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Former school site preps for housing

City OKs steps to clear Washington property

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Washington Elementary School will be demolished soon to clear the land to develop more than a dozen new single-family homes for workforce housing.

The school on Winnebago Avenue will first have all the asbestos removed, then the building will be razed. The Oshkosh Area School District sold the land to the city for \$75,000.

The city has contracted Environet Inc.

of Wisconsin, based in Oshkosh, to remove all asbestos from the site before the school is demolished for \$19,925. Wolverine Construction has been contracted to raze and remove the school for \$173,000.

Both contracts were approved by the Common Council on Dec. 10.

The city entered an agreement with Habitat for Humanity Oshkosh to purchase the land from the school district earlier this year. The district received no interest after putting out a request for buyers.

City staff met with Habitat officials and discussed the potential partnership to divide the more than 2.5-acre lot into

18 separate parcels for 18 single-family homes.

Habitat has set a goal to build 75 houses in Oshkosh over the next 10 years. Executive director Tom Simon sees it as a public-private partnership that will get more people living in their own houses, something the city is working on as it continues to build housing stock across the board.

Workforce housing is defined by the city as households earning 80% of the county median income. The median income in Winnebago County is \$94,600 – 80% of that would be \$75,680. The homes planned for this lot would be between \$250,000 and \$350,000, city officials said.

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Photo by Michael Cooney

Morgan House music

One of the recent open houses at the Morgan House museum featured the harp stylings of Pamela Pamperin as part of the festive holiday atmosphere. Pamperin performed in northern California for decades before moving to Oshkosh and continuing to play in the Fox Valley area.

New laws provide privacy protections for state judges

Threats, violence against judicial officers cited

By Bethanie Gengler
OSHKOSH HERALD

Three new laws in Wisconsin intended to shield judges from disgruntled litigants will have far-reaching consequences, with Winnebago County officials unsure about the broader implications.

Last March, Gov. Tony Evers signed a series of bills in response to concerns about the safety of judges, with reports of judicial officers receiving threats of vi-

olence, harassment and doxxing, which is when private information is published on the internet with malicious intent.

In June 2022, retired Juneau County Circuit Judge John Roemer was shot and killed by a man he had sentenced to six years in prison in 2005. The gunman, Douglas Uhde, had a list of targets “related to the judicial system,” Attorney General Josh Kaul said at a news conference at the time. Uhde died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Following the incident, Chief Justice Annette Ziegler requested that the Legislative Committee of the Judicial Confer-

ence develop bills to improve judicial protection. That resulted in three acts, two of which are already in effect and one that goes into effect in April.



Kirchner

which were direct threats of physical harm or death.

Ziegler noted that in the 12 months prior to the bills’ introduction, the Supreme Court Marshal’s Office documented 142 threats against judges and justices in the state, 44 of

“No one should face threats or violence for carrying out their role in the legal system—a system intended to serve as a forum for resolving disputes peacefully, according to the law,” she wrote.

More than 80 judges and court commissioners in the state signed onto or submitted written testimony in favor of the bills. Many outlined their own issues with disgruntled litigants.

“While on the circuit court bench in Waukesha County, I and my colleagues have been the subject of threats, one of

SEE **Judge privacy** ON PAGE 14

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Remodeled hotel brings new space, restaurant

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center has completed the rebrand effort complete with a new restaurant all right along the Fox River.

The hotel officially started accepting reservations under the new name last month. Renovations include updates to the guest rooms, lobby, restaurant and a members-only club still under construction.

Zio Pekovic of Scarlett Hotel Group told the Common Council last year there is unlocked potential value in the space and rebrand from Best Western to Marriott. Pekovic said Marriott Bonvoy has the world's largest customer loyalty program.

Scarlett Hotel Group acquired the hotel and convention center at 1 North Main St. last February. The project received tax incremental financing (TIF) support to help with the \$10 million renovation. Part of the renovation was expanding the lobby and creating a more open space.

Part of that renovation was the new restaurant, which opened in December and replaces Ground Round, which had been on the first floor of the hotel. Anchor & Port features locally sourced ingredients



Oshkosh Herald

A new bar inside the Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Hotel has recently opened after a year of renovations.

inspired by regional flavors, according to the hotel website. The hotel will also fea-

ture an M Club lounge for Marriott Bonvoy members.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Jan. 3, 1975

Lawyer Population is Down in Big Lake:

The poor man's lobster – the ugly looking but good eating lawyer

(burbot) – will no longer be sold to the public according to the DNR. The state Resource Department will discontinue netting lawyers due the drastic decline in numbers. Last year the carp pond field station netted only 7,000 pounds of lawyers, all sold to the public for 15 cents a pound. Previous years totals equaled 40,000 pounds in 1971, 27,000 pounds in 1972, and 14,000

pounds in 1973. Each January and February over the past 25 years, the DNR netted the rough fish to control the numbers. Fish not bought by local residents were sold to operators of fishing ponds in Illinois, Ohio and Missouri where anglers in these states were willing to pay to fish for the lawyers.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Jan. 3, 1975

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Contractor accused of theft from area businesses

By Bethanie Gengler
OSHKOSH HERALD

A contractor accused of defrauding businesses in Oshkosh and Neenah was in court this week on two felony counts of theft after two business owners reported to police that they paid for services that were never completed or even started.

Christopher Koehler, 45, owner of Elite Construction of Fond du Lac, was hired for renovation and construction projects at two local businesses in 2022. Documents say he took payment for significant work but failed to deliver the services, leaving both businesses with incomplete and unusable spaces.

The investigation began in April when the owners of Satori Imports on North Main Street in Oshkosh and The Tailored Hide in Neenah reported they were defrauded of a combined total of \$38,486.

Kay Bahr, who co-owns Satori Imports with Erica Pyfer Mulloy, reported to police that the business paid Koehler \$5,000 up front for roof repairs with the agreement that the remaining balance of \$3,750 was due at completion of the project.

The business also entered into a second agreement with Koehler to replace windows at an estimated cost of \$27,343, with \$13,672 due up front and the remainder due at completion.

More than two years passed with Koehler failing to complete any work. Last winter, Satori Imports' roof began leaking and the business hired a different contractor to complete the work.

In Neenah, Leeann Wasinger, who owns The Tailored Hide, told police that in the summer of 2022 a driver crashed into the building and front steps and left a side of an enclosed porch damaged. She hired



Oshkosh Herald

Satori Imports was the victim of alleged contractor fraud for a project to replace the roof and windows on the historic building on North Main Street.

a different contractor to repair the brick, who recommended Koehler to complete window work.

Wasinger hired Koehler and paid a 50% down payment of \$12,410 for materials. She later paid an additional \$3,905. Though Koehler took out the broken windows and boarded up the openings with plywood, he never returned to finish the job.

Last year, Wasinger hired a different company to complete the work. She also hired an attorney and got the Neenah police involved, but at that time law enforcement involvement did not result in charges.

Both Bahr and Wasinger told police that they repeatedly contacted Koehler over a two-year period and he continued to come up with last-minute excuses as to why he would not be able to complete the projects.

When the business owners requested a refund, he gave similar answers. He told

Bahr that one of his big jobs fell through so he was "piggy backing" the money and using funds from one job to support another. Wasinger's attorney received an email from Koehler's mother stating the same.

In June, Koehler met with an investigator and advised that he was trying to sort out jobs in Jackson, Neenah and Oshkosh. He said he took money for the jobs in Oshkosh and Neenah and spent the money on a large siding job in Jackson, as that job was his priority. He said he didn't get paid for the Jackson job after completion because they weren't satisfied with the work.

Neither of the businesses in Oshkosh and Neenah have received reimbursement from Koehler and it's unclear whether he continues offering contracting services. There is no Google business or Better Business Bureau profile for Elite Construction and it is not a licensed business with the state.

In an impact statement, Bahr wrote that

Satori Imports saved for years to be able to take on the project of fixing the windows and leaking roof of the historic downtown Oshkosh building and waited two years for Koehler to begin the work before realizing he had no intention of starting the projects. By now, she said the conditions of the building have continued to deteriorate and the cost of new labor and supplies has gone up.

"It truly makes us sick to think Chris Koehler has moved on without any remorse, without any intention of ever doing the work he contracted to do, or without refunding our deposits, despite our numerous patient and persistent requests," she wrote.

