety at the forefront of their preparations. This includes staying alert to the rapidly changing ice condi-

tions commonly found in the early and later parts of winter.

"The biggest thing we want folks to remember is that no ice is completely safe," said Lt. Jacob Holsclaw, DNR off-highway vehicle administrator. "On a sunny day, ice

that may have been thick enough to drive on in the morning may be unsafe by the afternoon, especially during the early part of the season."

This rule also applies to ATVs and UTVs. Last season, several ATVs and UTVs went through the ice, with two resulting in fatalities. Local fishing clubs, outfitters and bait shops are the best sources for current ice conditions.

The DNR also encourages snowmobilers to take a safety education class. According to Wisconsin law, anybody at least 12 years of age and born after Jan. 1, 1985, must have a valid safety education certificate to operate a snowmobile.

Visit the DNR's Ice Safety webpage for more information on staying safe on the ice.

Oshkosh appoints interim city manager

Oshkosh Herald

As the Common Council has been unable to name a new city manager to replace Mark Rohloff before his retirement from the position, it has appointed an interim manager as the selection process continues.



Fitzpatrick

The council moved to appoint current assistant city manager John Fitzpatrick to be the interim city manager. Fitzpatrick has worked for the city since 1999 and has been assistant city manager since 2008 when Rohloff was hired. He will receive a

\$1,000 salary increase for every pay period he serves as interim manager.

The selection committee for a new city manager held a meet-and-greet for four candidates in November where the public was invited to speak with them. The next day the candidates met with a group of community members, department heads and were interviewed by the council.

Initially the council had hoped to have a new city manager before Thanksgiving but did not meet that deadline, therefore Fitzpatrick will assume the role Jan. 4 as Rohloff's last day is Jan. 3.

Last week after its regular meeting, the council met in closed session to discuss city manager candidates and potentially select finalists.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Dec. 23, 1935

Elks Play Host at Annual Christmas Party: The Oshkosh lodge of Elks hosted their annual Christmas party to under-privileged children on Sunday. The event was held at the Jefferson Street clubhouse where 830 children, who came from financially distressed homes, enjoyed holiday festivities they probably would never have known at home. Each child received a large bag of good things to eat, including candy, mixed nuts, oranges, apples, popcorn, and cracker jack. Each youngster also received a toy and a ticket to the Oshkosh Theater on Dec. 27. The children were transported from and back to their homes by Elks Club members and volunteers. A total of 147 automobiles were pressed into service. The program included dance performances and songs by Miss Arlo's School of the Dance. The Elks also hosted a drive at the Strand Theater to collect groceries and canned goods to distribute to needy families. Each basket contained a complete supply of makings for a nice Christmas dinner. On Tuesday, the Elks will distribute bags of goodies to the children at the Sunnyview Sanitarium.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Dec. 23, 1935



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3. In Person at Community 1st Credit Union **Lobby Only**
 - a. 1492 South Park Avenue
 - b. 2424 Westowne Avenue
 - c. 2772 Oregon Street
4. In Person at Associated Bank **Lobby Only**
 - a. 10 W. Murdock Ave
 - b. 1765 W 20th Ave
5. In Person at City Hall, 215 Church Ave

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Christmas Day	December 25	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
New Year's Eve	December 31	8:30 am - 5:00 pm	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	8:00 am - 4:30 pm
New Year's Day	January 1	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Martin Luther King Jr Day	January 20	CLOSED	CLOSED	8:00am - 4:30pm

In order to be credited with a 2024 tax payment, the payment must be received, paid in person at any location, or placed in the drop box located by the main entrance to City Hall by December 31, 2024.

Publish Date: December 18, 2024

Julie Calmes
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Candidates announce intentions for city, school posts

Feb. 18 primary likely for some local positions

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Voters may not realize it but there's another election right around the corner.

Seats on the Oshkosh Common Council and Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education will be on the spring ballot April 1 with several incumbents along with some challengers already announcing their candidacy.

Mayor Matt Mugerauer will run for a second term for the office he has held since 2022. He was first elected to the council in 2018.

"It's been an honor to serve the Oshkosh community for the past seven years, the last two as mayor. We've accomplished so much together, collaborating on a number of initiatives to make our community an even better place to call home," Mugerauer said in a social media post.

First-term council members Karl Buelow, Paul Esslinger and Joe Stephenson confirmed to the Herald they will be seeking re-election in the spring. They all comment-

ed there is more work that needs to be done. Buelow said in the last two years the council has worked on housing and being fiscally responsible for residents.

"I want to see that work continue, and even escalate, and I would love to continue to be a part of it as the voice for those who don't always feel heard," Buelow said.

Esslinger previously served on the council from 2000 to 2009 and as mayor for one term from 2009 to 2011. He said his knowledge and experience will help as Oshkosh brings in a new city manager.

"I've always enjoyed the job and always enjoy helping people," he said.

Stephenson said he would continue to push for more housing in the city and more downtown development.

"There's more work that needs to be done in Oshkosh," he said.

UWO Sustainability director Brad Spanbauer also announced over the weekend that he is running for one of the three seats on the Common Council.

On the Board of Education two seats are up for election, including incumbent Stephanie Carlin's seat. Carlin has yet to announce if she will be seeking a fourth term on the board.

Board member Molly Smiltneek is seeking her first election win as she was recently appointed to her seat on the school board after the resignation of Liz Szilagyi in July.

UW Oshkosh professor Mike Ford announced he will be running for one of the two open school board seats. He recently served two terms on the Common Council. Ford said he is running to maximize student achievement.

There are also at least three people running for Winnebago County executive this spring with incumbent Jon Doemel,

former Assembly member Gordon Hintz and Winnebago County Sheriff John Matz announcing their intentions to run for the office. Three or more candidates will require a primary to narrow the field to two.

The spring election is April 1 and a Feb. 18 primary will be needed if more than six people run for council, more than four run for school board or three for Oshkosh mayor. The mayor and council terms are each for two years and the school board terms are three years.

The deadline for submitting paperwork for these offices is Jan. 7.



Photo from Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Library seeks donations for its mitten trees

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Public Library patrons can help share the spirit of giving by donating new or handmade winter wear to one of the library's three Mitten Trees at 106 Washington Ave.

Inspired by the beloved children's book "The Mitten Tree" by Candace Christian- sen, the library's trees will be decorated with much-needed hats, scarves, gloves

and mittens that will go to individuals and families in the Oshkosh area during the colder months.

"As the temperatures drop, it's a great reminder of how important it is to look out for each other," said Sandy Toland, community engagement librarian. "Just place your donation on the tree or take what you need while you're here. Everything on the tree is free for anyone who needs it."

Family fundraising

The Strasser-Gibbs family in Oshkosh collected bedding for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization that builds and delivers beds for area children in need. More information about the group can be found at shpbeds.org/chapter/wi-oskosh.

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Regional health care groups unite on needs assessment

Oshkosh Herald

For the first time, the area's four not-for-profit hospitals – ThedaCare, Advocate Aurora Health, Ascension Health and Children's Wisconsin – are joining with public health departments and nonprofit groups to conduct a more complete Community Health Needs Assessment in the tri-county area, including the well-being survey.

The three-year assessments enable local health care systems and public health departments to learn more about the needs residents are facing and provide a roadmap for health organizations to focus their resources on the greatest needs.

The survey, available in English, Hmong and Spanish, takes about 10 minutes to complete. Anyone 18 or older living in Winnebago, Calumet, Green Lake, Marquette, Menominee, Shawano, Outagamie, Waupaca or Waushara counties is asked to take the survey between now and Jan. 17 at [surveymonkey.com/r/RZDZKSB](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RZDZKSB).

"Well-being is a person's perception of to what extent they are living their best possible life," said Paula Morgen, The-

daCare director of community health improvement. "Are they able to do the things they want to do? Do they feel safe in their community? Do they have the social supports needed for both physical and mental well-being?"

In past surveys mental health, substance abuse, early childhood needs and social needs, such as food insecurity and transportation, came to the forefront.

"In the past, each of these entities conducted their own surveys and created independent plans. Bringing all the hospitals and agencies in the greater Fox Valley area together to conduct this assessment, evaluate the results and create joint plans is a monumental positive shift for all our communities," Morgen said. "We will be able to do so much more when we are all focused on the same priorities together."

The Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, United Way Fox Cities and the U.S. Venture Foundation provided funds to facilitate the first phase of bringing the organizations together. The assessment process is funded by the health systems and public health departments.

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Fri., 12/20 Noon	Fri., 12/27 Noon

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Community Players staging romantic comedy at Grand

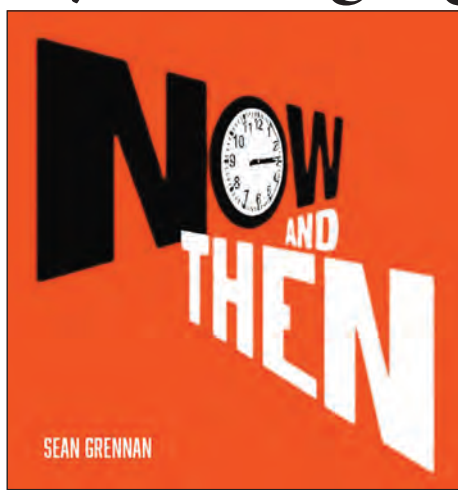
By Dan Roherty
OSHKOSH HERALD

Oshkosh Community Players brings Sean Grennan’s “Now and Then” to The Grand Oshkosh stage Jan. 9-11 with first-time director Amy Molinski leading production of the romantic comedy.

First premiering at Peninsula Players Theatre in 2018, “Now and Then” explores the costs of the choices people make and those who help make them. Grennan is a playwright, lyricist, librettist and actor who began writing for the stage on “Phantom of the Country Palace” produced by Marriott Theatre in Chicago in 1995.

Molinski said she and husband Ron, both Oshkosh natives, attended that Door County premiere, which impressed them to the point where she was determined to either act or direct the play with OCP, on which she has served 10 years on its board.

During the pandemic, Grennan wrote



a virtual production titled “Couples” that OCP performed online, and before that produced Grennan’s “The Tin Woman,” a poignant story about organ donation and its human connections.

“There is something about Sean’s writings that I personally like, and we get a good audience response – people like his stuff,” Molinski said.

The group had a Zoom meeting with Grennan to gain insight into how he created the work and Molinski said she continues to correspond with the playwright as he offers input and help on the production.

The cast, which has been rehearsing at First Congregational Church ahead of the premiere on the nearby Grand stage, includes Michelle Ruzek as Abby, Zach Caldwell as Jamie, Becky LaDue as The Woman and Brian Zimmerman as The Man. All have worked on other OCP projects either in acting, stage managing, backstage work and set building.

“We had auditions and I’ve got this absolutely amazing cast and this great crew,” she said, adding that OCP likes to get new people on board to join with other veteran members. New to the group are Madeline Molchany as Molinski’s assistant manager for the production and Ben Schmidt as stage manager.

“We are very fortunate to be the in-house theater group associated with The Grand, and feel it is a privilege to

be able to perform in this historic and beautiful theater,” Molinski said. “Each season with one of our three shows we like to incorporate some sort of fundraising with funds going to a certain organization.”

“Now and Then” is set during a night in 1981 when Jamie is closing the bar where he works and a desperate last-minute customer offers him and his girlfriend Abby \$2,000 to sit and have a drink with him. The trio swap stories and Jamie considers the decisions he faces about his musical career and future with his girlfriend.

With Molinski taking on directorial duties that put her behind the stage instead of out front, she credits the group for giving her guidance while being confident with her vision for the production.

“These guys have been through it before and are definitely helping me out,” she said.

Performances are set for 7 p.m. Jan. 9 and 10, and 2 and 7 p.m. Jan. 11. Ticket information is at thegrandoshkosh.org.

Business news roundup

The **Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Hotel** at 1 Main St. downtown, formerly Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel, officially opened its new restaurant **Anchor & Port** in the newly renovated first-floor space of the hotel. The hotel notes the American-style restaurant’s scenic waterfront views with casual lunches and special dinners on the menu. Future plans include the M Club Lounge with snacks and beverages for Marriott members.

All 11 **Aurora Health Care** maternity hospitals in Wisconsin, including Auro-

ra Medical Center – Oshkosh, have been recognized by U.S. News & World Report in its annual list of Best Hospitals for Maternity Care. The list classifies these hospitals as “high performing,” the highest level of achievement possible. The U.S. News methodology is based on objective measures of quality, such as cesarean section rates in lower-risk pregnancies, severe unexpected newborn complication rates, exclusive breast milk feeding rates, birthing-friendly practices and reporting on racial/ethnic disparities, among other measures.



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Ascension

Manufacturing survey shows strong outlook

Oshkosh Herald

The NEW Manufacturing Alliance's annual regional Vitality Index found the manufacturing sector, which is 23% of the region's employment base, remained strong over the past year.

A survey administered in October and November by the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh's Center for Customized Research Services was drawn from 601 manufacturers with \$3 million or more in annual revenue and at least 25 employees.

Forty-seven percent of respondents reported their supply chain was impacted in 2024, significantly lower than 98% of respondents in 2022 and 61% in 2023.

Responses indicated that 2025 should be a strong year for manufacturers, with 66% expecting increased sales. More than

half of manufacturers expect to invest in plant modernization and nearly 40% plan on hiring during the last quarter of 2025.

The talent shortage remains a concern for manufacturers but has lessened from the historic 91% level of concern reported from the years after the pandemic; currently 58% of companies are anticipating difficulty locating and acquiring talent.

Companies continue to have difficulty finding machinists and CNC machinists, which has been among the most difficult positions to fill every year the study asked this question. Most of the occupations going unfilled require post-secondary education, although most do not require a four-year degree.

Other skills in high demand include communications, work ethic and attendance.

