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# **Diversity purge**

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# School board revises gender policy

**Biden's Title IX updates** end after court decision

By Jonathan Richie Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Area School District has erased recent Title IX regulation updates regarding sports and gender from its programming after a federal judge struck them down as unconstitutional.

Last year, the Board of Education had extensive talks about the new regulations

that were announced by the U.S. Department of Education. The board eventually passed them to put the district in compliance by a vote of 5-2.

Title IX was introduced in 1972 to assure that educational institutions receiving federal funds cannot deny females an equal opportunity to participate in sports. The Biden administration announced a new set of regulations in 2024 that included discrimination based on gender identity as a violation of the law.

Opponents of the new regulations said

men would be allowed to use female facilities such as bathrooms and locker rooms in schools under the policy.

On Jan. 9, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky struck down the administration's 2024 regulations, ruling they were unconstitutional at public schools nationwide.

Last year's Title IX ruling was challenged in several states, including by the conservative group Moms for Liberty,

SEE Gender policies ON PAGE 9



# Indigenous history

Representatives from the Menominee and Ho Chunk tribes and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee discuss some of the archaeological findings sparked by a road project in Menominee Park in 2023 during a public event Sunday at the Oshkosh Convention Center. The Native American village and its relation to Wisconsin tribal history will be the topic of future presentations.

# County executive finalists, school referendum on ballot

April 1 election ballot set for state, local officials

feated Sheriff John Matz in Tuesday's primary.

Hintz collected 48.5% of the 14,669 votes cast in the election, while Doemel received 27%. Matz received 22% of the votes, just 631 fewer than Doemel.



Hintz

ty support that is expected to coalesce around Doemel for the general election. Hintz

general election. "I pledge to keep this a clean campaign

ulate Gordon Hintz on making it to the

Oshkosh Herald

The ballots have been cast and voters have determined the races for the top county office and Wisconsin superintendent of schools.

In the primary race for Winnebago County executive, incumbent Jon Doemel and former Assembly Rep. Gordon Hintz advanced and will face off in the general election April 1. Doemel and Hintz de-

Although the county executive position

is nonpartisan, Doemel and Matz both had Winnebago County Republican Par-

Doeme

is a former Democratic minority leader in the state Legislature.

"I would like to thank John Matz for having the courage to run for office," Doemel said in an online statement. "We should al-

ways have a choice, and I am glad to have you as our sheriff. I would like to congrat-

and never make it personal. Let's commit to a campaign that people deserve."

Hintz also acknowledged his opponents in the primary after advancing to face the current county executive.

"I'm happy to see that our message of better communication and engagement resonated across the county with so many voters," he said. "We will need to continue

SEE Spring election ON PAGE 9



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Advertising deadline is noon Wednesday for the following Wednesday.

The classified line ads deadline is 4pm Friday for Wednesday.

#### Publisher

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# Rep. Grothman speaks to full house in Algoma

By Jonathan Richie Oshkosh Herald

U.S. Rep. Glenn Grothman was met with vocal opposition when speaking to constituents in the Town of Algoma. A room packed with people attended the listening session to get his answers on what is going on at the federal level.

The Republican congressman began the session Friday at Algoma Town Hall with an update on his work in Washington since winning re-election in November. He has been a strong supporter of President Trump since his first term and part of the crowd's opposition to Grothman was directed at Trump.

The interest in the event was so great that several people were not let in because capacity had been reached. Grothman started the session by calling the situation with the federal government a "fiscal mess."

He said the country is spending too much on Medicare and Medicaid, suggesting that some medical tests and surgeries "are not necessary."

At one point, Grothman blamed the Biden administration for inflation, a statement that was met with boos from the audience and a short chant of "Tax the rich."

Grothman also said military defense funding is too high and that aircraft carriers might become obsolete in specific conflicts as technology advances.

Grothman proposed changing the GI Bill, which helps veterans get money for college or vocational training, suggesting a college degree is less valuable than it used to be and that some veterans should instead get money for a down payment on a house.

During his discussion about Washing-



Sixth District Congressman Glenn Grothman holds a listening session Friday in the Town of Algoma.

ton, the crowd booed and shouted when they disagreed with him, and some held up red cards in opposition. Grothman spoke of how Elon Musk was going to find inefficiencies in the federal government and cut unnecessary spending.

"We did not elect him," shouted one person from the crowd. The conversation eventually shifted back to Trump and his time in office.

"Trump says different things on different days," Grothman said.

He was asked if he ever disagreed with Trump. He said he doesn't believe the Gulf of Mexico should be renamed the Gulf of America and that Canada should not be the 51st state.

"I think he's done a great job with executive orders," he said.

Some of those executive orders attacked diversity, equity and inclusion programs within the federal government and schools. Grothman called racial ideology a "dangerous thing" and said he supported the administration cutting funds for those programs.

This was met with more boos and shouts of "liar" and "he's a liar" from the crowd.

Earlier in the day, Grothman spoke at Fox Crossing's municipal building at a similar event that also had to turn away people. He said this crowd was very different from the one in Fox Crossing, insinuating people there were more complimentary of his work.

The combative listening session ended with people chanting "do your job" at Grothman.

Grothman represents Wisconsin's 6th District, which extends from Lake Michigan to Wisconsin Dells and as south as Mequon. He was re-elected to his fifth term after defeating Oshkosh's John Zarbano in November.

### Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical Society

### <u>Feb. 18, 1914</u>

John Schrank Moved From Northern: John Schrank, the man who attempted to assassinate former President Theodore Roosevelt in Milwaukee on October 14, 1912, was in the city for a short time this morning, enroute from the Northern Hospital For The Insane to the State Hospital for the criminally insane at Waupun. Shrank was transported to the St. Paul train by bus. No one except the guards knew his identity for security purposes. He was neither handcuffed nor manacled while a close watch was kept of him. Schrank was committed here in November 1912 after his attempt on the life of Roosevelt. (He would remain in custody in Waupun until his death Sept. 15, 1943.)



#### Editor

Dan Roherty, 920-508-0027 editor@oshkoshherald.com

#### Corrections

It is the policy of the Oshkosh Herald to correct all errors of fact. For correction information, call 920-385-4512.

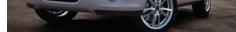
#### About the newspaper

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*Source:* Oshkosh Northwestern, Feb. 18. 1914



# Miss Oshkosh, Miss Oshkosh Teen contestants vie for titles

Oshkosh Herald

Miss Oshkosh and Miss Oshkosh's Teen, who will represent the community for the next year and enter the Miss Wisconsin and Miss Wisconsin's Teen competitions in June, will be selected Saturday.

The Miss Oshkosh Scholarship Organization's competition to name both titles will be held starting at 7 p.m. at Alberta Kimball Auditorium at Oshkosh West High School. Seven area women are competing to become Miss Oshkosh and eight are vying for the title of Miss Oshkosh's Teen.

All contestants will compete in five phases: private interview, talent, evening gown, health and fitness, and an on-stage conversation.

Finishing out their year as Miss Oshkosh 2024, Addy Wachholz, and Miss Oshkosh's Teen 2024, Jayden Dalton, will crown the two new titleholders. Winners will receive scholarships to the school of their choice, the opportunity to represent

# FRIDAY FISH FRYImage: state of the s

their community for the next year, and the chance to compete for Miss Wisconsin, and potentially Miss America. The Teen winner will go on to compete for Miss Wisconsin's Teen, and potentially Miss America's Teen.

Miss Oshkosh contestants include Meghan Numrich, Breena McIntyre, Thea Bender, Aryssa Wright, Amallia Lloyd and Daisia Golombowski. Miss Oshkosh Teen contestants are Areanna Williams, Kylie Rietz, Kylie Kempen, Annika Hitchcock, Lydia Rentmeester, Izzi Mugerauer, Raewyn Polinsky and Amiyah Thomas.

Miss Oshkosh and Miss Oshkosh's Teen are available for community and charity events, parades and fairs, emcee and speaking engagements, school programs, fashion shows, and sporting and holiday events.

Tickets are \$20, cash or check only, and available at West Pointe Bank. Tickets will also be available at the door.





Submitted photo

# **Bike patrol support**

Appleton Wheel & Sprocket recently delivered 14 new Trek Service bikes to the Oshkosh Police Department in a partnership effort with the police department and Fox Valley community. The bikes will be used by the Community Policing Unit to patrol parks, neighborhoods and other public spaces, and also for special events and community outreach programs.

### Wisconsin Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show Friday, March 7th, 2025 9am-4pm Saturday, March 8th, 2025 8am-1pm



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#### Listen To Her Heart: The Tom Petty Experience

Hear the signature guitar riffs, soaring harmonies, and heartfelt lyrics that made Petty a true rock and roll icon. **The Grand • 7** PM



Boots vs Badges Hero Basketball Game

Winnebago County Sheriff's Office facing off with Oshkosh Fire Department in a hero basketball game before the Wisconsin Herd game. Oshkosh Arena •2:15 PM

# Make some noise!!

Miss Oshkosh & Miss Oshkosh Teen Scholarship Competition An unforgettable night of talent, empowerment, and community spirit. Alberta Kimball

Auditorium • 7 PM

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# New DEI direction has institutions looking for answers

# Schools, universities have to cut racial preferences

#### By Jonathan Richie Oshkosh Herald

Over the years, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts have gained ground in schools, businesses and government bodies. Still, the U.S. government is pushing to eliminate these programs at the federal level and groups that receive those dollars.

Under the Trump administration, the Department of Education has directed schools and universities to cease using race in admissions, financial aid, hiring, training and institutional programming.

A letter sent to schools and universities on Feb. 14 states education institutions have 14 days to cease DEI efforts that the department calls racial discrimination.

"In recent years, American educational institutions have discriminated against students on the basis of race, including white and Asian students, many of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds and low-income families. These institutions' embrace of pervasive and repugnant race-based preferences and other forms of racial discrimination have emanated throughout every facet of academia," the letter states.

It was written by Craig Trainor, acting assistant secretary for civil rights at the Department of Education.

"Discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin is illegal and morally reprehensible," Trainor wrote.

Cynthia Jackson-Hammond, president of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, told National Public Radio that the two-week deadline would be challenging because it would require changing core value systems.

"There's a fine line between removing programs that are considered to be discriminatory by race and removing programs that speak to a cultural or ethnicity support for students," Jackson-Hammond said. "So this is not going to be a quick and easy kind of examination."

As for the Oshkosh Area School District, diversity, equity and inclusion are part of many aspects of its strategic plan. The district equity plan is one of the core areas in strategic planning.

The district has been working on equity in its schools since 2017. In April last year, the district released an updated equity plan compiled by Anthony Miller, director of community engagement and equity.

The executive summary of the report outlined the purpose of the efforts.

"The OASD is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and equitable environment for all students, families, staff, and community members. Our commitment to equity is rooted in the understanding that not all students have equal access to educational opportunities, and we strive to address disparities and disproportionately based on factors such as disability, ethnicity, gender, race, and socio-economic status," the plan states. "As an integral part of this commitment, our district has embarked on a journey toward equity, recognizing that this endeavor is ongoing and requires continuous learning, adaptation, and growth to ensure the



success of all students.

"The core goal of the OASD Equity Plan is to provide all students with access to high-quality teaching and learning so that all students can achieve their potential. This goal will increase the likelihood that all OASD students will be adequately prepared to fully engage and contribute to society."

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh has implemented DEI policies and programs to promote students, staff and faculty. The university's DEI statement is on its human resources website:

"Diversity drives innovation, creativity, and progress. At the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, the culture, identities, life experiences, unique abilities, and talents of every individual contribute to the foundation of our success. Creating and maintaining an inclusive and equitable environment is of paramount importance to us. This pursuit prepares all of us to be global citizens who will contribute to the betterment of the world. We are committed to a university culture that provides everyone with the opportunity to thrive."

The Universities of Wisconsin is waiting for more guidance from the Education Department on the DEI directive.

"We are reviewing the recent federal guidance and directive related to diversi-

Community Band presents spring concert

#### Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Area Community Band will present Pairs, a Spring Concert, at 7 p.m. March 22 at Alberta Kimball Auditorium at Oshkosh West High School.

The band, led by David Berndt, will present musical selections paired in some way. Music for the theater will be represented by "An Overture on Themes" from "Porgy and Bess" by George Gershwin, arranged by James Barnes; and "Selections from Wicked" by Stephen Schwartz as arranged by Jay Bocook.

An abridged arrangement of Maurice Ravel's "Bolero" will feature several incidental solos while "The Turtle Waddle" by Gus Guentzel will feature the tuba section.

Folk songs from the United Kingdom also will be paired. "My Bonnie Boy, the intermezzo from Ralph Vaughan Williams' English Folk Song Suite, will be paired with Wisconsin composer Michael



ty, equity and inclusion. We expect there will be further guidance from the U.S. Department of Education to help us fully understand our legal and regulatory obligations," UW director of media relations Mark Pitsch said.

"The Universities of Wisconsin have a longstanding commitment to ensure our students are best positioned to succeed," he said.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has voiced concerns that President Trump's recent executive orders, including the potential to dismantle the Department of Education, could jeopardize more than \$1 billion in "critical" federal funds for Wisconsin schools.

"Recent executive orders from President Trump and ongoing discussions about potentially dismantling the U.S. Department of Education put critical federal funding and programming in jeopardy. The uncertainty surrounding these decisions means it is more important than ever to advocate for the stability and continued support of federal funding for our schools," the DPI stated.

Wisconsin is receiving \$838,035,186 in federal funding for the current school year. That figure does not include school meal program funds or Pell Grants. Last year, Wisconsin received \$273,641,559 for school meals in federal funds.

Story's setting of the Irish folk melody "Down By the Sally Gardens." Brittney Harrison will be guest conductor.

