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Photo by Michael Cooney

Abby Quinn helps her son James drop a letter into the North Pole mailbox next to the Christmas tree in Opera House Square.

Santa letters reveal hope, hardship

Oshkosh Herald

Community engagement librarian Sandy Toland at the Oshkosh Public Library is one of Santa's official helpers, busy reading letters addressed to the North Pole.

For the past three years, she and two other volunteers have taken on the task of reading children's wishes and relaying them to Santa. This year she's noticed a shift in the requests.

"I get to meet with Santa and let him know what the people in Oshkosh are looking for," Toland said.

While many children still ask for toys such as Squishmallows – a popular plush toy – and slime, others are asking for something different.

"They aren't asking for anything for

SEE **Letters to Santa** ON PAGE 6

City finds its new manager

Grill currently leads West Allis operations

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Common Council has selected a new city manager that will serve as chief executive officer for local government operations.

Rebecca Grill was formally approved by the council last week during a special meeting. She currently serves as the city administrator for West Allis and has almost 20 years of experience in local government and in municipal leadership roles.

"We are thrilled to welcome Rebecca Grill to the city of Oshkosh. We are excited to have someone with her ability to step into this important role," Mayor Matt Mugerauer said. "Rebecca's extensive background in local government, community engagement and strategic leadership abilities make her an exemplary choice to navigate the opportunities we face."

"We are confident that Ms. Grill will lead our city with vision and dedication, and we look forward to Oshkosh's continued success under her leadership."

Grill expressed her appreciation for the city and the opportunity to take on the leadership role.

SEE **City manager** ON PAGE 13



Grill

Winnebago County businesses will feel NFL Draft's impact

Area hotels expected to fill up with visitors

By MaryBeth Matzek
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The NFL Draft set for April 24-26 will be the biggest show Green Bay has ever seen. But with 450,000 unique visitors attending the event, the Fox Cities and Oshkosh also will play a vital role, providing hotel rooms and places to eat for thousands of attendees.

"Green Bay hotels will be filled with

The app you'll need

The free NFL OnePass app will provide draft attendees with updates including maps, activities, schedules, lists of nearby attractions, parking and transportation.

NFL staff and teams, and does not have enough room to host all the attendees so looking to the Fox Cities and beyond to provide accommodations was a key part of the plan we pitched to the NFL," said Megan Roberson, planning specialist with

the Green Bay Packers and a member of the draft planning team.

Ryan Batley, general manager of Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel & Conference Center in Neenah, said the draft is not only exciting for hospitality businesses such as his, but for the entire state.

"The draft is definitely exciting for us and we expect to be booked, but it's also exciting for the Fox Cities and the entire state of Wisconsin as we'll be featured on a global stage," he said. "Our goal is to create an inviting environment and making sure

people have a great time while here and can get to the draft smoothly."

The draft is expected to have an economic impact of \$94 million across Wisconsin, including \$20 million in Green Bay. Roberson said the Packers looked at the economic impact of the Ryder Cup to come up with the projections.

Roberson said the Packers are being conservative on draft attendance with the prediction of 450,000 unique visitors although last year's draft in Detroit drew

SEE **NFL Draft** ON PAGE 14

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

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Corrections

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An E-edition of the newspaper can be accessed at www.oshkoshherald.com.

Fire department emphasizes holiday safety

Oshkosh Herald

The top three days for home fires are Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, according to the National Fire Protection Association in a holiday reminder from the Oshkosh Fire Department.

Fires from Christmas trees are rare but dangerous and usually deadly. They should be freshly cut and checked daily to make sure they stay watered. Keep a live tree three feet from any heat source and kept in a tree stand sturdy enough for it.

Holiday lights are responsible for more than 500 fires every year with about half

caused by sets of lights with cracked, worn or faulty wiring. Before use they should be inspected for missing insulation, frayed wires and broken bulbs. Use power strips instead of multiple extension cords and turn off the lights when going to bed or leaving home.

Outside holiday lights should be rated for outdoor use and use plastic clips instead of nails or staples. LED lights are a better option by using less energy and giving off little heat.

Candles should be in sturdy holders and placed where children and pets can't get to them. They need to be extinguished be-

fore you leaving the house or going to bed. Battery-operated candles flicker and can release scent like a regular candle without being a fire hazard.

Unattended cooking is a leading cause of home fires both nationwide and in Oshkosh. When cooking on the stovetop stay in the kitchen and watch it. Impaired judgment due to alcohol at parties increases the likelihood of a fire or other preventable accidents.

Finally, make sure smoke detectors are in working order and observe fire-safe practices year long.

State DOT unveils new winter road condition categories

Oshkosh Herald

New winter road condition categories were announced by the state Department of Transportation (DOT) to better reflect conditions on roads across the state.

The categories are now listed as Normal, Partially Covered, Completely Covered, Travel Not Advised and No Report to streamline the information for motorists. Drivers are encouraged to "know before you go" with 511 Wisconsin at 511wi.gov or via the mobile app.

"We continually look for ways to enhance our 511 Wisconsin traveler information service," DOT Secretary Kristina Boardman said. "We know that road conditions during Wisconsin's winters can change in the blink of an eye and drivers must expect the unexpected. We're confident the updated winter road condition categories will help drivers make

informed travel decisions this winter and beyond."

511 Wisconsin launched in 2009 and the travel information system has evolved with web and smartphone capabilities. Users can access live streaming video through hundreds of traffic cameras across the state and winter conditions for more than 14,000 miles of roadway.

To use the winter road conditions, visit 511wi.gov online or download the 511 Wisconsin app. In the map legend, check "winter road conditions," look for the colors outlining the roads from best to worst: normal (green), partially covered (blue), completely covered (pink), travel not advised (black), and no report (gray).

Users can still dial 511 to access travel information. Visit wisconsindot.gov/staysafe for safe driving tips and best practices on winter roads.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Dec. 30, 1953

Planes Rescue Quartet on Big Lake:

The daring actions by three pilots saved a group of Oshkosh residents who might've met death when strong winds opened a quarter-mile crack on Lake Winnebago. The four fishermen, two men and two teenage boys, were stranded on the ice about a half-mile off shore near Fahrney's Point. One of the pilots was flying from Oshkosh to Fond du Lac when he spotted the group on the ice waving frantically. The pilot returned to the airport to find out if the ice was safe to land upon. Upon learning of the incident, three pilots took off in three light planes. Each plane landed one at a time, picking up the fishermen – all but one. One of the pilots returned to rescue the last man as darkness was setting in, nearly missing seeing the man. Suddenly he saw the last stranded man and landed to pick him up. A moment later, snowfall set in, obscuring the spot where the quartet was stranded. None of the men suffered any ill effects and reportedly went out fishing the next day – only this time on Lake Poygan, not Winnebago!

Source: The Oshkosh Northwestern, Dec. 31, 1953

Correction

DEC. 18, PAGE 18: In a story about the proposed Oshkosh Area School District referendum, the breakout information incorrectly describe some details of the project. Under the "Scope of referendum," the 4K (pre-kindergarten) program will not be housed at Perry Tipler. The proposal is to close and convert Shapiro STEM Academy into the pre-kindergarten center. Perry Tipler would be repurposed to house alternative school sites and the Recreation Department Offices. Under "Cost of referendum," Perry Tipler is not part of the renovation proposal. The \$10.2 million amount is to renovate Shapiro for the 4K center.