DOJ investigates deadly shooting by police officer

Oshkosh Herald

The Wisconsin Department of Justice is investigating an incident involving an Oshkosh police officer who reportedly shot and killed a person holding a bladed weapon after two other people were stabbed.

The DOJ Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) is leading the investigation with assistance from the Wisconsin State Patrol and state crime lab with the Oshkosh Police Department cooperating with the DCI investigation.

According to the DOJ, around 11:10 p.m. Dec. 10 police responded to a 911 call of a stabbing near the 400 block of West 10th Avenue. When officers arrived, they found a victim outside who had been stabbed.

Officers entered a residence and saw a subject armed with a bladed weapon. The officers allegedly told the subject to drop the weapon and when the person did not

comply one officer discharged a firearm, striking the subject.

Lifesaving measures were performed inside the home at the same time a second stabbing victim was located inside. Both stabbing victims and the subject were transported to a hospital, where the subject was pronounced dead early Wednesday.

The DOJ has not released the name of the deceased or any details about the police officers involved. The Herald has requested police reports from the incident but due to the ongoing investigation have not received them.

The DOJ said officers involved in the incident are on administrative leave per agency policy. All officers involved were wearing body cameras.

The DCI will turn over the investigative reports to the Winnebago County District Attorney's office when its investigation is complete.



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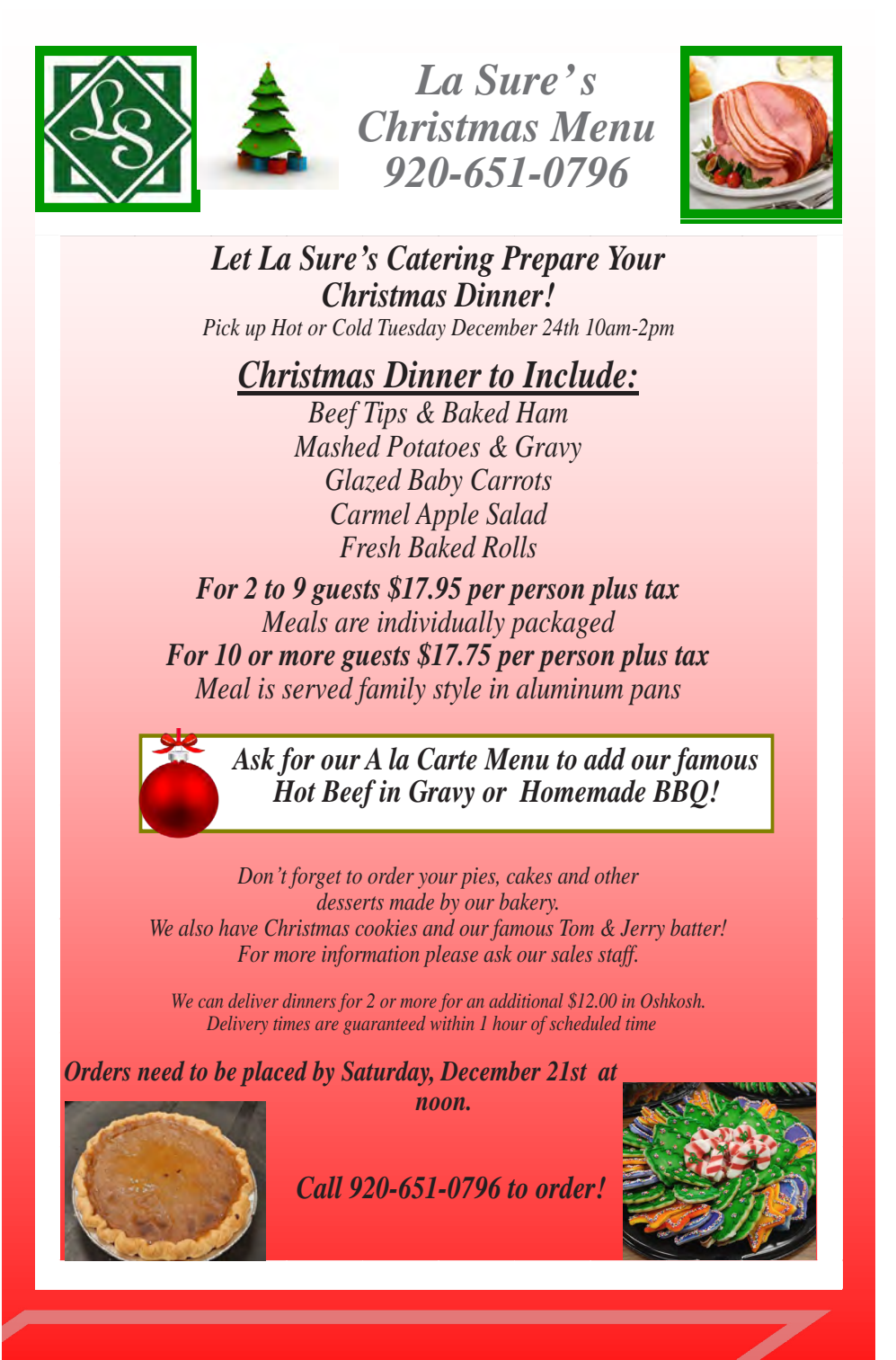
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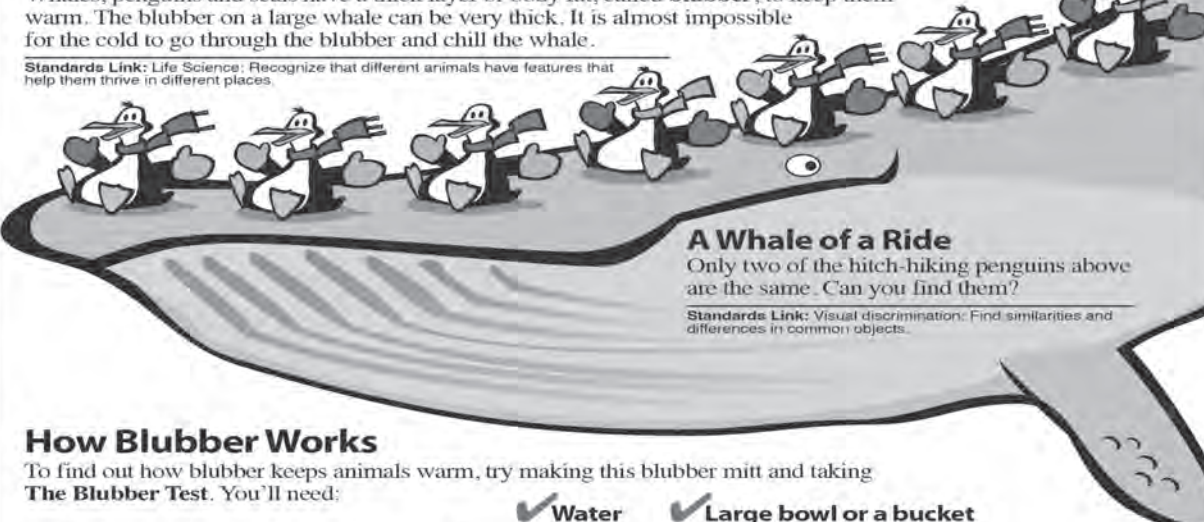
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THE BEAUTY OF BLUBBER

Some places are very cold in the winter. Icy winds blow. Water freezes and snow covers the ground. What do animals do to survive these freezing months?

Whales, penguins and seals have a thick layer of body fat, called **blubber**, to keep them warm. The blubber on a large whale can be very thick. It is almost impossible for the cold to go through the blubber and chill the whale.

Standards Link: Life Science: Recognize that different animals have features that help them thrive in different places.



A Whale of a Ride
 Only two of the hitch-hiking penguins above are the same. Can you find them?
Standards Link: Visual discrimination: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

How Blubber Works
 To find out how blubber keeps animals warm, try making this blubber mitt and taking **The Blubber Test**. You'll need:

- ✓ 1 cup of solid shortening
- ✓ 3 zip-lock sandwich bags
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Large bowl or a bucket
- ✓ Ice
- ✓ Duct tape

- Put the shortening in a zip-lock bag.
- Put your hand in the empty bag.
- With your hand in the bag, put it into the bag with the shortening.
- Seal the tops of the bags together with duct tape.
- Squish the shortening around until it surrounds your hand.
- Fill a large bowl or bucket with ice and water.
- Slip your other hand into an empty plastic bag and tape the top of the bag to your wrist.
- Stick both hands into the water at the same time. Which hand can stay in the water longer?

Now try: THE BLUBBER TEST

Extra! Extra! Hot Hunt
 Look through the newspaper for:
 • 3 ways to stay warm
 • 4 words that describe the weather
 • 5 numbers that add up to 100

Standards Links: Reading: Skim and scan reading. Science: Classification by common attributes. Math: Finding sums to 100.

A: Whale blubber can be inches thick.

Standard Link: Science: Follow a set of written instructions for a simple investigation.

Kid Scoop FIT & FUN
Penguin Fitness



Tummy Time

Penguins slide on their tummies to move across snow and ice.

Try holding this pose for 10 seconds at a time. It's not as easy as penguins make it seem!

Iceberg Hop

Pretend you are a penguin and hop like a penguin does from one chunk of (pretend) ice to another.

Jump back and forth 20 times.



Snow Angels

Lie on the floor and make imaginary snow angels by moving your feet and flippers—er, um, arms!

Balance


Penguins don't stand on just one foot very often, but pretend penguins can!



Standards Link: Physical Education: Use a variety of basic and advanced movement forms.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

I'm found in oceans all over the world, but especially in the coldest ones. To find out what I am, color each space that has a 1 in it **black** and each 2 space **blue**. Leave the blank spaces white.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

BLUBBER
 WHALE
 SQUISH
 BODY
 SLIP
 PENGUINS
 SEAL
 CHILL
 COLD
 THICK
 MITT
 FREEZES
 WATER
 WARM
 EMPTY

A	L	E	M	P	T	Y	C	H	C
H	B	M	I	T	T	C	O	L	F
W	I	L	G	U	H	E	L	Y	R
A	S	Q	U	I	S	H	D	A	E
T	E	U	L	B	N	O	M	W	E
E	A	L	T	T	B	L	I	A	Z
R	L	W	H	A	L	E	T	R	E
M	S	T	H	I	C	K	R	M	S
I	P	E	N	G	U	I	N	S	E

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

Write On!

Wonderful Wiggly Walrus

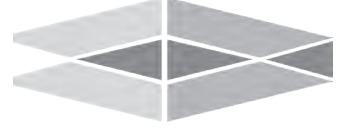
Alliteration is when you use the same letter to start every word in a sentence. Write your own alliterations.



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Potential impact of downtown bridge project reviewed

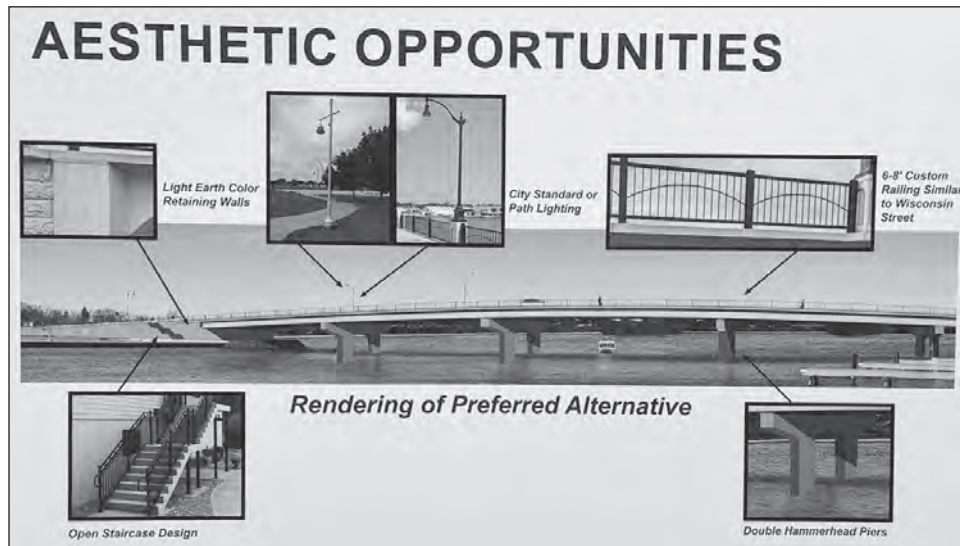
Oregon-Jackson work set to start in 2028

Oshkosh Herald

A timetable for replacing the 68-year-old Oregon-Jackson Street lift bridge in downtown Oshkosh with a fixed span starting in 2028 was reviewed by the state Department of Transportation Northeast Region in a public involvement meeting last week.

A high-level, fixed bridge was the preferred design announced in March 2023 by the DOT after consulting and discussions with city and other public groups, businesses and residents. Some of those groups were represented at last Wednesday's meeting in the public library to get more details on how the construction project will affect nearby businesses, neighbors and boating enthusiasts.

While the project itself is more than three years away, there will be several adjustments made ahead of that near the north end of the bridge. A realignment of streets will move the west entrance to the City Center away from Jackson Street to



Wisconsin DOT illustration

Some details of the proposed new Oregon-Jackson Street bridge were shown at a public information meeting last week.

Division Street and reconfigure how Marion Road and Division meet Jackson.

"Instead of what is an offset intersection at the moment where Division comes in south of Marion we're going to bring division into a four-way intersection with Marion," said consultant team member Justin Arndt. "There could be slight modi-

fications as we go through final design."

The DOT is also in the process of acquiring and ultimately removing the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce building in that block of Jackson Street while the business organization seeks a new location.

The Historic 6th Ward, which borders on the southwest end of the bridge at Oregon and West 6th Avenue, was represented by a member of its neighborhood association who hoped the DOT will work with them to communicate any traffic or construction concerns in an area that is currently the site of a new ThedaCare Medical Center-Oshkosh opening later next year. The bridge approach from West 6th also will be reconstructed.