The band will pay tribute to the recently departed Quincy Jones by playing his "Soul Bossa Nova." "Pie in the Face Polka" from the motion picture "The Great Race" will be played in honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Henry Mancini. Ralph Nussbaumer will be on the podium for this tribute.

The Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of associate music director Jon Basten, will play a pair of charts penned by two members of the band. "Girl of My Dreams" was arranged by David Koepp, a member of the baritone saxophone section, and director emeritus Terry Hathaway wrote an original chart "On the Slow Slide" that the band will bring to life.

There is no admission charge but donations are accepted at the door.



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ole speaker; Tess Do

### **Business news roundup**

**Baivier & Elmer, SC** law practice has opened at 960 Witzel Ave. in Oshkosh. Ann E. Elmer and Jeanne E. Baivier, formerly with Reff Baivier Lim & Slagter, S.C., are partners with primary practice areas that include estate planning, elder law and probate. Contact 920-231-8380 or ae@oshkosh-law.com.

**Marco's Pizza** closed its 330 Ohio St. location earlier this month with the business posting a "permanently closed" message on its Facebook page. The Toledo, Ohio, national restaurant chain has more than 1,000 locations with the next closest being on South Commercial Street in Neenah.

**Joann Fabrics** announced it will be closing 16 of its Wisconsin stores, including in Oshkosh, as part of a nationwide downsizing that will shut down more than 500 of its 800 locations. The company, which filed for bankruptcy in January, will announce closure dates for the affected stores at a later date.

**Fortifi Bank** has opened an Oshkosh branch at 400 N. Koeller St. that was marked this week with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce. Fortifi, formerly 1st National Bank, also has locations in Winneconne and Omro with state headquarters in Berlin.

**Fox World Travel** announced it has achieved **Gold Agency Partner** status with Cvent, a global leader in meetings, events and hospitality technology. The designation is awarded to agencies that excel in integrating

### Oshkosh educators celebrated at annual event

The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and community partners will present more than \$50,000 in grant awards at the annual Celebrate Education event March 10 that recognizes educators, administrators and volunteers.

The event from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Oshkosh Convention Center is free and open to the public. Visit OshkoshAreaCF. org/events or call 920-426-3993 to re-

technology and expertise with its meeting and event solutions. The Agency Partner program offers three tiers of certification based on contributions to Cvent over the past year.

**Best of Home Care**, an industry source for matching individuals and families seeking home care, named **Senior Stride Home Care** at 1755 W. 7th Ave, Oshkosh, on its Top 100 Leader in Experience list. Owned by John and Julie Davids, Senior Stride was ranked No. 6 nationwide in the annual recognition.

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International announced the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh is among 60 institutions throughout the nation that have successfully extended their business accreditation. UWO's College of Business has been accredited since 1970 and the educational home to more than 1,160 undergraduate students and more than 130 master of business administration (MBA) students. AACSB accreditation includes an in-depth assessment of internal activities, mentorship with an AACSB adviser and a peer-reviewed evaluation.

**Skipper Bud's Oshkosh Marina** at 1351 Egg Harbor Lane has met pollution prevention standards required for certification as a **Wisconsin Clean Marina.** The program provides guidance, education and technical assistance to support marinas in the adoption of best management practices to reduce pollution from their facilities and boaters into Wisconsin's waterways.

serve a seat.

Celebrate Education is sponsored by the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, Mid-Morning Kiwanis Club of Oshkosh, UWO College of Education and Human Services, Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, Oshkosh Area School District Education Foundation, Edward and Belle Rudoy Endowment Fund and Oshkosh Southwest Rotary.



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# Academic Achievement for Oshkosh area schools

# **Oshkosh West High School**

Honor rolls for the first semester at Oshkosh West were submitted by the school district. Highest honors were given for a grade point average between 3.75 and 4.0; high honors went to 3.5 to 3.749; honors went to 3.00 to 3.499.

Jessica Graf Marnie Grey Joshua Hatfield Jack Heidl Michael Hotter Breece Hyler Reeghan Jaschob Mia Jordan Hoe Jung Michael Jungwirth Levi Kiefer Linsey Koslowski Claudia Krueger Sydney Kuen Caleb Lee Kaylea Leriger Jade Macias Abigail Mack Camden Martin Maddalyn Meartz Aubrey Messerschmidt Nicholas Miller Owen Moon Avery Mosloski Elizabeth Neubauer Ava Pamer Mariah Peterson Charlotte Rehm Evelyn Riley Jacob Schaefer Neva Schlies Mason Seager Michael Smithson Sierra Stang Camryn Steinert Meredith Stellpflug Nathaniel Stiefvater Evan Stratton Ethan Toppins Gabriella Trinrud Fern Ulrich Derek VanThiel Amani Vyamungu Elizabeth Wallace Joseph Ware Chase Watkins Sidra Yousef Honors Zainab Al Jasim Parker Asen Logan Auxier Amelia Bell Caleb Bergin Ayden Binder Avah Bloch Sullivan Boening Samantha Bryant Nora Clements Alexander Crook Samantha Dante Shannon Dresel Adalynne Elliott Hunington Fisher Isabella Flores Wyatt Folske Aurora Framnes Madysen Gau Cain Gelhar Katherine Hardy Cole Heideman Kylie Hielsberg Ragen Hinton Abigail Hintzke Jack Hoeft Clark Howell Ryan Jansen Antonio Johnson Mason Kilburg Lucas Kohfeldt Devon Kopitzke Trenton Krueger Bravden Kufel Katherine Kuhaupt Smith Loberg Miley Loesch Kalia Lor Kenji Lor Ryan Ludwig Anastasia Lyngen Olivia Mack Kyan Martini-Zeller Kennedy Maslowski Lily McDonald Leah Moen Michael Moreno-Gillstrom Abdul Muqtadir Sydnee Nelson Kvan Norman Ireland O'Marro Rosa Ortiz-Young Nora Pakula Emily Pankau Emma Polishinski Jakson Presser Madysen Probst Gina Puthornsri Georgia Raybern Ivan Raymond

Brogan Renning Samuel Roblee Connor Ross Sydney Rothenbach Leah Schertz Sadie Schmidt Annabelle Schmitz Madeline Schoening Jordan Schroeder Rvlee Simak Colin Smith Caitlyn Smithson Lily Sowers Bailey Stafford Brennan Stephenson Arabella Straw Adriana Thomas Fabian Travis Leah Tyson Nora Unger Avah Walter Starr Wanner Olivia Warren Semaj Williams-Ward Josslyn Xiong Alok Yang Delia Yang Summer Zinsli SOPHOMORES **Highest honors** Farhana Amin Sophie Anderson Reagan Bandelow Kaylee Beck Angad Behl Katie Berry Breana Bilson Mckenzie Blair Genevieve Blustin Peyton Bowers Reagan Burns Mason Callahan Samreen Chahal Carson Choinski Asher Connelly Isaac Considine-Buelow Rylee Coppernoll Mila Crowe Mollie Delfosse Kiersten Dietschweiler Gabbriella Dimas Caden Dorn Aubrey Epprecht Phoebe Fletcher Saguara Foley Samantha Frank Sophia Geis Levi Gonzalez Kaitlyn Haack Alec Hoeft Nolan Holladay Hayllie Hullar Madelyn Jahntz Sophie Kalka Lauren Klinger Kinsey Koepsell Elizabeth Kramer Freya Kuennen Lena Kuennen Jaydon Kuhnke Natalie Larsen Soren Larson Garrett Lawatsch Riley Lecker Jacquelyn Lobas Chloe Lusvardi Elizabeth Lynn Eli Maloney Cody Mann Madelyn Marino Braden Mariucci Silas McBrair Chloe Mellgren Tyler Mellgren Uzma Mirza Sarah Mrazek **Riley Mugerauer** Kaelyn Oaks Natalia Okrah Samantha Panske Macy Pluchinsky Naomi Race Grace Schellinger Emerson Schneider Jacob Schneider Shavla Schrock Stella Schwersenska Roland Shikoski Parker Stath Clover Stiefvater Cayleigh Tabbert Abigail Tercha Max Thiemke Kylie Triebold Avarie Tritt Payton VanBeek Sophia Wallace

Clara Weber Owen Weigandt Heinrich Weis Colton Wickersham Adam Wiebel Emma Willison Olivia Xiong Yylah Yang Sydney Ziegler Lucas Zurawski **High honors** Abigail Beck Ava Beesley Addison Benesh Jana Bochinski Josie Burke Addison Butt Andrea Czerwinski Braden Dehn Norah Fox Sushruth Gowda Christian Hecker Kolten Hodgen Megan Hope Kendall Irwin Rhett Jodarski Lucy Jolin Megan Jorgensen Cole Kennedy Aiden Kind Paige Knuth Kyleigh Koteski Emma Last Landon Maassen Cole McWane Tyler Nimis Liliana Olson Brady Ott America Paniagua-De La Rosa Flyn Reiland Sage Rutz Ryan Sadowska Lukaas Schultz Tahlia Schwartz Calleigh Soares Matthew Stinski Morgan Tibbits Genna Williams Cora Wright Honors Lane Achterberg Lauren Adams Vaasil Ahmad Aleigha Akins Reighlyn Alexander Blake Auer Culley Baumgarten Arieanna Beck Trista Beck William Beck Lillianna Berger Bria Blabaum Alexander Bolton Julia Booth Ethan Bowman Shelby Brandenstein Emma Briggs Azailya Bruski Blake Buss Melvin Byes Cole Clarke

Maddison Olejnik Alayna Peterson Camille Phillips Benjamin Potratz Skylin Quella Wilson Reinsch Sawyer Rhinehart Macie Ruh Iaden Saladin Owen Schlichting Ava Schultz Aiden Shady Henry Skelton Chloe Smith Auron Sowers Lauren Stack Halle Stern Mikayla Stowe Liam Sullivan LaQuan Swift Jasmine Thor Keeley Toman Isabella Toney Brekken Urban Ezra Vang Xavier Vang Colton Wolff D'angelo Wooten Lida Xiong Zajjailia Xiong Kylan Zellner Briana Zentner FRESHMEN Highest honors Drew Abitz Barakat Akinyele Lucy Amel Delaney Anderson William Berg Auden Bongers Evan Booms Nolen Boynton Jacob Branson Evan Burger Gwendolyn DeBord Peyton Dorn Connor Ellifson Broderick Enli Cecilia Enli Sophie Fletcher Paige Geiger

Xander Gilles

Alina Her

Lydia Hill

Elliot Goodacre

Árianna Hughes

Henry Hughes

Grace Johnson

Jocelyn Johnson

Emily Kasubaski

Brooklynn Knoll

Jack Kikendall

Caiden Kim

Emma Kohls

Carter Kufel

Jayden Kratzke

Mckeon Leclair

Emma Liebergen

Alania Malecki

Landen Mowry

Dania Mian

Sheska Leysha Lherisse

Hiba Tus Sabooh Malik

Mike Lherisse

Morgan Blindauer Amelia Carey Averie Crook Mason Dartsch Mia Drexler Molly Dudzinski Nolan Erickson Halle Feutz Luke Heuchert Summer Horton Lincoln Houle Elizabeth Jacques Sotjar Karla Saiid Khan Edward Lee Brooke Leinen Carson Marchant Wyatt Marten Ares McDougal Isabella Messenger Carden Noe Raegan Oesterreich Liam Otterson Jasmine Peck Thomas Schneider Colden Searles Ray Snyder Marcus Soda Ajaiya Stephens Taylor Swenson Zoey Syms Joel Tang Alexander Taylor Kayana Turner Francis Ulrich Vincent Vang Addilynn Veldman Gabriella Weisse Isaiah Wilson Macy Winchester Gabriella Woldt Anthony Wright J Xiong Honors Nour Al Hoda Al Obaid Parker Auxier Caroline Baly Isaac Bird Baeah Bryden Gage Buhrow Eren Camlibel McKenzie Christensen Adeline Coe Isaiah Cornell Connor Cox Jacob Davis Aiden Drover Kaelisa Fredette Parker Geis Eli Gelhar Werner Gobeli Adalynn Her Olive Hobbslee Quinn Howell Mya Johnson Philip Karpowitz Liam Koutnik Aubri Kubicz Tripp Lang Leighton Lloyd Brayleigh McCarthy Emjay McConnell Tyler McNeely Eva Meri Cyanne Mitchell Everett Molash Dominic Moore Cassandra Mrazek Fred Ngabonziza Aubrey Niskanen Lanyah Norman Nyazuba Nyakombe Maci O'Loughlin Hunter Petersen Declan Pinkall Gravson Redlin Addison Renning Logan Roehl Hunter Sawitski Madeline Schendel Mason Schertz Owen Schlieve Angelea Schmiedel Ethan Schuebel Michael Schwister Lilyann Shann Clayton Springborn Anaiya Stephens Ryan Stephens Keegan Stinski McKenna Stutz Owen Summers Chloe Sylvia Kenneth Thao Ava Trinrud Audrina Ukasick Courtney Vesperman Reagan Walczak Sean Walsh Braelvnn Wegner Lilith Woldt Lexi Wolff Vajlaija Xiong Brandon Yang Etta Yonke

Hailey Elst Romina Estrada Orta Claira Fronczak Marissa Gardner Hailey Gibbs . Sofia Gorgolis Liam Gorski Mackenzie Gruettner Owen Heim Cade Heiman Lucas Herbst Audrey Hernet Cole Jennings Aiden Jezwinski Alyxandriah Jolin Collin Julian Parker Jungwirth Arjen Karns Trentin Koeller Iria Koeppl Elizabeth Lett Elva Lundt Joselyn Macias Tok Jok Majok Ana Maldonado Aguirre James Matlock Fayth Meyer-Terrazas Reese Miller Olivia Molash Alexia Monroe Molly Monroe Devin Mutsch Caleb Oesterreich

