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School funding question set for vote

Referendum will ask for \$197M spending plan

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Oshkosh voters will be asked in April to decide if the school district should update more of its facilities, including building a new middle school, high school auditorium and other renovations to accommodate students.

The Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education recently approved a referendum question for the April 1 ballot that asks if the district should borrow almost \$198 million for the planned facility updates.

The question states: “Shall the Oshkosh Area School District, Winnebago County, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed

\$197,800,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school building and facility improvement project consisting of:

- Construction of a new middle school at the existing Jacob Shapiro Elementary School site and removal of the current building;
- Construction of additions and renovations at Carl Traeger, Franklin and

SEE **Referendum** ON PAGE 10

INSIDE



Timely humor
Fox Valley Comedy keeps laughs rolling
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Pause at the park
Amusement activities short on funding
Page 3



Photo by Michael Cooney

Awareness rally

Volunteers from Damascus Road, in partnership with the Oshkosh Police Department, gathered at Opera House Square on Saturday for the 15th annual Stop the Traffick: Make Some Noise Human Trafficking Awareness Day Rally. See related stories on Page 2 about Fox Travel’s anti-trafficking initiatives ahead of the NFL Draft and a police investigation arrest Friday.

Fire chief takes position in Colorado after six-year service

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Fire Chief Mike Stanley is leaving the city after six years in the position and returning to Colorado to become deputy fire chief in Greeley, the city announced last week.

His last day with the department will be Jan. 29.

“Mike shared with me that although this was a difficult personal and professional decision for him, the opportunity with the city of Greeley will allow him to best assist a number of his family members that reside in his home state of Colorado,” interim City Manager John Fitzpatrick said in a statement.

Fitzpatrick is expected to appoint an interim fire chief as the process begins to replace Stanley. The search will include the Police and Fire Commission and a final candidate will need to be approved by the Common Council.

Stanley started his role as Oshkosh fire chief in June 2018, replacing Tim Franz.

Stanley, who previously worked for the city of Aurora, Colo., told the Herald that the decision involved being closer to fam-



ily who all live in that area.

“We’re expecting our fourth grandchild soon and the first three were all born while we were out here,” he said. “Our parents are getting old and we want to be there to help out.”

During his time in Oshkosh, the fire department achieved ISO Class 1 rating, which is the highest and most prestigious rating a fire company can attain.

“The rating shows that we are excellent at providing fire protection from the equipment we have to the thousands of hours of training we do every year,” he said.

Another accomplishment the depart-

ment attained under Stanley’s tenure was being named EMS agency of the year in 2022 by the Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Association.

Stanley said his proudest moment as chief is when he had the honor of promoting firefighters and providing them with more leadership opportunities.

“To be able to give them a new badge in front of their friends and family is my proudest moment,” Stanley said.

“The city of Oshkosh wishes Mike the very best in the next chapter of his career, and thanks him for his service to the city,” the Oshkosh Media statement read.

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

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www.oshkoshherald.com.

Fox Travel promotes anti-trafficking efforts

Oshkosh Herald

Fox World Travel is taking proactive steps to raise awareness about human trafficking ahead of the 2025 NFL draft, anticipated to be one of northeast Wisconsin's largest-ever events.

A media event at Fox World Travel's Oshkosh headquarters Friday shed light on human trafficking and how people can identify and prevent trafficking. Fox World Travel also lit up its headquarters Saturday in blue in recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness Day, recognized nationally Jan. 11.

"Education is the most powerful tool we have to stop human trafficking," said Kelly Chartre, vice president of marketing and lead for community engagement and philanthropy at Fox World Travel. "As travel professionals, we are extremely passionate about this cause."

Fox's Protect All Children from Trafficking (PACT) committee created a Prevent Trafficking Toolkit with education and accessible resources to help individuals identify and stop trafficking.

According to Shared Hope International Institute for Justice & Advocacy's 2023 Wisconsin Report Card on Child & Youth



Photo from Red Shoes Inc.

Kelly Chartre, community engagement and philanthropy director at Fox World Travel, speaks at a press conference Friday about anti-trafficking efforts ahead of the NFL Draft in April.

Sex Trafficking, Wisconsin received an "F" grade for its laws combatting trafficking. Fox World Travel is raising awareness and providing prevention tools ahead of major events like the 2025 Draft that is expected to bring hundreds of thousands of visitors to the region.

While built for travel managers and

their teams, the toolkit offers practical resources to travelers and citizens to raise awareness and provide guidance on the topic. Key features include links to educational resources, a downloadable and printable informational pocket card for travelers and social media graphics for organizations to raise awareness.

Police operation leads to human trafficking charges

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh police conducted an undercover operation that led to a man being arrested Friday and held on charges of human trafficking who was staying at a local hotel, just a day before the annual national anti-trafficking awareness day that was observed with a downtown rally.

Winnebago County jail records show Romon Mitchell, 32, of Texas, is currently being held on charges of human traffick-

ing, felon in possession of a firearm and various fentanyl, cocaine and amphetamine charges. Police said Mitchell has no connection to Oshkosh or Wisconsin but has an extensive criminal history.

During the investigation an undercover officer met with the female victim that was staying at the hotel and "was involved in human trafficking activities." Mitchell was then approached by officers and first resisted efforts to detain him but was arrested and tak-

en into custody. He was found with a stolen firearm and the search of his hotel room uncovered a second firearm and illegal drugs.

The police reported the victim was allegedly forced to participate in activities against her will for several months. The woman said she had traveled with Mitchell across several states eventually ending up in Oshkosh.

Police said they are working to reunite the victim with her family and help her find support.

Police Sgt. Brett Robertson said at Saturday's rally in Opera House Square that the victim was thankful for the efforts of investigators and glad to be free of her situation.

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Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical Society

Jan. 13, 1976

Presidential Candidate visits Oshkosh: Former California Governor Ronald Reagan arrived at Wittman Field late this morning to campaign for the Republican nomination for President. He was accompanied by his Wisconsin campaign chairman, state Senator Jack Steinhilber. Reagan's schedule featured speaking engagements at the Pioneer Inn and Albee Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh campus. Reagan later met privately with campaign workers before departing for Milwaukee.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Jan. 13, 1976

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Staffing, rising costs led to changes at Menominee Park

Amusement center closed as city looks at options

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The popular and nostalgic train ride at Menominee Park may have made its final trip.

The Parks Department made a recommendation in October to have the Children's Amusement Center at Menominee Park discontinue operations of the train and water attractions that use the lagoon for the foreseeable future.

Parks director Ray Maurer spoke to the Herald about the issues with the train and amusement center that have been a great amenity in the community but also a costly one.

"This was not an easy decision," he said.

The city estimated it would cost \$50,000 in improvements to keep the train and amusement center open in 2025. A GoFundMe page has been set up to try to raise the funds to keep the nostalgic train operational, but the issue may be bigger than just that dollar amount.

Adrea Matulle, a senior at West High School, started the fundraiser and highlighted the memories associated with the train over the years. So far the fundraiser has raised just over \$2,000 of the \$50,000 goal.

"It has brought joy to countless families, offering children and adults alike the chance to experience the magic of a classic train ride while exploring the beauty of Menominee Park," Matulle said. "Unfortunately, this cherished landmark is now in need of urgent help."

If the funding goal is reached and the city accepts the funds, the Common



Oshkosh Media

The train at Menominee Park has been operating since the 1950s, but due to staffing and operating expenses has been discontinued as the city looks at alternatives for the Children's Amusement Center that will be closed this year.

Council would need to approve a budget amendment to the parks budget.

There are other attractions of the amusement center that will cease operations this year, including the aqua bikes and canoe/kayaks in the Zoo Lagoon. Maurer said due to the amount of lily pads that consume the lagoon by early summer it makes using lagoon access almost impossible.

Maurer noted issues with the train engine from the 1950s that requires repairs on an annual basis during pre- and post-season maintenance.

"Over the years the train has barely been covering operating costs," Maurer said. "Recently it has been losing money for the city."

He added that the best way to keep the train operational would require a private-public partnership.

City documents show the amusement center over the last couple of years has been losing money. The department made changes to operations after the pandemic to shift from having the center open seven days a week to just four in 2021, and then three days a week in 2022.

The train did not open in 2024 due to construction on Pratt Trail that wraps around the park.

Before the pandemic the Children's Amusement Center was open between Memorial Day and Labor Day seven days a week. In 2019, the center had a profit of

\$1,063 then was closed during 2020 and lost \$3,446. The amusement center profited almost \$4,000 in 2021 but just \$32 in 2022.

Then in 2023, the amusement center lost more than \$13,000 due to rising expenses. Despite the positive years in 2019 and 2021, over a five-year stretch the amusement center lost \$11,579.

"We've tried to do different things to reduce costs," Maurer said.

He noted those numbers don't include the full-time staff expenses that go into operating the center. One example is if the train breaks down over the weekend the city has to pay staff to make the repairs.

Data shows the train was still popular with the years of operation since 2019, averaging almost 11,000 train rides a year. In 2023, there were a reported 10,601 rides and in 2021 there were 13,434 riders, likely linked to many people desperate to get outside after stay-at-home orders the previous year.

The larger issue is staffing the train.

"Overall, this really is a staffing issue trying to find qualified employees," Maurer said.

State law requires any employee working with an amusement ride must be at least 18 years old. The amusement center requires at least three employees and a site manager overseeing the center.

The Parks Department is exploring other options for outdoor activities in the area of the amusement center.

"The train was always meant to be a self-supporting operation," Maurer said. "And as we look at other options for that area of the park that's what we're looking at – a self-supporting amenity that gets people outside."

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Oshkosh Herald

Skaters try out the Zoo Lagoon last weekend as the season opened at Menominee Park.

Skating opens for season at Zoo Lagoon

Oshkosh Herald

The skating rink at Menominee Park's Zoo Lagoon is open for skaters. Parks director Ray Maurer told the Herald the rink opened over the weekend to encourage people to spend time outdoors during the winter months.

Weather permitting, the rink will be open weekends from noon to 4 p.m. with

free skate rentals, and concessions will be available at the Lakefly Cafe, which will be open as a warming shelter.

The rink will also be open during the week from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., however the open skate time will not have skate rentals, the warming shelter will be closed and there will be no attendant on site. Rink closures will be announced on the Menominee Park Facebook page.

Free fishing weekend lures state residents

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting Free Fishing Weekend this Saturday and Sunday when anglers of all ages can fish in any Wisconsin waters open to fishing without a license, trout stamp or salmon stamp.

All other 2024-2025 Hook and Line regulations including bag limits, size limits and species restrictions remain in effect. While most trout streams are open during the catch-and-release season on Free Fishing Weekend, there are trout streams, spring ponds and lakes that are closed to fishing.

If you plan to keep fish, review the

DNR's Safe Eating Guidelines to stay informed of potential consumption advisories impacting some waterbodies throughout the state.

Before any winter adventure, ice safety should be a primary consideration, as no ice is ever 100% safe. Local bait shops and fishing clubs are good sources for current conditions and fishing tips.

The DNR offers loaner ice fishing equipment at 19 tackle loaner sites around the state. Locations with ice fishing equipment will have an "IF" next to their name. Essential gear is available, although sites do not offer ice augers.

Wellness fair professionals put focus on heart health

Oshkosh Herald

Just ahead of American Heart Month in February, three support organizations are together hosting a community health event Jan. 25 at Father Carr's Place 2B to promote holistic health and more specifically overall heart health for everyone.

The Whole-Hearted Wellness Fair will bring together health professionals, vendors and wellness enthusiasts for a free event presented by Be Well Fox Valley, St. Francis Free Clinic and Father Carr's from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"Heart health is so important because in the United States heart disease is the leading cause of death for men, women and most racial and ethnic groups, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," said Justine Higgs, associate director of Be Well Fox Valley, one of the organizations taking part.