DOT regional communications manager Mark Kantola gave an overview of the online resources available for neighboring businesses to help steer customers to them with signage options and updated closure information.

DOT project manager Bill Bertrand said that similar to other bridge projects such as the recently completed Racine Street bridge in Menasha, boat navigation will be maintained during the estimated two-year project.

"There will be buoys marking the navigation channel in the center of the river to maintain the boat traffic during the summer months," Bertrand said.

The DOT said in its recommendation that the fixed span will maintain safe access and passage for all users – motorists,

bicyclists, pedestrians, people with disabilities and waterway users – with with an estimated 8,500 vehicle crossings per day.

Some of the benefits cited:

A high-level fixed bridge will increase width to accommodate 11-foot travel lanes, 5-foot bicycle lanes and 6-foot sidewalks on both sides.

Improved navigation clearance for boaters and fewer travel delays for motorists with a 23-foot vertical clearance allowing for all boaters to pass under the bridge without a lift span that delays motorists.

Better accommodations for bicycle and pedestrian travel and links to the river walks on both shores, including the potential to separate the river walks under a new bridge.

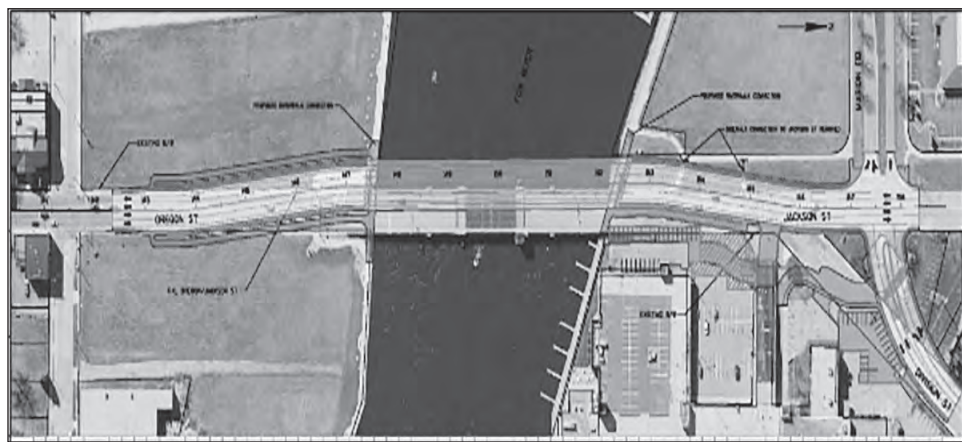
A 2023 estimate for a fixed bridge was in the \$19 million to \$23 million range. A lift bridge would cost at least \$20 million more to construct and have higher maintenance costs that the city would be responsible for.

The DOT initiated a study in 2015 on potential Fox River crossing alternatives that was paused in late 2017 and resumed in 2021. While the bridge built in 1956 is considered safe and structurally sound, broken gears caused a six-month closure of the bridge in 2022 that cost the DOT an estimated \$120,000.

In 2017, the Common Council voted 4-3 in support of a full bridge replacement with another new lift bridge, with concerns expressed about accepting bridge ownership after its replacement. Several boards and commissions that advise the council had recommended a complete fixed span replacement.

The DOT noted deficiencies in operation and safety over several years, including corrosion, cracking on concrete services and narrow sidewalks showing unsafe conditions for walking and biking. DOT officials at the meeting said the Oregon-Jackson bridge lift is activated more often than at Wisconsin Street due to the lower clearance.

Environmental approvals for the project were completed in February and design work will continue through 2027 with final plans submitted in February 2028. Future public meetings will be scheduled to present design refinements, real estate needs, construction elements, possible traffic impacts and information for businesses.



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Photo from Ascension Mercy

Some primary care and specialty care services are being relocated to the Ascension Mercy Campus in Oshkosh.

Ascension Mercy moving clinic services locations

Oshkosh Herald

Ascension NE Wisconsin's Mercy Campus will centralize some of its primary and specialty care services to better align where patients are seen by their preferred clinicians and associates, the health care organization announced last week.

Primary care that is in the Jackson Street Clinic at 2725 Jackson St. will move to the Koeller Street Clinic, 1855 S. Koeller St., and Oakwood Building, 2700 W. 9th Ave., on the Ascension Mercy Campus. Specialty services currently at the Koeller Street Clinic will be relocated to the Oakwood and Creekside buildings, 500 S. Oakwood Road, on the Ascension Mercy campus.

Ascension officials said future uses for the Jackson Street space have yet to be determined.

"Bringing additional clinicians and services to the Ascension Mercy Campus provides an improved patient experience and operational efficiencies," said Ascension Mercy president Shane Carter. "Centralizing care also gives us the opportunity to expand and provide additional services as we reimagine the use of our Jackson Street space to better meet the evolving needs of our community."

Internal medicine physician Dr. Lars V. Swanson said, "I'm excited to see my patients on the Mercy campus. This location will optimize patient care and make it more convenient for patients to access additional services."

All changes will be finalized by the end of the year and impacted patients have been notified. To find an Ascension physician visit ascension.org/Wisconsin.

City acquires 5-acre lot for future housing options

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Common Council approved the purchase of a 5.5-acre lot with preliminary plans to divide it into 22 residential lots to build workforce housing.

Workforce housing is not low-income or affordable housing, but defined as 80% to 120% of the area median income (AMI). The AMI is based off county data – which for Winnebago County is a median of \$94,600 – meaning a household with a total income between \$75,600 and \$113,500.

At the Plan Commission meeting earlier this month, city staff explained that these houses would cost between \$250,000 and \$300,000.

Many area residents spoke in opposition to the planned development at the Dec. 3 commission meeting, voicing concerns about the proposed lot sizes being smaller than neighboring existing lots and believing they would lessen the value of their homes. Some people were also concerned about adding more traffic to Christian Drive.

Council member DJ Nichols, who sits

on the Plan Commission, said he would have similar concerns if he lived in the neighborhood.

"There's a lot of work to be done," Nichols said.

The city does not have a developer lined up for the project, but there will be several future approvals by the Plan Commission and council before any construction, including platting the land into individual parcels.

Council member Jacob Floam spoke of the importance of building single-family homes in the city and noted that fewer than 20 single-family homes were built in Oshkosh last year.

"In the city of Oshkosh we built very, very few single-family homes in 2023," Floam said. "That should keep everybody up here (up) at night – that we are not building single-family homes."

The proposed housing would be just south of a similar development on Farmington Avenue where the road is being extended to build more houses on the north side of Oshkosh.

City documents state the city will pay \$154,000 for the 5.5-acre parcel.

Wellness fair will emphasize heart health

Oshkosh Herald

Three area support organizations are coming together to host a community health event Jan. 25 at Father Carr's Place 2B to promote holistic health and overall well-being.

Whole-Hearted Wellness Fair will emphasize heart health through participating health professionals, vendors and wellness

enthusiasts in the free event presented by Be Well Fox Valley, St. Francis Free Clinic and Father Carr's from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be cardio dance classes, chair yoga, health cooking classes, blood pressure checks, and food, drinks and live music.

To sign up for the fair or for more information, call 920-231-2378.





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Solar field project in Vinland to begin by summer

30-acre location set to power We customers

By Bethanie Gengler
OSHKOSH HERALD

Clean energy is coming to the town of Vinland with construction set to begin this spring on a 30-acre solar field.

The Town Board approved a conditional use permit earlier this month for OneEnergy Renewables to construct the solar field after the project was initially delayed for more than a month due to runoff concerns.

The location is 850 feet back from County GG, with a junkyard to the west and neighbors to the south with a 40-acre field in-between.

The 6-megawatt, ground-mounted solar electric generating facility will be on a portion of a 47-acre parcel of which the property owner will lease 30 acres for solar and use the remaining 17 for farming. The size of the project is equivalent to about 23 football fields.

OneEnergy is a solar development company that's constructed 40 similar facilities throughout the state. The company either sells the project to a utility or sells the power generated to utilities through long term purchase agreements.

Eric Udelhofen with OneEnergy said the company prefers solar fields rather than installing solar panels on rooftops of buildings because the cost of energy from a large-scale ground mounted system is about half the cost of energy from a roof-mounted system.

"What we're trying to do with these larger fields is produce at wholesale rates where we can produce enough power at a cost that's competitive under wholesale generation," he said.

The facility in Vinland will tie into the existing distribution system and serve local customers of We Energies, producing 12,000,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity per year; enough to power 1,400 households annually.

At an October Plan Commission meeting, resident Jerry Kleinschmit raised concerns

that runoff from the solar panels would drain onto his field and damage crops.

Additional concerns from neighbors were the visual appeal of the solar panels, with a resident recommending a tree line be added around the site to cover the "eyesore" for neighbors.

Among the conditions that the Plan Commission added to OneEnergy's application were that the company work with neighboring landowners to complete a water runoff plan and plant a row of trees around the property.

The site will combine solar electric generation with a vegetation maintenance plan, with OneEnergy planning to plant the parcel with a pasture or pollinator mix. At the Dec. 2 meeting, Udelhofen noted that the plantings will reduce 49% of water runoff.

OneEnergy agreed to install a water basin in the southwest side of the parcel to slow down water drainage and hold 74,000 gallons of water that won't drain onto Kleinschmit's field.

Kleinschmit continued arguing against

the project at the meeting, stating he wants a berm rather than a basin and he has concerns of how rainfall will run off the panels.

Commissioner Corey Maertz noted that the existing area has water drainage issues already so the solar project is not the problem as it was existent prior. Separately, the commission voted to have an independent study done to investigate the current drainage issue in the westerly property.

OneEnergy also updated the site plan to add 8- to 10-foot-tall shrubs that will be planted around the site. Shrubs were chosen rather than trees because as trees grow they begin to shade the solar panels. The solar field will also have an 8-foot-tall deer fence around it.

At last Monday's town board meeting, Kleinschmit was not in attendance.

Town Chairman Don O'Connell noted the solar field will generate additional tax revenue because it will be taxed at a higher rate due to the parcel's change of use from agriculture to commercial.

Work on the solar field is expected to begin by June and take four to six months.

Scholarship fund started for professional women

Oshkosh Professional Women's Connection has established a scholarship fund for women working or living in the Oshkosh area designed to help them gain a professional advantage or achieve personal development through higher education, certification, licensing, training or wellness.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a female applicant pursuing a

professional or personal development or educational pursuit. The award will be between \$300 and \$500 annually based on fund availability, needs and interest.

Letter of recommendation should be submitted either at oshkoshpwc@gmail.com or mail to Professional Women's Connection, 203 Otter Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54901. All application materials must be received by Jan. 31.



Submitted photo

Dave Elbing and Tracy Ogden (center) were presented with statewide awards at the recent annual BGCA conference in Madison.

Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh leaders garner state awards

Oshkosh Herald

Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh lifetime board member Dave Elbing has been inducted into the Boys & Girls Clubs of Wisconsin Hall of Fame, and its chief executive Tracy Ogden was named CEO of the Year at the annual BGCA - Wisconsin Area Council & Directors Conference in Madison.

Elbing's induction reflects his 36 years of service as a board member and past president (1995-1996). He was instrumental in restructuring the board to increase efficiency and has volunteered at fundraising events, delivered Thanksgiving meals, and supported facility improvements, from gardening to managing office remodels.

Under Ogden's 15-year tenure, the club has expanded its facilities and created the Hyde Family Community Center, significantly increasing its capacity to serve youth and families. The club now welcomes an additional 150 youth daily (450 total), providing access to programs focused on academic success, healthy lifestyles and character development.

Her vision for the Hyde Family Community Center has fostered collaboration among more than 20 local organizations, creating a one-stop hub for essential services like mental health support, education and workforce development. Ogden also works with other community boards and organizations on resource development, leadership and campaigns.

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Park Plaza architect brought large-scale vision to city

By Shirley Brabender Mattox
LANDMARKS COMMISSION

“Dreamer of the Park Plaza dream ... and major force behind its embodiment” describes Ted Leyhe, vice president and secretary of the Miles Kimball Co., whose president was Alberta S. Kimball.



They worked on a plan to build the “first urban downtown enclosed mall in the country,” according to Kimball’s obituary, creating a place of beauty downtown where there was blight and decay, rather than on the outskirts of the city. It would provide a shopping complex accessible to pedestrians and those who depend on public transit as well as shoppers with cars.

Nationally known architect Welton Becket, head of one of the largest architectural firms in the United States based in Los Angeles, was chosen to design this vision. Park Plaza would be like no other mall at that time. In fact, this was the largest construction project Oshkosh had ever known, covering a 16-acre site. Prior to the project, 22 buildings were removed.

Welton David Becket, born in Seattle in 1902, was introduced to architecture through his father, a builder, who he accompanied to construction sites as a boy. Becket graduated from the architecture program at the University of Washington but Getty Research Institute files noted “there was a significant potential diversion. Becket was a popular athlete – a quarterback – and in 1927, as well as receiving his (degree in architecture) he was offered a contract to play football with the



Photo by Diane Perron Nelson

Park Plaza Mall with its Center Court is shown in this undated photo. The Grey Fox Restaurant entrance is on the left.

Green Bay Packers.”

In the end, he listened to his mother’s advice and chose architecture.

Becket’s belief was that “a building should reflect the client, not the architect.” For him, good design came from functionalism and truly understanding and serving the needs of the client, within their allotted budget. For most of his career, he worked within a modern style, somewhere between Streamline Moderne, Late Moderne or International Style.

Becket developed the concept of “total design” whereby the architect would be responsible for master planning, engineering, interiors, furniture, fixtures, landscaping, signage and even – in the case of restaurants – menus, silverware, matchbooks and napkins as capsulized in “Total Design: Architecture of Welton Becket and Associates,” William Dudley Hunt Jr., McGraw-Hill 1972.