Draten Conrey

Chavce Cram

Evan Danahy

Abigail Dewhurst

Gavin Nimmer Hazel Nuon Isla Olson Franciszek Olszewski Addison Otradovec Clayton Reising Maeya Romportl Kathryn Scheivert Ahna Schlies Allison Schraa Ella Seering Brooke Skoglind Havden Smock Kamryn Stauffacher Coraline Strebelinski Stuart Suwalski Stevie Taylor Anna Thiemke Natasha Tisdel Carmen Tornow Natalie Trapp Elizabeth Trebiatowsk Molly Turner Caleb VanThiel Oliver VanThiel Mariah Vigil Alexandria Wendt Joy Wheel Grace Whitcomb Keegan Zier High honors Faateha Ahmad Victor Alatorre

#### FEBRUARY 26, 2025

SENIORS Highest honors Malika Abdulloeva Batoul Adnan Abou Zitoun Hala Alali Arianna Bauer Anna Borst Konrad Bowlus-Jasinski Dorothy Butzlaff Maia Butzlaff Dominic Centner Mikella Clavette Kara Cummings Loria Dao Lee Dowdy Noelle Dutscheck Isabelle Eschenbauch Gwen Evenson Sergio Figueroa Aleman Amadeus Gray Geteme Hakizimana Wajdy Hasan Ashlynn Haskin Joshua Hawley Baylee Hirte Cezara Iorga Zachary Kiffmeyer Jacob Klinger Allan Koji Trip Kujawa Brannick Larson Macey Lee Lehna Mitchell Emma Niemczyk Morgen Nuetzel Grace Penzenstadler Autumn Reindl Laura Rogne Logan Schettle Brianna Schulte Addison Schulze Warren Seeley Francesca Serafini Sawyer Sharratt Zachary Splittgerber Stefan Stojilovic Katelynn Sturtz Ezekiel Sturtz Cadence Taylor Linda Thor Daniel Thur Grace Toney Hailie Trochinski Hailee Valdez Miles VanThiel Jasmin Vey Hailey Widmann Brianna Wilson Lillian Worden Lanie Zellmer Joshua Zietlow **High honors** Marcus Anderson Aiden Brewer Raelynn Bryant Charles Clark Paine Engelmann Nawal Mahmoud Falah Fahima Hasan Sophia Housworth Aminah Kamel

> SENIORS **Highest Honors**

Darya Averkamp Hailee Bauer Anthony Behnke Grace Cater Emelia Day Natalie Edwards Remington Force Vincent Force Ava Geffers Donovan Hemminghaus Jack Hochstein Katelynn Hughes Allison Huizenga Heidi Husman Bree Kane Natasha Konop Katherine Lynn Hannah McDowell Tavlin Mecklenburg Grace Meyers Erin Moore Elena Mueller Kathleen O'Connor

Charlie Kempf Morgan Kolodzik Natalie Kossolapov Skylar Kuehn Izabella Loiacono Cade Martin Violet McKeefrv Garret Munig Lillian Nicholas Ireland O'Brien Ireland Page Evv Pamenter Brooke Peters Sareah Reaves Joshua Rivers Alexandra Ruedinger Annika Sabai Edgar Salzler Katelyn Schneider Henry Schultz Noah Schweda Autumn Shelton Hser The Soe Ayessa Marjorie Solaybar Isabella Strobel Palai Thao Andrew Thao Jamilua Thompson-Schreck Jaycheevada Valssaint Alisha Vang Dynastee Vang Austin Wenzel Elaina Wojahn Travis Z... Ethan Yang **Honors** Travis Xiong Tuka Abazid Anna Adams Titus Alic Bella Anderson Kiera Barnett Owen Bidwell Kamiya Birkhead Iya Blackwell Serenity Brewer Matthew Brown Virginia Burk David Burkhead Nicholas Calkins Eliott Cauley Kashmira Conner Noah Dordel Hannah Fiser Tiara Fountion Jenna Ghilani Alvssa Gilbert Mason Griese Caden Haase-Munro

Kaylee Hidde

Zachary Hintz

Sabat Íribagiza

Esther Jasmine

Yubdei Lor

Faith Ĺor

Khiyu Lor

Maggie Lynch

Jasmine Mata-Sims

Brian Matheson

Cameron Miller

Megan Slagter

Trista Starshak

Anika Wellens

**High Honors** 

Reagan Jaber

Wade Lindahl

Payten Miller

Mto Wasekye Jean

#### Xzavion Mitchell Aimable Munyarugo Lila Murphy Anthony Nguyen Liem Nguyen-Rivers Kiara Palmore Connor Palmquist Noah Probst Makenzie Reyes Isabella Spatt Owen Stephany James Stern Shaylee Stromberg Sabrina Thao Madison Umansky Jaziel Valero Preston Vang Hero Vang Daejaaq Vang Isabel Velders Fredrick Ware Camden Watson Sarahlyn Webb Malinda Yang JUNIORS Highest honors Ashlynn Anderson Jack Anderson Elliana Auler Alai Awak Everix Blessent Olivia Borowitz Macie Boyd Iacob Braun Dalton Clark Lydia Dougherty Tyler Farnsworth Kaisten Feiter Veronica Fogleson Benjamin Hansen Rica Hanson Alexis Haves Ryan Hoerth Reilly Jacoby Elliott Kipp Ean Langkau Caden Lederhaus Allie Leib Aydan Lor Callie McBriar Ethan Merckx Jessica Myers Andrew Oehler Rhonan MacInernev-Nason Kayli Olesen Bryce Ott

# **Oshkosh North High School**

Honor rolls for the first semester at Oshkosh North were submitted by the school district. Highest honors were given for a grade point average between 3.75 and 4.0; high honors went to 3.5 to 3.749; honors went to 3.00 to 3.499.

> Addison Perzentka Aubrey Salisbury Lavla Šilva Mya Sonnleitner Laine Stouff Antonio Thompson Evelynn Voss Owen Weber High honors Jack Anderson Andrew Brockman Hannah Conrad Lacey Domiter Campbell Gies Myranda King Gikundiro Kwigaba Confiance Madolari Gavin Martinson Taylor Rodig Jasmine San Taylor Sherer Kevin Stahl Roman Swan Yinghoua Thao Nalee Vang Kurtis Vang Jamison Wright Honors Isabella Adams Qusai Al-Qawasmi **Jackson Anderson** Evan Auler Isabella Bellson Edward Bielak Bravlon Buhrow Yerenmis Canino Ibarra Logan Conrad Madilyn Cravillion Levandra Dawood Alexis Dombrowski Binti Ebinga Damien Engelmann Hala Mahmoud Falah Benjamin Folletz Kendra Gaulke Natalie Gray Maelyn Gregor Giovannie Haralson Tianna Hayes Annaliese Hinkens Stephen Hulett John Ilunga Conner Kislewski Mason Krings Connor Kuehn Crystal Kuhn Kallum Larson-Poeschl Drake Lauritch

Sophia Lazaro Alexander Linsenbigler Logan Luft Anastasia Lyngen Aiden Mansell Alexandria McDowell Cole Meiselwitz Tyran Moore Keirah Palmquist Samantha Pattion Keegan Rees Taron Roberts Elliya Rosin Jade Schroeder Jamare Scott Sullivan Snow Alexander Strobel Abbigail Techlow Priya Vang Ashton Vang Paja Vang Elijah Victor Emma Wara-Krivoshein Xavier Waters Eaton Evan Werch Dorian Wilkinson Landen Wright Salina Yang Shylee Yenter SOPHOMORES **Highest honors** Alissa Abendroth Happiness Ajao Reid Anderson Quetzali Burmeister Tristan Cotts Ian Foerster Bravdan Frank Sonya Herman Cora Hershberger Elsa Hirschberg Sienna Hyde Paige Jarvey Samantha Leib Cliff Moll Tucker Moskal Matty Sanneh Kaitlin Schmiedel Ella Seeley Lavla Smiltneek Emily Steiner Hudson Sundquist Hanako Wertanen-Grine Phengvoua Xiong Demetri Yang **High honors** Sultan Abu Salma

#### Bailey Barrera Brynn Bellcorelli Kiyah Brunner Jhon Cruz Castellano Spencer Diven Abigail Dutscheck Zoe Fiser Elise Geffers Yamama Ghannam Emily Gillingham Campbell Harrison Nigar Hasan Jude Horton Brady Huinker Dante Krause Kylie Lor Emily Nigl Lina Salman Olivia Shears Promise Shehi Owen Spaulding Jasmin Vang Aviana Worden Honors Shahed Alhamad Awut Alic Virginia Arrington Jackson Bailey Ella Barlow Eleanor Baumgartner Noah Bigelow Noah Blau Carter Bottomley Adrijana Clark Michael Cook Mayson Feavel Nicolas Flandin Charles Ford Grace Freimark Helix Fritz Blake Henslin Zarghuna Hesaraki Emilee Hinz Austin Housworth Emmi Klatt-Wehr Oskar Konda Naviana Lao-Facundo Lyric Larson Gabriella Lofton Elijah Lor Baloci Mbalu Lilith Molenaar Say Eh Bey Moo Abigail Moss Shaterra Nowell Lilyana Oleson Alexandra Pamenter

Caden Ames

OSHKOSHHERALD.COM | PAGE 7 Clayton Poquette Zita Loiacono Eli Lor April Martin Grey Richards Callie Rudoll

Mattalin Maxwell

Seamus Rutkowski Guliano Saverda Lily Schneider Cooper Snell Chloe Stadtmueller Rebecca Tong Madison Ventura Jordan Witt Chonlada Xiong Anikan Xiong Jalina Xiong Lue Xiong Katsumi Xiong Zayden Yenter Zara Zinth FRESHMEN **Highest honors** Lilli Ames Mason Anderson Evelyn Annamitta Wyatt Balke Raegan Batten Marissa Bustillos Matthew Chopp Allison Cummings Lakshay Dhirar Cooper Doemel Lily Engelke Brewer Feiter Max Greuel Ryan Guenther Phoenix Hodgen Lucinda Housworth Autumn Kislewski Madrona Larson-Poeschl Blake Lederhaus Alexia Lor Ian Miller Chifeng Moua Grace Mueller Lia Nicholas Rylan Nicholas Eli Ott Elanor Paulsen Gabriella Pereira Da Silva Penya Richards Savannah Rust Lillian Rutkowski Mugisha Sebuhinja Claire Stueber Keeley Ulrich Asher Vanesky Eddy Vang Elena Voss Jay Weber Oscar Zaborski High honors Lucas Dodge Emaly Duran Ali Edan Assa Faizi Nolan Farnsworth Aidan Flanigan Elizabeth Fuqua Teja Hilson Christina Jolie Wesley Loewe

Ya'Nais Mills Mia Montalbano Justina Mundt Justin Parrott Jeffrey Parrott Natalie Petersen Kashfa Qaiser **Emily Reimers** Damien Rivera Korrine Stewart Prapeeya Thao Rijko Úrban Felvx Walker Nathan Xiong Caylex Yang Teya Zinth Honors Rimas Abo Ezreek Braden Anderson Ajak Awak Ólivia Baer Brady Barbian Maxton Collins Aurora Cravillion Kaden Crooks Hazel Desotell Miguel Diaz Valenzuela Ace Doemel Myidas Elliott Michael Fredrick Dillan Gorski Dean Jackson Logan Janes Sophie Jepsen Kirah Kaminski Brady Knudson Halaynah Kong Carter Lane Raymond LaPointe-Mitchell Veda Lemke Amelia Marquette Janaya Melton Delilah Mever Mason Mitchem Elaina O'Donnell Tyler Paulsen Elizabeth Peterson Avdin Pouh Jayden Pyke Griffin Resop Julian Rew Gavin Riess Xavier Rucinsky Landon Rufer Landon Schulze Jacob Seager Meena Singharath Mackenzie Stevenson Edwin Torres Star Vang Nahla Whitley Rylan Wilhelm Melody Xiong Tidus Xiong Sunisa Xiong Kalina Yang

# **Lourdes Academy**

Lourdes Academy has released its high school honor roll based solely on the students' first-semester grade point average. Highest honors are for a GPS of 3.75 to 4.0; high honors are 3.5 to 3.749; honors are 3.25 to 3.49.

> Allie Schaefer Aubrey Schettle **High Honors** David Mueller Jasmine Saiyed Parker Slusarski Claire Trofka Mathias Yaggie Honors Benjamin Byczek Ava Copening Tristan Gomez Rayne Laufer

Kaden Okon Andrew Syson SOPHOMORES Henry Achterberg Maximus Behnke Jackson Buttke Breann Emons Joseph Foss

Merryn Jerger Marlie Kieckhafer Elizabeth Koch Matthew Loker Estella Marschall Annie Moore Tessia Mroczowski Elizabeth O'Connor Katelyn Potratz Sasha Ouandt Celia Ralofsky Allison Stromske Abigail Thorson

Kayla Wihlm Brady Bauer Walker Dlugolenski Cameron Kapral Rachael Kowalske Henry Spanbauer Honors Eliott Halla

Mason Piechowski

Abigail Ridenour

**High Honors** Christina Agosto Blake Busby Brianna Caulfield Finley Coats Evelyn Heinzen Annika Hitchcock Maggie Kilde Adhieu Liabwill Ding Machiros Brynn McKone Jacob Salm Lavontae Smith Addison Wilburn Honors

Christopher Bailey Josephine Egan Jasmine Hughes

#### Connor Salm **High Honors** Ian Simmons Elijah Troiber Asher Wellens Allie Winchester Samuel Rehm FRESHMEN **Highest honors** David Agosto Christian Baumann Khloe Bunton Grace Dillenberg Reid Dwyer Sarah Hafemeister Maya Hawi Emma Lindahl Alexis Maki Izzianna Mugerauer

#### Caden Anderson Bennett Pecore Michaela Schneidewend Honors Monserrat Luquin Sabur Machiros Daria Hatokova Karsyn Havlik Duong Nguyen Anika Leitch Delaney Ruedinger Claire Lowe Aoife Mains JUNIORS Brett Maki Ryder Mullen Janek Pisarek

Audrey Parrott

Brinna Paulson

Braeden Ridenour

**Quin Ruark** 

Isaak Rucinski

John Santiago

Lucia Schade

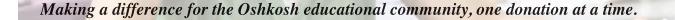
**Highest Honors** Cameron Crandall Adam Dinegan Gabriel Ditscheit Lillian Doemel Cvdnev Foster Henry Geck Elizabeth Guerrero

**Highest Honors** Nomundari Bolorsukh Lila Geffers Arianna Hoefgen

# For Valley Christian honor roll, see page 8

**A Strong Community Starts in the Classroom** The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and **Oshkosh Area School District Education Foundation** recognize and celebrate the students who made the Fall 2024 Honor Roll.

