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Oshkosh Herald

A new housing development on Lake Butte des Morts Drive is currently in phase one of a six-phase plan that will add more than 500 housing units.

Housing project boom adding options across city

Some developments will add affordable homes

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Oshkosh is adding a mix of apartment developments to improve the housing stock in a city that is desperate for more housing options.

City officials believed there was a housing stock shortage and were proven correct when a 2022 study showed a shortage in each area of homes – from emergency housing to large single-family homes. The

study also noted that the housing stock in Oshkosh is aging.

From January to Oct. 31 692 residential home sales have been sold in Oshkosh with an average sale of \$234,406 – a number that continues to increase. In 2023, 745 homes were sold in the city with an average sale price around \$217,000. Of those 745 homes sold, the average year built was 1950. The 2022 housing study laid out the lack of housing stock for all incomes ranging from \$25,000 to \$200,000.

Since 2020, the city has approved 15

SEE **Housing projects** ON PAGE 10

Alcohol ban approved in square area

City backs away from overall park restriction

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Steps have been taken by city officials to limit illegal activities going on downtown and in Opera House Square.

Last week the Common Council voted to approve creating a temporary ordinance that prohibits alcohol in the sidewalk area at Opera House Square by excluding it from the Downtown Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA).

The ordinance is set to sunset at the end of March. It was originally meant to pertain to all city parks but was amended by the council to only apply to Opera House Square where there has been an increase in homeless people congregating.

“This is an issue at 11 a.m. at the sundial, this is not an issue with 6 p.m. in front of Satori,” council member Kris Larson said of the proposal to amend the DORA.

DORA was passed in 2022 and allows people to have open alcohol containers in the downtown area from 1 to 10 p.m. on Saturdays and 5 to 10 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. Amending DORA to exclude the square area was approved with no opposing votes from the council.

The initial ordinance sought to prohibit alcohol in all parks because Oshkosh Police Chief Dean Smith believed that the homeless population would simply move

SEE **Alcohol ban** ON PAGE 6

INSIDE



Senior Spotlight

North basketball star works for success

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Ride schedule

Paratransit hours under discussion

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Blind West athlete clearing barriers in sports and work

Stephen ready to compete in goalball championship

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Kymani Stephen is a sprinter, so he doesn't deal with hurdles in track and field competition.

He saves those for life.

The high hurdles Stephen clears in his daily obstacle course would be impassable barriers for most, but they seldom throw him off stride.

The Oshkosh West junior is a blind student-athlete. He competes in track during the spring months and is currently excelling in a new sport, goalball.

Goalball is a team sport for visually

impaired individuals. Two teams of three players apiece face each other across a court that is 9 meters wide and 18 meters long. The object of the game is to roll a ball – roughly the size of a basketball with bells inside – over the opponent's goal line. Opposing players listen for the bell and try to block it with their bodies. Once they are able to stop the ball and gain control, they become part of the offensive team.

Stephen will compete in the 2024 U.S. National High School Goalball Championships Dec. 6-7 in St. Augustine, Fla. He will be a member of the Michigan Omega team.

Stephen has been playing goalball for only a year but has quickly picked it up. He was introduced to goalball when he

attended a sports camp for the blind in Michigan and was eventually selected to the Omega team.

“I like the competition and like playing and connecting with my teammates,” Stephen said. “I just see it as another challenge and want to see how good I can be at it.”

Stephen has an exceptional track record of overcoming challenges. The Chicago native has been visually impaired since a childhood accident led to vision loss in both eyes. His sight deteriorated between ages 7 and 9, and he was considered blind by the sixth grade. Stephen says he currently sees only occasional flickers of light.

That hasn't stopped Stephen from living his life as an active, independent teen. Ste-

SEE **Goalball athlete** ON PAGE 15



Submitted photo

Kymani Stephen takes orders while working at Oshkosh West's mobile cafe.

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

Pearl Harbor survivor to attend ceremony

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh AMVETS Post 7 will host a Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony at 7: 55 a.m. Saturday at the Elks Lodge, 175

W. Fernau Ave.

Master of ceremonies will be retired Lt. Col. Michael Hert. In attendance will be Rolland Briar, who is 102 and served

on the USS Whitney at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Sharing his story will be his daughter Bettye Briar-Tilot.

This ceremony will honor those who perished in the attack on Pearl Harbor where more than 2,400 American service members perished in a surprise attack by Japan.

Lily Krueger, a Winneconne High School student, will lead the ceremony in song. Students from Valley Christian School will read the names in memory of those Wisconsinites who died at Pearl Harbor.

A rifle salute will be conducted at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Business news roundup

The opening of Ascension NE Wisconsin's new **Occupational Health Clinic** at 2700 W. 9th Ave. will be marked with an Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting at 3 p.m. Thursday. Clinic services include drug and alcohol testing, pre-employment exams, work-injury care and management, industrial rehabilitation, and diagnostic, radiology and lab testing. The clinic will be staffed by board-certified physicians and occupational health specialists.

Fox World Travel has announced the promotions of **Jared Bachman** to vice president of travel technology, **Dylan Christianson** to director of data analytics and **Michael Gumtow** to director of application development. Bachman started at Fox in 2014 and led several key technology initiatives. Christianson has more than a decade of travel industry experience. Gumtow has been a driving force behind its application development team.

HOLIDAY EARLY AD DEADLINES



Oshkosh Herald Dec. 25 issue

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Wed., 12/18 Noon

Classified Ad Deadline

Wed., 12/18 3pm

Obituary Deadline

Fri., 12/20 Noon

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Oshkosh Herald Jan. 1st issue

Display Ad Deadline

Tues., 12/24 Noon

Classified Ad Deadline

Tue., 12/24 3pm

Obituary Deadline

Fri., 12/27 Noon

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NOTICE OF CITY OF OSHKOSH SNOW SHOVELING REQUIREMENTS

Residents are reminded of the following snow removal regulations:

PER SECTION 25-68 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE –

Property owners are required to clear sidewalks abutting their property of snow and/or ice within 24 hours after the end of precipitation or accumulation. These requirements include all handicap ramps/crosswalk accesses which are adjacent to their property.

When ice cannot be removed, the sidewalk and handicap ramps/crosswalk accesses shall be kept sprinkled with material(s) to accelerate melting and prevent slipping. The ice must be removed as soon as possible.

Depositing snow from private property onto any public right-of-way, public property, or fire hydrant is also prohibited.

PER SECTION 25-69 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE –

Failure to clear the sidewalk or handicap ramps/crosswalk accesses will result in the City completing the work and invoicing the property owner for the snow or ice removal.

THE MINIMUM CHARGE FOR THE COST OF SNOW REMOVAL IS \$173.

Property owners also face a potential citation for violation of the Municipal Code.

THIS FORFEITURE IS \$232 FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE.

Violators can be reported to the Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works.

Council continues city manager search

Oshkosh Herald

“We’re working on it.”

That was the message to residents from Mayor Matt Mugerauer on the search for their new city manager.

A nationwide search to replace City Manager Mark Rohloff, who will be retiring at the end of the year, led to four finalists for the job. Bob Cowell of Roanoke, Va., Rebecca Grill of West Allis, Bill Jones of Mequon and Carter Napier of Casper Wyo., attended a community meet-and-greet at the Convention Center. The next day the finalists met with a panel of community members, a panel of department heads and the Common Council.

A candidate was expected to be announced by now, but Mugerauer said the council is still “completing additional steps in the hiring process.”

“Be patient, stay tuned, but no decisions have been made at this time,” he said.

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Photo from Lourdes Academy

Energetic field trip

Lourdes Academy third-graders recently participated in a walking field trip to tour the Oshkosh Public Works building on Witzel Avenue. The 44 students and their teachers are participating in a statewide energy conservation competition called Renew Our Schools, which is supported by Focus on Energy and KEEP – Wisconsin’s K-12 Energy Education Program. Lourdes students won the competition last year and \$1,500 went toward energy upgrades to their school. One component of the competition uses real-time, building-level electricity consumption data to help students visualize building energy performance.

UW Oshkosh chancellor search group named

Oshkosh Herald

A 14-member search committee is helping identify the next University of Wisconsin Oshkosh chancellor to replace Andrew Leavitt, who announced in October that he is leaving the position at the end of June.

Amy Bogost, UW System Board of Regents president, and Jay Rothman, president of the Universities of Wisconsin, appointed the panel that will be chaired by regent Ashok Rai with Andrew Smock, UW Oshkosh Department of Radio TV Film professor, as vice chair.

Other committee members are regents Desmond Adongo, Haben Goitom, Jim Kreuser, Timothy Nixon and Karen Walsh, UWO Foundation board chair Holly Brenner, College of Nursing dean Seon Yoon Chung, economics professor David Fuller, Paine Art Center and Gardens executive director Aaron Sherer,

Provost’s office administrative assistant Allison Kunde, Oshkosh Student Government staff director Sandy Yanez Velasquez and Career & Professional Development assistant director Chrissy Lambie.

The committee is expected to convene soon ahead of determining and interviewing candidates who will be forwarded to a special regent committee composed of Rai, Adongo, Goitom, Kreuser, Nixon and Walsh.

“The next leader of UW Oshkosh must be prepared to embrace the opportunities and challenges facing the university as it pursues financial sustainability and academic renewal – all while focusing on student success,” Bogost said.

