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City refines housing project plans

Council reviews details of home-building push

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Oshkosh is set to spend around \$3.3 million to prepare sites for almost 50 new houses in the city.

The Common Council recently met with community development staff regarding the Farmington Avenue and Washington school housing projects. The council is poised to build housing as the community's needs for housing persist.

The city purchased Washington Elementary School at 929 Winnebago Ave. last year after the district did not receive

any requests to purchase the property. The city and Habitat for Humanity Oshkosh partnered on buying it and divided the land into 18 lots for workforce housing.

The nine Habitat homes will be built by the organization over time and follow the standard habitat home model. A private

SEE **Housing projects** ON PAGE 10

INSIDE



More mobility
FMTV order adds
air drop capability
Page 3

Tourney time
West wrestlers gain
regional titles
Page 16



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Family fun run

Josh Wara and his sons Calvin and Burke took advantage of heavy snowfall last weekend at Red Arrow Park's "Garbage Hill" to enjoy some sledding.

School board controversy lingers over ethics, defiance

Fake account inquiry fell short of resolution

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The discussion of elected officials using fake Facebook accounts continues as the school board president restated her disappointment with board members' online actions.

A complaint received in January by the Oshkosh Area School District said board members Kelly DeWitt and Tim Hess were using Facebook profiles under the

names of Missy Green and Mike Melter. The accounts posted opposing information about the district, district policy and the upcoming facilities referendum.

Board of Education president Beth Wyman took time to discuss the matter and make clarifications to comments made by residents.

"They are angry," Wyman said. "They are angry at Dr. Hess and Ms. DeWitt for



Wyman

operating under what they believe was a false narrative and they are angry at this board for not taking a stand to rebut the board member behavior expected ... and the decision not to remove them."

Online comments have been piling up since the Herald story was first published.

"Just truly shameful, pathetic stuff from elected officials," Ian Wenger posted. "It says a lot about their positions and policy choices that they have to lie and make fake profiles just to feign support."

Wyman classified the actions by DeWitt and Hess as deceitful.

"I am deeply disappointed that the be-

havior of the two school board members has damaged public trust, created community division and diverted our district's critical work," she said. "Real community dialogue happens when we speak authentically, listen respectfully and recognize that our differences may be a source of strength, not division."

Hess and DeWitt released a statement saying it was a partisan attempt to silence their views. During the investigation the duo admitted to using the profiles but in their statement did not explain their

SEE **School board** ON PAGE 10



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Submitted photo

Grace Lutheran students (from left) Elisabeth Hunke, Joeie Pucker, Tess Winchester, Addie Schultze and Georgia Jahnke show their Patriot's Pen awards with VFW Post 1908 members Jim Woodland, Dennis Jones and Commander Dave Steinert.

Patriot's Pen student essay writers recognized

Oshkosh Herald

Winners were announced from among 26 essays from Grace Lutheran School and Lourdes Academy submitted to Oshkosh VFW Florian-Lampert Post 1908 for the annual national Patriot's Pen Program.

The VFW-sponsored youth competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing views on a patriotic theme, this year's being "My Voice in America's Democracy?"

All participants received a certificate of merit while first-, second- and third-place winners were also awarded a medal and scholarship.

Grace Lutheran School seventh-grade winners were Tess Winchester, Addie Schultze and Georgia Jahnke. Eighth-grade winners were Elisabeth Hunke and Joeie Pucker, and Lourdes Academy's eighth-grade winner was Alexandra Douglas.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical Society

Feb. 21, 1963

Oshkosh Major League Pitchers

Head for Training Camp: Three Oshkosh products of baseball are headed south to their respective training camps to prepare for another season in the major leagues. Dave Tyriver, a big right-handed pitcher, left Thursday to join the Cleveland Indians in Tucson, AZ. Howie Koplitz, hurler for the Detroit Tigers, left Wednesday for Lakeland, FL and Billy Hoeft, recently traded to the San Francisco Giants from Baltimore, will train with his new ball club in Phoenix, AZ. Tyriver, who was called up to the parent club late last season, hopes to secure a position as reliever in the Cleveland bull pen. Koplitz may be in line for a starter position on the Tiger rotation this year while 13-year veteran Billy Hoeft will probably find time on the mound as a reliever. Last season with the Orioles, Hoeft worked 87 games, mainly as a reliever, and was credited with four wins and 8 losses over 114 innings. He faced 423 batters, allowed 103 hits and 7 homers while fanning 75 batters. His efforts allowed 43 hits earning him a 4.58 ERA

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Feb. 21, 1963

Annual spring seed swap event set at co-op

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Seed Savers' annual spring seed swap is set from 2 to 4 p.m. March 1 in the Oshkosh Food Co-op's community room and open to anyone interested in growing a food garden.

The volunteer-run nonprofit organization promotes and supports organic food growing on urban lots and community garden plots in the Fox Valley. The group maintains a seed collection of locally adapted varieties of vegetables, herbs,

fruits and flowers, and distributes seed to anyone with an interest in growing locally.

Prepackaged seeds will be available from the collection, and individual seed savers will be distributing from personnel collections. Participants don't need to bring anything in order to pick up seed for non-commercial personal use but locally grown seed or commercially packaged garden seed can be contributed.

For more information, visit oshkoshseedsavers.org.

DMV debuts new 'B' series of license plates

The state Department of Transportation (DOT) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will soon debut a new series of license plates that begin with the letter "B." After nearly eight years and 4.7 million letter and number combinations on license plates issued, all combinations of plates that begin with the letter 'A' have been exhausted.

The first batch of B plates will begin with BAA and will move through millions of letter and number combinations until all combinations starting with B are issued. Wisconsin DMV estimates that process will take about seven years through issuing new plates and automatically replacing

old plates still on the road.

Wisconsin plates had six characters until April 2017. The additional character yields about 100 million combinations; the previous six-character license plates yielded about 20 million combinations. The letters 'I', 'O', and 'Q' are not included in the combinations because they resemble numbers.

Each year, Wisconsin DMV issues more than 600,000 new license plates. About 3.5 million vehicles have standard Wisconsin plates. Vehicle owners looking to replace their older license plates can go to wisconsin.gov/Vreplace.

Art supply donation event set at food co-op

The Oshkosh Art Collective invites residents to bring new or gently used art supplies to swap or donate at its annual art supply swap and donation event from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday at the Oshkosh Food Co-op.

Donated art supplies benefit the Chris-

tine Ann Domestic Abuse Services Center and go to their art therapy room. Items sought include new or used art supplies in different mediums.

Donors should not bring paint thinner or other harsh painting or printing chemicals.

60th Wedding Anniversary



Bob and Barb Marin, married 9/26/1964, celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. They have one daughter Wendy and three grandchildren.



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Oshkosh Defense photo

The latest U.S. Army contract for medium tactical vehicles from Oshkosh Defense includes FMTVs that can withstand low-velocity air drops for quick deployment.

Oshkosh Defense gains new tactical vehicle order

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Defense has received multiple orders for additional Family of Medium Tactical Vehicle A2 (FMTV A2) trucks and trailers by the U.S. Army Contracting Command worth \$214.8 million.

The orders include the first low-velocity air drop (LVAD) vehicles designed for rapid deployment in contested and austere environments, according to the announcement. The FMTV variant enhances strategic mobility and sustainment operations that were demonstrated in air-drop testing last year.

The Oshkosh Corp. company anticipates a three-year contract extension in spring for order years eight through 10 as part of the initial contract awarded in 2018.

Oshkosh Defense has received orders for more than 3,000 FMTV A2s since it was selected by the Army in February 2018 to modify the FMTV A1P2 with an initial \$476 million contract.

“The FMTV A2 LVAD reinforces the U.S. Army’s commitment to equipping soldiers with the capability they need, when and where they need it most,” said Pat Williams, chief programs officer for Oshkosh Defense.

The FMTV A2 has 12 truck variants, four chassis and three trailer options with increased troop protection, higher payloads and better ride quality and mobility.

Williams said fielding of the vehicles is underway this year and the additional orders will build on the momentum of the FMTV A2 program.

Sturgeon spearers deal with cloudy conditions, snow cover

Oshkosh Herald

Sturgeon spearing season went into its closing days on the Winnebago system with higher numbers than last year when warmer weather limited water access but well below the pace of the three years before February 2024.

As the second weekend of the Winnebago sturgeon spearing season came to a close, 58 lake sturgeon were speared Sunday to bring the total harvested to 640, according to the state Department of Natural Resources.

Three more fish over 100 pounds were speared Sunday, putting that total at 38. The biggest fish from Lake Winnebago was taken by Evan Muche (144.5-pound, 76.1-inch, F2 female).

With weekend snowfall limiting access, more spearers were likely back on the ice Sunday to finish up the weekend spearing.

A total of 18 lake sturgeon were harvested Sunday on the Upriver Lakes.

There were a total of 302 sturgeon registered last year, of which 130 were taken from Upriver Lakes. That compares with 1,405 sturgeon harvested in the Winnebago System in 2023, 1,519 taken in 2022 and 1,832 in 2021.

Water clarity has been the big talk of this season, the DNR reports, particularly on Lake Winnebago. At the beginning of the season there was likely a large algae bloom and with the lack of snow, allowing sunlight to shine through the ice and allowing the algae and phytoplankton to feed excessively, causing poor water clarity.

While the snow is expected to be done for the spearing season, bitter cold temperatures were expected for the next few days.

Winnebago ice report

By Jim Nobbe

PAYNE’S POINT HOOK & SPEAR FISHING CLUB

With the recent snow fall, we are doing our best to keep roads plowed for the fishermen and spearers.

We have our main road plowed to 5 miles on the north side of our tree line. At 4 miles we plowed southeast to Brickyard Fishing Club’s one-mile marker. We have a road plowed to Grundman Lane boat launch where our truck bridge is.



We also plowed south to the east side of Garlic Island. Please give the plows space when they are plowing it’s hard to see at times.

Don’t be afraid to shovel off the bridges if they are snow covered. We have three truck bridges and an ATV bridge 0.3 miles out from our landing on the main crack and a truck bridge and an ATV bridge on the crack out from Grundman boat launch.

Don’t forget to support your local fishing clubs and remember the ice is never 100% safe.



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FEB 23	<p>Bridging Past & Present: Exploring Native American Cultural Heritage Increase your understanding of our region’s Indigenous communities, past and present. Learn about the recent Menominee Park archaeological work. Convention Center • 2 PM</p>

This is just the start. Activities and fun for all ages, indoors and out! Scan here and make plans now.




DiscoverOshkosh.com

Fraud case stalls as state looks into additional charges

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

An Oshkosh woman could be facing more criminal charges linked to her stealing funds from a health clinic in a fraudulent billing scheme.

Katie Niemuth, 40, is charged with misappropriating identity information to obtain money and theft-false representation greater than \$100,000.

Niemuth was in court last week for a potential plea/sentencing hearing when her attorney informed Judge Michael Gibbs that the state could be pursuing more charges.

Attorney Michael Lim told Gibbs he was working with prosecutors on a plea deal when he learned Niemuth could be facing more charges linked to this case.

Three parties are seeking restitution. Victim 1 is requesting \$110,000, victim 2 is requesting \$866 and the Cincinnati Insurance Co. is seeking \$25,000.

Court documents allege between 2020 and 2021 Niemuth made dozens of fraudulent billings totaling almost \$300,000 in theft from her former employer, Oshkosh Wellness Center.

Charges were filed in 2022 but dismissed as the Wisconsin Department of

Justice Medicaid Fraud Control and Elder Abuse Unit (MFCU) began investigating.

According to the criminal complaint, the clinic owner contacted police about the alleged theft in July 2021. An employee looking at past transactions noted a payment of \$2,130 that was not added



Niemuth

to the business' bank account. There were similar payments not added to the account in the amounts of \$8,711, \$7,708 and \$5,326.

The business contacted United Healthcare insurance company and learned two of the payments went to a

Square account that Niemuth owned. She told police she would transfer the money into an account she owned and then withdraw the amount from an ATM before giving it to the clinic owner.

Police allege the money was instead transferred into a checking account Niemuth controlled.

Another employee told police she believed Niemuth was double billing and noticed the ledger was not adding up.