The distinctive wood seating benches, designed by Becket and constructed in Oshkosh by Discher Brothers, could be arranged in many configurations. The highly polished parquet floors of ironwood, a variation of teak, are extremely durable and resistant to decay. They con-

trast with the soft-colored textured concrete columns and brushed concrete wall panels, created on-site.

Natural light shines along the concourses through multi-angled skylights. Although the eight fountains are no longer visible, the outlines of the pools remain. The designer tried to relate the entire project to the river with docking facilities and the large steps that transition from the water to the patio to the building opening to the center court and the restaurant.

The 10,000-square-foot Center Court rises 80 feet with banks of window walls lighting the interior of this tower. It was envisioned for year-round community activities, concerts, auto, boat and sports shows, flower and garden shows, and school and club events. Dominating the court is the 35-foot kinetic sculpture suspended from the ceiling designed by sculptor Aristides Demetrios.

The Dreamer Ted Leyhe and architect Welton Becket may be watching to see whether Park Plaza will take the opportunity to become the center of city activity once again, serve the community and bring new life to the riverfront.



Photo by Shirley Brabender Mattox

Skylights provided natural sunlight to play on the water fountains and light the concourse as part of the original Park Plaza design. The fountains have since been removed at the current City Center but the base remains.



Photo from the book “Total Design”

Welton Becket stands in front of Dorothy Chandler Pavillion in this 1964 photo.

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Foster families desperately needed in Fox Valley

Oshkosh Herald

Children's Wisconsin is putting out the call for foster families who are in high demand around the state to provide treatment-level foster care to children.

With locations in Neenah and Milwaukee, Children's Wisconsin is recognized as one of the leading pediatric health care centers in the United States and is a member of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Treatment foster care is home-based care for children and adolescents with moderate to high emotional, behavioral, physical or medical needs.

At any given time, as many as 7,000

young people need temporary foster care in Wisconsin. In the Fox Valley, families licensed in treatment foster care have declined nearly 50% in the last three years. There are about 700 youth in Wisconsin requiring treatment level foster care every year.

"We are facing a dire need for treatment-level foster families," said Maria McDermott, director of Out of Home Care for Children's Wisconsin. "We have seen our applications decline, which in turn means less people are being licensed. Foster care can be such a rewarding experience for families willing to answer the call and helps to ensure that each child placed in care can grow

and develop to their fullest potential."

Erin Randall Clark and Brad Clark of Oshkosh became licensed treatment foster care parents in 2020. As parents of five biological children, three of whom have medical needs, they felt they could help kids and families who need temporary care. They inquired about treatment level foster care and completed their level 3 license with the help of a foster care team.

Licensed families are provided with additional support and training as well as more frequent check-in visits to make sure the needs of the children and families are being met. The goal is to provide a temporary home so that eventually

kids can reunify with a biological family member, with about 60% of the children able to return with family members.

Some requirements to become a treatment foster parent are that they are at least 21, can be a renter or homeowner with a minimum of two bedrooms, must be able to financially support oneself with monthly income exceeding monthly expenses and in generally good health with any health conditions controlled with treatment.

For more information, visit childrenswi.org. Children's Wisconsin offers Zoom or phone information sessions and members of the foster care team are available for phone inquiries.

The Grand

FROM PAGE 1

Owned by the city and operated by its board of directors, The Grand will need to secure \$5 million before the city solicits bids for the project.

"This is the perfect example of a public-private partnership," said Joe Stephenson, who is the council liaison for The Grand. "The community is going to be given a really outstanding performing arts center. It's going to be an amazing venue in the heart of our downtown."

Grand Oshkosh CEO and president Joe Ferlo came to the council last year with a total project goal of \$6 million. He said part of the project will be updating and renovating bathrooms in the building as well as the dressing rooms for the performers as these spaces have not been changed since 1986.

Other updates include improvements to accessibility to improve wheelchair access to the theater. The city will be funding its portion of the \$5 million from the city's room tax, Rohloff said.

Mayor Matt Mugerauer said he was excited to see the space get updated and what it will do for downtown.

"It's an exciting time for The Grand and for the arts community here in Oshkosh," he said.

To show city support of the facility, the council approved extending The Grand's current lease to 2045. Mugerauer said extending the lease proves to artists and the community that its partnership is strong and will be here for a long time.

"It's an exciting and transformative project, and I think we are all looking forward to the next steps in developing it," Ferlo told the Herald after the meeting.

The MOU and extended lease passed with no opposing votes.



From city of Oshkosh

Renderings of the Grand Oshkosh looking east on High Avenue. The capital project is estimated to cost \$10 million with The Grand and city splitting the costs.

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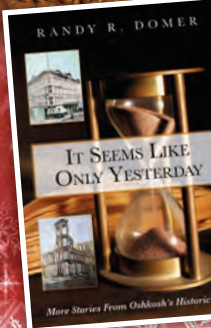
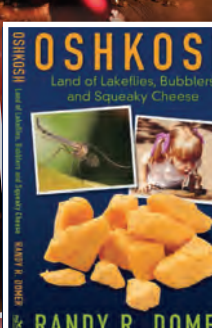


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2.49 5 lb Bag Idaho Russets or Yukon Gold Potatoes

3/10 8 oz Raspberries, Blackberries or Blueberries

2.49 1 lb Old World Creamery Butter

2.99 12 oz General Mills Family Size Cereal

3.99 12 oz Brew Pub Lotza Hotza Pizza

89¢ 15.25 oz Green Giant Eamed Vegetables

9.99 12 oz Folgers Coffee

2/16 Keebler Club Town House Crackers

4/15 14.5 oz Campbell's Condensed Soup or Food Club Broth

3.99 10 oz Ore-Ida Potatoes

2/14 16 oz Prego Pasta Sauce

2/14 16 oz Food Club Sour Cream

2/17 12 oz Simply Orange Juice

2/13 16 oz Food Club Cream Cheese

2/14 14.5 oz Stove Top Stuffing or 12 oz Heinz Gravy

2/14 14.5 oz Del Monte Fruit or Cream Spray Cranberry Sauce

19.49 12.4 oz Miller Lite, M6B or Miller 64 Extra Light

2/\$5 Keebler Club Town House Crackers

\$2.49 Gold Medal Flour

\$2.99 Dairy's Ice Cream

\$2.99 Welch's Sparkling Juice

\$7.99 750 ml Baringer Wine

OSHKOSH HERALD

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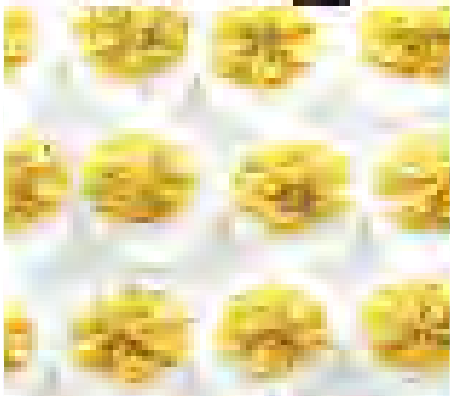
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3.99 per 12 pack Delicious Apples	3.99 per 12 pack Sweet Small Mixed Berries	2/\$3 Baby Potatoes
3.99 per 12 pack Sliced Salmon	3.99 per bottle Horseradish or Parsley Salad Dressing	3.99 per 12 pack Baby Potatoes

fresh floral

5.99 each Small Potted Plant	9.99 each Lilac White/White Potted Plant	10.99 each Joyful Bouquet	21.99 each Lush Bouquet	28.99 each Christmas Cheer Bouquet
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beverage center

3/\$17 per 12 pack Popcorn	3/\$14 per 12 pack Coke, Sprite or Diet Coke	3/\$13 per 12 pack 7UP, Diet 7UP or Diet 7UP	2/\$14 per 12 pack Doritos
2/\$4 per 6 pack Coke, Sprite or Diet Coke	99¢ per bottle Fruit Punch	4/\$5 per 6 pack 7UP, Diet 7UP or Diet 7UP	2/\$9 per 12 pack Lalor's Soda
2/\$5 per 12 pack Mountain Dew	2.89 per bottle Soda Syrup	7.99 per 12 pack Soda Syrup	3.79 per bottle Soda Syrup

health, home & pet

1.79 per box Supply One Facial Tissue	2.99 per box Supply One Facial Tissue	2/\$6 per 12 pack Supply One Facial Tissue	12.00 - 3.00 9.00
5.49 per box Supply One Paper Towel	99¢ per box Supply One Paper Towel	3.99 per box Supply One Paper Towel	5.79 per box Supply One Paper Towel
2/\$5 per 12 pack Supply One Paper Towel	7.99 per box Supply One Paper Towel	4.99 per box Supply One Paper Towel	12.99 per box Supply One Paper Towel
10.99 per box Supply One Paper Towel	18.99 per box Supply One Paper Towel	29.99 per box Supply One Paper Towel	3.99 per box Supply One Paper Towel

dairy & frozen

2/15 18-oz Simply Protein	2.29 1-oz Food Club 50 and Over	15.99 12-oz Grand Pops Party Size Treat	2/11 12-oz Cousins 2/11
3.49 16-oz International Delight Creamer	3.99 18-oz Eggs	1.99 16-oz Flowers of Fearns Vegetable	6.99 12-oz Flowers of Fearns Club Foot Pizza
2.99 16-oz Food Club Half & Half or Heavy Whipping Cream	2.69 6-oz Food Club Smoothie 6-oz or 8-oz	2.99 16-oz Bungee Jack or Ferretal Powder	2/15 12-oz Follett or Campfire Garlic Bread or Tostitos Toast
2/17 16-oz Pillsbury Pie Crust or Cookie Dough	2.99 16-oz Whysnaps Cheese Spread	2/19 16-oz Whysnaps for Cream or Ice Cream	2.69 16-oz Marie Callender's Host or Fruit Pie Pie
2.99 16-oz Food Club Cottage Cheese	2.99 16-oz Soylent	4.29 16-oz Orbit for Kids	2/13 16-oz Cedar Crest Sherbet
3.49 16-oz Eggspal Butter	1.49 16-oz Imperial Quakers	1.79 16-oz Old Orchard Frozen Juice Concentrate	1.99 16-oz Food Club Vegetable in Sauce

grocery essentials

6.99 16-oz Carni Mountain or McCaff Coffee	3.59 16-oz Antibiotic Mouthwash	3.79 16-oz Country Health Drink	3.69 16-oz The Great Escape or English Heritage
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2.99 16-oz Bosch Detergent or Softener	8.99 16-oz Tide or Softener	2/15 16-oz Pill Pack or 1-oz Pills	2/13 16-oz 1-oz Pills
3/15 16-oz Hunt's Tomato or Sauce	2/16 16-oz Hunt's Mac & Cheese or Alfredo Sauce or 8-oz or 16-oz	3/15 16-oz Children of the Sea Fish Solenoid or 16-oz or 32-oz	2/13 16-oz Bayer Pain Relief or 16-oz or 32-oz
2/15 16-oz Hunt's or 16-oz or 32-oz	3/13 16-oz Santitas Beans	2.49 16-oz Bick's Beans or 16-oz or 32-oz	1.99 16-oz Café de Olla or 16-oz or 32-oz
2/15 16-oz Old Dutch Teriyaki Sauce	4.49 16-oz Hunt's Candy Bars	7.99 16-oz Tostitos or 16-oz or 32-oz	BUY 2 GET 1 FREE 16-oz Buy 2 Get 1 Free
2.29 16-oz Tostitos or 16-oz or 32-oz	3.59 16-oz From the Ground Up Oatmeal	2.99 16-oz Hunt's Pickles	2/14 16-oz Fruit or 16-oz or 32-oz
2/13 16-oz Food Club or 16-oz or 32-oz	2.99 16-oz Pill Pack or 1-oz Pills	2/13 16-oz Deli Flange or 16-oz or 32-oz	digital coupon 16-oz Digital Coupon

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Cocoa Light
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Lemon-Lime
14.49
1/2 lb. Blueberry
Mint
17.49
1/2 lb. Blueberry
Lemon-Lime
15.69
1/2 lb. Blueberry
Cinnamon
16.29
1/2 lb. Blueberry
Lemon-Lime
15.69
1/2 lb. Blueberry
Cinnamon

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4.99 Boneless Butterflied Ground Turkey

6.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

2.79 Family Pack Spicy Chicken Breast

7.49 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

4.49 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

1.29 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

7.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

4.79 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

3.99 Breakfast Sausage

5.49 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

2.29 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

9.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

3.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

4.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

2.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

4.29 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

4.49 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

9.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

8.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

4.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

2.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

4.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

5.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

meat & seafood

5.99/lb Family Pack Ham

7.99/lb Family Pack Chicken Breast

2.49 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

6.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

3.49 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

1.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

3.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

3.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

5.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

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6.99 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

3.49 1/2 lb. Pork Loin Roast

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meat & seafood

19.49 1/2 lb. Blueberry Cinnamon or Cocoa Light

12.79 1/2 lb. Blueberry Lemon-Lime

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Calendar of events

Ongoing

Oshkosh Celebration of Lights, EAA AirVenture grounds, through Dec. 31
 Nutcracker in the Castle, Paine Art Center & Gardens, through Jan. 6

Friday, Dec. 20

Valley Academy for the Arts: "The Nutcracker," 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh "Krampus," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Saturday, Dec. 21

Oshkosh Farmers Market Holiday Bazaar, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center
 Harpist Pamela Pamperin, 1 p.m., Morgan House, 234 Church Ave.
 Valley Academy for the Arts: "The Nutcracker," 2 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh "A Christmas Story," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.
 Ruby's Pop-up Pantry, 9:30 a.m., 491 Old Oregon Road

Sunday, Dec. 22

Benefit concert for Oshkosh schools: Ian Rucker and Bridget Duffy-Ulrich, 2 p.m., First Congregational Church, 137 Algoma Blvd.