HOLIDAY EARLY AD DEADLINES	
<p>Oshkosh Herald Dec. 25 issue</p> <p>Display Ad Deadline Wed., 12/18 Noon</p> <p>Classified Ad Deadline Wed., 12/18 3pm</p> <p>Obituary Deadline Fri., 12/20 Noon</p> <p>36 Broad St. Suite 300 920-385-4512</p>	<p>Oshkosh Herald Jan. 1st issue</p> <p>Display Ad Deadline Tues., 12/24 Noon</p> <p>Classified Ad Deadline Tue., 12/24 3pm</p> <p>Obituary Deadline Fri., 12/27 Noon</p> <p>36 Broad St. Suite 300 920-385-4512</p>

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City hires firm to conduct new property revaluation

Commercial assessment error prompts update

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

All Oshkosh properties will be assessed in 2025 for a revaluation with a new assessment company overseeing the process in a move to avoid a third-party review through the state.

An error by the firm that handled the commercial side of the revaluation forced the city to get a new review as the property values were not in compliance. The Department of Revenue (DOR) requires all municipalities to do a revaluation when the assessed value of properties has a dif-

ference of greater than 10% of the equalized value.

Oshkosh will be going through a revaluation for the second time in as many years after the last commercial assessments were only 85% of the equalized value and not meeting the 10% threshold. The city assessor's office handles residential properties and those assessments were in line with the equalized value.

A three-year contract between the city and Associated Appraisal Consultants (AAC) has been approved by the Common Council for \$202,500 over the term of the contract. AAC was also contracted to re-do the commercial reassessments for \$285,000.

The contract includes specific terms that if the city does not meet the 10%

equalized value threshold set by the DOR the city will not pay for maintenance services with AAC for 2026.

If the city is not compliant with the DOR after the 2025 revaluation there will be a mandated and supervised revaluation. If that happens the DOR will hire a third party to do the assessment.

Community development director Kelly Nieforth said this revaluation will cost "significantly more" than if the city does the reassessment through AAC. City staff will be communicating with the DOR regularly to ensure the city is on the right

track to have the revaluation done properly and not have any issues like this year.

The city had paid former assessor Tyler Technologies, based in Texas, for commercial assessments since 2013. Oshkosh paid Tyler Technologies \$164,200 over the last two years including the 2024 assessment.

AAC has a social media presence where they share information on its platforms that the city will also have access to. This information will include relatable information that is easily digestible by residents to help them understand the assessment process.

Deadlines, options for tax bills announced

Oshkosh Herald

Real estate tax bills were mailed out Dec. 13 by the city, which encourages residents to either mail in tax payments, use the drop box outside City Hall or use the online payment option at oshkoshwi.gov.

City Hall business hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Community First Credit Union and

Associated Bank locations are authorized payment locations during regular hours for in person payments through Jan. 31.

Residents are asked to help avoid congestion in City Hall by considering the other payment methods.

To be credited with a 2024 tax payment, it must be received by Dec. 31. For more information, visit the self-service real estate page on oshkoshwi.gov.



Submitted photo

Rawhide donation

A Can-Am Defender vehicle was delivered to Rawhide Youth Services in New London by Hexco Motorsports of Oshkosh on Dec. 13 through the Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP) Can-Am for a Cause program. The vehicle valued at more than \$35,000 was donated as part of a regional initiative to provide nonprofits with tools to further their missions. Each year, three vehicles per region are donated to deserving organizations. Hexco is owned by Jeremy and Jen Probst.

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Oshkosh Herald

Construction is nearing completion on a new medical examiner's office and evidence storage building shown near County Y and Jackson Street in Oshkosh.

New medical examiner's office nears completion

Oshkosh Herald

Workers were installing fiber optic cable last week at Winnebago County's newly constructed medical examiner's office and evidence storage building adjacent to the sheriff's office Huber parking lot at 4311 Jackson St. in Oshkosh.

Miron Construction built the 5,482-square-foot building at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million. It includes the medical examiner's office, morgue with

cold storage, an exam room and evidence storage garage large enough to accommodate a 53-foot semitrailer and tow vehicle and 25 vehicles inside and outside, respectively.

The county has been using a mobile morgue unit in the interim until the permanent location is completed. The Medical Examiner's office expects to begin operating out of the new morgue in mid-February.

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Airport zoning issue puts South Park site in question

The Oshkosh Area School District is trying to figure out how to build a new school on the South Park Middle School site if the current zoning that was updated last year doesn't allow it.

The district sent a letter out to families and community members explaining the status of the issue. The Board of Education learned Dec. 13 that because of a zoning change, no new schools are allowed to be built in the South Park area. However, district officials may have learned about the issue during earlier listening sessions for the potential referendum.

The AIR-2 zoning is an aerial approach and departure district. The zoning code states there can be no new residential uses, hospitals, nursing homes, outdoor stadiums or educational facilities. It does allow for group day care centers, golf courses and existing residential expansion.

In February 2023, the county Aviation Committee approved the new zoning code and was approved by the county board in March. AIR-2 extends north of Wittman Street and Michigan Avenue from 20th Avenue to 5th Avenue.

Superintendent Bryan Davis told the Board of Education on Dec. 18 that he is working with the city, county and air-

port to get some details about building at South Park Middle School. It would call for a zoning change or variance to allow for the new middle school.

"I'm confident we'll have a path forward," said Davis, who is working with legal council and city and county administrators.

"This is a big deal that we did not know about," board president Beth Wyman said.

The zoning change was brought up, however, by David McKinney during the public comment section of the meeting. McKinney said he informed Davis of the zoning issue in the fall.

Davis acknowledged the zoning issue was brought to his attention during the listening sessions on the potential referendum in the fall. Davis told the board he instructed Bray Architects look into the topic and Davis said Bray only checked with the city and not the county.

The National Transportation Safety Board looked at statistics that showed a majority of aircraft accidents occur at airports or in the immediate area of the extended centerline of the runway.

The new proposed middle school at the site of South Park is part of the potential \$198 million referendum next spring.

Winter session tennis lessons offered at YMCA

The Oshkosh YMCA Tennis & Pickleball Center will begin winter session tennis lessons beginning Jan. 6.

Lessons are available for ages 4 and up with a variety of days and times at the 640 E. County Y location. There are also reg-

ular tennis lesson programs for youth and adults with a variety of levels and a class with age-appropriate balls. Pickleball lessons, leagues and open times are available as well.

Call 920-236-3400 for more information or to register.

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Firsthand electronics learning engages North students

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

High school students are getting real-world experience with engineering and technology lessons by directly working on a project with an industry professional.

Students in Oshkosh North High School's Essential Electronics class have been working with and learning from Peter Haydock of Gearbox Labs. Students have been working in groups on the semester-long projects.

The students are building mini-HVAC systems over 10 weeks under Haydock's guidance. Dan Tsao teaches the Essential Electronics class that offers hands-on experience with coding, 3D printing and other engineering tasks.

The class is designed for students to work with electronics and technology in preparation for a future profession. Haydock also works with schools in Milwaukee and said there is a great need for engineers and technology professionals in Wisconsin.

"Some of these studies have maybe one scientist and they're helped by 30 engineers and technicians who work the instruments that a scientist needs," Haydock said.

He estimated that in the next five years the state will need to add about 40,000 en-

gineers.

"That's why we're in Oshkosh to get students this hands-on experience and show them these things are possible with these skills," Haydock said.

North's career and tech ed coordinator Vicki Porier said the district is focused on career-based learning experiences, or CBLEs, for students and teachers.

"These experiences are often guest speakers, career expos or tours of facilities, but this is an industry professional in the classroom with the students for 10 weeks," she said. "They're doing stuff (that) isn't like sitting and listening to a professional. They're working with Peter weekly."

The program is funded by a Generac Foundation grant awarded to Gearbox to promote STEM education. Over the semester Haydock taught 16 lessons to the class.