When the employee questioned her about it, Niemuth allegedly told her to "keep her nose out of (it)."

An Oshkosh police detective obtained a subpoena for Niemuth's account and identified \$105,320.22 that went into her account that should have gone into the business account.

An MFCU investigator went over Medicaid billing at the clinic between 2019 and 2022 from one counselor that had worked at the Oshkosh clinic. Niemuth worked at the clinic in 2020 and 2021, during which time the amounts billed to Medicaid were much higher than in 2019 and 2022.

The investigator contacted several former patients of the clinic. Two separate parents said their child had visited the

clinic no more than five times but both children's Medicaid IDs were billed for 34 visits. Another patient had gone to the clinic five times or fewer and their Medicaid ID was billed for 73 appointments.

A fourth patient went to the clinic a significant number of times and the billing seemed appropriate, but her daughter's Medicaid ID was billed 70 times between 2019 and 2021 even though her daughter was never a patient there.

The investigator reviewed the Medicaid billing before and after Niemuth's time there. They conservatively estimated her fraudulent billing resulted in the overpayment of more than \$294,000.

Niemuth will be back in court April 14 for a hearing in front of Gibbs.

Delivery driver found competent for trial

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Winnebago County Circuit Judge Michael Gibbs ruled an Oshkosh pizza delivery driver competent to stand trial in a case scheduled to start in October.

Mark P. Radley, 70, is facing a sole count of hit-and-run involving death after his vehicle allegedly struck and killed a pedestrian near Ohio Street and Third Avenue about 13 months ago. If convicted, Radley faces up to 15 years in prison followed by up to 10 years of extended supervision. He has been on \$5,000 cash bond for a year.

In October, Radley picked up a new charge for felony bail jumping after he was arrested at a bar for violating an order to maintain absolute sobriety. In that case Radley is represented by Hogan and a preliminary hearing will be held today (Wednesday).

The competency hearing last week included testimony from two licensed psychologists who had both written competency reports on Radley's ability to participate in his defense as the case moves forward.

Assistant District Attorney Anthony Prekop, who is prosecuting the case, questioned Brandon Reintjes, who interviewed Radley twice in order to produce his reports.

Reintjes works for the Wisconsin Forensic Unit and testified Radley was competent and understood the court proceedings. His reports state Radley is competent to stand trial. Radley met with Reintjes

online over Zoom for less than two hours for the two interviews.

Radley's attorneys, Adam Nero and Tim Hogan, did not believe that was enough time and had their own competency examinations done by Steven Benson. Benson met with Radley for about 20 hours over several in-person visits.

Benson's reports were more in-depth with a lot of background information on Radley and his medical history. Benson concluded Radley was not competent to stand trial but could regain competence in the future.

After all testimony was taken, Gibbs found Radley was competent and does not lack substantial capacity to aid in his trial.

Police were dispatched just after 6:30 p.m. Jan. 10, where an officer found Zachary Hagar, 38, in the southbound lane of Ohio Street with a head injury. EMS personnel attempted lifesaving measures but Hagar was declared deceased shortly after.

Authorities identified a silver minivan with a license registered to Radley. Officers located the vehicle and noted damage to the front.

Radley was a delivery driver and his manager reported he had several deliveries that day. Video shows Radley leaving with pizza boxes at 6:11 p.m. and returning at 6:40 with "significant damage" to the front end of his vehicle. He allegedly inspected the damage before going into the restaurant.

A hearing will be held Sept. 4 before a planned jury trial in October.

FVTC signs transfer agreement with Ripon

Oshkosh Herald

Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) and Ripon College now have an articulation agreement for a collegiate transfer program between the two colleges.

The agreement signed Feb. 6 creates opportunities for students to complete their first two years of general education classes, earn an associate of arts or an associate of science degree at Fox Valley Technical

College, and transfer all credits to Ripon College to pursue a bachelor's degree with junior standing.

FVTC's University Transfer Degree (UTD) program launched in January 2023 serves 377 students pursuing an associate degree.

FVTC offers more than 250 associate degree, technical diploma and other certificate programs.

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TUESDAY-SATURDAY

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Local man charged with burglarizing construction sites

By Bethanie Gengler
OSHKOSH HERALD

A former Oshkosh man has been charged in connection with a string of thefts from construction sites in Oshkosh, Fox Crossing and Neenah.

Joshua Worm, 35, whose current address is in Menasha, was charged in January with targeting construction sites after hours and stealing tools, equipment and materials. Some of the stolen items were believed to have been sold online or to a local scrap metal dealer.

According to the criminal complaint, a construction site on Dixie Road in Neenah was burglarized on Dec. 13. The suspect cut the locks off a trailer and storage container and stole employees' tools, personal property and copper wire with a total value of more than \$35,000.

On Dec. 18, police searched a residence on South Sawyer Street in Oshkosh and recovered a concrete saw, grinder and batteries. The residence was that of an acquaintance who said Worm gave him the items but suspected he had not paid for them.

On the evening of Dec. 19, a construction site on West 6th Avenue in Oshkosh was burglarized. The suspect removed the locks from two large construction containers and stole more than \$10,000 worth of construction equipment and supplies.

That same night, the lock was cut on a box truck parked in the 1000 block of Valley Road in Fox Crossing and \$7,500 worth of tools were stolen.

Worm's truck was believed to be connected to construction site burglaries in the area and Fox Crossing police

obtained a court order to install a GPS tracking device on it. GPS data showed Worm's truck was at the Dixie Road construction site around the time of the burglary. Documents say Worm used his girlfriend's car while burglarizing the construction site in Oshkosh.

On the night of Dec. 20, an officer tracked Worm's truck to Cameron Circle in Neenah where he parked at the Bridgewood Resort Hotel construction site. The officer observed the door of a building that had pry or tool damage near the locking mechanism, but the door was secure and the officer couldn't determine if Worm gained access.

On Dec. 22, Oshkosh police were surveilling Worm's truck through the GPS device as he drove slowly behind closed businesses in Fox Crossing.

Worm parked in front of a business on Valley Road and then entered the same box truck that was vandalized three days before. Officers found him inside the truck with a methamphetamine pipe in his pocket.

Worm was booked into the Winnebago County Jail and his truck was seized. Officers found bolt cutters, a blower, several battery banks and a chainsaw with the name of one of the burglarized businesses on it, among other tools and items in the truck.

That same day officers executed a search warrant at an apartment on County Y in Oshkosh that Worm shared with his girlfriend and her 8-year-old child, who were home at the time.

Officers found a significant amount of items in the apartment believed to be stolen. Documents say that due to

the volume of items recovered from the residence, officers had to rent a large U-Haul truck to transport them.

Also located in the home were 68 grams of methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia and a suspected drug ledger. On a small table in the living room at a height "easily accessible" to the child living in the residence was a mirror with methamphetamine on it and a pipe.

Worm's girlfriend, who has not been charged in connection with the burglaries or drugs, told police that a couple of nights a week Worm would leave and come back with tools or other items. She acknowledged selling a spool gun for \$1,000 on eBay and said she went with Worm twice to Green Bay to sell scrap wire, making about \$1,000.

She also gave police the unit number and lock code to a storage unit in her name, where officers recovered pieces of steel rebar tagged with the name of a construction company, a ladder, ratchet straps, concrete saw and tools.

Worm was already facing seven felony

and three misdemeanor drug, concealed weapon and bail jumping charges in three open cases when he was charged with an additional seven felony and three misdemeanor counts in connection with the construction site burglaries.

He's due in court Monday on the newest charges, which include theft of movable property, burglary, bail jumping, receiving or concealing stolen property as a party to a crime, possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, possess drug paraphernalia and neglecting a child.

In an impact statement, one of the construction companies targeted wrote that it has had to take additional steps to secure job sites and employees are worried about keeping personal tools on job sites.

"It is very traumatic for a trades person to show up to work one morning only to find out that someone has stolen all of the tools that they have personally purchased and that they use daily to make a living," the company wrote.

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Ascension



Oshkosh Herald

Rail crews at work

Canadian National (CN) railroad crews install rails Thursday at the crossing on Ceape Avenue that closed off road traffic during the week. CN officials said the work was to be completed by last weekend as safety measures were in place.

Wisconsin Herd jerseys to mark Black History Month

Oshkosh Herald

The Wisconsin Herd and TDS Telecom are hosting a Black History Month Celebration Night on Saturday at the Oshkosh Arena with specialty jerseys that showcase nine Black leaders who have made notable impacts in U.S. history.

During the game that tips off at 7 p.m. against the Motor City Cruise, the Herd will play in jerseys with portraits by artist Patrick "Patcasso" Hunter with the theme of "Blueprints of Progress." Each player will play in a jersey that represents a different legend.

The living and past legends include Dave Bing, Ed Dwight, Valerie Mosley, Rosa Parks, Ulice Payne Jr., Wilma Rudolph, Wilson Smith III, Mike Taylor and Malcolm X.

Oratorical, essay contest winners named

Oshkosh Herald

Winners of the Oshkosh Noon Optimist Club's annual oratorical and essay contests held Feb. 5 at the Delta Restaurant were announced.

Ariana King won first place in the essay contest with Brooklyn Grams taking sec-

ond place and Malia Basiliere taking third. First-place winner in the oratorical contest was Carly Matiash, second place went to Susannah Johns and third place to Raina Krupinski.

The jerseys can be bid on at herd-

bhm.givesmart.com until noon March 1 with proceeds benefiting the Harold Lefty Williams DARE2DREAM Foundation.

All winners were awarded a ribbon, certificate and a cash prize.

Volunteer needs

The **Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 17** transportation program in Winnebago County is looking for two volunteers to help schedule veterans for their VA appointments to the Green Bay and Appleton facilities for health care. DAV office workers typically work once a week for two to three hours and schedule patients with appointments. Volunteers must undergo U.S. DAV orientation and training. Reach out to Kyle Newkirk at 920-431-2639 or Kyle.Newkirk@va.gov.

Aurora Health Care - Oshkosh seeks Surgery Center volunteers to support patients and families. Duties include providing comfort, answering phones, giving updates, escorting families and maintaining the waiting area. Contact Jane at Jane.Barber@aah.org to learn more.

Oshkosh Salvation Army is seeking a donation pickup driver/assistant. Volunteers pick up morning donations, and sort and weigh the items. This is an ongoing opportunity with one regular shift. Shift: 7:45-10:30 a.m. Contact Patricia to learn more at patricia.zastrow@usc.salvationarmy.org or 920-232-7660 Ext. 1013.

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 \$4.99 Mary's Organic Breasts & Thighs - ~1 lb.	 2/\$5 Just Bare Chicken Drumsticks - 20 oz.	 2/\$6 Applegate Uncured Natural Bacon - 8 oz.	 2/\$6 Smart Chicken Party Wings - ~1.25 lb.
 \$4.99 Smart Chicken Organic Drumsticks - ~1.25 lb.	 2/\$7 Tasty Bite Simmer Sauces - 13 oz.	 2/\$3 Saratoga Water (Sparkling & Still) - 28 oz.	 \$4.99/lb. Italian Pasta Salad - Reg. Price \$8.99/lb.
 \$6.99/lb. Lemon Garlic Pasta Salad - Reg. Price \$9.99/lb.	 \$5.99 Crooks Canned Cocktails - 4 pack	 \$8.99 Fulton Lonely Blonde - 12 pack	 \$11.99 Confidential Wines - Reg. Price \$14.99

Offers valid 2/20-2/23/2025, while supplies last. Must be 21+ to purchase alcohol.



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Downtown treats

Visitors to Elsewhere Market & Coffee House brave the weather for the fourth annual Downtown Chocolate Stroll that was held at a variety of locations Saturday.

fresh deals

Offers valid 2/19-2/25/2025, while supplies last.