Wasinger wrote that The Tailored Hide lost out on 200 square feet of retail space and that losing more than \$16,000 has caused hardships.

"It affected my ability to invest in more product and I had to pay for repairs out of pocket because of his taking our dollars and doing nothing except tell lies," she wrote.

After operating the business for 38 years, Wasinger, 63, wrote that the financial loss has delayed her retirement.

"I am not the only victim in this case by a long shot and Christopher needs to take responsibility and realize the amount of distress he has caused in my and other people's lives and well-being," she wrote.

Koehler was charged in Winnebago County in October with two felony counts of theft by contractor. He was previously charged in May in a separate Fond du Lac County case with theft by contractor. He's due back in court Jan. 27 in Fond du Lac County and March 6 in Winnebago County for plea and sentencing hearings.



Photo: Sherry Neden, Dreamlitt Photography

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Girls on Run combines physical fitness, emotional growth

By MaryBeth Matzek
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

When Girls on the Run Northeast Wisconsin began in 2012, it started with a single team of girls at a Neenah elementary school. Today, the program serves 650 children annually throughout northeast Wisconsin.

A nonprofit organization, Girls on the Run features fun, evidence-based programs that inspire participants to recognize their inner strength, increase their level of physical activity, imagine their possibilities and confidentially stand up for themselves and others.

During the 10-week program, students meet with their volunteer coaches twice a week to participate in lessons blending physical activities and life skill development, including managing emotions, fostering friendships and expressing empathy.

The program ends with a community impact project and a fun 5K run where “girls feel a tangible sense of accomplishment,” said Kathy Olson, program and outreach coordinator for Girls on the

Run Northeast Wisconsin.

Girls on the Run teams usually meet at schools, but churches and the Boys and Girls Club have also hosted teams. The program is designed for students in third to fifth grade while Heart & Sole is designed for girls in sixth to eighth grades.

“Heart & Sole considers the whole person — body, brain, heart, spirit and social connection — and is specifically designed for girls in middle school,” Olson said.

She said Girls on the Run was started to help girls who begin losing their confidence and have lower self-esteem at around age 9.

“We want the girls to be their own unique selves,” Olson said.

When a school signs up to be a part of Girls on the Run, they receive the necessary curriculum and support to help the volunteer coaches and girls to be successful.

“The program has an impact as we see an emotional and social boost in girls who participate and we also see them build relationships with the other members of their team and coaches,” Olson said. “It definitely works.”

The volunteer coaches are usually school staff members, parents or both. There are also some community members dedicated to the program who also sign up to coach.

Girls on the Run offers a spring and fall season and a one-week camp each summer. Some girls may sign up for just one program while others may sign up for multiple ones.

Olson reaches out to school social workers, guidance counselors and principals to provide them information about



Photo from Girls on the Run

Girls doing a cheer during a practice at Horace Mann Elementary School in Neenah.



Photo from Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run participants finish a practice 5K run for the Tullar Elementary and Neenah Middle School girls club.

Girls on the Run and how their schools can get involved.

“I share with them the benefits and how we provide them with everything they need for the program,” she said.

While there are a lot of activities available for girls, whether it’s dance or a sport like basketball, Girls on the Run brings that added social and emotional component that other sports activities may not have, Olson said.

“It’s a unique program as we blend the physical activity with the social and emotional growth,” she said. “I’ve had coaches

tell me they can tell which athletes were in Girls on the Run in elementary school.”

While there is a fee to join Girls on the Run, Olson said it can be waived due to financial situations.

“We don’t want anything to be a barrier for girls who want to be in the program,” she said.

For more information on starting a Girls on the Run program or volunteering to coach, contact Kathy Olson at 920-209-5866 or kathy.olson@girlsontherun.org. Go to girlsontherunnew.org for more information.

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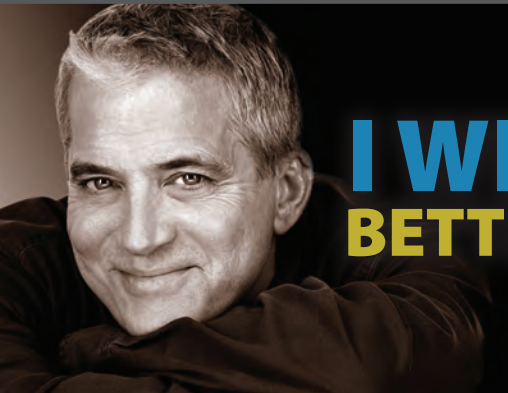
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Year in review: A look back at stories around Oshkosh

Oshkosh Herald

As we say goodbye to 2024, we share a summary of stories from the people, places and topics that made the news over the year.

January

Addiction help: The Winnebago County Jail created a new program for people in recovery. The goal of the Sobriety Treatment Assisted Recovery (STAR) program is to tackle addiction while in jail and then continue that sober journey outside the jail. The sheriff's office partnered with Solution Recovery in 2022 to start the program. The program is available 24/7 to all inmates dealing with addiction, from opioids to methamphetamine to alcohol. Participants meet with recovery coaches who also serve as peer-support specialist while they are in the jail and then continue to meet with them once they leave incarceration.



Oshkosh Media

The Oshkosh Public Museum at the Sawyer House marked its centennial this year with multiple events.

February

Museum centennial: The Oshkosh Public Museum (OPM) celebrated 100 years of operation at the Sawyer House with several themed events showcasing the history of the museum and Oshkosh. The museum was created in 1925 after the lumber baron Sawyer family donated the building to the city a few years earlier to be used as a place for people to learn about Oshkosh. The museum has become an integral part of the city's culture and history, and held a champagne toast to mark the 100-year anniversary in November.

Library leader: The Oshkosh Public Library welcomed new director Daryl Eschete, a Louisiana native, who brought more than a decade of experience from his position in West Des Moines, Iowa. Later in the year the library unveiled a new logo with the "Spark Your Story" tagline and updated the library's website, making it faster and more user-friendly for people to find what they want.



Eschete

March

Vehicle fee OK'd: After years of debate, the Common Council voted to end large special assessments for property owners on street and sidewalk projects. To offset the costs, the city is set to raise utility rates and added a vehicle registration fee commonly referred to as a wheel tax. Every vehicle registered within the city of Oshkosh will have an additional \$35 fee added to their annual costs. City staff reported the city would need an additional \$3.75 million annually to continue updating and fixing roads and sidewalks throughout Oshkosh. The VRF is set to bring in about \$1.5 million, and

\$2.25 million will come from utilities.

Building support: Oshkosh's Habitat for Humanity raised a record \$124,000 at its annual fundraising event. Executive director Tom Simon told the Herald then that the organization plans to build 75 homes in the next 10 years. An ambitious goal as the group has built 44 houses over 35 years. Part of that goal is a partnership between Habitat and the city with 18 houses being built on the site of the former Washington Elementary School on Winnebago Avenue. Half of the houses are planned to be Habitat homes and the others will be private builder homes. All the new single-family homes will be built to fit into the neighborhood as the city continues to do what it can to add to the housing stock.

April

Campus criticism: After a difficult couple of months at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, the faculty senate held an official vote of no confidence in Chancellor Andrew Leavitt. The anonymous online ballot was sent to 281 faculty members with 229 submitting a vote. Of those that voted, 72% (164 faculty) responded: "I do not have confidence in the leadership of Chancellor Andrew Leavitt." The remaining 28% (56 faculty) voted they have confidence in Leavitt's leadership. Looking at the entire faculty, just above 58% stated having no confidence in the chancellor's leadership.



Leavitt

The vote was largely symbolic as the UW Board of Regents are the only ones that can act to remove Leavitt. After the vote Board of Regents president Karen Walsh, regents vice president Amy Bogost and UW president Jay Rothman said Leavitt has their full support. "He is leading UW Oshkosh through a series of difficult but necessary decisions to position the university for a sustainable future. With a focus on current and future students, Chancellor Leavitt is thinking creatively about the university's academic and building infrastructure," the statement said. Leavitt announced his resignation a few months later, stating he would step down in the summer of 2025.