Andrew Brockman is a junior who said he enjoys the class and appreciates Haydock's industry knowledge.

"He's able to answer all our questions and help out in the field," Brockman said. "It's different than most of my other classes where it's just computer work or, you know, like simple schoolwork. This gets me a little creative and you can do some extra stuff."



Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh North students work with Peter Haydock on the coding assignment for the class period as students build mini-HVAC systems.

Police seek information on gunshots fired

Oshkosh Herald

Multiple gunshots reported on Michigan Street have the police searching for more information on what happened.

The Oshkosh Police Department reported that around 9:30 p.m. Dec. 18 officers were dispatched to the 1000 block of

Michigan Avenue, where they discovered evidence of shots being fired in the area.

Police said there were no injuries related to the incident and believe it was an altercation between two groups. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the department at 920-236-5700.



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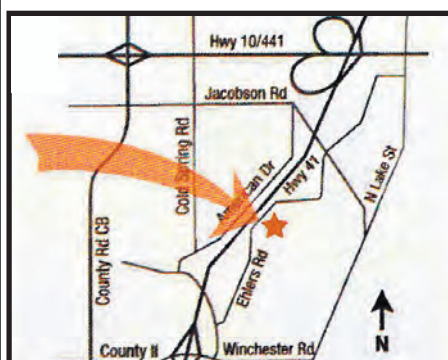


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Letters to Santa

FROM PAGE 1

themselves," she said.

Toland says this year has brought more heart-tugging letters than usual.

"This is the year where I've seen the most kids saying they just want to make sure Mom and Dad are OK," she said.

The letters aren't just wish lists for the latest toys. Some contain requests for help with adult problems, a reminder of the challenges many families face.

"One letter said, 'I want a Walmart gift card to make sure we have food, and I want to make sure the truck payment gets paid,'" Toland shared. "It's heartbreaking, but it shows that families are having conversations about their struggles."

Toland also noted an increase in children's awareness of their families' needs with more asking for food, rent money or jobs for their parents.

Toland typically handles 45 to 60 letters each year. This year, however, she received only 25 letters due to a faster-than-usual turnaround after the Reindeer on the Square event, which is the primary time children put their letters in the special mailbox next to the Christmas tree in Opera House Square.

Children who include their address receive a handwritten reply written from Mrs. Claus's perspective.

"Santa is very busy with logistics," Toland explained. "I remind kids of the magic of the season and encourage them to focus on family and kindness. If they ask for something like rent or car payments, I gently tell them that those things aren't for them to worry about."

Over the years, some letters have left a lasting impression on Toland. One in particular from her first year stands out.

"It was a three-line note written in small, purple handwriting. I'd guess the writer was 15 or older. It said, 'I wish I had some friends. I wish a boy would like me.' There was no address to respond to," she said. "It was just so raw and universal - we've all wished for those things at some point."

Toland and her fellow Santa helpers are careful never to overpromise in their responses.

"I'll say something like, 'The elves have picked out something special for you, and we hope you'll love it,'" she said. "We focus on the magic of the season and remind kids to leave out cookies and carrots for Santa and the reindeer."

For Toland, this work has a personal touch. Her 8-year-old niece has written letters to Santa for the past four years and hasn't yet recognized the handwriting.

"Her letters go on the fridge, and she gets so excited," she said. "At 8, she's starting to question if Santa is real. But that hope she still has - that's what makes the season magical."



Photo by Michael Cooney

Children work on art projects during the Christmas for Kids program recently at Father Carr's.

Christmas for Kids serves holiday cheer at Father Carr's

Oshkosh Herald

Christmas for Kids hosted a holiday program earlier this month at Father Carr's Place 2B for hundreds of area children in need of a little extra help this year.

Each family had a pancake breakfast donated by Perkins in Oshkosh, heard the nativity story and participated in a craft project. Many children chose to give their crafts as gifts to their grandparents. They also got to meet Santa and take home a variety of giveaways from community donations.

Brittany Wilms, a longtime coordinator of the program, said the group collected more than 400 blankets and stuffed animals, 200 stockings from Julie's Touch of Silver, and hats, gloves and mittens donated by Sarah Lee and church groups, many of whom knitted yearlong to donate the items. Also distributed were hygiene kits provided by dentists and doctors, which included information about an upcoming wellness fair in January, food pantry Fridays and other resources.

Toyland is one of the highlights of the event with families enjoying elf-themed activities in the hallway where kids pick out an elf name. The Oshkosh West Industrial Tech Department created Lego arches and a Lego tree for the entrance.

"Inside Toyland, it's set up like a store where kids can choose any item they want," Wilms said. "We've had giving trees all over the community. From October to December, people drop off toys and presents, filling shopping carts. It's incredible to see the generosity."

While the children are busy, parents can pick out a secret surprise such as a board game, puzzle or craft for their children. Volunteers can wrap the gifts or families can take wrapping supplies home.

"Over the years, we noticed kids didn't want to leave because this event became such a special Christmas memory for them," Wilms said. "To make the transition easier, we started giving out family kits. This year, Tamara's The Cake Guru donated cookie kits so families can decorate sugar cookies together at home, continuing the Christmas fun."

Community support included two homeschool groups, two confirmation groups and the Newman Center at UW Oshkosh with Father Zack. Revs Bowl Bar & Grill hosted 50-50 raffles that raised nearly \$2,000 for the program and donated bowling opportunities for teenagers. Amcor and Chiropractic Health also contributed funds.



Photo by Richard Yell

Mason honors

Mark Bargaquast was recently selected as the Oshkosh Freemasons' 2024 Mason of the Year. He is shown holding the award presented by past master Will Cochran.

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Not-guilty plea entered in gas station robbery case

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

An Oshkosh man accused of attempting to kill and rob an armed guard could avoid a trial by entering a plea of not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect.

Court records show that the attorney for Jaymin C. Blankinship, suspected of attempting to rob a service station ATM, has entered the not guilty plea and Blankinship will be examined to determine whether he is able to stand trial.

Blankinship was arrested in September for allegedly attacking and attempting to disarm an armed guard who was servicing an ATM at an Oshkosh Kwik Trip. Blankinship, 23, is charged with attempted first-degree homicide, attempted armed

robbery and three counts of second-degree recklessly endangering safety.

If convicted on all counts, he faces up to 80 years in prison.

In a court hearing last week, attorney Brianne Patzer entered a plea of not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect, which was accepted by Judge Michael Rust who ordered a mental examination.

According to the criminal complaint, on Sept. 6 police responded to the business at West 20th Avenue and Oregon Street around 1 p.m., where they spoke with the three individuals who helped detain Blankinship as well as the armed guard and station manager.

The armed guard told police he had been servicing the two ATMs inside when

Blankinship entered the station and gave the guard a “funny feeling.” When the guard shut the door to the ATM, Blankinship allegedly attacked him and attempted to get his gun.

The guard’s gun holster has a retention feature that locks it in the holster to prevent someone from grabbing the gun. As the guard struggled with Blankinship, bystanders helped to get him off the guard, who was then able to hold Blankinship at gunpoint until police arrived.

The bystanders kept Blankinship immobilized as the guard had Blankinship in a chokehold. The bystanders are part of the three second-degree counts of recklessly

endangering safety against Blankinship.

One of the victims told police Blankinship was shouting while detained that he would have shot everyone in the station if he got the gun. Another victim told police Blankinship said, “You’re lucky I didn’t kill you; I should have just robbed the store.”

The store manager told police that Blankinship had been living in a car in the service station parking lot for about a week and earlier that day they put a note on the car that it needed to be moved or would be towed. Blankinship entered the store to complain about it and ripped up the note.

Blankinship is due back in court in March for a plea hearing.

