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County OKs its first strategic plan

Four-year outlook aims at housing, development

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors approved the county's first four-year strategic plan last week, setting a detailed direction for the future.

Last year the County Board approved a request from the County Executive's Office for \$175,000 for assistance with strategic

planning and priority-based budgeting. The money came from the county's Spirit Fund, which is what the county renamed its ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds awarded by the federal government for pandemic relief.

The county partnered with EverStrive Solutions to complete the plan. EverStrive co-founder Meredith Hauck, who presented the plan to supervisors last week, said it was developed through three key phases: insight gathering, board and staff workshops and the plan development and ap-

proval process.

During insight gathering, the consulting firm sent a survey to the full Board of Supervisors, conducted individual interviews with some board members and county leadership, and held focus groups with department leaders, community leaders and economic development organizations.

"The information collected during the insight gathering phase is used to provide context during the workshops and it also

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Photo by Michael Cooney

Service dog bowling

Quest watches over the lanes as volunteers and residents gathered Saturday afternoon for a fundraiser at Revs Bowl for Journey Together Service Dogs, a program that provides service animals to those in need while offering inmates at Oshkosh Correctional Institution the opportunity to train them. Director Brenda Circioni said volunteers are essential for making the program run.

Home assistance program keys on grant opportunities

County HELP initiative keeps residents housed

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

A county program designed to keep people from losing their homes is seeking grant funding for support after seeing the success the program has had in its first two years.

The HELP (Homeless, Eviction, and Loss Prevention) program's primary focus is prevention as it leverages other resources, grants and donations to provide assistance.

The Winnebago County executive's office is exploring options to keep the

program funded with the help of grant money. The county is looking for a yearly grant between \$400,000 and \$500,000 and was searching for a potential non-profit community partner to take over but recently abandoned that plan.

The funds would mostly be for staffing costs for staff, including one supervisor and four case workers.

A resolution was approved by the county board with no opposing votes after a lengthy discussion in February about turning the five project positions into permanent Human Services employees. The five project positions work for the county but do not receive the

SEE **HELP initiative** ON PAGE 9



Oshkosh Media

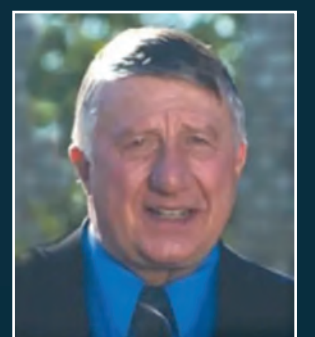
Ethan Hollenberger (right) and Jon Doemel explain HELP program successes to the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors.

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Advertising deadline is noon Wednesday for the following Wednesday.

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

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Corrections

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

About the newspaper

Published weekly and mailed free of charge Tuesdays for Wednesday delivery (may vary based on U.S. Postal Service and holidays) to more than 31,000 homes and businesses in the Oshkosh area.

Oshkosh Herald LLC,
36 Broad St., Suite 300, Oshkosh.
An E-edition of the newspaper can be accessed at www.oshkoshherald.com.

Community gardens directory being developed

Oshkosh Herald

The UW Extension for Winnebago and Outagamie counties is working to build a comprehensive directory of community gardens in Oshkosh and the Fox Valley area with information on all community gardens in the region.

The directory will allow residents to easily locate the gardens and connect with coordinators for potential plot rentals. Those interested in starting a garden or have extra land available are encouraged to reach out to directory coordinator Amy Beck at 920-832-5121 or Amy.Beck@outagamie.org. Gardens can be added to the directory

through a Google form found at winnebago.extension.wisc.edu under the Community Development tab. The directory will also help community leaders identify areas that may need more gardens to follow up on previous initiatives that are no longer active.

Community gardens, defined as being at least partially open to the general public and neighborhoods, offer access to affordable fresh produce, recreational opportunities, space for culturally significant crops, beautification of neighborhoods and increased public safety. Some portions of plots can be designated for partnering organizations, such as church parishes.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical Society

March 27, 1988

Unidentified Flying Object Plummets Into Lake: An unidentifiable object was seen streaking across the sky and plunged into Lake Winnebago on Sunday morning. Officials received about 20 phone calls on the sighting, but had no information on what the object was. The National Weather Service had no information on a meteorite entering the atmosphere. Reports of "a bright light coming down from the sky" came in, some describing the object as orange or green in color. Judy Woolcott of the Fox Valley UFO Discussion and Support Group said reports were coming into her as well. Ms. Woolcott is convinced the sighting was a piece of space debris and not a UFO. "I am in contact with aliens and none of them said this was going to happen and they knew nothing about it." Even if a UFO came out of the sky, she said people should not be afraid of it. "There's nothing to be afraid of. They've been watching us since there was life on earth so there's no sense starting to worry now," Ms. Woolcott said.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, March 28, 1988



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REFERENDUM QUICK FACTS

We're just days away from the April 1 vote on the Oshkosh Area School District's \$197.8 million facilities referendum. This plan aims to create better learning environments for our students, improve safety, and consolidate district facilities to gain operational efficiencies - all while maintaining a \$0 tax increase to the debt levy. How is that possible? Most referendums talk about tax increase. Due to strategic debt planning by our school board, the district is in the position to take on new debt without increasing the total debt levy.

WHAT WILL YOUR VOTE DECIDE?