Staff from UW Administration Human Resources, the Office of the Board of Regents and the search firm of Storbeck Search/DSG Global will assist the committee. The chosen candidate will require approval of the full Board of Regents.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Dec. 1, 1920

Noted Historian Passes Away Unexpectedly: Publius V. Lawson, manufacturer, historian, archaeologist, and legislator expired of heart disease sometime during the night at his home in Menasha. A prominent

businessman and Menasha mayor for six terms, Lawson is noted for his research and recording local history and the author of one of the most comprehensive histories of Winnebago County. He wrote prolifically on local history, focusing mainly on the Fox River Valley. His works spanned time from before the French arrived, the era of territorial Wisconsin, up to his contemporary lifetime. His largest and most significant work was “History, Winnebago County, Wisconsin.”

Source: The Daily Northwestern, Dec. 1, 1920

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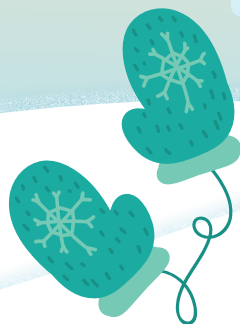
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Competency hearing set for delivery driver hit-run case

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

An Oshkosh man accused of striking and killing a pedestrian with his car while making deliveries for a pizza company was in court last week for a bond hearing and request for a competency hearing.

Mark P. Radley, 70, faces up to 15 years in prison in the Winnebago County case that alleges he struck pedestrian Zachary Hagar on Jan. 10 and then continued making deliveries before being arrested by

police.

Radley faces one count of hit-and-run involve death and was out on \$5,000 cash bond when he picked up a new charge of felony bail jumping while drinking alcohol at a bar during a football game last month.

Attorneys for Radley questioned whether he was competent to stand trial and requested a competency examination be completed early in the case. An examination was completed and attorneys Tim Hogan and Adam Nero stated they would complete their own second competency examination.

Before that exam was completed Radley was arrested for bail jumping because his bond agreement stated Radley was not to consume any alcohol or be on the premise of any establishment that sells alcohol.

A competency hearing was set for January and at least two doctors will be called to testify over video. The doctor who completed both competency examinations will be called to testify and Hogan told the court they intend to call a doctor who has put a separate report together on Radley for the defense.

Radley was able to walk on his own accord in court. At previous hearings he had been in a wheelchair and recently guided by someone as he wore a stability harness. His attorneys have argued that his health is diminishing and is one reason he is not fit to stand trial.

The court moved on to the issue of bond modification. Hogan argued that the

language in the bond makes it difficult for Radley to attend events where alcohol is served and that he should be able to visit establishments such as restaurants.

Presiding Judge Michael Gibbs agreed but had a simple message for Radley: "Stay out of the bar area."

Radley will be back in court Jan. 16 for his competency hearing.



Waterfest 2025 headliner band announced

Oshkosh Herald

Australian jazz and funk band the Cat Empire is the first headliner announced for Waterfest's 39th season with a June 26 show at the Leach Amphitheater while on its "Bird in Paradise" album tour.

The Melbourne-based group formed in 1999 and has produced eight studio albums with its latest release scheduled to come out in March on BMG Australia.

Last year the band toured in Australia in collaboration with the Melbourne and Sydney symphony orchestras along with other national orchestras.

Area bands Copper Box and Kate Voss & The Hot Sauce will be the opening performers for the Thursday evening show.

Advance VIP and general admission tickets are available with more information on the Waterfest Facebook page.

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Public library calendar

Some events require registration. Visit oshkoshlibrary.org.

Dec. 4
Baby & Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.

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

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

Dec. 5
Baby & Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m.
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-6 p.m.

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

Dec. 6
Coffee & Cookies with Cops, 9-11:30 a.m., all ages

Odyssey Academy Holiday Storytime, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., kids

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

Preteen Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades 3-5

Teen Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades 6-8

Young Adult Book Club, grades 9-12

Dec. 7
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday Surprise, 11 a.m., ages 5 and older

Hack Club, 1-3 p.m., teens

Dec. 8
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4 p.m.

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

Dec. 10
Oshkosh Area Ukulele Players, 10-11 a.m., all ages

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

Adult DIY, 6-7 p.m., adults

Stitch Together, 6:30-7:30 p.m., adults

OAMTA presents: Winter, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

Dec. 11
Baby & Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.

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

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

Job Search Assistance, 1-4 p.m.

Dec. 12
Baby & Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m.
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-6 p.m.

Second Thursday Book Group, 1-3 p.m.

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

All Mine to Give-Exposing the Truth, 6-7:30 p.m.

Dec. 13
Great Reads 2024, 9 a.m., YouTube

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

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

Oshkosh Youth Choir, 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 14
Visit us at the Oshkosh Farmers Market at the Oshkosh Convention Center, 8 a.m.-noon

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

Read to a Rabbit or Guinea Pig, 10-11:30 a.m., ages 6 and older

Santa at Reindeer on the Square (315 N. Main), 1-4 p.m.

Fox Valley Flute Choir, 2-3 p.m., all ages

Dec. 15
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4

p.m.

Dec. 16
Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m.

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

Dec. 17
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

Drop-in Tech Help, 1-3 p.m.

Winnebago Free Legal Assistance Clinic, 4:30-6:30 p.m., adults

Banned Book Club, 6:30-7:30 p.m., adults

Dec. 18
Baby & Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.

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

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

Dec. 19
Baby & Toddler Storytime 10:15 a.m.

LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-6 p.m.

Wonderlab, 5:30 p.m., kindergarten-grade 2

Not Your Classic Book Club, 6 p.m., adults

Dec. 20
Get Hooked on a Good Book: Winter Reading Book Bingo begins, visit library to get a bingo card or participate on Instagram.

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

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

Dec. 21
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9-4

p.m.

Dec. 22
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4 p.m.

Dec. 23
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

Dec. 24-25
Library closed

Dec. 26
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-6 p.m.

Dec. 27
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-5 p.m.

Dec. 28
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 9-4 p.m.

Dec. 29
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, 1-4 p.m.

Dec. 30
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-7 p.m.

Dec. 31
LEGO Wall Open Build for Kids, noon-4 p.m.

Library closed at 5 p.m.



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City tables move to limit paratransit service hours

Riders voice opposition to bus route alignment

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

City officials had a plan to match the paratransit service hours to the fixed bus route instead of the current 24/7 service but the decision was met with backlash from the disabled community demanding the decision be given more time to decide what is best for the community.

Oshkosh is the only city in the state to have a 24/7 paratransit service but is having difficulties finding a company that can provide the quality of service needed, adequate drivers and within the city budget.

The conversation was tabled by the Transportation Committee as it waits for more options. The paratransit service will continue to the end of 2025 with 24/7 service for qualified riders.

Transportation director Jim Collins said the current contract with Oshkosh City Cab expires at the end of the year with an option for a year extension. Only two companies submitted bids for the next contract and one said it would cost more than \$500,000 above what the city was set to pay.

Steve Tomasik, transit operations

manager at Go Transit, said the real issue the city is facing is there is no competition for who operates the paratransit service.

“Simply put, our vision is to provide quality customer service to all of our riders, particularly our riders that use the paratransit system,” Tomasik said.

There were two vendors who submitted bids the last time the contract was up for renewal but Tomasik said one company did not appear to take the bid seriously as they wanted much more than the city had budgeted.

Tomasik reported that paratransit rides average 10 a day between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. It breaks down to 6.5 rides between 6 and 10 p.m., 0.56 rides between 10:01 p.m. and 2 a.m. then 3.3 rides between 2:01 and 6 a.m.

The access-to-jobs program only allows for full-time employees or people working more than 30 hours a week to use the service to get to work. Tomasik suggested looking into changing that threshold to allow part-time workers to be covered by the program because most of the rides between 6 and 10 p.m. are employment related.

Transportation Committee chair Al Hartman said this was brought to the committee to see how the service can continue instead of making people’s lives difficult.

The proposed changes would limit the rides from 6:15 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Monday through Friday. The current paratransit system operates 24/7 and is run through City Cab with rates similar to cab rates for paratransit rides. One alternative for the paratransit riders is to take a Cabulance ride that costs \$50 for a one-way ride and \$100 roundtrip.

Tomasik added there would be a separate contract with a company that would still run 24/7 to allow paratransit riders to get to their jobs.

Several riders spoke at the committee meeting earlier this month about how they rely on the service as the only way to get to appointments, do their shopping, visit friends and family, and attend church services on Sunday.

Tracy Carroll told the committee that going forward with changing the hours would be a disservice to the disabled community.

“I just want you to have a little mercy,” she said. “This is an emotional support item and we really need to have it.”

One comment from the public asked if anyone on the transportation committee had ever been in a wheelchair.

“How many of you ever had to be totally dependent of others?” another person said. “Please do not make any changes for the Oshkosh paratransit system – try to help us keep our quality of life.”

Several riders said it was important to them to be able to go to church on Sundays. One woman said she hasn’t missed a Sunday church service, which she said

is the highlight of her life, in three years.

“Does that mean the only option I have is to pay \$50 to go to church and \$50 back?” she asked.

Riders also noted the new service hours would not allow people using the paratransit service to attend Common Council meetings that start at 6 p.m. and are rarely concluded by 6:45 p.m.

Margy Hanson says it’s wrong to take away these hours as she uses them to visit her daughter and those visits will often continue into the night.

“I think it’s wrong,” Hanson said of the proposed change. “How else are we supposed to get around? That’s all I have to say. I just hope you don’t take (paratransit) away from us because a lot of us don’t have that kind of money.”

Tomasik said an alternative would be for the city to create its own paratransit service, adding that the current service could be better by altering the hours of service and attracting a company that can offer more such as online booking and being able to track cab locations.

“The product could be a lot better,” he said.

Collins said continuing the service as 24/7 is not viable but noted the biggest concern he has heard is that ending Sunday service would have the greatest impact on paratransit riders. He suggested tabling the discussion to give more time to review the Sunday data and the access-to-jobs riders options.