**Congratulations on this achievement!** 







EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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# Honor rolls

# **Valley Christian School**

Valley Christian School released its 2024-25 first-semester honor roll.

#### SENIORS

**High honors** Susannah Johns Mikaylah Osinga Jordan Gehrke Maliha Demler Zoev Hilbrand Josie Weiss Dora Zodrow Hannah Johnson Elizabeth Brechlin Nykole Van Groll Quinn Nelsen Brady Patterson Gage Hasse Madyson Clark Christopher Jepson Ethan Robson Alaina Wojtowski Loes Oosterbaan Rebekah Neuman Honors Ho-su Isom Ethan Millar Lilly King Jayden Wellhoefer Aiden Ziegler Ashlynn Sohrweide

Jayden Wellhoefer Aiden Ziegler Ashlynn Sohrweide Josh Curtis Alexis James Cade Krause Hannah Schneider Joshua Johnson Halle Weyenberg Ian Kuhlow Dalton Smith Ethan Reinke

JUNIORS High honors Carter Belville

Maura Willis McKenzie Murphy Maddy Weiss Anna Giannopoulos Brynn Weinaug Tessa Weinaug Micah Vander Heiden Sam Vilski Kendra Sandahl Danny Kunde Bostyn Clark Derek Wallace Lexi Maldonado Dawson Miller Bella Birr Rylan Koller Olive Long Olga Swanstrom Lizzie Fink Jonah Menet Aubryn Lehman Anna Sawicki Raven Meyer Katherine Custer Uriah Churchill Zikri Kallio Paige Boevers Irie Dorsey Honors Ben Schilder Katy Calderon Dieringer Austin Keyes Emily Lovato Hope Kramer Younhee Isom Christopher Luedtke Isaiah Hyvonen Kaleb Richardson

**SOPHOMORES High honors** Grace Espersen Hadassah Gutierrez Kuhaupt Ben Curtis Brady Day Mason Everts Rachel Freund Eavie Heffernan Mya Moran Micah Humiston Merian Getz Noah Zodrow Brynn Martin Briana Mueller Xander Osinga Melia Patrick Tyler Andersen Maliya Engel Titus Nelsen Mackenzie Grammer Eliana Ross Honors Cole Highfill Riley Hill Kayla Mathwig Cyrus Ehrlich Kenan Ernst Adam Laabs Jeron Bjarnarson Jack O'Brien Maverick Luedtke Mady Bjarnarson Ian Kramer Mya Hasse Liam Clayton Emma Reinke Natalie Robson Abel Garcia Cuevas Kenlvn Probst Lvla Koller Lincoln Kuhlow

FRESHMEN High honors Kyla-Belle Dampier Silas Johnson Cyrus Omdal Joshua Sandahl Anna Vander Heiden Simon Menet Portia Weiss Pyper Burns Gabe Custer Bri Davis Eliana Demler Lydia Hardy Lyla Marchetta Julia Miller Levi Rask Wyatt Sawicki Zachary Werner Maddie Laabs Noel Long Lily Ochowicz Steven Stiansen Aiden Kralovetz Charlotte Graper Titus Weyenberg Honors Elena Calderon Dieringer Vivianna Golackson Brianna Grammer Beatrice Schmidt Payton Rabe Maddie Busch Maya Heet Noah Ekholm Phin Churchill Amy Willis Willis GracieAnn Ware **Emily Spence** Haley Hill Ella Urban Tyler Galow

#### County highway worker reported seriously injured

A Winnebago County Highway Department employee was seriously injured last week when reportedly struck by a vehicle.

Emma Malczewski

Isaiah Hanford

County Executive Jon Doemel reported the incident on social media last week, noting the highway department employee was injured Feb. 20.

A public scanner report stated the incident happened near U.S. 45 and County T.

No other information has been released regarding this incident.



# Ukrainian UWO student honors friend, fellow students

#### By Grace Lim

UW Oshkosh Today

When Vladyslav "Vlad" Plyaka, a University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh sophomore from Rivne, Ukraine, learned that a friend had been killed while serving as a drone operator in Ukraine's military, he knew he couldn't let his friend's story fade into the background.

To honor his friend Kostiantyn "Kostia" Yuzviuk, 23, and shed light on the ongoing war, Plyaka, a double major in journalism and political science, spearheaded a powerful event at UW-Oshkosh, bringing together the voices of students affected by the conflict.

Ukrainian Student Stories: Three Years of Russia's War in Ukraine, will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday (today) in Reeve Memorial Union's Ballroom. Plyaka, 19, will tell

Plyaka

the story of Kostia, who had spent much of his life fighting for Ukraine – first as a teenage activist during the 2013 Revolution of Dignity – later as a volunteer, and ultimately as a soldier defending his country from Russia's fullscale invasion. He died on July 18, 2024, from injuries sustained while serving with the 117th Brigade of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the Zaporizhzhia direction, Plyaka said.

The event, which is open to the public, will feature two photo exhibits—one focusing on Kostia's life on the front lines and another titled "Unissued Diplomas," which honors 40 Ukrainian college students who lost their lives in the war. The Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership sponsored the event, and UW-Oshkosh student interns designed the exhibits and video podcasts. It is also supported by Wisconsin Ukrainians, a nonprofit organization working to raise awareness of the war's impact.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to watch video podcasts that tell the stories of the Ukrainian students – Kostia, Plyaka and Iryna Levada, a UW-Eau Claire student from Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine.

"This project is an incredible example of student-driven civic engagement," said Mike Lueder, director of UW-Oshkosh's Center for Civic and Community Engagement. "Vlad and Kostia represent the truest forms of civic and community engagement. I hope UWO students and others who see their work and their sacrifices walls"—positioning themselves between two interior walls to minimize the impact of potential explosions.

One night, Plyaka made the risky decision to sleep in his own bedroom on the third floor.

"That was a mistake," he said. "I was awake late, playing on my phone, when suddenly there was a massive explosion. The house shook. A second explosion came, even stronger. I was frozen. My hands were shaking. I realized that at any moment, the war could take everything from me."

Plyaka came to the U.S. on a student visa in August of 2022. He hasn't been able to go back to Ukraine since because there is no guarantee he'd be allowed to come back to the United States.

"It is so hard to be in a safe place and see how my friends and relatives and my nation are being killed by missile and drone attacks," said Plyaka, who plans to return to Ukraine after earning his degree to work as an investigative journalist. "In 20 years I want to be able to look my children in the eye and tell them that I did everything I could to ensure that they live in a peaceful and prosperous Ukraine."

Plyaka's personal experiences with war make his mission to share Kostia's story even more urgent.

"Ukraine is paying its highest price in this unjust war, and that price is human life," he said. "There are thousands of stories that remain untold. By telling Kostia's story, I hope to inspire more people to become civically and socially engaged."

Talking to Kostia's family was one of the most challenging parts of organizing the event.

"It was extremely painful," Plyaka said. "Every time I texted Kostia's sister and his girlfriend, I had to carefully choose every word. I didn't want to hurt anyone's feelings. It's been six months since he died, and I don't know if that's enough time for their hearts to heal."

Despite the emotional weight, Kostia's family was supportive of the project.

"They were thankful and glad that I was working to keep Kostia's memory alive," said Plyaka, who first met Kostia at a volunteer event in Rivne. "His energy stood out immediately. One day, he was collecting money for the Army. The next day, he was evacuating animals from war zones. He was always helping others whenever he could."

Kostia was rejected multiple times when he tried to enlist, but he persisted, eventually joining the military in 2023. He became a skilled drone operator with the call sign "Stambul," working in some of the most dangerous conditions in the war. "He believed in Ukraine's sovereignty and died fighting for that cause," Plyaka said. "Like many Ukrainian students, he made the ultimate sacrifice." For Iryna Levada, a first-year student at UW-Eau Claire, the war is just as deeply personal. She remembers the moment she realized how devastating it had become: when a classmate messaged her in April 2022, desperate for advice on how to console his mother after his father was killed on the front lines.

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For Plyaka, the war is not just a distant political conflict—it is deeply personal. On the morning of Feb. 24, 2022, he woke up in his family home in Rivne, Ukraine, and discovered that his classes had been suspended indefinitely. Confused, he checked the news and saw that Russia had launched a full-scale invasion.

"I went downstairs and found my dad packing emergency supplies," Plyaka recalled. "I asked him one simple question: 'War?' And he just said, 'War.' That's when I knew everything had changed."

In the weeks that followed, Plyaka and his family took shelter in their basement, hoping to stay safe from missile strikes.

"At first, it felt secure," he said. "Then we realized the basement had only one entrance. If the house collapsed, we would be trapped with no way out." They moved to the first floor, following the "rule of two "He was only 16, the same age as me at the time," she said.

Even from the U.S., she is constantly reminded of the war's impact.

"I get texts from my parents about power outages, missile strikes near our home, and the sound of drones overhead," Levada said. "At night, I have nightmares about losing them."

# Spring election

FROM PAGE 1

our hard work in the weeks ahead to be successful on April 1.

"I want to thank Sheriff John Matz for running and creating a competitive primary election, and congratulate County Executive Doemel for advancing to the spring general election."

Matz said he was disappointed with the results but accepted the democratic process and will continue serving the county as sheriff.

The primary election for the state superintendent of schools was also on the ballot. Incumbent Jill Underly and Brittany Kinser advanced to the general election, defeating Sauk Prairie School District Superintendent Jeff Wright.

State results matched Winnebago County numbers as Underly received 38% of the county votes compared with 34% for Kinser and Wright with 25%.

Turnout was much lower than in the November presidential election, when more than 95,000 voters cast their ballots across the county, compared with 14,669 votes cast in the primary last week.

The April 1 election will have several local contests on the ballot, including Oshkosh Common Council, Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education and a school district facilities referendum, along with state races for Wisconsin Supreme Court and school superintendent.

There are two seats up for election on the council along with the mayor's seat. Incumbents Karl Buelow, Paul Esslinger and Joe Stephenson are running for re-election against challenger Brad Spanbauer. Mayor Matt Mugerauer is running unopposed for his second term.

Three candidates are vying for two seats on the school board. Member Molly Smiltneek, appointed to the seat last year, is seeking election while incumbent Stephanie Carlin is not seeking re-election.

Smiltneek will face challengers Michael Ford and Jacob Wolf for the open seats.

Voters will also be asked their opinion on the \$197.8 million facilities referendum. If passed, the referendum will update multiple elementary schools, including adding space and air conditioning, a new auditorium at North High School, and a new middle school.

Former attorney general Brad Schimel is facing Dane County Judge Susan Crawford for the Supreme Court. Incumbent Judge Ann Walsh Bradley is not seeking re-election.

In 2023, candidates and special interest groups spent more than \$51 million on the Wisconsin Supreme Court race when Milwaukee County Judge Janet Protasiewicz defeated former justice Dan Kelly.

The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign,

### **Gender policies**

#### from Page 1

shortly after the Department of Education announced the regulations. The OASD Board of Education had extensive discussions on the topic with most supporting the update.

Board members Kelly DeWitt and Tim Hess questioned whether the district should approve a policy that was being challenged at the federal court level.

The district receives around \$5.5 million in federal funding and there was concern it could lose that money, which supports the food services program and special education.

The board approved the updated Title IX regulations in September and now five months later approved deleting them from school policy to comply with the latest federal guidelines. The district separately updated a policy that states the board does not discriminate based on gender identity.

Superintendent Bryan Davis said during discussions last year and in January that when policy changes at the federal level the district desires to stay updated with federal policy.

Discussions were heated at times, with board member Stephanie Carlin calling Moms for Liberty a terrorist organization. The national group advocates against school curriculums that mention LGBTQ rights, race and ethnicity, critical race theory and discrimination.

Over the summer, the school board discussed Title IX at multiple meetings with an abundance of public comment. The district also brought in an attorney to explain the situation to the board and community.

Board member Barb Herzog said even

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Board member Molly Smiltneek discusses her opposition to removing the Title IX 2024 regulations from board policy, saying it could harm students.

though the Title IX policy has rolled back to the 2020 rules, the district has anti-bullying policies in place to protect students and staff.

"It's important to remember that we also have anti-bullying policies and regardless of what group a student or a staff member may belong to, we need to respect the rights of everyone," Herzog said.

Federal Judge Danny Reevers ruled in the case that the Department of Education under the Biden administration exceeded its statutory authority and violated the Constitution.

The court decision aligns with the Trump administration, which earlier this month signed an executive order banning transgender women from competing in women's sports.

"In recent years, many educational insti-

#### OSHKOSHHERALD.COM | PAGE 9

tutions and athletic associations have allowed men to compete in women's sports. This is demeaning, unfair, and dangerous to women and girls, and denies women and girls the equal opportunity to participate and excel in competitive sports," the executive order states in part.

"Therefore, it is the policy of the United States to rescind all funds from educational programs that deprive women and girls of fair athletic opportunities, which results in the endangerment, humiliation, and silencing of women and girls and deprives them of privacy. It shall also be the policy of the United States to oppose male competitive participation in women's sports more broadly, as a matter of safety, fairness, dignity, and truth."