If the referendum is approved:

- A new consolidated middle school will be built at the Shapiro site (close South Park and Perry Tipler, reducing from three to two westside middle schools)
- Carl Traeger, Franklin, and Oakwood Elementary schools will be expanded and renovated, including adding air conditioning at Franklin and Oakwood (close Roosevelt and Shapiro, reducing from seven to five westside elementary schools)
- Perry Tipler Middle School will be converted into a pre-kindergarten center and recreation department
- A new auditorium will be added to Oshkosh North High School
- Air conditioning will be added at Emmeline Cook, Lakeside, and Read Elementary schools
- The district will close and seek to sell South Park Middle School, Roosevelt Elementary School, and the downtown recreation center
- Non-district pre-kindergarten leases will be eliminated (approximately \$550,000 in annual savings)

If the referendum is not approved, the OASD will collaborate with the community to understand the concerns and explore next steps. Operational savings will not be gained, and construction costs are projected to increase by approximately **\$10 million annually** (5%). The next opportunity to address the district's facility needs would be through a referendum in April 2026. Additionally, Roosevelt and South Park students will remain in buildings over 100 years old with significant structural and functional needs and South Park in a restricted airport zone.

HEAR FROM OUR STAFF & LEARN MORE

Check out our 3-minute videos to learn about the needs and impact of this referendum. Scan the QR code or visit oshkosh.k12.wi.us/referendum-2025 to watch and learn more.



MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE

Election Day: Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Voter Registration: Visit myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Voter-Registration

Early Voting Options:

- Absentee ballots can be requested through Friday, March 28 by 5 PM
- In-person early voting begins March 18 at your local municipal clerk's office (check directly for office hours)

Contact us at 920.424.0395 or referendum@oshkosh.k12.wi.us

Plans for UW Fox Cities vacated space stalled

By Bethanie Gengler
OSHKOSH HERALD

The proposed sale of portions of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Fox Cities campus to the Menasha Joint School District (MJSD) to be used for child care after college classes end this spring and the campus permanently shuts down have fallen through.

The abrupt change comes after the school district issued a press release and social media post March 7 outlining its plan to establish multiple child care centers on campus and noting it is “dedicated to preserving the planetarium, current child care center, museum space, community gardens and performing arts center to maximize educational opportunities for children and residents throughout the region.”

In comments under the post and at a school board meeting March 10, some residents questioned how the sale would impact Menasha’s taxpayers. At earlier meetings on the topic, it was estimated the campus would cost \$750,000 annually just for heating.

Winnebago and Outagamie counties, who own the property at the campus, issued a joint press release March 11 announcing the collaboration with MJSD “to address current needs within the community and maintain access to valuable educational programs.”

Winnebago County scheduled a press conference on the future of the campus for the following day that was canceled about six hours later.

That evening, Outagamie County’s Property Committee held a meeting

where they voted to pause the sale of the campus and have three appraisals completed to determine its value.

Then on Tuesday, MJSD issued another press release, backing out on acquiring the property.

“A common theme in the community feedback received by the district was a desire for more information about the project’s impact on Menasha Joint School District taxpayers and the potential costs to the school district,” Superintendent Matt Zimmerman wrote. “Without these details and more opportunity for public discussion about these details, our plan lacks sufficient support.”

Zimmerman noted MJSD remains committed to finding solutions to the child care crisis in the community but will not be taking over ownership of the campus.

The original 39,000-square-foot building at UW Fox Cities was constructed in 1960 on 20 acres in Menasha and later grew to 40 acres. Several additions over the years included the Barlow Planetarium, Communication Arts Center, University Children’s Center, Weis Earth Science Museum and Community Gardens.

The counties have been in talks since last June about what will happen to the campus after UW-Oshkosh announced classes there will end in June and the campus will permanently close in December due to declining enrollment and financial challenges.

UW Fox Cities will be the sixth two-year campus to close after a statewide merger of two-year campuses with four-year campuses in 2018.

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Wed. Apr. 9, 2025
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Please RSVP at 920-299-5519 or
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- Want to learn how current laws affect your estate plan.
- Are concerned that Nursing Home or long term care costs will deplete your life savings.
- Wish to learn more about Probate and how to avoid it.
- Have a Will that is more than 3 years old or it was created in another state.

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- ▶ Proposed changes to the Federal Estate and Capital Gains Tax laws.
- ▶ How to provide for your own care and well-being, and that of your loved ones even if you become incapacitated.
- ▶ Why you shouldn’t add a child to your bank account and how beneficiary designations might ruin your will.
- ▶ How you can protect your children’s inheritances from predators, greedy non-family members, and bad marriages.
- ▶ How veterans or their spouses can receive money to help pay for medical expenses.
- ▶ Why signing your home over to your kids might be a huge mistake.

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APRIL 3-13

Celebrate Oshkosh City Wide!

This 10-day event showcases an epic collaboration between Oshkosh’s breweries, craft distillery, and urban cidery. Bare Bones Brewery, Fifth Ward Brewing Company and Fox River Brewing Company have teamed up for the fourth year in a row to create a brand new **Oshkosh City Wide Brew**—a Blueberry Lime Sour!



If you’re looking for even more fun this weekend—live music, entertainment, shopping, and family-friendly activities—head to our site to discover it all!





Photo from ThedaCare

ThedaCare Medical Center-Oshkosh is going up at 250 W. 6th Ave.

Hospital project progressing on 6th Avenue

Oshkosh Herald

Construction work is progressing at the new ThedaCare Medical Center-Oshkosh at 250 W. 6th Ave. on the Fox River with hospital officials noting construction milestones reached.

Since last March's groundbreaking, roof work is completed along with most exterior masonry. Window frames are installed with exterior glass expected to be complete by early summer as work continues on interior walls.

