

WHAT IS WINNEBAGO COUNTY DOING?



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INSIDE



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State panel seeks county DEI records

Federal crackdown reaching local level

By Bethanie Gengler
OSHKOSH HERALD

National efforts to end diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives are gaining traction beyond the federal sphere, now reaching state and local governments.

President Trump in his second term signed several executive orders targeting DEI and threatening to cut federal funding for entities that continue to utilize DEI programs. Several lawsuits have been filed to block the orders.

In Wisconsin, the Assembly committee on Government Operations, Accountability and Transparency (GOAT), which formed in January and mirrors Trump's Department of Government Ef-

iciency (DOGE), is seeking information on county DEI programs.

The committee has been charged with "undertaking a review of county use of taxpayer dollars for positions, policies and activities related to diversity, equity and inclusion," according to a letter sent to each of Wisconsin's 72 counties and 50 largest cities in February by state Rep.

SEE **Equity programs** ON PAGE 10



Photo by Michael Cooney

Symphony finale

The Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra concluded its 83rd concert season Saturday night under the direction of Dylan Thomas Chmura-Moore, associate professor of music at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, featuring Dvorak's 7th Symphony. The UW Oshkosh choirs, led by new director Kristin Ramseyer, also performed with two choral works by Franz Schubert.

Summer pride event at Leach gains sponsorship

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Common Council voted 5-2 to approve the city's sponsorship of the Oshkosh Pride event June 29 at the Leach Amphitheater.

Two council members voted against the city sponsoring the event, citing issues with waiving a \$500 fee. Paul Esslinger and Jacob Floam voted against sponsorship of the event.

"Why do we have these fees in the first place?" Floam asked. "It's not about the nature of this event. I think anyone that wants to have an event in Oshkosh can have one. I welcome everybody in Oshkosh, everybody is welcome to be here. For me it is about a mission creep of government thing."

Floam, who works for U.S. Rep. Glenn

Grothman, said for those reasons he could not support the event being sponsored by the city.

Esslinger added that it seemed groups were doing this "to skate the fees" and avoid paying to use the amphitheater. He said if the city approves the sponsorship of the Oshkosh Pride event, it will encourage other groups trying to get events sponsorship to avoid paying the fee.

The city owns the Leach Amphitheater and has groups in general pay a fee, in this case \$500, to use the space for an event. Oshkosh Pride has held an annual event since 2022 at the Leach.

This June will be the fourth annual Oshkosh Pride event at the Leach, which in the past included music, speakers and other performers along with resources made available by nonprofit and other commu-

nity groups.

Council member DJ Nichols gave a brief history of Gay Pride events going back to the Stonewall Inn riots of June 1969, when police raided the gay bar in New York City. One news article was written about the event and over the next two days hundreds of supporters arrived outside the bar to support the gay community.

"Other people reading that story said, 'You know what? I've also had enough and I'm going to stop hiding in closets when police raid my bar.' That's where that phrase comes from - of coming out of the closet," Nichols said. "It's because of the people at Stonewall that I'm able to sit up here and talk to you all today. It's because



Oshkosh Media

Common Council member DJ Nichols speaks about the importance of gay pride events, including the fourth annual Oshkosh Pride gathering coming to the Leach Amphitheater on June 29.

SEE **Pride event** ON PAGE 10

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

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Corrections

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www.oshkoshherald.com.

Historic aircraft taking passengers this month

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) is offering rides in two historic aircraft from different eras on March 28-30 at Wittman Regional Airport with its Ford Tri-Motor and B-25 Berlin Express.

Tri-Motor flights will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on those three days, while B-25 flights will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with ground tours to follow from 2 to 5 p.m. The Ford Tri-Motor is known as the first luxury airliner, while the B-25 played a vital role during World War II as a medium bomber.

Both airplanes typically spend the year touring across the country stopping at select destinations to offer flights.

EAA's Tri-Motor was built by Ford Motor Co. and first flew in August 1929.



Photo from EAA

A Ford Tri-Motor is shown that will be available for rides this month.

The airliner was flown in Cuba and the Dominican Republic until it returned to the United States in 1949 where it would serve a variety of purposes including barnstorming and firefighting.

The B-25 was first accepted by the U.S. Army Air Forces in December 1943. The airplane left the factory fitted with two fixed .50-caliber machine guns and a massive 75 mm cannon. The airplane served out the war as an administrative aircraft, stationed at bases in Washington, Colorado and California.

Tickets for the Tri-Motor are \$105 for adults, \$85 for children 17 and under. Tickets on the B-25 are \$475 when bought in advance and include a free hat. More information is at eaa.org/flight-experiences.

Corrections

ATLAS GUIDE, MARCH: Woodey's Bar & Grill has its annual Woodey's Walleye Tournament on Saturday, May 10. The date was incorrect on Page 10. Mikey Koziczowski, owner of Wait... What...? LLC, had his name misspelled on Page 5.

MARCH 5, PAGE 6: The Brain Injury Support Group's former facilitator, Michael Athanasiou, had his name misspelled in the article.

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Local soldier advances as state's top National Guard warrior

Oshkosh Herald

Spc. Vincent A. Bird of Oshkosh, an officer with the 32nd Military Police Company, came out on top among 19 other soldiers at Fort McCoy earlier this month in the annual Wisconsin Army National Guard State Best Warrior Competition.

Bird was awarded Soldier of the Year after the demanding four-day competition testing physical and mental stamina, as well as knowledge of military tactics and procedures.

The nine soldiers and 11 noncommis-

sioned officers were evaluated on their proficiency in a call-for-fire scenario, M4 rifle and M17 pistol qualification, day and night land navigation, a written exam, an appearance board, Army Warrior Tasks, a 12-mile ruck march, combat water survival training, an obstacle course, and the Army Combat Fitness Test.

"We're looking for the best overall, all-around soldier," stated Command Sgt. Maj. Duane Weyer, the state senior enlisted leader for the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

Bird, a 2023 graduate of Oshkosh West,

has multiple civilian jobs – student-athlete, lifeguard and bartender – while approaching two years of service in the National Guard after enlisting in March 2023.

"I hope to gain a lot from this competition. I'm a pretty competitive person, so I love competition and it's just training when it comes down to it," Bird said. "This event is just more training and there is a lot of value from that."

He will now compete against the best warriors from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Ohio in the regional round set for April 30 to May 3.

"I'm definitely excited for regionals," Bird said. "I'm obviously a pretty competitive person and the competition is going to be pretty tight there. I am up for the challenge and excited to test myself once again against the best of the best."

During the closing ceremony, Brig. Gen. Matthew Strub, Wisconsin's deputy adjutant general for Army, said being selected to compete in the State Best Warrior set the competitors apart from the rest of the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

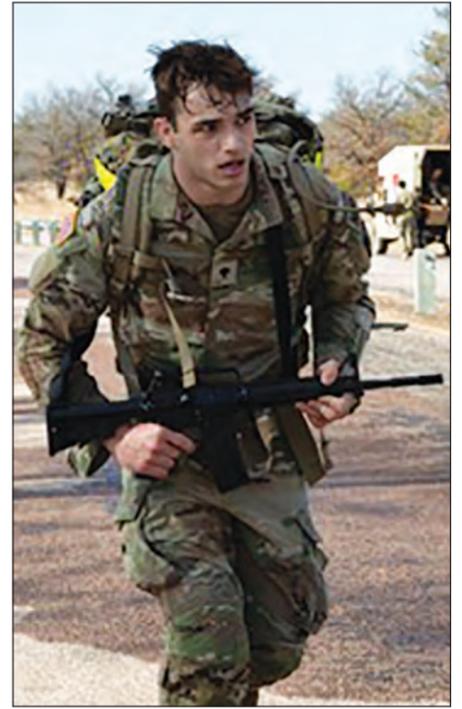


Photo by Sgt. Emily E. Held

Spc. Vincent A. Bird competes in a 12-mile ruck march as part of the State Best Warrior Competition.

City to vote on limiting river activities

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Common Council will vote at its next meeting on amending a municipal code regarding watercraft on its part of the Fox River. The council could restrict water skiing, wakeboarding, aquaplaning or similar activities.

The city's section of the river is from Lakeshore Park to Pioneer Island. The Advisory Park board approved the recommendation to the council due to concerns of shoreline

erosion to properties along the river.

Assistant parks director Chad Dallman clarified this does not propose changes to speeds for boats or to the wake zones but only applies to boats towing these recreational activities.

The city received a request from the Riverwatch condominium association to extend the no-wake zone to add the area of the River between the Wisconsin Street and Oshkosh Avenue bridges.

Homeless Hygiene Drive distribution set

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh's Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive, sponsored by The Family Radio Network's 91.9FM, concluded Sunday with community-wide collections of essential hygiene and cleaning supplies for eight agencies serving residents in need.

The volunteer-led distribution event is scheduled for Thursday at Valley Christian, where student volunteers will help sort, inventory, and divide the collected

items among the participating agencies.

All donations stay directly in the Oshkosh community, benefiting eight local organizations: Advocap, Bella Medical Clinic, COTS Oshkosh, Father Carr's, Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, Read Elementary School, Salvation Army and Tiny House Village.

The Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive supports more than 130 crisis programs across 22 Wisconsin communities.

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Oshkosh Herald

Mabel Murphy's at 701 N. Main St. is constructing a rooftop bar space.

Mabel Murphy's raising the rooftop

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh's first rooftop bar is set to open this spring on North Main Street.

Mabel Murphy's remains open as construction continues on the project. Owner Sean Felker said he's always wanted a rooftop bar since moving to Oshkosh in 2006.

His answer was simple when asked why he is building a rooftop bar: "Because we need a rooftop bar. The city needs it."

The former Mabel Murphy's building

was destroyed a fire in 2019 but it was rebuilt and reopened on the northwest corner of North Main Street and Irving Avenue in Oshkosh's midtown.

The rooftop bar will be accessible year-round and feature enclosed and outdoor areas for beverages. Construction began last week and is on track for an opening in May.

Felker hopes the rooftop bar will be open in time for the NFL Draft in Green Bay on April 24-26.

SACRED HEART, CALVARY AND RIVERSIDE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

All decorations at the Catholic Cemeteries must be removed by March 31, 2025 for Spring cleanup. Items may be returned after the clean-up is complete. The clean updates are April 15th thru April 30. If you feel that something may be lost in the clean-up process, please remove it.

Thank you.

Deacon Pat Gelhar
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Climate Lobby to host online meeting

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh and Fond du Lac chapters of the Citizens' Climate Lobby are hosting a virtual Badger Talk led by Zach Feiner at 7 p.m. Monday.