She said that among the steps people can take to improve their heart health include a balanced diet rich in nutritious foods, staying active, managing blood pressure, blood sugar and stress, and quitting smoking.

Be Well Fox Valley is described as a community initiative that engages residents, health systems, businesses, nonprofits, schools and the faith community to advance a culture of health and well-being.

The wellness fair will provide guests an opportunity to get a blood pressure check, learn how to prepare healthy meals and take part in group exercise. Guests can also connect with a variety of community organizations offering resources and information to support overall health.

"We are so excited to partner with Father Carr's Place 2B and the St. Francis Free Clinic to organize this free event, bringing community members of all ages and backgrounds together," Higgs said. "This fair will highlight the incredible resources available in our community and it will provide an opportunity for people to engage in activities they may not have previously experienced."

There also will be cardio dance classes, chair yoga, and food, drinks and live music. To sign up for the fair or for more information, call 920-231-2378.

Restaurant Week features local specialties

Oshkosh Herald

Thirty Oshkosh restaurants will participate in the city's seventh annual Restaurant Week event that starts Thursday and runs through Jan. 26.

Most participating restaurants will offer three-course, fixed-price options for lunch, dinner or both. The lunch option is \$17 and the dinner option is \$29. Some restaurants are offering a \$13 breakfast option.

The 30 participating restaurants include Anchor and Port, Bar 430, Becket's, Caramel Crisp, Chalice, Chester V's, Cozumel, Dublin's Irish Pub, Eaton's Pizza, Elsewhere Market and Coffeehouse, Fox River

Brewing Co., Gabe's Kitchen, Game Time Sports Bar, Gardina's Kitchen and Bar, Greene's Pour House at the Granary and Westhaven Golf Club, The Hangar, The Howard, Jeff's on Rugby, La Baja, Los Jarpeos, Manila Resto, Parker John's BBQ, Parm, Pilora's Cafe, The Roxy, Ruby Owl Tap Room, The Taqueria, TJ's Harbor and TJ's Highland.

All patrons dining at the participating restaurants can request an Oshkosh Restaurant Week menu. No tickets are necessary but reservations are recommended. Menus can be found at DiscoverOshkosh.com.

Blood donations promoted with Super Bowl giveaway

Oshkosh Herald

The American Red Cross is urging donors to give lifesaving blood or platelets to help keep the blood supply strong during this National Blood Donor Month.

Those who donate through Jan. 26 will be entered for a chance to win a Super Bowl LIX giveaway. Details are at RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.

Upcoming Red Cross blood drives in the area:

Jan. 23: 2-6 p.m., Calvary Lutheran Church, 2580 W. 9th Ave., Oshkosh

Jan. 24: 1-6 p.m., YMCA Downtown, 324 Washington Ave., Oshkosh

Feb. 3: 11:45 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Algoma United Methodist Church, 1174 Algoma Blvd., Oshkosh

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Stabbing death set for trial; attorneys work on plea deal

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

An Oshkosh man is facing charges of reckless homicide for allegedly stabbing someone outside a local restaurant this summer. The case could go to trial in May, but attorneys are continuing to work on a resolution with the district attorney's office.



Crossman

Sybastian W.L. Crossman, 23, sat in the courtroom in his Winnebago County jail uniform with his attorney Trisha Fritz. He faces one count of first-degree reckless homicide and if convicted could be sentenced to a maximum of 40 years in prison followed by up to 20 years of extended supervision.

Court documents allege Crossman got into an altercation with a group of men inside a restaurant that continued outside and resulted in an individual dying from a stab wound to his abdomen.

Crossman has been in custody at the Winnebago County Jail since being arrested Aug. 11. He was previously convicted for discharging bodily fluid at a public safety worker in 2021. With this information, prosecutors have added a repeater modifier to the homicide charge.

Fritz requested a new plea date for February and told the court she expected an

offer from the district attorney's office before that date. She also requested a four-day jury trial be scheduled.

District Attorney Eric Sparr agreed with Fritz that four days would be long enough for a trial that is scheduled to start May 5.

According to the criminal complaint, police were dispatched to the 500 block of High Avenue in the early hours of Aug. 10 where they saw a man lying on his back with a puncture wound and was later pronounced dead at 3:26 a.m.

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

Mack is not facing any charges related to the incident.

Police said Crossman and Mack appeared to be the aggressors when four men between ages 19 and 21 entered the restaurant. Video allegedly shows one of the four men with a cellphone before Crossman knocked it out of his hand.

Punches were thrown and employees intervened before the altercation moved to the parking lot. Mack and Crossman reported getting attacked by the four men.

One of the men said two people were fighting with Mack and the other two, including the victim, were fighting Crossman. A witness reported seeing Crossman strike the victim in the chest and the victim collapsed.

Crossman told police he and Mack ran into the group outside an Oshkosh bar and robbed him two weeks before the stabbing incident. He said he didn't tell the police about the robbery because it was \$25 and didn't want to escalate the situation.

Another witness told authorities that the two groups had history going back about four years when Crossman called someone a racial slur in a text. Crossman allegedly was forced to apologize to the group outside a bar on North Main Street

and video of the event was taken.

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

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

Crossman is set to be in court Feb. 20 for a new status conference and possible plea hearing. If the case is not resolved on this date a jury trial would begin May 5.

Man charged with making terrorist threats

Oshkosh Herald

An Oshkosh man remains in custody after posting terroristic threats on social media.

Patric J. Olson, 36, has been charged with a felony making threats stemming from comments he made on social media. He told police after being arrested he had no intention of carrying out the threats.

Police allege Olson was operating a Facebook page as Patricio Marquis St. Cloudlight while making statements on the site of a threatening nature. The statements were related to him shooting up a school campus and killing Christians during the holidays.

Olson's cash bond was set at \$10,000 by Court Commissioner Eric Heywood at his initial appearance Dec. 17.

According to the criminal complaint, on Dec. 12 a witness alerted authorities to Olson's online behavior and the threatening statements. The witness told police about being worried about Olson's well-being and that Olson is schizophrenic and not taking his medication.

Police believed Olson was staying at a house on Otter Avenue, but when they arrived the homeowner said they hadn't seen Olson recently and believed he was homeless. Oshkosh police made a request to Facebook for information on Olson's account to find him.

Officers contacted officials at Lourdes High School, Valley Christian High School and Fox Valley Technical College about the threats and established surveillance at all three locations.

On Dec. 13, a police SWAT team served a no-knock search warrant at a home on Evans Street and Olson was located in the garage of the home and was cooperative when taken into custody.

Olson acknowledged he was operating the Patricio Marquis St. Cloudlight page but had no intention of carrying out any of the threatened acts.

Records show Olson is eligible for state public defender services. At a Jan. 6 hearing, he requested more time for an attorney to be appointed. He is scheduled to be back in court for a hearing Jan. 27.

Stay prepared for winter road conditions

From October 2023 to May 2024, winter weather contributed to more than 11,000 crashes in Wisconsin, resulting in nine fatalities and more than 2,000 injuries.

The Wisconsin State Patrol's January Law of the Month focuses on safe winter driving.

State law requires drivers to travel at speeds that are reasonable and prudent for current conditions. Speed limits are set for when roads are clear and dry, so it may be too dangerous to drive at the posted speed limit in slippery conditions.

Snowplow drivers work long hours to clear nearly 115,000 miles of roads across Wisconsin. When approaching a snowplow that's clearing ice or snow, or laying salt or sand, state law requires drivers to stay at least 200 feet back on a highway with a speed limit more than 35 miles per hour, and 75 feet back on a road with a slower speed limit.

For those who must head out, always prepare for winter driving:

- Clear snow and ice from vehicle windows, lights, roof and hood. Snow and ice sliding off your roof or blowing off your

hood can be dangerous.

- If you're driving while it's snowing, you're required to turn your headlights on. The general rule is if you have your windshield wipers on, your headlights should be on too.

- Allow extra travel time, following distance and reduce your speed during winter conditions.

- Avoid sudden braking or steering. Don't be overconfident with 4WD or AWD. Remember that bridge decks and overpasses freeze up first.

- Avoid using cruise control in winter conditions.

- Have a fully charged phone and an emergency kit.

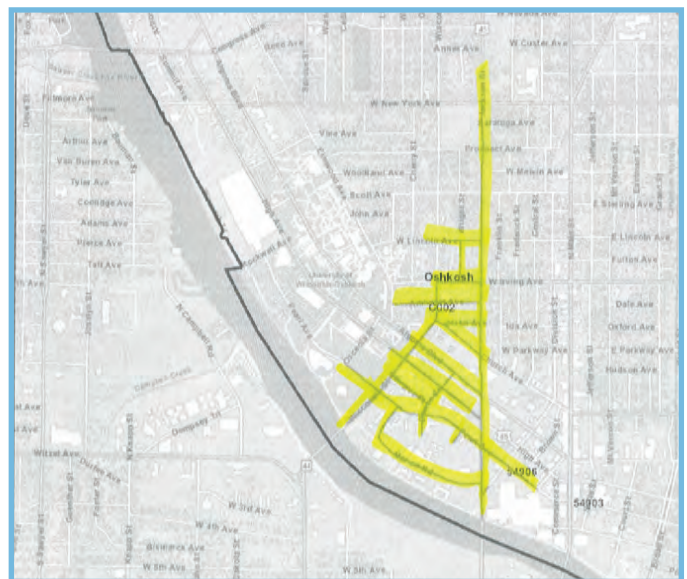
- If stranded or slide off the road, stay buckled up in the vehicle and call for help.

511 Wisconsin is a free resource that provides live updates on traffic and road conditions. Winter road condition categories were recently updated to better reflect current conditions on roads. Download the 511 Wisconsin app, visit 511wi.gov or call 511 to monitor conditions.

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FoxValleyHearingCenter.com

Regional company brings comedy scene back to Fox Valley

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Oshkosh's Time Community Theater will host nationally recognized comedian Greg Warren for a night of laughs.

The Jan. 23 show is being produced by Fox Valley Comedy, a company focused on promoting area comedians and bringing big-name comics to the Fox Valley and northeast Wisconsin. Warren will bring his blue-collar style to the Time with tickets still available for the show.

"He's a comic's comic," Lyle Sidney said. "He's really good for our region with his blue-collar background. He's been doing it for a long time and is a great standup."

Since the pandemic shut down comedy clubs and live venues, the scene has been struggling to get back to its pre-pandemic status and Fox Valley Comedy is leading the charge in the region.

"There's nothing like seeing stand up live. It's how it was meant to be enjoyed. Watching standup at home is fine, but it's best enjoyed live in the room with the comedian," Sidney said.

Sidney is a producer for Fox Valley Comedy and said the Time and other local theaters across the Fox Valley are great for standup shows. There are also some new venues in the region that have



Submitted photo

Greg Warren has been featured on late night talk shows, "Last Comic Standing" and has released several comedy specials. Warren will bring his comedy to the Time Community Theater on Jan. 23.

proven excellent for standup.

"Breweries are great for standup," he said. "They have the food and beverage

already there and these taprooms are often designed to hold live events like music so it's a great fit for standup."

Aviation museum programming resumes

Oshkosh Herald

Programming for the new year at the EAA Aviation Museum includes guest speakers and hands-on activities. Most events are included with regular museum admission, while EAA members can attend free of charge.

The museum's monthly Speaker Series events feature speakers across different sectors of aviation:

Thursday: F-14 Tomcat pilot Hermon C. Cook III will share his story of being one of two American F-14 Tomcats to engage two Libyan MiG-23s over the Gulf of Sidra in January 1989.