The health campus is expected to be complete in late 2025 with about 60 new jobs created for caregivers and staff at the campus. Those interested in learning more about job opportunities are asked to visit ThedaCare.org/Careers.

ThedaCare Medical Center-Oshkosh is projected to be about 114,000 square feet

with an estimated \$84 million investment, which includes an updated plan that added a 28,000-square-foot third floor to the original design.

The hospital is expected to have emergency care, inpatient beds and 24/7 coverage with a retail pharmacy, ambulatory surgery center with operating rooms and a medical office building for primary care and specialties.

Construction partners include Hplex Solutions as the owner representative; HGA as architect and engineer; Miron Construction Co. as construction manager and the Sigma Group as civil engineer and landscape architect.

Work also continues at ThedaCare Medical Center-Fond du Lac with completion expected this spring.

Child care training program offered

Oshkosh Herald

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R), in collaboration with Forward Service and the Fox Valley Workforce Development Board, is launching a Road to Success program offering participants the education and support needed to begin careers in early childhood education.

Participants will attend in-person classes with CCR&R from April 15 through July 17 at the Oshkosh Area United Way. Contact Forward Service at 920-278-9264 or foxvalleywioa@fsc-corp.org before April 7 to determine qualifications and whether they can attend for free.

Classes include Introduction to the Child Care Profession, Skills and Strategies for the Child Care Teacher, Fundamentals of Infant and Toddler Care, Fundamentals of Family Child Care, Pyramid Model, Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards, Strengthening Families, SIDS, AHT, CPR/AED, and Mandated Reporter.

Those interested may be eligible for financial support to meet child care or transportation needs during classes. Program graduates will have the educational qualifications to be a lead teacher or family child care provider.

Fast Forward grant deadline extended

The state Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has extended the deadline for employers to apply for Wisconsin Fast Forward worker training grants to April 2. Employers are encouraged to apply for this funding that helps deal with the critical demand for skilled workers.

The Industry Sectors Worker Training Grants reimburse the costs of customized occupational training for unemployed,

underemployed and existing workers. Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$400,000 – higher for consortium applicants – can cover training that qualifies workers for full-time positions, higher-level roles or increased wages.

Eligible applicants include public agencies, private organizations, a consortium of placement partners and tribal governing bodies. Details about the program are at wisconsinfastforward.com.

Neighborhoods' annual spring rally scheduled

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh residents are welcome to Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods' second annual Spring Rally from 9 a.m. to noon April 5 at the Oshkosh Seniors Center.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and light breakfast options before breakout sessions on communication strategies, neighborhood operations, and accessing grant funding for community building

projects and events.

The event will conclude with lunch and group discussion.

Presentations will be given by volunteers, community leaders and city representatives on networking opportunities to uplift local neighborhoods. Register online at gohni.org under Events or contact Liz Last at 920-230-2717 or lizlast@gohni.org.

Unemployment rate increases throughout county

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area (MSA) and Winnebago County saw their unemployment rates jump from 2.5% to 3% between December and January, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

The January 2024 jobless rate in the Oshkosh-Neenah MSA and Winnebago County was at 2.4%.

Preliminary January unemployment

rates increased between 0.4 and 1.1 percentage points in all 13 metropolitan areas over the month; rates increased in all the same areas over the year.

Jobless rates increased in all but one of Wisconsin's 35 largest cities over the month (Mequon). Rates increased in all 35 cities over the year.

Estimates of unemployment and employment statistics are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

flash sale

Flash Sale

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 <p>2/\$3 Saratoga Sparkling Water - 28 oz.</p>	 <p>\$2.99 Fresh Gourmet Salad Toppers</p>	 <p>2/\$3 Artichokes</p>	 <p>2/\$1 Lemons</p>
 <p>\$4.99/lb. OFC Italian Pasta Salad</p>	 <p>2/\$10 Ciderboys Melon Mojito - Stevens Point, WI <small>Offers valid 3/27-3/30/2025, while supplies last. Must be 21+ to purchase alcohol.</small></p>	 <p>\$4.99 Point Special Lager - 4 pack</p>	 <p>\$10.99 Stemmari Wines - 750 ml.</p>



fresh deals

Offers valid 3/26-4/1/2025, while supplies last.

 <p>\$4.99 Organic Strawberries - 1 lb.</p>	 <p>2/\$5 Organic Green Kale</p>	 <p>2/\$6 Woodstock Banana Water</p>
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Co-op deals

Offers valid 3/19-4/1/2025, while supplies last.

 <p>3/\$4 Chobani Greek Yogurt</p>	 <p>2/\$6 GT's Ancient Mushroom Elixir</p>	 <p>\$4.49 Kerrygold Pure Irish Butter</p>
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County executive candidates cite their priorities

Oshkosh Herald

The two candidates for Winnebago County executive answered questions posed by the Herald ahead of Tuesday's election to choose the top elected leader in charge of county departments, policies, programs and services. Some responses were edited for print space limitations.

Incumbent and former restaurant owner Jon Doemel is seeking a second term as he faces former state legislator Gordon Hintz for the administrative seat. Hintz most recently represented Oshkosh and parts of Winnebago County for 16 years in the state Assembly.

Jon Doemel

Age: 46

City where you reside: Oshkosh

Occupation: Winnebago County executive

What motivated you to run for county executive and what qualifications do you bring to the position?

To continue the work we are doing to increase effectiveness and efficiency of our county government. As the sitting county executive of the last four years, we have done a lot to analyze the fiscal, situational and operational health of the county. We are in a good position to streamline government and maximize our programs by serving people and meeting the needs of our county.