 2/\$7 Organic Blueberries - 6 oz.	 2/\$6 Organic Carrots - 2 lb. bag	 \$3.99/lb. Organic Red, Orange & Gold Bell Peppers
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coop deals

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UW Oshkosh graduates

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh 60th midyear commencement Dec. 14 at Kolf Sports Center recognized students from its campuses in Oshkosh and Fox Cities. About 700 students earned associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

- Students from Oshkosh included:
- Noah Alford, bachelor of science, criminal justice
 - Anna Allen, bachelor of science in nursing, nursing
 - Stephanie Aung-Naing, associate of arts and science
 - Samuel Ayoade, bachelor of science, software technology
 - Joseph Bacarella, bachelor of science, psychology
 - Zachary Beasom, bachelor of business administration, economics
 - Naziha Bouabdallaoui, bachelor of science, human services leadership
 - Kayla Buelow, bachelor of science in education
 - Nicholas Cameron, bachelor of music
 - Kailee Choinski, bachelor of science in education
 - Morgen Coe, bachelor of fine arts
 - Ashley Corley, bachelor of science, biology
 - Baylee Cottrell, bachelor of science in

- education
- Laura Courchene, bachelor of science in nursing
- Grace Donne, master of business administration
- David Duong, bachelor of science, biomedical science
- Leah Engstrom, bachelor of business administration
- McKenna Feggestad, bachelor of science in education
- Sydney Foote, bachelor of science in nursing
- Jayda Friedenfels, bachelor of business administration, marketing
- Alycia Fritschka, master of arts, English
- Brandon Genz, bachelor of science, physics
- Mason Getsfried, bachelor of science in education
- Mackenzie Gillen, bachelor of science in nursing
- Alyce Glosson, bachelor of science, psychology
- McKenna Hadel, bachelor of arts, psychology
- Ava Haugen, bachelor of science, psychology
- Katelyn Holz, associate of arts and science
- Annie Howe, bachelor of science in nursing
- Karissa Jahn, bachelor of science in education
- Nichole Janak, bachelor of arts, anthropology
- Jenna Jansky, bachelor of science in nursing
- Lisa Johnson, bachelor of science in education
- Isabelle Kaiser, bachelor of arts, Japanese studies

- Gabrielle Kametz, bachelor of science in nursing
- Jack Keating, bachelor of science, environmental studies
- Cody Kessler, bachelor of science, biomedical
- Christina Kimball, bachelor of science in nursing
- Veda Kistenmacher, bachelor of arts, Radio-TV-Film
- Ryan Klatt, bachelor of science in education
- Benjamin Leasum, bachelor of arts, Radio-TV-Film
- Jacob Lefeber, bachelor of science, Radio-TV-Film
- Colin Long, master of science, biology
- Michael Lor, bachelor of science in education
- Kayla Luebke, bachelor of science, psychology
- Fatima Muniz, bachelor of science, mathematics
- Kylie O'Connor, bachelor of arts, English
- Brock Pecore, bachelor of science, rehabilitation science
- Stephanie Pitz, bachelor of business administration, finance
- Heather Relien, master of business administration
- Taitt Richter, bachelor of business administration
- Joseph Romberg, bachelor of business administration
- Alexis Schaefer, bachelor of science, biology
- Alison Schaeve, bachelor of arts, psychology
- Valerie Seeley, bachelor of science in nursing
- Jennifer Stark, associate of arts and sci-

- ence
- Jenna Steder, bachelor of science in nursing
- Audrey Stephenson, bachelor of science, psychology
- Allie Stockwell, bachelor of science in education
- Cora Strand, bachelor of arts, sociology
- Katelin Swanson, bachelor of science in nursing
- Taylor Swanson, bachelor of science, psychology
- Luke Sweere, bachelor of business administration, finance
- Giselle Tarango, associate of arts and science
- Sarah Vandersee, bachelor of fine arts
- Molly Walter, bachelor of science in education
- Sophia Walters, bachelor of business administration, human resources
- Deondria Ward, bachelor of science in nursing
- Evan Wendland, bachelor of science, criminal justice
- Caleb Williams, bachelor of science, biology
- Andrew Wilson, bachelor of science, electrical engineering technology
- Rebecca Wolf, associate of arts and science
- Kaden Wright, bachelor of business administration, finance
- Olivia Wruck, bachelor of science, mechanical engineering technology
- Carrie Yerges, bachelor of science in education
- Halley Young, bachelor of science, human services leadership
- Taycee Zach, bachelor of science, multimedia journalism

Local college graduates

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point conferred degrees to 462 graduates for the fall 2024 semester. Graduates from Oshkosh included:

- Dominick Fosso, bachelor of science, conservation law enforcement
- Noelle Frank, bachelor of science, communication sciences and disorders
- Devin Loomans, doctor of physical therapy
- Elizabeth Potratz, bachelor of science, elementary education

Three students from Oshkosh completed degree requirements at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in December:

- Josh Dean, master of science, data science
- Reis Hitz, bachelor of science, microbiology major
- Katherine Osborne, bachelor of science, psychology major

More than 1,600 graduates received degrees from Iowa State University in December. Graduates from Oshkosh included Natalie Grace Ott, bachelor of science, agricultural business



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Point in time homeless count: Who gets counted, who doesn't?

By Hallie Claflin
WISCONSIN WATCH

Just before midnight, with a fresh layer of snow sticking to the ground, volunteers Sandy Hahn and Britanie Peaslee slowly drive through Jefferson County's local parking lots, gas stations, truck stops, parks, trails and laundromats, keeping their eyes peeled.

They're grateful for the snowfall, which makes it easier to see footprints, fogged windows and occupied vehicles. They have a long night ahead of them, and being in a rural area makes their job — finding those without shelter — even more challenging.

"It's a little bit easier when it is colder because you can see, OK this windshield is frosted from the inside, somebody's been breathing in there for quite a while," Peaslee said.

In Johnson Creek, they find most of the homeless living in cars parked behind the Pine Cone Travel Plaza — a local restaurant, gas station and truck stop. The duo carefully approach each vehicle — one with a sleeping child in the back — with blankets and a four-page questionnaire.

But that's assuming the unhoused are willing to engage with the strangers at all, let alone at 3 a.m. while it's 7 degrees and snowing outside.

Jan. 22 marked Hahn and Peaslee's fifth time participating in the annual "point in time" (PIT) count — a one-night snapshot of the number of people experiencing homelessness across the United States, including Wisconsin. The pair were among the eight volunteers conducting the counts in Jefferson County, a number Hahn considered to be low. Being in a small, rural area, they struggle to recruit volunteers.

This one-night snapshot — first conducted in 2005 — is the only required count of all people experiencing homelessness each year in the United States. The volunteers must follow strict guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Peaslee said locating people is the biggest challenge in rural areas. Many are sleeping in abandoned buildings or other private



Wisconsin Watch photo

Sandy Hahn talks to someone sleeping in a car in the parking lot behind the Pine Cone Travel Plaza in Johnson Creek, where she found a handful of people sleeping in their cars.

property they can't access. The volunteers do their best not to miss anyone, while also keeping their own safety in mind.

"Depending on how treacherous it is outside, sometimes we'll go into the woods," Hahn said.

In addition to gas station parking lots, they've seen several third-shift workers parked at local factories who are living in their cars.

Each January count isn't released until December, even though lawmakers will soon set housing and emergency shelter funding for the next two years in the upcoming state budget.

Volunteers in Oshkosh conducted a local PIT count Jan. 22 canvassed local parks, parking lots, under bridges and other structures commonly frequented by those without stable housing.

Twenty individuals, including some with children, were located. After completing the survey, volunteers offered participants water, snacks, sandwiches and infor-

mation on community resources.

Last year there was an 18% increase in the homeless count nationwide based on the count taken in January 2024. In rural Wisconsin the increase was 9%. In Jefferson County the volunteers recorded three homeless people a year ago. This year the final tally was 13 — a number that likely still doesn't come close to capturing the true population.

HUD determines that the yearly PIT count must be conducted on the same night in January in every state across the country. Each Continuum of Care — regional organizations operating under HUD that carry out the counts — may conduct a July count in addition to the mandated one in January.

"They want us to go out in the middle of the night because they feel that's when people would be sleeping, and they would be hunkered down in their standard spots," said Diane Sennholz, who leads the count in Lincoln, Marathon and Wood counties. "If we were to go out during the day, they might be at the library or the grocery store or walking around."

Wisconsin's Balance of State CoC, which covers all 69 counties in Wisconsin besides Milwaukee, Dane and Racine, requires each county in its jurisdiction to carry out a summer count. Others, like Dane County, typically conduct only the required January count.

Frigid temperatures tend to drive more people into emergency homeless shelters, making the count easier. That model might work in cities, but in rural areas like Jefferson County, there are no homeless shelters.

Out of necessity, those experiencing homelessness in a county with no shelters will do everything they can to stay on a friend's couch or find somewhere warm, making them harder to find and impossible to include in the count. Those temporarily staying with a friend or family mem-

ber don't count.

Jefferson County's summer PIT count has increased each year since 2021 — a trend that can be seen statewide. In 2022, the county's January count was zero compared to seven recorded in the summer count.

"We definitely don't find as many in January as we would in summer," Hahn said. "People are more willing to open up their barns, their garages, their extra bedroom, especially on weeks like this when it's negative 40."

Peaslee and Hahn, who are both involved in the community's poverty-fighting coalition, know the problem is worse than what the count portrays.

"We're not finding an eighth of how many are truly out there," Peaslee said.

Homelessness in rural Wisconsin, while often unseen, is increasing. Yet a grueling funding landscape, among other challenges, poses obstacles for local shelters and rural providers.

On the night of the count, Hahn and Peaslee headed to a truck stop in Johnson Creek where people are known to sleep in their cars. The vehicles were lined up on the farthest end of the lot. One person refused to roll down the window and speak to them.

It happens often, but Peaslee and Hahn can't blame them. After all, it's the middle of the night, and they are two strangers who come bearing a four-page survey. HUD requires the volunteers to gather as much information about the individual as possible.

The pair spoke to someone in another car who knew the individual and confirmed they were unhoused, leading Hahn to fill out an observation form. Volunteers have seven days following the count to attempt to make contact with those individuals again to confirm whether they were homeless on the night of the count. Without that confirmation, they can't be counted.

The following week, Hahn had no luck tracking down the individual. The person was placed on an observation sheet, but not included in the official count.

Volunteers are not allowed to assume that someone is "literally homeless" in accordance with HUD definitions. But Hahn noted that the car was running in the middle of the night for warmth and there were blankets covering the windows for privacy. Unhoused people who could otherwise be counted are being missed in these instances.

"If somebody has all these personal belongings in their car, you can kind of tell at that point that they're experiencing homelessness," said Lyric Glynn, who leads the count in Kewaunee, Door, Manitowoc and Sheboygan counties. "But we can't count them all the time because they're sleeping and we haven't been able to do a survey with them."

This year, two individuals in Jefferson County ended up on the observation form instead of being recorded in the official

SEE **Homeless count** ON PAGE 9

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• Polka kick off at 4pm
• Line dancing at 7pm

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Homeless count

FROM PAGE 8

count. In July, that number was 10.

The day after the count, Hahn makes calls to determine how many hotel vouchers were distributed that night. Those who are unhoused and temporarily staying in a hotel are counted in the count, but only if they've received a voucher for their stay. HUD specifies that if they're paying for the room themselves, or if someone else is paying for them, they cannot be included, excluding even more of the population from the count.

In Jefferson County, Hahn said those motel vouchers are hard to come by due to minimal funding. People in hotels often pay through other means.

"There are so many barriers," Peaslee said.

While federal funding for housing and shelter programs isn't directly tied to the results of the count, it is used in determining a community's level of need, according to Ann Oliva, CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. The federal McKinney-Vento Act also requires HUD to determine whether a community is reducing homelessness, and the count is one of multiple criteria scored in the evaluation.

Despite its flaws, Wisconsin's PIT count shows that statewide homelessness has been increasing. In the "balance" of the state, the mostly rural homeless population increased from 2,938 individuals in 2023 to 3,201 in 2024, the highest number recorded since 2017.

In 2020, a federal moratorium established a temporary pause on evictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. But the federal government lifted that measure

in August 2021.

Glynn said she has concerns about lawmakers, agencies and other officials relying on more than year-old PIT count data.

"When they're using outdated numbers from years ago, especially early pandemic numbers, they're not gauging what happened after the pandemic when the eviction moratorium ended and when individuals started getting evicted from units," Glynn said.

The delayed release of these yearly counts is also a problem when applying for local grants, Glynn said. Application reviewers often look at counts from the previous year. The CoCs have the most recent totals, which sometimes don't match HUD's latest figures.