Friday, Dec. 27

Hot Cocoa Bar, 6 p.m., Morgan House, 234 Church Ave.
 Valley Academy for the Arts: "The Nutcracker," 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh The Reverend Raven & Chain Smoking Altar Boys, Westside Andy, 8 p.m., Becket's, 2 Jackson St.

Saturday, Dec. 28

Oshkosh Farmers Market, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center
 Valley Academy for the Arts: "The Nutcracker," 2 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh Ask Your Mother, 7 p.m., Pickles & Bags, 2211 Oregon St.

Sunday, Dec. 29

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

Tuesday, Dec. 31

Bad Habitz, 8 p.m., Revs Bowl Bar & Grill, 275 N. Washburn St.

Wednesday, Jan. 1

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



Photo by Michael Cooney

Ice fishing draws crowd

Last weekend's Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo at the EAA AirVenture grounds featured 124 vendors and drew an estimated 12,000 attendees. It was the second year in a row that Bast Durban Advertising in Kewaskum presented the event, which also puts on the long-running Wisconsin Fishing Expo in Madison. Expo coordinator Don Kirby said there has been a bigger focus on safety, including about 10 vendors showcasing various model ice fishing float suits. "These suits not only keep you dry and warm, but they also help keep you afloat in case of an accident, like falling through the ice," Kirby said. "That kind of lifesaving outerwear wasn't even a consideration years ago."

Chamber Singers to present holiday concert

Oshkosh Herald

"A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols," an Oshkosh tradition for more than 30 years, will be presented by the Oshkosh Chamber Singers at 2 and 5 p.m. Saturday performances at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Accompanied by pipe organ and brass ensemble, the Chamber Singers will join with members of the community in song and Scripture readings celebrating the Advent and Christmas story. Musical selections will include traditional carols and works by classical and contemporary composers, including selections by Dan Forrest, John Rutter and Randall Thompson; along with "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming," by Michael Praetorius, "Sleep

Softly Now," by Ian Assersohn, and "His Light in Us," by Kim Andre Arnesen.

Herb Berendsen is the chamber's music director and Jared Stellmacher the organist. A brass quintet will feature Marty Robinson, trumpet; Mchael Henckel, trumpet; Bruce Atwell, horn; David Dunning, trombone; and Devin Otto, tuba.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students, and available from singers, at Heid Music, 1750 W. S. Park Ave.; Gardina's, 448 N. Main St.; or at the door.

A "Hope for Unity" spring concert will be presented March 29 at First Congregational Church. More information is at oshkoshchambersingers.org.

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Referendum

FROM PAGE 1

fall. Now the referendum could be closer to \$198.6 million as officials have decided to install air conditioning at three elementary schools and build a new middle school where South Park Middle School sits. The district had plans for both building a new middle school and renovating South Park, where some portions of the school are more than 100 years old.

If the board does not approve the referendum, the district believes costs will rise from \$198.6 million to a possible \$240 million in 2029.

“This is decades and decades of us pushing off facility needs,” board member Chris Wright said.

Scope of referendum

- Build new middle school at South Park site
- Close and convert Shapiro STEM Academy into pre-kindergarten center.
- Build North auditorium.
- Close/seek to sell downtown Recreation Center building.
- Repurpose Perry Tipler for alternative school sites and Recreation Department offices. *(Corrected from print issue)*
- Close/seek to sell Roosevelt Elementary.
- Expand Franklin, Carl Traeger and Oakwood elementary schools to accommodate 600 students.
- Install air conditioning at Emmiline Cook, Lakeside and Read elementary schools.

Based on the community response, the district is now set to build a brand-new middle school on the site of South Park instead of renovating the building. Initially the district estimated a renovation or new school would be between \$82 million and \$90 million.

The district has purchased several homes in the area to allow for the school’s footprint to expand. The Herald reported over the summer that the district purchased a home at 725 W. South Park Ave. for \$230,000. It was the sixth property the district acquired in the area since 2021 and spent between \$160,000 and \$250,000 for the properties totaling just over \$1.035 million.

The referendum will also fund air conditioning at three elementary schools that currently operate without them. Assistant superintendent of operations Julie Conrad-Peters said during community presentations there were lots of questions about how updating facilities and building new schools was going to help with learning in the classroom.

“The families are telling us that it does affect (them),” Conrad-Peters said she has heard from those who go to one of the elementary schools that does not have air conditioning. “It does impact learning. These learning spaces do matter by having those cooling and controlled environments.”

The revised costs of the referendum include renovations and expansions at elementary schools on the west side of Oshkosh, including Carl Traeger, Franklin and Oakwood. The renovations and expansions will accommodate 600 students per school.

The three elementary schools currently have between 307 and 423 students but will need the space as the facilities plan calls for closing Roosevelt Elementary.

Cost of referendum

- Build new middle school at South Park site: \$88.3 million
- Renovate and expand Oakwood Elementary School: \$35.7 million
- Renovate and expand Franklin Elementary School: \$31.1 million
- Build new Oshkosh North High School auditorium: \$22.1 million
- Renovate Shapiro STEM Academy into a pre-K center: \$10.2 million *(Corrected from print issue)*
- Install air conditioning at elementary schools: \$5.8 million
- Renovate and expand Carl Traeger Elementary School: \$5.4 million
- Total referendum project costs: \$198.6 million**

The district has reported that due to paying off the debt from the 2020 referendum there will be no increase to district taxpayers. The board recently approved lowering the tax levy by 5% to help taxpayers as inflation continues to affect grocery prices and other costs.

Board member Molly Smiltneek said the plan was fiscally responsible and that it’s important to have smart budgeting throughout the process to make this referendum possible without raising taxes.

Davis said the district was asking the board to define the scope of the project and then a question would be developed after that scope is defined. Board president Beth Wyman said she wanted to hear from every board member before moving forward.

All board members spoke in favor of either the referendum or allowing voters to decide if a referendum is best for the district.

Board member Stephanie Carlin was glad to see the recreation department building would be closing due to mobility issues there and that the additions to Franklin were needed.

The board approved a long-range facilities plan in 2020 after a 2017 facilities analysis called for more than \$100 million in updates, but Barbara Herzog noted that plan didn’t deal with student learning areas.

“Our main focus is student learning. I think you’ve addressed ways we can improve student learning in these buildings – the way students learn, the changing demographics,” she said.

Herzog said the new auditorium at

North High will be a great benefit to the school and students as it will allow more stage space for different performances.

“I think it’s a defining moment in our community,” Wright said.

He said that when his daughter started school at Oakwood the library was partitioned by temporary walls as classrooms and that is still the case.

“That’s still the walls there today. Not by any means a modern school or probably one of the greatest learning spaces,” Wright said.

Smiltneek reiterated what she said during the last facilities conversation, that there needs to be a focus on learning spaces.

Board member Tim Hess had different thoughts on the referendum and asked if the new buildings needed to be “extravagant” like the new Vel Phillips Middle School and Menominee Elementary School.

“It feels like Vel Phillips and Menominee might have been a little too nice,” Hess said. “Is there a way to cut things back?”

He said he wasn’t in favor of the referendum but did believe it’s best to let voters decide on updating these facilities.

“I would be very proud as a board member to bring this to the community as a referendum to vote on,” Wyman said. “Tim’s right – ultimately it is our community that would decide on this, but I would be very proud to be part of the board that brings it to our community.”

If the question is approved by the board in January, the \$198.6 million referendum will be on the April 1 ballot.

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Freshman helps spark Wildcats to win over Spartans

By Joe Matzek
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Kamryn Stauffacher and the rest of the Oshkosh West girls' basketball team found that struggling in pregame warmups or the first several minutes of the game doesn't always predict how the rest of the contest will shake out.

Stauffacher, a freshman, sank five three-pointers and scored 23 points to lead Oshkosh West past Oshkosh North 71-64 in a fast-paced contest Dec. 13 at North.

In the process, the Wildcats won back-to-back games after opening the season with three losses, while North's skid reached three games after it started 3-0.

Stauffacher provided a spark off the bench in the first half to help West break open a close game, hitting four three-pointers and adding a three-point play for a 15-point half as the Wildcats led 34-23 at the break.

The 23-point outburst was a breakout game for Stauffacher, who scored 11 points over the Wildcats' first four games and didn't make a three-point shot in five attempts.

She felt that continued in pregame warmups, but she was confident things would change.

"In warmups, my confidence was very high," Stauffacher said. "I was missing a lot of shots, so I was hoping that they would go (during) the game, and they did. I just kept shooting."

West mixed the good with the bad in the opening half, making 7-of-12 three-point attempts but committing 11 turnovers, which coach Kenisha Goss attributed to her young team's nerves and adjusting to



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Oshkosh West's Kamryn Stauffacher drives to the basket past a pair of Oshkosh North defenders on Friday night.

the pace of the game.

After halftime, the Wildcats made only eight baskets but worked the ball inside to draw fouls and made 19-of-30 free throws.

"We saw mismatches," Goss said of the change in attack. "As long as Awut's not guarding them, we have three bigs that can go in and post in our starting lineup, so we were just looking for those mismatches and getting some easy buckets at the rim and drawing some of those fouls and not settling for some of those threes."

West had to account for North's versatile Awut Alic on both ends of the floor. The 6-foot sophomore scored 16 of the Spartans' 23 points before halftime, both from long range and inside while West guarded her with a variety of defenders – and eventually double- and triple-teams once she drove toward the lane.

While Alic scored 13 more points in the second half, she also passed to teammates who could score, and they responded with seven three-pointers. The main recipient

was junior Brinna Paulson, who scored all of her 16 points after halftime to help North mount a comeback. Paulson's two free throws cut West's lead to 63-62 late in the game.

"We had to come together because we were going apart," Alic said. "We had to stick together. We needed to rebound and we had to play better defense because we weren't going to let them get an easy win. I think we kept our composure and kept fighting."

But West made 6-of-8 free throws down the stretch to clinch the victory.

"We've been working on keeping our composure and one of our coaches gave us a journal where we wrote positive affirmations, so I think that helped us with our confidence," said Stauffacher, who scored five of West's last seven points.

Senior Maddie Rasmussen added 15 points for West.

For the Spartans, the game continued two habits they've been trying to break.

"We've been a little streaky the last couple of games," coach Rick Leib said. "We came into the season knowing two things we needed to do. We needed to defend the ball and we needed to block out. The first three games, we did that. We defended the ball and we blocked out, and the last three games we caught this bug of getting caught flat-footed. But it's all stuff that we can correct and I love how we battled back."

While the Wildcats were successful grabbing offensive rebounds, Leib is hoping the Spartans can follow suit.

"When we miss a shot, we've got to find it and get it," Leib said. "I think that was a big piece, especially in that second half, was a bunch of one-shot opportunities."

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Knights boys, girls collect wins over Warriors

Oshkosh Herald

Braden Studinski fueled a strong start and the Lourdes Academy boys basketball team never trailed in a 65-37 win over Valley Christian in a Trailways East contest on Friday night.

Studinski scored the first seven points for the Knights en route to posting a career-high 26 points in the game. He scored on three straight drives to the basket, including an acrobatic reverse lay-in for a three-point play as the Knights jumped out to a 7-2 advantage.

Studinski then ignited an 11-0 run to help the Knights break the game open. The senior started the outburst with a driving lay-up and also hit a 3-pointer, while Parker Slusarski and Harlan Kuehn also drained 3-pointers as the Knights

turned a four-point advantage into a 21-6 lead with 11 minutes to play in the opening half.

Studinski scored five points and Conner Hamill added a 3-pointer in an 8-0 run that stretched the Knights' lead to 35-11 with about four minutes to play in the half. Slusarski hit his second 3-pointer of the half and Brady Ridenour added a basket to help the Knights finish the half with a 7-2 surge to take a 42-18 lead.

The Warriors had their best stretch of the game to open the second half, putting together a 9-3 run started by a Brady Patterson 3-pointer from the corner. Isaiah Hyvonen, Mathias Behling and Kaleb Richardson also scored in the burst that got Valley Christian as close as 18 points.

SEE **Trailways hoops** ON PAGE 21



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Lourdes Academy's Braden Studinski goes up for two of his game-high 26 points against Valley Christian on Friday night.

Fox Valley Trap Club set to open winter league

Fox Valley Trap Club announces that two-man Monday night winter league starts at 5 p.m. Jan. 6 for 10 weeks. No membership is required.

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Trailways hoops

FROM PAGE 20

Hamill's second 3-pointer of the game halted the Warriors surge and sparked a 10-2 run for the Knights that all but sealed the win.

Kuehn added 13 points and 10 rebounds in the win for the Knights, while Hamill and Slusarski finished with 10 and eight points, respectively.

Patterson finished with 10 points to lead the Warriors, while Behling had seven and Richardson finished with six.

Bauer leads balanced Knights

Hailee Bauer scored 17 of her game-high 22 points in the first half to help Lourdes Academy build a 42-22 lead as the Knights knocked off Valley Christian 74-39 in the first game of last Friday's doubleheader.

Bauer hit three 3-pointers in the opening half as the Knights built the 20-point halftime advantage and never looked back.

Delaney Ruedinger added 17 points and Sabur Machiros finished with 14 for the Knights, who improved to 5-1 on the season.

Paige Boevers led the Warriors with 13 points with Lizzie Fink chipping in 11.



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Lourdes Academy's Hannah McDowell (34) makes a move on Valley Christian's Lizzie Fink during Friday night's Trailways East girls game.

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Prep sports roundup

SWIMMING

Wildcats dominate dual meet with Spartans

Oshkosh West won 10 of the 12 events and grabbed the top three places in four different events in topping Oshkosh North/Lourdes Academy 127-50 last week.