Oshkosh man faces federal gun charges

Oshkosh Herald

A federal grand jury issued a two-count indictment alleging an Oshkosh man stole a handgun from a federal firearms dealer in November.

Donta E. Bradshaw, 42, has been federally charged with possession of a firearm and theft of a firearm. Bradshaw is a convicted felon from a possession of methamphetamine conviction in 2021.

The U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin announced the indictment. If convicted, Bradshaw faces 15 years of imprisonment on the possession charge and up to 10 years for the theft of the firearm.

The indictment alleges Bradshaw stole a Ruger semiautomatic 9mm pistol from a federally licensed firearms dealer in Oshkosh. The case was investigated by the Oshkosh Police Department, Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office and Milwaukee office of

the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It will be prosecuted by assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Humble.

Records show Bradshaw was convicted of felony possession of methamphetamine in Calumet County in 2021 and is facing charges in Winnebago County for similar charges in federal court.



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Travelers urged to update driver license for ID

Oshkosh Herald

Airline travelers will face new identification requirements to board their flights when enforcement of the REAL ID Act begins May 7.

A regular Wisconsin driver license or ID will no longer be accepted for domestic air travel or to enter a federal building or military base. Travelers will need a REAL ID-compliant driver license or state ID card or another acceptable form of identification such as a passport.

Wisconsin’s driver licenses and ID cards have been REAL ID compliant since 2013. With renewals required every eight years, all residents have had the option to convert to a REAL ID.

To date, 62% of Wisconsin’s driver li-

cence or ID cards currently display the REAL ID star indicating they are federally compliant. In 2005, the federal REAL ID Act was passed by Congress to standardize state-issued driver licenses and ID cards to enhance security and prevent identity fraud.

Those with a driver license or ID may obtain a REAL ID-compliant card for \$14, or \$16 for an ID card. There is no additional fee if the upgrade takes place at the time of renewal.

For a complete list of acceptable documents needed to complete the process, visit wisconsinidmv.gov/REALID. For a personalized checklist of the required documents needed to bring to the DMV, check out the interactive Driver Licensing Guide.

Local native on national champ sailing team

Oshkosh Herald

Tabor Academy’s sailing team, which included Oshkosh native Maria Castle, earned the High School Keelboat National Championship earlier this month in St. Petersburg, Fla.

The competition brings in the top 10 schools from across the country that are determined through a series of regional qualifiers. The winning team, composed of Castle, Peter Herlihy, Eliza Corral and Jack Spillane, earned the program’s first national title since 2011. Tabor Academy is a co-educational college preparatory school in

Marion, Mass.

“This achievement is a testament to the dedication of these four sailors,” said head coach Andy Cornah. “But it also belongs to the entire team. The commitment of every member, including those who trained alongside them, was instrumental in reaching this milestone.”



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UWO midyear graduate relishes complex math

By Grace Lim
UW OSHKOSH TODAY

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh graduating senior Fatima Muniz is not afraid to ask lots of questions, especially when it comes to higher math problems, and to work hard to find the answers.

After graduating from UWO in the Midyear Commencement Dec. 14, Muniz, a math major, plans to apply to graduate school with the ultimate goal to earn a doctorate in mathematics and, eventually, teach at a university or do research in industry.

Her questioning math mind kicked in an AP calculus course at St. Mary Catholic High School in Neenah. She wanted to know the “why and how” of the math she was learning and spent her high school years asking her teacher detailed questions.

“I wanted to know how we know that this works? Why is this working? How about in this little special case? What if this happens and this doesn’t happen?” Muniz said with a laugh. “I had a lot of questions.”

At UWO, she quickly distinguished herself as a promising math student. Math professor David Penniston had Muniz in his Introduction to Linear Algebra, Vector Calculus and Complex Analysis and Advanced Linear Algebra courses. He said Muniz’s questions always led to thoughtful mathematical discussions.

“The questions Fatima asks are almost invariably aimed at fully grasping concepts and making connections between them, and she seems to have always known that if one understands mathematics on a high level, the minor details tend to fall into line,” Penniston said.

Raised in a family of hard workers, Muniz is the first in her family to attend college. Muniz’s parents, both originally from Guanajuato, Mexico, instilled in her a strong work ethic and a commitment to making the most of every opportunity.



UW Oshkosh photo

Graduating senior Fatima Muniz was a member of the Honors College and a McNair Scholar as a mathematics undergraduate student at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

Her father, who grew up in a rural farming community, had to leave school to help support his family after his father passed away when he was 7 years old.

With limited education, he worked hard, finding odd jobs. In the U.S. he worked in construction, eventually founding his own company, Muniz Concrete in Neenah. Her mother, also with limited formal schooling, worked at a cheese factory before transitioning to cleaning houses, to support the family.

Growing up in a household where both parents were deeply invested in providing for the family, Fatima knew early on that education was her key to unlocking a different future.

“My dad always said, ‘I want my kids to leave the nest, go out there and get

the opportunities I couldn’t have,’” she said.

Despite the financial struggles, her parents prioritized her education, always encouraging her to go further than they did.

Fatima’s natural academic talent became evident early on. She was an exceptional student in high school, graduating as the class valedictorian in 2021. But even then, Fatima still grappled with imposter syndrome. She remembers feeling a little inadequate in her AP calculus class in high school, surrounded by male students who seemed to have all the answers.

“They would raise their hands and give these complicated answers with a lot of high vocabulary,” she said, adding, “and I felt a little bit inadequate.”

One day, after a particularly challenging class, Muniz went to her teacher.

“I told her I basically felt dumb and didn’t know if I was succeeding,” she said. “My teacher said, ‘Fatima, you have the highest grade in the class. Sometimes people just talk to talk, but you’re doing much better than the people that talk the most in class.’”

That moment was a turning point for Muniz. It gave her the confidence to embrace her love for math and helped her realize that she had a unique gift for understanding and explaining complex concepts. She also took to heart her fa-

ther’s words growing up.

“He would encourage me when I would stand up for myself and would get into arguments with my brothers,” Muniz said. “He would say, ‘Do not let them silence your voice because you are standing up for yourself.’ I have taken this advice to heart and live by it.”

Muniz enrolled in the UWO Honors College and is a McNair Scholar. In the summer of 2024, Fatima took part in a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program in Washington State University, where she worked on a challenging mathematics project involving unilateral equitransitive tilings (UET). At first glance, tiling—a mathematical concept involving the arrangement of shapes like tiles to cover a surface—might sound abstract. But in pure mathematics, these kinds of patterns hold deep significance.

Muniz and her research team, including students from New Jersey and California, sought to create an algorithm in Python, a computer programming language, that would identify and filter UETs involving four different-sized squares. Previous research had identified a handful of valid tiling patterns, but Fatima’s team went a step further. By creating an algorithm to filter out redundant or invalid tiling configurations, they reduced the number of possibilities from 400 to just 99 valid ones. Their work not only corrected previous findings, but also introduced new insights into tiling theory that had been overlooked in earlier research.

“Research can feel like you’re building a puzzle,” Muniz said. “You have these rules, and you need to figure out how to make things fit. That’s the beauty of math. You’re constantly asking, ‘Why does this work? How do we know this is true?’”

While the immediate application of their research may seem distant from everyday life, Muniz said she’s OK with the idea of doing research that could later be used to help solve problems in fields like computer science, physics and even art.

“No research is futile,” she said. “No research is not useful.”

Math professor Penniston thought Muniz’s summer research was deserving of a larger audience and asked her to present a colloquium this past semester. “I could not have been more impressed with her presentation,” he said. “If teaching ends up being part of Fatima’s professional future, her students will be in good hands.”