What are your top three priorities for the first year of your term?

Solving the UWO Fox Cities campus closure issue while prioritizing how to keep the day care operational throughout the transition. We were very close to an agreement. I was disappointed that Outagamie County pulled back at the 11th hour.

Locking in our housing development program in the Industrial Development Board to speed up the much-needed development of all types of housing in our county. We are behind in inventory and the cost of housing and affordable options are paramount to our success.

Given that your campaign is receiving support from various political parties, how do you plan to remain nonpartisan in your role as county executive and ensure that decisions are made in the best interest of all residents, regardless of political affiliation?

I have a track record of being nonpartisan. Nothing will change. We need to put people above parties and make local government stay nonpartisan. With the way politics have gone, a candidate in a race with the area as big as a county stands no chance without the infrastructure of one of the two main parties. I believe your readers would have appreciated a policy question more than another attempt to question my independence and neutrality as a leader.

Gordon Hintz

Age: 51

City where you reside: Oshkosh

Occupation: director, Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust for the Wisconsin Laborers

What motivated you to run for county executive and what qualifications do you bring to the position?

I care deeply about our community and believe I have experience and a skillset that can bring leadership that positively impact people's lives in Winnebago County. In addition, I was encouraged to run by several community leaders concerned about the

current leadership in the county and the need for more stability.

I have spent the past two plus years working on workforce development and marketing issues that benefit the Wisconsin Laborers and their union construction contractor partners. Before that, I spent more than 20 years in public service, most recently serving 16 years in the Wisconsin State Assembly. Earlier, I was a management assistant and municipal budget analyst for the City of Long Beach, CA, and hold a master's degree in public administration from UW Madison.

What are your top three priorities for the first year of your term?

Improving communication: Communication is at the heart of my decades of public service and will be a core part of my time as county executive. We get more done when we work together, so I will prioritize direct and frequent communication with other elected officials (the county board), other government entities (towns, cities, villages and the state), and most importantly with the community. Effective public engagement by government officials is crucial for fostering a responsive and accountable administration.

Budget Transparency: Restore trust through proactive transparency, especially when it comes to the county budget. We need to do better than providing endless financial data that makes it impossible for the public to follow. Winnebago County has budgeted more in expenses than it receives in revenue for several years, only balancing their budget using existing fund balances and one-time money. Despite these budget deficits, the actual budget ends up with funds left over. The most recent budget had a structural deficit of almost \$6.8 million.

Funding for the HELP Program and Park View: We need to find a way to fund the Homelessness, Evictions, & Loss Prevention (HELP) program whose federal funding is expiring to help keep people housed and assist those in need of housing. And we need to staff Park View Health Center, so we can fully utilize the much in demand bed space that is not available due to low staffing.

Given that your campaign is receiving support from various political parties, how do you plan to remain nonpartisan in your role as county executive and ensure that decisions are made in the best interest of all residents, regardless of political affiliation?

I strongly believe in being nonpartisan in my role as county executive. Political affiliation or ideology often have to do with beliefs on the role of government. I am someone who believes that government has a positive role to play in creating opportunity in people's lives. While I was elected as a Democrat to the state Assembly, I have never considered myself an ideologue or partisan incapable of understanding opposing opinions or beliefs. I have witnessed the worst impacts of partisanship on governance firsthand and recognize the corrosive effects it has on decisions and public trust. A large part of my campaign is about the importance of engaging the public. The accountability that comes with being an elected official comes from being responsive to the public. Engaging the public not only builds trust but also enhances the legitimacy of governmental actions. By continuing to put people first, my administration will ensure decisions are being made in the best interests of all Winnebago County residents.



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Teachers, principals give insight leading up to vote

South Park replacement key part of referendum

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Residents have begun casting their votes in the spring election with one major ballot measure being the Oshkosh Area School District's \$197.8 million facilities referendum as part of a long-range plan to "right-size" the district from 20 to 15 schools.

If the referendum passes April 1, a new middle school will be constructed on the site of Jacob Shapiro school. If the referendum fails, students would continue to learn and spend most of their time in a 120-year-old building that staff contend is not ideal for learning.

South Park Middle School opened in 1904 with a major renovation in the 1940s. Then the school saw renovations and additions in the 1960s and 1990s.

One major criticism is that the new middle school would be too large. Superintendent Bryan Davis said the school would hold 680 students, about 1,200 fewer than at Neenah Middle School and about 130 fewer than attend the newly constructed Vel Phillips Middle School.

South Park Principal Joe Pitsch gave the Herald an inside look recently at conditions at the school to point out the challenges students and staff deal with on a regular basis.

"Part of the challenges is that the school was pieced together over time and something like the elevation makes the school difficult to traverse for ADA purposes," he said walking through the halls.

Literacy, math and social studies classes



Oshkosh Herald

In the basement of South Park Middle School you can see where the foundation of the building is decaying in the section of the school that is 120 years old. Students are not allowed in the basement.

are on one side of the building, with the arts, gymnasium and sciences on the other side. Moving between the two can be difficult when a student uses a wheelchair, as there is no elevator nearby.

"To get around the school we've had these ramps installed so students can access the arts room, but these are just for those students," Pitsch said. "It creates a disconnect for the students and we're really working to instill that vibe of together and that nobody is outside of that."

Pitsch said giving students proper ADA access would improve the environment for everyone, which is one of the main arguments for a new school, including bigger classrooms.

"These are classrooms with about 27 kids. In the 1960s that made sense with

the lecturing style of teaching at the time," Pitsch said. "We're focusing on that discussion and group work with students."