Feiner, an ecologist who studies fish populations of inland lakes, rivers and the Great Lakes, will discuss how winters are changing in Wisconsin and how reduced or lost ice cover on lakes impacts how they function and provide habitat to the plankton, fish and other animals. His research

focuses on the dynamics and management of recreational fisheries, including who fishes, what they fish for, how they value fishing and how climate change affects lakes.

For information about signing up for this Badger Talk or others, contact 608-262-3880 or badgertalks@uwmad.wisc.edu.

Citizens' Climate Lobby is a nonprofit, nonpartisan and grassroots organization of volunteers. See citizensclimatelobby.org/ for more information.

Spring Fling Quilt Show coming to Lourdes

Lakeside Quilters Guild in Oshkosh is holding its Spring Fling Quilt Show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 29 at Lourdes Academy.

The free show has a featured quilter, king size raffle quilt, vendors, door prizes, quilted items for sale, food truck, bake sale, demonstrations and knife sharpening.

Bev Wallace was selected as this year's featured quilter. Bonnie Welch from Sew N Sew in Appleton and Waupaca will demo the AccuQuilt cutting system and Rachel from Rachel Ann Quilts in Little Chute will walk attendees through steps to create a T-shirt memory quilt.

National Quilting Association certified judge Maribeth Schmit will review submitted quilts.

More information about the show can be found at OshkoshQuilters.org, on Facebook or by emailing lsqgnews@gmail.com.



Photo from Lakeside Quilters

Bev Wallace is shown with her challenge quilt work from 2023.

Lakeside Quilters is a nonprofit guild with nearly 100 members from throughout the Fox Valley. Guests and new members are welcome.

Food pantry closet opens at Ahmadiyya location

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community at 300 N. Eagle St. is launching a food pantry closet that will be open to the public.

The pantry will be open from 2 to 7 p.m. daily and residents are also encouraged to

drop off nonperishable items.

"We hope to offer a small reprieve in these trying times for those in need," said Ahmadiyya community member Khurram Ahmad.



Oshkosh Herald

Housing progress

Site preparation has started at the future home of The Corridor, a housing development that will add 55 apartments to the 600 block of Jefferson Street and North Main Street. The Corridor will have two-shift child care and the building is scheduled to open next year.

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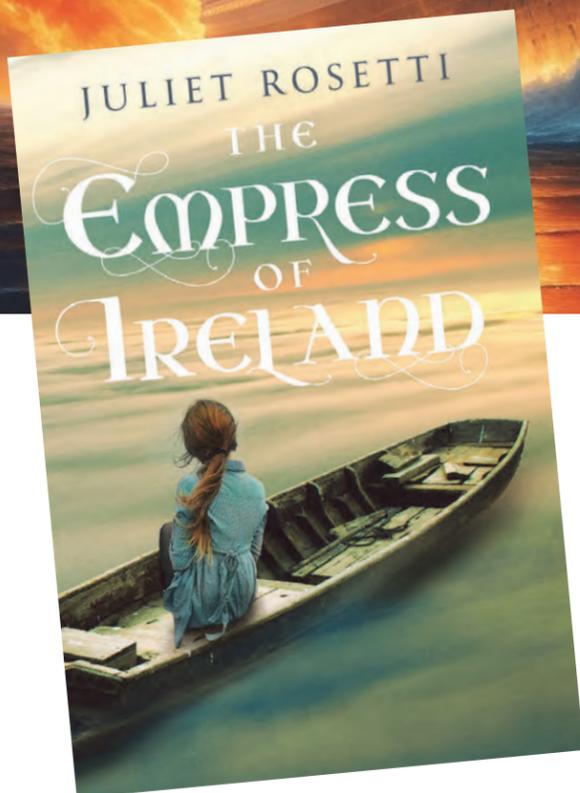
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Oshkosh Herald

HER Day activities

The Wisconsin Herd celebrated Women's History Month before and during Friday's game at the Oshkosh Arena with a Wisconsin HER Day event with programming provided by We EmpowHER. The day included information sessions and girls shown here taking part in poster art contests with support from mascot Pointer.

Student suspensions down while disparities continue

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Oshkosh schools are seeing fewer suspensions this year than in recent previous years, but the district is reporting an increase in the number of Black students receiving suspensions.

"Some student groups (Black students and students who are two or more races) are disproportionately suspended, raising concerns about possible differences in student engagement, effectiveness in accountability and discipline strategies, and fairness in discipline practices," Sam Coleman wrote in his report on out-of-school suspensions.



Coleman

Coleman, assistant superintendent of instruction, reported that suspensions are down 16% from last year at this time. As of Feb. 23, there were 940 suspensions for the 2022-23 school year, 769 for 2023-24, and 642 so far this year.

Despite Black students and students of two or more races making up just 16% of the student population, they receive about half of all suspensions.

Board of Education member Barbara Herzog said this report is the start of the conversation regarding student engagement and behavior discipline, which the OASD Education Committee reviewed. The district will now begin reviewing disciplinary measures such as suspensions.

"Discipline data shows disparities that must be honestly scrutinized to ensure that all students are treated fairly, even if they make choices that warrant consequences," Herzog said.

The district is set to focus on prevention over discipline.

"Rather than solely reacting to behaviors, the primary focus needs to be on prevention, ensuring students have the support skills and accountability they need to be successful in school," Herzog said.

She added that for all students to thrive it would take the support from families, staff and the broader community.

Coleman noted in his report the most frequent reasons for suspensions are aggressive behavior, insubordination and fighting.

"These trends may indicate a need for more effective conflict resolution skill development to prevent peer conflicts from escalating, increased student accountability and engagement in efforts to promote nonviolence in school and/or the expanded use of restorative practices," he said.

This is not a new concern for the community as the group REAL Oshkosh published a 2024 report using state data showing Black students were being punished disproportionately. The report said that in elementary and middle schools in the district Black, Hispanic and students of more than two races were suspended four times the rate of white students.

The report said that in OASD high schools Black, Hispanic and students of more than two races were suspended three times more often than white students and expelled nine times more often than whites.

"Data suggests that although overall suspensions have decreased, current disciplinary measures may not be leading to long-term behavior improvements and increased engagement of Black students and students who are two or more races," Coleman said. "This may signal a need for universal and targeted approaches that are more effective in preventing behaviors that result in suspensions."

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Area school standouts honored at Celebrate Education event

Oshkosh Herald

More than 200 people joined in celebration of local educators at the annual Celebrate Education event March 10 at the Oshkosh Convention Center, where \$67,000 in grants were awarded to more than 60 exceptional educators for innovative programs and projects.

Hosted by the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, awards were also presented to community members passionate about education and leadership.

Awards included:

Education and Leadership Award: Chuck Galipo.

Dr. Stanley Spanbauer Education and Leadership Award: Ganther Construction/Architecture.

Spirit of Education Award: Trina Woldt, Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce.

Edward and Belle Rudoy Technology Grants: Lourdes Academy Middle School and South Park Middle School.

Edward and Belle Rudoy Outstanding Middle School Teacher Awards: Erin Cernjar, Carl Traeger Middle School; Jacob Durmis, Vel Phillips Middle School; Jason Jischke, South Park Middle School; Sandy Kohfeldt, South Park; Phong Nguyen, Vel Phillips; Andrew Schroeder, Valley Christian School; and Abigail Schwanke, Perry Tipler Middle School.

Outstanding Elementary Teacher Awards: Bradley Bowman, Menominee Elementary School; Samuel Joseph, Oakwood Elementary School; Dustin Joswick, Menominee Elementary; and Brandi Noonan, Menominee Elementary.

Celebrate Education Grant Awards: Summer Bjarnarson, Valley Christian School; Aaron Erickson, Oshkosh Area



Photo from OACF

Celebrate Education award winners and presenters are shown last week at the Oshkosh Convention Center.

School District; Ta Feiter, Vel Phillips Middle School; Kara Hartkopf, Oaklawn Elementary School; Stephen Hilger, Perry A. Tipler Middle School; Sarah Klein, Lourdes Academy Elementary School; Sara Klein, Oshkosh North High School; Abigail Lemke, South Park Middle School; Kim Pruss, Oshkosh North; Julie Reichenberger, South Park; Matthew Rieckhoff, Valley Christian; Abigail Rogers, Franklin Elementary School; Julie Runde, Carl Traeger Elementary School; Andrew Schaller, Oshkosh West High School; and Wendy Schlies, South Park.

Celebrate Education Grant Awards: Timothy Bonson, Oshkosh North High School; Emily Daniels, Perry A. Tipler Middle School; Andrea Fisher, Oshkosh Area School District; Hannah Lehocky, Carl Traeger Middle School; Brooke Lopper, Roosevelt Elementary School; Jennifer Olivares, Oshkosh West High School; Vicki Porior, Oshkosh Area School Dis-

trict; Anne Redmann, Roosevelt Elementary School; Ted Williams, Carl Traeger; Nicole Wiltzius, Franklin Elementary School; and David Yoblonski, Oshkosh North.

Celebrate Education Grant Awards: Cassandra Albrecht, Oshkosh Area School District; Cassandra Barnett, Roosevelt El-

ementary School; Stephanie Bauknecht, Valley Christian School; Sara Calderon, Valley Christian; Audrey Conley, Lourdes Academy Elementary School; Michelle Dorn, Franklin Elementary School; Maggie Frank, Valley Christian; Jessica Hansen, Oshkosh West High School; Courtney Harvancik, Valley Christian; Tayah Hiser, Roosevelt; Sarah Karns, Emmeline Cook Elementary School; Jennifer Kautzer, Menominee Elementary School; Angie Kese, Read Elementary School; Angie Kese, South Park Middle School; Abigail Klemko, Vel Phillips Middle School; Landon Lawson, Oshkosh Area School District; Travis Miller, Oshkosh West; Brooke Neese, Lourdes Academy Elementary; Meghan Neveau, Valley Christian; Catherine Nichols, Jacob Shapiro STEM Academy; Karen Pettibone, Lourdes Academy Elementary; Becky Piechowski, Lourdes Academy Elementary; Kimberly Plier, Vel Phillips; Jennifer Ruechel, Lakeside Elementary School; Amy Sippert, Roosevelt; Brittany Wisniewski, Roosevelt; and Daniel Wolf, Lourdes Academy Middle School.

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Common Council candidates prioritize city issues

Oshkosh Herald

The Herald continues election coverage with Oshkosh Common Council candidates on the April 1 ballot. The race has four candidates seeking three seats to serve two-year terms.

Incumbents Karl Buelow, Paul Esslinger and Joe Stephenson will be seeking to retain their seats with Brad Spanbauer challenging to join the council. All candidates were sent the same questions and given equal space to respond; some responses have been edited for space purposes and clarity.

Karl Buelow

Age: 41

Education: UW-Oshkosh bachelor's degree in leadership and organizational studies



Buelow

Civic/community involvement: DEI committee, Library Board liaison, Oshkosh MPO board, Long Range Finance. Formerly on Transportation Committee, Housing Authority Board, Landmarks

Commission, Bike and Pedestrian Committee.