On the first day of the new administration, an executive order signed by Trump stated there are only two genders and attacked gender identity as having no connection with biology.

"Gender identity' reflects a fully internal and subjective sense of self, disconnected from biological reality and sex and existing on an infinite continuum, that does not provide a meaningful basis for identification and cannot be recognized as a replacement for sex," the order states.

Board member Molly Smiltneek opposed reversing the Title IX policy and advocated for students and staff who may feel unwelcome.

"We know now that the current administration at the federal level will not protect trans students with these rules," she said. "I cannot be complicit in the adoption, implementation or enforcement of unjust rules, policies or law. I cannot take action that makes kids feel less safe in school."

The policy updates were approved 6-1 with Smiltneek being the lone opposing vote.



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which tracks election spending, reported a record \$51.06 million spent on the race two years ago. Finance reports from the two campaigns show Crawford has raised more than \$7 million since last June and Schimel has raised almost \$5 million since announcing his candidacy in late 2023.

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The CoComelon: Sing-A-Long Live tour visits the Oshkosh Arena on April 30.

### CoComelon children's show to visit arena

CoComelon: Sing-A-Long Live starts its North American tour this spring with an April 30 stop in Oshkosh at the Oshkosh Arena.

The new production from Round Room Live and Moonbug Entertainment features the characters of CoComelon and brings JJ, Cody, Nina and friends to life for families of all ages.

Tickets are now on sale and can be found at oshkosharena.com.

"Singing and dancing along to CoComelon tunes is a huge part of why families

### Anti-bullying scarf project engages fifth-graders

The Anti Bullying Campaign (ABC) is again yarning up for the 2025-2026 school year, encouraging knitters and crocheters to create scarves for fifth-graders in the Oshkosh Area School District and surrounding area.

As fifth-graders are often the oldest in elementary schools, they are asked to love to watch CoComelon together," said Susan Vargo, head of experiences for Moonbug Entertainment. "After its success around the world, we're delighted to share this experience with families in the U.S. and Canada."

CoComelon follows JJ, his siblings and friends on adventures that teach life skills through music. Created with child development experts, the show has been presented to audiences in more than 80 countries with more than 4 billion monthly views on platforms like Netflix and YouTube.

wear these scarves as symbols of kindness and cooperation. Red Heart yarn in 5-ounce skeins with pattern by their makers can be dropped off at First Congregational Church on Algoma Boulevard.

The scarves are delivered to participating schools in the fall. Contact kathychap@gmail.com for more information.



# Regional high school music competition set

Oshkosh Herald

Students from area schools will participate in a Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA) sanctioned District Solo & Ensemble Music Festival on Saturday at Oshkosh North High School.

During the daylong festival, which is open to the public, students will perform



#### 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

UWO Student Produced One Acts, 7:30 p.m., Theatre Arts Center, Experimental Theatre

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

UWO Student Produced One Acts, 7:30 p.m., Theatre Arts Center, Experi-

mental Theatre "The Shawshank Redemption," 7 p.m.,

Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

#### Sunday, March 2

St. David's Day Hymn Sing, 2:30 p.m., St. Paul's UCC, 1250 Leonard Point Road

#### Wednesday, March 5

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

#### Thursday, March 6

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

History Buffs Book Club, 6:30 p.m., Morgan House, 234 Church Ave.

vocal and instrumental solos, duets, trios and small ensembles before an adjudicator.

The festival will draw students from area schools, including Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, Menasha and Neenah. Bridget Duffy-Ulrich, Oshkosh North music director, will be the festival manager.

Morgan House, 234 Church Ave.

#### Saturday, March 8

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

Fox Cities Roller Derby, 5 and 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Mom Prom, 7 p.m., Gibson Social Club, 537 N. Main St.

Puzzle Fundraiser for Love the Mess, 4 p.m., Hooper Community Center, 36

Broad St. "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

#### Thursday, March 13

Author G. Anthony, 5:30 p.m., Caramel Crisp Bookstore, 200 City Center

#### Friday, March 14

Wisconsin HER Day, 11 a.m., Oshkosh Arena

Lourdes Academy's "Seussical the Musical," 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Wisconsin Herd vs. Cleveland Charge, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

#### Saturday, March 15

Weaving a Legacy: Ho-Chunk Black Ash Basketry exhibit opening, Paine Art Center (through June 29)

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

AmazSpring Shopping & Craft Show, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra, 7 p.m., UW Oshkosh Arts & Communication Building

Lourdes Academy's "Seussical the Musical," 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

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

#### Sunday, March 16

Valley Fox, 12:34 p.m. (potluck at 11:30 a.m.), Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church, 1174 Algoma Blvd.

Lourdes Academy's "Seussical the Musical," 2 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

#### **Tuesday, March 18**

Wisconsin Herd vs. Long Island Nets, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

#### Thursday, March 19

Oshkosh Chamber Business Expo, 11 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

Open Creative Flow workshop series,

10 a.m., Jambalaya Arts, 413 N. Main St. Friday, March 20

Wisconsin Herd vs. Long Island Nets,

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#### Friday, March 7

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

Rhythm of the Dance, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Morgan House evening tours, 6 p.m.,

6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

EAA Speaker Series: The C-130 in Combat, 7 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum

#### Saturday, March 22

Journey Together Service Dog Bowling Fundraiser, 1 p.m., Revs Bowl Bar & Grill, 275 N. Washburn St.

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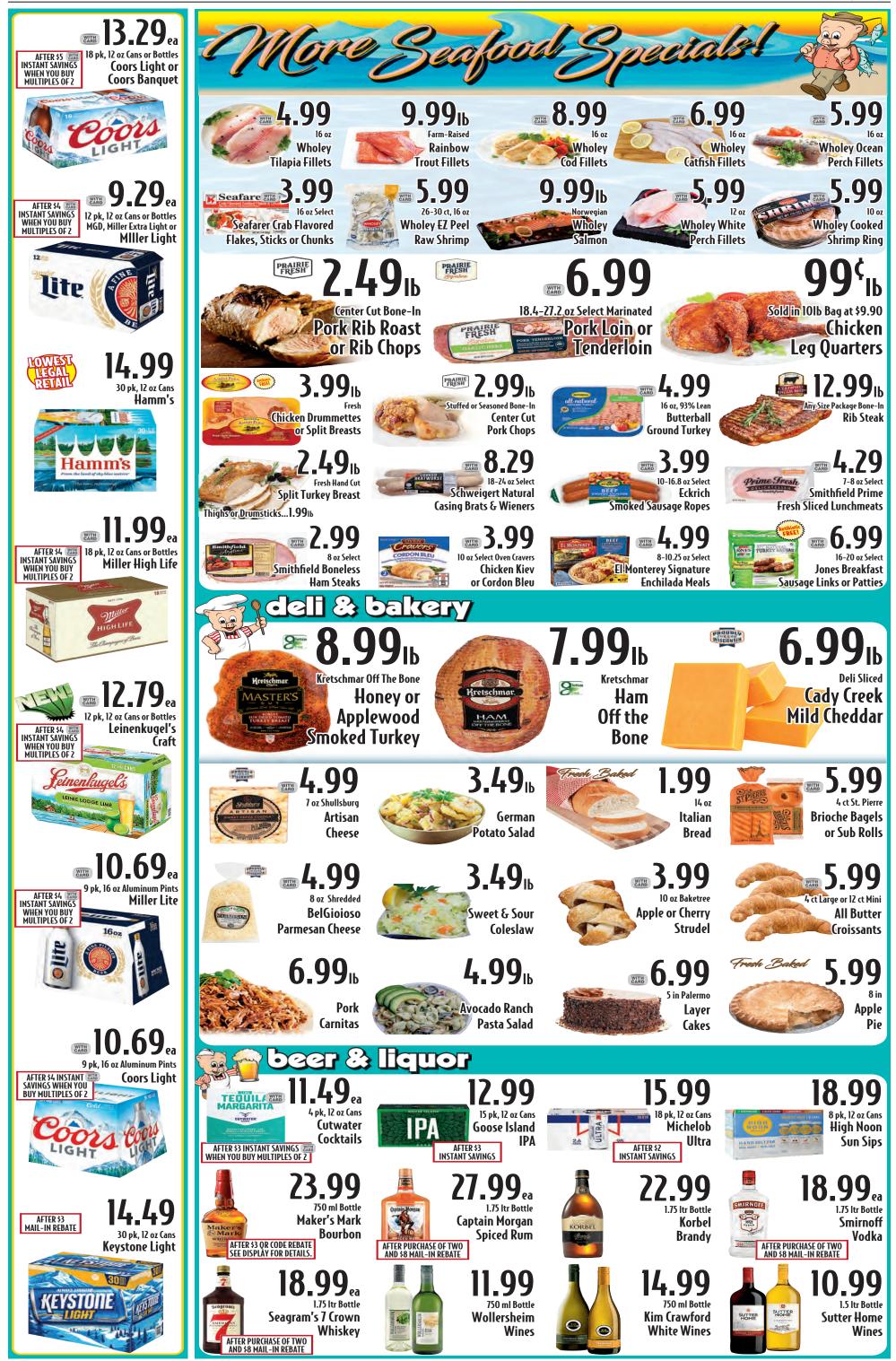


FEBRUARY 26, 2025



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FEBRUARY 26, 2025



# North/Lourdes repeats third-place finish at state meet

By Steve Clark **Oshkosh Herald** 

River Reeves is getting used to bringing home hardware from the WIAA Division 1 State Swimming and Diving Championships.

The Oshkosh North/Lourdes Academy diver placed in the top eight for the third straight year and took third for the second time in a row at the state meet Saturday at the Waukesha South Natatorium.

"It's pretty exciting to get back on the podium, especially with all of the guys I

have been diving with through the years," Reeves said Sunday. "Even if I'm not moving up necessarily, it's still fun to go up on the podium with all of my friends."

Reeves, who was seeded second entering the state meet, finished with a total of 426.70 points on his dives. He was one of only three divers to top 400 points and finished more than 60 points ahead of the fourth-place finisher.

Defending state champion Brady Huettl of Waukesha South/Catholic Memorial. a senior, won the state title with a score

# Prep sports roundup

#### **BOYS BASKETBALL**

### Mitchell moves into top 5 on all-time scoring list

Xzavion Mitchell poured in 40 points in an 85-80 win over Fond du Lac last Thursday to move into the top five on state's alltime prep scoring list.

Mitchell entered the game tied with Sam Dekker for fifth place all-time but moved into sole possession of the spot with his first points of the game. The Iowa State commit now has 2,633 points in his career and trails former Gale-Ettrick-Trempeleau standout Cody Schmitz by 21 points for fourth place.

Mitchell was 12-of-14 from the free-throw line and added 12 rebounds in the win.

Jackson Anderson finished with 13 points and seven assists for the Spartans, who knocked the Cardinals out of a tie for first place in the Fox Valley Association with the win. Bryce Ott added nine points and eight rebounds.

Earlier in the week, North knocked off

Tuesday night.

Noah Gelhar added 12 points and eight rebounds in the win.

The Wildcats lost a heartbreaker to Neenah on Friday, 45-42, after leading the Rockets by seven points at halftime.

Once again it was the duo of Ware and Gelhar leading the way with 11 and 10 points, respectively. Gelhar also finished with a team-high eight rebounds.

Malakai Herlihy chipped in six points in the game for West.

### Knights gain road win against Hustisford

Braden Studinski scored 21 points to pace Lourdes Academy in a 51-45 win over Hustisford in a Trailways East contest Friday night.

Jackson Buttke added 13 points and Harlan Kuehn chipped in seven points for the Knights.

Earlier in the week, the Knights fell to Winneconne, 89-49. Individual statistics were not available.

The Warriors trailed just 28-21 at halftime Friday, but were held to just 13 points



of 502.45, while Madison Memorial's AJ Beard took second with 494.65.

"It definitely wasn't my best day. I feel like I could have done a lot better," said Reeves, who totaled 427.50 at last year's state meet. "I had some big dives this year. I had the hardest level of difficulty of dives this year and I think I could have performed them a lot better."

Reeves was in third place only six points behind Huettl after the round of preliminary dives but a rough semifinal round left him trailing the two leaders by about 50 points.

"They had some higher difficult dives there and I had some lighter dives," Reeves said. "The two difficult dives I had, I kind of biffed and went a little bit short on so I didn't get as many points as I usually do."

The second straight third-place finish already has Reeves looking forward to next season and a potential fourth trip to the state meet.

One of the ways he plans to prepare for his senior season is to spend some of the summer working with Beard, who is a sophomore.



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"It's going to be fun because I think we have a lot to learn from each other," Reeves said. "He has some smaller dives that he has some really good form on and I have some bigger dives that I can work my form on."

Perfecting his form and technique is the best way to possibly add to his point total next season as he can't increase the difficulty of his dive lineup much.

"Technically, I could add a little more difficulty to my dives and I probably am going to add a front 3.5 (flips) next year," Reeves said. "But for my voluntary dives, I'm pretty capped so I can't add much more so I'm going to try to just refine my dives so they look really good."

Reeves was the only Oshkosh competitor at the state meet this year.

Middleton won the team title with 273 points, topping second-place Verona by 98 points for the title. Neenah was the top Fox Valley Association finisher, placing ninth with 113 points.

Reeves scored 16 points by placing third in diving so North/Lourdes finished in a tie for 29th place.





# Knights stymie Oaks to claim Trailways East title

By Steve Clark Oshkosh Herald

Lourdes Academy girls basketball coach Ali Starr is generous with just about everything she has in her life.

Just don't ask her to give up a part of a conference basketball championship.

"I joke with the girls that I will share anything with anyone but I don't want to share a conference championship with anyone," Starr said. "So I told them, let's go win this thing outright."

That's exactly what the Knights did.