For example, in math classes the best method is vertical learning. Pitsch said this includes collaborative learning with whiteboards and is not about sitting and listening to a teacher.

"These kids are stepping over each other as they try to get around the classroom because it's such a tight fit," he said.

The reason for bigger classrooms is that teaching has changed over the years. When the majority of the school was built, teachers mostly lectured students, but now they are encouraged to work with each other and solve problems through discourse and group work.

Other aspects of the referendum include

building an auditorium at North High School, renovating elementary schools for additional students and installing air conditioning at the elementary schools.

South Park does not have air conditioning and the windows in the building are sealed shut, which can have adverse effects on the learning environment.

"The internal temperature of the classroom gets up to 85 (degrees) and that's very unpleasant," Pitsch said. "That's me; just imagine how a child is meant to learn in that environment."

There are other issues with the school that exist because it is an old facility. The foundation is decaying in the basement, the gymnasium seating is primarily concrete, and Pitsch said accidents are frequent, especially in the winter when surfaces get slick. The plumbing is also aging and constantly in need of repairs.

The basement issues have forced the school to prohibit students there and is used solely for storage.

"It's just not safe to have students down here," Pitsch said.

Deb Laibly is a teacher who goes between South Park and Carl Traeger middle schools. She also teaches a financial literacy class called Teen Money to eighth-graders at both schools.

She also noted the difficulty with hot temperatures, saying her classroom is usually on the third floor and has to move to open spaces like the cafeteria on the first floor when the heat is oppressive.

"It just keeps getting hotter throughout the day and the wood makes it more humid, and since the windows can't open the building never has a chance to breathe," Laibly said. "Moving 30 kids with all of their things is draining and it takes away class time."

If the referendum passes, the new school would be built with air conditioning at the elementary schools.

"In those warmer months we are seeing kids really, really struggling with the heat - especially by the afternoon," said Kim Loftin, a fifth-grade teacher at Emmeline Cook Elementary School. "They are getting headaches, they're complaining of stomach aches. Kids are falling asleep. When their bodies are fighting against them it's really difficult for them to be engaged."

Laibly teaches a class with 30 students and any time there is a group project students have to move into the hall or work on the floor.

"My classroom at South Park is very much in that lecture style of rows of desks facing front and (at Carl Traeger) we have more space and we have tables," she said.

Carl Traeger Middle and Elementary School was built in 1997.

Pitsch was part of the transition at Webster Stanley School after the successful 2020 referendum. The school was torn down in 2023 and Menominee Elementary School was built on the site.

SEE **South Park plan** ON PAGE 7

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South Park plan

FROM PAGE 6

“Kids would be in the halls saying – Yes, I get to walk around in the new school,” he recollected.

“Students were talking about it and were excited to be a part of it. They were so happy that the community was investing in the schools and investing in their education when the referendum passed.”

District officials have said that if the referendum fails they would move forward with repairing the 120-year-old South Park.

Estimates from 2020 were put at around \$7.8 million, which is only infrastructure repairs and would not improve learning spaces or ADA access.

The focus of the referendum is facilities and consolidating the buildings from 20 to 15 schools to match community needs. District officials have reported a drop in the birthrate in the Oshkosh area which has translated to a reduction from 10,000 to about 9,000 students over the past decade.

The district plans to turn Perry Tipler Middle School into a prekindergarten center that would also house the Oshkosh Recreation Department.

“Early childhood education forms the foundation for all future learning,” said Beth Schendel, principal of Oshkosh Early Learning. “Our vision is to create a space where our youngest learners truly belong in an environment specifically designed for their developmental needs.”

The program is currently spread out among multiple buildings, and having a central location would bring resources together.

“It’s more than just a building,” Schendel said. “It’s about investing in our youngest learners, their families and our community’s future.”

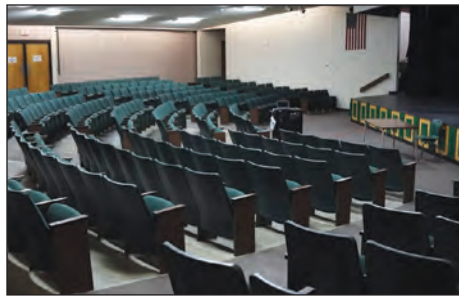
As part of right-sizing the district, officials have proposed renovating three of the district elementary schools to accommodate 600 students. Part of the facilities plan includes closing and selling Roosevelt Elementary School.

Oakwood Elementary has an open concept plan with six classrooms divided by portable walls similar to office cubicle walls that provide little sound proofing between classes.

Emily Paternoster said about 150 children are in the open concept space using the temporary dividers.

“There are quite a bit of safety concerns with our current layout,” Paternoster said. “We do have a plan in place that, if an intruder was to get in, we could get out. But it’s really a stressful situation for kids.”

The monetary breakdown of the refer-



Oshkosh Area School District

The auditorium at North High School is more of a lecture hall than an auditorium. It does not have the proper needs from a production standpoint or audience capacity which leads more and more events being relocated.

endum has seven components:

- \$88 million – Construct new middle school on Shapiro site
- \$35.7 million – Expand Oakwood Elementary School
- \$31.1 million – Expand Franklin Elementary School
- \$22.1 million – Build Oshkosh North High School Auditorium
- \$9.7 million – Repurpose Perry Tipler Middle School for Pre-K and recreation department
- \$5.8 Add air conditioning at Emmeline Cook, Lakeside and Read Elementary schools
- \$5.4 million – Expand Carl Traeger Elementary School

The district estimates that if the referendum fails that costs would rise by \$42 million in four years when factoring in 5% inflation.