Public office: Oshkosh Common Council 2023 to present

Why are you running for this office?

To continue to ensure that the voices and viewpoints of historically marginalized people are considered in policy making.

What are the key issues in the city and how do you plan on addressing them?

Housing deficits continue to drive up prices due to supply and demand. I have consistently supported and pushed for more opportunities for residential housing at all levels, and will continue to do so. Accessible transportation – regardless if by walking, bike, personal vehicle or city bus – needs to continue to be at the forefront of our policy making. Economic and community development opportunities: Oshkosh needs to continue to be innovative and creative to ensure our neighbors have amazing opportunities to create memories with their families.

Paul Esslinger

Age: 60

Education: bachelor's degree in marketing, Marian College



Esslinger

Occupation: real estate agent

Civic/community involvement: Served on several boards and commissions, 13 years of experience on the Common Council.

Public office: 13 years on the council, two years as mayor

Why are you running for this office?

I'm running because I love to be a representative of Oshkosh and serving its citizens. It's a pleasure and an honor to work with the residents of the community and vote on the issues that confront our community.

What are the key issues in the city and how do you plan on addressing them?

Finding new methods of governing. For example, real estate taxes. These should be eliminated. Senior citizens are being priced out of their homes. Eliminating real estate taxes would greatly reduce their tax burden. Maybe some type of an income tax would be appropriate. Getting rid of the wheel tax. This tax unjustly charges the people that don't do the damage while the vehicles that do the damage get off scott-free.

Communication with the residents of Oshkosh. Councilors need to understand that they work for the residents. I also believe social media is now the number one source for information and the council and staff need to be more proactive in providing information and dispelling misinformation in a timely manner.

Continue with housing development. We've made strides in providing assistance but there is more work to be done. Rents are high and providing more housing should help lower costs.

Brad Spanbauer

Age: 36

Education: bachelor's and master's degrees in biology



Spanbauer

Occupation: sustainability director, UW-Oshkosh

Civic/community involvement: City Sustainability Advisory Board, City Clearwells special committee member, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance conference committee

member, Urban Ecology Oshkosh steering committee member

Why are you running for this office?

As a lifelong resident of Oshkosh, I've seen Oshkosh change and improve in many ways over the course of my life. For the areas that could still use improvement, I'd like to be a part of making decisions that help preserve what makes Oshkosh home. Over the last five years, I've moved from part-time sustainability director and part-time lecturer of biology at UW-Oshkosh, to a member of the administrative leadership team of the university, which I have championed for myself through advocacy and performance. Through my work, I have developed relationships with the DOA for the state of Wisconsin, the state Building Commission, Public Service Commission, Universities of Wisconsin administration, Wisconsin Public Service and Focus on Energy. Understanding the role these entities have in the state also reaches down into the daily lives of the citizens of Oshkosh.

What are the key issues in the city and how do you plan on addressing them?

Right now everyone is focused on taxes and tax increases. This is certainly understandable as many people in Oshkosh saw increases in the last year. It is my understanding that right now we have the possibility of asking for a change to the code to allow for carry-over of property valuation in a given year, if we find that the commercial property valuation does not match the value from the Department of Revenue. I would support a change that would allow us to carry a previous year's valuation or hold off implementing a new valuation until the following year while reassessment occurs. Additionally, Oshkosh is working to address affordable housing. I would support adding affordable single-family homes to Oshkosh, especially at sites that would add new homes to existing neighborhoods. These new properties add additional tax revenue to the city, which helps distribute the need for funds across more residential properties.

Joe Stephenson

Age: 32

Education: bachelor's degree in urban planning and master's in public administration from UW-Oshkosh



Stephenson

Occupation: economic development program manager

Civic/community involvement: The Grand Oshkosh board member, Wisconsin Housing and Econom-

ical Development Authority Board member, American Planning Association district representative, Oshkosh Sustainability Board member. Previously chairperson of Oshkosh Midtown Neighborhood Association, former Oshkosh Food Co-op Board member, and former Sunday school teacher at St. John's.

Public office: Oshkosh Common Council 2023 to present

Why are you running for this office?

I'm running for Oshkosh Common Council because I believe in pragmatic leadership – getting things done, not just being right. I believe in working with everyone to find common ground and real solutions that move Oshkosh forward. With my background in economic development and planning, I know how to tackle complex challenges like housing and neighborhood revitalization. I have the education, experience and problem-solving skills to help guide Oshkosh in the right direction at a pivotal time.

But more than that, Oshkosh is home. My roots here run deep, and I care about the future of this city. I want Oshkosh to be a place where my children, my nieces and my nephews can thrive. I'm not interested in just identifying problems – I'm here to solve them. I'll bring a practical, results-driven approach to the council, focusing on what works and pushing for smart, forward-thinking policies that make a real difference for the people who live and work here.

What are the key issues in the city and how do you plan on addressing them?

Housing: One of Oshkosh's most pressing challenges is the lack of quality, affordable housing. To address this, I support investing in the preservation of our existing housing stock, streamlining municipal ordinances to give builders more flexibility, and championing key developments like the Washington School Redevelopment and The Corridor.

Downtown revitalization: Downtown Oshkosh is the heart of our community, and I am committed to building on the momentum we've created. I played a key role in securing funding for a major renovation of The Grand Opera House and helped establish a nonprofit within the Business Improvement District to support local businesses and events.

Neighborhoods: Strong neighborhoods create a strong city, and I am dedicated to empowering residents to take an active role in their communities. Oshkosh's neighborhood associations are a unique and valuable form of public engagement, rarely seen in other Wisconsin cities.

Fiscal responsibility: We need a community-built budget that is both fair and balanced. This means actively listening to residents and ensuring the budget reflects the priorities of the entire community while maintaining a strong fiscal position.

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Chamber board backs school district facilities referendum

By Rob Kleman
CHAMBER PRESIDENT AND CEO

The Oshkosh Chamber board of directors unanimously endorsed the Oshkosh Area School District's 2025 Phase 2 Facilities Consolidation Referendum, which will be on the April 1 ballot. This \$197.8 million capital referendum focuses on consolidating and improving the district's facilities to enhance student safety, learning spaces and long-term educational success.

Within our support, we believe a strong educational system is essential for the success of our students and is vital for fostering local business growth and economic vitality in Oshkosh.

Specifically, approval of the question will result in construction of a new middle school at the existing Jacob Shapiro Elementary School site and removal of the current building, along with the closing of South Park and Perry Tipler, reducing from three to two westside middle schools. Also, construction of additions and renovations at Carl Traeger, Franklin and Oakwood Elementary schools will result in closing Roosevelt and Shapiro, reducing from seven



to five westside elementary schools.

It will also include the building of a new auditorium at North High School, closing and sale of the downtown recreation center, and adding air conditioning to Emmeline Cook, Lakeside and Read Elementary schools.

This referendum request aligns with the school district's four-phase, long range facilities plan adopted by the school board in 2020. While we understand the major investment required from taxpayers to continue this long-range plan, we believe it is imperative and necessary to stay competitive in education throughout the region. If we do not make these investments in our school facilities, we run the risk of being passed by other districts, resulting in a decreased ability to provide the best education possible for our students.

Our businesses and employers expect a strong education system. We hear from them daily about the availability of a

high-quality, local workforce and it is always the No. 1 concern indicated in our employer surveys. The passage of the referendum will continue to help prepare our future workforce, help recruit and retain employees at local businesses, and quality educators in our schools. Providing a functional learning environment is crucial for positive long-term student outcomes.

Another key component of the referendum is the district's commitment to a zero-dollar increase to the debt levy; a move we believe is a crucial factor for voters to consider. This initiative would allow the district to improve its facilities while minimizing the tax impact for residents.

It is projected that by postponing it even one year, construction costs could increase by \$10 million, and that number grows to \$42 million over four years. We determined the cost of delay is just too high and risky and simply delays the inevitable reality that we need to improve and consolidate our facilities to remain competitive within our region.

The Oshkosh Chamber believes a strong educational system is the backbone of a

thriving economy. Without continued investment, we face worsening worker shortages and business challenges. The chamber, which includes a membership of 900 businesses representing more than 32,000 employees, urges Oshkosh residents to vote yes on the referendum to help ensure the district's continued success and the community's competitiveness in the region. With the April 1 election, local voters have a crucial opportunity to support education, business and economic growth in Oshkosh.

Business news roundup

Spellman's Marina, a family owned and operated business for more than 60 years at 1713 W. New York Ave., has been sold to the Pioneer Marina, which is owned by Art Dumke. Spellman's former owners Tim and Cheryl Doberstein said they will be assisting the business during the transition.

Ethan Beswick, who has extensive background in corporate and aviation

law, has been named general counsel for the **Experimental Aircraft Association**. A graduate of Hope College in Michigan and Notre Dame University Law School, Beswick has experience in large law firms and as an in-house attorney. He joined EAA in 2022 as legal counsel, providing counsel and handling commercial matters for the organization. That includes agreements and contracts relating to the annual EAA AirVenture fly-in convention.

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Polk library project in governor's budget proposal

Oshkosh Herald

Gov. Tony Evers' 2025-2027 capital budget released last week includes a \$137.5 million allocation for renovation of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh's Polk Learning Commons.

The renovation and construction plan endorsed by the UW Board of Regents would modernize Polk's 1969 wing and demolish and rebuild the 1962 north wing in a project that would preserve print collections and traditional library functions.

Polk would continue to house UW-O's

University Archives, a partner to the Wisconsin Historical Society, and be a meeting and digital research epicenter open to the campus and community. The new commons would also have a 30% smaller footprint, moving from 232,000 to 163,000 square feet.

"UW-Oshkosh graduates are more likely to stay and work in our region, which means investing in UW-Oshkosh is an investment in the Fox Valley workforce," said state Sen. Kristin Dassler-Alfheim, who represents the 18th Senate District. "This project en-

ures that UW-Oshkosh remains an attractive option for prospective students."

Dassler-Alfheim toured the space in February and noted the poor condition the library is in.

"I can tell you that this project is absolutely essential for the continued success of the university and its students," she said in a statement. "Libraries are collaborative spaces for students. It's where they come together and learn how to effectively communicate and work together – soft-skills that are in high demand but can't always

be learned in a lecture hall."

The governor's budget proposal also includes \$61.2 million to refurbish utility and service tunnels at the Winnebago Mental Health Institute; \$3.9 million to design heating and chiller replacements at UW-Oshkosh; emergency medical services grants that could be used to modernize the Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue Training grounds; child care grant funds that could support second-shift child care spaces in Oshkosh; and permitting positions for Lake Winnebago.

Pride event

FROM PAGE 1

of the people at Stonewall that I'm able to hold my husband's hand in public."