New on the bench: Michael Rust was elected Winnebago County Circuit Court judge for Branch 1, replacing former Judge Teresa Basiliere, who did not seek re-election. Rust advanced through the primary and general election and was sworn in over the summer. Oshkosh voters elected three



Oshkosh Herald

Alicia Wenger (left) and Emily James of Christine Ann look at what will be a transitional apartment on the third floor of the Beach Building. The organization moved operations from 206 Algoma Blvd. to the Beach.

new council members to the Common Council. Jacob Floam, DJ Nichols and Kris Larson were all elected as none of the three incumbents ran for a new term.

May



The Hyde Center was part of the expansion at the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh.

Club growth: The Boys & Girls Club started an \$18.5 million expansion project in October 2022 and in May the organization completed the expansion and invited the public to check out the new facility that will serve 450 children. The addition includes space for the kids but also includes space for community partners. The new Verve Administration Center has office space for Boys & Girls Club staff and flex officers for organizations like Winnebago County Health, Fox Valley Technical College and Community For Hope. Future expansion at the club will include a new playground and gymnasium.

Expanded services: Christine Anne Domestic Abuse Services has been helping survivors for 40 years and the next chapter in the group's story will be inside the Beach Building as it moves out of 206

Algoma Blvd. next door to 240 Algoma. The move is to improve safety measures, access to police and larger families. Executive director Alicia Wenger told the Herald in May that the top three reasons people didn't stay at Christine Ann's are because they have pets, a large family and the building lacks ADA compliance. The buildings at 206 Algoma didn't sit vacant for long as Solutions Recovery is set to move in and provide more sober housing options.

June

Homeless issues: A group of homeless people living outside the Orrin King building over the summer caused a social justice advocacy group to step in and bring light to the issue. The group of unhoused people were told to leave the area and were then invited to stay in the green space of First Presbyterian. There were forecasts of heavy storms hitting the Fox Valley leading up to Memorial Day and the group was told they could not stay outside the church due to the church's zoning not allowing camping. The group Esther held a press conference outside the Orrin King building to put a spotlight on the issue. Esther believed the people should be able to stay in the area as it is public. However, county officials told the Herald that people had abused the space by using drugs, defecating into grates that support the building HVAC system and leaving syringes and other drug paraphernalia in the area.

Boat crash penalty: Two years after a high-profile boat crash on the Fox River, Jason Lindemann was found guilty on 14 criminal counts as the operator of his power boat that collided with a paddlewheel boat after a seven-day jury trial. The state attorney general's office prosecuted the case and called 54 witnesses to testify regarding the July 9, 2022, incident. Lindemann was sentenced to serve five months in prison with Huber privileges in August by Winnebago County Judge Michael Gibbs.



Lindemann

Helping at home: A new county program overseen by the county health department is designed to help people stay in their homes and avoid joining the growing homeless population in Oshkosh. The HELP (homeless, eviction, and loss prevention) program cannot solve home-



Oshkosh Herald

Michael Rust was sworn in as a Winnebago County Circuit Court this summer, replacing former Judge Teresa Basiliere, who did not seek re-election.

Year in review

FROM PAGE 6

lessness but is making strides to protect the vulnerable population that might be facing rising rents, job loss or other difficulties.

July

Creative collaboration: Read Elementary School unveiled its new playground after almost two years of planning and building that features a firefighter theme to promote fire department work as a potential career choice. Jennifer Skolaski worked with Read principal Emily Eisenschink to make the \$500,000 project possible. Anyone driving down Algoma Boulevard can see the firefighting themed playground that has a book walk and outdoor instruments. The project was completed with the help of community partners donating time and resources to get the project completed. One major aspect of the project was a new inclusive mural that more than 350 Read students helped create with Appleton-based artist Neo Medina.



Oshkosh Herald

Residents got a look at the new Read Elementary playground that allows students to use their imagination on possibilities for play.

August

City leader leaving: After 16 years of acting as the CEO of Oshkosh's daily operations, City Manager Mark Rohloff announced his retirement in August. Rohloff started working in Oshkosh in 2008 and quickly turned around the attitude in the city by getting several projects completed and bringing a can-do attitude to the city. Rohloff has been honored by the Wisconsin Policy Forum, Oshkosh Community Foundation, Mayor Matt Mugerauer and state Rep. Lori Palmeri, who worked with Rohloff when she was a council member and mayor. At a December meeting Rohloff was awarded with a key to the city.



Rohloff

Concert fest revival: The inaugural XRoads41 music festival was lauded as a success by organizers as they estimated 28,500 people attended the three-day event at Oshkosh Festivals Park, formerly used for Country USA and Rock USA. The lineup included Journey, Brooks and Dunn, Tanya Tucker and Shaggy. Organizers have released the 2025 lineup and have expressed interest in holding more than one festival throughout the year.

Repeat offender plan: The District Attorney's office is working on a new program to get habitual offenders on the right track. The high-frequency, low-offender initiative is a diversion program for people who now account for more than 10% of local crimes. Between June 2019 and June 2024 there were 266 people that made up 13% of criminal referrals. With a county population of around 171,000, according to the 2020 census, these individuals make up less than 1% of all county residents. Of the 266 individuals, about 73% are white and 66% are men. About 80% of the 266 people fall under the criteria of nine criminal referrals within the last three years. The DA's office continues to work on criteria for what will qualify people for the program. The program will offer resources to these offenders who have a history of committing low-level felonies like retail theft, disorderly conduct and possession of drug paraphernalia. If they don't take the resources they will be cited for habitual offender and face between six and 12 months in prison.

September

New referendum: Oshkosh Area School District officials announced plans

to continue the 10-year facilities plan with a proposed referendum. OASD was able to get a referendum passed in 2020 as the first of a possible four-phase project. Phase two would be almost \$200 million to build a new auditorium at Oshkosh North High, replace South Park Middle School and update classroom sizes. The proposed referendum included several community listening sessions.



Froedtert ThedaCare photo

The new Froedtert ThedaCare micro-hospital added a third floor to the plans from its original proposal as shown in this architect's drawing.

Downtown hospital: The new hospital being built on the Fox River just off Oregon Street broke ground earlier this year. It is a joint venture by Froedtert Health and ThedaCare. It will have hospital beds, medical offices and a drive-thru pharmacy. It will be the only hospital in Oshkosh on the east side of the interstate. The initial plans were for two floors of medical offices but shortly after breaking ground there was a request to add a third floor to the new hospital. Officials are hopeful the new micro-hospital will open in 2025.

Emergency services: The Oshkosh Fire Department is adding a fourth full-time ambulance unit to help reduce call times. The fourth ambulance unit will cost \$782,195 and includes salaries for eight firefighters, all licensed paramedics. The department has a top rating of Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class 1 and was named Wisconsin's 2022 EMS Service of the Year. Oshkosh's cost will be covered by a combination of city funds and money coming in from the service rate increase. The rate increase will help but there will still be long response times to some of the distant areas the Oshkosh Fire Department covers. The average response time in the city last year was

6 minutes and 50 seconds. The average response to the Town of Poygan, which is the farthest according to OFD data, took 29 minutes and 9 seconds.

October

Early voting update: In preparation for the November general election, the city held early in-person absentee voting at 19 E. Irving. The building has been used for in-person absentee voting in previous smaller partisan elections. There were issues at the voting site including people illegally parking near the building on Jefferson Street, long lines with people waiting over an hour to vote, and a statewide issue led to delays in voting.

November

Mock election: As voters across the nation cast their ballot for president, senator, state representatives and county offices, Oshkosh West High School held a mock election for the presidential election this year with a little help from the League of Women Voters of Winnebago County. Oshkosh North High School also held a mock election, but this was the first year it had been held at West in many years. The results mimicked the nationwide results with more than 500 students taking part in the presidential election. Donald Trump and JD Vance received 286 votes while Kamala Harris and Tim Walz received 226 votes.



Oshkosh Herald

One of the 14 pallets of Kraft Mac & Cheese is loaded up to head to the Oshkosh Area Food Pantry thanks to a donation from Amcor, which gave away 78,000 boxes nationwide ahead of the holiday season.

Macaroni mission: As the days got shorter and colder, Amcor donated 78,000 boxes of Kraft macaroni and cheese that were distributed to two food pantries and then spread throughout the Fox Valley. The mac and cheese filled 28 pallets that were delivered to Joseph's Food Program in Menasha for distribution in Neenah, Menasha, Kimberly and Appleton pantries, and Oshkosh Area Community Pantry getting the remaining 14 pallets. Oshkosh pantry executive director Ryan Rasmussen said the mac and cheese was distributed to pantries in Oshkosh, Omro and Winneconne.