In a state budget year, it would help if officials could have earlier access to the latest counts, Glynn said.

In the state's 2023-25 biennial budget, the Legislature rejected Gov. Tony Evers' recommendations to spend some \$24 million on emergency shelter and housing grants, as well as homeless case management services and rental assistance for unhoused veterans.

The Legislature also rejected the \$250 million Evers proposed for affordable workforce housing and home rehabilitation grants.

Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez joined a group of volunteers in western Wisconsin on the night of the count this year, where she expressed concerns about rising housing costs and emergency shelter services. She said Evers' budget "is going to have those types of investments."

Evers was set to announce his 2025-27 state budget proposal this week (Feb. 18).

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that municipalities can enforce bans on homeless people sleeping in public places.



Photo from Communities program

Pet project

Maximus was winner of Oshkosh North High School's Communities program Cutest Pet Contest that raised funds for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund to help aid victims of the California wildfires and other disasters. There were 155 pets entered between Feb. 6-10 and 1,779 votes cast that raised \$1,690. "We're overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response from our community," said Gina Munig, Leadership teacher for Communities.

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Calendar of events

Thursday, Feb. 20

EAA Speaker Series: Flying the A-6 Intruder, 7 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum
Wisconsin Herd vs. Capitol City Go-Go, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Friday, Feb. 21

Crystal Gayle, 8 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh
"February" screening, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Saturday, Feb. 22

Echoes of the Past Historical Trade Fair, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center
Chili cook-off, 9:30 a.m., Team WinnebagoLand, 5827 Green Valley Road
Wisconsin Herd vs. Motor City Cruise, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena
Winnebago County Farm Bureau Community Night, 2 p.m., Brighton Acres, 4057 Fisk Ave.
Good Co Electro-Swing Band, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Sunday, Feb. 23

Echoes of the Past Historical Trade Fair, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center
OAC Art Supply Swap & Donation, noon, Oshkosh Food Co-op, 155 Jackson St.
Bridging Past and Present: Exploring Native American Cultural Heritage, 2 p.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Wisconsin Herd vs. Windy City Bulls, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Sister's Easter Catechism, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Friday, Feb. 28

Christine Ann Fundraiser: Men Who Cook, 5:30 p.m., Oshkosh Convention Center
Listen to Her Heart: The Tom Petty Experience, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh
Wisconsin Herd vs. Raptors 905, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Saturday, March 1

Gibson Social Club Bags Tournament, noon, 537 N. Main St.
Oshkosh Gallery Walk, 6 p.m., downtown galleries and businesses
Fasching celebration, 5 p.m., Poplar Creek Barn, 4541 County K
Boots vs. Badges Basketball Game, 2 p.m., Oshkosh Arena
Miss Oshkosh and Miss Oshkosh Teen Scholarship Competition, 7 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium
Wisconsin Herd vs. Raptors 905, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Wednesday, March 5

Aesop Bops, 12:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Thursday, March 6

Jazzmeia Horn, 6 and 8 p.m., The Howard

Friday, March 7

Veterans Prohibition Ball with comedian James B. Connolly, 6 p.m., Venue 404

Housing projects

FROM PAGE 1

developer will build the other nine homes for the city and the council is working through the details of the project.

Who will the homes be sold to? Will the city look to get a return on the investment in a special fund? How much will the homes cost? Those were some of the questions the council went over in regards to both housing projects.

The Farmington Avenue project is to be completed in two phases with a total of 31 homes being built by private developers.

The city has already spent \$75,000 of ARPA funds to acquire the site and just over \$207,000 to get rid of the asbestos and demolish the building. The city estimates it will spend another \$450,000 to install utilities in the area, bringing the total before any homes are built to \$732,585.

Nieforth said the city hopes to have the homes start to be built in the next three years and that phase two of Farmington could begin in five years.

The Farmington project has cost much more due to the land costs and utilities installation. The city has spent just over \$300,000 for the two lots. Utilities are set to cost \$1.2 million for phase one and about \$1.1 million for phase two.

The city is planning to build homes ranging from 1,300 to 1,500 square feet with an average cost of around \$200 per square foot. The city is slated to use the housing design book for developers to get ideas for homes that will fit in the area.

For Washington, the homes would generally be 1.5-story, three-bedroom and two-bathroom plans with unfinished

basements and an opportunity for another bathroom in a potential basement remodel. Through data collected from local developers and sale numbers, the city estimates these houses to cost around \$260,000 for a 1,300-square-foot home.

The council was presented with two sets of data related to income eligibility for potential buyers. One set was from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that uses county data to classify workforce housing. The other was U.S. Census data that is specific for Oshkosh. It matters what data the council chooses because the median income for Winnebago County is \$99,100 and \$61,929 for Oshkosh.

Workforce housing is set at 80% to 120% of the area median income (AMI). The income range for people in Winnebago County would be between around \$80,000 to almost \$120,000, but if the council chooses census data the income range would be closer to \$50,000 to \$75,000.

City staff were directed by council to use the city numbers.

The council also directed staff to look into adding protections on these developments to ensure the houses aren't flipped for profit or turned into a rental property in the near future by considering a 10-year, owner-occupied clause.

An owner-occupied clause is attached to the deed of the house and makes sure the owner is using the home as their primary residence and not renting it out to a third party. If the original owner moves out after two years into the 10-year clause the next owner cannot turn the home into a rental property.

The city will continue to discuss these topics as the project progresses.

Recycling class offered by Tri-County group

Winnebago, Brown and Outagamie counties, working together as the Tri-County Recycling Partnership, are offering a recycling seminar to give participants the tools needed to teach family, neighbors, friends and co-workers how to recycle correctly.

Recycle Right Master Class: 101 is set from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the

Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Y. Attendees learn what goes in their recycle bins, what stays out and how get their recycling questions answered. Specific topics include why we recycle, a deep dive through the Tri-County Recycling Facility, recycling best practices, common contaminants and what happens to recyclable materials after they leave the sorting facility.

School board

FROM PAGE 1

actions. Instead, the pair stated it was an attempt to infringe on their First Amendment rights to free speech.

"We take the attempt to curtail our constitutionally protected freedom of speech very seriously, and will resist with all our strength should it ever resurface again," the joint statement read.

Wyman countered at last week's school board meeting, "This is not about partisan politics or limiting speech. It is about upholding the sacred trust between elected officials and the citizens they serve."

District legal counsel investigated the accounts after a complaint was received and found insufficient evidence to prove either DeWitt or Hess violated board policy po0144.5 relating to board member behavior, communications and code of

conduct.

Wyman said the investigation was hampered by the fake accounts being deleted shortly after the investigation was revealed.

"Using (Facebook) accounts to create dialogue is not transparency. It's a manufactured illusion," Wyman said. "Elected leadership requires the courage to be direct and stand behind your words."

Before the Mike Melter account was taken down it had interreacted with the Tim Hess for School Board page leading up to the spring election last year.

In Wisconsin, school boards do not have the authority to remove elected board members. The members would need to be recalled by voters in a separate election.

DeWitt and Hess have been the only voices on the board opposing the 2025 referendum with both voting against the \$197.8 million referendum question on the April 1 ballot.

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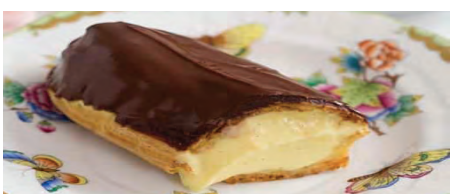
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Studinski steps into leadership role for Knights

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Just call him “Breakout Braden.” The nickname fits Braden Studinski because he has put together a breakout season for the Lourdes’ Academy boys’ basketball team.

Studinski’s days as a role player have disappeared and he’s become the Knights’ team leader and go-to scorer.

Studinski has nearly tripled his scoring numbers from last year and ranks among the team leaders in most categories. Studinski leads the Knights in scoring average (13.9 points per game) and steals (2.4 per game). He is second in three-pointers (15) and assists (1.8 per game) and third in rebounding average (4.8 per game).

“Braden is one of the most competitive players I’ve had the privilege of coaching,” said Lourdes coach Brett Baehman. “He has a tenacity about him that is hard to pull out of high school kids.”

Studinski is the lone senior starter on a young Knights team that has only one other senior (Anthony Behnke) in Baehman’s rotation.

Studinski has been asked to not only carry the scoring load but provide direction and leadership.

“We don’t have many guys with a lot of varsity experience so I try to be a leader,” Studinski said. “I try to teach out there and also learn from my teammates because I haven’t played much with them until this year. I need to understand their game.”

The 6-foot-1 Studinski is a third-year varsity player who was a valuable member of the Knights’ rotation the past two years. In 26 games as a junior (with four starts), Studinski averaged 5.2 points, 2.8 rebounds and 1.3 assists with eight 3-pointers. As a sophomore, he played in 23 games (with two starts) and averaged 1.5 points and 1.4 rebounds with a pair of 3-pointers.

“Our coaches told me at the beginning of this year they were behind everything I do on the court and fully support me,” said Studinski. “They know that I’m capable of taking over a game and are behind me.”

It wasn’t too long ago that Studinski was the young buck, learning from the older players.

“I was a role player in the past,” Studinski said. “J.J. McKellips kind of took me under his wing, especially my junior year. He told me that I was on the court for a reason and that they trusted me as player and scorer. He said, ‘Just do your thing.’”

Studinski has done his thing and made significant contributions in multiple areas.

“Braden learned a lot from last year’s seniors,” Baehman said. “Each year he’s made significant strides as a member of our program. His path to becoming

Senior Spotlight

the senior leader he is today has been unique yet he’s never wavered. He has learned to support the younger players on and off the court. Braden is a great kid and I’m grateful to have been able to coach him the past four years.”

Studinski is a versatile scorer who can create his own shots. He can make plays off the dribble and is a threat from the perimeter.

“I do embrace it (his scoring role), but really, I’m going to do whatever is needed to help us win,” Studinski said. “I have a lot of confidence in my game. Last year, I was getting my shots off back-door cuts and put-backs. Now, I’m creating my own spacing. I can come off a screen and hit a shot or create an open shot. If I see a mismatch, I’ll go to the rim. I also feel like my off-ball defense has really improved.”

Studinski is a versatile athlete who was a big-play wide receiver for the Knights’ football team.

He was a second-team all-Trailways Conference selection at wide receiver in 2024 after leading the Knights in receptions (43), receiving yards (671), yards-per-catch (15.6) and touchdowns (nine). As a junior, he had 24 receptions for 288 yards and two touchdowns.

“I love being a receiver – it’s the best,” he said. “I used to only play on defense earlier in my football career, but having the ball in your hands, it’s just a different feeling.”

Studinski, a solid student with a 3.2 grade-point average, will attend the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh next fall and join the Titans’ respected football program. He will play his college games on the same venue – J.J. Keller Field at Titans Stadium – that he competed on as a Lourdes player.

“Obviously, UWO is right in my own back yard and I was really impressed after visiting there,” Studinski said. “I talked to a lot of the players and coaches and I’m excited about joining the program. My parents (Keri and Craig) will get a chance to see my games and there is just a real brotherhood there. It’s a great environment and it’s the right environment for me.”



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Senior Braden Studinski is in the midst of a breakout season with the Knights averaging nearly 14 points per game while filling a leadership role on the young squad.





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Two West wrestlers capture WIAA regional titles

By Joe Matzek
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

KAUKAUNA – Oshkosh West's Preston Schneider and Edwyn Schroeder won regional championships and seven other Wildcats earned a trip to sectionals at the WIAA Division 1 Kaukauna regional Saturday.

Schneider won his three matches by pin at 126 pounds to improve to 35-13 on the season. In the final, he gave up an early takedown to Kaukauna's Hunter Taff but then took control and pinned Taff in 3 minutes, 50 seconds.

"I feel like I pretty much wrestled to my potential and wrestled really tough," the Wildcats freshman said. "I feel like I did really well on my feet this tournament and

really kept the pressure on."

Schneider started his regional with a pin in 1:25 over Liam Torres of Oshkosh North before pinning Xander Schiltz of Appleton East in 3:03.

Schroeder (47-3), ranked third in the state by Wisconsin Grappler, took the 138-pound title but only had to wrestle once.