That is why the LGBTQIA+ community holds pride events in June, Nichols said.

"We weren't always allowed to throw a party in public with our friends, who we refer to as allies sometimes," he said.

Nichols noted that the city sponsors other events for which the fee is waived, and the council does not question this.

"What are we talking about?" Nichols asked Floam and Esslinger. "We're talking about a fee waiver for a nonprofit organization that is trying to host a community event. We candidly do that pretty frequently."

Nichols said the city sponsors similar events that the council does not question. One is an upcoming birdwatching event.

"I don't have anything against birdwatchers as long as they don't throw their lifestyle in my face or ask me to be a birdwatcher, but if I went to that event I might learn something about birdwatching," he said.

"I might decide I am a birdwatcher, but we don't know. If I'm really not into birdwatching though – I could just stay at home."

Mayor Matt Mugerauer pointed out that part of the city's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee's role – specifically in its charter – is to educate the community and sponsor events.

"For that reason alone, the cost doesn't matter to me, but for that reason alone – it's in their charter, they're suggesting it and I accept their recommendation," he said.

The DEI Committee endorsed sponsorship of the event at its Feb. 24 meeting. Council member Karl Buelow said he has enjoyed the city's previous sponsorships of Oshkosh Pride events.

Buelow said the event's attendance has grown from around 250 people in 2022 to 750 in 2023, and last year about 2,000 attended.

"I thought it was a fabulous celebration of love and caring about the community," he said. "To see people in an element where they feel loved and enjoy what is going on around them is one of the coolest things that a person can be a part of."

Equity programs

FROM PAGE 1

Shae Sortwell, vice chair of the GOAT committee.

Winnebago County corporation counsel Mary Anne Mueller confirmed at a Judiciary & Public Safety Committee meeting earlier this month that the county received the letter requesting information on DEI-related grants, policies, training programs and positions, and the estimated costs associated with the DEI policies and trainings, with a date range from January 2019 to the present.

The email cites a statute noting that governing bodies of political subdivisions are required to "...assist legislative committees in the completion of their tasks."

Mueller said the initial request was sent to the Health Department, which is not a political subdivision, and a new request was submitted to the government of Winnebago County, which she forwarded to all county departments. Mueller said she responded to Sortwell's email to express concern about the breadth of the request.

The records requests were sent before the GOAT committee held its first meeting, which took place last Tuesday, and without the knowledge of Democratic committee members, according to a letter the members sent to the committee chair.

"The actions taken by Representative Sortwell are a clear overreach and show a lack of respect for the local governments that serve our communities," Rep. Angelina Cruz said in the joint statement. "Rather than focusing on divisive tactics, we should be working together to support our municipalities and ensure they have the tools they need to serve all residents."

Rep. Mike Bare, the ranking Democratic member of the committee, said GOAT should work in a bipartisan way to achieve accountable and transparent results.

"Otherwise, this will be nothing more than a DOGE wannabe creating chaos and confusion with no discernible policy goal," he said in a statement. "Our local governments need more resources and support, not micromanagement by one committee or member of the Legislature."

GOAT committee member Rep. Nate Gustafson of Fox Crossing is also a Win-

nebago County supervisor who co-submitted a resolution with four other supervisors in 2023 that dissolved the county's Diversity Affairs Commission.

When questioned by email about whether he was aware of the requests sent by the GOAT committee to counties before they were sent, Gustafson responded: "These requests are necessary, especially if they bring to light the deception being perpetrated by the Neenah Joint School District. If you look at what Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty exposed, they discovered how Neenah is rewording titles of positions and hiding departments through curious restructuring efforts."

Gustafson attached an email sent to Neenah school board members by Superintendent Steve Harrison and posted on the Wisconsin Institute of Law & Liberty Facebook page, noting that as of March 4, the district's position titles Equity and Inclusion coordinator and coach will be changed to Educational Access coordinator and coach.

The email noted that the DEI Department will no longer be listed as a separate entity on the district website and will be embedded within the Learning & Leadership Department to emphasize integration into overall instructional efforts.

"To be clear, this adjustment does not change our unwavering commitment to ensuring all students have access to a guaranteed and viable curriculum, nor does it alter our efforts to address disparities among student groups," Harrison wrote in the email. "Rather, this change is intended to keep the focus on our work without unnecessary distractions related to terminology."

Gustafson did not respond to a question about what county DEI policies and programs he thinks are impacting county taxpayers.

The bulk of the information presented during last week's five-hour GOAT committee meeting pertained to remote work for state workers.

Rep. Amanda Nedweski, GOAT committee chair, closed the meeting by acknowledging the DEI letters sent to the counties and cities, noting that the committee is working together with the Wisconsin Counties Association in coordinating responses to the records requests.

"If the information collected substantiates such, the committee may or may not pursue further action on this topic," she said.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), DEI efforts began to expand after the 2020 killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, which sparked nationwide protests and inspired communities, workplaces, schools and other institutions to incorporate anti-racism principles.

The ACLU wrote that the current administration's anti-DEI orders are part of a broader effort to dismantle civil rights gains that were made in recent decades.



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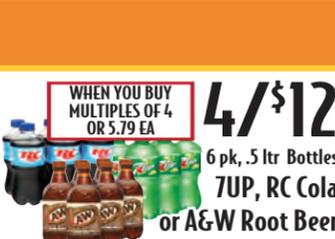
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 6.99 20-26.82 oz Brew Pub Lotzza Motzza or Packer Pizza Official Pizza of the Green Bay Packers	 3.59 9-12 oz Devour Entrees	 2.99 16 oz Onion Rings or 28-32 oz Select Crav'n Flavor Potatoes	 4/\$5 10-12 oz Select Food Club Frozen Vegetables	 5.99 42-48 oz Food Club Ravioli or Tortellini

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grocery essentials

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10.99 750 ml Bottle - Select Apothic Wines

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Calendar of events

Wednesday, March 19

State of the Community Address, 8 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center
 Oshkosh Chamber Business Expo, 11 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center
 Open Creative Flow workshop series, 10 a.m., Jambalaya Arts, 413 N. Main St.

Thursday, March 20

Wisconsin Herd vs. Long Island Nets, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena
 EAA Speaker Series: The C-130 in Combat, 7 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum

Friday, March 21

Ladies of Country, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Saturday, March 22

Plant the Seed, 10 a.m., Oshkosh Food Co-op
 Journey Together Service Dog Bowling Fundraiser, 1 p.m., Revs Bowl Bar & Grill, 275 N. Washburn St.
 Oshkosh Area Community Band concert, 7 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium
 "Point Break" (1991), 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.
 Supertramp Tribute Show, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Sunday, March 23

The Big Thaw Craft & Vendor Event, 9 a.m., Poplar Creek Barn

Friday, March 28

Wisconsin Herd vs. San Diego Clippers, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Saturday, March 29

Oshkosh Farmers Market (Kids Day), 9 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center
 Oshkosh Memorabilia Club Show, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Seniors Center
 Spring Fling Quilt Show, 9 a.m., 110 N. Sawyer St., Lourdes Academy
 Hope for Unity, 4 p.m., First Congre-

gational Church, 137 Algoma Blvd.
 Oshkosh Chamber Singers concert, 4 p.m., First Congregational Church, 137 Algoma Blvd.
 Stand-up comedy show: Joe Stapleton, Kash Money Karl and Dean Berg. 7 p.m., Winners, 600 N. Main St.
 Wisconsin Herd vs. San Diego Clippers, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena
 "Little Shop of Horrors" (1988), 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Monday, March 31

Author Hannah Morrissey, 6 p.m., Morgan House, 234 Church Ave.

Thursday, April 3

Oshkosh Craft Beer Week (through April 13)
 Janet Planet: A Tour Through the Solar System, 12:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Friday, April 4

"Ed Gein, The Musical" play performance, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

The Coalminers Present: Only Loretta, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Saturday, April 5

Breakfast with the Bunny & Egg Hunt, 8 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center
 Altrusa Art in the Garden, 10 a.m., Hilton Garden Inn, 1355 20th St.
 Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods spring rally, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Seniors Center, 200 N. Campbell Road
 Mutts Gone Nuts Unleashed, 2 and 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh
 Oshkosh Gallery Walk, 6 p.m., downtown locations

"Ed Gein, The Musical" play performance, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Sunday, April 6

Altrusa Art in the Garden, 10 a.m., Hilton Garden Inn, 1355 20th St.
 "Ed Gein, The Musical" play performance, 2 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Monday, April 7

Oshkosh Seniors Center 50th anniversary, 1:30 p.m., South Building

Inaugural hip-hop spring festival coming to Leach

Oshkosh Herald

The Midwest's newest hip-hop music festival is bringing an extensive lineup representing subgenres of modern-day hip-hop to the Leach Amphitheater for a one-day event May 10.

Locally based Valley Vinyl Music Festival organizers have announced a lineup headlined by Ski Mask the Slump God, a multiplatinum-selling master of ceremonies (MC) with hit songs like "Baby-Wipe," "Catch Me Outside," "Faucet Failure," "Nuketown" featuring Juice Wrld, and "Take a Step Back" featuring XXXTentacion, after the recent release of his latest album "11th Dimension."

Two young rap duos – Snow Strippers and Homixide Gang – also will perform at Valley Vinyl with each preparing to drop their latest albums this spring. Other established acts and up-and-coming rappers include Rio Da Yung OG & RMC Mike, Che, Hardrock, Molly Santana, Babychiefdoit, FourFive, Brothel in Belize, Evilgiane and PFA4EVER.

Longtime Winnebago County resident Johnathon Jungwirth, owner and operator of Valley Vinyl, said the group's mission is to give back through memorable music experiences and creating philanthropic initiatives.

"If two strangers become friends at Valley Vinyl, then we've won," Jungwirth said. "This isn't just a concert – it's a gathering of people on this journey of life. Society constantly bombards us with negativity, and Valley Vinyl is a break from that. Here, we are connected through

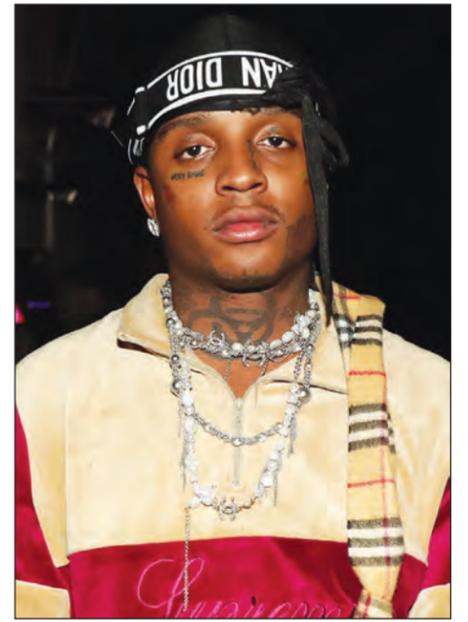


Photo from IMDb

Ski Mask the Slump God headlines the inaugural Valley Vinyl Music Festival coming May 10 to the Leach Amphitheater.

love, unity and light. We are the generation of change."