December

New leadership: After the announcement of City Manager Mark Rohloff retiring from his role with the city, the council held a nationwide search for a new manager. After weeks of searching, interviews and a community meet-and-greet the council announced that West Allis city administrator Rebecca Grill will be replacing Rohloff. She will start her new position in late February. Rohloff's last day is Jan. 3 and assistant city manager John Fitzpatrick has been tapped to step in as interim city manager in the period between Rohloff's departure and Grill starting.



Grill



Oshkosh Herald

The crowds at the Xroads41 musical festival were treated to some great music and beautiful weather in the first year of the event.

UW budget plan keys on graduation rates, degree demand

By Avery Lea Rogers
WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO

The Universities of Wisconsin cites challenges that appear in a recent third-party review of its finances, in hopes the state Legislature will grant its \$855 million budget increase request for the state's upcoming biennial budget.

Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman said he expects more oversight from the UW Board of Regents based on the results of the third-party review.

"Right now, our Board of Regents have a process by which they approve programs," Rothman said. "And I think what will ultimately flow from this is a process by which the board will review program discontinuances and program suspensions."

Rothman said low enrollment in some university programs is a "natural evolution" based on which are most in-demand.

"Nearly 40 percent of our graduates are in STEM or health care fields," Rothman said. "That's up 30 percent in the last 10 years."

"This is not a new development. This needs to be looked at in context. Over the

last five years, we have closed or discontinued over 100 programs among the Universities of Wisconsin. So this is an ongoing process."

Before Rothman's interview, state Senate majority leader Eric Wimberger shared his thoughts on the university system's budget increase request. Wimberger is a member of the Senate Joint Committee on Finance. In response to low enrollment numbers in certain programs, Wimberger said a bigger budget for administration and support staff doesn't necessarily mean student performance or degree value will increase.

"I always find it confusing when people talk about student loan debt and people can't find a job to pay off their student loans," Wimberger said. "That indicates it was not an investment that has a payoff. If higher education had a payoff on the investment, there would not be a student loan problem. So I think we need to re-analyze how we think of higher education."

According to Rothman, the budget increase request would help keep the UW's "Tuition Promise" intact, attract and re-

tain talent statewide, and keep the institutions competitive with other universities in the country.

"Wisconsin is currently 43rd out of 50 states in terms of its public support for its university system," Rothman said. "The \$855 million over the two years of the biennium would get Wisconsin to the average or median level. We think that's a reasonable ask to continue to ensure affordability and accessibility for Wisconsinites to our 13 great universities."

Wimberger, however, said comparing the budget to others around the country isn't a compelling reason to expand it.

"I think the UW needs to get focused on what's important," he said. "Expanding

just so you can say that you spend as much as somebody else is a non sequitur."

Rothman said the UW system is highly focused on graduation rates, and budget comparisons offer context about university operations.

"Universities of Wisconsin are focused on serving the state and helping Wisconsin win the war for talent," Rothman said. "We've set a very aggressive goal in terms of increasing the number of graduates from our universities, and those are the future nurses and data scientists and engineers and teachers ... If we don't produce those graduates, the jobs that the great employers of Wisconsin are creating today are going to go unfilled."

Toward Harmony with Nature conference set

Oshkosh Herald

Wild Ones Fox Valley Area is presenting its annual Toward Harmony with Nature conference Feb. 8 that will feature keynote speaker Heather Holms on creating and managing landscapes for native bees.

The pollinator conservationist and author will explore the nesting habitats, life

cycles, pollen collection, brood rearing and general characteristics of native bees in eastern North America while highlighting the pollination of native plants.

Local expert Rob Zimmer will lead an exploration of native wild orchids of Wisconsin that will be illustrated with his photos.

The afternoon will be highlighted by 3 breakout sessions by experts on a variety of topics, including practical tips for creating a native plant garden, sedges and grasses, shoreline restoration among others. Visit with vendors and exhibitors, pick up helpful resource materials and bid on silent auction items. Enjoy mingling with other native plant enthusiasts.

The conference will run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Bridgewood Resort Hotel & Conference Center in Neenah. Details can be found at foxvalleyarea.wildones.org.

The Fox Valley Area Chapter of Wild Ones began in 1994 and has held an annual conference since 1997.



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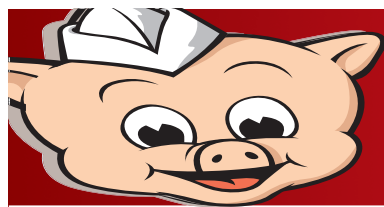
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Photo from Goodwill NCW

Career Excelerate graduates received their certificates at a recent ceremony.

Career Excelerate program graduates latest group

Oshkosh Herald

The latest cohort of Career Excelerate Wisconsin students earned educational certificates Dec. 20 in the program operated in partnership with Goodwill North Central Wisconsin (NCW), Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) and Rawhide Youth Services.

Students completed certificates in nursing assistant, early childhood teacher aide, professional truck driving, welding fundamentals, woodworking technician and diesel technician, plumbing fundamentals and manufacturing technician.

“Career Excelerate provides an innovative approach for job seekers who are looking to build skills and sustain employment to achieve those goals,” said Chris Hess, Goodwill NCW president. “We are excited for those completing the program who are now entering the work-

force and are experiencing the power of work, significantly impacting their families’ financial stability and the greater community.”

Career Excelerate, created in 2022 with support from a Workforce Innovation Grant from the state, is offered free to those who want to launch a career but are struggling and would benefit from individualized support to advance in their profession.

The program supports individuals as they seek in-demand careers in specific areas of study and create a pipeline of job seekers.

As of Dec. 6, 91% of students who completed Career Excelerate have either obtained employment or continued with additional education in their field of study within a year of completion.

Those interested in earning a certificate through Career Excelerate can apply at CareerEXCElerateWI.org. Local employers can partner with Career Excelerate to recruit qualified candidates by contacting careerexceleratewi@goodwillncw.org.

Transitional housing grants awarded locally

Oshkosh Herald

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority has announced 2024 WHEDA Foundation Grant awards for emergency and transitional housing that included three projects in Oshkosh.

Program winners included:

Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, \$50,000 for masonry repair and window caulking on 192 windows.

Day By Day Shelter, \$13,960, to repair showers and construct a new sidewalk.

Covey Inc., \$50,000 for construction, landscaping and furnishing of an accessible four-bedroom licensed adult family home.

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, Jan. 1

NAMI Oshkosh 5K for Mental Health and Suicide Awareness, 9 a.m., Oshkosh North High School

Saturday, Jan. 4

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

Thursday, Jan. 9

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

Friday, Jan. 10

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

Saturday, Jan. 11

Oshkosh Winter Farmers Market, 9

a.m., Oshkosh Arena

Winnegamie Dog Club Show, noon, Sunnyview Expo Center

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

Sunday, Jan. 12

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

Winnegamie Dog Club Show, noon, Sunnyview Expo Center

Thursday, Jan. 16

Oshkosh Restaurant Week (through Jan. 26)

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater: “Death Beneath the Ice,” 6 p.m., Sturgeon Spirits, 2663 Oregon St.

Speaker Series: Tomcats Over the Gulf, 7 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum

Friday, Jan. 17

The Magic of Kevin Spencer, 10 a.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Saturday, Jan. 18

The Magic of Kevin Spencer (senior-friendly performance), 11 a.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Wisconsin Herd Card Show, 10 a.m., Oshkosh Arena

Urban forestry management plan gains funding

Oshkosh Herald

Gov. Tony Evers and the state Department of Natural Resources recently announced Urban Forestry Grant Program recipients for the 2025 grant year, including \$25,000 to the city of Oshkosh to develop an urban forestry management plan.

The grants fund projects for increasing the urban forest canopy, reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, and improving the quality of life and pub-

lic health of communities. The forestry grants must be matched dollar for dollar.

Nearly \$630,000, which includes \$70,000 in federal funding, were awarded to 43 applicants ranging from \$1,824 to \$25,000 to support new, innovative projects to develop sustainable urban and community forestry programs. Urban forests on public and private property contribute to the economy and provide heat mitigation, removal of pollutants from the air, water and soil.