Feb. 20: Capt. Richard Koehler will share his experiences of flying the A-6 Intruder, a Navy attack aircraft, during the Vietnam War.

March 20: Anita Mack will share her

story of what it was like to serve as a member of the first all-female C-130 crew in combat.

All speaker events begin at 7 p.m. and are free to attend for EAA members and \$5 for nonmembers.

Winter Flight Fest will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 8. Activities will be set up across the museum demonstrating different aspects of aviation, including a Wright Flyer simulator, rotorcrafting and a pararescue challenge. Weather permitting, a skiplane fly-in is also scheduled.

Story Time continues on select Thursdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The next event is scheduled for Jan. 23 with a theme of flying animals and a paper bat activity. Story Time is included with regular museum admission, with children 5 and under admitted for free.

Valentines for veterans encouraged statewide

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) is asking residents to show veterans how much they are appreciated for their service by sending Valentine's Day cards to those living in WDVA facilities in King, Chippewa Falls and Union Grove.

WDVA received 24,000 valentines in its first year and last year that grew to 28,000.

The cards are hand delivered by staff to the veterans, loved ones and Gold Star families residing in the facilities.

Mail the cards by Jan. 31 – do not include candy, food or snacks – to Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, Attn: Veteran Valentines, PO Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843.

Local college graduates

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee commencement exercises held Dec. 15 had 1,340 prospective candidates for degrees in attendance. Graduates from Oshkosh include:

Levi Alger, master of science

Tyler Binner, bachelor of business ad-

ministration

Casey Bryant, bachelor of arts

Jacob Collins, bachelor of arts

Frank Holmes IV, bachelor of fine arts

Christopher Reynolds, doctor of philosophy

Aaron Kunz, bachelor of arts, music



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Ascension system alerts patients to May data breach

Wisconsin Public Radio

The cyberattack that debilitated one of Wisconsin's largest hospital systems last spring has now been determined to have affected millions of patients' personal information.

St. Louis-based Ascension began alerting affected people in late December.

On May 8, the health care system detected the data breach. At the time, it was unclear whether hackers gained access to sensitive patient information.

"Our investigation has determined that some of these files contain an individual's name and information in one or more of the following categories: medical information, payment information (such as credit card information or bank account number), insurance information, government identification (such as social security number, driver's license number or passport number)," according to a letter sent

to patients Dec. 19.

Ascension is offering patients who have been affected a new credit monitoring package for two years.

The health care system operates 24 hospital campuses and more than 100 health care facilities in the state.

Ascension Wisconsin officials have not responded to media requests.

Nationwide, the data breach has affected an estimated 5.6 million patients, including those served by Ascension-Mercy Campus and Ascension Medical Group patients in Oshkosh, according to the health care publication the HIPAA Journal.

That makes it the third largest health care data breach of the year, behind the Change Healthcare ransomware attack, affecting 100 million records, and the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan tracking technology data breach with 13.4 million records.

Last year, a cyberattack caused a system-wide outage for Hospital Sisters Health System and Prevea.

In early 2024, Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin, a nonprofit managed health care organization, also suffered a cyberattack that resulted in patients' personal information being released.

Data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights shows there are currently 11 security breaches under investigations at

health care organizations in Wisconsin.

According to the New York Times, hospital systems have increasingly been targets for hackers in recent years. The Times reports that health care is one of the economic sectors most susceptible to cyber attacks because medical records can be sold for a lot of money.

Last year, there were a record 725 data breaches of 500 or more records, up from 720 such breaches the previous year, according to the HIPAA Journal.

Respiratory virus cases increasing in state

With high respiratory illness activity statewide, the Department of Health Services (DHS) is urging Wisconsinites to get vaccinated against respiratory illnesses as soon as possible and get the protection that can help avoid serious illness this season.

Flu, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity levels are increasing significantly nationwide. Emergency department visits due to respiratory viruses have also increased, especially in infants, young children and older adults.

"Everyone six months and older can get their flu and COVID-19 vaccines today," said DHS respiratory disease epidemiologist Tom Haupt. "Infants, pregnant people and older adults may also be eligible for an RSV vaccine. Getting vaccinated against respiratory illnesses can help keep you from spreading them to others who may get very sick, especially those who are at higher risk of infection."

Data from the DHS Influenza Vaccine Dashboard shows 31% of Wisconsinites have received a flu shot this season. Data from the DHS COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard shows only 15% of Wisconsinites

have received an updated COVID-19 vaccine. While the flu and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, they are caused by two different viruses and require two different vaccines.

Eligible Wisconsinites can get their flu and updated COVID-19 vaccines at the same time.

RSV is a major cause of respiratory illness in all age groups and the leading cause of hospitalization in infants. Those who are between 32 and 36 weeks pregnant can get a vaccine to protect their newborn from RSV. Adults 75 and older and adults ages 60-74 who have an increased risk of RSV are also eligible to get the vaccine.

Residents can check with their primary care provider, local health department, community clinic or vaccines.gov. Wisconsinites can also dial 211 or 877-947-2211 for help scheduling a vaccine appointment. If they do not have health insurance, or their health insurance does not cover vaccines, there are programs that can help, including the Vaccines for Children program and Vaccines for Adults program.

Palmeri sworn in for second term in Assembly

Oshkosh Herald

State Rep. Lori Palmeri (D-Oshkosh) was sworn in Jan. 6 at the state Capitol for her second term representing Assembly District 54.



Palmeri

During the 2025-2026 legislative session, she will serve as the ranking member on the Environment, and Forestry, Parks and Outdoor Recreation committees, and as a member of the Local Government Committee.

"Each legislative session presents an opportunity to address pressing issues facing Wisconsinites," Palmeri said in a statement. "As ranking member of the Environment Committee, I am eager to introduce legislation that protects our district and our state, particularly by ensuring clean water for all - especially in the face of threats posed by chemicals such as lead, PFAS, nitrates and phosphorous, which have been found at harmful levels in drinking water across our state."

Palmeri's new office hours will be from noon to 2 p.m. Friday at the Oshkosh Seniors Center.

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New area claims agency to empower veterans

Oshkosh Herald

Military veterans who face significant challenges when seeking Veterans Administration (VA) benefits have a new regional organization that can help simplify the process with representation and support to maximize benefits for veterans and dependents.

Freedom Claims Agency was founded by U.S. Air Force veteran Greg Brittnacher and licensed psychologist Leah Brittnacher to provide expert guidance and representation in navigating VA disability compensation claims. The agency is currently accepting new clients and can be contacted at gregb@freedomclaimsagency.com or online at <https://freedomclaimsagency.com>.

A recent report from the VA Office of Inspector General revealed issues in how claims are processed for veterans rated as 100% disabled, with mistakes by VA employees resulting in an estimated \$9.8 million in overpay-

ments and \$84.7 million in underpayments. The report found that 74% of claims granted and 76% denied for this rating contained at least one processing error.



Brittnacher

“Many veterans may unknowingly be under-rated for their conditions due to processing errors, underscoring the importance of expert advocacy,” Greg Brittnacher said in a press release announcing the new agency.

Greg Brittnacher’s career in veteran advocacy began as a veterans benefits specialist for Winnebago County, where he earned accreditations from the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the VFW, American Legion and Wisconsin Department of

Veterans Affairs. He later was director of veterans services for Calumet County before becoming an accredited claims agent.

His military background is as a Security Forces member at Minot Air Force Base, Royal Air Force Alconbury and Camp Anaconda/Balad Air Base in Iraq. He pursued higher education at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and University of Nebraska Medical Center and is a first-year law student at Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul.

He said Freedom Claims Agency’s mission was also shaped by participation in the E-seed express for veterans’ program through the Venture Center at Fox Valley Technical College.

Leah Brittnacher brings expertise in mental health and will assist with claims and appeals involving mental health conditions, ensuring veterans obtain fair evaluations.

Boldt Group establishes fabrication, modular company

Oshkosh Herald

The Boldt Group is reimagining how buildings are planned, designed and delivered in its recently announced launch of Bildt, a new modular and prefabrication manufacturer.

Building on Boldt’s 135-year history in the construction industry, Bildt is a response to interest from facility owners, general contractors and architects to reduce project costs and increase speed to market. Vice president of manufacturing Melanie Taylor and vice president of modular Ben Bruns lead the new organization.

“As a general contractor, we recognized the need for our line of innovative, customizable permanent modular and

prefabricated products that can cut construction times in half, allowing building owners to occupy and generate revenue months sooner than anticipated,” Bruns said.

Bildt manufactures modular buildings and slide-in room and bathroom pods for markets that include health care, industrial, education and commercial. Fabrication takes place in the company’s off-site facility in Oshkosh while the site team coordinates construction activities with the project’s general contractor or construction manager or Bildt’s field teams.

Bildt also manufactures prefabricated panels and components, including headwalls; exterior wall panels and systems; steel wall studs; and tailored interior framing assemblies.

In the evolving health care industry where expansion or modification of facilities can arise unexpectedly, Boldt has emphasized modular construction and will be leveraging that into other industries. The Bildt process also takes up the construction industry’s skilled labor shortage by reducing barriers to entry in the field with simplified tasks, mitigating the effects of labor shortages in remote locations and



Photo by Graham Images

A suite of slide-in modular bathrooms for a large-scale hospital project is shown in different stages of completion.

reduces the need for constant presence of specific skilled tradespeople on a job site.

Boldt has been working with prefabrication and modular construction since the 1980s and accelerated that focus significantly during the pandemic when hospitals nationwide needed to add space quickly.

“Rooted in our long history as builders, developers, investors and owners of projects, we understand our customers’ and the industry’s challenges,” Taylor said. “This level of understanding is something that clearly differentiates Bildt in the marketplace.”

Nominations sought for Impact Award

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Area United Way (OAUW) is seeking nominations for the Sue Panek Community Impact Award, which honors leaders who have positively impacted the community.

The award is named in recognition of Panek, who served as OAUW executive director for 25 years until 2018. Panek was dedicated to identifying community needs, fostering partnerships and engaging others to find solutions to Oshkosh’s most pressing social challenges.

The award is presented to an individual or group with a track record of impactful work in one or more of OAUW’s three key

initiatives: financial stability, youth-focused education or mental health.

Nominations must be received by Feb. 20 from residents, organizations or nonprofits through the form at oshkoshunit-edway.org/sue-panek-community-impact-award.

The recipient will be honored April 8 at the Oshkosh Area United Way Celebration.

The award includes a \$1,000 donation to a nonprofit organization serving southern Winnebago County, chosen by the recipient. For more information, call 920-235-8560 or email oauw@oshkoshunit-edway.org.

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High school teacher take career turn to U.S. diplomacy

By Dan Roherty
OSHKOSH HERALD

A longtime social studies teacher in the area is taking his experience along with his family to an overseas assignment serving the U.S. government as a public diplomat.

Eric Thiede from Neenah High School was recently selected, along with more than 100 applicants nationwide who annually join the U.S. Department of State, after an almost two-year process that tested his background and resiliency to clear all the necessary hurdles.



Thiede

Thiede will be promoting the United States as a public diplomacy officer in a yet-to-be-determined part of the world after choosing that focus from among other options that include consular, economic, management and political tracks.

"I chose public diplomacy because it was the closest to a lot of my experiences in teaching," said Thiede, who taught for 13 years at Neenah High and 12 in Kaukauna. His wife, Stacey, is a teacher at Vel Phillips Middle School in Oshkosh.

"I thought my experience and knowledge in a lot of the classes that I've taught, as well as other places I've traveled to on the globe, could come in handy too with experiences that I could lend and bring to it," he said.