Caleb Bergin and Carter Crowe each won two events for the Wildcats with Bergin posting wins in the 200-yard individual medley and 100-yard butterfly, while Crowe posted his wins in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard breaststroke.

West dominated the freestyle events in the meet sweeping the top three places in the 100-yard, 200-yard and 500-yard events.

In the 100-yard freestyle, Logan Auxier finished first followed by Evan Parfitt and Kevin Bal, while Parfitt, Archie Mugerauer and Bal went 1-2-3 respectively in the 200-yard freestyle. In the 500-yard freestyle it was Trent Krueger earning the win with Logan Valdez in second and Gabe Balcom in third.

Oshkosh West also swept the top three places in the 200-yard freestyle relay, while taking first and second in the 400-yard freestyle relay and earning a win in the 200-yard medley relay.

Alex Fanshaw in the 100-yard butterfly and Sam Roblee in the 100-yard backstroke each picked up second places for West.

North/Lourdes swept the top three places in the diving competition as River Reeves claimed the top spot by nearly 150 points over the rest of the field. Everix Bl-essent was second and Shepherd Johnson took third.

Trip Kujawa also picked up a win for North/Lourdes, placing first in the 100-yard backstroke while adding a second place in the 50-yard freestyle. Sawyer Sharratt added a pair of second places for North/Lourdes in the 200-yard individual medley and 100-yard breaststroke.

Oshkosh West posts one win at Terror Relays

The Wildcats' foursome of George Suwalski, Logan Auxier, Carter Crowe and Caleb Bergin teamed up to win the 500-meter freestyle crescendo relay to lead the way at the Terror Relays on Saturday.

The Wildcats added second places in the 100-meter freestyle relay and 400-meter medley relay on the day. Reid Potter, Logan Auxier, Trent Krueger and Josiah Rygh teamed up in the 100-meter freestyle relay, while the foursome of Sam Roblee, Crowe, Bergin and Suwalski were second in the 400-meter medley relay.

West was also fourth in the 400-meter freestyle relay and fifth in the 200-meter medley relay.

The Wildcats finished fifth among the

six teams at the meet, just four points behind Shawano/Seymour.

WRESTLING

Oshkosh West rolls to pair of dual meet wins

The Wildcats had no trouble dispatching a pair of Fox Valley Association opponents in triangular meet last week, topping Fond du Lac 74-4, while collecting a 60-24 win over Appleton East.

Earning pins for West against Fond du Lac were Xavier Yang (113), Arjen Karns (120), Preston Schneider (126), Eddy Schroeder (144), Jaxen Lloyd (150), Will Dailey (157) and Zach Bartels (190).

Ryland Schneider won by technical fall in the 175-pound match, while Connor Wisneski also picked up a contested win at 215 pounds.

Against Appleton East, Vang (113), Preston Schneider (126), Liam Sullivan (138), Schroeder (144), Lloyd (150), Ryland Schneider (175) and Nelson Fournier (285) all won by pin for the Wildcats.

Oshkosh North drops pair of FVA dual meets

The Spartans came up short in a pair of conference dual meets last week, falling to Kimberly 60-17 and to Neenah, 76-0.

Oshkosh North got pins from Jamond

Thompson-Schreck (165) and Andrew Brockman (175) against the Papermakers, while Anthony Berger (138) added a victory by technical fall.

Schneider picks up title at Battle on the Bay

Oshkosh West's Ryland Schneider went 4-0 with three pins to claim the 175-pound title to lead the Wildcats at the Battle of the Bay hosted by Bay Port High School on Saturday.

Schneider posted two pins in just over a minute and then beat Slinger's Elijah Terrell 10-5 in the title match.

Eddy Schroeder (150) and Nelson Fournier (285) added second-place finishes on the day for West. Schroeder finished 3-1 with a pair of pins, while Fournier also notched two pins in going 3-1.

Jaiden Fronczak finished 3-2 to take sixth at 165 pounds, while Connor Wisneski was eighth at 215 pounds and Jaxen Lloyd (144) and Zach Bartels (190) each placed ninth.

The Wildcats finished seventh among the 32-team field.

Thompson-Schreck unbeaten at dual tourney

Oshkosh North's Jamond Thompson-Schreck went a perfect 5-0 to high-

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 23

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Legal Notices

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, WINNEBAGO COUNTY

Case No. 24CV940, Code No. 30301

SUMMIT CREDIT UNION Plaintiff, v. ANGEL F. LANDSVERK

XYZ UNKNOWN DEFENDANT, Defendants.

PUBLICATION SUMMONS THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

To each person named above as a Defendant:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Complaint, which is attached, states the nature and basis for the legal action.

Within 40 days after December 4, 2024, 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 Circuit Court, Winnebago County Courthouse, 415 Jackson St, PO Box 280, Oshkosh, WI 54903-2808, and to Plaintiff's attorney, whose mailing address is PO Box 1473, Wausau, Wisconsin 54402-1473. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper Answer within 40 days after December 4, 2024, the Court may grant Judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may 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 26th day of November 2024.

Bates Legal Group, LLC, Attorney for Plaintiff

By: /s/ Attorney Justin J. Bates

Justin J. Bates
Bar No. 1066128
PO Box 1473
Wausau, WI 54402-1473
(715) 843-5599

Run December 4, 2024, December 11, 2024 and December 18, 2024

WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: CRYSTAL L WAGNER

By (Petitioner) Crystal L Wagner Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2024CV001122

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Crystal L Wagner
To: Stan L Wagner
Birth Certificate: Crystal L Wagner

IT IS ORDERED: This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin: Judge's Name: Hon. Michael S. Gibbs

Place: Winnebago County Courthouse Room 211

415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901
Date: January 9, 2025
Time: 1:45 pm

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4848 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Oshkosh Herald a newspaper published in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin.

BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: December 2, 2024

/s/ Hon. Michael S. Gibbs

Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch IV Runs: December 11, 2024, December 18, 2024 and December 25, 2024

WNAXLP

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN RE: SCOTT TRUST DATED JUNE 15, 1993 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

- That ANNA M. SCOTT with a date of birth of 5/10/1926, and a date of death of 11/15/2024, was domiciled in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 155 North Eagle Street, Apt. 168, Oshkosh, WI 54902.
- That such decedent was a grantor of the Scott Trust dated June 15, 1993.
- That the deadline for filing a claim against the named Trust for any of the debts of the decedent is April 25, 2025.
- That a claim may be filed at the law offices of Langer & Petersen, LLC, 155 E. Capitol Drive, Suite 1, Hartland, WI 53029.

/s/ Timothy V. Langer

Timothy V. Langer

Attorney for the Trustees of the Scott Trust dated June 15, 1993.

Runs: December 18, 2024, December 25, 2024 and January 1, 2025

WNAXLP

Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 22

light the day at the Duals in the Dells tournament Saturday.

Thompson-Schreck registered four pins and a technical fall to complete the perfect day, with all four pins coming in the first period.

Andrew Brockman finished 4-1 with a pair of pins, while Liam Torres and Carter Zick each had three wins on the day.

North finished 1-4 overall with the Spartans posting their win over Lake Mills, 35-33.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Mitchell becomes top scorer at Oshkosh North

Xzavion Mitchell scored 75 points over a pair of games at the 608 Tournament this past weekend to vault him past the 2,000-point plateau and to the top of the all-time scoring list for North.

Mitchell, who is averaging 39 points per game this season, now sits at 2,013 points for his career, moving past Stevie Clark for the No. 1 spot in program history. Mitchell entered the season with 1,818 points.

The Spartans finished 1-1 at the tournament losing to Nicolet 78-63 on Friday before beating Middleton 74-64 Saturday.

Mitchell finished with 37 points and 10 rebounds against Nicolet, but was the lone Spartan to finish in double figures. Tylan Lister was the second-highest scorer for the Spartans with seven points.

In the win over Middleton, Mitchell finished with 38 points, nine rebounds and five steals, while going 14-of-16 at the free-throw line.

Stefan Stolicovic added 16 points and Lister finished with eight. Jackson Ander-

son paced North with five assists.

Spartans cruise past rival Wildcats

Oshkosh North held Oshkosh West to just 36 percent shooting from the field and collected a 84-47 win over the rival Wildcats last Tuesday night at Oshkosh North.

The Spartans have now won nine straight in the series and 10 of the last 11 games.

Xzavion Mitchell finished with 35 points, 10 rebounds and five steals to lead the way for the Spartans. Owen Weber added 11 points, while Stefan Stolicovic added nine.

Collin Carns paced Oshkosh West with 15 points with Noah Gelhar chipping in eight.

Knights edged by Crusaders in Trailways tilt

Harlan Kuehn scored a career-high 19 points and picked up 11 rebounds but Lourdes Academy fell just short against Central Wisconsin Christian, losing a 51-50 decision in a Trailways East contest.

Braden Studinski added 16 points in the loss for the Knights.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Spartans held in check by Manitowoc Ships

Oshkosh North was held to a season low in points as the Spartans fell to Manitowoc Lincoln 56-26 last week.

Awut Alic was the only player in double figures for the Spartans, finishing with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

North trailed 23-11 at the half.

Knights' balance topples Crusaders

Lourdes Academy finished with four players in double figures as the Knights

downed Central Wisconsin Christian last week, 57-50.

Hailee Bauer led the way for the Knights with 19 points, 10 steals and seven rebounds as Lourdes Academy rallied from an eight-point halftime deficit to collect the win. The Knights outscored the Crusaders 36-21 in the second half.

Hannah McDowell added 13 points, while Aubrey Schettle and Delaney Ruedinger each scored 10.

Warriors ride big first half to triumph

Valley Christian jumped to a 30-18 half-time lead and cruised in the second half to a 52-39 win over Dodgeland last week.

Lizzie Fink scored 18 points to lead Valley Christian, while Mya Moran finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds. Paige Bowers chipped in 10 points in the win.

GYMNASTICS

Oshkosh co-op team wins invitational title

Oshkosh's co-op gymnastics team edged Wisconsin Rapids by five-hundredths of a point to claim the top spot at the 2024 Manitowoc Lincoln Holiday Invitational on Saturday.

Oshkosh, which posted the highest team score on the uneven bars, finished with a total of 130.95 points, while Wisconsin Rapids had 130.9. Hartford was third with 130.5 points.

Neva Schlies turned in a strong meet, finishing first on the floor exercises and second in the vault. She also took second place in the all-around competition.

Lydia Barr placed fourth on the balance beam and the floor exercises for Oshkosh, while Ja'nyiah Ford picked up a second place on the balance beam. Barr was fifth

in the all-around with Ford taking sixth.

HOCKEY

Ice Hawks suffer loss to Marshfield

The Oshkosh Ice Hawks finished the first period tied at two but Marshfield scored nine goals over the final two periods to pull away for an 11-2 win Thursday.

Dayton Briski scored the first Ice Hawks goal off an assist from Eddie Bielak to tie the score at 1 in the first period before Evan Burger's power play goal about six minutes later gave Oshkosh a 2-1 lead.

Marshfield notched the tying goal later in the first period and then pulled away for the win.

Chase Magadanz finished with 31 saves in goal for Oshkosh as the Ice Hawks were outshot 42-12 in the game.

Earlier in the week, the Ice Hawks lost a 12-0 Badgerland Conference contest to Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha as the Rockets outshot the Ice Hawks 49-4.

The Ice Hawks did get their first win over Rhinelander on Dec. 7 with Brennon Kraft and William Beck scoring goals in the 2-0 win. Magadanz made 32 saves in goal for the shutout.

POWERLIFTING

Oshkosh North finishes third at Waupun

Hunter Davis finished first in his weight class to lead Oshkosh North to a third-place finish at a tournament in Waupun recently.

Noelle Dutschek scored a second place in her weight class, while Conner Kuehn picked up a fourth place and Andrew Oehler and Carson Johnson were each fifth.

Oshkosh West had a pair of third-place finishers at the meet in Omer Camlibel and Luis Pomales.



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T H E



WREATH
FACTORY

Motivated Schneider hopes to cap career with gold

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Ryland Schneider is a bit of a buzz saw on the mat.

The Oshkosh West senior is a three-time WIAA state individual meet qualifier with 100-plus career wins and enough tournament medals to fill a closet.

But he wants more.

Schneider has set his sights on becoming a 2025 state champion after a breakout performance at the 2024 state meet where he finished fifth among Division 1 wrestlers in the 157-pound weight class. Schneider's teammate, Eddie Schroeder, also has shot at the gold.

"A state championship – that's the goal," Schneider said. "I'm going to need a very strong focus at practice. I need to make every practice count."

The fifth-place showing marked the first time that Schneider has placed at state in three tries. He went 0-2 at the state meet in the 120-pound class as a freshman and 1-2 at 132 his sophomore year.

Schneider is coming off a stellar 43-15 season with 23 pins. He entered the 2024-25 wrestling season with a 109-44 career record.

"I was just happy to be at state my first two years," Schneider said. "It's kind of a shock just to be out there your first time. State has such a different feel from all the other tournaments. It's a huge arena and



Submitted photo

Oshkosh West's Ryland Schneider (top) is a three-time state qualifier and is hoping to make a fourth trip this season and walk off the Kohl Center mats with a state title.

the crowd is just going wild.

"I felt a lot more comfortable out there last year. I just tried to stay calm and think of it as just another match. That's where experience pays off."

Schneider has opened the season wrestling at 175. He was rated ninth in that weight class in the initial 2024-25 Wisconsin High School Wrestling Rankings.

"I like the heavier weight," he said. "Wrestling at 132 was a little tough. I feel better at a heavier weight. I wrestle better, too. I feel healthier."

Schneider doesn't have to be ultra-strict about his diet while wrestling at a higher weight. But he still keeps a close eye on his calorie intake.