Wed Dec 25-Fri 27 CLOSED	Sat Dec 28 9am-5pm	Sun Dec 29 CLOSED	Mon Dec 30 9am-5pm	Tues Dec 31 9am-2pm
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Judge privacy

FROM PAGE 1

which (that was eerily ambiguous) was mailed to me at my home, and I spent one Thanksgiving weekend with local law enforcement making safety drive-bys of my home," Court of Appeals District 2 Judge Maria Lazar wrote.

Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Michelle Havas said she has received threats from citizens via social media and specific threats from defendants.

"This has necessitated increased patrols to my home," she wrote. "While this is appreciated, it is certainly not foolproof nor is it forever. I am concerned for my safety as well as the safety of my husband and children."

Sheboygan Circuit Judge Rebecca Persick described an incident where a litigant entered the courthouse and attempted to leave a pound of meat leaking a red substance along with a message on the packaging that she could burn the meat "like you burned me."

During another incident, she said a past litigant made a perceived threat to kill her or her family. The litigant, Alfred L. Hudson, was convicted in September of felony battery or threat to a judge.

Sheboygan Circuit Judge Angela Sutkiewicz wrote that there have been several instances of unhappy litigants appearing at her residence including one who paced back and forth "yelling complaints aggressively" while her teenage children were home and refused to leave until law enforcement arrived.

"Another time, a litigant came to my address and began taking photographs of my home in what I perceived as an attempt to intimidate me," she wrote.

The Picketing and Parading bill (2023 Wisconsin Act 234) makes it illegal to demonstrate near the residence of a judge "with the intent to interfere with, obstruct or impede the administration of justice or influence any judge," punishable as a Class A misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$10,000 and nine months of imprisonment.

The Judicial Officer Privacy bill (2023 Wisconsin Act 235) creates safeguards for the personal privacy of judicial officers and outlines a process to submit a formal request to protect their own and their immediate family members' personal information.

The law makes it a Class G felony punishable by a fine of up to \$25,000 and up to 10 years imprisonment to knowingly publicly post personal information about a judicial officer or their family on the internet "to increase or create a threat to the health and safety of a judicial officer or a family member, and bodily injury or death of the judicial officer or a family member of the judicial officer is a natural and probable consequence of the posting or display."

The third bill (2023 Wisconsin Act 236) withholds judicial security profiles from public access under the public records law. Judicial security profiles include personal details of a judge and family members and are used by law enforcement to create safety measures to protect judges from potential threats.

Of the three bills, the Judicial Officer Privacy bill is most similar to Daniel's Law, a New Jersey statute signed into law after the July 2020 death of Daniel Anderl.

Anderl was the son of New Jersey Judge Esther Salas and Mark Anderl, who was fatally shot by a former litigant who found the judge's personal information on the

internet and came to the family's door posing as a deliveryman. Mark was also severely wounded in the shooting.

In response, President Biden signed the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act in December 2022. Several states have passed similar legislation.

In Wisconsin, the Judicial Officer Privacy bill allows for the exemption of judicial officers' records from disclosure under the public records law, as well as from public access through county register of deeds offices and county land records websites. It exempts judicial officers from including their home address on nomination papers or candidacy declarations.

Judicial officers include supreme court justices, court of appeals, circuit, municipal, tribal and temporary or permanent reserve judges and circuit, supplemental or municipal court commissioners.

Winnebago County corporation counsel Mary Anne Mueller, who gave an overview on the act at the December Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting, said it also protects retired judges, minor children, foster children, adult children whose permanent address is with a judicial officer, and their parent, spouse and any other person who resides at the judicial officer's residence.

Under the act, judicial officers must submit a request for protection and it must be renewed every 10 years. A government must remove any publicly accessible information within 10 business days, with penalties imposed on individuals who knowingly breach the law.

Mueller said there are unresolved issues with the act, citing the example of geographic information system (GIS) programs. If a judge's property is shared on a plat with other properties, "how are you going to shield that and not impact the rest of the property?" she asked.

Other challenges include a judge asking for information to be shielded and then selling their home and there's no record of the sale. If a judge submits a request for privacy protection to one office such as the register of deeds, Mueller was unsure if that request would encompass other departments.

Mueller said there are many questions about the act and the county is anticipating clarification from the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Director of the Wisconsin Justice Initiative Margo Kirchner, who is also a Village of Shorewood municipal judge, is mostly supportive of the new laws.

"It's a real concern for people who are thinking of running for judge, for people who are judges, to think that their family members could be in danger just by the virtue of them having that position and serving in that role," she said. "I think it

can be a very big concern and even deter somebody from running."

Of the three laws, Kirchner said the picketing and parading bill may infringe on people's rights.

"Personally, if somebody were to picket outside my house, it wouldn't bother me," she said. "It would be somebody expressing their opinion. I don't want them necessarily on my front porch, but if they were on the sidewalk walking by, across the street walking by, I don't have such a problem with that."

She noted other judges may feel differently, adding that the law is likely in response to protesters upset about the decision to overturn Roe v. Wade who targeted the home of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

The law, which is already in effect, states that people may not picket, parade, or demonstrate "at or near any residence occupied or used by a judge."

Kirchner questioned how "near" is defined.

"Is near the sidewalk in front of the house? Is near around the corner? Is near in front of the Village Hall when I live in a village that's 1.5 miles square?" she asked. "That's the one that causes me some concern about the First Amendment and people's ability to complain about their government, and that's their right under the First Amendment."

Notably missing from privacy protection under the judicial security package are lawyers, district attorneys who prosecute cases and law enforcement officers, though Mueller opined that law enforcement may gain similar protections in the future.

"Given what has been happening across the country, it's going to happen sooner than later," she said.

District Attorney Eric Sparr said prosecutors see their share of threats, though he was unaware of statistics on the frequency of threats or acts of violence against prosecutors, and whether those numbers are significantly different from the number of incidents against judges.

"I do think it could make sense for prosecutors to have protections to their privacy beyond what is currently in place," he said.

Kirchner said the legal system relies on people accepting the outcomes of cases, and when people respond with anger and take disruptive actions, it undermines the integrity of the entire system.

"I think that's the same if it's the judge versus the prosecutor or a probation officer after someone was sentenced," she said. "If we allow the people who are serving in these roles to be in danger, we're impacting the effectiveness of the entire system."

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Read program promotes brain, social development

ThedaCare Communications

Reading to children at an early age enhances childhood brain and social development, and is a long-term contributor to a child's success in school.

Since 2018, all ThedaCare pediatricians and primary care providers have been engaged with the national Reach Out and Read program, the only national pediatric literacy program endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The program begins with parents receiving a book at their baby's first post-birth checkup and continues through age 5. At each well-child visit, the child receives a book that is age, language and culturally appropriate to take home, with the intention that the parents or guardians will regularly read that book with their child. The providers then talk with the parents or guardians about the importance of reading aloud to children as part of the developmental progress.

"According to research, we know that 90% of a toddler's brain development occurs between birth and age 5, so it's a critical stage of development," said Tracey Ratzburg, community health coordinator for ThedaCare. "The initial purpose of the Reach Out and Read program is to get parents reading to their children, and it's far more than a reading program. It also helps build a social connection and trusting relationship between parents and the child, so it's relational and literacy growth combined."

The providers also talk about the connection between cuddling and reading that helps children feel safe and how reading at home helps children learn that books provide positive experiences.

In 2023, 25 ThedaCare Clinics handed out 23,088 books, with 184 ThedaCare providers participating in the program.

Reach Out and Read Wisconsin notes that families are 2.5 times more likely to read to their children when provided books by a pediatrician or primary care provider. Studies show that reading to children from infancy on accelerates language development by three to six months, increases receptive and expressive language ability and contributes to academic success.

"The first three years of a child's life are the most crucial in a child's cognitive, emotional and social development," said Kristin Lundine, APNP, at ThedaCare Physicians Pediatrics-Appleton. "When parents read to their children, they can enhance their child's overall development. It goes beyond the reading; the experience of the child feeling safe, connected and



Photo from ThedaCare

ThedaCare pediatricians and primary care providers are part of the national Reach Out and Read literacy program.

supported does a great deal for their social and emotional development as well."