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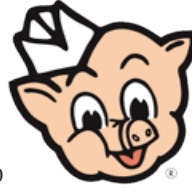
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WITH CARD

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WITH CARD

2.39

8 oz Select
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WITH CARD

10.79

14-16 oz Select
Old Wisconsin Deli Sticks

WITH CARD

4.99

16 oz Jones
Pork Sausage Roll

WITH CARD

7.99

16-18 oz Select Jones
Pork or Chicken Sausage Meatballs

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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. 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 Elevated Frequencies concert, 5 p.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

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 Elevated Frequencies concert, 5 p.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

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 for Mental Health and Suicide Awareness, 9 a.m., Oshkosh North High School

Saturday, Jan. 4

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

Thursday, Jan. 9

Oshkosh Community Players: "Now & Then," 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Friday, Jan. 10

Oshkosh Community Players: "Now & Then," 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Saturday, Jan. 11

Oshkosh Winter Farmers Market, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Arena

Winnegamie Dog Club Show, noon, Sunnyview Expo Center

Oshkosh Community Players: "Now & Then," 2 and 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Sunday, Jan. 12

Wisconsin Herd vs. Osceola Magic, 12:30 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Winnegamie Dog Club Show, noon, Sunnyview Expo Center



Submitted photo

League gives back

The annual Marine Corps Reserve's local Toys for Tots program received a \$1,000 check from the Oshkosh City/Winnebago County Tavern League (OTL) recently from money raised at the league's fall festival. Shown are (from left) OTL treasurer Crystal Mulvey, Todd Schumacher from the Winnebago detachment of the Marine Corps League and OTL vice president John Popp. Another \$3,675 donation raised by the OTL during the annual Mabel Murphy's golf outing was presented to Sandi Paws Rescue in Fond du Lac.

City manager

FROM PAGE 1

"Oshkosh is an incredible city with a strong sense of community, a vibrant downtown, beautiful natural amenities, and a proud history. I am truly honored to be considered for this role," she said in a statement. "I look forward to collaborating with the council, city staff and residents to build on the city's progress and serve the community with dedication and integrity."

She is expected to begin her new position Feb. 24.

Grill will succeed Mark Rohloff, who is retiring Jan. 3 after serving for 16 years as city manager. Assistant City Manager John Fitzpatrick was appointed to serve as interim city manager until Grill starts.

Grill studied at Concordia University where she earned bachelor's degrees in political science and criminal justice as well as a master's degree in finance. She is also a credentialed manager for the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and a University of Wisconsin Madison certified public manager.

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XRoads41 completes August festival lineup

Oshkosh Herald

The XRoads41 music lineup for Aug. 7-9 on the Oshkosh Festival grounds was finalized last week with additional performers joining headliners Cody Johnson, Kane Brown and Parker McCollum for the country music-focused concerts.

Parmalee, Pecos and The Rooftops, and Drew Green have been added to complete the main stage lineup.

One previously announced group, Redferrin, will not be at the event due to a scheduling conflict.

The 2025 lineup also includes Jessie

Murphy, Nelly, Koe Wetzel, Flo Rida, Ian Munsick, Rodney Atkins, Josh Melo, and The Castellows.

Johnson's recent album "Leather" was nominated for 2024 Album of the Year by the Academy of Country Music Awards. Brown is currently touring Australia and his fourth album "The High Road" is scheduled to be released next month.

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

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NFL Draft

FROM PAGE 1

700,000. “We don’t want to get ahead of ourselves,” she said.

Hotels in the Fox Cities and Oshkosh are ready to welcome guests from the draft.

“We’ve been involved from the get-go with the draft since our hotels were needed to show the area had the capacity to host. We’re here to make sure visitors have a place to stay and can get to the draft,” said Pam Seidl, executive director of the Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau. “These people are here to attend the draft. We plan to promote our attractions as things to do while they are here in between their time at the draft. Hotels will really see the lift. Right now, hotels still have room, but we expect to see them fill up as the draft gets closer.”

Oshkosh will have a new hotel in time for the draft. The 42,663-square-foot Tru by Hilton is opening by the end of January, making its 90 rooms available for those attending the draft.

“Being 40 minutes away, Oshkosh will be a perfect spot for draft goers to stay,” said Amy Albright, executive director of Discover Oshkosh. “A large drive market is expected — we do expect our businesses to benefit as well — from gas stations to restaurants, grocery stores and more should all feel the impact of the draft.”

Neenah’s Bridgewood also plans to finish its expansion project in early March, making an additional 39 rooms available for travelers coming to the draft, bringing the hotel to 133 rooms. The Bridgewood North Tower includes the new guest rooms, a fitness room and a meeting



Oshkosh Herald

The Tru by Hilton hotel nearing completion on Oshkosh Avenue will add room capacity in the region for visitors to the upcoming NFL Draft.

room, Batley said.

The changes do not end there. The hotel’s lobby is also being remodeled to create more seating, a second elevator is being added and the pool mezzanine area is being expanded.

Batley said the hotel’s restaurant also added a new seating area called The Endzone with room for 24 more guests.

“It’s a low table sitting area and is ideal for those who don’t want to sit at the bar or at high tables,” he said.

Both Seidl and Albright said hotels and other businesses can expect the draft to be like another event that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors to area each year — the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) AirVenture, which happens each July in Oshkosh.

“Our local businesses are used to large events, so they will be ready,” Albright said.

As for restaurants, given the time of the draft — starting at noon April 24-25 and 9

a.m. April 26 — Seidl predicts restaurants offering breakfasts and brunches — along with late night snacks will see a large increase in business.

“People will want to eat before they go and may be looking for a little something once they are back in town,” she said. “My advice to restaurants is to focus on those areas. Bars can look at creating a draft-theme related drink.”

Batley said he’s preparing for busier breakfast times and late dinners in the restaurant. He’s also looking to host a draft watch party in the restaurant for residents who want to watch the draft together.

The FCCVB is working to schedule shuttles to and from Green Bay. The bureau has already reserved eight shuttle buses they plan to run to help ease the traffic congestion. More information will come out as the event gets closer.

Airlines that operate out of Appleton International Airport (ATW) will be adding

more routes and expanding their existing ones before and after the draft, according to airport officials who expect to see their flights and customers double during that time. Some of the new terminals being built at ATW as part of a major expansion project are expected to be in operation in time for the NFL event.

American Airlines will add flights from Phoenix, Dallas-Ft. Worth and Charlotte, N.C.; Allegiant will add service to Pittsburgh, Providence, R.I., and Canton/Akron, Ohio; and Delta is adding a flight to Atlanta.

“We are planning to launch a marketing campaign to encourage people to extend their stay in the Fox Cities either before or after the draft,” Seidl said. “The goal is to provide a great experience, so travelers come back and visit.”

Batley said he is also working with Future Neenah on ways the hotel can promote Neenah businesses during the draft.

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Experienced Bauer stands tall in goal for Ice Hawks

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Stopping a speeding rubber disk traveling roughly 80 miles per hour is a difficult job.

It takes reflexes, resiliency and a puck-stops-here mentality.

Gage Bauer welcomes the challenge and takes a bring-it-on approach every second he guards the net.

The Oshkosh West senior goalie is a team captain and fourth-year starter for the Oshkosh Ice Hawks co-op hockey team. Bauer is a top-notch competitor who truly enjoys playing the pressure-packed position.

"I really like playing goalie," Bauer said. "I like how technical it is and all that you have to think about. I like working with the defense. You have to guide your defense out there and move them around a little bit in the 'D' zone."

Bauer finished with a career-best 724 saves last season. He also established career highs in saves percentage (.873), goals against average (4.57) and shut-outs (1).