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Alcohol ban

FROM PAGE 1

from Opera House Square to another public area.

Police have been responding to more calls for service at Opera House Square where homeless people have been sleeping and congregating.

The calls have been from residents and businesses in the area complaining about

public urination, public defecation and fights.

Smith said the department is creating a homeless outreach unit that will pair a behavioral health police officer and a social worker. The unit will provide help and resources to people experiencing homelessness. He has also discussed putting a satellite police station downtown to deter illegal activity and be a resource for residents and officers.

“We have folks who are urinating on

the sides of buildings, they’re defecating, they’re also fighting with each other. Their inhibitions start to get diminished,” Smith said of the people drinking alcohol in the square.

Lynnsey Erickson of Winnebago County Public Health and former council member spoke to the council about how these policies negatively impact the homeless population.

She said public health is working to identify needs and gaps in the community that the homeless are facing that has led to the housing crisis in Oshkosh.

She said the temporary ordinance a policy criminalizes homelessness and is a way to force people to move along.

“There are more effective ways to deal with the issues that we have to reduce and end homelessness,” Erickson said. “We urge you to consider the deeper, longer-term impacts, potentially unintended consequences of policies like this.”

The council voted to create the ordinance 4-3 with council members Karl Buelow, DJ Nichols and Joe Stephenson in opposition.



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Warrant issued in Walnut St. drug case

Oshkosh Herald

An Oshkosh man facing several drug-related charges skipped a sentencing hearing that was moved up by five weeks after he violated his bond.

Virgil Gipson, 44, is one of several people arrested this year for drug-related activity at a house on Walnut Street. He is charged with two counts of manufacturing and delivering less than a gram of cocaine, possession of cocaine (second offense), possession of methamphetamine, three counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor disorderly conduct.

He pleaded no contest to another cocaine charge and felony bail jumping. The remaining counts were dismissed but read in for sentencing purposes. He could face up to eight years in prison followed by up to eight years of extended supervision for both counts.

The residence at 1402 Walnut St. was identified as a known narcotics house by Oshkosh police and over the summer it was foreclosed on and sold to a new owner. Several individuals have been charged and sentenced related to the house.

Gipson was one of the most recent arrests and had the most serious charges filed against him. Court documents state he sold cocaine to a confidential informant at least twice before a search warrant was executed and he was arrested.

At Gipson's plea hearing in September, his attorney Michael Lim requested the sentencing be held after the holidays as Gipson was attempting to find a place for his mother to live. Judge Michael Gibbs set a sentencing hearing for January and told Gibbs it would be moved up if he violated his bond or picked up new charges.

Court records show Gipson was later charged in Racine County with possession of THC and drug paraphernalia. He is also charged with 10 counts of felony bail jumping.

In court last week, Winnebago County district attorney Eric Sparr requested a warrant be issued for Gipson's arrest. Sparr told the Herald once Gipson is arrested a new sentencing hearing will be scheduled to allow victims to arrange to attend the hearing.



Photo by Michael Cooney

Thanksgiving meals

Volunteers at Father Carr's Place 2B prepare Thanksgiving Day dinners for delivery Thursday morning while others were served at the organization's St. Mother Teresa Center.

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Mobile clinic brings free dental care to regional schools

Tri-County Dental served five schools in 2023-24

By MaryBeth Matzek
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

When the Tri-County Dental mobile clinic pulls up outside Coolidge Elementary School in Neenah, students get excited.

“Students ask if it’s their turn. The staff on the bus make the children feel comfortable so I never have a problem with getting them to go,” said Nicole Volkman, an administrative assistant with Coolidge Elementary.

The mobile dental clinic provides children with Medicaid or no dental insurance with free oral health care at area schools. A total of 107 students were helped during the 2023-24 school year.

“Cavities are preventable but 1 in 3 children in Wisconsin have untreated tooth decay,” said Lisa Hintz, community outreach director with Tri-County Dental. “By providing children with the dental care they need at school, we can improve their overall health. Oral health has such a strong impact on overall health.”

Hintz said poor oral health can lead to painful teeth, which keeps some kids home from school. By catching problems before they become painful, students miss less school.

The mobile clinic is one aspect of Tri-County Dental, which was created in 2002 when dentists in Winnebago, Outagamie and Calumet counties came together to provide free dental care to area residents in need. A clinic was built on land donated by Jeff and Marissa Keesler in Grand Chute.



Submitted photo

The mobile dental clinic provides children with free oral health care at area schools.

In addition to volunteer dentists, who work at the clinic, Tri-County Dental has partnerships with Marquette University School of Dentistry, which supplies students and fellows, along with hygiene stu-

dents and dental assisting students from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and Fox Valley Technical College.

In 2012, Tri-County Dental launched a mobile clinic as part of its Robert Glass

Focus on the Children school-based program. The clinic provides care to children at local schools. The mobile clinic provides three types of visits — hygiene appointments, dental exams, and fluoride varnish and restorative care. The mobile clinic was created since many parents struggled to get their children to the Grand Chute clinic due to work schedules or lack of transportation.

“A lot of kids don’t have the transportation to get to their clinic so it’s very helpful that the clinic comes here,” Volkman said. “They also miss less time from school since they don’t have to travel to and from the clinic.”

The mobile clinic made nine visits to schools to provide hygiene appointments, four visits for dental exams and fluoride varnish and one visit to provide restorative care. The clinic has three dental hygiene chairs.

Hintz said children who qualify for free school lunch are eligible for the Robert Glass Focus on Children program. Treatment includes dental screenings, exams, X-rays, cleanings, fillings, extractions, preventive sealants and fluoride applications.

To reach more students this year, Hintz said parents could sign up their children during online school registration.

“We received a lot of interest but there are still challenges since we still need paperwork back from the parents to get the children seen,” she said.

Tri-County Dental also offers the Wetherbee Orthodontics Program, where local orthodontists provide free care to a limited number of children each year.

“Many of the kids we see have orthodontic issues too and we try to help them when we can,” Hintz said.



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Oshkosh's school report cards powerful but limited tool

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) recently released its latest school and district report cards. The report cards give the public a chance to see how public schools, districts and private schools participating in school voucher programs are performing.

So, what can the report card data tell us about Oshkosh schools?

First, the demographics in the Oshkosh Area School District (OASD) continue to change. In 2019, 76.5% of OASD students were White. In 2024, that percentage dropped to 66.1%. The percentage of Black students is up to 8.8% from 5.6%, the percentage of Hispanic students increased from 5.5% to 8.2%, and students from two or more races are up to 8.3% from 4.7%. The percentage of Asian students is up slightly from 2019, from 7.1% to 8.1%. Just like the community in general, OASD is becoming more diverse. To put that in context, the average Wisconsin school district is 81.6% white.

Second, OASD is seeing increases in the percentage of both special needs and economically disadvantaged students. In 2019 15.5% of OASD students qualified as having special needs. In 2024 that percentage increased to 16.5%. The percentage of economically disadvantaged students increased from 42.2% in 2019, to 47.7% in 2024. For context, the average Wisconsin school district reports that 15.3% of their students have special needs, and that 39.3% of their students are economically disadvantaged.

What about performance? My standard caveat is that there is no perfect way to measure the performance of a



Michael Ford

UW Oshkosh
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school or district. However, DPI does use a 100-point accountability score that takes into account student standardized test scores, student growth on those test scores, and the socioeconomic status of the student body.

The OASD scored 69.7 on that scale, slightly higher than the state average of 68.8. In comparison Appleton scored 65.6, Fond du Lac scored 68.3, Ripon scored 65.1, and Menasha scored 67.6.

As mentioned, two big components of the accountability score are student achievement as measured by student test scores, and student growth as measured by changes in student test scores. Both achievement and growth are important, as achievement measures where students are at, and growth does a better job at measuring the impact a school is actually having on changes in student performance.

The OASD scores below average on achievement, scoring 55.3 on a 100-point scale compared to a state average of 63.1. However, OASD is above average on growth, scoring 73.6 on a 100-point scale compared with the state average of 64.5. Which is a long way of saying OASD students are often starting from a more challenging baseline, but are improving ahead of their peers across the state.

There is also great variation in performance across schools. Out of 20 OASD schools, 10 exceeded expectations, seven met expectations, and three met few expectations as defined by DPI. Mirroring trends across the state, school accountability scores are highly correlated with the socioeconomic status of the student body at a school. While there are always things that can be done to improve individual school performance, the data suggests community efforts to reduce poverty will translate into academic gains for OASD as well.

The report cards also show a changing landscape for Oshkosh's private schools. A total of eight Oshkosh private schools are enrolling 640 students via the state's voucher program. On average, 41.8% of the students in these private schools pay tuition via a state-funded voucher.

Whatever one's opinion of school choice as a public policy, a substantial number of students are using school choice in Oshkosh, and Oshkosh private

schools are enrolling substantial percentages of their student bodies through the program.

The school district report cards contain much more information than can be shared in one column. I encourage everyone to go to DPI's website and take a look for yourself to learn more about OASD, and if you are a parent, your child's school.

But I also encourage people to interpret these report cards with caution. Every child's educational needs are different, some students will thrive in a school with a low overall rating, and some students will struggle in a school with a high rating. That said, DPI report cards are a powerful tool for understanding where OASD is at and where it needs to go.

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

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Housing projects

FROM PAGE 1

projects totaling more than 1,666 residential units. These multifamily residences include projects like the Smith School Apartments that added 31 units to the city. Some 207 units have been completed since 2020, 492 units remain under construction and 967 have yet to start.