The program also gives providers and care teams an opportunity to connect during visits.

"I'll often squat down to the child's level and offer him or her their new book," said Lundine. "Usually the child is still on the other side of the room, which allows me the opportunity to observe their interest level in the book and whether they are comfortable engaging with me. How they walk toward me or reach out and react to the book helps me assess their gross and fine motor skills."

Lundine also noted the interactions allow her to learn more about the family dynamics at home as well. She has seen great examples of the benefits from the program.

"I recently had the experience of working with a family whose baby didn't especially like tummy time," she explained. "When I flipped her over onto to her stomach on the exam table, I placed the book she was receiving in front of her and she began looking at it and offered less resistance to being on her tummy. It was amazing to see the parents make the connection that maybe she doesn't really dislike tummy time; rather she just needs something to look at."

Lundine noted that the earliest books provided are high contrast in black and white to accommodate an infant's limited vision.

"Parents may not realize that it is never too soon to read together," she said. "This baby's experience proved that. Beyond that, the physical connection between baby and parent while being read to is equally important. And, the importance of the baby hearing their parents' voices shouldn't be understated either. It's all part of the communication learning process."

Nearly 140,000 books have been shared with families since ThedaCare first joined the Reach Out and Read program in 2013.



Submitted photo

Ubrig signs

Oshkosh West senior Landon Ubrig (second from left) committed to attend Rock Valley College to play baseball recently. He was joined at the signing by his father, Mitchell, mother, Alyssa and sister, Peyton.

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Prep sports roundup

WRESTLING

Wildcats take title as tournament hosts

Oshkosh West went a perfect 5-0 and beat Oconto Falls, 43-31, in the championship match to claim the team title as hosts of the Wildcat Invitational on Dec. 21.

The Wildcats recorded five pins en route to beating Oconto Falls in the title match. Preston Schneider (126), Jaxen Lloyd (150), Jaiden Fronczak (165), Ryland Schneider (175) and Nelson Fournier (285) all recorded pins for West, with Ryland Schneider earning his win in just 26 seconds.

Eddy Schroeder (144) and Connor Wisneski (215) also added contested wins for the Wildcats while Lauren Klinger (113) won by forfeit.

The Wildcats also scored wins over Abbotsford/Colby (60-18), Sheboygan North (57-15), Xavier (69-5) and D.C. Everest (71-6) on the day.

Seven wrestlers finished with 5-0 records on the day led by Ryland Schnei-

der who racked up four pins – all under 40 seconds – and a 16-0 technical fall. Fronczak also had four pins among his five wins, while Lloyd and Fournier each having three pins among the five victories, with Fournier recording an 18-second stoppage for the fastest pin of the day for West.

Preston Schneider, Schroeder and Wisneski also went 5-0 on the day for West, while Colden Searles finished with a 4-1 mark.

Thompson-Schreck leads Spartans at Shawano

Oshkosh North's Jamond Thompson-Schreck finished 2-2 to take fourth place at 165 pounds at the Shawano Holiday Classic held before Christmas.

Schreck scored a technical fall in his first match and also picked up a pin on the day. He was the only Spartan to earn a place at the tournament.

Carter Zick (132) and Dominic Wyrwicki (144) also posted wins on the day for North.

GIRLS WRESTLING

West's Bryant takes fourth place at Shawano

Samantha Bryant finished 3-2 to take fourth place at 132 pounds at the Shawano Holiday Classic on Dec. 21.

All three of Bryant's wins came by pin, including a 39-second victory over Appleton West's Gabby Ardeneaux.

Kaylee Beck also competed at the tournament for Oshkosh West but did not place.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Mitchell posts double-double in Spartans' loss

Xzavion Mitchell finished with 24 points and 11 rebounds and went a perfect 12-of-12 from the free-throw line but Oshkosh North came up short against Appleton North, 56-53, in a Fox Valley Association contest Dec. 20.

Jon Coleman added 15 points and eight rebounds for the Spartans with Jackson Anderson chipping in six points and five assists in the loss.

North also fell to West Allis Central 83-59 in the first game of the Rick Majerus WBV Shootout at Concordia University last Thursday.

Gelhar leads Wildcats in loss to Kimberly

Noah Gelhar poured in a career-high 23 points but Oshkosh West came up short against Kimberly, dropping a 66-54 decision on Dec. 20.

Malakai Herlihy added 10 points and Sam Gibson chipped in eight points for West, which outscored Kimberly 39-36 in the second half after scoring just 15 points in the first half.

Valley Christian dealt defeat by Dodgeland

The Warriors were held to just 33 points in a 66-33 loss to Dodgeland before Christmas.

Mathias Behling was the leading scorer for Valley Christian with eight points,

while Brady Patterson and Isaiah Hyvonen each finished with six.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wildcats can't keep pace with Papermakers

Oshkosh West was held to just 13 points in the first half and suffered a 73-35 loss against second-ranked Kimberly before Christmas.

Kinslee Nelson scored 12 points to lead the Wildcats, who had their three-game win streak snapped and slipped to 3-2 in the Fox Valley Association.

Ava Strasser chipped in nine points.

Spartans' rally comes up short against Lightning

Oshkosh North outscored Appleton North in the second half but couldn't erase a 13-point halftime deficit in a 58-46 loss to the Lightning on Dec. 20.

Brinna Paulson scored a season-high 17 points to lead the Spartans, while Awut Alic finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds.

Morgan Kolodzik added nine points for Oshkosh North.

Knights suffer second loss of the season

Lourdes Academy was held to a season-low point total and suffered a 45-31 loss to Omro on Dec. 20 in Omro.

It was just the second loss of the season for the Knights, who are ranked fifth in Division 5.

The Knights remain unbeaten when they score at least 35 points in a game, having totaled 31 and 32 points in their two losses.

No individual statistics were available from the game.

Warriors fall short against Lomira

Valley Christian dropped a non-conference contest against Lomira before Christmas, falling to the Lions 59-28.

Lizzie Fink was the lone Warrior to reach double figures with 12 points. Paige Boevers added six points and a team-high 14 rebounds.



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Obituaries

Mildred Josephine Quant

Mildred Josephine Quant, age 96, of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully on Christmas morning, December 25, 2024. She was born on October 17, 1928 in Oshkosh, a daughter of Michael and Josephine (Benedict) Kasper.

Mildred married Ralph W. Quant on June 30, 1951. Ralph preceded her in death on May 26, 1973.

She had worked for and retired from the Hoffmaster Co. and after retirement she traveled with friends to Australia, New Zealand, Alaska, Hawaii and about 40 other states. She greatly enjoyed bowling and participated in many leagues in Oshkosh over the years, having won several awards.

She was an avid Brewer fan and rarely missed listening to or watching their games along with the Packers, Bucks and Badgers.



She is survived by and her memory will be cherished by her daughters, Janice (Gary) Mathe, Jean Vroman; grandchildren, Elizabeth (Tim) Welzien, Ben (Rachel) Hoffman, Bob (Lesley) Vroman and Brian (Wendy) Vroman; great-grandchildren, Blake Welzien, Austin (Carlie) Hoffman, Bree Rosendahl-Hoffman, Abbie Hoffman, Luke Hoffman, Rylan Hoffman, Callie and Josie Vroman, Briar and Brea Vroman; great-great-grandchildren, Kenliagh and Colton Hoffman. Her siblings, Bill (Helen) Kasper, Evelyn "Dolly" Barforth and sister-in-law, Marlene Kasper. She is further survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, siblings in-laws-Michael and Josephine Kasper, Dorothy (Albert) Griedl, Lucy Thelen, Leona (Frank) Bonaparte, George (Esther) Kasper, Charlie (Margaret) Kasper, Marie (Nolan) Steinike, Fred (Mary) Kasper, Mike (Sally) Kasper, Bob Kasper, Henry "Hank" Barforth, Eugene Kasper; in-laws-Mer-

le (Elizabeth) Quant, Phyllis (Clifford) Robl, Audrey (Pete) Miller, Richard and Kenneth Quant, Doreen Shafer and grandson; Brent Vroman.