Bauer became an Ice Hawks starter as a freshman, finishing with 480 saves and collected another 644 as a sophomore.

"Gage has grown remarkably over the last four years," said Ice Hawks coach Stephanie Brunkhorst. "When he joined us, we were in a sticky situation with only one goalie. He got thrown to the wolves and had to play right away."

"He's been fantastic. He has persevered and stepped up as a player and leader."

Bauer shrugs off any pressure connected to the critical position and isn't daunted by being the last line of defense for his team.

"It can be pretty nerve-racking, but I've gotten used to it over the years," said Bauer. "I'm a guy who likes to compete and the experience I have really helps. The pucks aren't coming in as fast as they did my freshman year."

Bauer is a big goalie at 6-foot-4, 200 pounds, giving him an advantage over shorter goalies who cover less net area. Mental toughness is a must for any goalie and it's an area where Bauer has grown the past three years.

"Goals are going to happen," Bauer said. "You can't let yourself get too worked up about it. If you let in a goal, you're only going to make it worse if you get down on yourself. You have to learn to deal with it and move on."

Bauer started playing hockey at age 8 and has been a goalie since he was 10. His favorite all-time goalie is longtime Montreal Canadiens netminder Carey

Senior Spotlight

Price.

"When I was a little kid, hockey was more about hanging out with my buddies," he said. "But over time I really grew to love competing on the ice. I really like how the game flows and how fast paced it is."

The Ice Hawks are a co-op team composed of students from Oshkosh West, Oshkosh North, Lourdes Academy, Winneconne, Lomira, Ripon and Lacomina. Bauer enjoys the camaraderie and being a part of a team with athletes from different schools.

"One of the things I've always liked about hockey is you get a chance to meet a lot of people," he said. "I've made a lot of friends over the years with guys from different schools - whether it's Oshkosh North or Winneconne - guys I still talk with today. A co-op program brings a bunch of people together."

This will likely be Bauer's final season of organized hockey. He will enter a pipefitter apprenticeship program for the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 400 union in Kaukauna after graduation and plans to pursue a career in that field. He is currently a youth apprentice for the union in a school work program.

"It started with a job at a small metal fabrication shop for a couple years," Bauer said. "I love welding and this is the next step."

Bauer is part of a youthful Ice Hawks team that is looking to be more competitive in the Badgerland Conference after going 9-16-0 overall and 3-6-0 in league play last season. Bauer's stabilizing presence in the net is one of the Ice Hawks' strengths.

"This is a really young team - lot of freshmen," Bauer said. "We're trying to put together a team that works well together. I'm hoping we can steal some wins and hold our own in the conference."



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Gage Bauer has served as the netminder for the Oshkosh Ice Hawks the past four seasons.

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Wildcats get on roll to score victory over Spartans

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Oshkosh North strode into the Oshkosh West gym on Thursday night and bullied its way to a pair of wins to start the Fox Valley Association dual meet between the rival schools.

Eddy Schroeder then made sure the Wildcats started to make some noise of their own.

Schroeder secured a pin in his 144-pound bout and Oshkosh West would not lose another match, rolling to a 63-12 win to claim the Andrew Wallace Memorial trophy.

"I just come out knowing I can change the (momentum) and make a difference in the dual meet," said Schroeder, part of the West senior class which has possessed the Andrew Wallace Memorial trophy all four years of high school. "When I get out there, that's what I try to do."

Starting with Schroeder's win, the Wildcats won the final 10 contested matches in the dual meet, while also picking up one forfeit with both teams forfeiting at the 106-pound class.

And in those wins for West, nine of them

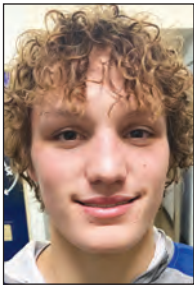
came by pin.

"I wouldn't say that I expected us to win out, especially the way we did it where every match but one was a pin. I didn't see that coming," West head coach Matt Cuadra said. "The team really responded after the first two matches. We started rolling and didn't look back."

Schroeder was in control of his match from the outset, scoring the first takedown early in the match and then turning North's Dominic Wyrwicki onto his back twice to take an 11-0 lead at the end of the first period.

Schroeder then started the second period in the top position, once again got Wyrwicki on his back and ended the match with a pin just 41 seconds into the second period.

"I look to score points and work on certain techniques to get better. Whatever comes at me, I'm going to take it," Schroeder



Schroeder

er said. "Hardly ever do people get off their backs against us. When we have the chance, we pin people."

Jaxen Lloyd followed Schroeder's win by pinning Xavier Rucinsky in 1:05 to tie the score before West went ahead for good when Eskander Koko earned the match's only forfeit at 157 pounds.

One of the most entertaining matches of the night came in the 165-pound division where West's Jaiden Fronczak rallied a 7-2 deficit after the first period to edge North's Jamond Thompson-Schreck, 10-8 at 165 pounds.

Fronczak got the go-ahead points on a takedown early in the third period and was able to fend off Thompson-Schreck the rest of the way.

Ryland Schneider then needed just 42 seconds to stop Andrew Brockman at 175 pounds with Zach Bartels (190) and Connor Wisneski (215) adding two more pins to the total.

"(Seeing everybody win) just gets me excited," the senior Wisneski said. "He was putting his leg up and I saw it right away and I put my hand there and wrapped it around and the rest is history. I knew it was close (time wise) that's why I was trying to get him flat as fast as I could."

West heavyweight Nelson Fournier turned in the quickest pin of the night with a 19-second victory over Gavinn De La Cruz with the Wildcats getting pins in the final three matches from Xavier Vang (113), Arjen Karns (120) and Preston Schneider (126).

Karns had the quickest of those final three, shooting for a takedown almost immediately after the starting whistle to start the match.

"Arjen Karns is wrestling amazing right now," Cuadra said. "He's getting into his own (rhythm) and it's awesome to see those guys start picking it up and doing things like that."

West improved to 3-1 in FVA dual meets with the only loss coming in the first dual meet of the year to powerhouse Kaukauna.

"I'd say were doing pretty well. We got some good momentum going," Wisneski said. "We're picking it up and I think we can get things done when it comes time for (the postseason)."

Schroeder agreed that the post-holiday break results should be good ones for the Wildcats.

"I think once we come back from Christmas break, we're going to come in and work harder than ever and prove we can get better throughout the season," Schroeder said.

West's dominance over the final 12 matches overshadowed a strong start by North as Carter Zick and Anthony Berger scored back-to-back pins to begin the dual meet.

Zick trailed 10-1 after the first period of his 132-pound match but he started the second period in the top position and locked in a cradle against Yylah Yang and forced his way to the victory.

"Zick is a hammer. He is a guy we count on," first-year Oshkosh North head coach Zach Jeanneret said. "He made a couple of mistakes but with the three-point takedown, it's easy to get down 10-1 and it's not like being down 10-1 used to be. Zick is a guy that believes (in himself) so I wasn't surprised at all."

Berger stopped Colden Searles in 3:29 at 138 pound for North's second win to build the 12-0 lead, however, the Spartans weren't able to claim another point.

Still, despite the loss, Jeanneret has liked what he has seen from his squad and believes brighter days are ahead for the program.

"The scoreboard obviously doesn't look like we want it to look like but I don't think there is a team out there younger than us," said Jeanneret, whose varsity lineup did not include a senior but had six freshman and a sophomore. "It's not a lack of effort. We see kids fighting throughout the lineup. It's a few things here and there. The potential this team has is something North hasn't seen in a while."

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Prep sports roundup

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wildcats use second-half charge to top Lightning

Oshkosh West outscored Appleton North 29-18 in the second half as the Wildcats broke a halftime tie to collect a 55-44 win last week.