The extensive process for his selection as a foreign service officer started with the initial application, testing of his general

knowledge, essay writing and a leadership portfolio, an all-day interview in the nation's capital, background and security checks, medical and financial clearance, another interview with a panel of diplomats, and finally getting on a job list.

"They pull from that job list four times a year based on how many diplomats they need and how many openings there are, so it took a long time and it was a lot of waiting, little excitements and celebrations each time we made it from one step to the next stop, not knowing if that would be the end or what would happen," Thiede recalled.

He made it on that list in March and was picked in October, leading to a swearing-in ceremony this week. Now it's on to six weeks of training, 12 more after his job track is identified, and anywhere from six to 10 months of language training depending on location and difficulty.

"We would be happy in most places," Thiede said, noting that Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia are some of the common locations for new diplomats.

"We agree to serve anywhere globally that the Department of State needs us to, and entry-level officers like myself don't get a huge amount of say to where we're going to end up. We can make a few priorities known, like wanting a good school for my youngest who will be coming with us and going to school over there."

Thiede is also bringing along foreign travel experience having taught in Scotland and Stacey previously taught in Mexico. Their oldest of two children will be off to college after this school year and stay-

ing stateside while their high school-age son will be along for the new living experience.

"I want to give him sort of a global outlook and get some life experiences and adventures for him at a young age there as well, to get a chance to do some things and meet some people he otherwise wouldn't," he said.

Teaching involves dealing with people from different backgrounds, reaching consensus and helping people, skills that Thiede hopes to bring to the new career.

"It's kind of service and education like in teaching, just in a different kind of way than being in a classroom every day," he said.

"Eventually I will be doing things like helping run and manage exchange programs between whatever country I'm in and the U.S. (or) when athletes or entertainers come to visit, doing cultural diplomacy with them that we will be organizing around the country, doing some media on behalf of the embassy or consulate."

Discussion of the diplomacy opportunity among the family started during the pandemic as they thought about what they wanted to pursue as their children were getting through school.

Thiede knows his career shift will impact his family in different ways such as Stacey dealing with reciprocal work options depending on his assigned country.

"She's definitely giving up a lot to do this as well," he said. "It's something that impacts our whole family, not just me getting a new job because she's giving up or at least putting a pause on her career for

a while."

Neenah High School Principal Brian Wunderlich said Thiede has been a great colleague who supported, collaborated with and inspired other staff, and often could be found at school events supporting all students.

"In his classrooms he always went the extra mile to make his classroom welcoming, fun, engaging and challenging," Wunderlich said. "As a social studies teacher he inspired his students to be curious about the world. Students who had Mr. Thiede in class understood how our past has an influence on our future and he did a great job helping students understand they play a vital role in making the future whatever it becomes."

His announced departure from the high school also brought congratulations and praise from students and parents.

"Eric Thiede year in and year out has been recognized by my powerlifters as one of their most influential teachers," Neenah High powerlifting coach Joe Lewis said in a Facebook post. "I have so much respect for this man and obviously our country does too."

Parents of Thiede's students past and present were also quick to note the social studies teacher's impact here.

"My kids both benefited greatly from having Mr. Thiede as a teacher during their freshman year," Teri Fields Meylink wrote in a Facebook post. "He helped set them up for success in high school and with AP classes and tests. So grateful for his high expectations and compassionate support for students."

Woman set for release in Slender Man stabbing from 2014

Wisconsin Public Radio

A Wisconsin woman who at age 12 stabbed her sixth-grade classmate nearly to death to please online horror character Slender Man is set to be released from a psychiatric hospital in Oshkosh, a judge ordered Thursday.

Morgan Geysler has spent nearly seven years at the Winnebago Mental Health Institute. She has petitioned Waukesha County Circuit Judge Michael Bohren, who committed her, for release four times since June 2022. She withdrew her first two petitions and Bohren denied her second request this past April, finding she still presented a threat to the public.

Geysler, now 22 years old, filed her latest petition in October. Bohren decided to grant her release after a daylong hearing, finding that she had maximized her treatment options at the facility and is no

longer a safety risk. He ordered the state Department of Health Services to set up a plan for housing her in a group home and supervising her subject to his approval at a hearing within 60 days.

The judge said that Geysler's crime was a "brutal, terrible offense" but she has since grown up and to be truly rehabilitated she must learn to exist within society.

"She's done what she's supposed to do," Bohren said. "She appears to have a good attitude."

Geysler and Anissa Weier were 12 years old in 2014 when they lured their classmate, Payton Leutner, to a Waukesha park after a sleepover. Geysler stabbed Leutner 19 times while Weier egged her on. Leutner barely survived.

The girls later told investigators that they attacked Leutner to earn the right to be Slender Man's servants and they feared he would harm their families if they didn't

follow through.

Geysler pleaded guilty to attempted first-degree intentional homicide and was sent to the psychiatric institute due to mental illness in 2018. Weier pleaded guilty to attempted second-degree intentional homicide. She was also sent to the psychiatric center but was granted release in 2021 to live with her father and was ordered to wear a GPS monitor.

Three psychologists who have been working with Geysler since she was committed to the institute testified at Thursday's hearing that she's made impressive progress in just the last six months and should be released.

Dr. Brooke Lundbohm testified that Winnebago staff weaned Geysler off her anti-psychotic medications by early 2023 and she's suffered no symptoms since then.

Dr. Deborah Collins said Geysler is al-

ways at risk of reoffending simply because she almost killed someone but she has worked on her coping skills, improved her emotional control and retreats into fantasy less frequently. Collins added that Geysler told her that she hates what she did to Leutner and can't forgive herself.



Oshkosh Herald

The construction of a new middle school is the largest item on the Oshkosh Area School District's 2025 referendum.

Referendum

FROM PAGE 1

Oakwood Elementary Schools;

- Renovations at the Perry Tipler Middle School building to convert it into a pre-kindergarten center and recreation department offices;
- Construction of an addition and renovations for an auditorium at North High School;
- Renovations at Read, Emmeline Cook and Lakeside Elementary schools to add air conditioning;
- District-wide site improvements, and
- Acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment?"

If a majority of voters vote "yes" to the question, the district will be authorized to move forward with borrowing \$197.8 million for the projects. If the majority of voters vote "no" the district will not be authorized to borrow the funds.

The question passed 5-2 with board members Tim Hess and Kelly Dewitt both voting against it. Hess had previously stated that even though he disagrees with the referendum it should be left to the voters to decide.

Board member Barbara Herzog said approving the new schools would send a message to students, especially those who are economically disadvantaged. She said when the new Vel Phillips Middle School opened in 2023 one student commented, "I never thought I'd be in a building this nice."

Superintendent Bryan Davis has con-

Cost breakdown

- Carl Treager Elementary School renovations: \$5.4 million
- Franklin Elementary School renovations: \$31.1 million
- Oakwood Elementary School renovations: \$35.7 million
- Perry Tipler Pre-K/Recreation Center: \$9.7 million
- North High School Auditorium: \$22.1 million
- New Middle School at Shapiro site: \$88 million
- Air conditioning at Emmeline Cook, Lakeside and Read Elementary schools: \$5.8 million

sistently stated that due to the prepaying of debt from the 2020 facilities referendum, taxes will not go up if voters pass this referendum. He said if the referendum is delayed a year, those costs would rise about \$10 million and in four years the costs could increase by \$44 million.

The district ran into an issue with the South Park Middle School site when it failed to deal with a recent zoning change and subsequently shifted plans to build a new middle school on the Shapiro site. The Winnebago County Board approved an airport zoning change that limits what can be built near the airport, including new educational institutions.

Even though the middle school site has changed it is still proposed to cost around \$88 million.

OASD spent just over \$1 million over the last couple of years purchasing properties in the area to raze the homes to make room for the proposed South Park expansion. The district now plans on selling the property acquired for potential housing.

Parts of South Park Middle School are more than 100 years old, and the school is not ADA compliant, which is why a new middle school is the largest expense within the referendum.

The referendum will be on the April 1 ballot along with city, school board and county positions.

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2.99 ea

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Offer expires 1/21/25 PLU 27209

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6-10 pack



2/\$4 Mott's Apple Juice or Applesauce

6-8 pk or 64 oz



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4-6 oz Yoplait Yogurt



99¢ WHEN YOU BUY MULTIPLES OF 5 OR 1.49 EA

Bush's Best Variety Beans or 8.3 oz Baked Beans

15-16 oz



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2/\$5 20-24 oz Simply Potatoes



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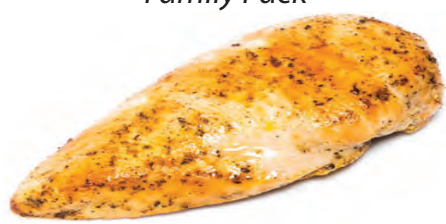
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30 pk, 12 oz Cans
Hamm's

14.79
12 pk, 12 oz Cans or Bottles
Leinenkugel's Craft

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8.79
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Fresh Cut Up or Whole Fryer Chicken

8.99 lb
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5.99 lb
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4.79
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8.99
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5-7 oz Select Golden Brown Jones Sausage Links or Patties

6.99
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7.99
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7.99 lb
Farm Raised Catfish Fillets

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22.99
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Bacardi Rum

13.99
750 ml Bottle - Select
Josh Cellars Red Wines

10.99
1.5 ltr Bottle - Assorted
Barefoot Wines

Calendar of events

Thursday, Jan. 16

Oshkosh Restaurant Week begins (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 (sensory-friendly performance), 11 a.m., The Grand Oshkosh

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

Thursday, Jan. 23

Greg Warren comedy show, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Oshkosh West Music Department: "Footloose," 7 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Wisconsin Herd vs. Osceola Magic, 11:30 a.m., Oshkosh Arena

Friday, Jan. 24

Oshkosh West Music Department: "Footloose," 7 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Saturday, Jan. 25

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

Indoor Rummage and Craft Fair, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Whole-Hearted Wellness Fair, 10 a.m., Father Carr's Place 2B, 1062 N. Koeller St.

"Tailspin" author John Armbruster, noon, Military Veterans Museum and Education Center, 4300 Poberezny Road

Wisconsin Herd vs. Capital City Go-Go, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Cold Water Classic Ice Fishing Tournament, 11 a.m., Menominee Park

Oshkosh West Music Department: "Footloose," 7 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Missoula Children's Theatre: "The Wizard of Oz," 3 and 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Sunday, Jan. 26

Repair Cafe, 1 p.m., Oshkosh Public Library

Wisconsin Herd vs. Windy City Bulls, 5 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Oshkosh West Music Department: "Footloose," 2 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Wednesday, Jan. 29

Tony Jackson, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Wisconsin Herd vs. Delaware Blue Coats, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Thursday, Jan. 30

Wisconsin Herd vs. Delaware Blue Coats, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Friday, Jan. 31

Steely Dane plays "Aja," 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Art in the Garden participants sought

Oshkosh Herald

Altrusa International Club of Oshkosh invites participants to its 17th people's choice at the Hilton Garden Inn on April 5 and 6.

Organizers are looking for original photography, oils, watercolors, fiber, jewelry, glass, wood and other art media.

Artists do not need to be professionals and all entries are juried for ribbon and cash awards that the public will determine by voting.

Artists can purchase a vendor space to

have additional pieces available for sale. For more information, go to districtseven.altrusa.org/Oshkosh, message on Facebook or call/text 920-379-5713.

There also will be a special display of outstanding art by area high school students also vying for awards.

Altrusa fundraising proceeds benefit literacy, local nonprofits and programs. Altrusa is an international service organization with a major focus on literacy. The Oshkosh Club annually awards \$7,500 in scholarships to area students.