Valley Vinyl is donating a significant portion of all beverage sales to Habitat for Humanity, along with a financial contribution to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention with the potential to increase three-fold as ticket sales rise.

Fans of all ages are welcome with an all-access ticket on a first-come, first-served basis along with greenspace tickets. Follow @ValleyVinylMusicFestival on Instagram for updates and ticket information.

Chamber Singers to perform spring concert

The Oshkosh Chamber Singers led by music director Herb Berendsen will present their spring concert "Hope for Unity" at 4 p.m. March 29 at First Congregational Church, 137 Algoma Blvd.

The choral works emphasize that humanity aspires for harmony among people and building bridges across differences, and music that helps foster hope and solidarity. Selections include spirituals such as "Soon We Will be Done," "My God is a Rock," "Hard Times Come Again No

More" and "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel," as well as "The Road Not Taken," by Randall Thompson, "The Road Home," by Stephen Paulus, "Hope" and "We Are," both by Ysaye M. Barnwell, and "Proud Music of the Storm," by Jake Runestad, set to a poem by Walt Whitman.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students, and are available from singers, at Heid Music, Gardina's or at the door. More information is at oshkoshchambersingers.org or calling 920-312-8290.

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North takes down De Pere to punch state ticket

By Joe Matzek
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

After early exits from the playoffs the last two seasons and a slow start this year, it's been a long, bumpy journey to the state's biggest stage for the Oshkosh North boys' basketball team.

The Spartans captured the sectional title with their ninth straight win and 12th victory in the last 13 games with a riveting 79-75 victory over De Pere on Saturday in front of a packed house at Appleton North.

Oshkosh North earned its eighth WIAA state tournament appearance and the first since 2018, when it won the school's lone championship.

"It's amazing," said Spartans senior guard Xzavion Mitchell, who scored 47 points and grabbed 15 rebounds. "It's a four-year journey and all the work I've put in and it's all the ups and downs. That's what makes this moment so special. I've been at the lowest of lows the last three years. They counted us out, they counted me out, they said I couldn't win, and this moment right here showed us we proved everybody wrong."

Bryce Ott scored 13 points and Jackson Anderson added 10 for Oshkosh North (19-9).

It was no promise that Ott would return this season, let alone be at the top of his game, but he has given Oshkosh North a second offensive outlet and a reliable defender.

Ott suffered a fractured ankle during the football season and had surgery to put in a plate and 10 screws, then had another surgery a month later because of an infection. He finally played his first game Jan. 31.



Photo by Joe Matzek

Oshkosh North standout Xzavion Mitchell cuts down the net in front of a sea of onlookers after the Spartans knocked off De Pere in a WIAA Division 1 sectional final on Saturday night. Oshkosh North will face Wisconsin Lutheran in a state semifinal at the Kohl Center on Friday.

"The first week of the season, the doctors told me I probably wouldn't be playing, I needed surgery, and now to be playing at 100 percent, playing with everything I've got, it's an unreal feeling," Ott said.

The last two years, Oshkosh North fell at the regional level.

This season, the Spartans started 7-8. They were the seventh-seeded team in the sectional facing top-seeded De Pere.

"Honestly, we're still underdogs," Ott said. "We're the seventh seed. If people want to bet against us, they can do that, but we're here to win, we're here to stay. We're playing with house money. I love this."

The game within a game was a matchup of two of the state's top scorers, Mitchell and De Pere's Zach Kinziger.

The two guarded each other for much of the contest. Mitchell hit four three-pointers, drove to the rim and went 13-of-14 at the foul line. Kinziger, a Wisconsin commit, scored 30 points, including three three-pointers.

"Me and Zach have played against each other since fourth grade and we've played with each other in AAU ball since seventh grade," Mitchell said. "We're familiar with each other's games. Me and him are super tight, super close, and he's an amazing player. Us two going at it, it's just amazing for the game of basketball in the state."

De Pere (26-2) came in shooting 38.4% from three-point range, but Oshkosh North held the Redbirds to 8-of-30 (26.7%), including 2-of-10 in the first half, using a mix of man and zone defenses.

"We knew they could shoot lights-out, so we had four designated guys we couldn't let shoot and get open," Mitchell said. "They still got open, obviously, but our goal was to confuse them with our different defenses. We work on seven different defenses in practice."

To beat the state's second-ranked Division 1 team according to the Wissports.net state poll, the Spartans traded baskets with the Redbirds in a high-scoring first half, led by as many as eight points early in the second half, then overcame a De Pere surge and made enough free throws in the final minutes to come out on top.

It helped that Mitchell got off to a fast start, scoring 17 of the Spartans' first 23 points to push Oshkosh North ahead 23-15. The Iowa State commit sank three three-pointers early in the game, then scored three straight baskets, the last one a dunk after blocking a three-point shot,

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North boys

FROM PAGE 16

midway through the half.

De Pere's Pryce Gregoire got his team back in the game by scoring seven straight points, including a three-point play, to tie the game at 26-26. Gregoire battled foul trouble to finish with 16 points.

Oshkosh North surged back to take a 44-39 half-time lead and expanded it to 52-44 early in the second half after a Mitchell three-point play. But the Spartans struggled offensively for a few minutes with turnovers and missed shots, allowing De Pere to go on a 13-2 run to pull ahead 57-54.

Mitchell said playing tough games in the Fox Valley Association helped Oshkosh North when adversity hit against De Pere.

"The ups and downs of this season has prepared us for these moments," Mitchell said. "I think the FVA in general has prepared us. I think all of the FVA teams make us their best game. Every time we play in an FVA game, it's loud, and it's prepared us for moments like these, especially when we get down in critical moments."

Oshkosh North recovered, helped by going into the bonus with eight minutes left. The Spartans went 8-of-8 on free throws on the way to a 70-64 lead.

After Gregoire cut the Spartans' lead to 70-67 on a three-pointer with two minutes left, Mitchell responded by converting a lob pass into a layup, was fouled and made the free throw.

Roan Demovsky drove for a layup to pull De Pere within 73-69, then Oshkosh North made 6-of-10 free throws the rest of the way while holding the Redbirds to six points on its final five possessions to allow the celebration to begin.

"We told these guys it's a journey," North head coach Brad Weber said. "And with the journey you take the good and the bad. We're battle-tested and we stick with it. We're unbreakable in March. We'll get dented, someone might beat us, but they won't break us, and I just love that they were validated for it today."



Photos by Jim Koepnick

Left: Bryce Ott makes a move to the basket against Fond du Lac during last Thursday's WIAA Division 1 sectional semifinal at Oshkosh West. Right: Tylan Lister drives past a Fond du Lac defender.

Ott fuels Spartans' sectional semifinal victory

By Joe Matzek
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Playing in the sectional for the first time in three years, Oshkosh North took control of the game just before half-time and kept a comfortable lead in a 62-48 win over Fond du Lac at Oshkosh West High School on Thursday night.

The Spartans held the Cardinals to their lowest scoring output of the season as they won their eighth straight game.

"You never saw the intensity on defense (drop)," North coach Brad Weber said. "That's probably what we were missing in the middle of the year when we were figuring ourselves out, but that's the beauty of a journey. When you win a lot, you can cover up a lot of problems, and when you're losing, you've got to look in the mirror, and that's what these kids did."

Bryce Ott delivered in a big-game setting with a career-high 21 points, in just his 10th game of the season after off-season ankle surgery. Xzavion Mitchell finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds but had a big hand limiting Marvin Haslett III well below his average of 16 points. Haslett, who scored 30 points in the teams' last matchup, was scoreless until he hit a late three-pointer.

"We know (Haslett) makes them go," Weber said. "I think it showed the completeness of Zay. Most high-volume scorers aren't going to give you the defensive effort and the effort on the boards that he did."

The Spartans ended the first half with a 9-2 run, punctuated by three straight baskets in transition, to take a 31-20 lead. Oshkosh North maintained a double-digit lead in the second half.



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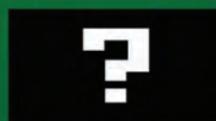
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Cold-shooting night stings Knights in state loss



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Lourdes Academy's Hannah McDowell tries to rip a rebound away from Barneveld's Kaylie Oimeon during the Knights' WIAA Division 5 state semifinal at the Resch Center last Friday.

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Sometimes the ball just doesn't go through the net.

After a season full of racking up points at a rampant pace night in and night out, the Lourdes Academy girls basketball team ran into a rough shooting night at the Resch Center and fell 41-28 to Barneveld in a WIAA Division 5 state semifinal last Friday.

The Knights shot an icy 22 percent from the field, including a 3-of-19 outing from 3-point range, as they were held to a season-low point total in the loss.

"I think the toughest part for me is, we didn't play our best game and I wonder what it could have looked like had we. That's that question mark," Lourdes Academy head coach Ali Starr said. "When you get to this point, it's whoever can put the ball in the hole a little bit more that goes on and for whatever reason, we couldn't find the bottom of the net like we normally do."

Lourdes averaged 57.8 points per game this season and were putting up nearly 60 points per game in their tournament wins to get to state.

But the Golden Eagles never let the Knights get comfortable on the offensive end.

After Hannah McDowell opened the game with a basket for Lourdes, the Knights went more than four minutes without another hoop as Barneveld built a lead it would never give up.

"We had never seen a defense like that. They were in the right places at the right times," Delaney Ruedinger said. "They didn't take their foot off of the gas. It was shot after shot and board after board. It kind of felt we were climbing back all time."

Ruedinger scored four straight points to bring the Knights to within 8-6 midway through the first half and Lourdes Academy kept the Golden Eagles within reach



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Delaney Ruedinger drives through traffic during the first half against Barneveld.

the rest of the stanza.

Barneveld's Izabel Durst, who scored 28 of her team's 41 points in the game, hit a 3-pointer late in the first half to give the Golden Eagles a 19-13 lead at intermission.

"Defense leads to good shots on the offensive side," Hailee Bauer said. "They found the bottom of the net right away and it's hard to get the ball going through the net on our side if we can't stop them."

Bauer, who was playing with a fractured finger on her left hand, opened the second half with two free throws and then hit a 3-pointer to get the Knights within a point, while Ruedinger's steal and lay-up a couple of minutes later answered a Golden Eagle basket to keep the deficit at one.

But the Knights would get only a Bauer free throw over the next five minutes and Barneveld was able to pull away to a 31-21 advantage. A Bauer 3-pointer with 4:19 re-

SEE **Lourdes girls** ON PAGE 19

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Photo by Andy Ratchman

Hailee Bauer drives to the basket past Bryn Meyer of Barneveld in the first half.