Despite missing standout Delaney Ruedinger because of an illness, the Knights hit nine 3-pointers and controlled the game almost from the outset in a 59-50 win over Oakfield last Thursday night to claim their third straight Trailways East title and 11th conference crown in the past 15 seasons.

"I wouldn't trade this for the world," said senior Hailee Bauer, who led the Knights with 16 points. "Delaney not being here tonight, I knew we would come together as a team and pull it off. I knew I personally had to step up and I expected my teammates to step up, too, and they performed really well."

Starr said she wasn't surprised that the Knights were able to beat the Oaks – who were second in the Trailways East – without Ruedinger.

Not that Ruedinger hasn't been a vital piece of the team's success but she believes her senior's leadership is felt whether she is on the court or not.

"She may not be here physically, but her heart print on this program is undeniable. She's left a legacy in each one of these kids," Starr said. "Of course we want her on the floor, but there was no energy lost with her not here. That's exactly what she would have expected and that's what we rolled with and that's powerful."

After Oakfield scored the first points of the game, the Knights' responded with an Allie Huizenga three-point play and a pair of baskets by Bauer.

The Oaks then pulled within 7-5 but Lourdes Academy followed with a 17-5 run to seize control of the game.

Aubrey Schettle drained a 3-pointer to start the surge – the first of five she hit in the game – as the Knights were dialed in from behind the arc hitting nine treys in the game.

"It's electric when the first one goes in," said Schettle, who finished with 15 points. "As soon as I shot it, I felt the good feeling a shooter feels when they shoot it. All night it was like that. I felt in rhythm and I was confident."

Schettle said that she definitely felt a lit-



The Lourdes Academy girls basketball team celebrates winning the Trailways East title following its win over Oakfield last Thursday at The Castle.

tle more pressure with Ruedinger not able to play.

"I knew I had to step up tonight and play a bigger role and be prepared for them coming out to beat us," Schettle said. "To have a starter gone for such a big game and knowing that Delaney is such a big part of our team, for most of the day I was pretty nervous."

Starr also got an indication of what was about to unfold following Schettle's first 3-pointer.

"When she hit that first one, I saw her crack a little smile and I thought OK, she's having fun and it's going to be a good night," Starr said. "She's one of the most poised kids I've ever coached. Whether she makes or misses, she's locked in on the next possession on the next shot."

Schettle added two more 3-pointers as the Knights extended the lead to 31-14 and then hit a fourth with four seconds left in the half to give Lourdes Academy a 35-24 lead at intermission.

The Knights maintained their 10-point cushion for nearly the entire second half but the Oaks got within nine points with 1:09 left to play.

That would be the final points of the game, though, as Lourdes Academy ran out the remaining time.

"This was a great game going to regionals next week," said Bauer, who finished with a team-high seven assists. "This is what we needed as a confidence boost. Oakfield is a great team and coming out and getting the win is huge for us."

Huizenga finished with eight points in the game, while Adhieu Liabwill came off the bench to score seven points. Sabur Machiros and Hannah McDowell each chipped in five points.

Five different players hit 3-pointers in the game with Schettle making five and Bauer, Huizenga, McDowell and Ellie Koch each tallying one.





Machiros and Schettle each finished with five rebounds to lead the Knights.

The Knights were slated to open WIAA Division 5 tournament play at home on Tuesday against Hilbert. Lourdes Academy will host both the regional semifinal on Friday and the regional final on Saturday if the Knights continue to win.



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Photo by Andy Ratchman

Aubrey Schettle hit five 3-pointers and finished with 15 points for Lourdes Academy last Thursday.



# Oshkosh North can't hold off Fond du Lac in FVA loss

By Joe Matzek HERALD CORRESPONDENT

A slow start was too much for the Oshkosh North girls' basketball team to overcome in its Senior Night game against Fond du Lac.

The Spartans fell behind by 13 points early in the game and by 20 points early in the second half before mounting a comeback that fell short in a 61-50 loss to the Cardinals at North High School on Thursday night.

Fond du Lac burst out to a 19-6 lead behind seven points from Amaria Kejo, a strong 6-foot senior forward who was hard to stop on the low block.

"She's a tough one to handle," North coach Rick Leib said of Kejo. "She's physical and you can't really rattle her. She keeps her composure. If you help (on defense) too much, it leaves the shooters open."

Although North cut the deficit to 29-24 late in the first half, the Cardinals scored the next nine points to go up 38-24 at halftime.

The Spartans were plagued with 13 turnovers in the first half against the Cardinals' half-court trap and press.

"We've been talking about getting paint touches and getting to the hoop and things like that (but) the pressure bothered us today," Leib said. "We've talked to the girls about playing with a little more purpose and urgency off the ball."

Led by Kejo, Fond du Lac took command near the basket by making 15-of-21 two-point attempts in the opening half.

The second half started the same way, with Fond du Lac expanding its lead to

49-29 as the Spartans looked for a combination to play as a unit.

"I think when you face adversity, you've either got to come together or you go your separate ways, and there were times tonight when we went our separate ways," Leib said.

North (5-19 overall, 3-15 FVA) finally found a lineup that worked as it went on a 20-8 run to cut the Cardinals' lead to 57-49 with three minutes remaining. Seniors Hailee Valdez and Morgan Kolodzik, and sophomores Awut Alic, Navi Lao-Facundo and Promise Shehi, sparked the comeback with aggressive defense and a sense of direction on offense.

"I was proud of the girls. We found some grit," Leib said. "The other nice thing is that I wasn't calling out the play sets. It was nice to see them just controlling the court."

Alic, who scored nine of her game-high 23 points during the run, fouled out just seconds later, and the Spartans couldn't get any closer despite the Cardinals making just 8-of-19 free throws on the night. Alic was the only North player who scored in double figures.

Amaria Kejo led Fond du Lac (8-16, 6-12) with 15 points and eight rebounds. Lilah Johnson followed with 12 points and Lilly Kejo added 10 points for the Cardinals.

North finished with 19 turnovers to Fond du Lac's eight.

The Spartans lost their ninth straight game after defeating Fond du Lac and Appleton West in back-to-back games in mid-January.

Photo by Jim Koepnick Oshkosh North's Naviana Lao Facundo battles for a rebound against Fond du Lac last Thursday.







Submitted photo

# Hall of Famers

The Oshkosh North Athletic Hall of Fame welcomed two new members earlier this month as John Cameron (left) and Rashid Coulibaly were enshrined. The duo was honored at halftime of a boys basketball game.



# Senior trio headed to state meet for Wildcats

By Steve Clark Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh West will be represented by a trio of seniors when the WIAA State Wrestling Tournament opens up Thursday at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Ryland Schneider became just the second four-time state qualifier in school history by placing second at 175 pounds at the Division 1 Menasha Sectional on Saturday and will be joined by two-time state qualifier Eddy Schroeder and firsttime qualifier Nelson Fournier in Madi-

son.



"It's awesome to see those guys get through," Oshkosh West head coach Matt Cuadra said. "They put in so much work over the past four years." Fournier was the

Schneider

only one of the three to win a sectional title, topping Noah Klug of

Merrill, 6-0, in the 215-pound title match.

Fournier had reached sectionals the previous two seasons and finished fourth last year, but had yet to earn a trip to Madison before Saturday.

"It felt amazing to hear that whistle blow and know I was going," Fournier said. "Been working at it the past couple of years but just fell short. Definitely great to make it."

Fournier pinned Elmer Heard of Wausau East in his first match of the day and then won a hard-fought 7-5 decision over Hortonville's Austin McHugh in the semifinals.

Fournier registered two takedowns against McHugh to take a 6-2 lead after two periods, but McHugh closed the gap to one point with about 30 seconds left in the match. Fournier got a point for an escape with 17 seconds left and then fended off McHugh to close out the win.

"Nelson had a tough week last week but bounced back," Cuadra said. ""We were really focused on the Hortonville kid to make sure we got past him and we didn't look too much at what was next."

In the title match, neither Fournier or Klug mounted much offense for the first minute of the match, but Fournier struck with about 40 seconds left in the period to take the lead. He added another takedown in the second period to go up 6-0.

"Getting that first takedown is definitely a momentum boost," Fournier said. "It feels like, this is my match now when you get that first one instead of going down."

Fournier's second takedown came about 30 seconds into the period and the



Oshkosh Herald Above: Nelson Fournier tries to turn

Merrill's Noah Klug after taking him down in the 215-pound championship at the WIAA Division 1 sectional at Menasha High School on Saturday.

At right: Eddy Schroeder works for control over Wisconsin Rapids' Carter Freeman in the 138-pound championship match Saturday.

West wrestler was able to ride Klug out the rest of the stanza.

So, when it was Fournier's choice to start the third, he took the option to be in the top position and rode Klug the entire period.

"Recently, I've felt good riding but also didn't want to get thrown. That kid had good upper body (strength)," Fournier said. "Might as well ride him and if he gets out then we are back on our feet anyway."

Cuadra admitted it was an unusual approach but was confident Fournier could make it work.

"Very rare are we going to go on top in the scenario," Cuadra said. "Nelson was just controlling it in the second period and the other kid showed some stuff where he could throw us to our back and when we're tired we are susceptible to that. So just taking control in that third period was awesome."

Both Schroeder and Schneider finished second, with both avoiding wrestlebacks in earning their trips to Madison.

Schroeder pinned Ethan Drury of Hortonville in 3:38 in the first round at 138 pounds and then edged D.C. Everest's Josiah Beltran, 5-2, in the semifinals. He lost to Carter Freeman of Wisconsin Rapids, 9-2 in the title match.



Schroeder, who finished third at the state meet last year, is excited about getting another shot in Madison.

"It feels good. Celebrate tonight and then get back to work. I have some work left to do. Just give it everything next week," Schroeder said. "I think (going to state last year) helps tremendously. I think now knowing what it's like down there is going to help this time. It's not going to be something new."

Going to state is nothing new for Schneider either, who joins Alec Hunter as the only four-time state qualifiers in school history.

Schneider needed just 35 seconds to pin Stevens Point's Kyle Madlena in his first match of the day before earning a 7-1 decision over D.C. Everest's Blake Bangston in the semifinals.

In the finals, he faced a nemesis in Kaukauna's Liam Crook. Crook has dealt Schneider four of his five losses this season and beat him 10-3 in the title match. "He's tough," Schneider said of Crook. "Today, I just wanted to focus on what I can control, have fun and score some points. It feels great to go back to state. I've worked hard for this so it feels good."

Now all three wrestlers have their sights set on bringing back some hardware from Madison.

"I'm going there with the goal to win it and I think the other guys are, too," Schroeder said. "I think we are all capable of it and I think it's going to be a fun time."

Schneider, who finished fifth a year ago, has improved each year at the state meet and is hoping to climb to the top of the podium in his final trip to state.

"It's always been my goal. Every season I get close to it so I hope I can cap off my senior year with that," Schneider said. "Just get my mental right. Mentality is a big thing for me and if I believe I can win, most of the time I do."



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Oshkosh

# Varsity veteran Gelhar does it all for Wildcats



Oshkosh West senior Noah Gelhar has showcased his all-around skills for the Wildcats this season, leading the team in scoring, assists and steals, while sharing the team lead in rebounds.

# Wrestling

from Page 18

No matter how they finish, at least the

"We knew it was going to come down to those two right there and he fought his butt off the whole time. It just turned out on our side."

Preston Schneider also picked up a

By Tim Froberg HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Hamburgers and sandwiches are occasionally named after athletes.

If the Noah Gelhar Burger ever became a reality, chances are it would not be skimpy.

It would come with everything.

A mix of multiple contributions is what Gelhar provides on the basketball court. Just ask West coach Dan Weisse.

"Noah does a bit of everything for us," said Weisse. "We ask a lot from him on both ends of the floor. He does a lot for us off the court as well."

Gelhar agrees with his coaches' assessment. He's no one-trick pony. Instead, Gelhar is a multidimensional Swiss Army knife type of player. Twenty-one games into the 2024-25 season, Gelhar was tied for the West team lead in scoring (10.4 points per game) and rebounding (5.2 per game. He was the team leader in assists (2.9 per game) and steals (17) and second in blocked shots (five). He had also drained seven 3-pointers.

"I'm a little bit of everything," said Gelhar when asked to describe his game.

Gelhar is a tweener. He has the height (6 foot 4) to score inside the paint, clean the glass and defend inside the lane. But he also has guard skills. He is a solid midrange shooter and a fine passer and facilitator. Gelhar's team-high 60 assists are 20 more than the second-best West total.

"I went into the season knowing I had to be a lot more aggressive," Gelhar said. "I've played at this level for three years and it was time for me to step it up. Expectations aren't as high when you're a sophomore or junior. As a senior, you need to

# **Senior Spotlight**

give double-digit scoring nights and be a leader. I see myself as someone who the young guys can come to with any questions.

Gelhar has put together a breakout senior year. He has doubled his scoring average from his junior season when he started 22 of 27 contests and averaged 5.2 points, 4.5 rebounds and 1.8 assists. A third-year varsity player, Gelhar started 18 games of 27 games as a sophomore and averaged 5.1 points, 2.9 rebounds and 0.9 assists.

"As a coach, one of the best things about high school and college athletics is to see the growth of your student-athletes," Weisse said. "It's fun to see kids like Noah mature physically and mentally and become leaders for their group.

"He's been an excellent leader and a great example for our youth kids coming up. You won't meet a nicer young man. Sometimes I think he's too nice on the floor. But he's the genuine article and will be doing great things in whatever he decides to do. He has a bright future."

A soccer ball has also been part of Gelhar's athletic career at West. He lettered in the fall sport his first three years before deciding to focus on basketball.

"I wasn't a varsity-level player in soccer like I am in basketball," said Gelhar. "Soccer is really not my thing. I just did it for fun and to stay in shape for basketball. It really helped improve my footwork and stamina. Soccer gets you into really good shape."

Gelhar has been playing basketball since

SEE Senior Spotlight ON PAGE 20





three seniors will be capping their careers together.