One project that could be a future trend for single-family homes is a partnership between the city and Habitat for Humanity that will bring 18 new homes to the former site of Washington School. The homes will be built on Winnebago and School avenues with half of the homes being built by Habitat and the other half built by a contractor that will work with the city to ensure the homes are affordable and fit the neighborhood.

The city also plans to extend Farmington Avenue on the city's north side and add 19 new lots for single-family homes.

City staff reported over the summer that new single-family home construction has slowed over the last several years and these projects are part of the city plan to re-establish the market for building single-family homes in the area.

Community development director Kelly Nieforth said the city is happy to see the increase in single-family home construction and hopes the trend continues into 2025.

"The City of Oshkosh continues to proactively implement recommendations from the city's housing plan to increase different types of housing units in our community that will meet the needs of our residents throughout their lives here in the city," Nieforth said. "Adding additional units to the city's housing inventory will provide a variety of options for resi-

dents and allow them to move into new units that meet their needs while at the same time, freeing up their previous housing unit for someone else to occupy."

One way the city is doing this is by having the city redevelopment authority (RDA) buy infill lots across the city. These lots are either oddly shaped, too small or otherwise undesirable for a developer so the RDA has stepped in and started purchasing these lots. In some cases the city will raze the home on the lot and prepare it for sale to a developer.

Most of the projects in the works in Oshkosh are rentals, but there are a few single-family houses planned for the immediate future as the city tries to build up the housing stock for all incomes.

MK Lofts is an apartment building currently leasing studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments in the former Miles Kimball building on South Main Street. The units span from 436 to 821 square feet and range from \$999 to \$1,500 monthly leases.

The project faced several setbacks when remodeling the building in the Sawdust District to accommodate 28 apartments. The project was first approved by the Common Council in July 2021.

Several projects have been given the green light to move forward with construction including a new housing development on Lake Butte des Morts Drive. The Red Earth apartment community is currently building the first of a six-phase plan to bring more apartments and townhomes to Oshkosh.

The first phase includes two 40-unit apartment buildings and a clubhouse and could be completed by next summer, but the five-phase project could take up to eight years to complete. A total of 522 units are planned to sit on the former 72-acre farm.



Oshkosh Herald

MK Lofts on South Main Street and 9th Avenue was recently completed to add housing options in the Sawdust District.

Other apartment projects include Boatworks, which is off Ohio Street just south of the Fox River at 4th Avenue and Michigan Street. The project will add 56 units and started construction this year.

The Mill on Main project was approved in 2021 and finally able to break ground this fall on the east side of South Main. Mill on Main will add around 100 new apartments in phase one of the project.

The project will include three five-story apartment buildings that will add more than 300 new housing units in the city and include some retail and commercial space adding to the downtown experience south of the river.

Several other projects have received approval and are now either waiting for construction to start or for funding to be secured.

The Corridor project received tax credits from the Wisconsin Housing & Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) this spring to bring 55 new housing units to

North Main Street.

The first three-story midrise building will contain 39 one-, two- and three-bedroom units, along with a two-shift day care operated by the Oshkosh Child Development Center, considered the first licensed two-shift day care facility in the city. The property will include two townhome buildings, each composed of eight three-bedroom units.

Nieforth has promoted the project as a great addition to the community as it will offer two-shift day care, a first for Oshkosh. The project will be built along the 600 block of North Main Street and the 600 block of Jefferson Street.

The Meridian is another project hoping to receive WHEDA tax credits to build 92 residential units on South Main between 7th and 8th avenues. The land was a 1.3-acre lot, sold to Appleton developer Millennium Construction for \$1.

The total cost of the project is expected to be around \$28.1 million. It is the third time in recent years someone has applied for WHEDA grants for the site. The Meridian application is different because Millennium is proposing the new building be mixed use with retail and commercial space on the first floor.

WHEDA application grants are typically announced in the spring.

Another project that has been approved by the council is an apartment complex near the intersection of East Murdock Avenue and Bowen Street. The project includes one 16-unit apartment building on East Murdock and two eight-unit apartment buildings on the 2.24 vacant lot.

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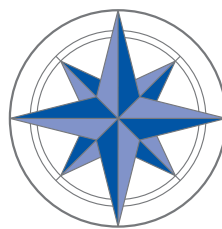
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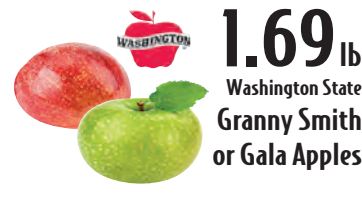
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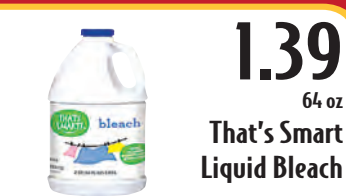
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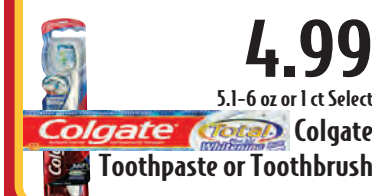
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10.99 1.5 ltr Bottle - Assorted **Sutter Home Wines**

11.99 750 ml Bottle **Wollersheim Wines**

Goalball athlete

FROM PAGE 1

phen is smart, determined and resourceful. He navigates a world without sight remarkably well and doesn't squander time with self-pity. Instead, he sees the positives in his life and focuses on finding solutions to whatever issues his vision impairment may pose.

Stephen is heavily involved in extracurriculars. In addition to track and field, he plays baritone in the school band, works on the Oshkosh Area School District's Brewing Futures Mobile Cafe food truck and is a member of several school organizations including the Connected Club, the Diversity student board and the Black Student Union board.

"Kymani is super amazing," said Erin Siewert, a teacher assistant who works with vision-impaired students. "He's very smart and able to advocate very well for himself. He has a bright future. He's not going to let anything get in his way. If there's something he wants to do, he just does it. He navigates through it. If he needs resources, he'll find them."

Sports helps students learn about overcoming adversity and benefits them socially. Stephen joined the track team in the seventh grade and it helped him avoid isolation and pushed him to get involved in more extracurriculars.

"I really think that sports opened a lot of doors to me," Stephen said. "It got me thinking that I could probably do just about anything. I was just sitting at home every day after school. Then I started track. All of a sudden, I was going to practice every day. I guess you could say it was life-changing because a lot of other activities followed."

Stephen has been competing on West's track team the past two seasons, running the 100- and 200-meter dashes. He ran with the help of various guide runners from the West squad his freshman year, then received a full-time guide runner last season: Austin Ecklund, a University of Wisconsin Oshkosh student. As a result, Stephen delivered new race PRS of 12.94 (100) and 27.63 (200).

"Kymani's times really improved last year," said West track coach Scott Mankiewicz. "In working with Austin, he was able to compete in the 200 which is a race that involves running a curve. Working with a guide runner has really helped Kymani compete. We can't wait for Kymani to continue to improve and maybe add some more events this year."

Stephen added: "I didn't know what I was doing when I first started running track. I didn't know if I wanted to continue it because I didn't want to take away from opportunities for other students. And then, the coaches found me a guide runner who I connected with, even outside of track. That gave me confidence."

Stephen's self-confidence and desire to help others has driven him to launching a new school club known as Echoes of Light. He and another visually impaired student started it as a means of spreading social awareness not only about blindness, but other disabilities as well. Before Echoes of Light, Stephen created an activity at the school known as Homeroom Hullabaloo in which classmates were asked to identify matters and navigate solely by sound.

"Being African American and blind on top of that, society obviously has a lot of judgments and perceptions and I've obviously faced a lot of those," Stephen said. "I know a lot about education for the blind, but I'm hoping to help those who have other disabilities. With Echoes of Light, we're



Submitted photo

Kymani Stephen (left) is a member of the Oshkosh West track and field team where he competes with a guide runner.

trying to spread awareness of what it's like to have a disability and what's needed to help those who have them through some of the activities that we come up with."

One of Stephen's regular activities at Oshkosh West is working on the Brewing Futures food truck. It provides working opportunities for students with special needs and allows them to engage with their community and showcase their employability.

School district staff members Kristine Steinhilber and Patti Kimball have worked closely with Stephen on the food truck the past few years and have been amazed by his self-sufficiency. He operates all facets of the food truck with ease, serving customers, taking orders, working the cash register, using an iPad and handling money.

"Kymani doesn't like to let grass grow underneath his feet," said Steinhilber with a laugh. "He's definitely paving his own way. He can advocate very well for himself. He builds relationships around the building that have helped him. When he needs help, he gets it because of the relationships he's built."

Kimball added: "He's a terrific young man. We've actually learned a lot from him. He doesn't look at it (his vision impairment) as a disability. He knows what he wants to do and then he figures out how to do it. When we first met Kymani, we didn't know what he could do. The thing is - he can do it all. Anything we need him to do, he does, and he's done things way beyond our expectations. He has a device that hangs on his glasses that helps him read money, so he gets everything done. He's totally independent there. We just walk away and he handles the whole window."

Stephen hopes to attend college after graduation from Oshkosh West in 2026.

"Going to college is the plan," he said. "Right now, I'm probably leaning toward getting into special education. I would like to be able to help others with blind education. I would like to be able to go into the blind schools. I'd like to help change blind education and make it a bit more challenging."

Steinhilber, Kimball and Siewert are confident Stephen will succeed in whatever he chooses to do.

"He's very inspiring," Kimball said. "All the kids that work with him on our food truck are like, 'Oh, Kymani can do the register. Kymani can do orders. So we can do it too.' He holds us all accountable to make sure we're working to our ability. I think it shows everybody that they can really do anything. They just have to figure out how to do it. Kymani figures out how to do things and he gets them done."