Photos by Andy Ratchman

Above: Sabur Machiros posts up Barneveld's Kaylie Oimeon during the second half.

Below: Allie Huizenga prepares to hoist a 3-pointer.



Titan women advance to Final Four

Oshkosh Herald

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh women's basketball team never trailed in posting a 60-53 win over seventh-ranked Baldwin Wallace on Saturday night in Bloomington, Ill., to advance to the NCAA Division III women's Final Four this weekend in Salem, Va.

The Titans, ranked 10th in the nation, are making their first Final Four appearance since 1996 when they claimed the national championship at the Kolf Sports Center. The program also advanced to the Final Four in 1995, when it was national runner-up.

UW-Oshkosh (27-4) will face eighth-ranked Smith College at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the first national semifinal. The Pioneers were national runners-up last year and beat the Titans, 61-59, in the third round of the tournament.

The Titans seized control right away against Baldwin Wallace using a 12-0 run midway through the first period in building a 21-9 lead entering the second quarter. Sammi Beyer had 10 of the 12 points in the outburst, which turned a 5-2 lead into a 17-2 advantage and the Titans never looked back.

Beyer scored 18 points off the bench to lead three players in double figures for the Titans. Kayce Vaile added 14 points, while Kate Huml finished with 10. Paige Seckar chipped in seven points.

The Titans advanced to the Elite Eight with an impressive defensive effort in a 63-43 win over fourth-ranked Illinois Wesleyan.

Lourdes girls

FROM PAGE 18

maining cut the deficit to five at 33-28 but those would be the last points for Lourdes Academy as Barneveld scored the final eight points of the game.

"They are a great team," Bauer said. "We just couldn't find the bottom of the net."

Bauer and Ruedinger each finished with 11 points to lead the Knights, but only two other players scored in the game. Adhieu Liabwill had four points and McDowell finished with two. McDowell also led the team with nine rebounds.

The Knights were making the program's

second appearance at the state tournament overall with the last coming in 2012 when Lourdes Academy also lost in the state semifinals.

The Knights finished the season with a 24-6 record and were Trailways East champions for the third straight season. This senior class finished with 88 total wins over their four years.

"(Getting to state) meant absolutely everything. Our community circled around us and supported us through the rough games, the good games," Ruedinger said. "This season will go down as the best in all my sports. Our team is something that is hard to come by and I will take that with me forever."



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Obituaries

John A. Nolte

John A. Nolte, age 80 of Oshkosh, was called to his heavenly home on Friday, March 14 with his loving wife by his side. John was born on September 12, 1944, to the late Charles Nolte and Doris (Albrecht) Nolte. The youngest of two sons, John spent his younger years roller skating at the Westward Ho, riding his horse to school, and helping milk cows on the family farm. He fell in love and married Christine Rasmussen on November 12, 1966. Together they had two children,



John Jr. and Stacey.

John was dedicated to his work and began his early career working for his brother Bill's service station, Nolte's Northside Standard. John was also a member of the Wisconsin Army National Guard, 1157th transportation company. In 1980, he joined the Oshkosh City Police Department where he held positions as a training officer, a hostage negotiator and a member of the Honor Guard. As often was told to his family, as a police officer, John never passed judgement on anyone he encountered. Instead, he installed a sense of self-worth and a helping hand to those in need. After his retirement from the Oshkosh Police Department in 2001, John drove for City Disposal in Appleton.

Through the years, John enjoyed gardening, woodworking and traveling with his family across multiple states. He loved to travel with Chris to casinos across Wisconsin and Las Vegas but mostly cherished the time spent with his wife, children and granddaughters.

John is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Chris, his son, John Jr., daughter Stacey (Scott) Ryback, and three granddaughters, Sydney Ryback (Tristen), Samantha Ryback and Mackenzie Nolte; as well as his sister-in-law, Judy Nolte and favorite aunt, Helen Getchel.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by his brother Bill, his father and mother-in-law, Kenneth and Eleanor Rasmussen, his brother and sister-in-laws,

Noel and Jean Rasmussen, Ronald and Barbara Rasmussen, Jim and Linda Rasmussen, his nephew Vince Rasmussen, and countless close relatives and friends.

A visitation for John will be held at St Raphael's Catholic Church from 9:30-11am on Thursday, March 20 until the time of service at 11:00am. A private burial will take place at Lakeview Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Oshkosh Police Department or St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Until we see you again, we will miss you always "Poppi."



Marcella Mae Bedore

Marcella Mae Bedore, age 101, passed away peacefully on March 15, 2025 at home, due to complications from a recent COVID diagnosis. She was born on May 2, 1923 to Hannah and Adolph Schneider. She graduated from Oshkosh High School, class of January 1942. Marcella married Armin Bedore on June 30, 1951 and had one son, David, on August 28, 1952.



for Volunteers in Probation helping many people with grocery shopping, errands, driving to doctors appointments and letter writing for those unable to do it on their own. Another passion Marcella had was writing notes and cards to people for birthdays, holidays, or just those needing cheering up.

Music was an important part of her life, playing the piano for many years at Plymouth Church, along with the organist for both morning and evening services. A temporary position became a 43 year long passion as church choir director.

An enthusiastic traveler, she traveled extensively in the United States, Canada and Europe with many friends and special cousins. A highlight of her life began in 1985 while working in the building next to the county courthouse. Due to secret service protocol, all people had to exit the buildings and be positioned at a perimeter distance to the buildings as President Rea-

gan came to town. A 17 year old German exchange student came to see our President and they stood next to each other for three hours. They exchanged addresses, a phone number and remain as close today, having visited each other's families many times in Oshkosh, Frankfurt and Hamburg in the years since.

Marcella is survived by her son, David; and special friends, Marilee, Michelle, Karen, and Judy; as well as nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her husband, Armin; parents, Hannah and Adolph Schneider; father-and-mother-in-law, Henry and Ella Bedore; sister and brother-in-law, Willebelle and Arnold Kroll; nephew, Richard Kroll; Armin's brothers and sisters-in-law, Ralph

Bedore and Coralee Bedore-Ruedinger, Lloyd and Ruby Bedore.

A memorial is being established in her honor.

A funeral service for Marcella will be held on Friday, March 21, 2025 at 12:00pm at Plymouth Church, 1325 Georgia Street. A time of visitation will begin at 11:00am until the start of the service.

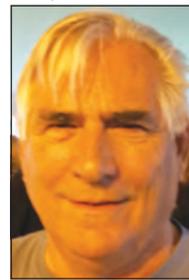
Burial will be held at Peace Lutheran Cemetery on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 11:00am.

Mom, my love for you will endure forever and a day!



Jeffrey R. Sales

Jeffrey R. Sales (Soupy), 79, passed away on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at Aurora St. Luke's Hospital in Milwaukee, WI.



Born in Fond du Lac on June 13, 1945, he was the son of Roger L. Sales and Doris H. (Vollbrecht) Sales.

After graduating from Oshkosh High School in 1964, Jeff joined the US Army and served for two years during the Vietnam War. Jeff was known for years by many as the friendly mechanic at Shea's Muffler Shop in Oshkosh. After the closing of Shea's, Jeff worked as a machine operator at Bemis until the time of his retirement.

Jeff loved nature and enjoyed many outdoor activities. He especially liked seeing and hearing the Canadian geese flying overhead in the spring and the fall. He loved boating in the summer. In his younger years, it would be a rare weekend if you did not see Jeff on the waters of Lake Winnebago. Jeff always had a smile for everyone he met, which led to many great friendships.

Jeff is survived by his sister, Joan Wright

(Oshkosh), his forever person, Catherine Stabo (Oshkosh) and his beloved cat, Bob. He will also be deeply missed by Catherine's daughter and son-in-law, Kaley and Nicholas Conrad and their three boys, Charley, Leo and Teddy (Oshkosh), along with his long-time, good friend, Chuck Steffen (Manitowoc).

He was preceded in death by his parents, Roger and Doris Sales, brother-in-law, Thomas Wright and niece, Lisa Weaver.

A memorial service for Jeff will be held at 12:00 pm on Saturday, March 22, 2025 at Fiss & Bills-Poklasny Funeral Home, 865 S. Westhaven Drive, Oshkosh, with Military Honors to follow. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 10:00 am until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Jeff's name to the Oshkosh Area Humane Society.

Jeff's survivors would like to extend their gratitude to the entire team at Aurora St. Luke's Hospital Cardiac Intensive Care Unit for the competent, compassionate care they provided Jeff in his final weeks.

I will always love you, Jeff, and will miss you until we meet again. Love, Cathy.



Jon C. Peterson

Jon C Peterson, age 70, of Crivitz Wisconsin, formerly of Oshkosh, passed away unexpectedly at home on February 6, 2025. Jon was born on September 13, 1954 in Oshkosh to Kenneth Peterson and Bonnie Peterson Denis. He attended Oshkosh area schools and Trinity Episcopal Church.



Jon had a variety of jobs throughout his life and moved around quite a bit. He eventually found his happy place in the north woods of Wisconsin. There he enjoyed the beauty of the land and the com-

pany of a few good friends.

Jon is survived by his son Jason of Appleton, his sister Nancy Behm (Paul Holzschuh) of Oshkosh, his brothers David of Oshkosh and Gary (Susan) of University Place, WA. He is further survived by his cousins, nieces and a nephew. He was preceded in death by his father Ken, his mother Bonnie, his grandparents and his brother-in-law John Behm.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 1:00pm at Trinity Episcopal Church, 203 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh with the Rev. Aran Walter officiating.



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Obituaries

Martha A. Asuma

Martha A. Asuma passed away on March 10, 2025. She was born in Toronto, Ontario Canada on October 29, 1933, to parents Rev. John and Tekla Saarinen.



Martha attended Augustana Academy in Canton, SD, and graduated from Northern Michigan University in Marquette MI. She married Rev. Thomas Asuma on August 15, 1953. Martha taught in Oshkosh Public Schools and was involved in Precept Ministries, Grace Life Counseling Ministry in Vero Beach, FL. If you asked her how she would like to be remembered, she would say "Truly blessed!"

She is survived by her children, Timothy (Kelly) and Mary (Russell) Dykstra of Oshkosh, Thomas (Raija) of Manitowoc and Mark (Laury) of Sherrills Ford NC, broth-

er-in-law, William Asuma Kailua of HI; grandchildren, Tommy (Lauren) Asuma, Erik (Reme) Asuma, Jonas (Rhysa) Asuma, Matti (Torrey L.) Asuma, Leena (Jeff) Kirt, Marya H. (Lane) Hanser, Mindie (Ryan) Boynton, Chadd Asuma, Haley (Colin) O'Connor, Matthew Asuma and Lauren Asuma; great-grandchildren, Nolen Boynton and Roen Boynton, Tommi Asuma, Mathias Asuma and Theo Asuma, Owen Asuma, Mikko Asuma and Aila Kirt.