After receiving a bye in his first match, he pinned Neenah's Dane Granditzke in 1:27 and then won the title by medical default over Kaukauna's Perry Baehr.

"It's definitely different. I've never experienced anything like it before," Schroeder said of his day. "The matches that count are next week and the following week, so I'll gear up for all of those

matches."

Two West wrestlers took runner-up in their brackets.

Ryland Schneider (43-5), a senior, took second place at 175. He pinned Reed Beck of Kimberly in 1:13 in the quarterfinals and pinned Nathan Lenz-Messman of Menasha in 1:12 in the semifinals before losing a 7-1 decision to Kaukauna's Liam Crook in the championship.

Nelson Fournier (38-10) placed second at 215 after losing a 4-3 decision to Zach Winnekens of Kaukauna. Fournier received a bye in the quarterfinals and pinned Neenah's Khalid Williams in 5:31 in a semifinal match.

Wrestlers who finished in fourth place or higher qualified for next Saturday's sectional at Menasha. Other Oshkosh West wrestlers qualifying for sectionals were Xavier Vang, fourth at 113 pounds; Yylah Yang, third at 120; Jaxen Lloyd, third at 144; Jaiden Fronczak, third at 165; and Zach Bartels, third at 190.

The Wildcats finished third at the regional behind Kaukauna and Neenah.

The Ghosts, the defending state champions, finished more than 100 points ahead of the Rockets to claim the title. West finished 25 points ahead of fourth-place Kimberly.

Three wrestlers from Oshkosh North advanced to the sectional with fourth-place regional finishes: Alex Barrera at 106 pounds, Rijko Urban at 120 and Dominic Wyrwicki at 144.

Barrera rebounded from a quarterfinal loss by winning his next three matches with pins.

"Alex is a senior who's been out most of the year," North coach Zack Jeanneret said. "He just kept fighting. He's a really good wrestler."

Wyrwicki, a freshman, dropped his first match but came back to take fourth place with a pin, a major decision and a medical forfeit.

Urban advanced despite finishing 0-2 on the day.

The Spartans finished eighth among the eight teams at the regional, coming in four points behind Appleton East.

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Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh North's Brinna Paulson (3) looks for room to drive against the Wisconsin Rapids defense Saturday.

Spartans can't slow Red Raiders

Oshkosh Herald

A hot-shooting Wisconsin Rapids squad kept Oshkosh North at bay as the Red Raiders handed the Spartans a 71-50 nonconference loss Saturday afternoon.

Wisconsin Rapids hit 12 3-pointers in the game – six in each half – and never let the Spartans taste the lead in the game. The Red Raiders opened the contest with an 11-2 run and stayed in front the rest of the way.

Awut Alic scored eight of Oshkosh North's first nine points and her steal and layup brought the Spartans to within 15-9 but the Raiders countered with an 8-3 spurt to push the lead to double digits.

Brinna Paulson and Hailey Valdez each knocked down a 3-pointer for North as the Spartans tried to stay within striking distance, while Paulson's basket late in the half left North trailing 33-19 at intermission.

Wisconsin Rapids hit three 3-pointers in the opening two minutes of the second half to stretch the lead to 42-22 but North was then able to start reeling the Raiders back in.

Naviana Lao-Facundo took the game over and dominated in the paint scoring all of the points in an 8-0 run to narrow the lead to 12. Wisconsin Rapids' advantage hovered around a dozen for the next five minutes with North eventually cutting the lead to 52-41 on Valdez's third 3-pointer of the game with just under nine minutes remaining.

But the Spartans could never get the deficit into single digits and Wisconsin Rapids eventually was able to pull away. The Raiders put together an 11-2 surge to regain control of the game and was able to hold on the rest of the game.

Lao-Facundo finished with a sea-



Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh North's Awut Alic puts up a shot over a trio of Wisconsin Rapids defenders.

son-high 15 points, while Paulson also tallied 15 points to lead the Spartans.

Alic overcame foul trouble to score 11 points and grab eight rebounds before fouling out, while Valdez finished with nine points.

Allie Leib led the team with five assists.

The Spartans will wrap up the regular season at home Thursday against Fond du Lac. The Spartans beat the Cardinals, 60-44, earlier this season in Fond du Lac.

Oshkosh North will then host Chippewa Falls in a WIAA Division 1 regional tournament game at 7 p.m. Tuesday. The winner will travel to face top-seeded Eau Claire Memorial in a regional semifinal Friday.

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Knights turn up defense to throttle Crusaders

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Lourdes Academy girls basketball team is adept at making shots from long range.

The Knights have made 162 3-pointers this season – nearly double what their opponents have made – and have gotten at least one 3-pointer from seven different players this season.

But as much as the team has excelled from behind the 3-point line this season, the Knights are more than just a one-trick pony. Lourdes Academy proved that last Thursday.

Despite finishing just 5-of-26 from behind the arc – one of their lowest outputs of the season – the Knights had little trouble dispatching a solid Central Wisconsin Christian squad, 61-43, in a Trailways East tussle at The Castle.

“We love to shoot the 3 and we are used to seeing it go through the net a little bit more than we did tonight,” Knights’ head coach Ali Starr said. “But that’s the beauty of this team – they just find ways to win and that’s not something I feel like I can coach. When shots aren’t falling they can mope and hang their heads or they can figure out a way to find the bottom of the net and that’s what we did.”

The Knights cranked up the pressure on their 1-3-1 defense and forced a wealth of first-half turnovers to break the game open.

Lourdes Academy trailed 8-7 more than three minutes into the game but went on a 23-3 run to seize control of the game, which included five layups off steals.

“Our defense made the difference, 100 percent,” said senior Delaney Ruedinger. “We have been working on our 1-3-1 zone defense in practice and we’ve really started

to get good at it.”

Ruedinger and Hailee Bauer each converted two layups off steals in the run, while Allie Huizenga had the other.

“Our defense leads to the great shots on offense. It starts out on the defensive end and the motivation that gets us going on the offensive end,” Bauer said. “Sometimes the first half can be a struggle but coming out and hitting some big shots to get us a bigger lead is important.”

Aubrey Schettle was the only Lourdes long-range shooter to have a hot hand, hitting all three of her 3-pointers over a nine-minute span in the first half while finishing 3-of-5 from behind the arc.

Schettle’s third 3-pointer and a Bauer layup capped the run giving the Knights a 30-11 lead that turned into a 34-19 half-time advantage.

“I said to (assistant coach Reed Tyriver) that it’s still not enough. I was hoping to be up by 20 (points) at the break,” Starr said. “Anytime we can get out to an early lead and maintain that and have a cushion it’s a good night for us.”

The Knights also wanted to build an early lead to alleviate concerns of having a short bench.

Lourdes Academy was able to dress only eight players because of illness and injury, and that meant that all of the roster would be seeing more minutes and possibly face some fatigue.

“Get the ball and run up floor when we had fresh legs tonight and build a lead at the beginning,” Ruedinger said. “It makes it a lot easier down the stretch.”

Although Starr was concerned with the short bench for the game, she didn’t see it

SEE **Lourdes girls** ON PAGE 19



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Lourdes Academy’s Hailee Bauer eyes a rebound in the first half against Central Wisconsin Christian last Thursday.

Lourdes Academy rallies in second half to collect win

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Brayden Studinski playfully makes the claim to his Lourdes Academy teammates that he has never missed a free throw in his life.

So, when a timeout was called with five seconds left in last Thursday’s game against Central Wisconsin Christian and Studinski about to head to the line for two foul shots with his team leading by one, his teammates reminded him of his claim.

“All of the guys when we got into the huddle were looking at me and were like, ‘OK, never in your life,’” Studinski said with a smile.

Studinski delivered on his promise.

The senior made the two free throws and then came up with a steal to thwart the Crusaders’ attempt to tie the game and dribbled out the final seconds of a 48-45 victory to earn the Knights their first win in more than a month.

“It feels amazing and you can hear the guys celebrating right now,” Studinski said outside of a raucous Lourdes Academy locker room. “We played together. We played as a family and as a team and we played as brothers. It feels great to just get a win at the right time and now we have to get on a roll.”

The Knights had dropped eight straight games since beating Valley Christian on Jan. 7 but head coach Brett Baehman felt his team had been competing well despite the rough stretch.

“The last couple of weeks we were starting to make some strides. We just had to learn to win together at this level,” Baehman said. “We told them that (winning a close game) is the next step. We have been



Photo by Andy Ratchman

The Knights’ Quin Ruark goes up for a layup against Central Wisconsin Christian last Thursday.

in plenty of close games but now we have to get over that hump, make adjustments and believe that you are going to win because it was that mentality that was missing.”

It didn’t necessarily look like the Knights were going to be able to end the streak in the first half.

After building a 10-5 lead over the first

five minutes of the game, Lourdes Academy scored just nine points over the final 13 minutes and faced a 29-19 deficit at halftime.

Some teams who have struggled to find victories may have come out listless in the second half and slow danced their way to another defeat.

“As an athlete, you always have a confidence that you can win and you never really accept a loss,” Studinski said. “We came out and played as a team in the second half.”

Harlan Kuehn’s drive to the basket kicked off a 10-3 run that brought the Knights to within four, while two free throws from Jackson Buttke a few minutes later narrowed the Crusaders’ lead to 37-35.

Central Wisconsin Christian then answered with five straight points but the Knights then held them scoreless for a five-minute stretch. Baehman highlighted the defense of Quin Ruark – he led the Knights with five steals – for providing a spark on that end of the court in the second half.

“Quin Ruark really stepped up on the defensive end. That confidence was just oozing with him and it spread to other players,” Baehman said. “They were just ready to go and it finally clicked early in the second half and they rode it the rest of the way.”

With the Crusaders’ scoreless stretch, the Knights were able to grab the momentum.

Brady Bauer’s lay-in and a basket from Buttke brought the Knights to within a point before a three-point play from Studinski with 2:08 left pushed Lourdes

Academy into the lead at 42-40.

Ruark then added two free throws for a 44-40 lead.

Central Wisconsin Christian got back to within one, but missed a potential tying free throw with six seconds left. Studinski grabbed the rebound and was immediately fouled and was able to seal the win.

“We’ve been waiting for quite a long time because they have been doing the right things, just without the outcome,” Baehman said. “Getting an outcome like this, they needed to see this just to get a little relief. They have been working too hard not to see it. I’m happy for them.”

Studinski finished with 17 points while Buttke added 16 and the Knights were able to use a strong night at the free-throw line to bolster the win.

Lourdes Academy finished 18-of-21 in the game, with Studinski hitting all five of his attempts and Anthony Behnke finishing 4-of-4 at the line.

“Free throws are something we don’t take lightly and they were big tonight for us,” Baehman said. “That goes with getting that experience where they are ready to step up to that line and make their shots.”

The Knights will finish the regular season with three road games, including the final two against tough opponents in Laconia (Feb. 24) and Oakfield (Feb. 27).

Getting this win should give the Knights a confidence boost heading into those game and in the WIAA Tournament that will follow.

“This win happened at the right time,” Baehman said. “It’s something that can put us over the hump and get us ready to make a run the last two weeks and into the playoffs.”

Lourdes girls

FROM PAGE 18

as too much of a factor.

“As a coach I would like to have a little bit longer of a bench so you can give players a quick break and get them back in there,” Starr said. “But our kids love to play. I have to drag them off the court to take a break at times so having that small of a bench to-night, it tends to play in their favor.”

Central Wisconsin Christian opened the second half with five straight points to slice the Knights’ lead to 10 but Ruedinger tallied all of the points in an 8-2 run that boosted the advantage to 17 points.

After that, the Crusaders never scored more than three points at one time the entire second half allowing the Knights to keep control.

“We don’t want to let teams get close and let them think they have a chance against us,” Bauer said. “When these teams think they can play with us, we take it to heart and it motivates us.”

Ruedinger tallied 19 points to lead the Knights after pouring in a career-high 34 points two days before.

“We’ve had so many games the last couple of weeks it’s kind of hard to get out of a groove with scoring,” Ruedinger said.

Bauer added 17 points, while also picking up eight rebounds, six assists and six steals. Schettle went scoreless in the second half to finish with nine points, while Hannah McDowell added eight.

The Knights also got a boost off the bench from freshman Adhieu Liabwill, who scored all six of her points in the second half and also picked up four boards in limited minutes. Liabwill’s role increased with an injury to Sabur Machiros, who did not play.