Choir teacher and music chair Bridget Duffy-Ulrich explained the current auditorium at North High is more of a lecture hall. She said there aren’t enough seats, the lighting is inadequate and it forces most events to be at the Alberta Kimball Auditorium at West High.

“It really doesn’t serve the needs of our department,” she said. “When we build a yearly music calendar, it’s like this giant puzzle that usually doesn’t work because we’re all sharing this one space.”

The Alberta Kimball Auditorium hosted 478 events throughout the past year.

Davis also noted the impact of investing into the community.

“Let me be clear, this investment is not free. This is a significant investment for our community. But we believe that this investment is important for us to be able to have healthy schools which produce healthy students,” Davis said.

The district said that making early prepayments on the 2020 referendum will add no increase to the debt levy and, therefore, no increase in taxes if the April 1 referendum passes.

More information can be found at oshkosh.k12.wi.us/referendum-2025.

County, city, school officials on April 1 ballot

Oshkosh Herald

Voters are heading to the polls to cast their ballots in the Winnebago County executive race and for other city and school district positions. Tuesday’s election will also have statewide races and a \$197 million Oshkosh Area School District building referendum.

Early in-person absentee voting has been ongoing at 19 E. Irving Ave. since March 18 and continues this Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Four candidates are vying for three seats on the Oshkosh Common Council. Brad Spanbauer is challenging incumbents Karl Buelow, Paul Esslinger and Joe Stephenson. Voters can vote for up to three candidates. The winners will serve two-year terms.

Mayor Matt Mugerauer is also running unopposed for a second term as mayor.

On the Board of Education, voters will decide among incumbent Molly Smiltneek and challengers Michael Ford and Jacob Wolf. The ballot will ask voters to choose up to two candidates to serve for a three-year term.

The ballot will ask voters in the school district to vote yes or no on the \$197.8 million facilities referendum that would allow a new middle school to be built along with improvements to learning environments and student/staff welfare.

Opponents of the referendum have stated that building new schools does not translate to better learning outcomes. Advocates of the referendum have said hav-

ing a strong educational system is integral to a strong economy.

The Winnebago County executive race pits incumbent Jon Doemel seeking a second term against former state legislator Gordon Hintz.

Two state races – Wisconsin Supreme Court justice and superintendent of schools – are on the ballot. Former attorney general Brad Schimel is facing Dane County Judge Susan Crawford for a Supreme Court seat. Incumbent Jill Underly is being challenged by Brittany Kinser for state superintendent.

Wisconsin Democracy Campaign executive director Nick Ramos told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that spending in the Supreme Court race could break the former record of \$51 million by almost doubling it.

A statewide referendum question asks voters whether to make Wisconsin’s voter ID law, signed into law in 2016, part of the state constitution.

The referendum has public support from the GOP, including Winnebago County Republicans. Democrats are opposed to the addition to the constitution along with other organizations, including the ACLU of Wisconsin.

Mark Godrum is running unopposed in the Court of Appeals District II race for a six-year term on the bench. The district covers 12 counties in Wisconsin, including Winnebago.

For more information on the spring election, go to myvote.wi.gov.



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Hand-crafted gem from early bar history preserved

By Dan Roherty
OSHKOSH HERALD

A piece of Oshkosh tavern history was rescued and restored ahead of a building demolition on the city's north side thanks to an antiques specialist that has it primed for its next chapter of service.

Kaukauna-based Harp Gallery's team got word of Topsy Otter ending its bar era at 1226 Oshkosh Ave. with an auction sale announced by the city. The century-old, solid-oak back bar was the gem of the sale among other items remaining in the soon-to-be-demolished building.

"I want to look at it to see if it was even a feasible project, and we decided it would be something we could really do and wanted to save," said Harp Gallery's restoration manager Mark Babbitt.

The city has been acquiring former taverns and other properties in that area of Oshkosh Avenue and North Sawyer Street over the last decade to eventually rebuild a challenging intersection near the Congress Avenue bridge.

Local historian Lee Reiherzer said the back bar, a 1912 model called The Grant, was built by R. Brand & Sons on Ceape Avenue for the Rahr brewing family that owned the building starting in 1911. The tavern served generations of clientele under a multitude of names.

Just in the past 15 years its monikers



Oshkosh Herald

A back bar built in 1913 in Oshkosh that has served an Oshkosh Avenue tavern space for more than a century has been restored by Harp Gallery and ready for the modern era.

included The Spot, Thirsty Goat, Gorilla's, Knuckleheads, Sawyer Creek Pub, Twisted Karma and Christopher Allan's.

A Harp Gallery team of five arrived on a cold January day to remove the new acquisition after the rest of the auctioned items were gone.

"It was like the last thing left in the building," said marketing manager Heather LeNoble. "Everything else was pretty much cleared out."

Careful disassembly of the worn wooden and glass structure was essential to keep its integrity that had been challenged by some water damage on the bottom and general wear and tear.

"We had to figure out how to take this thing apart and get it off the wall," Babbitt said. "It was fastened to the wall with all different kinds of fasteners over decades of it being modified."

It came out in about 10 pieces, including the original antique mirrors, while removing its 1960s wiring and uncovering some memorabilia items, including one with a Milwaukee Braves logo.

The 10-foot-tall and 16-foot-long structure was transported to the Harp's workshop where the real work began to bring it back to life.

"This back bar wasn't just built, it was crafted," Harp Gallery posted on its website. "Made of solid oak, its quarter-sawn grain catches the light, creating a visual dance of rich textures that simply can't be replicated. The elegantly carved Ionic columns and patinated brass hardware added a timeless charm, whispering stories of days gone by."