Preceding her in death, her husband, Thomas; a sister; and three brothers.

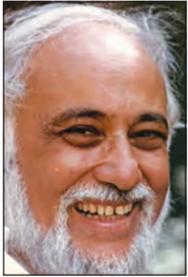
Services will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, 808 N. Main on Saturday, March 15, with visitation being from 9am to 11am and services to follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church. Her final resting place will be at Edgewood Cemetery, Ashtabula, Ohio, next to her husband.



Romuald Simeone

A Memorial Celebration of Life: "In the Highways and Byways" for author/evangelist Romuald Simeone will be held on Saturday, May 31st, 2025 11 AM followed by a free simple picnic. It will be held next to the Menominee Park bike path near the rock where Fr. Allouez celebrated the first Oshkosh holy mass. All are welcome. Professor Simeone is the author of: "Bible, Love Letters from Your Father, Books of John, Lectio Divina, Gospel, Letters and Revelation" and would say:



open anywhere and it will speak to you, and never fail, God always shows up in the encounter to those with open hearts. Come and hear about the venerable witness of this servant of God, his most salient missionary adventures abroad & in the US over 50 years, and peek at his videos on the Gospel of John while meeting his friends and family. Recognize this friend in Christ from the bike path, or the former Our Father's House Church (Tennessee and Evans in Oshkosh) where he shepherded those seeking? Let him inspire you to be an "ordinary man or woman" and seeker of Jesus. You are invited to buy a book or offer a tax-exempt donation to further his work. Inquire at: RomualdSimeone@proton.me

Zachary John Christenson

Zachary John Christenson, 38, passed away on March 5, 2025 at Aurora Hospital surrounded by family and holding his wife's hand. He fought a courageous 3-year battle with cancer and lived life to the fullest since his diagnosis. He was an incredible husband, father, son, brother, and friend who will be deeply missed.



Born January 28, 1987, in Appleton, WI, Zach is the youngest child of Daniel and Nancy Christenson. He worked in sales since graduating high school and worked as Region Rental Sales Manager at Fabick Rents for the past several years, a position he truly enjoyed. He loved to travel with his wife and children. Zach was able to take several bucket list trips in the past three years and made many amazing travel memories with his kids. He also enjoyed driving his sports car and boating with his family. A lifelong musician, Zach played bass and guitar in several bands and, more recently with a local worship team. He is survived by his wife, Tarra, and his children Owen, Ryland, and Sloane. He is also survived by his parents, Nancy and Dan Christenson, his siblings, Jacque, Katie, and Andy, 7 nieces and 2 nephews, and many extended family members.

A private service will be held on Saturday March 29, 2025 for close family and friends, with a celebration of Zach's life to follow. For more information please email zjc.celebration@gmail.com.

Mark L. Eichstedt

Mark Lynn Eichstedt of Oshkosh, Wisconsin passed away on November 07, 2024 at Vista Inpatient Hospice in West Allis, Wisconsin.



Mark was born on November 27, 1951, in Kewaskum, Wisconsin to the late Oliver and Barbara (nee Falk) Eichstedt. Mark graduated from Holy Trinity Grade School, then Kewaskum High School in 1969 having participated in football, basketball and track where he set half mile records. He also attended UW Fond du Lac and UW La Crosse.

Mark was enjoying retirement after working nearly twenty years at Oshkosh Trucking Company. He spent many years as a self-employed roofer using skills his

father taught his sons. He spent many winters working for the White Eagle Lodge in Texas and worked various jobs while living near siblings in Tucson, AZ.

Mark was married twice and remained lifelong friends with Colleen Skundberg in La Farge and Viroqua area. Of late, Mark had spending his time helping Theresa Laul, an immigrant family from South Sudan Africa.

Beside being an avid fan of all Wisconsin sports teams (Badgers, Brewers, Bucks and Packers) Mark enjoyed golf and especially supporting Tiger Woods. Those left to cherish his memory are brothers Clark, Glenn (Jackie), Richard, Michael (Normadina) and sisters Kay (Terry Tye) and Michelle (Joe Koile), and many nephews and nieces. In addition to his parents Mark was preceded in death by his sister Jodi Hernandez.

A memorial service and celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Dorothy L. Hurkman

Dorothy Louise Hurkman, age 96, passed away on March 6, 2025 at Lake Point Villa in Oshkosh. She was born on March 30, 1928 in Chicago IL. to parents Albert and Doris Thibeau.



Dorothy was a loving-supporting spouse, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. We loved her, she loved us, we will miss her.

She was preceded in death by her husband; Robert H. Hurkman and sister; Kay Boynton.

Dorothy is survived by sons; Richard "Dick" (Kay) Hurkman, Jim (Julie) Hurk-

man, daughter; Susan (Randy) Priem, grandchildren; Robert "Bob" (Linda) Hurkman, Steve Hurkman, Monica (Nick) Calewatts, Dr. Jennifer (Andy) Johnson, David (Hattie) Priem, Melissa Hurkman great-grandchildren; Joely Hurkman, Avery Hurkman, Parker Hurkman, Ethan Johnson, Franklin Priem and Jack Priem.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday March 22, 2025 at 1:00 pm at St. Raphael's Catholic Church (830 S. Westhaven Dr.) visitation will be held from 12:00 noon until the time of service at church on Saturday.

Our family would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the staff at Lake Point Villa for all the years of kind, caring service.



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Obituaries

Paula Kay Adams

Paula Kay Adams, 79, passed away peacefully on March 6, 2025, surrounded



by her loving family. She was born on June 20, 1945, to the late Paul "Curly" and Stella Kortum and graduated from Bradford High School.

Paula met her husband, BT Adams, through her older brother George while BT was attending UW Madison. Their love grew into a marriage that lasted 60 wonderful years, filled with laughter, adventure, and deep companionship. Together, they raised two children, Christina Adams-Meyer and Sean Adams, who were the center of their lives.

Paula and BT shared a passion for travel, making annual trips to Las Vegas for a little gambling, great food, and shows. A trip to Hawaii with Paula's mother was a cherished memory. Through BT's work, they explored the world, visiting places like Spain, Taiwan, and China.

A devoted and nurturing mother, Paula chose to stay home for many years to focus on her family. She was actively involved in her children's lives, helping with school carnivals, organizing the middle school pom-pom squad, sewing their uniforms, and supporting the Black Watch Band, high school Madrigals, musicals, and countless other activities. Throughout it

all, Paula made sure to instill strong values and a deep faith in God in her children. She prioritized church and youth group attendance, believing they were essential for their spiritual growth and personal development, and she worked to create a loving, supportive environment where faith and family came first.

Her love for sewing and fashion led her to take courses at the local technical college, and she later worked in retail clothing stores where her creativity shone in buying and displaying merchandise. This work also helped her save for her children's college funds, a goal she held dear.

Paula had a remarkable talent for cooking and baking. Her home was often filled with the warmth of her delicious meals, and her family especially treasured her famous potato salad recipe — a tradition that will continue for generations. Her loved ones often said they were lucky to have such a wonderful "chef" in the house!

Family time was Paula's greatest joy. She adored spending time with her grandchildren — Megan Berndt, Logan Berndt, and Brianna Meyer — and took pride in watching them grow. She and BT continued their beloved vacations "up north" with their children and grandchildren, creating lasting memories in the peaceful beauty of the northern woods.

Paula is survived by her husband, BT Adams; her children, Christina (John) Meyer and Sean (Jan) Adams; and her grandchildren, Megan Berndt, Logan Ber-

ndt, and Brianna Meyer. She was preceded in death by her parents, Paul "Curly" and Stella Kortum; her sister, Joan; and her brother, George.

A celebration of Paula's life will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Drive, Oshkosh, on Satur-

day, March 22. Visitation will begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by a service at 11 a.m.

Paula will be remembered for her kindness, warmth, and devotion to her family.



John L. Romitti

John L. Romitti, age 89, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on March



10, 2025. He was born on September 5, 1935, in a small house in Madrid, Iowa, to parents, Amerigo and Adalgisa (Medici) Romitti.

He graduated from Madrid High School in 1953. From 1957 to 1958, he served in the U.S. Army for 1 tour in Korea in the Infantry Unit.

John met Judith A. Novak in 1965, and they were married on February 5, 1966. He worked for Firestone for 6 years while also attending Drake University for 3 years. John continued on to work for the John Deere Company in Ankeny, Iowa for over 30 years. Afterwards, he continued to work for Cub Foods in both Ames, Iowa, and Oshkosh, Wisconsin, as well as Target in his "retirement" until age 83.

He won his first award in sports at age 70, placing first in his age division in a Sk

race. John loved watching sports, his favorite teams were the Green Bay Packers and the St. Louis Cardinals.

Preceding him in death was his wife, Judith; parents, Amerigo and Adalgisa; and brother, Marion (Linda) Romitti.

He is survived by his 3 children, David Romitti, Teresa (William) Van Aacken and Jarrod Romitti; 3 grandchildren, Gabrielle (Christian) Dal Santo, Anthony (Katie) Van Aacken and Evan (Andrew) Van Aacken; great-grandchild, Elliott Van Aacken.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at St. Raphael's the Archangel Catholic Church, 830 S. Westhaven Dr., Oshkosh, WI, from 9:30am to 11:00am with service to immediately follow. Interment will be at Greenwood Cemetery in Hayward, Wisconsin, next to his wife, Judith.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the St. Rafael's Good Samaritan Fund- In Memory of John L. Romitti, 830 S. Westhaven Dr., Oshkosh, WI., 54904.



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Obituaries

Clair A. Retzlaff

Clair A. Retzlaff, age 93, of Omro was called to his heavenly home on Monday, March 10, 2025. He was born on September 5, 1931, in the city of Oshkosh, the 3rd of 6 children, to the late Max and Stella (Pohlman) Retzlaff. Clair was baptized, confirmed, and married at Grace Lutheran Church in Omro where he remained a member for his entire life. His faith was important to him as he rarely missed a Sunday service and was truly a great role model for his family. Clair graduated from Omro High School in 1950. He was a good athlete and enjoyed playing football, basketball, and baseball.



After high school, he immediately pursued his life-long passion of being a dairy farmer. On June 27, 1953, Clair married his high school sweetheart, Ruth Kratz. Together they purchased his family farm and raised their five children. Clair enjoyed playing cards, bowling, golfing and spending time with family and friends. He loved people and had a great knack for carrying on a conversation with anyone he met.