"Been wrestling them for a lot of years now so it's great to have all of those friends going there," Fournier said.

Added Schroeder: "It's awesome. Not many teams experience that. We have been wrestling together since we were young and it's always been fun. This last year, we are going to make it count."

The group nearly had a fourth senior join the state-bound group but Jaiden Fronczak came up just short, taking third at 165 pounds.

Fronczak bounced back from a semifinal loss to beat Gavin Madson of D.C. Everest, 11-6, in the third-place match to get a wrestleback for a state berth. But he came up short against Kolin DeGroot of Kaukauna, 15-2, and had to settle for third.

"He wrestled a great kid," Cuadra said.

third place, finishing 2-1 with a pin at 126 pounds. Schneider edged Kaukauna's Hunter Taff, 3-1, in the third-place match but did not get a wrestleback for second place.

Xavier Vang (113), Yylah Yang (120), Jaxen Lloyd (144) and Zach Bartels (190) each lost in the first round for West.

Oshkosh North had three sectional qualifiers in Alex Barerra (106), Rijko Urban (113) and Dominic Wywicki (144), but each lost in the first round of the tournament.

On Friday, Menasha hosted the girls sectional meet with three Oshkosh wrestlers competing.

West's Lauren Klinger (107) and Kait Lundt (185) were each pinned in their quarterfinal matches, while North's Maddy Ketola was taken down late in third period and lost a 14-11 decision to Two Rivers' Sophia Soukup at 132 pounds.

# Prep roundup

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in the second half as the Crusaders were able to pull away.

Mathias Behling finished with 13 points to lead the way for the Warriors, while Derek Wallace finished with seven points. Individual statistics were not available

for Tuesday's game.

#### **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

### Oshkosh West can't rally past Neenah

The Wildcats outscored the Rockets in the second half but couldn't overcome an eight-point deficit at intermission and fell to Neenah, 72-65, in the regular-season finale Thursday.

Maddie Rasmussen posted a double-double with 15 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Wildcats.

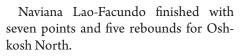
Kamryn Stauffacher added 11 points and Kinslee Nelson finished with 10 for West, which finished just 3-of-17 from 3-point range, while Neenah was 9-of-27 from behind the arc.

It was the fifth straight loss for the Wildcats, who will open WIAA Tournament play at Appleton East on Friday in a Division 1 regional semifinal.

# Spartans unable to keep pace with Papermakers

Oshkosh North fell behind by 14 points at halftime and couldn't recover in a 67-43 loss to Kimberly in a Fox Valley Association game last week.

Brinna Paulson hit three 3-pointers and finished with 15 points to lead the Spartans, while Awit Alic added 11 points and six rebounds



# Knights fall to state-ranked Wolves

Lourdes Academy was held to just 15 points in the first half and dropped a 67-37 nonconference contest to Winneconne last week.

The Wolves are ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in Division 3. Sabur Machiros finished with eight points and Delaney Ruedinger finished with six points in the game.

Lourdes Academy finished just 2-of-16 from the 3-point line in the game.

### Warriors can't hold off Sheboygan Christian

The Warriors led by 10 points at halftime but the Eagles rallied in the second half to hand Valley Christian a 66-63 loss last Thursday.

Mya Moran poured in 27 points to lead the way for Valley Christian, which had three players in double figures.

Lizzie Fink added 15 points and six steals for the Warriors, while Paige Boevers tallied 13 points, 15 rebounds and seven assists in the game.

### <u>GYMNASTICS</u>

### Oshkosh extends reign in Eastern Valley

The Oshkosh co-op gymnastics team posted a team score of 135.025 to win its third straight Eastern Valley Conference title at the conference meet in Kaukauna on Saturday.

Neva Schlies had an impressive showing to lead the way for Oshkosh. Schlies finished first on the uneven bars (8.95) and balance beam (9.15), while tying for first



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The Oshkosh co-op gymnastics team captured both the varsity and junior varsity team titles at the Eastern Valley Conference meet in Kaukauna on Saturday.

place on the floor exercises (9.25). She also tied for fourth on the vault.

Schlies captured the all-around title with a score of 35.45, to finish nearly a full point ahead of teammate Lydia Barr.

Barr's best finish was second on the uneven bars, placed third on the balance beam and floor exercises, and tied for fourth on the vault.

With Schlies and Barr taking first and second on the bars, Oshkosh turned in the top four scores on that apparatus with Mia Drexler taking third and Kendall Irwin finishing fourth.

The Oshkosh junior varsity team also won the conference title.

Earlier in the week, Oshkosh had a record-setting performance in a dual meet win over Kaukauna.

The team set a school record on the balance beam with a mark of 35.35, to top the previous high that was set in 2010. Drexler, Ahna Schlies, Ja'niyah Ford, Barr and Neva Schlies competed in the event. Neva

# Senior Spotlight

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elementary school. His parents, Matthew and Tiffany, played high school hoops at Lourdes Academy, while his uncle, Jacob Mosling, was a starting point guard for Brad Clark on Oshkosh West teams from 2007-2009.

"I'm really grateful for my family and what they've been willing to do for me," said Gelhar. "My dad was a spot-up shooter kind of guy, a lefty shooter. My uncle Jacob (Mosling) was a big inspiration for me and another one of my uncles, James Mosling, really helped me improve.

"I remember the summer of my freshman year when he (James Mosling) would pick me up each morning at 5:30. We would go to the Y and work out and get shots up and then go to my grandma's for breakfast before school. That became a routine." Schlies and Barr finished 1-2 on the beam, with Ahna Schlies finishing third.

Neva Schlies and Barr also finished first and second, respectively, on the other apparatus and the all-around to lead Oshkosh. Drexler added a third place on the uneven bars to give Oshkosh a sweep of the top three scores in that event.

Oshkosh finished the dual meet with a team score of 136.375.

#### **BOYS HOCKEY**

### Ice Hawks ousted from WIAA tournament

The Oshkosh Ice Hawks fell to defending WIAA Division 1 state champion Green Bay Notre Dame, 10-0, in the first round of the WIAA Tournament last week.

The Ice Hawks totaled just five shots on goal in the game.

Gage Bauer finished with a whopping 48 saves in the game for Oshkosh.

ball against one another and that's really helped me improve," Gelhar said. "My brother and cousins and I played a lot at my grandma's house or wherever we could find a hoop."

Gelhar, a solid student with a 3.3 grade-point-average, will attend the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the fall where he will major in business-marketing and minor in psychology. He doesn't plan to play college basketball but hasn't ruled out the game completely.

"It's just a different level," he said. "I don't think I'll continue playing basketball, but if there's a walk-on opportunity, well, you never know. I love the game and I'd be willing to be a staff guy who helps out with the program. My uncle Jacob went to school there and did some stuff with the program as a scout type of guy who helped out with practices. He's the reason I was interested in going to school there."

Until then, Gelhar is just looking for a strong finish to a solid prep basketball career.

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Gelhar has plenty of family ties within the West basketball program, His younger brother, Eli, is a member of the Wildcats' jayvee squad long with Gelhar's cousin, Carter Kufel. Gelhar has another cousin, Brayden Kufel, who is a valuable member of the West varsity team.

"All of us have played a lot of basket-



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"Growing up, I was not one of the better players at all," he said. "It took a while to find my groove and figure out what type of player I wanted to be. I'm really going to miss it. I'm just trying to play my game and enjoy the games I have left."



# Obituaries

On February 22, 2025, Captain James Basiliere, M.D. passed away after a cou-



rageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Dr. James Basiliere was born in Oshkosh, WI, on September 8, 1934, to Loren and Marceda Basiliere. He attended Oshkosh High School where he is

remembered as being a gifted athlete. He played as a quarterback for the Oshkosh Comets and was also a catcher for the Oshkosh Giants, both semi-pro teams. He joined the United States Navy and was stationed in Jacksonville, FL. In the Navy, he served as a Corpsman and found a passion for medicine. During his enlistment, he played for the Naval Flyers Baseball Team, an honor, where some very Big League players were a part of this elite Navel team. In Jacksonville, he met his future southern-bell wife, Jessie Ann Branch.

After fulfilling his term of enlistment, James returned to Oshkosh to attend college at the U.W.O. He was on track of achieving his dream of becoming a doctor. Thereafter, James continued his education at the University of Wisconsin Madison Medical School, and he was forever a lifelong dedicated fan of the Wisconsin Badgers. He was lucky enough to watch and support them throughout his life and attend several Rose Bowl games. He was always dressed in red and white Bucky Badgers clothing on gameday. He often treated his family, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to an exciting Badger football game.

After graduating from medical school, returning to the Navy, he moved to San Diego, California, to complete his residency and internship in Internal Med-

#### Fay C. Klima Sutter

Fay Christine Klima Sutter, 74, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, passed away on February



14th, 2025, surrounded by her loving family and friends. Fay C. Klima Sutter was born May 3rd, 1949, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, the daughter of Richard Klima and Dorrine Phillips. She

married Richard Sutter in January 2005 in Oshkosh.

Fay had a lengthy career at Plus Wood for 47 years where she eventually retired at the age of 65 in 2014, where she enjoyed the smaller things in life such as gardening, where she would tend to her plants in front of the house. icine at the Naval Hospital. He also became board certified in hematology. James had fond memories of his three little girls coming to the hospital for Easter dinner dressed up in their beautiful dresses. Thereafter, James was stationed in Hawaii at the hospital where he treated wounded warriors and military enlisted. He got to spend his free time, -the little there was, at the beach surfing and sword fishing. After Hawaii, the family was relocated back to San Diego then to Great Lakes in Waukegan, IL. Thereafter, he was promoted to Commander and decided to stay in the Naval Reserves and bring his family back to his hometown of Oshkosh. There he became an Internal Medicine Physician treating many patients earning the nick-name of "Bring em back Baz" He was an expert physician, well respected by his peers and served as Chief of Staff at Aurora, Mercy Medical Center, and the Great Lakes Naval Hospital.

Basiliere continued his passion for sailing with E-scows and then his A boat (A Scow) and was quite proud when he won the cherished Felker Cup. He loved hunting and fishing with his friends, sons, and grandsons. One of his favorite trips was in Canada with his sons and older grandchildren. He had numerous hunting buddies and knew how to enjoy himself on the good "Up north" fishing trips where his friends would not let him shop for groceries because (he was always health conscious) he purchased turkey bacon.

James served his community as a doctor for over 40 years, including dedicating time to North High School as the Spartans football team doctor. He was a huge advocate for the sick and their need for healthcare. When managed healthcare came to Oshkosh, James became a doctor for Aurora. He also worked for the State of Wisconsin, treating patients at Winnebago Mental Health. He served on many Committees to cure Cancer

Remaining to cherish Fay's memory are spouse, Richard Sutter; children, Jay Pegel, Serena Smith, and Amy Sutter; grandchildren, Richard Smith, Desiree Smith, Raymond "Little Man" Pegel, Kaeli Ziebell, Paige Pegel, Kendall Pegel, Ethan Magnuson, Jackson Magnuson, Aiden Pegel, Jr. Raymond Pegel and Olivia Pegel; niece and nephew Amanda Vanderlinden and Brandon Klima and best friend, Gwen Heagle.

Preceding Fay were her children, Raymond Pegel and Sarah Magnuson; parents, Richard Klima and Dorrine Phillips; brothers, Ricky Klima, David Klima and Craig Klima.

There will be a celebration of life forth-

and won numerous achievement awards throughout his career. He was also published in professional Journal. Eventually, he retired as a Captain in the US Navy. After retirement from Aurora he volunteered his time as a physician at the Living Healthy Clinic treating those who are uninsured and underserved. He was so dedicated to the practice of medicine and finding solutions for the medical issues his patients faced, that even after working his day shift and making his evening rounds, he would read, research and study his medical books, solving many challenging issues his patients faced. He was a very dedicated and respected physician

James had so many passions in life whether it was racing E scows, iceboating or golfing, he always was an active participant. But most of all, his biggest dedication was to the many patients that were blessed enough to have him as their doctor. After retirement, he spent many winters in Amelia Island, FL and some traveling with friends. After Jessie passed away, Basiliere was lucky enough to find a new beginning of love when he married Rita Anderson. With Rita he met new friends and traveled to Alaska on a cruise and Florida to get a break from the winter.

Dr. Basiliere is preceded in death by his first wife, Jessie; parents, Loren and Marceda Basiliere; sister, Janet Monroe; and granddaughter, Jessica Drexler. He is survived by his wife, Rita; his daughters, Patricia Basiliere Kleinfeldt, Kathryn (Kevin) Drexler, Attorney Teresa (Timothy), Basiliere-Madaus; his sons, James (Tiffany) Basiliere jr., Richard (Annette) Basiliere; grandchildren, Attorney Robert (Jennie) Kleinfeldt, Keara (Jason Klug) Kleinfeldt, Jordan (Ashley) Drexler, Ryan (Megan) Basiliere, Eric Madaus, James Basiliere III, Gabriella, Riley, Anikka, Alex and Olivia Basiliere; he is further survived by his beloved great-grandchildren, Malia, Eli, Bryson, Isabella, Asher, Penelope and Aren; Rita's daughters, Kate (Ryan) Vaubel and their children, Gavin, Emma, and Lucas, and Sarah Larson and her children, Jacob and Kendall.

Dad, thank you for your love, guidance and commitment to being a healer and a wonderful Dad. We have precious memories of spending time with you enjoying the rides at Disney and Great America and swimming in the surf at the beach. Most of all, you always gave us a sense of comfort when we were sick that all would be okay. We remember the many nights you stayed up worrying about a sick patient, God truly created a healer in you. The world was a better place because of you. We will miss you every day, rest in peace Dad -we love you. Now you may sail with the angels.