The team put more than 200 hours into repairing, refinishing and reassembling the back bar to match the finish and source the missing hardware to preserve the original design. Modern touches were added to keep the piece functional: oversized Edison bulbs, color-changing LED lights and a sound mode that syncs with music. They added removable wood and glass shelves for display and practicality.

Second-generation Harp Gallery owner John Melchert said the project required most of the skills his team offers to restore the Victorian-inspired piece – cabinet work, gesso (plaster ornamentation), veneer restoration and

refinishing, among other detail work. A period-correct marble space was added in the midsection for drink-making where an ink-stained board had deteriorated.

"I don't think there were many guys who didn't get to work on this out of our staff of 17," he said.

Melchert and Babbitt both noted that with everything they work on, structural integrity of the furniture is established before any restoration or finishing details. He said their customer base are people who plan to use the furniture and fixtures, not simply own an art piece.

"We make sure that everything works right, and that it looks good," Melchert said. "We've gone through to update things a little bit while preserving the original character just to make them useful for modern homes."

"We have done several other bars, but we fix everything – tables and chairs, tea carts, smaller things – they don't get too much bigger than this. This is pretty grand," he said.

"To make these round tapered cornerstone oak columns, I don't know if you could find anybody who would want to do that for you these days."

Harp Gallery has the restored piece on the market in the \$31,000 to \$39,000 range for whoever has the right space and inspiration for classy entertainment.

"Whether it finds its place in a grand bar, a boutique hotel, a home or a historic venue, this remarkable piece is ready to continue its legacy," notes the gallery website.

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HELP initiative

FROM PAGE 1

same benefits as county employees such as salary raises and bonuses.

The resolution submitted to the board at the Feb. 25 meeting by the Human Services board and Personnel and Finance Committee stated the program has a 96% success rate. The Herald has learned that figure is not accurate and the success rate is closer to 73%.

Ethan Hollenberger of the county executive office said he did not know where the 96% data point came from but said the data showed that some cases don't need intensive care management.

Sometimes the HELP program only needs to make a simple intervention such as calling a landlord to get information on a potential eviction. Hollenberger said that may have led to the 96% success rate being in the material for the meeting.

County Executive Jon Doemel explained to the board March 18 that HELP is a pilot program in place since February 2023 that he hopes to make permanent if the funding is secured. He said the focus of the resolution was to help Winnebago County residents.

"There's a lot of people out there struggling with housing insecurity," Doemel said.

The county reported that in 2024 the program received 1,911 referrals, including 241 walk-ins. This was a 475% increase from 2023. Out of all those referrals, 713 individuals received intensive case management as they were people at risk of losing current housing and un-housed residents

Board Supervisor Conley Hanson said he supported the program and its goals but expressed concerns that making the employees full time could raise issues come budget season if the count cannot find grant money to fund the project.

Supervisor Koby Schellenger noted the resolution allows these employees to apply for grants. He told the Herald af-

ter the meeting that having the program available to residents is important.

"It has filled a critical gap in our housing programs across public and private entities and has kept many people in their homes," Schellenger said.

Supervisor Lucas Reinke expressed similar thoughts on the program and its potential.

"I do want to stress how important I feel the HELP program is to our community. People are struggling, and this program helps fill in some of the cracks in existing housing assistance programs and prevents small financial struggles from spiraling out of control," Reinke said. "It is being looked at by local governments nationwide who are trying to address the housing crisis as a successful model."

When the Herald spoke to county employees about the program last year there were four things the HELP program is based upon: collaborating with agencies to make all resources accessible, helping people wherever they are at, making people aware so they know to reach out for assistance before they're evicted or lose their home, and having a follow-up process.

Those connections are what allowed the HELP program grow. Other communities have taken notice and Winnebago County is becoming a model for nationwide prevention.

"Our staff have discussed with fellow colleagues and have had discussions with state officials on the success," Hollenberger said. "More frequently other communities (are) asking about the programs. Local organizations are amazed at the collaborative success of the program. Prevention is becoming the model nationwide."

He said he recently returned from a national conference where he spoke with other administrators from Oregon, Texas and Michigan.

Supervisors approved the five project positions for the HELP program through the end of this year. The positions were in the 2025 budget and funded through this year.



Oshkosh Herald

Business expo

Visitors check out Crown Trophy's booth last Wednesday at the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce's annual Business Expo at the Oshkosh Convention Center. More than 100 businesses were represented with a game theme in play.

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Calendar of events

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

Peace Lutheran Church rummage/bake sale, 8 a.m., 240 W. 9th Ave.

Vietnam Veterans Day, 11 a.m., Military Veterans Museum and Education Center, 4300 Poberezny Road

Hope for Unity, 4 p.m., First Congregational 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

Thursday, April 10

Just Between Friends Sale, 10 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Friday, April 11

Just Between Friends Sale, 10 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

"Professor Marston and the Wonder Women" 10 a.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

Saturday, April 12

Just Between Friends Sale, 10 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Book signing: "It Takes Strong Women," 10 a.m., Caramel Crisp Corner, 200 City Center

Ripple Effect Scholarship fundraiser, 11 a.m., Father Carr's Place 2B, 1062 N. Koeller St.

Oshkosh Art Collective Show, 6 p.m., Gibson Social Club, 537 N. Main St.

Dwight Simmons comedy show, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.

County planning

FROM PAGE 1

gives us a starting point to begin our conversation," Hauck said.