“I looked her straight in the eye and told



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Delaney Ruedinger finished with a team-high 19 points against Central Wisconsin Christian.

her I know we are asking big things of you as a freshman but I wouldn’t be asking if I didn’t believe they were possible,” Starr said. “She is going to be a massive influence on this team in the postseason. We need her height and her strength and her abilities.”

The Knights, who earned a No. 1 seed in the WIAA Division 5 tournament, will close out the regular season at home Thursday against Oakfield.

A win in the game would wrap up an outright Trailways East title for the Knights and would also give Lourdes Academy a little bit of a confidence boost heading into the postseason.

“It’s very important for us to finish strong,” Bauer said. “Ending on a good note, ending on a high is really important going into the tournament.”

Prep sports roundup

SWIMMING

North/Lourdes’ Reeves headed back to state

Oshkosh North/Lourdes Academy diver River Reeves easily captured the sectional title and will be making his third trip to the WIAA State Meet.

Reeves posted a total of 515.80 in the diving competition at the sectional meet to finish more than 130 points ahead of the runner-up finisher.

Reeves is the only Oshkosh competitor to advance to the state meet, which will be held Saturday at the Waukesha South Natatorium. Reeves will be seeded second among the 24 state qualifiers behind only defending state champion Brady Huettl of Waukesha South/Catholic Memorial.

Huettl, Reeves and AJ Beard of Madison Memorial were the only divers who posted a score of more than 500 points at a sectional meet. Reeves, a junior, finished third at state last season while Beard was fifth.

Caleb Bergin and Carter Crowe of Oshkosh West each posted a pair of top 10 finishes at the sectional meet held Saturday in Neenah.

Bergin was fourth in the 200-yard freestyle and fifth in the 500-yard freestyle, while Crowe took seventh in both the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle. Evan Booms added a ninth place in the 100-yard freestyle, while the Wildcats posted a sixth-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Shepherd Johnson finished fifth in the diving and Everix Blessent was sixth for North/Lourdes, while Sawyer Sharratt

tied for sixth in the 100-yard breaststroke. North/Lourdes’ best finish in a relay was ninth in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Oshkosh West finished eighth among the 12 teams at the sectional, while North/Lourdes placed 10th.

GIRLS WRESTLING

Three Oshkosh wrestlers qualify for sectionals

Two wrestlers from Oshkosh West and one from Oshkosh North each advanced to sectional competition at last Friday’s WIAA Regional Meet at Cedar Grove-Belgium High School.

The sectional meet will be Friday in Menasha.

The Spartans’ lone entrant Maddy Ketola finished second at 132 pounds to advance. Ketola pinned Oshkosh West’s Samantha Bryant in her first match of the tournament and then pulled out a 10-9 win over Neenah’s Julia Rangel in the semifinals. She lost to Campbellsport’s Mya Schraufnagel in the title match to take second.

For Oshkosh West, Lauren Klinger (107) and Kait Lundt (185) each finished fourth to earn their spots in the sectional field.

Klinger lost her first match of the day, but came back with two pins – one in 19 seconds and the second in 23 seconds – to take fourth and advance. Lundt lost both of her matches but still was able to move on.

Sarah Mrazek (120), Zoey Syms (126) and Samantha Bryant (132) each finished sixth for the Wildcats.

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 20

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 19

BOYS WRESTLING

Lourdes Academy duo competes at regionals

The Knights' Jeordie Warwick (106) and Peytyn Leinweber (126) each wrestled at the Division 3 regional meet at Omro on Saturday.

Both wrestlers finished 0-2 on the day and did not advance to sectionals.

GYMNASTICS

Schlies sets school record at invitational

Neva Schlies set a school record in the floor exercises as the Oshkosh West/North gymnastics team finished fifth at the Bob Bradley Invitational hosted by Whitefish Bay on Saturday.

Schlies posted a mark of 9.475 on the floor to set the record and finish second in the event.

Lydia Barr picked up a pair of top-10 finishes on the uneven bars and floor exercises and finished 10th in the all-around.

Earlier in the week, Oshkosh bested Manitowoc Lincoln in a dual meet posting a team score of 131.65. The Ships finished with a score of 128.2.

Barr finished first in the all-around with a score of 34.525 while also finishing first on the balance beam at the meet. She was also second on the uneven bars and took third in the floor exercises.

Schlies finished first in the floor exercises and on the uneven bars, while placing second on the balanced beam. She fin-

ished .025 behind Barr to take second in the all-around.

Ja'niyah Ford also picked up a first place for Oshkosh as she posted the best score of the night on the vault.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wildcats drop pair of FVA contests

Oshkosh West couldn't overcome a 12-point halftime deficit in falling to Appleton East, 63-46, last week.

Maddie Rasmussen finished with 16 points and eight rebounds to lead the Wildcats, while Rowan Tigert chipped in 11 points. The senior duo finished 9-of-17 from the field in the game, while the rest of the Wildcats combined to finish 8-of-33 from the field.

Appleton East knocked down 10 3-pointers in the game, while West finished with two – both by Rasmussen.

On Friday, West lost to Kaukauna, 66-52.

Spartans can't get past Polar Bears in FVA game

Brinna Paulson led Oshkosh North with 12 points but the Spartans came up short against Hortonville, 57-40, in a Fox Valley Association contest last week.

Naviana Lao-Facundo added 10 points while Awut Alic added nine points, 11 rebounds and nine assists in the game.

The Spartans trailed 30-20 at halftime.

Knights crank up offense to top Warriors

Delaney Ruedinger tallied a career-high 34 points as Lourdes Academy hit the 80-point mark for the third time this sea-

son in an 80-37 victory over Valley Christian last week.

Ruedinger topped the 30-point mark for the first time in her career. She hit four 3-pointers in the game, while also picking up seven rebounds and five assists.

Hailee Bauer knocked down five 3-pointers and posted a double-double with 21 points and 10 assists. Hannah McDowell chipped in 10 points for the Knights, who led 43-24 at halftime.

Mya Moran finished with 22 points to lead Valley Christian. Paige Boevers totaled 14 rebounds in the game for the Warriors.

Lourdes Academy nets non-conference win

Hailee Bauer went 11-of-13 from the free-throw line and finished with 23 points to lead the Knights to a 56-52 road win at Algoma last Friday.

Bauer also finished with six assists and five rebounds.

Aubrey Schettle hit three 3-pointers to add nine points, while Delaney Ruedinger and Hannah McDowell each finished with eight.

McDowell led the Knights with eight rebounds.

Valley Christian falls short against Oakfield

The Warriors trailed Oakfield by just seven points at halftime but couldn't rally in the second half in a 61-44 loss to the Oaks.

Mya Moran finished with 22 points to lead Valley Christian, while Paige Boevers and Lizzie Fink each chipped in eight points. Boevers led the Warriors with 10 rebounds and five steals.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Mitchell's all-around game helps lift Spartans

Xzavion Mitchell had his lowest scoring game of the season but still did plenty to help Oshkosh North pull out an 80-63 win at Kimberly last Friday.

It was the second straight win for the Spartans and fifth win in their last six games.

Mitchell was limited to just eight shot attempts and finished with 17 points – about 20 points below his average – but racked up 11 rebounds, seven assists and seven steals in the win.

Stefan Stolicovic netted 16 points, while Bryce Ott posted a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds in just his fourth game back from injury. Owen Weber and

Jackson Anderson each chipped in nine points for the Spartans.

Potent Ghosts too much for Wildcats in loss

Oshkosh West played nearly even with FVA-leading Kaukauna in the second half but couldn't recover from an 11-point deficit at halftime in a 61-44 loss on Friday.

Noah Gelhar was the lone player in double figures for the Wildcats with 12 points, while Joey Ware finished with eight points.

Earlier in the week West picked up its sixth win of the season with a 73-65 victory over visiting Menasha.

The Wildcats had four players finish in double figures led by Ware with 17 points. Gelhar added 14 points, while Tyler Moderson had 11 points and Collin Carns finished with 10 points. Brayden Kufel chipped in nine points and six assists in the win.

The Wildcats led 34-32 at halftime.

Knights drop non-league contest against Omro

Lourdes Academy was held to just 15 points in the second half as Omro pulled away to hand the Knights a 77-36 loss in a nonconference game last week.

Braden Studinskli was the lone player in double figures for the Knights with 10 points, while Harlan Kuehn finished with nine.

Warriors suffer pair of losses

Valley Christian dropped a pair of games losing both games by 10 points.

The Warriors fell to Cambria-Friesland 67-57 at home and the fell to Dodgefield 66-56 on Thursday.

HOCKEY

Ice Hawks fall in regular-season finale

Oshkosh's regular season came to an end with an 8-1 loss to visiting Wisconsin Rapids last week.

The Ice Hawks trailed just 2-0 after the first period but Wisconsin Rapids erupted for four goals in the second period to stretch the lead to 6-0.

Evan Burger tallied the lone goal for the Ice Hawks as they went into the third period down 6-1.

Gage Bauer finished with 28 saves for the Ice Hawks, who were outshot 36-10 in the game.

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Obituaries

Frank G. Holmes Jr.

Frank G. Holmes Jr. of Oshkosh went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, February 15, 2025, at the age of 86. He died peacefully surrounded by his family.



Frank was born in Hancock, WI, on February 6, 1939, to Frank Sr. and Norma (Brown) Holmes.

Upon graduating from high school, he served in the Army for three years. Frank then became a skilled worker in the building trades, specializing in terrazzo floors. He did this in the Milwaukee area for six years, before moving north where he worked for Arvin Meritor, Rockwell, and Speed Queen. After retirement he enjoyed going to Florida in the winter where he loved walking on the beach. During the summer you would see him walking outside for miles. His family was most important to him. He married Edna in Tigerton, WI, on September 11, 1965. They were married for 59 years until his death. He was a great dad and loved his grandchildren.

Frank is survived by his wife Edna, one son, Frank III (Julie) Holmes of Oshkosh, and one daughter, Julie (John) LaFleur

of Hartland, three grandchildren Frank IV, Monica, and Melia, three sisters, Vivian Krasavage, Verna McGinnis, and Pat Holmes, two brothers, Ken Holmes and Larry Holmes. Frank was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Ron Holmes, five brothers-in-law and two sisters-in-law.

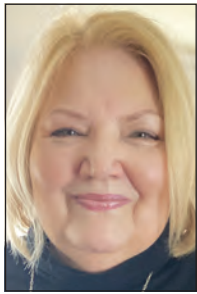
A visitation for family and friends will be on Monday, February 24, 2025, at Konrad Behlman Funeral Home (westside) 100 Lake Pointe Drive Oshkosh, from 11:00am to 12:00pm with a funeral service following at 12:00pm, officiated by Rev. Karl Kraemer. A private burial will be at Union Cemetery, Tigerton, WI. In lieu of flowers memorials in Frank's name may be made to VCY America, 3434 W Kilbourn Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53208. Frank's family wishes to thank the staff of Aurora Hospital in Oshkosh as well as hospice for all the love and support given to Frank.



KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

Jane Ann Martinez

Jane Ann Martinez, 75, of Omro, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully on February 9, 2025.



Born on November 21, 1949, in Omro, WI, Jane dedicated her life to caring for others. She earned a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

and a Master's in Quality from Marian College. Her passion for learning and helping others was evident throughout her career and personal life.

Jane was a devoted wife to Joseph Michael Martinez and a loving mother to her daughter, Crystal Martinez. She was preceded in death by her parents, Leonard William Kolbus and Delores Arlyle Kolbus.

She is survived by her siblings, Patricia (Richard) Malvarose, Dennis (Laura) Kolbus, John (Karin) Kolbus and Susan

(Garry) Toddish, as well as several nieces and nephews.

A longtime member of St. Andrew's Church, Jane's faith was an important part of her life. Beyond her professional achievements, she had a deep passion for quilting, sewing, and reading. Her love for angels brought her comfort and joy, as did the company of her beloved dogs, Yoshi, Tucker and Chewie.

Jane will be remembered for her kindness, warmth, and the love she shared with those around her. Her memory will live on in the hearts of her family and friends.