A funeral service for Dr. James Basiliere will be held at First English Church,1013 Minnesota St, Oshkosh, on Monday, March 3, 2025 at 10:30am. Visitation will be held from 9:30am till the start of the service. The family ask in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Oshkosh Yacht Club, Carbone Cancer Center, or the University of Wisconsin Medical School to be given to a student pursuing a medical degree.



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#### Scott C. Rothe

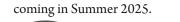
Scott C. Rothe, age 67, of Oshkosh, WI, died on Saturday, February 8, 2025, after a



battle with cancer. He was born in Denver, CO on December 18, 1957, to Richard Rothe and Marilyn (Rothe) Mc Cormick. During his younger years he inherited his father's wanderlust, during that

time he worked in several states including California, Colorado, and Wyoming.

After his son was born, he remained in Oshkosh and spent the rest of his life taking care of his special needs son, Alex. During that time, he attended UW Osh-



CREMATION SERVICES

kosh, graduating with a degree in business. He is survived by his son, Alexander Rothe; mother, Marilyn Mc Cormick; sis-

ter, Kim Kruger; aunts, Quinn (Dick) Polinske and Jean Price; and many cousins and friends. He will be deeply missed by all.

A memorial service for Scott will be held at 12:00pm on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Dr., Oshkosh, with Lyn Zahorik officiating. A time for visitation will begin at 11:00am and conclude at the start of the service.

A memorial has been established in Scott's name.

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# **Obituaries**

#### Wayne C. Coe

Wayne Carl Coe passed away with his family by his side on February 18, 2025.



He was born in Milwaukee on July 6, 1940 to Orville and Erma Coe.

Wayne worked for Morgan Doors, Griese and Ross Construction, CR Meyer. He also worked at the

Utica Golf Course as the "Lawn-Ranger." He was an active member of the Elo Church of the Nazarene.

Wayne loved to be outdoors. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, mowing lawn, fixing things and tinkering in the garage. He especially enjoyed his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His face would light up when the littles were around.

He is proceeded in death by his parents; Orville and Erma Coe, sister; Nancy Trapp and brothers; Burton (Mick) Coe and Eugene Coe, and grandson Joseph Stadler.

He is survived by his wife, Jean Kriz Coe of 63 years. He is further survived by his daughter, Cindy, (Mike) Schaefer, grandchildren Alex Schaefer, great-grandson Joseph Schaefer, granddaughter Abby (Dillon) Lesicko, great-grandchildren Olivia, Zoey, and Ozzy Lesicko, daughter, Sandy Coe (Darren Boyle), grandchildren, McKenzie Boyle and Jeremy Boyle.

He is also survived by his youngest sister, Shari (Dave) Dykstra, sisters-in-law, Barbara Coe and Beverly Coe, nieces, nephews and good friends; Ehrenberg's, Heilke's, and Peppler's.

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A memorial service, for Wayne, will be held on Saturday March 1, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Fiss & Bills- Poklasny Funeral Home (865 S. Westhaven Dr.). A time of visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until the time of service at the funeral home on Saturday.

We would like to thank the staff at Oakwood Manor for their tender loving care for Wayne. They were like a second family,

#### **Norman Charles Shurtz II**

Master Seargent Norman Charles Shurtz II, 76, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, February 16, 2025. Norm was born September 9, 1948 in Sacramento, California, son of Norman and Elaine (Clauss) Shurtz.

Norm served a total of 30 years in the United States Marine Corps from 1968-1998. Also was a member of the Winnebago Detachment of the Marine Corps League and the United Veterans Honor Guard here in Oshkosh.

He was a very active man. He was extremely passionate about his wine, bowling, golf, and his newest hobby; stamp collecting.

Norm was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Pamela LaValley. Survivors are his brother-in-law William La-Valley, a niece Dawn, and a nephew Scott. Norm impacted so many hearts for the short time he has been in the state of Wisconsin. His jovial personality, his devotion to the sports he loved, and his passion for newly restored Corvette. especially Sam, Megan, Bryce, Nucharee, Shelby, Nevaeh, Kenzie and Velvet.

We would also like to thank Moments Hospice staff, especially Kimberly, Becky and Erin for her beautiful music therapy. Wayne was so well cared for and loved by the staffs.

FISS & BILLS - POKLASNY

Funeral services for Norm will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 1 pm in the Fiss & Bills-Poklasny Funeral Home, 865 S. Westhaven Drive. A time of visitation will be held at the funeral home from 11 am until the time of service. Full military honors will be accorded by the United Veterans Honor Guard immediately following the service. Burial will follow in the Veterans Section of Riverside Cemetery in Oshkosh.

Norm you will truly be missed by all. Your smile, your infectious laughter, and especially your famous jig you danced for us, will make you be forever in our hearts. From all of us to you, "Atta way to go!"



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# Obituaries

#### **Evelyn L. Bowerman**

Evelyn Lorraine Bowerman, age 97, of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at Evergreen Retirement Community. She was born in Rochester, New York on May 3, 1927. Evelyn was a Head Nurse in Pediatrics at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York where she met her future husband, Dr. Charles Bowerman. He was her beloved husband of 49 years until his passing on January 29, 2001.

Evelyn devoted her life to her family, her faith, a lifelong commitment to serving the community through volunteering (a list too long to include because she requested that the obituary be short) and a passion for learning. She was ahead of her time. A champion of women's rights; gentle and unwavering in her devotion to social justice.

She was a long-time member of Oshkosh First Congregational Church. Over the decades, the staff and church members provided unconditional love, support and healing for her on her faith journey.

She was the beloved mother of four daughters, Sharon (Philip) Buchanan, Nancy (Tom) Neher, Carol (David) Pulkrabek and Beth (Michael) Dover; two sons, Neil (Lisa) Bowerman and

#### Bruce (Janet) Bowerman; the beloved grandmother of Jessica, Natalie, Jennifer, Allison, Matthew, Kelsey, Ryan, Lucas, Sadie, Alex and Emma; and great-grandmother of Merrick, Carter, Edyn, Silas, Cory and Aiden.

She was an inspiration to all who knew her and while we grieve our loss, our memories will be filled with joy, gratitude and a deep appreciation of the compassion, kindness, and love she embodied every day of her life.

Our family would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the staff and caregivers at Evergreen Retirement Community for their compassionate and dedicated care of our beloved mother. We are forever grateful for the love and dignity with which you cared for her in her final years.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at First Congregational Church, 137 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI. Visitation will be at 1:00 PM, followed by a service at 2:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Evelyn's name to Oshkosh First Congregational Church or Planned Parenthood.



Per Bob's wishes no service will be held. Oshkosh, A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

> Bob's family wishes to thank all of the doctors and nurses at Aurora Medical Center and Clinics that took good care of him this past year.

> Being a tissue donor Bob helped save many lives.

Any memorials will be made to heart or kidney organizations.

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

> When tomorrow starts without me, an angel called my name and said my place in heaven was ready. Don't think we're far apart, for every time you think of me, I'm right there in your heart. I'm at peace now.

### FUNERAL HOME

Surviving Charles are his wife, Marion Beyer; step-children, Mark Babler and Amy Spanbauer; four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and three nieces.

He is preceded by his two sisters, Mar-

#### Sandra L. Kienert

Sandra (Sandy) L. (Merkel) Kienert age 77, of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully on



Monday, February 17th, 2025 at Bethel home where she had resided for the past 2 years. She was born to the late William Merkel and Beatrice (Ceelen) Getchel on July 2, 1947, in Os-

hkosh. She married Darwin Kienert on May 21, 1983. He preceded her in death in 2011.

She worked as a switchboard operator for 38 years at Lenox Candles.

Darwin and Sandy also owned and operated Tuffy's Tavern from 1982 till 1991.

Her favorite pastime was playing cribbage, where you could find her at any cribbage tournament in Oshkosh or with anyone that just wanted to play. Sandy is survived by her children, Tim (Becky) Sawicki, Lori Ulrich, Lisa Busby (Robert Davies); grandsons, Justin Sawicki (Mira Kaetzel) and Blake Busby; as well as her sisters Denise (Gary) Griedl and Corine Roberts and several nieces and nephews. Along with her special friends Kay and Sheila.

In addition to her parents, Sandy was preceded in death by her husband, Darwin Kienert, brother Thomas Merkel and infant sister Susan.

Thank you to the staff and volunteers at Bethel Home for taking such great care of mom over the past 2 years.

A celebration of life will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes-Westside (100 Lake Pointe Dr) on Thursday, February 27 from 2PM until 4PM.

A memorial has been established for the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh, WI.



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**Robert R. Stark** 

Robert "Bob" Roy Stark, of Oshkosh, passed away at the age of 73 on Wednesday, February 12,



2025. He was born on September 14, 1951, to Elmer and Shirley (Smith) Stark. Bob worked at Ner-

con and Arrowhead Conveyor.

He enjoyed woodworking, making

things for anyone that needed something, and later enjoyed putting Legos together. Bob also liked playing poker and bingo.

Bob is survived by his wife, Mary; sons, Mike, Cory (Rachelle), and Jason; grandson, Brian; siblings, Randy (Beth) Stark, Sue (Erv) Portman, Shelby (Allan) Goranson; brother-in-law, Lyle (Sheryl) Hemp; and other relatives and friends.

Preceding Bob in death were his parents; daughter-in-law, Courtney Stark; sister and brother-in-law, Sandy and Tim Winkler.

#### **Charles E. Beyer**

Charles E. Beyer, 95, passed away on February 11, 2025. He was born on October 20, 1929 in Oshkosh, to parents, William and Alma Beyer. He married Marion Babler in 1979 and in his younger years he worked at Coca-Cola and Dr. Pepper, then as a construction worker of the local 330 for 55 years retiring in 1991. Charles enjoyed fishing, gardening and polka dancing.

#### **Donna M. Perkins**

Donna M. Perkins, age 79, passed away on Friday, February 21, 2025 at Edenbrook of Oshkosh. She was born to the late Michael and Lois (Fuller) Kolb on February 5, 1946 in Oshkosh.

A memorial service for Donna will be held at Konrad-Behlman Westside (100 Lake Pointe Dr) on Saturday, March 1, garet Schultz and Della De Troy.

Per his wishes, no formal services were held.



2025 at 1PM. A time of visitation will be held from 11AM until the time of service. Arrangements are being handled by Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes.

A full obituary may be viewed at Konrad-Behlman's Website.

ONRAD-BEHLMAN

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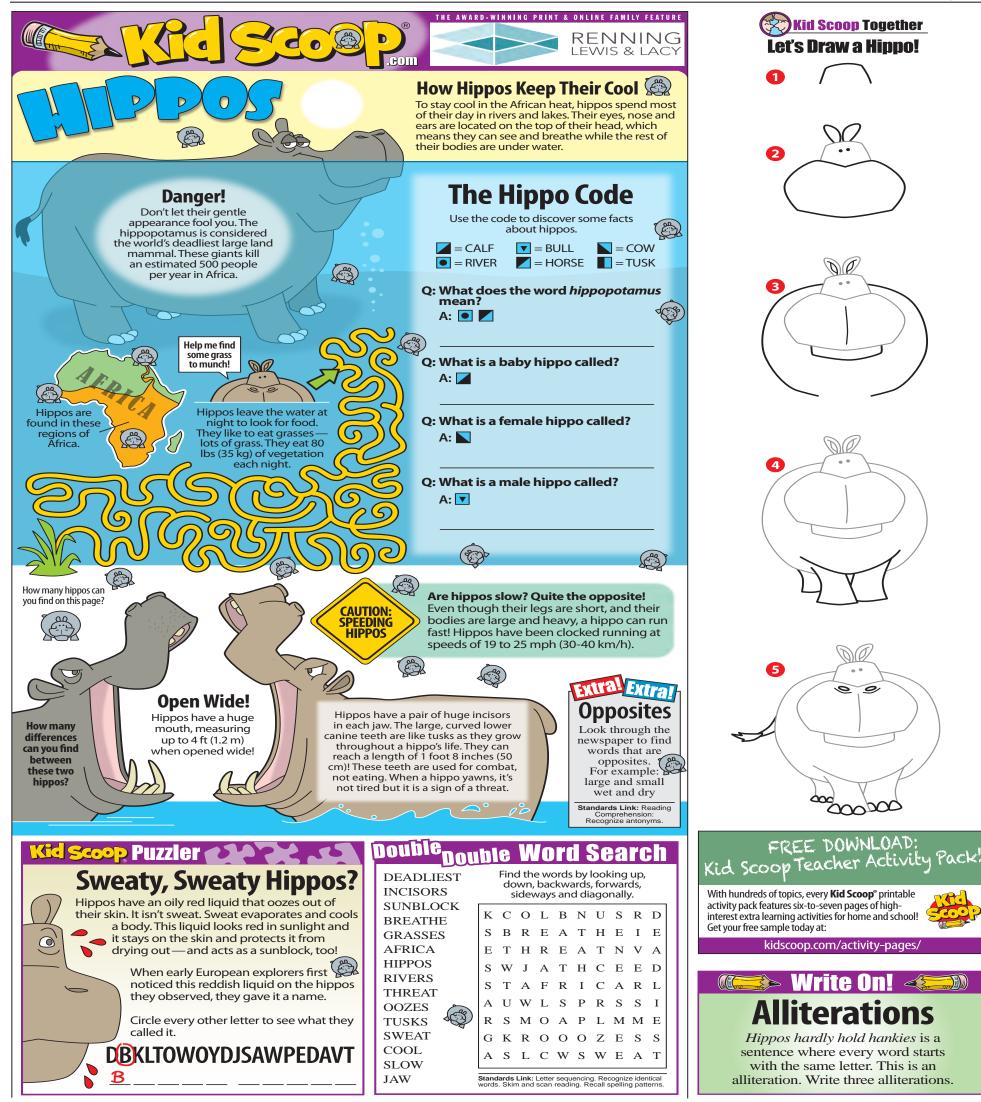
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