'Wizard of Oz' auditions set at Grand

Auditions will be held for the Missoula Children's Theatre's upcoming production of "The Wizard of Oz" from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday at The Grand Oshkosh. The show will be presented at 3 and 7 p.m. Jan. 25.

Among the roles to be cast are Dorothy, Toto, the Lion, the Tin Man, the Professor/Wizard, the Green Guard, Glinda, the Wicked Witch, Mayor Munchkin, Farmer Munchkin, the Munchkins, the Winkies, the Magicians and the Fierce and Fero-

cious Flowers.

Students in grades K-12 are encouraged to audition and no advance preparation is necessary. Assistant directors will also be cast to aid in rehearsals throughout the week and to take on backstage responsibilities. Actors and directors will conduct rehearsals throughout the week from 4 to 8:15 p.m.

For more information, contact 920-424-2350 or email info@thegrandoshkosh.org.

Valentine's bash features Wisconsin Jazz Orchestra

Oshkosh Herald

The Jazz Coterie concert series presents the Wisconsin Jazz Orchestra for an evening of big-band music and dancing at 7 p.m. Feb. 13 at The Howard.

The 16-piece orchestra showcases a range of swinging repertoire from Count Basie and Duke Ellington to contemporary masters like Maria Schneider and John Clayton.

The orchestra features some of the top jazz musicians in the Fox Valley and central Wisconsin. They include Marc Jimos, alto saxophone; Myles Boothroyd, alto

saxophone; Jose Encarnacion, tenor saxophone; Steve Johnson, tenor saxophone; Katie DelGiaccio, baritone saxophone; Brent Turney, lead trumpet; John Daniel, trumpet; Marty Robinson, trumpet; Adam Gaines, trumpet; Tim Albright, trombone; Patrick Lawrence, trombone; Bill Dennee, trombone; Dave Sawall, bass trombone; Mathew Buchman, piano; Dave Story, string bass; and Ryan Korb, drums.

Tickets and information are available at JazzCoterie.com. Admission is free for music students and half off for working musicians and music educators.

Mystery dinner theater scheduled at Oshkosh Arena

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Arena kicks off its entertainment lineup for the year with a murder-mystery dinner theater show in partnership with Laughable Productions, an Oshkosh-based performance company.

"Valentine's Vendetta" is a new theatrical show that blends humor and suspense for its audience from 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 14 in the arena's main concourse. Dinner guests will help detectives interpret clues, interrogate suspects and gather evidence, all

while enjoying a three-course dinner.

Audience members assume an alias upon arrival and everyone is a potential suspect as detectives lead a hilariously intense murder investigation.

"Whoever most accurately solves the murder receives one sweetheart of a prize," show producers said in their announcement.

Tickets are on sale through Ticketmaster until Feb. 12, at oshkosharena.com or at the arena box office.

TEDxOshkosh posts videos of 2024 presentations

Videos from last year's TEDxOshkosh are now available to watch online at youtube.com/@TEDxOshkosh.

The Nov. 16 presentations included:

Erin Boehme: "Vocal Jazz Performance"

Seon Yoon Chung: "New Tools in Healthcare Education: Incorporating AI-Generated Simulations"

Courtney Dvorak: "The Real Impact of Workplace Trauma"

Gabriela Fleury: "Interspecies Diplomacy"

Michael Ford: "People Matter: Getting Governing Back into Politics"

Shaheda Govani: "What if We Were to Like Ourselves a Little Less"

Shermin Kruse: "Stoic Empathy: The Synergy of Compassion and Resilience"

Masha Pavlova: "Discovering Autism in Adulthood"

Natraj Shanker: "Micro-Factories: Manufacturing Re-Invented"

Jennifer Skolaski: "An Antidote for an Overdose Epidemic: We Heart You"

Pallavi Tiwari: "Are We Ready for an AI Oncologist? How AI Can Help Doctors Personalize Cancer Care"

Boys & Girls Club leader heads national group

Oshkosh Herald

Tracy Ogden, chief executive of the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh, has been elected president of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America national board of directors for The Professional Association (TPA).

Ogden brings a decade of experience to the board, which comprises 35 Boys & Girls Club professionals, including the last

four years as vice president.

The Professional Association serves as the collective voice of club career professionals within the nationwide Boys & Girls Club movement. TPA has been instrumental in launching initiatives that have positively impacted tens of thousands of current and former Boys & Girls Club professionals.

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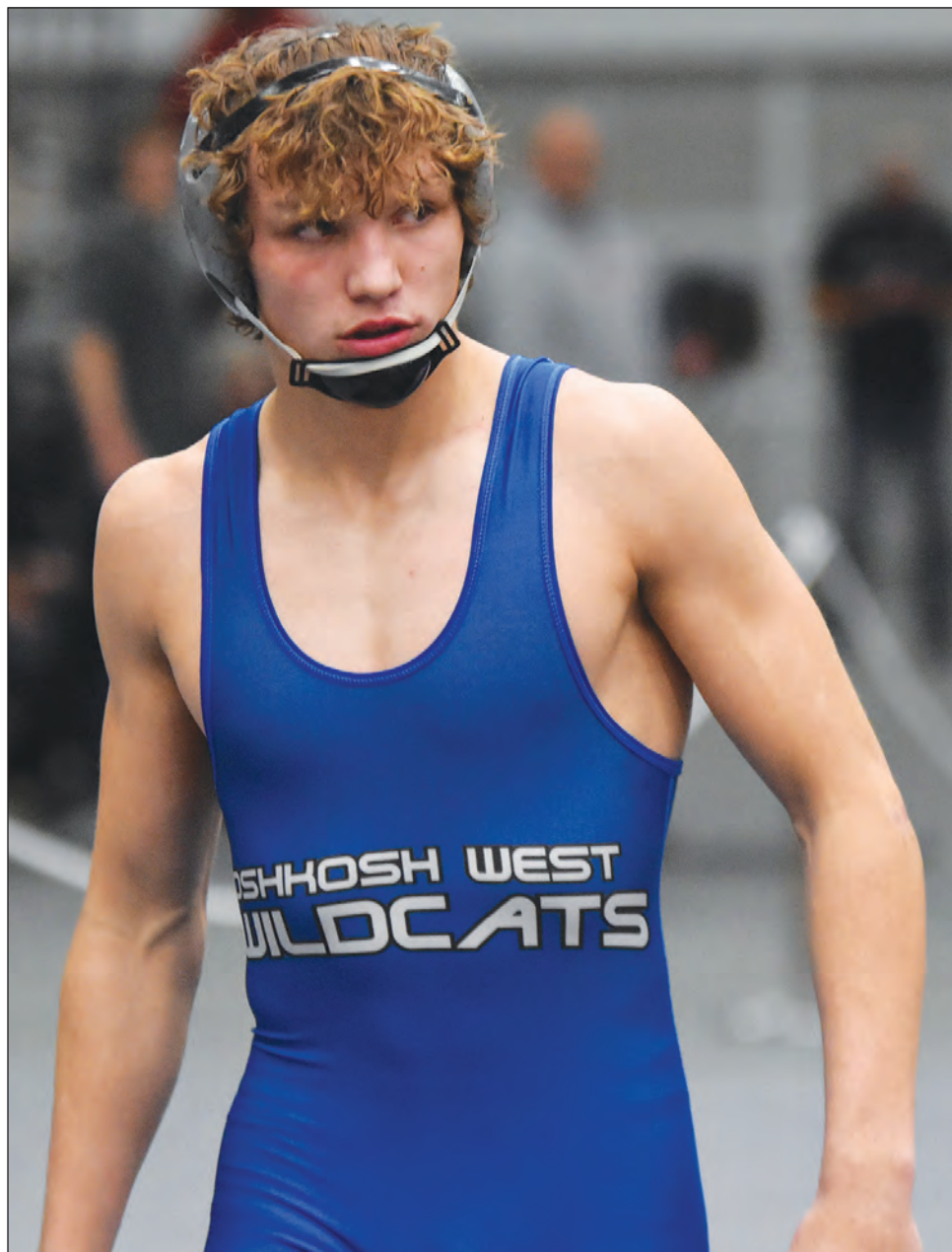
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Wildcats' Schroeder looking to strike state gold



Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh West's Eddy Schroeder finished third at the state wrestling meet last season and is looking to climb to the top of the podium this year.

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The summit of Timm's Hill in north-central Wisconsin is believed to be the highest point in the Badger State.

Elite high school wrestlers like Eddy Schroeder see it differently.

The top of the podium at the Kohl Center represents the massive mountain they are trying to scale, and Schroeder is determined to complete his climb in late February.

Schroeder was the top wrestler in the Oshkosh area in 2023-24. He generated the highest win total (48) of any wrestler and had the best finish, placing third in the 138-pound Division 1 class at the WIAA state individual meet.

Winning a bronze medal was very nice, but Schroeder wants an upgrade ... to gold.

Schroeder is hoping to join Alec Hunter (2021 at 120) and become only the second Oshkosh West wrestler to win a WIAA state individual championship. Schroeder's teammate, Ryland Schneider, also has a shot at a state title at 175.

"Win it, win state - that's the goal," said Schroeder. "I'm really focusing in the practice room on getting all the finer details down. I'm not rushing anything and getting good productive workouts. Winning state and being only the second wrestler to do it here would be huge."

The 2023-24 season was a breakout year for Schroeder: a first-time state meet qualifier. He finished at 48-5 overall with 24 pins.

"Once it (his third-place finish at state) happened, it kind of shocked me," Schroeder said. "But really on the inside, I knew it was something I was capable of. State is a big thing. It kind of makes you nervous at some point, but I like being put on the spot and having to deal with nerves a little. It pushes me to another level. I like that pressure."

Schroeder entered the 2024-25 sea-

Senior Spotlight

son with an exceptional 126-19 career record. He was an instant success as a freshman, carving out a 37-7 mark at 113 and improved to 41-7 at 126 as a sophomore.

"I don't really overpower people, but I have good technique and speed," he said. "And when it comes to the funky scrambles, dipping and weird positions, I usually get the best of my opponent."

Schroeder has climbed a weight class and is competing at 144 pounds this season. He was ranked fourth at 144 in the Jan. 7 FloWrestling Wisconsin High School Wrestling Rankings and has been ranked as high as second in the same Division 1 weight class in the Wisconsin Grappler state rankings.

"I feel 144 is a good weight for me," he said. "It's pretty similar to 138. I really haven't had to cut much weight."

West coach Matt Cuadra will miss working with Schroeder, who has been a team captain each of his four years.

"Eddy has been someone we've counted on the past three years and we're looking to do the same this season," Cuadra said. "It's been a great pleasure coaching a skilled wrestler like Eddy. I've enjoyed watching him develop as a wrestler and a person the past couple years."

"His leadership role has changed in all four of his seasons. Each time he's done what we've needed him to do."

Schroeder is no newcomer to the sport. He's been wrestling for roughly 13 years, starting at age 4.

"I had so much energy as a kid that my parents had to find a way to tire me out," said Schroeder with a laugh. "So they put me into wrestling. My dad and my uncle had wrestled a little. I wouldn't say that I was real good when I started, but I thought it was really fun. I stayed with it and started picking things up and going

SEE **Senior Spotlight** ON PAGE 17

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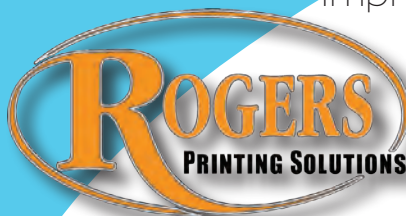


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Senior Spotlight

FROM PAGE 16

to tournaments.”

Wrestling is one of the toughest high school sports to master, since it requires exceptional technique and a high fitness level.