Family was very important to Clair and he is survived by: children, Deborah (Dennis) Springborn, of Oshkosh; Dennis (Donna) Retzlaff, of Omro; Steve (Juli) Retzlaff, of Oshkosh; Brian (Tricia) Retzlaff, of Omro; grandchildren, Kevin (Miranda Cullins) Springborn, Jason (Becky) Springborn, Sarah (Tanner) Niemuth, Joanna (Travis) Neuman, Christina (Ben) Giese, Daniel Retzlaff, Kyle (Meaghan)

Retzlaff, Brady (Marissa) Retzlaff, Preston Retzlaff, Peyton (Annah Chriske) Retzlaff, Camden Retzlaff, Brenden Retzlaff (Madeline); great-grandchildren, Clara, Jackson, Natalie, Kendall, Kelsey, Olivia, Gavin, Brielle, Gracie, Callie, Sadie, Maya, Alaila; sister and brother-in-law, Dorothy (Merlynn) Lovell, sister-in-law, Margaret Retzlaff; and other relatives and friends.

Along with his parents, Clair was also preceded in death by his wife of almost 65 years, Ruth; a son, Neil Retzlaff; a great-grandson, Aiden Springborn; sister, brothers, sisters-in-laws, and brothers-in-laws, Charles (Phyllis) Retzlaff, Lyle Retzlaff, Orin (Marian) Retzlaff, Grace (Joe) Vowels, Louise (Clarence) Wright, Esther (Ray) Marks, Helen (Clarence "Bud") Lee, Louis Kratz, Marie (Richard) Derber, and Lorraine (Norman) Schneiter.

The family would like to thank the staff

at Webster Manor, "his girls" for the wonderful care and compassion shown to our father in his final three years.

A visitation for family and friends will be on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at Grace Lutheran Church 720 Jackson Ave. in Omro from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with the funeral service to follow at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Mark Wenzel officiating. Burial will be in the Oak Hill Cemetery, town of Poygan.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial for Grace Lutheran Church will be established in Clair's name.

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



Carol Jean Spanbauer

Carol Jean (Ames) Spanbauer, 82, passed away peacefully on March 13, 2025, after a long battle with dementia.



Carol was born in De Pere, Wisconsin on July 19, 1942, to Richard and Vera Clark Ames and lived her entire life in Oshkosh. She married her

high school classmate, Larry Spanbauer, on February 9, 1963, and was married for 55 years before he passed away in 2018. Carol attended Read, Merrill and Oshkosh High Schools and had many life-long friendships. Carol had a wonderful laugh, could play the accordion, and loved her family, her dogs, cottaging, Christmas,

and gardening. Her gardens were part of the 2015 Oshkosh Garden Club Walk.

She is survived by her daughter, Barb, her son Paul (Michelle) (both of Oshkosh), her son Jon (Allison) of Chicago, and three grandchildren: Kaitlyn Spanbauer of Oshkosh, and Madeleine and Margaret (Mollie) Spanbauer of Chicago.

Carol's family would like to thank the staff at Park View Health Center for her wonderful care and for the countless miles they walked with her. Donations can be made in Carol's name to the Oshkosh Garden Club.

A celebration of Carol's life will be held in Oshkosh on July 19, 2025. Carol will be interred with her husband at Lakeview Memorial Park.



Gary Gene Tank

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Gary Gene Tank, a cherished member of the Oshkosh, WI community, passed away peacefully on March 12, 2025 at the age of 69. Gary was born on December 13th 1955 in Oshkosh Wisconsin to Gene and Bea Tank.



Gary was a graduate of Oshkosh West High School in 1974. After growing up in Oshkosh, he served some time in the army, including a tour in Germany. Upon returning to the US Gary drove cross country semi, settled in California for several years and then spent his remaining time back in Oshkosh eventually retiring from Amcor (formally Bemis). Gary was a jack of all trades, known to not sweat the small stuff. He loved to hunt, fish, and play cards. He enjoyed hanging out with his dog Molly and the love of his life Patti while listening to his favorite music. He had a calming effect on people, always living in the moment and ready to help anyone in need of a hand.

Gary is survived by his loving mother Beatrice Tank, brothers; Glen (Lori),

Steve, Mark (Jennifer), sister Sandy Earl and Aunts Barb Panske and Gloria Tank. Nieces; Connie Tank, Dawn Butts, Courtney Earl, Neenah Earl, Whitney Tank, and Carrigan Tank. Great nieces and nephews; Alli, Prestyn, Weston, Jace, and Koby. Girlfriend Patti Giese and the Reichenberger family (Mark, Dan, Pete, Judy, and Ann).

Gary was predeceased by his wife Helen Tank, father Gene Tank, niece Jamie Tank, and several other cherished family members.

Gary's fun-loving spirit, generosity, endless humor, and zest for life will be greatly missed. Gary was fond of saying "If I could put a smile on someone's face everyday and make them laugh, it made my day."

A celebration of life will take place in April or May. A private family service will take place with interment at Lakeview Memorial Park, Oshkosh WI. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Oshkosh Humane Society 1925 Shelter Court Oshkosh WI 54901 in Gary's name.

The family wishes to send a special thank you to the staff at Theda Care Appleton ICU for their exceptional care and compassion.

Although Gary is gone, he will live in our hearts forever.

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Oshkosh Herald LLC, a family-owned business anchored by the 7-year-old Oshkosh Herald, 3-year-old Neenah News and recently acquired 154-year-old Winneconne News, is seeking an editor to lead those publications. These three advertising-supported weekly newspapers serving their communities reach more than 54,000 mailboxes weekly in Winnebago County.

The ideal candidate will be a leader and a planner who knows how to strategize and execute a wide variety of content working collaboratively with reporters, freelancers and other contributors on coverage. The right candidate will be comfortable managing a content calendar while coaching and supporting a team of writers to achieve short- and long-term assignment goals.

The Oshkosh Herald and Winneconne News are each Wednesday products and Neenah News comes out on Fridays, each serving the geographic territory of their respective school districts.

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- Assist designer in production of newspaper and special sections.
- Demonstrate sound editorial judgment, including an understanding of institutional guidelines on ethics, tone and subject matter.
- Build strong community connections through personal interaction.

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Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT

WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: Stephen Lloyd Cooper

Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2025CV000270

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Stephen Lloyd Cooper To: Katrina Violetta deVillle Birth Certificate: Stephen Lloyd Cooper

IT IS ORDERED:

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin: Judge's Name: Hon. Michael S. Gibbs

Place: Winnebago County Courthouse Room 211

415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901

Date: April 21, 2025 Time: 9:45 am

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4868 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Oshkosh Herald a newspaper published in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin.

BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: March 13, 2025 /s/ Hon. Michael S. Gibbs

Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch IV Runs: March 19, 2025, March 26, 2025 and April 2, 2025

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

RENNING LEWIS & LACY

How Do Leprechauns Get Their Pots of Gold?

Around St. Patrick's Day, you will often hear legends about leprechauns and their pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. **Have you ever wondered where they get all of that gold?**



Watching the Costs

Just making and selling shoes isn't enough to collect the gold needed to fill a leprechaun's pot. Leprechauns have to keep an eye on the **costs** of making fairy shoes, too.

Take a look at the cost of shoe supplies on this list.

- Tree Bark for Shoe Soles: 2 coins
- Pine Needles for Sewing: 1 coin
- Daisy Petals for Shoe Liners: 2 coins
- Lilac Petals: 3 coins
- Petunia Petals: 2 coins
- Rose Petals: 4 coins

How many shamrocks can you find on this page?

What if the leprechaun spent more gold coins to make the shoes than he charged the fairies? He would run out of gold pretty quickly!

If it costs 7 gold coins for the supplies to make one pair of fairy shoes, what should the leprechaun charge so that he covers his costs and has some money left over to pay himself for his work to make the shoes?

50 gold coins!? That's way too expensive for me!



Price matters!

Picking the right price is important. If the leprechaun charges too little, he will lose money. But if he charges too much, he will lose customers.

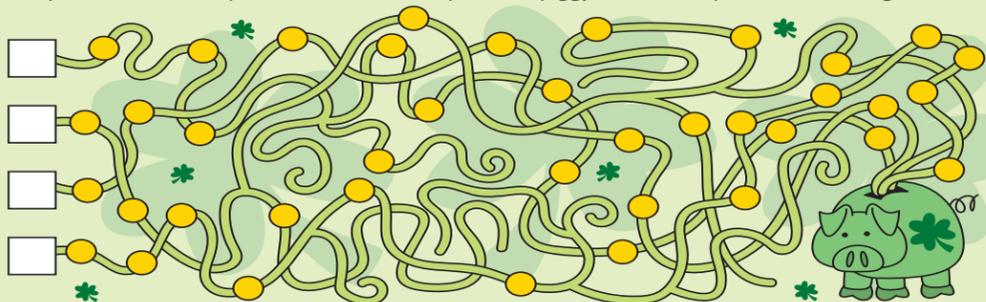
Use these worksheets to add up the costs of making each pair of shoes. Then find the difference between the costs and the selling price to determine the profit for each pair of shoes.

LEPRECHAUN'S GOLDEN VOCABULARY WORD:

PROFIT: Money earned after the expenses are paid.

Pixie Prancers	Pretty Petunias	Refined Rosies
TREE BARK	TREE BARK	TREE BARK
DAISY PETALS	DAISY PETALS	DAISY PETALS
PINE NEEDLES	PINE NEEDLES	PINE NEEDLES
LILAC PETALS	PETUNIA PETALS	ROSE PETALS
TOTAL COST: _____	TOTAL COST: _____	TOTAL COST: _____
PRICE: 13	PRICE: 16	PRICE: 20
PROFIT: _____	PROFIT: _____	PROFIT: _____

Add up the coins on each path that leads to the Leprechaun piggy bank. Which path has the most gold coins?



Extra! Extra!

Math is GOLDEN!

Numbers are useful every day. Look through the newspaper to find a number that tells each of the following:

- An address
- A price
- A phone number
- An age
- A year

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

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Fairy Shoe Sorter

Draw lines between each pair of fairy shoes to make exact matches. Look carefully!



Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

LEPRECHAUN CUSTOMERS

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

- PATRICK
- LEGENDS
- FAIRIES
- PETALS
- PROFIT
- COSTS
- SHOES
- PRICE
- NIGHT
- GOLD
- PAIR
- BUSY
- POT



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

Kid Scoop Together: Lepre-coins

By selling fairy shoes, Lily Leprechaun has earned a lot of golden lepre-coins (that's Leprechaun money).

Work with a parent and help Lily count her money. You'll need a **RED, BLUE** and **GREEN** crayon to circle the coins that add up to each amount. **IMPORTANT:** You can only circle each coin once, and when you're done, every coin should be circled.

Circle in **BLUE**: \$1.30 worth of Lepre-coins

Circle in **RED**: 55¢ worth of Lepre-coins

Circle in **GREEN**: 40¢ worth of Lepre-coins



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Four-leaf Clover

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