"I eat really clean," he said. "I track everything I eat and try to make food enjoyable. I find things that I like eating – like eggs and turkey and Greek yogurt bowls

with protein in them."

Staying hungry as a wrestler isn't a problem for the goal-oriented Schneider, whose skills are matched by an extraordinary work ethic.

"It's been a great experience to coach and get to know Ryland," said West coach Matt Cuadra. "To watch him grow into the person he is – on and off the mat – that's one of the reasons that coaches coach."

"I've counted on him to lead the team with his action and his words. He's done that and much more. Everything that Ryland has accomplished has been something he's worked hard for and deserves."

Schneider has been wrestling since he was in kindergarten and has a strong family background in the sport. His father, Brent, wrestled in high school at Oshkosh North and at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (three years) and UW-Whitewater (one year). Brent also coached wrestling at Oshkosh North and helps coach Ryland on the Team Nazar club team that Ryland competes on during the non-high school season.

"I'm super thankful to have him as my coach and my dad," Schneider said. "He's taught me technique and always keeps me in check and makes sure I get to practice. He's probably the most mentally tough person that I know."

Ryland isn't the only Schneider on the mat. His younger brother, Preston, is a West freshman wrestler who competes in the 126-pound weight class. Ry-

Senior Spotlight

land's youngest brother, Brogan, is a seventh-grader who also wrestles.

"It's super exciting to have Preston on the team," Schneider said. "We've wrestled against one another at home – just kind of rolling around together – but he's quite a bit lighter than me."

Wrestling is a demanding sport, requiring intense preparation, focus and dedication. It sometimes leads to wrestling burn-out, especially when the athlete has been wrestling for multiple years. But Schneider can't stay off the mat.

"I love it," Schneider said. "It's definitely part of who I am. I look forward to going to practices and working out every day. I like how it's you versus you out there. It's just constant improvement for yourself. If you have a bad day, it's on you."

Schneider has committed to wrestle collegiately at UW-Eau Claire.

"I think being in a college room where everyone there wants to be wrestling will help my development," Schneider said. "Some guys in high school are just there to be there. Wrestling club for Team Nazar really helps. Coach Nazar (Kulchitsky) will take you to the next level, that's for sure."

Schneider is a solid student with a 3.2 grade-point-average. He's interested in physical therapy as a college major.

"I just like learning about muscles and joints and how recovery works and how diet plays a role in that," Schneider said.



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Obituaries

Willis Stine

"Well done, my good and faithful servant," was the greeting that Willis (Bud) Stine received on Saturday, December 14, when he arrived in Heaven. Bud was born in Wheatland, WI on August 4, 1932, the second son of Lon and Alma (McManus) Stine. He grew up farming in the Burlington and Waupaca areas.

He served in the US National Guard, and was then drafted into the US Army at Fort Knox, KY and Mainz, Germany, achieving the rank of Corporal. He returned from Germany in 1955 to join his wife Ardine Peterson and the first of their three daughters. Returning to school, Bud completed his GED and continued his education, earning a diploma in Auto Mechanics Technology in 1959. He was still in the National Guard while working at the Chevy garage. Bud then started working at Rockwell Standard, and used his mechanical talent to teach one semester of automotive skills at the local technical college.

In 1994, he married Jane (Schneider) Blanchette, and after retirement from

Rockwell, he stayed busy with family, friends and church activities. He enjoyed fishing in Florida and hunting in the woods of Waupaca. A man of many abilities, he not only worked on cars, but knew how to make all sorts of home repairs. This resulted in lots of calls from his daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was always willing to help wherever needed, and did it with a sly sense of humor.

Arriving in Heaven, he rejoined his wife Jane, parents, brother Wayland Stine, sister and brother-in-law Dora and Bob West, brothers-in-law George Frey and Arlen Peterson, great grand-children Brielle, Braxton, Bryce and Brewer Coats, companion Judy Seiler, as well as other loved ones.

Bud is survived by his daughters and sons-in-laws: Dottie (Bob) Reinke, Linda (Peter) Glander, Sherri Sue Stine (Andrew) Doemel, their mother Ardine Barry, sister Joyce Frey, brother Victor (Carol) Stine. Also grandchildren Faith Goodacre-Reinke, Stephan Glander, Megan Stine, Eleah Glander, Jordan Brown, Beau (Lindsey) Doemel and Dannielle (Matt) Coats. Great grandchildren are Nick and Ty Heuer, Rebekah (Ryan) Franti, Finleigh and Hudson Burton, Thomasin Brown, Blandon and Bristol

avid drawer. Some of his favorites were hot rods, landscapes, ships, and crazy caricatures derived from his unique sense of humor. During his retirement years he enjoyed tinkering in his garage and with his large train collection. He also enjoyed bonfires, sunrises, sunsets, and spending time with friends and family.

Those who Steve will leave behind to cherish his memory include his wife of 58 years, Pam, his children, Dennis, Christine (Ray Maurer), and Katherine (favorite future son-in-law Dave Naughton). Former daughter-in-law Michelle Klug and son-in-law Mark Sullivan. His grandchildren, Kaylin, Anthony (Ahnna), Devin, Samantha (Andrew), and Grady. His great-grandchildren Brianna (Jacob), Levi, Landen, Jinger, and Aria.

He is further survived by siblings Lawrence Klug, Gregory Klug, and Angela (Mike) Drexler, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Violet, infant sister Patricia, brother Russell and his beloved wife Cherri, in-laws Betty and Stan Posorske, brothers-in-law Ronald Blechl, Richard Blechl, Tony Gonsalves, Robert Oaks, and sister-in-law Betty Greene.

A private memorial and celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Coats, and Brody and Blake Doemel. Uncle Bud will be much missed by his many beloved nieces and nephews as well.

Bud's daughters would like to thank the caregivers at Senior Helpers and the Aurora Hospice staff for their excellent care of our father as his health waned. A celebration of life will be held for Willis (Bud) Stine at the new location of RiverValley

Church, 425 N. Washburn St., Oshkosh on Friday, December 20 with visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m., service at 11:00 a.m., military honor and luncheon to follow. Interment will take place at Lake View Memorial Park at 2:00 p.m.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

Larry E. Davis

Larry E. Davis (Rabbi), 72 of Oshkosh, WI, lost his battle with Parkinson's



and went into his Saviors waiting arms on November 28, 2024, surrounded by his family. Larry was born to Robert and Rosemary (Unser) Davis on July 5, 1952. He graduated from

Lourdes Academy in 1970. After high school he attended Fox Valley Tech to become an auto technician. Larry had a passion for cars and became an ASE Master Technician and ended up working for Basler's, Purath, and Bergstrom's for a total of 30 years in the auto business. He loved working on small engines of any kind and was always there when someone needed help with anything. He loved helping people. He enjoyed boating, camping, fishing, and projects around the house, and car shows.

In July 1979, Larry married Jean (Schroeder) and in 1981 they had a son, Jay.

Larry is survived by his wife Jean and son Jay (Teresa) Davis, sisters Susan (Brian) Nett, Linda (Dennis) Schultz, Sharon (Ted) Klevay, Ann (Tom) McCormick and brothers Mark Davis and John (Jeri) Davis, numerous nieces and

nephews, and Godchildren Leon Nett, Laura Marthaler, Grace Seibel and Dana Schroeder.

He is preceded in death by their daughter Elissa, his parents, and grandparents and his beloved pets Homer and Libby.

Larry's family would like to thank their neighbors for always caring for the upkeep of their home. They also wish to thank the caregivers (every one of you) at Eden Meadows and the Hospice team of Heartland, for their kind and loving care. They were all very special to Larry and Jean.

A gathering with family and friends will take place on December 16th, 2024, visitation from 10:30-12:00 pm, service at 12:00 pm, at St. Raphael's Church at 830 S. Westhaven Dr. Oshkosh, WI, 54904, followed by a luncheon.

In Lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, in memory of Larry Davis. Larry was wanting to donate his body, a long time ago so students could learn more about him, and his body went to the Medical College of Wisconsin. He will truly be missed by all because he touched so many lives. His sense of humor was infectious. He always had something to say to the nurses and CNAs, like "Good Morning Beautiful." He was a kind and gentle soul. He was a good father, husband, son, and brother, and loved his whole family very much.

Thomas R. Mauritz

It's with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Thomas R. Mauritz, on December 14, 2024, in Oshkosh after a brief illness.



Tom was born December 30, 1938, son of Ray and Madge (Moore) Mauritz. Tom married his high school sweetheart Andrea Rogge on March 20, 1958. Together they had two daughters, Elizabeth and Lynne (Robert) Messerschmidt. They also adopted Ann Myung Mauritz from Korea in 1975. He is survived by Grandchildren Tom Messerschmidt, Oshkosh, Caitlin Messerschmidt of Las Vegas NV and Gabe Gonzales of Ohio. He is further survived by his sister Naomi Wirkes and brothers-in-law Phil (Jackie) Rogge and John Rogge. Preceding Tom in death were his parents, wife Andrea, his daughter Elizabeth and special friend Karen.

Tom was a hard worker all his life, beginning when he was a young child, setting pins at T & O Bowling Allys until they found out he wasn't old enough to work. He then began delivering newspapers on the south side of Oshkosh where he grew up, often having several paper routes at one time. He could easily fix just about anything, so it was natural for him when he joined the AirForce and became an airplane mechanic while stationed in Texas. After leaving the Airforce he returned to Oshkosh and was employed by Rockwell International. He and his brother-in-law,

Phil Rogge, founded T-P Sales selling and servicing snowmobiles, lawnmowers and snowblowers.

In his spare time Tom enjoyed camping, snowmobiling, golf, spending time at his cottage, boating with the Oshkosh Boat Club where he was commodore with Andrea. Later he went on to get his pilot's license. He and Andrea enjoyed spending their winters in Harlingen Texas where he had been stationed years earlier and they had many friends and family in Texas. Tom was a long-time member of the Oshkosh Elks Club and enjoyed spending time reminiscing at the South Side Ice Yacht Club.

His wife Andrea preceded Tom in death in July of 2006 and some say she had picked Karen Hanneman as a companion to Tom. Karen and Tom spent 18 years together enjoying camping, thrifting and socializing with many friends and family until Karen's passing this summer. Tom was lucky enough to be included as part of Karen's family, Craig and Sharon of Virginia, Julie and friend Randall of Florida, Jodi and Dave in Appleton and Cory and Jenna in Oshkosh and several grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, December 19, 2024, at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, at 4pm. Visitation will be held from 1pm until the time of service. Military honors will be held following the service. Burial will take place at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery.

A memorial has been established.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

Steven Karl Klug

Steven K. Klug, 77, of Oshkosh, took his "final voyage" surrounded by his beloved



family on Friday, December 13, 2024, at his home after a courageous battle with an aggressive cancer. He was born in Oshkosh, WI on September 4, 1947, the son of Kenneth and Violet (nee Kunde) Klug. He found the love of his life at the age of 13 and on September 17, 1966, Steve was united in marriage to Pamela Blechl and had three children Dennis, Christine, and Katherine. Steve worked at Medalist Industry / Wisconsin Automated as a Spray Painter, Assembler, and Service Tech.

Afterwards, he pursued a position at Bay Ship due to his love of ships as a diver. Finishing his career, he relocated back to Oshkosh to retire at Oshkosh Truck. Steve shared many stories of his friendships that he made along the way.

Due to his love of the outdoors, he and his family enjoyed many camping and diving trips on Lake Superior. Steve was the best storyteller, vacation narrator, and navigator. He had an immense knowledge of history and shipwrecks. He was also an

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Obituaries

Andrew Thomas Qualley

Andrew Thomas Qualley, age 67, of Oshkosh, beloved husband, father, son, brother and uncle passed away on December 4, 2024. Son of Thomas and Carolyn Qualley, born December 2, 1957 and raised in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Andy was not bound to the traditional quiet role of middle child, his presence illuminated through the framework of good-hearted antics, independence and deep respect for the outdoors. His generosity of spirit, a hallmark of his character, assisting wherever he found a need to pitch in. Andrew spent an adventurous childhood at the family cabin in Portage County with his parents and four siblings, Cindy, Vin, Mike and John. This idyllic woodland setting of sunrises and sunsets, fishing, hunting, biking, and signature bonfires deep rooted his love of nature.

Andrew attended Oshkosh public schools, graduating from Oshkosh West High School in 1976. After graduation, Andrew married the love of his life, Deanna Rothenbach on September 23, 1977. Together they raised their beloved son, Drew Thomas, who continues to be his father's greatest source of pride, attaining accelerated educational achievements. Andrew was an exceptional provider for his family. His working career spans 49 years of dedicated employment with Mathfab, a labor intense job he enjoyed and cowork-

ers appreciated. His commitment to community included the Saturday Farmers Markets, greeting and working street side of 2Blondes, his wife's business. Andrew's passions included hunting, hiking, fishing, tree planting, assisting Deanna with creative projects, and gardening massive plots with his tractor on their acreage; providing green onions, asparagus, and green beans to friends and family. In these last months, despite Andrew's courage with short-term depression and best efforts provided on his behalf, we, his family, are left with great sadness in his absence, but comforted knowing he is at peace in the Lord's hands. Andy's life, a precious gift to all who knew him.

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels or demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus or Lord". Romans 8:38-39.

Andrew is survived by his wife, Deanna; his son, Drew; siblings, Cindy (Daniel) Reinke, Vin (Barb) Qualley, Mike Qualley and John Qualley; aunts, uncle, cousins, nieces, and nephews, other relatives and many dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Carolyn Qualley.

A private family service will be held in a peaceful Celebration of Life. In lieu of floral expressions, memorials will be established in his name for mental health awareness.

FISS & BILLS - POKLASNY
FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY

Earl Luaders III

Earl passed away on Sunday morning, December 8, 2024, surrounded by his family, after a courageous battle with Parkinson's disease. He was 72 years old.