“I really love the sport,” Schroeder said. “It’s different than any other sport. In team sports, you can blame things on someone else. In wrestling, if you lose, it’s your fault.”

That hasn’t happened a lot in Schroeder’s career, mainly because of his exceptional work ethic.

“I don’t think people really understand what wrestlers go through,” Schroeder said. “Maintaining a weight and eating right is a big thing. Not many people do that anymore. The workouts and practices you go through, it’s just not the same as in other sports. Other sports are so much easier conditioning wise.”

Schroeder should know. He is a three-sport athlete at West. Schroeder has been a slick-fielding shortstop in base-

ball the past two years and a ball-hawking outside linebacker in football. Schroeder finished second on the West football team in tackles (50) last season, despite playing at a light 155 pounds.

“All my life I’ve always been the smaller guy,” Schroeder said. “But I always knew and believed in myself that I could be a starting linebacker. It felt good to prove that. Being in wrestling definitely helped me in football. When you wrestle, you get to know your body a little better and how it moves and reacts in different ways. It helps you in football from a movement standpoint.”

Schroeder plans to attend college next year and hopes to wrestle collegiately. A few schools have shown interest in him and more opportunities will likely come if he delivers a top finish at the state tournament.

Schroeder is considering a criminal justice major in college.

“I just like the fact that you’re protecting the city and the country,” he said.

But first he’s looking to claim that gold medal in Madison.

“It would mean a lot to me,” said Schroeder. “I think it’s reachable.”

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Rough second half sinks Wildcats in FVA loss

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Everything was going just fine.

Noah Gelhar scored in the lane on back-to-back possessions to start the second half to give Oshkosh West its biggest lead of the game against Appleton East at 30-21 pushing the Wildcats on the path to their second Fox Valley Association win of the season.

Then things went not so fine for West.

Appleton East took advantage of four straight turnovers by the Wildcats to put together an 11-0 run and went on to hand West a 55-45 loss on Friday night.

"We were up nine and had the momentum and then we had four turnovers in a row and our momentum was absolutely halted," Oshkosh West head coach Dan Wiese said. "You have to play through adversity and we don't do the best job of that at times. If we can figure that out, we can be a pretty good basketball team."

The rough second half erased a strong first half for the Wildcats and dropped West to 1-6 in the FVA.

West managed only four field goals over the final 16 minutes of the second half and went 6-of-13 from the free-throw line allowing the Patriots to rally for the win.

Wiese said it was just a matter of getting away from what was working when East started its run. And once the Wildcats' rhythm was gone, they were unable to get it back.

"We were looking (to keep getting it inside) certainly. We would have liked to touch the post a little more no question about it," Wiese said. "When things get a little bit wacky and they are going on a run, we have to run our offense even better



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Oshkosh West's Tyler Moderson scoops a shot toward the basket during Friday night's loss to Appleton East.

and we ran it worse."

Tyler Moderson's 3-pointer halted the Patriots' surge and Sam Benesh followed with a drive to the basket as West pulled back in front 35-32.

East then rattled off five straight points to regain the lead before a free throw from

Joey Ware and another inside basket from Gelhar gave the Wildcats a 38-37 lead with eight minutes remaining.

That would be the last time West would be in front.

East scored the next six points to pull ahead 43-38 with 4:13 remaining and the Patriots' Jacob Weisbach would go 12-of-12 from the foul line in the final 1:52 as the Patriots were able to pull away.

"We had 11 second half turnovers and you can't do that," Wiese said. "We have to be able to play through those rough stretches."

The final 16 minutes was a complete opposite of the way the Wildcats played in the first half.

After the Patriots scored the first points of the game, West got a basket from Ware, two free throws by Brayden Kufel and a 3-pointer by Moderson to go ahead 7-3.

East tied the game at 10 before a driving layup from Moderson ignited a 10-4 spurt – capped by a Benesh 3-pointer – and West stayed in front heading into halftime.

"We were playing with good energy (in the first half). We were doing our assignments, we were running good offense and we were feeling good about ourselves," Wiese said. "I do like how we play with energy, but when things don't go your way, you have to react."

Gelhar finished with 13 points and Moderson added 10 to lead the Wildcats.

Titan women approaching program's best start

The UW Oshkosh women's basketball team matched the best start in program history when the Titans topped UW-Platteville, 60-44, Saturday to improve to 14-0 on the season.

This is the team's best start since the 2004-05 season when the Titans began the year with 15 straight wins. UW Oshkosh went on to finish 21-6 and share the WIAC Conference title.

The Titans are 3-0 in the WIAC.

The Titans, who are ranked fourth by D3hoops.com and eighth by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association, can tie the record Wednesday at UW-Whitewater. If UW Oshkosh wins that game, it would have a chance to set a new record



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Oshkosh West's Joey Ware puts up a shot under heavy pressure from Appleton East defenders Friday.

Ware and Benesh each chipped in seven with Ware also pulling down a team-high six rebounds.

The Wildcats will be back at home on Friday night for an FVA contest against Hortonville. West will then travel to Ripon for a nonconference game next Tuesday.

for the best start at home Saturday against UW-La Crosse.

Not only have the Titans been on a roll, but they have been doing it in dominant fashion.

Only three of UW Oshkosh's wins have been by less than 10 points, while the team's only game decided by less than seven points was a 56-54 win over Wheaton College on Nov. 23.

Former Oshkosh West standout Paige Seckar has played in all 14 games for the Titans. The freshman is averaging 6.1 points and 3.5 rebounds per game. She has reached double figures twice this season, including a season-high of 12 points in the win over Wheaton.

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Prep sports roundup

BOYS BASKETBALL

Knights complete season sweep of Warriors

Lourdes Academy pulled away early in the second half and held on to beat Valley Christian last week to complete the season sweep between the Trailways East rivals.

The Knights won both games by scores of 52-40.

Braden Studinski led the Knights with 19 points as the senior reached double figures for the fourth straight game and ninth time in 11 games this season.

Brady Ridenour added seven points and a team-high nine rebounds for the Knights, who finished 21-of-38 from the free-throw line in the game.

Individual stats for Valley Christian were not available.

On Friday, Lourdes Academy came up short against Hustisford, falling at home, 59-50.

Studinski led the Knights by pouring in 22 points and picking up five steals, while Ridenour chipped in eight points and nine rebounds.

Kuehn led Lourdes Academy with 14 rebounds in the game.

Mitchell shines as Spartans split pair

Xzavion Mitchell poured in a whopping 52 points against Kimberly last Tuesday and then added 49 points on Friday versus Hortonville as Oshkosh North finished 1-1.

The 52-point effort by Mitchell tied the single-game scoring record for North, which had been set in the 1992-93 season by Pete Wade against Kimberly.



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Lourdes Academy's Harlan Kuehn (2) and Valley Christian's Xander Osinga battle for a rebound when the two teams collided last week.

The Spartans collected an 86-76 win over the Papermakers as Mitchell went 5-of-9 from 3-point range and was 11-of-11 at the free-throw line. He also added six

rebounds and four assists in the win.

Stefan Stojilovic chipped in 10 points in the win, while Max Rohr and Tylan Lister each had seven.

In the loss to the Polar Bears, Mitchell grabbed nine rebounds to go along with his 49 points, which was aided by a 14-of-19 performance at the free-throw line.

Owen Weber added a career-high 16 points, while Stojilovic finished with seven.

Wildcats tripped up by Kaukauna

Oshkosh West fell behind at halftime and couldn't keep up with powerhouse Kaukauna in an 85-49 loss to the Ghosts last week.

Noah Gelhar was the only player in double figures for West, finishing with 10 points. Malakai Herlihy was the next highest scorer with six points.

Twelve different players scored in the game for the Wildcats.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Knights ride big first half to easy win

Lourdes Academy held Oakfield to just 14 points in the first half and cruised to a 66-45 win over the Oaks in a Trailways East game last week.

The Knights led 29-24 at intermission and then scored 37 points in the second half to put the game away.

Hailee Bauer hit four 3-pointers and finished with 26 points to lead the way for the Knights. She also finished with a team-high six assists. Delaney Ruedinger added 14 points and five assists, while Aubrey Schettle matched Bauer with six assists, while also adding nine points.

Sabur Machiros had a team-high eight rebounds for Lourdes Academy, which made 9-of-20 3-pointers in the game.

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 20



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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 19

Wildcats' skid stretches to three games

Oshkosh West suffered its third straight loss in falling 80-62 to Appleton East on Friday.

Earlier in the week, the Wildcats dropped a 62-34 decision at home to Kaukauna.

West did not have a player in double figures in the game. Maddie Rasmussen led the Wildcats with eight points, while Ava Strasser finished with seven points and a team-best nine rebounds.

Spartans battle pair of ranked foes

Oshkosh North faced a pair of top-ranked foes last week and came up short against both Kimberly on Tuesday and Hortonville on Friday.

In the 77-42 loss to the sixth-ranked Polar Bears, Awut Alic led the Spartans with 10 points, while also picking up six rebounds and four steals. Morgan Kolodzik added eight points and Naviana Lao-Facundo finished with seven points and a team-best nine rebounds.

The Papermakers, ranked No. 2 in Division 1, held Oshkosh North to seven points in the first half and limited the Spartans to a season low point total in the 75-20 loss.

Alic led the Spartans with nine points.

BOYS WRESTLING

Oshkosh West pulls away to beat Terrors

The Wildcats scored the final 32 points



Oshkosh Ice Hawks goalkeeper Gage Bauer avoids a sliding Sheboygan skater after making a save during Saturday's game at the 20th Avenue YMCA Ice Arena.

Photo by Jim Koepnick

of the dual meet against Appleton West and collected a 55-22 win over the Terrors last Thursday.

Oshkosh West led 23-22 when Eddy Schroeder at 144 pounds and Jaxen Lloyd at 152 pounds scored back-to-back first-period pins.

Will Daily followed with a technical fall win at 157 pounds while Jaiden Fronczak added a decision win at 165 pounds to stretch the lead.

Ryland Schneider (175) and Zach Bartels (190) capped the dual meet with forfeit wins for the final margin.

Xavier Vang (113) and Nelson Fournier (215) picked up wins by pin for West. Preston Schneider (126) won by technical fall and Colden Searles (132) won by forfeit.

On Friday, the Wildcats participated in The Duffy Tournament hosted by Port Washington and finished eighth.

Ryland Schneider led the way for West by winning the 175-pound title. The senior pinned his first two opponents and then beat Homestead's Brady Stammer, 4-2, in the championship match to improve to 28-1 on the season.

Schroeder finished second at 138 pounds, going 3-1 on the day. He lost in a sudden victory period in the title match.

Lloyd (144), Fronczak (165) and Fournier (215) were each fifth, with Preston Schneider (126) taking sixth and Dailley (157) taking seventh.

Spartans compete at Cutler Classic

Four Oshkosh North wrestlers placed in the top eight at the Cutler Classic hosted by New London High School on Saturday.

Jamond Thompson-Schreck led the way for the Spartans by going 4-1 to finish third at 165 pounds. Thompson-Schreck pinned his first two opponents and also scored a pair of technical falls on the day.

Anthony Berger (138) and Dominic Wyrwicki (144) each finished seventh, with Berger notching one pin. Tyler Farnsworth placed eighth at 157 pounds.

HOCKEY

Ice Hawks drop pair over weekend

Oshkosh fell to Homestead, 8-0, and

were stopped by Sheboygan, 8-1, at home on Saturday.

Nolan Thurn had the lone goal on Saturday for the Ice Hawks, tallying a power play goal off an assist from Jake Koller.

Gage Bauer finished with 34 saves in goal as Oshkosh was outshot 42-18 in the game.