It was the third straight win for the Wildcats, who improved to 3-1 in the Fox Valley Association.

Maddie Rasmussen finished with 16 points and five rebounds to lead the Wildcats, who went 16-of-22 from the free-throw line in the victory. Ava Strasser also reached double figures with 13 points.

The game was tied at 26 at halftime.

Spartans suffer fourth straight loss

Oshkosh North ran into another of the top teams in the FVA and dropped a 78-40 decision to Appleton East last week.

Awut Alic finished with 14 points, six rebounds and five assists to lead the Spartans, who trailed 38-20 at halftime.

Hailee Valdez went 3-of-4 from 3-point range to total nine points in the game for North.

Valley Christian tripped by Tigersharks

The Warriors were held to 45 points in dropping their second straight game last

week, falling to Princeton/Green Lake 57-45.

Valley Christian is 0-4 this season when being held to less than 50 points, but 3-0 when hitting that mark.

No other information was available from the game.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Mitchell leads Spartans to another triumph

Xzavion Mitchell went 15-of-16 from the free-throw line and finished with a game-high 35 points as Oshkosh North held off Appleton East 67-61 last Tuesday.

Mitchell also added six rebounds and five steals in the game as Oshkosh North, ranked sixth in Division 1, improved to 4-2 overall and 2-1 in the FVA.

Jon Coleman added 10 points and Tylan Lister finished with nine in the win.

Lourdes Academy stung at home by Hornets

The Knights held a four-point halftime lead but couldn't hold off Markesan in the second half as they dropped the Trailways East contest, 60-55, at home last Tuesday.

Markesan held Lourdes Academy to just 20 points in the second half to rally for the win.

Harlan Kuehn poured in a career-high 22 points to lead the Knights. Kuehn has scored in double figures in each of his last

four games and five of his last six.

Braden Studinski added 16 points for the Knights, while Parker Slusarski finished with eight.

Wildcats can't get past Lightning

Sam Gibson scored a season-high 13 points but Oshkosh West came up short against Appleton North last week, dropping the FVA tilt, 55-48.

Noah Gelhar added 10 points and seven rebounds, while Joey Ware chipped in nine points for the Wildcats.

Rough first half sinks Warriors in loss

Valley Christian scored just 19 points in the first half against Horicon and trailed by 16 points at intermission and couldn't recover in a 64-42 loss last week.

Isaiah Hyvonen was the lone Warrior to reach double figures with 15 points while also grabbing a team-high nine rebounds.

Derek Wallace chipped in seven points and Brady Patterson had six for Valley Christian.

HOCKEY

Ice Hawks can't hold early lead in loss

Eddie Bielak needed just 23 seconds to notch the game's first goal but that would be the only tally for Oshkosh in a 7-1 loss to Waupun last week.

The Ice Hawks held the lead for more than six minutes of the game. Waupun tied the game about seven minutes into the game and then took the lead late in the pe-

riod. The Warriors tacked on four goals in the second period to break the game open.

Dayton Briski had the lone assist in the game for Oshkosh.

Gage Bauer finished with 26 saves.

SWIMMING

Oshkosh West drops FVA dual meet

The Wildcats swept the top three places in the 50-meter freestyle but couldn't get past Appleton West/Kimberly, 102-77, in a dual meet last Tuesday.

Carter Crowe led the sweep and captured the lone win of the day for the Wildcats with George Suwalski taking second and Sam Roblee finishing third.

Crowe also picked up a second place in the 100-meter breaststroke. Also posting second-place finishers for the Wildcats were Caleb Bergin in the 100-meter butterfly, Logan Auxier in the 100-meter freestyle and Eddie Tornow in diving.

The Wildcats also finished second in all three relays.

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Submitted photo

Peters signs

Oshkosh North senior Brook Peters (second from right) committed to play softball at Madison Area Technical College at a ceremony last week. Joining Peters were (from left) her father, Heath, step-father, Gregg, and mom, Shannon.

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Obituaries

Gary John Weber

Gary John Weber, age 78, passed away peacefully with family by his side on



Wednesday, December 18, 2024. He was born in Oshkosh on October 14, 1946, to the late Theodore and Kathryn (McClone) Weber.

Gary attended Oshkosh High and later proudly served in the Army National Guard. In 1967 Gary married the love of his life, Frances Mary (Sitzberger) Weber of Oshkosh. They were able to spend 57 years together and raised four beautiful children, three sons and a daughter. Gary was the owner of Weber's Super Market and later worked for the Oshkosh Public School System as

a custodian.

Gary was always active, whether it was golfing with his buddies or jumping in the boat with his sons to fish a local wall-eye tournament, he was always on the go. Gary always enjoyed playing cards and long summer rides in his 1976 Cadillac convertible, listening to the Beach Boys with Fran. Gary's passion was for hunting ducks and deer at his land in the Puchyan marsh with his sons, grandsons, and his good friend, Herb Geffers. He also eagerly awaited the fishing off his dock on Lake Winnebago in the Spring.

Gary is survived by his wife, Frances "Fran" Weber; sons, Joe (Melanie) Weber, Steve Weber and Marc (Tracy) Weber; daughter, Karen Weber; his grandchildren, Mackenzie Weber, Joseph (Jade) Weber, Lucas (Evllyn) Weber, Olivia (Jacob) Johnson, Charlie Weber, Jacob (Al-

lie) Weber, Scott Weber, Brooke Weber, Jessica Tollard, Valerie (Lamere) Milan, Calvin Tollard III and Vincent Kuen; 7 great-grandchildren, Millicent, Michael, Leon, Landry, River, Clayton and Cooper. Gary is further survived by his brothers, Ted Weber of Little Chute and Bob Weber of Oshkosh.

In addition to his parents, Gary was preceded in death by numerous family members.

Mass will be held on Thursday, January 2, 2025, at St. Jude the Apostle Church (St. Vincent site), 1225 Oregon St., Oshkosh, Wisconsin at 10:00am. His final resting place will be at Calvary Catholic Cemetery. Military Honors will be bestowed.

The family would like to give thanks to Aurora Medical Center, Lombardi Cancer and all the nurses and staff. We would

also like to give special thanks to Gary and Fran's lifelong friends Ron and Nancy, Dick and Jewel, Tom and Lorel, Darrell and Kathey, Steve and Marcia and countless others who made life full of memories.



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Obituaries

Harland K. Mueckler

Harland K. Mueckler, age 98, passed away at home December 1, 2024. He



was born to Robert and Erna (Sennholz) Mueckler at home in Oshkosh on September 20, 1926.

He graduated from Oshkosh High School in 1944 and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served

in the Pacific Area Campaign during World War II abroad the USS Presidio as a shipping room clerk and a landing craft driver. He was honorably discharged as a Seaman First Class in June 1946. Next, he attended Oshkosh Business College, graduating with an Advanced Accounting diploma in 1948.

Harland worked for North Central Airlines as an accountant for five years. While

living in Minneapolis, he missed hunting and fishing in Wisconsin and returned to Oshkosh. He was employed thirty-two years by Rockwell and retired as their Plant Accountant.

He was a life-long active member of Grace Lutheran Church. Over the years, he served his Lord in numerous capacities including church treasurer for two terms.

Harland was an avid hunter and fisherman. He enjoyed teaching his children and grandchildren how to fish while at the cottage. He was most proud of his biggest hunting trophy, a bull elk he shot in Colorado when he was 75 years old.

He played softball as a pitcher in city leagues for many years. He also golfed and bowled most of his life in numerous leagues.