Services will be held on February 21st at St. Andrew's Church, 1100 E. Murdock in Oshkosh. Visitation will be from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, followed by a service at 11:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in her honor to St. Andrew's Church or a charity of your choice.

Seefeld
Funeral and Cremation Services

Michael C. Kuehn

Michael C. Kuehn, age 71, passed away on February 14th, 2025 at Mercy Medical Center.



He was born on July 22, 1953 in Oshkosh to parents Gilbert "Tubber" and Dolores Kuehn.

Mike was born and raised in Oshkosh, WI. He attended Sacred Heart Grade

School, where he was frequently sent home for wearing his Beatle boots. Mike was in the first graduating class of Perry Tipler and Oshkosh West High Schools. After graduating, Mike went to work at Lennox Candle Co. and then onto Mercury Marine. Where he worked numerous positions over 46 years, "Team Mike."

Over the years, Mike loved golf, softball, camping and doing everything with grandkids and Cory. Mike was most proud of attending every practice and games for his grandsons, and Ashlyn was his princess. After retirement, in between kid's

activities, Mike and Kathy loved to travel.

Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Kathy, daughters; Jill Kuehn and Jen Kuehn Sullivan, grandchildren; Halden Michael, Liam, Patrick and Ashlyn, brother; David Kuehn and nephew; Mark Kuehn and niece; Jody (Rick) Spanbauer.

Mike was preceded in death by parents; Gilbert and Dolores Kuehn, daughter; Kimberly and sister-in-law; Sally Kuehn.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday February 20, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Fiss & Bills-Poklasny Funeral Home (865 S. Westhaven Dr.). A time for visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until the time of service at the funeral home on Thursday.

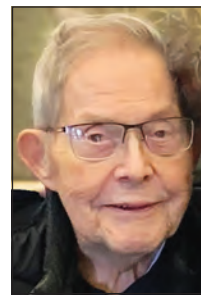
In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital in his name.

Michael's family would like to thank Dr. Brad Heraly and the nursing staff on floor 2 for the excellent care and kindness shown to Mike.

FISS & BILLS - POKLASNY
FUNERAL HOMES
& CREMATORY

Richard E. Nelson

Richard E. Nelson, age 98 died February 7, 2025 at Bethal Home. He was born February 14, 1926, to Carl B and Anna (Anderson) Nelson in Ruthven, Iowa. He was baptized as a child of Christ in 1926 at Zion Lutheran Church in Ruthven.



Richard graduated from Ruthven Public School in 1943 and also graduated with a degree in electrical engineering from Iowa State University in 1948. He became a registered Professional Engineer and was licensed in 17 states. He practiced his engineering profession from 1948 to 1998, last employed at SNC Manufacturing Company in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He served in the Army Air Corps in 1944-45.

Richard's siblings were Kenneth, Verda, Verla, and Verling.

He met Alanna Borkus Beane in Des Moines, Iowa and they married there in 1952. Alanna preceded him in death June 12, 1986 at age 54. Alanna and he were blessed with three children: Bradford C. (Sara), Barry A. (Lynne), and Vanessa H. (James) Fixel. Children of Brad and Sara are Amanda (James), Siri (Tom), and Brett (Lindsie). Barry and Lynne's children are Julie (Brooks), Kevin (Beth) and Carl. Vanessa and James Fixel's children are Alanna (Anthony) and Jacklyn. He is further survived by 18 great-grandchildren.

Richard's life was richly blessed by God in his having a loving family and many friends (particularly in his elder years, Florence Dickey of Oshkosh.

Richard's siblings were Kenneth, Verda, Verla, and Verling.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

Herbert R. Stewart

Herbert R. Stewart, age 93, passed away at Ascension Mercy Hospital on February 13, 2025. He was born to the late Walter and Charlotte (Fink) Stewart on November 3, 1931, in Oshkosh, WI. He married Marjorie Malkowsky on October 11, 1958.



He graduated from Oshkosh High School and went on to join the US Navy then worked for many years with the Oshkosh Fire Department.

Herbert was an avid hunter, especially white tail deer, he spent many years going to historical encampment events with his family. He enjoyed taking long walks in the park with his dog, Minne Ha-Ha, gardening and archaeology.

Herbert is survived by his wife, Marjo-

rie; son, Russ Stewart; daughter, Lynne Stewart; grandson, Shannon Bartow and Joshua Stewart as well as his great-grandchildren, Zoey Bartow, Zane Lowmen, and Parker Stewart and dog, Minnie Ha-Ha.

In addition to his parents, Herbert was preceded in death by his son, Timothy Stewart and sister, Joyce Spooner.

A memorial service for Herbert will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church (370 Bowen) on Friday, February 21, 2025, at 1PM. A time of visitation will be held from noon until the time of service.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking if you can give a small donation to help with funeral expenses.

See you on the other side. May you rest in eternal peace.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

Myra M. Phillips

Myra M. Phillips, age 85, of Oshkosh passed away on February 14, 2025 at Bethel Home in Oshkosh. Myra was born on April 28, 1939 in Clintonville, WI the daughter of Clemeth and Margaret (Dumke) Hupke. Myra married Edward J. Phillips on June 10, 1961. Myra was employed as a school teacher for many years. Myra is a faithful member of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church in Oshkosh.

Myra is survived by her husband, Ed-

ward Phillips of Oshkosh. Two sons, Michael J. (Dean Pedretti) Phillips of Burlington, VT and Bradford S. (Rachel White) Phillips of Austin, TX. One brother, Bill (Eudine) Hupke of Green Bay and one sister, Mary Troutd of Oshkosh.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Katherine.

Private family services will be held at a later date.

FISS & BILLS - POKLASNY
FUNERAL HOMES
& CREMATORY

Patty Rogers

Patty Rogers of Oshkosh passed away February 15th. She was born to Charlotte and Frank Hillman on April 23rd, 1954. Patty loved to play Bingo and shoot darts.



She was preceded in death by Helen and Glenn Shepherd whom she was raised by. Also preceded in death by her brother

Frank Hillman.

She was survived by her husband Ken-

dall Rogers and her 3 children Glenn Root of Oshkosh, Kenneth Root (Tiffany Root) of Oshkosh, Ronya Dehn of Oshkosh. Also survived by her grandchildren Bryanna Root, Brandi Root, Lydia Root, Cynthia Root, Bruce Weber, Richard Root, Dylan Root, Nick Root, Hunter Root, Justin Root all from Oshkosh. Thomas Hooyman, Crystal Hooyman from Calumet County Danielle Rihm from Oregon, Braden and Jordan Dehn from Oshkosh. Many great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

She will be dearly missed. Celebration of life is to be determined at this time.

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Obituaries

Allan F. Martin

Allan Francis Martin of Oshkosh passed away from complications of Alzheimer's at Aurora Medical Center on February 10, 2025.



He was born on October 19, 1936 in West Bend Wisconsin, the son of Joseph and Emma Martin. He graduated from West Bend High School in 1955. Al told the story of how he met the love of his life Susanne Rose Weddig. He took Sue to the movie "High Society" on their first date and he knew it was true love. They married on October 24, 1959 in Kewaskum. Al served in the US Army where he successfully completed training to become a medical specialist. He served at Fort Lewis in Tacoma. After he was honorably discharged, he returned to Wisconsin with his wife and eldest son Greg.

In 1966, he moved to Oshkosh to help his childhood friend James Giombetti start The Exclusive Company of downtown Oshkosh. They successfully grew The Exclusive Company and became the largest record company in the USA with stores in 7 cities. He was a devote member at Sacred Heart (St. Jude), serving as an usher and worked alongside Sue to decorate the church. He was the Sacred Heart School Cub Scout Pack Master for 10 years. Allan and Sue enjoyed traveling

throughout the United States and abroad. Throughout his life Al enjoyed golfing, playing cribbage, and sheepshead with family and friends. He loved to tinker and fix projects inside and outside the home.

Allan will be missed by his six children Greg (Lauri) Martin, Kristine (Steve "Buck") Fredrick, Douglas (Lina) Martin, Dennis Martin, Steven (Ann) Martin, and Jeffrey (Kristen Krasny) Martin. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Allan is survived by his sisters Joanne (Tom) Weddig, Kay (Roger) Frank, Susan (Ted) Bruesch, Jacquie (Dennis) Hall and surviving in-laws Elmyra Martin, Lee (June) Weddig, Judy Webster, Mary Weddig, and Edward

(Jeanne) Weddig. He is further survived by many nieces, nephews, and other dear family and friends.

Along with his dear wife Sue, he is preceded in death by his parents, his brothers David and Vernon. Special thank you to Aurora Hospice, especially Amy Jo and Country Villa Assisted Living staff for the kind care and support.

Visitation will be 9-12:00 AM followed by mass and burial on February 22, 2025 at St Jude's (Sacred Heart site). Heaven is now filled with Al's harmonica music and he's happily dancing with his Sue.

FISS & BILLS - POKLASNY
FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY

Dorothy Jendraszak

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Dorothy Jendraszak, a beloved resident of Oshkosh WI, (formerly of Green Lake WI, Tingley Park IL, and Chicago IL) who left us on Friday, February 7, 2025, at the age of 93.



Dorothy was born on November 9, 1931, in Roseland IL, and lived a life full of passion and dedication to family and community.

Dorothy is survived by her children, Victoria Herman (Walter), Michael (Terri), and Diane Bartlett (Kerry); and a wide circle of extended family and friends,

including nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. They all loved Grandma deeply and will miss her warm smile and hugs.

A private memorial will be held at a later date. The family expresses their gratitude for the support during this time and cherishes the memories shared with Dorothy. Her legacy of creativity, adventure, and mentorship will forever be cherished.

Fox Cities Funeral and Cremation will be assisting the family. If you wish, online condolences can be left on their website: <https://memorials.foxcitiesfuneral.com/dorothy-jendraszak/5550222/index.php>

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Joseph J. Tovar

It is with deep sorrow that we share the passing of Joseph Jauregui Tovar on January 31, 2025. Joe (as he was known to most) was a cherished friend, mentor, and respected figure who made a profound impact on the lives of so many. A ceremony honoring his life will be held this summer. Please check for the full obituary and updates on the celebration at the Fox Cities Funeral and Cremation, Oshkosh, WI, website: <https://memorials.foxcitiesfuneral.com/joseph-tovar/5546766/index.php>



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Obituaries

Gerald W. Jacklin

Gerald W. "J.J." Jacklin, passed away on January 26, 2025. He was born in Hartford, WI to the late Elroy and Lucille (Proeber) Jacklin on March 4, 1949. J.J. married Cheryl Urban on December 27, 1981.



Growing up, Jerry attended school in Hartford, WI. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh with a degree in business and later he obtained an associate degree in IT, setting a strong foundation for his career. He retired from UWO after 27 years of service at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh (UWO).

His commitment to Oshkosh was further exemplified through his work on the Oshkosh Landmarks Committee. He

worked to preserve the historical sites that define the fabric of the city, showcasing his unwavering love for the community. Jerry shared his insights and passion through several thoughtful articles published in the Oshkosh Herald, inspiring others to recognize the beauty and significance of the local buildings and heritage.

Jerry was a talented musician, he could play the accordion, piano and drums being his favorite. He was a vibrant presence during his time performing with various bands as a drummer in his younger years. The last band being, "Rob and The Rest Reunion Tour". His passion for music was evident in the joy he brought to audiences and the camaraderie shared with his fellow bandmates and friends.

Beyond his professional life Jerry was a devoted horse handler, sharing a special bond with his boys, Chiefers and Shadow Boy. His love for horses reflected his gen-

tle spirit and kindness, qualities that will be greatly missed by all that new him.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Cheryl; and their beloved horses, Chief and Shadow Boy; brother, Rick (Jan) Jacklin; sister, Elaine (Larry) Gumbert; sisters-in-law, Lee Ann Smith, Theodora (Tom) Butt, Michaelene (John) Kraus; niece, Mae Lee Watson, great-niece Chelsea Kundal; nephew, James (fiancé Kim) Segal; Cheryl's cousin, Gail Pohnan and Cousin Lou Pohnan. He is further survived by dearest friends, David, Sheri, Kaeli, Lauren Grunski.