A funeral service for Mildred will be held on Saturday, January 4, 2025 at 11 am in the Fiss and Bills-Poklasny Funeral Home, 865 S. Westhaven Drive. A time of visitation will be held at the funeral home

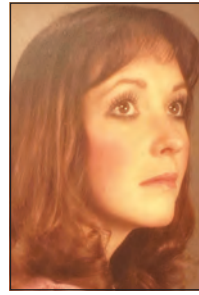
on Saturday from 10 am until the time of service. Burial will be in Calvary Catholic Cemetery.

The family would like to thank the staff at Bella Vista and Aurora Hospice for the compassionate care that Mom received.



Donna Mae Cummings

It is with much sadness that we share the passing of our beloved sister and a beautiful soul, Donna Mae Cummings (Chase) on December 16th, 2024.



Donna was born September 22, 1960, to Allen D Cummings and Lois Mary Steinhilber.

She graduated from Oshkosh West High School in 1979 where she was active in cheer leading and The Drama Club. Donna met and was whisked away to Texas by the love of her life, William Chase, where they married in the very early 1980's. Even after Bill's passing, Donna would never leave the warmth of the Texas heat and return to "these cold Wisconsin winters."

Donna worked as an Administrative Secretary for many years. She retired and set out to be the very best wife to Bill and the most amazing mother to her hairy, four legged babies, Red, Jethro and Bella. They were as protective over her as she was proud of them. Donna was a huge "cooking show" fan and became the most phenomenal cook...following closely in the footsteps of her Mother and Grand-

mother.

Donna had a huge heart that she wore on her sleeve. Her dialysis friends became second family...and they knew it. She was loved and cherished by everyone she met. She was always doing something "fabulous," like thrift shopping and looking "fabulous," because of thrift shopping, wherever she went. Her smile was unforgettable. She was simply put...beautiful in every way.

Donna was preceded in death by her Grandfather, Lester and her Grandmother, Lucy Steinhilber (Raab), her step father, Glenn Basler, her husband, William (Bill) Chase and just earlier this year, her mother, Lois (Susie) Steinhilber.

She is survived by her sisters, Cathy and Terrie Cummings, and her two cats, Jethro and Bella. Her cats have been taken in together by the most amazing woman and "cat lady" where they now have two more playmates.

A private gathering will be held later in the New Year.

If you wish to memorialize Donna, please send it in "her honor" to The Houston SPCA at 7007 Old Katy Road Houston, TX. 77024.

A HUGE thank you for all of the support and love for truly, one of God's angels, Donna Mae.

Steven R. Perdue

Steven R. Perdue, age 67 of Black Wolf, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, December 24, 2024.



He was born on August 29, 1957 to the late Orval and Judith (Kosmer) Perdue in Oshkosh. Steven had three sons from a prior marriage to Ellen (Bougie) Burie.

Throughout his life, Steven dedicated himself to his profession as a master plumber, devoting over 20 years of service to Area Mechanical.

Outside of his work, Steven was an enthusiastic supporter of the Minnesota Vikings. He enjoyed staying active through his regular workouts. He was known to be a social butterfly, with a warm spirit that

endeared him to many.

Steven's love for his family was paramount in his life. He was a devoted father, always prioritizing the well-being of those dear to him. His kindness and generosity will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege to know him

He is survived by his sons, Ryan (Liz) Perdue, Kyle (Whitney) Perdue, and Tanner Perdue; grandchildren, Aubrey, Emma, Teegan and Kensleigh; siblings, Linda (Dan) and Janet (Mike).

In addition to his parents, Steven was preceded in death by his siblings, Mike, Jim, and baby sister Teresa.

A celebration of life for Steven was held on Sunday, December 29, 2024.

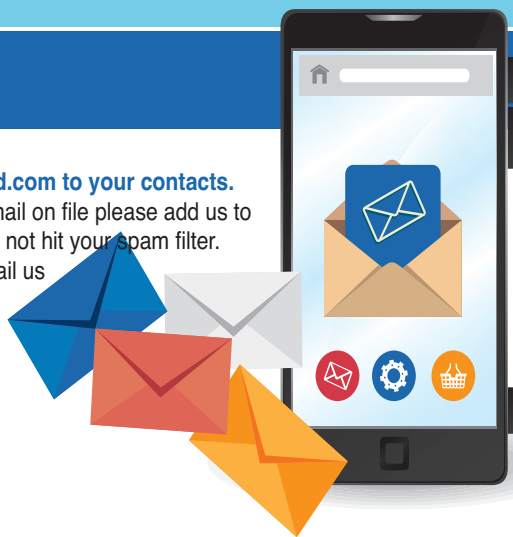


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Obituaries

Paul Mosling Morton

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of Paul Mosling Morton on December 20, 2024, at the age of 75. Born on April 4, 1949, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, to the late John and Lucille Morton. Paul lived a life rich with adventure, service, and love.



Paul gave his heart and soul to his family, friends and work. He was always willing to help, teach or console others with a great story to share or knowledge that he learned. Paul's spirit and laughter will be deeply missed by his family and all who were blessed to know him.

After graduating from Oshkosh West High School in 1967, Paul answered the call of duty and served in the Vietnam War as a member of the U.S. Navy, where he was awarded a Purple Heart. In 2019, Paul was honored for his service by taking a trip with the Old Glory Honor Flight.

In 1971, Paul married his beloved wife, Karen Lisek, and together they embarked on one heck of a journey. His career took him on a winding path across the Midwest, starting with Leach Company, Bucyrus-Erie in ID, and General Dynamics in OH. Eventually, Paul and his family returned to the Fox Valley where he was hired by the Ogilvie's at Pierce, and later Oshkosh Defense, where he dedicated himself until his retirement in 2011. Paul was proud to have authored three books on the history of Oshkosh Truck, a legacy intertwined with his family's history: his grandfather being a co-founding partner.

Paul cherished the time he spent with family and friends, especially his two grandsons. Whether volunteering at the EAA Museum, the ThedaCare Cancer Center, Meals on Wheels or sorting through stacks of slides at the Soo-Line archives he committed his time to serving others. Paul was a kid at heart and enjoyed putting on his conductor suit and volunteering at the Green Bay Railroad Museum for the Thomas the Tank Engine events.

Paul was an avid boater his whole life, whether being on his grandfather's paddle wheel boat or later in life when he owned his own boats, he loved being out on the water. In retirement Paul and Karen went on cruises all over the world. He enjoyed the holidays as well as collecting memorabilia from both Chicago Northwestern and Oshkosh Truck. He loved classic Honda motorcycles and AMXs, both of which he owned.

Paul is survived by his wife, Karen Morton; two children, Kelly Morton and Benjamin (Jennifer) Morton; 2 grandchildren, Jackson and Mitchell; his sister, Lynne McKnight along with numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Paul is preceded in death by his parents John (Jack) Morton and Lucile Morton Grams, brothers John G Morton and Ralph (Rusty) Morton and his with Patricia Morton and brother-in-law James McKnight.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to the Old Glory Honor Flight, who so beautifully honored Paul's service. We invite all those who knew him to join us in remembering a man whose legacy will forever be imprinted in our hearts.

A memorial service for Paul will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes (100 Lake Pointe Dr) on Friday, January 10, 2025, at 11:30AM with military honors. A time of visitation will be held from 9:30AM until the time of service.

The family would like to thank the staff at Froedtert and ThedaCare Cancer Center for their loving and wonderful care of Paul.

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A memorial service for Paul will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes (100 Lake Pointe Dr) on Friday, January 10, 2025, at 11:30AM with military honors. A time of visitation will be held from 9:30AM until the time of service.

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Obituaries

Carol Anhalt

Carol Anhalt passed away on December 3, 2024. She was born on November 11, 1932.



Carol was an educator, an innovator and a proud progressive. She was a woman ahead of her time. Carol was one of the few women of her era to earn a bachelor's, master's and a doctorate degree. By the time she earned her doctorate from the University of Wisconsin in 1971, the passing of the Equal Rights Amendment was well on its way. Carol voluntarily coached women's recreational leagues until women's basketball became an official intercollegiate sport in 1972. Amidst resistance from society and

the school administration, Carol's influence helped ensure that women's sports had a place and an advocate at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. She was a pioneer of the UW-Oshkosh women's athletics program. Carol continued to volunteer as head coach until 1976 when coaching a women's sport was considered a career for the first time.