Earl was born to Nancy (Riley) and Earl Luaders, Jr. and spent his early childhood in Connecticut and California before settling in Winneconne, Wisconsin, with his mother. In 1980, Earl moved to New London to begin his law career, where he would go on to make a lasting impact on his community.

Earl was a lifelong baseball fan. Whether he was playing in the Babe Ruth traveling little league, coaching his children's little league teams, or playing in local leagues in Winneconne and New London, Earl's love for the game was undeniable. He was a diehard fan of the St. Louis Cardinals and Milwaukee Brewers, and he took great joy in taking his children to see these teams play, sharing his passion with them.

Earl was a proud 1970 graduate of Winneconne High School and earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. He went on to graduate with a JD from Hamline University in 1979. Earl worked as a dedicated attorney

for over 40 years, including as City Attorney for New London, earning the respect of his colleagues and clients for his expertise and commitment to his work.

In 1970, Earl married Maureen Christensen, and together they had three children: Alex, Kelly, and Matthew. Later in life, Earl married Nancy Stern, who selflessly cared for him during his battle with Parkinson's disease.

Earl was also a lover of Corvettes, playing poker and traveling to warmer destinations.

Earl is survived by his children, Alex (Amanda), Kelly (Michael), and Matthew (Colleen); his loving wife, Nancy Stern; Nancy's children, Andrea, Merica, and Eric; his grandchildren, Stelly, Finn, Domanic, Addy, Aiden, and Libby; and his great-granddaughter, Akira. His father Earl II and brother Robert also survive him. He also leaves behind a wide circle of friends and colleagues who will miss him dearly.

Earl was preceded in death by his sweet mother, Nancy; and his beloved grandson, Ethan, who was tragically killed in October.

Earl's children would like to especially thank his wife Nancy for taking such loving care of their father during his struggle with Parkinson's disease. She gracefully enhanced his quality of life.

A celebration of Earl's life was held on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at the Fin n Feather, Winneconne.

Arleen J. Peterson

Arleen J. Peterson, age 96 formerly of Oshkosh, passed away on Monday, December 9, 2024, in Tavares, Florida. She was born in Oshkosh on June 24, 1928, to the late Philip and Hattie (Warning) Weitz.

Arleen was a devoted wife to her husband, Kenneth Peterson, and a loving mother to their son, Randall. After spending many years working as an administrative assistant at Kimberly Clark, she enjoyed a fulfilling retirement, particularly cherishing her time in Florida. Arleen

had a special love for her dogs, Abby and Buffy, who brought her much joy.

Arleen is survived by her godson, Mark (Sharon) Weitz, as well as nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In addition to her parents, Arleen was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Peterson, and son, Randall Peterson.

A graveside service for Arleen was held Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at Lake View Memorial Park.

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Obituaries

Tom Barnett

Tom Barnett of Oshkosh, WI passed away peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, December 8th, 2024, after a fierce two-year battle with pancreatic cancer. He was born June 14, 1957 in Steubenville, Ohio to Hugh "Barney" and Clarice Barnett. He was a devoted husband, loving father and known for his tireless work ethic and unwavering love for his family. Tom leaves behind a legacy of devotion, resilience, and cherished memories.

Tom met the love of his life, Brenda, on a blind date in Peoria, IL. The two were



married on June 11, 1983 and together built a beautiful life, raising three sons: Jon, Chris, and Josh. Tom moved his family to Oshkosh in 1998, where he had a successful career at Sadoff Iron and Metal Company of 26 years.

Tom was a proud and loving father who loved watching his sons play sports as they grew up. He was not just a spectator, but their biggest fan. He was always there to cheer them on with an encouraging smile. It brought him endless joy and he cherished every moment they shared.

Traveling was one of Tom's greatest passions, especially with his beloved wife at his side. Together, they explored new places and created countless memories, with Mexico holding a special place in their hearts. Tom dreamed of retiring on a san-

dy beach, where the rhythm of the waves would match the serenity he deserved.

Tom was a man of extraordinary strength even as he battled cancer, his determination and selflessness shone brightly. He continued working and putting the needs of his family above his own. Though his retirement and beachside dreams were tragically cut short, Tom's memory will live on in the hearts of his loved ones. His strength, love, and perseverance will forever serve as a guiding light.

Tom is survived by his wife of 41 years Brenda Barnett, his three children Jon (Cassie) Barnett, Chris (Holly) Barnett, and Josh (Sammy) Barnett; five Grandchildren Kaiden, Ryker, Payton, Hudson, and Emmylou; two Sisters Karen Barnett and Linda (Greg) Davis. He is preceded in death by his Parents

Hugh and Clarice Barnett.

A Celebration of Tom's life will be held at Konrad-Behelman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Point Drive, Oshkosh on Saturday December 21st, with visitation from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and service to follow. A heartfelt "thank you" is extended by Tom's family to the medical teams, and staff at the Cancer Treatment Center at Froedtert Hospital & Medical College of Wisconsin, for their exceptional care and treatments.

Rest peacefully, Tom. Though your journey here has ended, your love, strength and legacy will endure forever in the hearts of those who knew you.



Royce J. Edwards

Royce "Sonny/RJ" John Edwards, age 79, of Oshkosh, died at home on Monday, December 9, 2024. He was born on February 23, 1945, in Fond du Lac, the son of Royce W. and Helen (Berres) Edwards. Royce graduated from St. Mary's Springs in 1963. After graduation he proudly served in the United States Air Force Academy 69 21st Security Squad in Misawa, Japan from 1965-1969.

Royce's passions were baseball, photography, hunting/fishing, wildlife/nature, gardening, cribbage, slots, and auctioneering. He worked at Michels Pipeline (now Corporation), ran his own



photography business, was a real estate agent, and was a purchasing agent for the state of WI before retiring from Fox Lake Correctional Institution. He got his auctioneer license in 2016, when he and Mary ran Edwards Auction Service, which he enjoyed immensely and where he found some very good friends.

He is survived by his loving fiancé, Mary Faust of Oshkosh; son, Brian (special friend Jill Pingel) Edwards of Brownsville; daughter, Aileen (Jason) Andrews of Fond du Lac; grandkids, Ethan Andrews (currently at United States Air Force Academy, CO, Austin Edwards and Brianna (Robbie Kreiter) Edwards of Brownsville, Samuel Andrews of Fond du Lac; sister, Mary (Tom) Reчек of Fox Lake; brother, Ralph Edwards of Shawano; former wife, Cheryl Edwards and her son Greg Edwards;

former in-laws, Renee (Rick) Berzowski, Jeanne Dupies and Donna Edwards. Special Shawano area relatives, Cindy (Dave) Waegli, Mark Utke, and Christopher (Terrie) Utke; godson, Timothy M. (Nicole) Utke; special friend, Richard E. Faust; father-in-law to be, Ryan (Shiloh) Faust; nephew to be and loving helping caregiver, Elizabeth (Thomas) Crahen of Nixa, MO; Judy (Tony) Penzenstadler of Rhinelander; Lee Faust of Oshkosh; Jennifer (Bill) Berning of Rogersville, MO; Leah (fiancé Liam) Faust of Oshkosh; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents; daughter-in-law, Laura Edwards; in-laws, Harold "Bud" and Arlene Dupies; niece, Angie Hicks, Timothy, Earl, Blanch Utke; Mary's brother, Edward Faust.

Visitation will take place on Sunday, December 22, 2024, from 12:00 PM until 2:00 PM at Uecker-Witt Funeral Home. A time of remembrance will take place following the visitation at 2:00 PM. Cremation has taken place.

In lieu of flowers, monetary donations can be made to set up a photography scholarship, Veterans Park, in Fond du Lac.

The family wishes to thank Compassus Hospice for their care in his final days.

Services are in the care of Uecker-Witt Funeral Home, 524 North Park Avenue, Fond du Lac, WI, 54935. Additional information and guestbook can be found at ueckerwitt.com



Steven Mark Paulick Sr.

Steven Mark Paulick Sr, 77 passed away on December 8, 2024 surrounded by the love of his family after fighting a long courageous battle with cancer.

Born on March 24, 1947, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, to Katherine (Broderick) and Alfred Paulick, Steve was one of 15 children. As the youngest boy, he is survived by his siblings Pete Paulick Sr., Tom (Carol) Paulick, Edie Zemske, and Sue (Bill) Longsine. He was preceded in death by his siblings Shirley, Bud, David, Neil, Corky, Karen, Nancy, Stanley, and Willie.

Steve grew up spending time on his family farm in Winneconne, where he graduated high school. Afterward, he



proudly served in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1969. Steve was a proud veteran and an honorary member of the Marine Corps League in Oshkosh. Later in life, he retired from D.R. Hansen.

In 1969, Steve married Judy Kuehl, and together they had four children: Steve (Dawn) Paulick, Dan (Shelly) Paulick, Chad (1974-2009), Mandi (Scott) Kation, Judy (Branden) Scott and bonus son, Matt Morgan. Through his second marriage to Andy Gruse, he gained stepchildren: Jill Holmes, Mike (Kim) Holmes and Jackie Elmer (1981-2022). In addition, Steve had numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and special nieces and nephews who held a special place in his heart.

Steve had a passion for gambling, whether it was playing cribbage, card games, bingo, or hitting the slot machines—he enjoyed it all. His favorite

pastimes included hunting with his kids and grandkids and spending quality time with his family. A special place for him was his nephew Tony's dock where you could often find him catfishing. When he wasn't fishing or indulging in his other hobbies, Steve enjoyed breakfast at Mikes place and spending time with his big brother Pete. He was a familiar face at Parnell's Place and Houge's Bar.

Decades ago, Steve and his brother Pete Sr. started the Paulick Family Demo Team, a tradition that his grandchildren will carry on as part of their family legacy.

Steve's sense of humor, bizarre attire, love for musicals and Elvis and willingness to lend a hand will not be forgotten. He was particularly close to his grandchildren, spending countless hours playing cribbage, being their personal chauffeur and showing them what unconditional love truly meant.

Steve made an incredible impact on everyone he met. His love was immeasurable, and he will forever hold a special place in the hearts of all who knew him.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Evergreen Retirement Community for their exceptional care, especially to his favorite nurse, Terry. We also thank the Veteran's Hospital and Hospice/Compass for their compassionate support.

The family will have a private burial in the spring, but we invite those who loved Steve to join us in celebrating his life on January 11, 2025 at the Winnebago County Marine Corps League (4715 Sherman Road, Oshkosh WI 54901) from 1:00 PM-4:00PM.



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Rohloff

FROM PAGE 1

that we could do these things.”

He said the city needed to regain a can-do attitude to help get some half-finished projects completed and when that happened the city realized it could move forward and complete other work.

“There’s a better confidence about getting things done now when I look at the city,” Rohloff said. “Once you’ve got confidence on certain projects then you know we can do this and you start to progress and start to say, ‘Well, we can do this project or finish up that project.’”

That attitude helped the city build a storm sewer pond and was a small victory for Rohloff in his new role.

When Rohloff arrived in Oshkosh, the city had recently seen damaging floods and was trying to find solutions to limit water problems in the future. That began with building storm sewer ponds to collect water so it doesn’t back up the storm sewers.

“I came in and there were all these unfinished projects, and we just needed a win to show we could complete these projects,” he said. “We needed to get one done and that was the James Road pond.”

Rohloff started his career as assistant city manager in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. He later moved to Wisconsin and became Berlin’s city administrator, then town administrator for Grand Chute before starting his leadership role in Oshkosh in 2008.

Some of the physical achievements are the Riverwalk along the Fox River and bringing the Wisconsin Herd and Oshkosh Arena to Oshkosh. He said getting the arena downtown was important as



Oshkosh Herald

City Manager Mark Rohloff has held the position that acts as CEO of Oshkosh for 16 years and is stepping down and into the private sector. He has a collection of old Oshkosh photos in his office that he continues to pack up.

an anchor in the area that could be built around – especially since there were concerns that the Buckstaff furniture building was a fire hazard.

One thing Rohloff wished he could have accomplished here is getting something developed on Pioneer Island.

“We just couldn’t get anything done,” he recalled. “But it is locally owned and something will hopefully fit into that space in the future.”

Looking back, Rohloff said the city achieved a lot of downtown growth and

made the river more accessible with the Riverwalk. Oshkosh is also realigning itself as a major hub for the Fox Valley and northeast Wisconsin economy. He said the current council faces a few challenges in the immediate future, one of them being the 2026 budget and the other is the future of City Hall.

The city has earmarked \$30 million for three potential options – renovating city hall, building new or moving into the City Center site. Rohloff said a decision should be made in the next six to eight months.

With Rohloff at the helm the city has devised a strategic plan that drives many Common Council decisions.

“With the strategic plan we were able to build confidence in the staff and see what we wanted to achieve,” he said.

Over the last 16 years the city has also eliminated special assessments, helped the Day by Day Shelter find a home and expanded diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. He said those issues were handled by making everyone a part of the project and not making it an us-versus-them situation.

Friday is Rohloff’s last official day in the office and he has already lined up a new job that will allow him to work with former city managers, fire chiefs and police chiefs at McMahan Associates based in Neenah.

“I knew I wanted to keep working but I didn’t expect a full-time job right away,” Rohloff said.

He began getting calls from people wanting to hire him soon after it was announced he was retiring from local government. The new position will also allow him to continue work on his side project, which is creating a resource that the Co-operative Educational Service Agency (CESA) provides for school districts.

Rohloff said it will help provide help and resources to smaller communities that don’t have the staff, time or funds to keep updated on municipality topics. It could be called MUSA or the Municipality Service Agency.

Although he is leaving city government, Rohloff is not leaving Oshkosh and believes the city is going in the right direction.

“Oshkosh has a bright future,” he said. “There’s great workers here that will get things done.”

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