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

Wednesday, Dec. 4

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

Thursday, Dec. 5

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

Friday, Dec. 6

Angling for Answers, 4:30 p.m., Community Church, 2351 Ryf Road

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

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

Saturday, Dec. 7

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

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

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

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

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

Oshkosh Gallery Walk, 6 p.m., downtown

Daren Strelbow comedy show, 6:30 p.m., Calvary SonRise Church, 222 Church Ave.

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

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

Sunday, Dec. 8

Winter Art and Craft Show, 11 a.m.,

Chalice restaurant, 1741 N. Main St.

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

Oshkosh West Madrigal Singers, 2 p.m., Calvary Lutheran Church, 2580 West 9th Ave.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

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

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

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

Wednesday, Dec. 11

Wisconsin Herd vs. Motor City Cruise, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Thursday, Dec. 12

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

Friday, Dec. 13

Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo, 1 p.m., EAA AirVenture grounds

For Kids from 1 to 92, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Saturday, Dec. 14

Oshkosh Farmers Market Holiday Bazaar, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo, 9 a.m., EAA AirVenture grounds

A Crazy Christmas Craft Fair, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

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

Bear-y Foxy Festival and ribbon cutting, 12:30 p.m., Menominee Park Zoo

"Elf," 2 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Reindeer on the Square, 3:30 p.m., Opera House Square

"Miracle on 34th Street," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Sunday, Dec. 15

Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo, 9 a.m., EAA AirVenture grounds

Monday, Dec. 16

Wisconsin Herd vs. Sioux Falls Sky-Force, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

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Spartans' Mitchell looks to follow Haliburton's path

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Xzavion Mitchell's basketball journey is in its early stages, but the explosive scorer known as "Zay" is taking a familiar path to next-level hoops.

He's headed down Haliburton Road.

Mitchell is taking the identical route that Tyrese Haliburton took to the NBA and hopes he can reach the same final destination as the Indiana Pacers' all-star guard.

Mitchell is one of Wisconsin's elite high school basketball players. He entered the 2024-25 season ranked among the nation's top 120 players and was rated as the state's third-best player and the nation's 29th best small forward.

The 6-foot-6, 210-pound Mitchell has signed a national letter of intent to play Division I college basketball at Iowa State, the alma mater of Haliburton, the former North star who played two years with the Cyclones before being drafted 12th overall in the 2020 NBA Draft by the Sacramento Kings.

Mitchell chose Iowa State over offers from Wisconsin, Cal Poly and Northern Iowa. T.J. Otzelberger has coached the Cyclones since 2021 and led Iowa State to a 29-8 record and a Sweet 16 tournament appearance last season.

"It was definitely hard not going to Wisconsin because I grew up watching them," Mitchell said. "I just thought Iowa State was the better fit. I feel like I can fit in right away at Iowa State. What interested me immediately about them is the way they play defense because that's a big key to my game. I take a lot of pride in how I play defense.

"I like their play style – they push the ball – and just their movement offensively. I also liked the way T.J. Otzelberger and J.R. Blunt (Iowa State assistant coach) approached me and my family. Coach T.J. would show up in the middle of the season. That showed me he cared. Out of every school I talked to, they were the most consistent."

It didn't hurt that Haliburton – the 2017-18 Wisconsin Gatorade Player of the Year at North – made his mark at Iowa State before hitting the big time in the NBA. Mitchell and Haliburton have a strong connection and communicate regularly. Haliburton texted Mitchell congratulations after Mitchell announced his commitment to Iowa State and followed up with a congratulatory social media post.

The two first met when Mitchell was in elementary school and Haliburton was at North. Haliburton helped mentor Mitchell and other young athletes through a



Oshkosh Herald

Xzavion Mitchell is the reigning Player of the Year in the Fox Valley Association and recently signed his National Letter of Intent to attend Iowa State University next fall.

community program in which Spartans players work with youngsters just learning the game.

"We've known each other since I was in the fourth grade and have a pretty tight relationship," Mitchell said. "I always looked up to him. I remember watching him when he was in high school and they made that state championship run. As a kid I wanted to go to every game they played. Sometimes my mom wouldn't let me because I needed to go to sleep early and I would throw a fit."

Haliburton texted Mitchell during Mitchell's recruiting process, offering the sound advice of a person who has been through it.

"He gave helpful tips and told me how I should go into the recruitment process

and what I should look for in programs," Mitchell said. "He wasn't biased about Iowa State in any way, but he was thrilled about my choice. He's a big name and I'm very grateful that he took the time to help me out."

Mitchell's ultimate goal is the NBA and he may have a reasonable shot at it. He is a consensus 4-star recruit, while Haliburton was a 3-star recruit.

"I feel that you have to dream big," Mitchell said. "I would love to do what Tyrese has done. I've seen him do it and pave the way. I hope I can get to that level. But it's all about taking it one step at a time. Each level is obviously different in terms of speed, tempo and strength. The biggest thing you need to do is adjust. I've done that at every level and I'm going to

Senior Spotlight

keep adjusting and figuring out what I need to do for the team and each program I'm in.

"I need to find ways to continue to better myself and help the team out."

Haliburton wasn't the only strong basketball influence on Mitchell while growing up. His older brother is Jalen Kaego, a former Oshkosh North standout now playing basketball at Alabama State.

"I played three different sports growing up, so I was into whatever sports season it was," Mitchell said. "But then I noticed that my brother had dropped all those other sports and was just going to the gym all the time.

"I noticed his improvement and just kind of followed in his footsteps. I really didn't put that much work into it until my sophomore year, then I decided I wanted to do something. I started spending more time in the gym and that's when everything took off.

"What motivated me was my brother. He was taking the game seriously and would drag me along to every basketball event he had. I give a lot of credit to him. He's the one who made me who I am today."

A humble individual, Mitchell doesn't give himself enough credit. He made himself an elite player through his incredible work ethic. Getting Mitchell into the gym isn't a problem. Getting him out is another thing.

"Zay is a gym rat," said North coach Brad Weber. "In my 26 years of coaching, he's one of the few athletes that we've had to talk to about not coming in so much so his body can recover. Each year he's taken a leap in his skills and abilities. I'm excited for this year because of his improvements as a leader and in his midrange game."

Mitchell is a two-time all-Fox Valley Association first-team selection and a fourth-year starter. He averaged 25.7 points, 8.6 rebounds and 3.0 assists with 31 3-pointers last season, landing first-team honors on the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Division 1 all-state team. He was an immediate standout as a freshman, averaging 21.8 points, 8.4 rebounds and 2.6 assists and followed up with a 22.4 ppg scoring average his sophomore year, while averaging 7.9 rebounds and 4.4 assists.

Mitchell opened the 2024-25 season with 1,818 career points but is more than just a scoring machine. He hits the glass hard and is a tenacious defender.

"Xzavion is a versatile, big wing who has the ability to attack off the dribble," said

SEE **Senior Spotlight** ON PAGE 21

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Wildcats split pair at Steven L. Randall Memorial Classic

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Two games in two nights with two completely different outcomes.

What made the difference for Oshkosh West as it split its two season-opening games at the Steven L. Randall Memorial Classic this past weekend?

“Sometimes it can be as simple as making some shots and feeling a little better about yourself,” Wildcats’ head coach Dan Weisse said. “We missed some shots against Fort Atkinson (on Friday) that we made tonight (against Lourdes Academy).”

The Wildcats knocked down 14 3-pointers in a 78-36 win over Lourdes Academy on Saturday in the second game of the two-day event. That came after shooting roughly 25 percent from the floor and making just 5-of-20 attempts from 3-point range in a 48-37 loss to Fort Atkinson on Friday.

Weisse said that once West got its shots falling, everybody had the confidence to join in on the fun.

“Once one guy makes a shot, it does start to snowball a little bit. You get guys pointing at each other – in a positive way – and celebrating and that’s what we want,” Weisse said. “I think it’s contagious when you knock down a shot, but I also think your defense picks up a little bit when you start knocking down shots.”

Sophomore guard Tyler Moderson led the charge against the Knights, finishing with 20 points after knocking down five 3-pointers in Saturday’s win.

Moderson hit three 3-pointers during a 15-0 run early in the first half that broke the game open for the Wildcats. Noah



Oshkosh Herald

At left: Noah Gelhar drives past Lourdes Academy’s Braden Studinski on Saturday.

Above: Tyler Moderson launches a 3-pointer Saturday.

Gelhar added a dunk in the outburst, while Sam Gibson and Malakai Herlihy also had baskets before a driving layup from Moderson gave West a 26-6 lead with just less than 10 minutes to play in the half.

“Making (an early) one gives me a lot of confidence,” said Moderson, who was held to three points against the Blackhawks.

“It was good to see all of the energy we brought and keep it going all game. Once everybody starts hitting it’s on from there.”

Weisse was happy to see Moderson get his shots to fall against Lourdes Academy as he sees the sophomore guard as one of the offensive leaders for this year’s team.

“He’s probably our best shot maker and

you saw his energy pick up once he made a couple,” Weisse said. “Our guys were a little frustrated with the shots not falling (against Fort) but I am proud of the fact how they didn’t let it affect them at the other end of the floor. We just didn’t come

SEE **West boys** ON PAGE 20

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Knights learn from tough outings to open season

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

It was a rough two days for the Lourdes Academy boys basketball team.

But the losses to Hortonville and Oshkosh West at the Steven L. Randall Memorial Classic this past weekend may be a benefit in the long run, according to head coach Brett Baehman.

“Going into it, we knew it was going to be tough, but at Lourdes, we want to play these games,” Baehman said. “With some of our younger guys who haven’t played at this level yet, that’s pressure we want them to see and get used to. Then, once we get into our conference, we are ready to roll. We want to have these tough games so we are ready to compete.”