Harland married Alene Tornow Westover on November 25, 1960 at Grace Lutheran Church in Oshkosh. He is survived by his wife, Alene; daughter, Colleen Westover

(Tom) Rabe of Ocala, FL; son, John Mueckler of Glendale, CA, and Paul Mueckler, serving in the U.S. Army. He is further survived by his granddaughter, Chelsea (David) Miller of Belleview, FL and grandson Nick (Katie) Rabe of Orlando, FL.

He was preceded in death by his son Randy; parents, Robert and Era and infant brother, Donald Mueckler.

Pastor Chadwick Graham will conduct a memorial service at Grace Lutheran

Church (913 Nebraska St, Oshkosh) on Saturday, December 28, 2024, at 11 AM. Visitation will take place from 10AM until the time of service. A burial will take place at Lake View Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Grace Lutheran Building Fund would be appreciated.



Amanda J. West

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our beautiful Amanda Jean



West, of Oshkosh age 23. After a long hard struggle with addiction to drugs, Amanda passed away on Saturday, December 14, 2024. Amanda received her high school diploma and attended Oakwood Middle

School, Traeger Elementary and Oshkosh West High School. Amanda played some basketball, sang in the choir and made the honor roll twice. Amanda worked at Culver's in Oshkosh and Midwest Specialty Products in Winneconne.

Amanda loved Stitch, Harry Potter, swimming, boating, hiking, paddle boarding, listening to music, cats and dogs. Amanda had a big heart and showed a lot of concern

to struggling people. Special thanks to Kim Speaks, her supervisor (work mom). Amanda will be deeply missed by her mother Sandra West (Paul Parman) of Oshkosh, her father Steven West of Hancock, her brother Austin West of Oshkosh, grandmother Mary Ann Kasuboski of Omro, God parents Vicki, Jacki and Tereasa. Along with many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends who were touched by Amanda.

Private Services will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes.

Please have memorials mailed to Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes 402 Waugoo Ave. Oshkosh, WI.

Amanda was my sunshine, even on her darkest days. I love you more- Mom, to the moon and back.

We will miss your tremendous welcoming, warm hugs. Love you forever- Dad



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Legal Notices

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

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Courthouse Room 211

415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901
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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

1. 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.
2. That such decedent was a grantor of the Scott Trust dated June 15, 1993.
3. That the deadline for filing a claim against the named Trust for any of the debts of the decedent is April 25, 2025.
4. 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

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Christmas Around the World

Nearly everyone celebrates some sort of holiday in the winter. For many people, it's **Christmas**. Let's take a trip to celebrate with kids around the globe!

Frohe Weihnachten

Merry Christmas from Germany

The advent calendar is long part of the German tradition to help children countdown the days until Christmas Eve. The calendar has 24 doors with little surprises inside and starts December 1. Each day, children open a calendar door until Christmas Eve arrives.



Color one space on the advent calendar below every day through Christmas Eve!

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

Joyeux Noël

Merry Christmas from France

In France, some families find a large log to burn. They call it the **Yule Log** and light it on Christmas Eve using a piece of unburned log from the year before. Some save the ashes from the Yule Log, believing these ashes can ward off sickness and other misfortunes.

Today, instead of burning a Yule Log, many French people make and eat a beautiful chocolate cake in the shape of a log.



Can you find your way through the Yule Log maze?

GO!

STOP

Feliz Navidad

Merry Christmas from Mexico

On Christmas Eve, children celebrate with a **piñata**. The children are blindfolded and take turns trying to break it with a stick. When it breaks open, there are lots of goodies for everyone!

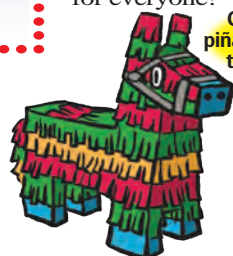


Can you find the piñata that's different than the others?

God Jul

Merry Christmas from Sweden

On December 13th, the eldest daughter plays the role of St. Lucia and serves coffee and sweet rolls to the family. She wears a lighted holly wreath on her head and sings carols.



Extra! Extra!

Gifts from the Heart

Can you find examples in your local newspaper of gifts people can give that don't cost money?

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

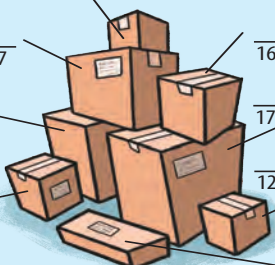
Where in the world are these packages being shipped? Use the code to find out!

15 14 8 9 18 5 11

9 14 2 12 16 7

12 4 18 10 1

6 14 5 3



16 18 8 18 15 18

17 14 10 13 12 3 9

12 5 14 10 18 8 15

13 5 14 14 16 14

A = 18 I = 12 P = 6
B = 17 K = 11 R = 5
C = 16 L = 10 T = 4
D = 15 M = 9 U = 3
E = 14 N = 8 X = 2
G = 13 O = 7 Y = 1

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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STICK
SWEDEN
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YULE

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

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

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

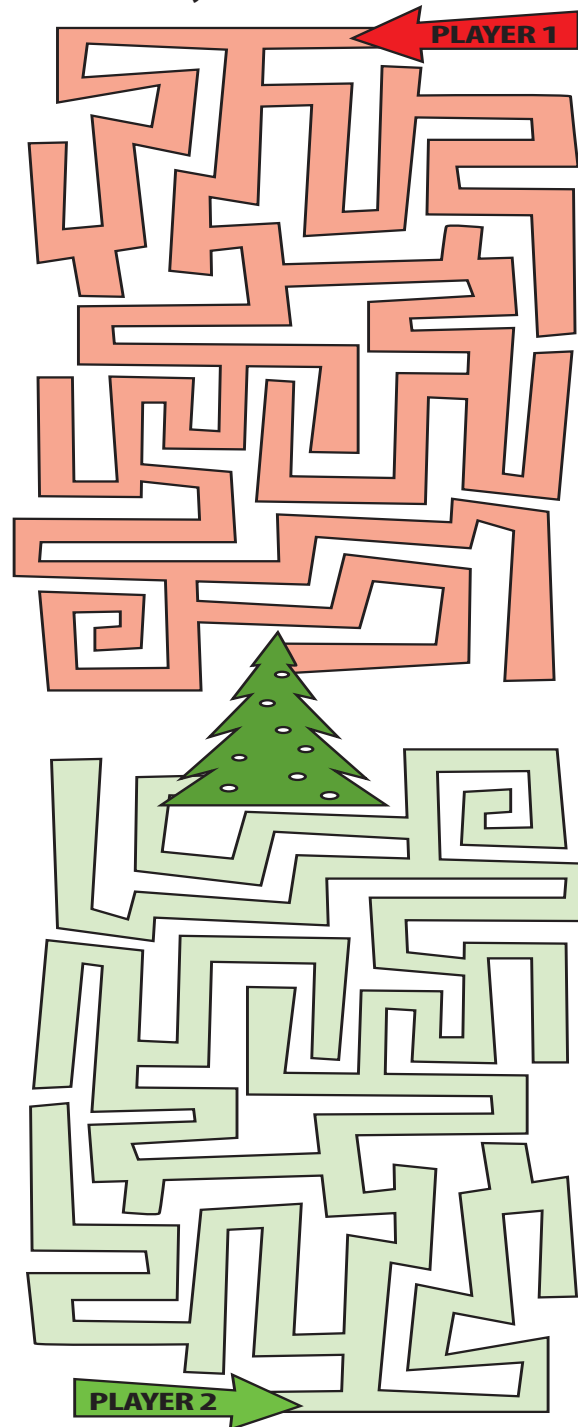


Kid Scoop Together

Christmas Trees

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition over four centuries ago. Christians in Germany brought decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood was scarce.

Race a family member to the Christmas tree!



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