In the loss to Homestead, Oshkosh was able to manage just four shots on goal as Bauer finished with 40 saves.

GIRLS WRESTLING

Klinger leads West at Peshtigo Invite

Lauren Klinger finished 3-1 to take third place at 107 pounds to highlight the Wildcats' day at the Peshtigo Invite.

Klinger won a 13-12 decision in her first match and then, after falling in the semi-finals, pinned her next two opponents to take third.

Sarah Mrazek (107), Zoey Sims (120) and Samantha Bryant (132) all recorded one pin during the tournament for West.

North's Ketola takes third at Cutler Classic

The Spartans' Maddy Ketola finished 3-1 and finished third at 132 pounds at the Cutler Classic in New London on Saturday.

Ketola won her first match by an 18-4 major decision but fell in the semifinals. She responded by pinning her next two opponents to earn the third place.

SWIMMING

Wildcats drop dual meet against Neenah

Carter Crowe earned a pair of second-place finishes to lead Oshkosh West in a Fox Valley Association dual meet against Neenah last week.

The Rockets won the meet, 129-46.

Crowe took second in both the 200-yard freestyle and the 50-yard freestyle, while joining Evan Booms, Sam Roblee and George Suwalski to take second in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

The Wildcats also got third places from Roblee in the 100-yard backstroke and from Reid Potter in the 100-yard breaststroke.

On Saturday, the Wildcats finished fifth at the Sheboygan North Raider Relays.

West was led by the 200-yard freestyle relay team of Carter Crowe, Evan Booms, Sam Roblee and Caleb Bergin, which finished first in their event.

The Wildcats also got a second place from the 750-yard freestyle relay team of George Suwalski, Booms, Crowe and Bergin, while finishing fourth in the 800-yard freestyle relay, the 200-yard breaststroke relay and the 400-yard freestyle relay.

GYMNASTICS

Schlies, Barr lead Oshkosh at invitational

Neva Schlies and Lydia Barr each earned a podium finish on the uneven bars as the Oshkosh co-op gymnastics team finished third at Charlie Martin Invitational held at Wisconsin Rapids on Jan. 4.

Schlies finished second on the bars with a score of 8.8, while Barr was fourth with a score of 8.125. Schlies and Barr also finished in the top 10 in the all-around, while Barr picked up a top-10 finish in on the balance beam.

Other top-10 finishes for Oshkosh were turned in by Anna Schlies on the balance beam, Parker Asen on the vault and balance beam and Ja'nyiah Ford on the floor exercises.

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Obituaries

Gerald R. Frey

Gerald "Jerry" R. Frey passed away Thursday, January 9, 2025, as a result of complications from surgery. He was born January 19, 1942, to Robert and Bernice Frey in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.



Jerry graduated from Oshkosh High School. He served honorably in the Army, and patrolled the German borders of Bindlach, Hof, and Kronach. He worked at Mercury Marine before becoming the owner of Freyer Tucks Tavern, later venturing out to own his business, J&S Tap Service, for 54 wonderful and adventurous years. He was also a partner at Botoms Up for 18 of those years.

Jerry served on the Winnebago Town Board for 36 years as Supervisor and Town Chairman. He was a lifetime member of the YMCA and Tavern League, and was a supporter of the Neenah Animal Shelter. Jerry held a love for all animals. He had his own petting zoo which included rabbits, donkeys, pigs, geese, ducks, goats, turkeys,

chickens, and a rhea. Jerry also held many names such as sailor, farmer, tap cleaner, chairman, dorkweed, fisherman, best friend, and dad.

Our beloved Jerry was known to many and loved beyond measure. He is survived by his sister, Karen Moyle, of Oshkosh; (step)children, David Wissink, Leslie Haas, Stacy Kerwin, Tyler Zick, and Kylie Wenhardt; (step)grandchildren, Broady and Kenton Chapman, Jordan and Colby Haas; and four (step)great grandchildren. They all shared a piece of his beautiful heart.

Our family would like to thank the wonderful medical staff at Aurora Hospital for the care they provided.

There will be a Celebration of Life at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Point Drive, Oshkosh on Monday, January 20, 10:00am - 1:00pm. A private family interment will take place at Lake View Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Neenah Animal Shelter, 951 County Rd G, Neenah WI 54956.



children, Jacqueline (Matt) Shore, Garett (Megan) Brock, Jordan (Kendra Muldbakken) Brock, Anika (Nick) Hammer, Cole (Lauren Scharlau) Tyman, Qwynn (Logan Giere) Tyman, and Tessah Tyman; great-grandchildren, Ben and Sam Shore; Lila, Cade, and Thea Brock; Ellie Hammer. She is also survived by sisters, Virginia (Frank) Pickar and Cathy Dandrea; and many nieces and nephews.

Rita was preceded in death by her parents, and brother, Bernard Adee.

A visitation for family and friends will be on Friday, January 17, 2025, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church 210 Pleasant Drive, Winneconne. A funeral Mass will be held on Friday at 11:30 a.m. at the church with Fr. Tom Long officiating. The Mass will be livestreamed; go to stmarychurches.org and click on the St. Mary's Winneconne Live Stream link. A prayer service and entombment will be on Saturday, January 18 at 1:00 p.m. at the Calvary Cemetery 4820 Howard Gnesen Road, Duluth, with a social gathering to follow.

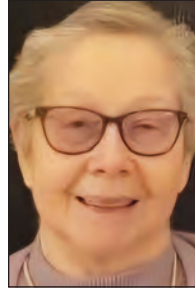
In lieu of flowers, donations will be distributed to St. Mary's Church and Rita's favorite charities.

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



Violet L. Tews

Violet L. Tews, age 88 of Oshkosh, died peacefully at The Residents of



Oshkosh on Saturday, December 28, 2024. She was born in Marion, Indiana on April 21st, 1936, to the late William Sr. and Dorothy (Johns) Herring. Violet (Herring) Tews was married to Leonard Tews and had four children.

She was a mathematics and computer Educator at Omro Highschool from 1976 to 1998. Education was always important to Violet achieving a Master's Degree in Mathematics and continued learning new computer programming languages through the 1990's.

Her interests lie in giving back to her community.

She served on the boards of the Samaritan Counseling Center and Casa Cara Residential Facility, and was also a Mediator for Winnebago County courts. Storytelling was her creative side as she would spin her tale dressed in a coat of many colors, to the children of the church congregation.

Family was the foremost important thing in Vi's life, having helped raise her younger sibling, raised her own children, and then helped raise her grandchildren. She was always happiest to have a kid underfoot, lend a patient ear, mend a scuffed knee, and teach the next generation.

Violet is survived by her children, Matt Tews, Heather Burns, Chuck Tews and

Eddie Tews; her 10 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren; as well as her brother, Terry Herring; and sisters, Judy Webb, Bonnie Swank, and Linda Brown.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husbands, Leonard Tews and Warren McRae; as well as her brothers, William Herring Jr, David Herring, and Donald Herring.

A Memorial Service is being held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Dr. on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. followed by a light lunch for community and celebration of Violet. Visitation will be at the funeral home from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service.

Violet's family would like to extend their deep appreciation to the wonderful staff of The Residents and Preceptor Hospice for the compassionate care provided to her at such a difficult time.



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Rita Marie Tyman

Rita Marie (Adee) Tyman, 84, of Winneconne, Wisconsin died at Ascension Mercy Hospital in Oshkosh, Wisconsin with her family by her side on January 7, 2025. Rita was born on May 15, 1940, to parents Edward and Mary (Telega) Adee in Duluth, Minnesota. She graduated from Stanbrook Hall High School.

Rita was hard-working and compassionate. She owned Tyman's Old Oak Bar and Supper Club and worked at other establishments in the Gordon, Wisconsin area. Rita continued her working career in Oshkosh and retired from Piggly Wiggly and Bethel Home.

Even though she was a hard worker, her family always came first. Rita supported her children through their academic careers and family lives, and was always cheering on and adoring her grandchildren. She served the church and lived her Catholic faith actively throughout her lifetime.

Rita loved to stay busy and had many talents, including cooking, baking, sewing, knitting, and rooting for the Brewers. She also enjoyed calls and visits with her family, especially from her grandchildren.

She is survived by: daughter, Linnea (Everett) Brock, Cave Creek, Arizona; daughter, Jill Tyman, Hudson, Wisconsin; daughter, MaryBeth (Jim) White, Oshkosh, Wisconsin; son, Robert (Tracey) Tyman, Elk Mound, Wisconsin; grand-

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Obituaries

Francis Murray

Francis "Mike" Murray, 86, of Oshkosh passed away peacefully on Thursday December 19th 2024 after a short battle with AML (acute myeloid leukemia). He was able to spend Christmas with Jesus this year.



He was born on February 18th, 1938, to the late Francis and Dorothy (Brown) Murray in Detroit MI. He spent his childhood moving around to various cities to wherever his dad's job took them, but he considered Dekalb IL home. Mike served in the National Guard from 1956 to 1963. He eventually ended up in Oshkosh Wisconsin and while working at Standard Kollsman he met Nancy

Ruck. Mike and Nancy married on February 8th, 1964, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Oshkosh. They had three children, Pauline, Michael and Scott. For many years before he married Nancy and even after he loved to ride his motorcycle. As a child Pauline would always ask, daddy, can you take me for a ride? She put on her helmet and was told to sit still and don't wiggle!

Mike worked as a tool and die maker at Barber Die and Tool then moved to Mercury Marine doing the same type of work in Oshkosh for many years before his plant moved to Fond du Lac. He worked for Mercury Marine for 40 years until his retirement in July 2007. He was a long-time member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Oshkosh and served on many committees. Including Junior Warden, Buildings & Grounds, usher, visiting parishioners in the hospital and nursing homes, and vestry

member for many years. He continued to support the church on any maintenance issues up until earlier this year. If it was broke, he would always find a way to fix it. Mike and Nancy were active in the Curcillo community and enjoyed many retreats together. During his retirement they were able to enjoy a once in a lifetime trip to Israel.

Mike is survived by his wife of over 60 years, Nancy Murray, daughter Pauline Klabunde (fiance, Mike), grandchildren Nicole Klabunde, Steven (Jessica) Klabunde. Great-grandchildren, Jarred, Sklya, Jasmine, Marissa and Josh. Brothers Dennis Murray, Kevin (Tames) Murray, brother-in-law James (Debbie) Ruck, sister-in-law Jeannie Murray, nieces Heather (Adam) Watney, Kristen Ruck and Heather (friend, Tyler) Murray, great nephew Jonah Eriq Murray.

He was preceded in death by his parents

Francis and Dorothy Murray, in-laws Emil and Althea Ruck, sons Michael and Scott, sister Patricia Murray, brother Shaun Murray and nephew Ryan Murray.

The family would like to thank the staff at Michael D. Wachtel Cancer Center, especially Dr Heraly and Cheryl P., The Courtyard Memory & Assisted living center, and St Croix Hospice, you all showed such compassion and care for him.

A funeral service will take place at Trinity Episcopal Church on Wednesday January 22nd, 2025.

Visitation from 10am to the time of service at 11am.

In lieu of flowers please consider sending a donation to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, www.lls.org.



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Obituaries

Betty J. Kromm

Betty J. (Nelson) Kromm quietly passed away on January 7, 2025 at her home in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Born on March 28, 1923, she filled her 101 years with a full life. She grew up the only girl in a house with three older brothers, first in Winchester and then in Shiocton, Wisconsin. Betty married El-



mond Kromm on July 3, 1943. They celebrated 63 years together, spent building a home life in the Fisk area, raising three children, and in later years dancing and traveling the world.