The Knights, who graduated all five starters from last year’s team, lost to Hortonville on Friday night 85-40 and then fell to the host Wildcats, 78-36, on Saturday.

Lourdes Academy never led in either game and faced substantial early deficits in each contest that were too large to overcome for a team that is adjusting to play at the varsity level. Facing off against two Division 1 opponents to start the year was a tough opening weekend.

“We knew our lack of experience playing together may be a weakness but I think these games really highlighted what we have to work on,” Baehman said. “We knew we were going to make mistakes and there were going to be some bumps and bruises in these games, just growing pains so to speak.”

Baehman said more than the X’s and O’s or what the Knights did on either end of the court, he was looking for how his

young group played over the two games.

Not just the skills the players showcased, but more importantly, the attitude that each played with.

“We just have to make sure that we have a mentality and energy to us that can’t be matched,” Baehman said. “When you don’t have that against bigger schools who are used to competing at that level, it’s going to get out of hand. If we can fix that mentality, then the X’s and O’s will come.”

Hortonville’s pressure defense flustered the Knights on Friday as the Polar Bears turned numerous turnovers into easy baskets in the early going and built a 31-7 lead midway through the first half.

After the Knights played even with the Polar Bears over the next six minutes, Hortonville closed the first half with an 11-3 run to take a 46-point halftime lead.

Braden Studinski, the most experienced player on the Knights roster, was the lone player in double figures for the Knights in the game, finishing with 10 points. Parker Slusarski and Quin Ruark each added seven.

“Braden Studinski as a leader stepped up. I loved his leadership,” Baehman said. “He had a lot of the younger guys looking at him and he led in a way that I was very happy with.”

Against Oshkosh West, the Knights trailed just 9-6 about four minutes into the game after getting a free throw from Studinski, a lay-in from Harlan Kuehn and a three-point play from Jackson Buttke.

But the Wildcats scored the next 15 points en route to building a 35-9 advantage and stayed in control the rest of the game.



Oshkosh Herald

Lourdes Academy’s Parker Slusarski looks to drive to the basket during Saturday’s game against Oshkosh West at the Steven L. Randall Memorial Classic.

Kuehn scored 11 points to lead the Knights on Saturday, while Slusarski and Buttke each chipped in six points.

“We want them to find the positives out of this weekend and we are going to be ready to work Monday,” Baehman said.

“They have to understand that at Lourdes we have a standard and that standard is to be able to compete with these teams. Maybe this year it wasn’t in the cards, but we want to do it every year because it will make us better in the long run.”



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Wildcats ready to showcase experienced, talented roster

Oshkosh Herald

The 2024-25 season has the looks of one that could be pretty special for the Oshkosh West wrestling team.

The boys squad returns two state place-winners from a year ago and three more who advanced to sectionals as the Wildcats take aim at the best the Fox Valley Association has to offer.

Leading a strong senior group for the Wildcats will be Eddy Schroeder and

Wrestling
PREVIEW

Ryland Schneider, both entering their fourth season competing at the varsity level.

Schroeder finished 48-5 and finished third at 138 pounds in his first trip to the WIAA state meet, while Schneider made his third trip to Madison last spring and finished fifth at 157 pounds, while posting a 43-10 record.

That duo, with Schneider expected to move up a weight class to 165 pounds this season, will be one of the top duos in the talent-rich Fox Valley Association this season and will help anchor the Wildcats lineup.

But that pairing is hardly all that West will send to the mat this season.

Seniors Jaiden Fronczak and Nelson Fournier each finished with at least 31 wins last season and qualified for sectionals, where they finished third and fourth, respectively. Fellow senior Jaxen Lloyd was also a sectional qualifier a year ago and totaled 25 wins on the season.

In addition to that group, the Wildcats bring back senior Zach Bartels, who posted 22 wins a year ago and is coming off a stellar football season.

With 47 wrestlers in the practice room for the Wildcats, head coach Matt Cuadra has plenty of options to round out the varsity lineup, including freshman Preston Schneider who he expects to be one of the top newcomers.

"It is exciting to have that many people in our room working to get each other better," Cuadra commented. "It takes a whole team to continue to see growth and take our program to the next level."

West will have some big hurdles to climb as the FVA once again will be stacked with plenty of talented teams and wrestlers.

Defending state champion Kaukauna returns the bulk of their lineup from last



Oshkosh Herald

Nelson Fournier is one of a strong group of senior wrestlers for Oshkosh West that has the Wildcats primed for a big season.

season, while perennial powerhouse Hortonville and Neenah are also expected to field strong lineups. But that doesn't mean that Cuadra isn't shooting high with this group.

We have high expectations for this year," Cuadra commented. "The first goal is to finish in the top two in our conference and then we would like to get six to state between both the boys and girls teams. The final goal/expectation we have is to finish in a higher place at each tournament than we did last year."

Oshkosh West also has a returning state qualifier on the girls team as sophomore Sarah Mrazek returns after posting 10 wins and making it to Madison as a freshman. Junior Sam Bryant is also back for the Wildcats after qualifying for sectionals and the duo will be the leaders of the squad.

Cuadra said that the girls team has seven wrestlers currently and looks for sophomore Lauren Klinger to also be one of the contributors to the team.

Oshkosh North

Spartans head coach Zachary Jeanneret has a simple goal for the Oshkosh North wrestling team.

He sees this year's season ending on the mats inside the Kohl Center.

"It has been over five years since Oshkosh North wrestling has been represent-

ed at the state tournament in Madison," Jeanneret commented. "This is the year that changes."

The last time the Spartans had a wrestler advance to state was in 2019 when Cade Schmitz wrestled in the Division 1 126-pound bracket.

North certainly has a number of candidates to end that drought, led by junior Jamond Thompson-Schreck. Thompson-Schreck was the lone Spartan wrestler to advance to sectionals last season and finished with a team-best 16 wins on the year.

Senior Alex Barrera and juniors Andrew Brockman and Anthony Berger are also returning this season after each posted double-digit wins last season.

In addition, Jeanneret is looking to freshmen Dominic Wyrwicki and Kekoa Hogue to have an immediate impact on the varsity squad.

The Spartans also will have one girl wrestler with the potential to make the trip to Madison.

Senior Maddy Ketola finished second at the sectional meet a year ago and Jeanneret is hoping her success can help influence a growth in the program.

"I think what will grow the girls team at North is Maddy's success and hard work," commented Jeanneret. "Maddy is in the room competing with the top boys every day and I think that is a testament to her drive to grow the sport of girls wrestling."

Lourdes Academy

It could be a rough season for Knights' head coach Steve Heinzl but he believes the 2024-25 season has the potential to set the foundation for a return to prominence in the future.

Entering the season, the Knights have just three freshmen on the roster after losing state champion Mason Carpenter to graduation and a quartet of potential returning wrestlers who opted not to participate this winter.

"If all three guys stay out for all four years, this is a great foundation to build on with some of the kids we could have coming in over the next few years," Heinzl commented. "The middle school program has its best numbers in a long time. If we can get even three kids each year with some experience and keep everyone else out from the previous year, we could be competitive again pretty quick."

Heinzl said that two of the freshmen on his roster – Peytyn Leinweber and Jeordie Warwick – each have some experience at the youth levels, but fellow freshman Ian Simmons is a newcomer to the sport.

"Depending on how fast they make the adjustment to high school wrestling could determine how this year goes for them, but there is a lot of potential," commented Heinzl. "I really like the potential I see in this group."

Lourdes Academy won't have any girls wrestlers this season but do have potential for some in the future as Heinzl said there are multiple girls competing on the middle school team.



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Prep sports roundup

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Spartans open season with two wins

Oshkosh North posted a pair of wins before Thanksgiving as the Spartans began the 2024-25 season.

Awut Alic finished with a double-double of 29 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Spartans to a 63-55 victory over Menasha in the first game of the season.

Brinna Paulson knocked down four 3-pointers and added 14 points as North rallied from a one-point halftime deficit to outscore the Bluejays 43-34 in the second half.

A few nights later the Spartans knocked off Bay Port, 66-53, once again using a big second half to rally from a halftime deficit. North trailed 22-20 at the break.

Alic finished with 28 points and 12 rebounds to key the win, while Morgan Kolodzick added nine points and Paulson finished with eight. Kolodzick and Paulson combined for five of the team's 10 3-pointers.

Alai Awak finished with seven points and eight rebounds in the win.

Wildcats tripped up by Kettle Moraine

Oshkosh West outscored Kettle Moraine 31-23 in the second half, but couldn't erase a 22-point halftime deficit in a 61-47 loss to the Lasers.

Ava Strasser led the way for the Wildcats with 12 points, but was the only West player to reach double figures.

Kinslee Nelson added nine points, while Rowan Tigert and Maddie Rasmussen added eight and seven, respectively.

Bauer, Ruedinger lead rout of Horicon

Hailee Bauer finished with 23 points and Delaney Ruedinger chipped in 13 as Lourdes Academy used a big first half to cruise past Horicon before Thanksgiving.

The Knights held Horicon to just 15 points in the first half in taking a 41-15 advantage.

Allie Huizenga chipped in seven points, while Hannah McDowell finished with six points and a team-high 11 rebounds.

Aubrey Schettle also scored six points.

Warriors suffer first loss of season

Valley Christian got off to a rough start and couldn't recover falling to a strong St. Mary's Springs squad, 73-36, before Thanksgiving.

The Warriors were held to just 14 points in the first half and faced a 24-point deficit at intermission.