The Titans were a force to be reckoned with in the WWIAC and never posted a losing record. She coached 15 winning seasons in 18 years. In 1985 Carol led the Titans to the WWIAC Championship. Carol continued as Head Coach until her retirement in 1989. She also coached women's tennis, track & field and volleyball at UW-Oshkosh. Carol was inducted into the UW-Oshkosh Hall of Fame in 2006.

Carol was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. She was the youngest child of Marquerite

and Roy Anhalt, devoted sister to Robert, Joan Gackstetter and Peggy, aunt to many nieces and nephews and enjoyed wonderful friendships within the staff and administration at Oshkosh and amongst her students and athletes. She enjoyed traveling, camping and outdoor activities. She was a devoted fan of her favorite team, the Green Bay Packers, and was especially joyful when they would beat the Vikings.

Her dear companions, two cocker spaniels, Schatzi and Shon were by her side for many years, and she missed them always.

A time of gathering will be held at Seefeld Funeral Home, 1025 Oregon Street, Oshkosh, WI January 8, 2024 from 1pm to 3pm.



Gloria R. King

Gloria R. King, 80, passed away on December 20, 2024. She was born in Appleton, WI on June 26, 1944, to Erich and Elnora (Gallow) Schroeder.



Gloria loved spending time with her grandchildren, kids and siblings, she was an avid reader and enjoyed spending

time volunteering at Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church. She was an avid churchgoer and had a strong faith. She further volunteered at Aurora Hospital. Gloria enjoyed doing puzzles and fostering cats from the Oshkosh Humane Society. She worked at Miles Kimball and created retail catalogs and then worked at LTD commodities as a supervisor for over 22 years, until her retirement.

She is survived by her children, Tony (Karla), Julie, Wayne (Nancy) and Connie (Larry); grandchildren, Alex, Courtney,

Matthew (Megan), Ashley (Dave) Marshall, Erin (Cody) and Megan (Adam); great-grandchildren, Caleb, Max, Hudson, Ava, Brody, Kane, Arya and Josie; sisters, Marlene (Bill), Sharon and Sandra (Ray); brother, Willy; sister-in-law, Gwynn; as well as many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded by her husband, Wayne M. King; parents, Erich and Elnora; grandson, Cody; siblings, Fred, Patricia and Richard; brothers-in-law, Lyle Fretchette, Jack Mielke and Lyle Rutter; and son-in-law, Andy.

Visitation was held on Friday, December 27, 2024, at Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, 370 Bowen Street, Oshkosh, WI from 9:30am to 11:30am followed by a service. Gloria will be laid to rest at Liberty Prairie Cemetery in Pickett.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church or the Liberty Prairie Cemetery in Pickett in her honor.



Myron "Mike" Leo Wallace

Mike Leo Wallace, age 78, of Oshkosh, beloved husband, father, grandfather, son, brother and uncle passed away on December 24th, 2024, at his home in the presence of his loving wife Cheryl.



Mike was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin and was

raised outside of Yuba by his parents Leo Wallace and Alveretta (Borland) Wallace. He loved living on the farm and enjoyed going to a one room schoolhouse until he graduated in 8th grade. He had fond memories of his teacher Kate Marshall managing the kids at the Yuba schoolhouse. He then transferred to West Lima High School and graduated with a class of 20 in 1964. In his earlier years he enjoyed playing basketball and loved cars. This hobby continued throughout his lifetime. His brothers would tell you there were many shenanigans in the hills of Richland County.

August 18th, 1965, Mike married Cheryl Koch in Richland Center at the Presbyterian Church and enjoyed 59 years of marriage.

Mike had several jobs in his late teens and early twenties to support his wife and two young children Sheila and Tim and eventually started his first business M&M Roofing in 1972. He later closed the business and joined his wife Cheryl at Wallace Furniture in 1977. They ran their business until they moved Wallace Furniture to Oakes, North Dakota in 1983. After 5 years Mike and Cheryl moved back to Wisconsin and settled down in Oshkosh, Wisconsin and opened Wallace Furniture

in 1988. Together they ran their business until retirement in 2009.

Mike enjoyed many beautiful memories filled with laughter, love and family. Mike cherished every moment he spent with his family and adored his grandchildren.

Mike is survived by his wife, Cheryl; his children, Tim and Jenny (Stephenson) Wallace, Sheila Wallace and his grandchildren Nichole Janak, Vanessa Wallace, Kade Klobberdanz, Kyle Klobberdanz, Nathan Wallace, McKayla Wallace & Matthew Wallace. His brothers, Verlin Wallace, Doyle Wallace & Sherry Wallace. He is preceded in death by his parents, Leo & Alveretta Wallace, and his brother Arnold Wallace.

A visitation will be held at 9:30 am on January 3rd, 2025, and Mass at 11 am at St Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church, 830 South Westhaven Drive, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. A family gathering will be held at Mike and Cheryl's home following the Mass. In lieu of flowers you may send a donation to St Jude's.

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Legal Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

/s/ Timothy V. Langer

Timothy V. Langer

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

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

Kid Scoop

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Start 2025 with smiles and laughs with these silly games! Being silly can bring smiles and laughs to your friends and family, too!

New Year Bingo

1. Cut out these bingo cards and give one to each player.
2. Once the game starts, everyone looks or listens for the words on their card.
3. When you see or hear one of these words related to New Year's celebrations, cross it out.
4. After one hour, time's up! The player who crossed out the most words wins!

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.

RESOLUTION	PARTY	TIMES SQUARE
CELEBRATE	MIDNIGHT	BALLOONS
CALENDAR	CLOCK	2025

TIME	RESOLUTION	CONFETTI
2025	FUTURE	HOUR
PARADE	DAY	EXCITED

MUSIC	HOLIDAY	BALL
PEOPLE	HAPPY	RESOLUTION
LAUGHTER	2025	GOODBYE

New Year Guessing Game

Each player chooses something related to New Year celebrations, like balloons or confetti. The other players ask YES or NO questions to try and guess what it is, asking no more than 20 questions. Each time someone asks a question with a NO answer, they have to dance and cluck like a chicken!



Hey, kid! That is NOT how I dance! What the heck?

Stinky Sock Game

Seat everyone in a circle. Quickly pass a pair of rolled-up socks around as music plays. When the music stops, the person holding the socks leaves the game. The last person left is the 'Toe-tally' Tops!

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.



How many socks do you see here?

Double Dancer

Look closely! Only two of these dancers are exactly the same. Can you find them? Have a friend try, too!



Extra! Extra!
Silly Headlines
 Clip newspaper headlines and paste them together to create silly news items. For example:
Spaghetti rocket travels to MOON hotel

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Together Funny Fill-In

Ask a family member for each kind of word below. Then fill in the blanks to create a very silly story to read aloud!

Our Annual Silly New Year Party
 My parents like to host a New Year's Eve party every year. And these _____ parties are hilarious!

Dad likes to wear a party hat made from _____ and _____ Mom wears a _____ gown covered with sparkly _____. They greet each of their guests by shouting "_____!"

_____ music plays as everyone begins to dance and _____ Uncle Ambrose has a _____ voice and likes to _____ loudly.

People bring lots of _____ appetizers and _____ snacks, such as cheesy _____ sweet _____ and spicy _____ on toothpicks. Aunt Clara always fills the punch bowl with _____, which the guests look forward to each year.

As the clock strikes midnight, everyone shouts "_____!" and many _____ are dropped from upstairs onto the surprised and delighted party guests. It's sure a _____ way to start the New Year!

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Toilet Paper Tower Toss

Make a tall tower of toilet paper rolls. Take turns trying to knock over as many rolls as you can by tossing a rolled up sock at the tower three times.



Which player knocked over the most rolls? Add up how many rolls they knocked over with each turn to see who won.

Aziz	6	4	2
Carlos	3	2	4
Kendra	4	4	5
Anna	1	4	6
Mia	5	2	3

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums and differences.

Double Double Word Search

- ASK
- BALL
- CLOCK
- DANCE
- GAME
- HOUR
- MIDNIGHT
- MOON
- MUSIC
- PARADE
- PARTY
- SOCK
- TOSS
- TOWER
- YEAR

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

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

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

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Write On! Let's Get Silly!

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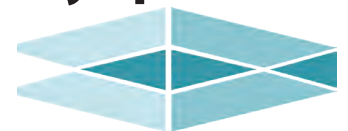
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