In addition to his parents, Jerry was preceded in death by several aunts and uncles, along with his father-and-mother-in-law, Ted F. and Eleanor Urban; sister-in-law, Martina (Jack) Watson, Joel Hartman; Cheryl's uncles, Chester Urban, Julius (Claire) Urban and Cheryl's Auntie Jean (Pat) Pohnan.

A private memorial service remembering Jerry's life has been held. Any memorials can be sent to Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home at 402 Waugoo Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54901.

J.J. was the most kind, gentle and caring man – He was the one with the white hat.

"When Blue Birds Fly"

When blue birds fly, a loved one dies, and the other is left to cry.

The world stops and wonders why.

I will love you till the end of time and kiss your cheek until we're together again.

When blue birds fly.

Your Wife -Cheryl



Ross F. Wandschneider

On February 6, 2025, Ross Fountaine Wandschneider of Oshkosh, WI passed away at the age of 89.



He was peacefully surrounded by his loving family, devoted friends, loyal former Neenah High School baseball players and kind scholarly teachers.

Ross, a 1954 St. John's Military Academy graduate, a graduate of UW in 1958 and 1959. His teaching credentials were in physical education and drivers education in Neenah, WI. He was, also, the Neenah varsity baseball coach for 28 years.

After dating for 10 years, in 1959 Ross married his first love, Chloe Scharfenberg, which totaled 75 years of togetherness.

Ross was so blessed with heartfelt friends, caring students, loyal teachers and devoted Neenah baseball players, whom of which he had a special bond. The 1972 team won the State Baseball Championship, which hadn't happened before this date and hasn't been repeated since. He treasured all of his baseball teams.

Ross had various interests and activities, like bowling, golf, downhill skiing, cross country skiing, ice skating, hunting and trap shooting. No matter what activity, his signature was quiet, dry humor, bringing joy. He was community driven and was one of the founders of these organizations; NICE (Neighbors Involved

in Community Environment), Milwaukee Street Neighbors, Protect Genesee Street, Defenders of the St. John's Bay, Care Committee for Martin Luther Church, supported candidates in Delafield, WI and Oshkosh, WI. Ross served on Oshkosh's Traffic Review Committee and served as an EAA docent for 28 years.

Surviving relatives are his wife, Chloe Wandschneider (Scharfenberg); daughter, Heidi Smith; grandchildren, Sam and Hannah; nephews, Kurt (Barb) Zipp, Philip Johnson; and one niece, Beth Johnson.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and Helen Wandschneider; grandparents, Ben and Clara; his brother Bob and sister Judy.

Relationships were important to him. It's true that the best and most beautiful things cannot be seen or even touched, they must be felt with the heart. Thank you Ross for the gift of a warm heart.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated staff at The-

daCare in Neenah, Whispering Pines Rehab, Ripon Hospital, Oakridge Gardens Rehab, Hospice, Valley Nursing School and the Oshkosh Station 17 paramedics. All cared for Ross with compassion and dignity through his seven-week journey of incurable Lewy Body Parkinsons, which is a quick onset, fast-moving disease that weakens body movement and muscle function.

A funeral service to remember Ross will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 338 N Eagle St, Oshkosh, WI 54902, on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at 11:30am. Visitation will begin at 10:00am and continue till the start of the service.

The burial will be held at Delafield City Cemetery on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 11:00am.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Tunnels to Towers and Immanuel Lutheran Church of Oshkosh, WI.



Verne Dale Wepner

Verne Dale Wepner, born June 20, 1929, grew up on a farm near Ripon, and passed away February 12, 2025, in Oshkosh. As a member of Peace Lutheran Church since 1962, he has served the church in a variety of ways, including ushering, and Sunday School.



He married the love of his life, Sylvia Marilyn Wepner (nee Lindeman), June 24, 1950. Verne enlisted in the Air Force in 1950 and was honorably discharged in 1954. He worked in Grantsburg, WI, and in Rockford IL, and Oshkosh WI as an air traffic controller.

They moved into their new home in Oshkosh in 1963. Verne tended the yard and garden at their new home. He mapped his vegetable garden every year, with room for an experimental crop. Each new crop was successful, except for okra.

Verne and Sylvia travelled to Hawaii and Germany, cruised the Caribbean, Croatia and Alaska. Also, they wintered in Pharr, Texas for 14 years after retiring from their careers. He enjoyed riding a bike around the trailer park. As a family, they travelled to National Parks-Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Glacier, Petrified Forest, Mammoth Cave, Mount Rushmore and other places such as Disney World, Disneyland, and the Ozarks.

His hobbies included: fishing-salmon in Lake Michigan to bullheads from Spring Brook, near Omro, deer, pheasant, turkey hunting trips locally to elk hunting in Colorado. He did woodworking and stained-glass craftwork.

He enjoyed playing with their grand-

children and great-grandchildren. He made leaf houses, pulled them around on a toboggan behind a snowmobile, and gave them rides in wheelbarrows. When it was time for the kids to return home, he would stick a leaf under the windshield wiper.

Verne's life is full of friends, a loving wife, and family and a rewarding career. He lived his advice: "If you want to do something, do it right, or don't do it at all."

He is survived by his wife, Sylvia Wepner; son, Dr. Terry (Teri) Wepner; daughter, Vernell (Jospeh) Theisen- (nee Wepner); grandchildren, Tom (Heather) Theisen, Dr. Jennifer (David) Mauel, Christopher (Tiffany) Theisen, Matthew (Dr. Charlene Fares) Theisen, Paul (Mai Kou Vang) Theisen, Travis (Krysty Korab) Wepner, John (Kate) Theisen; great-grandchildren, Brooklyn, Alexander, Miles, Isaiah, Olivia, Emmitt, Evan, Caleb, Lucia, Micah, Philip, and James.; sister, Marjorie Burling; as well as many additional family and friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Paul H. and Bessie (Sharp) Wepner; siblings, Robert (Connie) Wepner, Alice (Ray) Prellwitz, John (Vera) Wepner, Betty (Cyril) Rohde; brother-in-law, Robert Burling; sisters-in-law, Arla (Orin) Galow and Elaine (Edward) White.

Visitation will be held on Monday, February 24, 2025, at Peace Lutheran Church, 240 W 9th Ave, Oshkosh, WI, from 9:00am to 11:00am, with service to follow. His final resting place will be at Lake View Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please feel free to donate to Peace Lutheran Church in his honor.



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5	2	6	7	5	8	6	2	4	8	1
7	4	8	1	3	2	8	4	2	6	5
9	6	2	5	9	6	4	9	5	1	3
1	2	4	5	1	2	2	5	7	3	9
3	6	8	9	3	4	8	2	8	2	5
1	8	2	3	5	6	4	8	2	8	3
5	4	8	1	9	5	9	9	6	4	1
7	8	6	7	3	1	7	5	6	8	5
7	2	4	9	5	6	8	2	8	6	7
5	2	8	3	1	8	2	6	4	8	9
3	7	1	5	9	3	5	1	9	5	7



The "S" in President Harry S. Truman's name doesn't stand for anything. Unable to decide on a middle name for over a month, his parents settled on the letter "S" in honor of his maternal grandfather, Solomon Young, and his paternal grandfather, Anderson Shipp Truman.



First Presidential Email

In 1994, President Bill Clinton was the first president to send an email while in office. He sent it to an astronaut who was in space at the time. Use the code to discover the name of the astronaut.

■=E ■=G ■=H ■=J ■=L ■=N ■=O



President Tailor?
 Andrew Johnson, our 17th president, was trained as a tailor in his youth. He continued to make his own suits—even while president. Can you find the two identical suits?



Presidential Cheer

During his senior year of high school at Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., George W. Bush, who would become the nation's 43rd president, was captain of the cheerleading team.



Wrestling West Winger

Our 16th president is one of our most celebrated. But not a lot of people know that he was a wrestler. In 300 matches, he only lost one. He is in the Wrestling Hall of Fame with the honor of "Outstanding American."

Circle every other letter to reveal this president's name.

R A K B G R L A Z H V A W M J L S I H N B C U O R L Q N

Extra! Extra! Celebrate Our Presidents

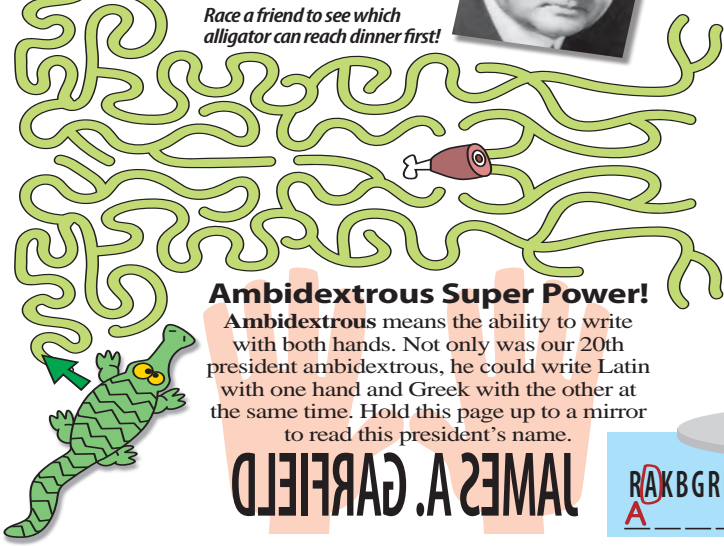
Look through the newspaper to see how your community is celebrating Presidents Day. If you don't find much, write a letter to the editor with your ideas on how the day could be celebrated in your community.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Alligators in the White House!?

President Herbert Hoover's son had two pet alligators, which were sometimes allowed to run loose throughout the White House. Hoover was our 31st president.

Race a friend to see which alligator can reach dinner first!



Ambidextrous Super Power!

Ambidextrous means the ability to write with both hands. Not only was our 20th president ambidextrous, he could write Latin with one hand and Greek with the other at the same time. Hold this page up to a mirror to read this president's name.

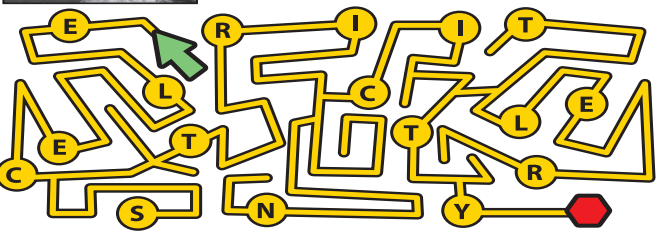
J A M E S A . G A R F I E L D

Kid Scoop Puzzler



Not for President Harrison!

Benjamin Harrison, our 23rd president, was the first president to have this in the White House. However, he was so scared of it—he never used it! What was it? The letters along the correct path on the maze spell the answer.



Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- PRESIDENT
- WRESTLING
- ALLIGATOR
- CHILDREN
- FREEDOM
- TAILOR
- SUITS
- LATIN
- WHITE
- HOUSE
- TYLER
- FIRST
- BUSH
- HAND
- BOTH

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

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

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

Kid Scoop Together:

Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president, was shot in the chest while giving a speech in Milwaukee.

"I don't know whether you fully understand that I have just been shot," he told the stunned audience. "I give you my word, I do not care a rap about being shot; not a rap."



He completed the 90-minute speech with the bullet still lodged in his chest. Afterwards he went to the doctor and survived the attempt on his life.

President Roosevelt had many nicknames. As you complete each math problem below, those with even-numbered answers reveal one of his nicknames. The ones with odd-numbered answers are not.

The Happy Warrior

22 + 6 =

The Trust Buster

13 + 13 =

The Rough Rider

6 + 8 =

The Old Lion

21 - 5 =

Telescope Teddy

2 + 6 + 4 =

The Meddler

17 - 5 =

The Hero of San Juan Hill

22 + 8 =

The Man on Horseback

24 - 6 =

Haroun-al-Roosevelt

12 + 12 =

The Bull Moose

36 + 4 =

The Great White Chief

17 + 17 =

The Driving Force

6 + 8 + 4 =

Four Eyes

8 + 8 + 2 =

The Dynamo of Power

19 + 21 =

T.R.

44 - 26 =

Teddy

5 + 5 + 5 + 5 =

ANSWER: They are all his nicknames!

What do you think Roosevelt's nicknames say about him?

Write On!

If I Were President

What would you do? How would you spend your days? Why would you want to be president?

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