Mya Moran was the lone player in double figures with 17 points, while Lizzie Fink chipped in nine points and 10 rebounds. Mackenzie Grammer finished with six points in the loss.

Valley Christian committed 35 turnovers in the game.

BOYS HOCKEY

Ice Hawks drop pair of games at tournament

The Oshkosh Ice Hawks lost 9-2 to Sheboygan and 6-2 to Kenosha at the Sheboygan Holiday Tournament last weekend.

Oshkosh was also slated to play Ashwaubenon but results of that game were

not posted.

Zander Crook and Jake Koller notched goals in the game against Sheboygan, with Dayton Briski and Brennon Kraft picking up assists.

Gage Bauer with 29 saves and Chase Magadanz with four saves shared the time in net for Oshkosh.

Against Kenosha, goals by Kraft and William Beck midway through the second pe-

riod tied the game at 2 but Kenosha broke the tie before the end of the period and tacked on three goals in the third period.

Mason Monhen and Koller notched assists in the game while Magadanz finished with 30 saves.

In Oshkosh's season-opener, the Ice Hawks lost 10-1 to the Fox Cities Stars with Nolan Thurn picking up the lone tally for Oshkosh.

West boys

FROM PAGE 17

up with enough points last night."

Five points each from Kole Stauffacher and Sam Benesh helped West finish the half strong and take a 44-15 lead at intermission.

Joey Ware scored six points of his eight points in a West spurt to start the second half as the Wildcats stretched the lead to 60-22 and the Wildcats coasted to the win from there.

"Our energy, our rebounding and our defense and just playing all together was the key tonight," Moderson said. "We just tried to encourage everyone on the team and just stay confident."

Behind Moderson's career-high scoring night, Benesh finished with 16 points and Stauffacher added 11, including three 3-pointers.

Gelhar, who was the lone double-figure scorer against Fort Atkinson with 16 points and 11 rebounds, finished with seven points, but had nine rebounds and eight assists in the contest.

"Noah is attacking the rim much better this year and that is drawing the defenses to him," Weisse said. "We do have some

more shooters this year than we have in the past couple of years and he's using them. We just have to knock down the shots."

On Friday night, West trailed 11-8 with just more than nine minutes left in the first half but Fort Atkinson went on a 14-0 run and took a 15-14 lead at halftime.

The Wildcats trailed by double digits most of the second half but pulled to within eight points with 45 seconds left following a 3-pointer and a lay-in from Gelhar.

The Blackhawks answered by going 3-of-4 from the free-throw line in the final 25 seconds to hang on for the win.

West will now turn its attention to the Fox Valley Association schedule starting with a trip to Appleton West on Friday. The Wildcats will then face rival Oshkosh North next Tuesday and Weisse believes these two games will help prepare his squad for the road ahead.

"I like playing the two games early. Are we ready? We're not fully ready, but I think you learn a lot about yourself," Weisse said. "What I am pleased with is our effort and our energy. Our energy was very good both nights. I thought we played hard. I think we learned a lot about ourselves and hopefully we can take it into the conference season."

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Ice Hawks aim to build on last season's success

Oshkosh Herald

Things may be heating up on the ice for the Oshkosh Ice Hawks.

The co-op hockey program is coming off one of its best seasons in recent history and has a strong core of returning players to build around as it looks to keep trending upward in the 2024-25 season.

"I'm looking forward to seeing this team builds on last year's performance which was an improvement from the years before," commented head coach Stephanie Brunkhorst. "I'm excited about the impact of our new varsity players and I expect intense competition that will not only test us but push us forward."

The Ice Hawks finished 9-16 last season, which was the most wins for a program since the 2015-16 season when the team posted a 13-10-1 mark – the last time Osh-kosh finished the season with a winning record.

Although the team graduated its lone all-conference selection from that group and its top returning scorers, the Ice Hawks do have a nucleus to build around and an experienced goalkeeper to help anchor the effort.

The top returning scorer for the Ice Hawks is junior Dayton Briski, who finished with eight goals and four assists. Senior Mason Monhen chipped in seven goals and totaled nine points on the sea-

son, while senior Zander Crook posted a goal and seven assists.

That trio, along with senior Nolan Thurn, will be the leaders at forward, while junior Brennon Kraft will be the most experience defenseman on the roster.

In goals, four-year varsity starter Gage Bauer returns after facing nearly 830 shots last season and posting one shutout.

That group of returning players will get a boost from freshmen forwards Evan Burger and Jake Koller as well as sophomore defenseman Clay Poquette.

"Their knowledge about the game and overall drive will make your eyes get stuck on them while they play," Brunkhorst said of the newcomers. "While we do have more that are worth keeping your eye on, these three will help build that foundation that we are looking for once our seniors leave."

Although Brunkhorst likes the talent this year's squad will bring to the ice, she may be more excited about the attitude in this year's group.

"We have speed and skill which helps, but hard work can beat talent any day and this year we definitely have a group of hard workers who can change the course of the Oshkosh Ice Hawks for the better," Brunkhorst commented. "My expectations for this year's group is high. The goal is to always be 1 percent better every day because over time, it will add up. Most of all, I want to see the team playing with heart and giving it their all every day."

his talents to Colgate University.

"We're going to be missing Stevie's 22 points a game, so we're going to have to figure it out," Mitchell said. "We'll have to find other guys and adjust, but we'll figure it out. We have an upcoming kid named Bryce Ott, who I think is going to be really good."

Despite the amazing talents of Mitchell and Clark, North hasn't made a deep tournament run in recent years but will look to change that this season. The Spartans' only state title came in 2017-18 when Haliburton drove a 27-1 North team to the Division 1 state title.

"A state title – that's the main thing that I want," Mitchell said. "Any accolades I get come second. I don't care about the Gatorade Player of the Year or any of that stuff. That comes along with winning and that's what I want to do: win a state title. That's why I didn't leave and go to prep school. I wanted to stay and win a state championship."

Obituaries

John David Rausch

John (Jack) David Rausch, age 83, of the town of Utica passed away on November 24, 2024, at Bethel Home, Oshkosh.



He was born on April 6, 1941, the son of Frank and Elizabeth (Adamczak) Rausch. He was a 1959 graduate of Omro High School.

John was united in marriage to Carol Tritt on May 28, 1960, in Omro. Together they had four children, Peggy, Mark, Peter, and John.

John was a highly skilled concrete and stone mason. In his over 50-year career, he worked on many commercial and residential projects throughout the Fox Valley, including many beautiful fireplaces. Prior to his retirement he was a foreman for C.R. Meyer and Sons. In addition, he attended to his family farm. He was a former member of the Utica Volunteer Fire Department.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; sister-in-law, Eva Rausch of Omro; chil-

dren, Peggy (Layne) Wilbright of Winona, MN, Mark (Terri) Rausch of Utica, Peter (Cheryl) Rausch of Nepeuskun, and John (Carolyn) Rausch of Bellport, NY; grandchildren, Annie (Bill) Cumbie, Nathan Rausch and Matthew Rausch; great-grandchild, Elita Moore; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death are parents, Frank & Elizabeth; sister and brother-in-law, Ruth & Richard Johnson, brother Donald, and sister and brother-in-law Mary Ann & Donald Eagen; and parents-in-law, Norman & Edith Tritt.

The family would like to thank the staff of Bethel Home and Azura Hospice for their care and support.

A visitation will be at Kwiatkowski Funeral in Omro, on Thursday December 5, 2024 from 4-7:00 p.m. An additional visitation will be held on Friday December 6, 2024 at 10 a.m. prior to the 11 a.m. funeral service at Wyldewood Baptist Church in Oshkosh.



Nora E. Bartels

Nora E. Bartels, 97, of Oshkosh, WI, passed away on Sunday, November 24, 2024. She was born to the late John and Anna (Hafemann) Miller on April 28, 1927 in Winnebago county. She graduated high school and went on to be a telephone switchboard operator where she met Warren Bartels. Warren and Nora later married and enjoyed traveling the world together.



Nora was the family historian. She facilitated trips so their family would be able to meet various relatives. She also loved to sew, read, and do crossword puzzles. She sewed many walker bags in her spare time. Nora was most well known for her loving and caring heart. She would lend a hand to anyone in need.

Nora was a loving daughter, sister, cousin, aunt, stepmother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Along with Nora's parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Warren Bartels, brothers; John, Reynold, Paul, and Carl Miller.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, December 6, 2024 at 2:00 pm, at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Point Drive, Oshkosh, with Rev. John Dorn officiating. Visitation will be

held from 1:30 pm until the time of service.

Interment will take place at Peace Lutheran Cemetery in Oshkosh, WI at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 338 Eagle Street, Oshkosh.



Senior Spotlight

FROM PAGE 16

Otzelberger in a press release from the Iowa State communications department. "He has mismatch ability and can really help facilitate offense. He's somebody that has been a great rebounder and defensively he has tremendous versatility with an ability to guard all positions on the floor. He'll make an immediate impact on our program with his toughness and consistency."

Mitchell and the Spartans are looking to defend their FVA title after winning the rugged league with a 16-2 mark last season. The Spartans finished 20-6 overall, losing to Germantown in the regional finals. Mitchell will be the defensive focus of North opponents this season after the Spartans lost part of their two-headed monster with the graduation of another prolific scorer, Stevie Clark, who has taken

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Obituaries

Phyllis E. Retzlaff

Phyllis E. Retzlaff passed away peacefully at home on November 30, 2024, just two days shy of her 97th birthday. She had a full life and a strong faith. Phyllis was born on December 2, 1927, in the Town of Omro, the daughter of Elizabeth and Lewis Miller. She graduated from Omro High School in 1945. On June 9, 1949, she married Charles Retzlaff at Grace Lutheran

Church in Omro, and they enjoyed 57 wonderful years of marriage.