After high school, Betty attended Oshkosh Business College. She then worked as an insurance receptionist, a homemaker on the farm, and finally as an OB-Gyn medical assistant with Doctors Wright, Wolfgram, and Plos for 30 years, a job she loved.

Besides nurturing relationships with her

Brandon Perzentka

Brandon Randal Maikai Perzentka, age 36, of Oshkosh, WI, passed away on December 20, 2024 at his home.



He was born on December 8, 1988 in Honolulu, Hawaii, the son of Ron Gottstien (birth father) and Theresa Recore. At the age of 4, Brandon was adopted and

raised by Joseph Perzentka (stepfather) in his marriage with Theresa Recore. On June 14, 2024 he married Jordan Alyce Polansky, who survives.

Brandon was a loving son, protective brother, dedicated husband, and caring friend. His goofy attitude never failed to light up a room. Those in his life would all agree on one thing: everybody loved Brandon. He was always authentic, free spirited, and truly one of a kind. He loved playing music, having fun with his wife and pets, going to concerts with his sister, taking trips to the cabin with his dad, and being a connoisseur of spicy foods.

Brandon was known by all as a talented musician. He was an incredible drummer, and his passion for music brought him so much happiness. As a young kid, he was gifted his first drumset and the two were

inseparable ever since. Even when he didn't have his drumsticks in hand, he'd be drumming on his steering wheel or just the air. There were no bounds when he was ready to jam. Throughout his life, he was in multiple bands and even won a WAMI (Wisconsin Area Music Industry) award during his time with Beyond Fate. From the most mellow classics to the heaviest rock, he had a huge appreciation for all music.

Brandon may not have lived a long enough life, but he certainly lived a full, adventurous one. He leaves us with countless memories and reasons to smile when we think of him. He will be dearly missed, and forever loved. Till we meet again, rock on, Brandon.

Brandon is survived by his mother, Theresa Recore; stepfather, Joseph (Oxana) Perzentka; sister, Jonique (Aaron) Monte.

A time of visitation and Celebration of Life will be held at Venue 404, 404 N Main St., Oshkosh, on February 8th, 2025, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., with a eulogy by his sister at 2 p.m., followed by the opportunity for friends and family to speak if they wish.

Those who wish are also welcome to join the family at the Dead Horse bar (where Brandon had his jam sessions), 100 E. Gruenwald Ave, Oshkosh, following the Celebration of Life.

Barbara B. Peterson

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Barbara B. Peterson, aged



90, who left us peacefully on January 10, 2025, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Born on April 24, 1934, in Oshkosh. Married Nov 4, 1950 to Junior Peterson. Barbara lived a life rich in love, family, and friendship.

Barbara's journey through life was marked by her dedication to her family and her vibrant community spirit. She had a heartwarming way of making everyone feel welcome, whether it was through her work at Sears in the Catalog Department, as an operator for the telephone company, or as a money counter for General Beverage. Barbara was an integral part of her town, and her warmth will be missed by many.

A passionate bowler, she cherished the memories made in the couples' bowling league with her beloved husband, who she was married to for 73 wonderful years before his passing. Barbara also enjoyed the camaraderie of her women's bowling league and the thrill of card games. She especially loved bridge; where she was

in four different groups, her ladies' poker group, and cribbage, where she and her husband relished time spent together.

Barbara is survived by her son, James Peterson; her daughter, Sally; her sister, Susanne Gunderson; and daughter-in-law, Joni. She was preceded in death by her husband Junior, her son, Richard, her daughters Susan and Jane, parents Carl and Marcella (Stolzman) Hetzel and her siblings Patricia McNiece and Philip Hetzel.

Family, friends, and all who loved Barbara are invited to join us in honoring her remarkable life. Visitation will be held on January 17, 2025, at 10:00 AM at St. Jude the Apostle Parish-St. Vincent site, followed by a Mass at 11:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers, Barbara would have appreciated contributions to a local charity, reflecting her lifelong kindness towards others. Her spirit will continue to guide us as we remember the laughter and love she shared with us all.

Barbara's family would like to thank the staff at Aurora Medical Center, especially the Emergency Department, the staff on 3 West and Aurora Hospice for the wonderful care they gave to Barb.



large extended family, Betty collected and maintained valued friendships throughout her life, whether it was through school, homemakers, church, painting classes, travel groups, jury sessions, or her immediate community. The greeting cards she received and saved were many and attest to the numerous lives she touched. Friends and family were most important, providing many opportunities for fun and laughter.

She is survived by her children Dennis (Darla) Kromm, Burlington, WI; and Diane (Rick Vosburgh) Kromm, Durham, NC; daughter-in-law Sue Kromm, Appleton, WI; grandchildren Robin (Nuri) Nimmer, Moscow, ID; Julie (Nate Lahm) Kromm, Kaukauna, WI; Erin (Jason) Novak, Springdale, AR; and Matthew (special friend Kassie Berg) Kromm, Kansasville, WI; great grandchildren Noah and Isaac Nimmer, Beckett and Easton Lahm, Logan Cain and Ian Novak, and Jacob and Lennox Kromm, as

well as Kadin Villa; numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and special friend Heidi Harstad. Betty is preceded in death by her parents Otto and Emma (Karlson) Nelson, husband Elmond Kromm, son James Kromm, siblings Francis, Eugene and Otto Nelson, and three sisters-in-law: Theresa Nelson, Marie Nelson, and Germaine Nelson.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to Annie King, and those who most recently helped Betty continue to live an independent life: Penny, Rita and Frani.

A funeral service for Betty was held Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church. Interment will take place at 11:00 am on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at Liberty Prairie Cemetery. Any memorials may be given to Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church or a charity of your choice.



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Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, Fond du Lac County, Publication Summons And Notice (Small Claims) Case No: 24 SC 1872

GOCAR, LLC
243 Morris Court
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
Plaintiff(s)-vs-
Erin Thompson
1037 W. 10th Ave.
OSHKOSH, WI 54902
Defendant(s).

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing

TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):

You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above.

The lawsuit will be heard in the following Small Claims court: Fond du Lac County Court-house

Telephone Number of Clerk of Court: 920-929-3038

Courtroom/Room Number: Intake Court Room 2nd Floor

Address: 160 S. Macy St. Fond du Lac WI 54935

On the following date and time:

Date: 1/27/2025 Time: 9:00 a.m.

If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgement against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.

Dated: 1/9/2025
/s/ Frederick Baier
Phone: 920-539-3696
Run January 15, 2025, January 22, 2025 and January 29, 2025

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Sunny Question

Why are sunny winter days COLD, while sunny summer days are HOT? *Kid Scoop's* winter expert Dr. I. Cicle explains it all!

As you can see, it's a sunny winter day here and ...

YEAH! It's a sunny day! Let's hit the waves, Bro!

Uh, Dude, there's something really wrong with this sand. It's, like, frozen!

That's because it isn't sand. It's snow!

SNOW? But it's, like, sunny today. So why isn't the snow, like, melted?

I'm glad you asked! Let's pretend this snowball is Earth.

Earth is, like, WAY bigger, Dude!

The Earth tilts on its axis as it travels around the sun. In the winter, if the part of the Earth where you live is tilted away from the sun, it gets indirect sunlight.

Indirect sunlight doesn't warm up the Earth as much as the direct sunlight we get in the summer.

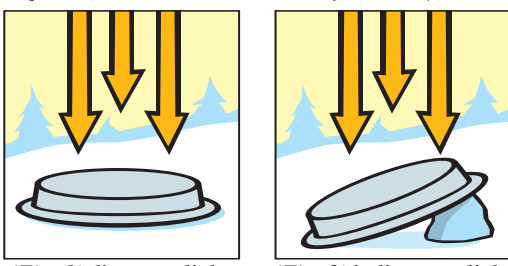
That is so cool! Now, why is this sand so COLD?

Standards Link: Earth Science: Students know that weather can be observed, measured and described; changes in weather and seasons are affected by the Earth's position.

Experiment Tells All
 Try this experiment to understand the difference between indirect and direct sunlight.
 Keep track of your work on a separate sheet of paper like the Scientist's Notebook.

Stuff you need:

- 2 metal pie tins or flat pans
- a sunny winter day
- watch or clock
- a rock



What to do:

1. Lay one pan flat on the ground in the direct sunlight. (Fig. 1)
2. Tilt the other pan on its side. Lean it against a rock or a shoe. This pan is being hit with indirect sunlight. (Fig. 2)
3. Wait three minutes.
4. Which pan is warmer?

Standards Link: Investigation: Students will make predictions based on observation; answer meaningful questions and draw conclusions.

SCIENTIST'S NOTEBOOK			
Question	Hypothesis	Observation	Conclusion
Which pan do you think will feel warmer after three minutes in the winter sun?	What do you think the answer to the question is? <input type="checkbox"/> pan in direct sunlight <input type="checkbox"/> pan in indirect sunlight	Which pan was warmer in three minutes? <input type="checkbox"/> pan in direct sunlight <input type="checkbox"/> pan in indirect sunlight	Was your hypothesis correct? What did you learn from this experiment?

Extra! Extra!
Without the Sun ...
 Without the sun we wouldn't have newspapers because newsprint is made from trees and trees need the sun to grow. Look through the newspaper for other things that need the sun to exist.

Standards Link: Language Arts/Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

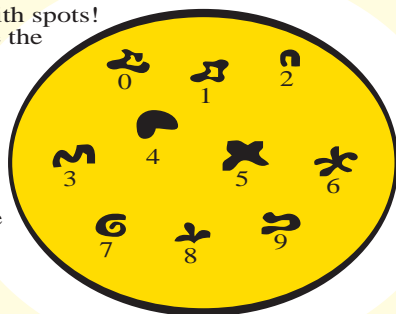
Sun Spot Mystery

The sun is covered with spots! Use the spots to solve the mystery questions.

How far is the sun from the Earth?
93 million miles (149.6 million km)

How long does it take the sun to make one complete rotation?
28 Earth days

What is the diameter of the sun?
864,000 miles. (1.4 million km)



WARNING!
 Never look directly at the sun as this can damage your eyesight!

Standards Link: Earth Science: Students know about the sun, planets and stars.

Double Double Word Search

SUNLIGHT EXPERIMENT
 SUMMER MILES
 PAPER DIAMETER
 HYPOTHESIS METAL
 WINTER SAND
 SNOWBALL PAN
 AXIS SHOE

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

S	I	S	E	H	T	O	P	Y	H
D	A	L	L	A	B	W	O	N	S
I	W	N	I	R	E	M	M	U	S
A	S	S	D	N	X	T	N	E	R
M	I	M	E	T	A	L	R	S	E
E	X	P	E	R	I	M	E	N	T
T	A	R	S	G	T	L	P	U	N
E	E	O	H	S	I	N	A	S	I
R	H	T	I	M	N	A	P	N	W

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

SMART FUN AT HOME

One important thing to understand when you read is **cause** and **effect**.

For example, in the legend of Groundhog Day, when the groundhog sees his shadow, he goes back in his burrow. In this case, the **effect** is that the groundhog goes back in his burrow. That is what happens. What **causes** him to go back in his burrow? Getting frightened by his shadow.



Try It!

1. With a parent or learning buddy at home, select an article from today's newspaper. Read the headline. Discuss what you think caused the news reported in the headline.
2. The headline usually tells what happened. This is called an **effect**. Read aloud to your learning buddy the first paragraph of the article. Does this tell you the **cause**? Read the rest of the article aloud. After each paragraph, stop and discuss what you have learned about what caused the news reported in the headline.

Complete the following:

HEADLINE (effect):

CAUSE(s):

NAME: _____

NAME OF LEARNING BUDDY: _____

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Distinguish between cause and effect in text.

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