Throughout her life, Phyllis was employed by Omro Lumber, Northern Propane, and 28 years at the dental office of Dr. R.C. Zernzach. Beyond her work, she was an exceptional seamstress, a phenomenal cook and baker, created and crocheted countless snowflakes, and crafted many seasonal items. Phyllis actively served her

church in various capacities and cherished her time with her family. Later in life, if she wasn't in the raspberry patch or tending to her flowers, she could be found watching Wisconsin sports, mastering crossword or jigsaw puzzles, or enjoying a good book.

Phyllis and Charles hosted A.F.S. students from Denmark, Norway, and Greece. She kept in touch with Anders from Denmark via email, and during one of their trips, they visited him there.

She is survived by her children, Lynn (Ruth) Retzlaff, Alan (Cathy) Retzlaff, and Jill (David) Teal; grandchildren John (Mackenzie) Retzlaff and Mary Retzlaff; and great-grandchild Jeffrey Retzlaff. Phyllis is also survived by her sister Lois (Russell) Stone; brother-in-law Clair Retzlaff; sisters-in-law Dorothy (Merlyn) Lovell and Margaret Retzlaff; and many nieces and nephews.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her husband, Charles; her parents; grandsons Jacob and Soren Smith; sister Beverly (Luv-ern) Korth; brothers-in-law Lyle Retzlaff and Orin (Marian) Retzlaff; and sisters-in-law Grace (Joe) Vowels and Ruth Retzlaff.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to Sandy and Erica from Aurora Hospice. In accordance with Phyllis' wishes, there will be no visitation. The funeral service will be held on Friday, Dec. 6th at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 720 Jackson Ave, Omro, WI, with Pastor Mark Wenzel officiating. Her final resting place will be at Omro Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, a memorial is being established for Grace Lutheran Church-Omro and Carter Memorial Library-Omro.



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Obituaries

Michael D. Helf

Michael D. Helf passed away on November 15, 2024, at the age of 75, surrounded by his loving family at Ascension Mercy Hospital in Oshkosh. Born on April 8, 1949, to the late Harry Jr. and Donna Helf, Mike was a proud Oshkosh native.



After high school, he dedicated four years to the United States Air Force, serving as a radio repairman, and later joined the Army National Guard.

He married his high school sweetheart, Kathleen McDonald, and they had three children together. In the coming years, Mike married Holly Olsen, and they spent the next 34 years together.

Mike worked at Leach Co. as a plasma cutter and master electrician for 37 years. His dedication to his craft was evident, and he took on the role of union president with pride, fighting tirelessly for the rights of his colleagues.

In quiet moments, Mike found solace in the great outdoors. Hunting and fishing were hobbies that he truly enjoyed. But his true passion was nature photography. He used his eye for detail to capture life's fleeting beauty. Animals held a special place in his heart, leading him to spend countless hours volunteering at the Neenah Animal Shelter.

Mike is survived by his children, Chris (Michelle) Helf and Shannon (fiancé Jeff

Hadel) Drexler; daughter-in-law, Karen Helf; grandchildren, Taylor Henderson, Kelsey (Mat) Geraghty, Kevin, Kyle, Katy, Hannah, Maggie and Hunter Helf, and Brynn Drexler; three great-grandchildren; brothers, Steve (Sally) and Paul (Pam) Helf. He is further survived by his nieces.

In addition to his parents, Mike was preceded in death by his son, Matthew Helf.

A memorial service with Military Honors for Mike will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Dr., on Saturday, December 7, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 10:00 a.m. until the service. A celebration of life will take place immediately following the service at The Roxy Supper Club, 571 N. Main St.

The family would like to express their deepest gratitude to Compassus Hospice and Ascension Mercy Hospital's second-floor nursing staff for their exceptional care and support during Mike's final days.



Harland K. Mueckler

Harland K. Mueckler, age 98, passed away at his home on Sunday, December 1, 2024 with his wife, Alene, by his side. Arrangements are currently pending with Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes (920)-231-1510



Hibbard, Mitzi Rogers, and Andy (Jenny) Rogers. He is further survived by his grandchildren, Diane Gajewski, Heather (Tony) Crots, Christina (Kenji) Badger, Cherie Nigl, Hannah (Austin) Schimke, Peyton Nigl, Lauren Ruth Nigl, Tashina (Matt) Bolen, Emilio (Caylie) Hernandez, Kaitlin Scherzer, Dietrich Scherzer, Arika Scherzer, Lorenz Scherzer IV, Hans Scherzer, Maxwell Rogers, Alexia Berens, Stephanie (Jim) Genz, Michael Langhoff, Kyle Paulus, and Calvin Paulus. His great-grandchildren, Jailynn, Makayla, Madison, Aubrey, Parker, Carter, Deklyn, and Wrenlie. He is further survived by many nieces, and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Georgette Nigl; granddaughter, Meredith Scherzer; grandson, Harvick Nigl; brothers, Ron Nigl and Rudolph "Buck" Nigl; and nephew, Michael Nigl.

Visitation will be held on Friday, December 27, 2024 at St. Jude the Apostle Parish (AKA St. Vincent) 1225 Oregon St., Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 54902 from 9:00am to 11:00am and Mass to follow at 11:00am.

In lieu of flowers, please feel free to donate to the Veteran Services of Winnebago County in his honor.



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Legal Notices

Notice of Public Hearing

The Specialized Transportation Assistance Grant Application for 202255 is scheduled for public hearing on Monday, December 9th, 2024, at 3pm at Winnebago County Department of Human Services, 220 Washington Avenue, Room 033(lower level), Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The Public hearing will be held to receive public comment on Winnebago county's proposed plan for spending \$440,491.00 authorized under Section 85.21 of Wisconsin State Statute to implement elderly and disabled transportation services in Winnebago County.

Proposed 2025 projects requesting 85.21 funds include GO Transit specialized transportation services (\$264,294.60) and Valley Transit specialized transportation services (\$264,294.60).

For those persons unable to attend the hearing and wishing to submit comments in advance may do so by mailing their comments to:

Jill Butler, Aging and Resources Program Supervisor
Winnebago County Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 2187
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54903-2187
877-886-2372
jbutler@winnebagocountywi.gov

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 11, 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.

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

WNAXLP

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
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The Holidays Make Scents

Maybe it's because I have a carrot for a nose, but I don't get to smell much of the wonderful scents the holidays bring each year. See if your friends and family members can identify the secret scents hidden in five bags without looking in the bag.

- Stuff you'll need:**
- 5 paper bags
 - Marker
 - Pine needles
 - Cinnamon sticks
 - Hot cocoa powder
 - Candy Canes
 - Marshmallows
 - Cup of eggnog
 - Gingerbread
 - Popcorn
 - Roasted chestnuts
 - Pumpkin spice
 - Drops of vanilla extract
 - Holiday scented candle

Choose any 5 of these items.

SCIENTIST'S NOTEBOOK

Question: Will people be able to identify every scent? Which one will every person correctly identify?

Hypothesis: Your guess at what will happen.

Method:

1. Number the bags 1 through 5.
2. Place the bags on a level surface. Place an item in each bag.
3. Have each person sniff each bag and tell you what they think they smell.



Observation: Which scent was guessed correctly most often?

Which scent was guessed correctly least often?

Conclusion: Explain what this experiment taught you.

Standards Link: Follow the scientific process to conduct simple experiments.

Incredible Vanishing Candy Canes

Try this awesome EXPERIMENT! This experiment will reveal how candy canes react to different liquids. What do you think will happen? Record your observations to see if you predicted the correct results.

- Stuff you'll need:**
- 4 small candy canes
 - 4 clear jars or glasses
 - Hot water
 - Cold water
 - White vinegar
 - Cooking oil

SCIENTIST'S NOTEBOOK

Question: How does a candy cane react when left in different liquids?

Hypothesis: Your guess at what will happen.

Method:

1. Fill each jar or glass with one liquid. Use the same amount each time.
2. Place a candy cane in each container.
3. Watch what happens to the candy canes over the next couple of hours.

COOKING OIL	VINEGAR	COLD WATER	HOT WATER
after 15 minutes:	after 15 minutes:	after 15 minutes:	after 15 minutes:
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
after two hours:	after two hours:	after two hours:	after two hours:
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Conclusion: Explain what this experiment taught you.

Standards Link: Follow the scientific process to conduct simple experiments.

Find each candy cane's exact twin.

Extra! Extra! Holiday Sights

Look through the newspaper for each of these words related to holiday celebrations:

- Lights
- Music
- Gifts
- Family
- Friends
- Joy
- Peace
- Fun

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Dr. I. Cide's Lab Equipment

Circle all the things that would be useful in a laboratory to conduct experiments. Do the math. The even-numbered items would be useful. The odd-numbered items would not be useful.

8 + 4 =

6 + 2 =

7 + 7 =

10 + 8 =

7 - 3 =

14 - 6 =

11 + 11 =

9 + 7 =

12 - 4 =

Standards Link: Solve simple equations; recognize odd/even numbers.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

Kid Scoop Together Fizzy Cookie Shapes

Baking soda and vinegar create a fizzy, bubbly reaction when mixed. Try this experiment with a family member.

- Stuff you'll need:**
- Baking sheet (makes cleanup easier)
 - Holiday cookie cutters
 - Baking soda
 - White vinegar
 - Green and red food coloring



Step 1: Add red food coloring to a cup of white vinegar. Stir. Repeat with green food coloring.



Step 2: Place a cookie cutter on the tray and pack it with baking soda.



Step 3: Add drops of green and red vinegar to the baking soda.

Observation: _____

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