After the insight gathering phase, two workshops were held – one with the Board of Supervisors on March 1 and another with county department leaders March 3. Hauck said the workshops included brainstorming tactics and identifying top priorities.

Based on the insights and feedback, the consulting team drafted the 22-page strategic plan presented last week.

"So at the core of this strategic plan is a vision for a strong, sustainable future, one where Winnebago County is a place where residents thrive, businesses succeed, and investments are made with a long-term impact in mind," Hauck said.

The plan outlines five key focus areas:

Housing: Supporting the development of diverse housing to meet the needs of the county's growing and changing population.

Transportation: Supporting an integrated, accessible and sustainable transportation network that connects communities, supports economic development and ensures safety for all.

Economic development: Fostering a thriving business climate that drives economic growth, supports innovation and attracts long-term investment.

Efficient government: Operating a streamlined, transparent and modernized government that effectively serves residents and businesses.

Quality of life: Fostering a vibrant community by preserving natural resources, expanding recreational opportunities and supporting cultural and social well-being.

Each of the five pillars includes specific goals, initiatives and measurable outcomes.

The housing pillar focuses on ensuring safe, quality housing options for residents at all income levels.

Under the transportation pillar, the plan calls for conducting a countywide transportation audit to identify gaps and guide future infrastructure investments. The economic development pillar emphasizes supporting workforce development programs and strengthening partnerships with local businesses.

The efficient government pillar includes

goals of modernizing services, increasing public engagement and ensuring public funds are used wisely. Under quality of life, the plan focuses on parks and recreation, arts and culture, public health and safety.

The discussion leading up to the final decision was not without debate. Some supervisors advocated for delaying the vote to allow more time for public input, while others felt the current priorities reflected the needs of their constituents.

Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cook noted that Neenah's city government was not involved in the strategic planning process "and I think that they probably might be interested in what we're looking at and want to give some feedback."

With the county executive position up for election Tuesday, Supervisor Chuck Farrey introduced a motion to delay approval of the plan until May.

"I think it's proper to let the residents of this county decide who the next county executive will be before we take this up," he said. "...if we have a different county executive, they might have a different opinion on this."

Supervisor Andy Buck noted one of the pillars under efficient government was enhanced transparency and community engagement.

"We're not really enhancing transparency and community engagement if we haven't engaged the community in the strategic plan yet," he said.

Supervisor Rachael Dowling disagreed, noting that who is in the position shouldn't impact the strategic plan, which represents the community.

"It doesn't matter who the county executive is, we speak for our people," she said.

The motion to delay approval of the plan failed and the board ultimately approved adopting the 2025-2029 strategic plan with a vote of 32-0 with two abstentions.

County Executive Jon Doemel said by email that he is excited that the board is working together on common goals.

"Now that our priorities are set, we can score our programs based on them and bring forward actionable policy decisions for them to decide on," he said. "I am very happy with the direction we are going and look forward to building on this momentum with the board to make Winnebago County the very best it can be."

Art in the Garden returns to Hilton

Altrusa International Club of Oshkosh presents its 17th people's choice Art in the Garden Art Show and Sale at the Hilton Garden Inn from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 5 and 6.

Original photography, oils, watercolors, fiber, jewelry, glass and wood will be among the art media on display. All entries are juried with more than 30 Mid-

west artists vying for awards that the public will determine by voting. More than 20 of the artists will have pieces available for purchase.

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

Altrusa fundraising proceeds benefit literacy, local nonprofits and programs.



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Spartans season ends in state semifinal heartbreaker

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

It's a pretty safe assumption to think that everyone in the Kohl Center knew that Oshkosh North wanted to get Xzavion Mitchell the ball coming out of a timeout with 8.2 seconds left.

Wisconsin Lutheran knew that, too, and simply wasn't going to let that happen.

What the Spartans, who were trailing by one in the closing seconds of the WIAA Division 1 state semifinal, were able to generate was a good look for Tylan Lister. The senior lofted the 3-pointer from the left wing but the on-line shot came up just short, bouncing off the run as time expired leaving the Spartans to walk off the court following a heartbreaking 58-57 loss Friday night.

"We knew we wanted the initial action to go to Zay and we knew if that broke down we had a secondary way to try to get him the ball," North head coach Brad Weber said. "We weren't able to get that look, but we got a wide open one and I think everybody in our locker room will take that every single time."

Mitchell converted a drive to the basket with 5:34 remaining to give North its last lead of the game at 54-52. Wisconsin Lutheran tied the game on its next possession and then hit four straight free throws to take a 58-54 lead with 1:31 remaining.

Lister brought North back within a point by knocking down a 3-pointer from the left corner with 1:17 remaining.

The Spartans had a chance to regain the lead after a missed Viking free throw but turned the ball over, while another miss at the free-throw line by Wisconsin Lutheran earned the Spartans possession with 20



Oshkosh Herald

Xzavion Mitchell goes up for a dunk in the second half of Friday's WIAA Division 1 state semifinal against Wisconsin Lutheran at the Kohl Center in Madison.

seconds to play.

Mitchell drove to the basket but had his shot blocked but Lister grabbed the loose ball and North called a timeout to set up that final play.

With Mitchell facing a pair of Viking defenders, the Spartans inbounded the ball to Jackson Anderson near halfcourt and Anderson drove into the lane and found Lister open behind the 3-point line.

"I trust Tylan to take that shot every time. He hit that shot in the corner earlier," Mitchell said. "We work on situations like that all of the time and if Tylan was open like that again, I would want him to shoot the ball every time."

Wisconsin Lutheran, the defending Division 2 state champion that went on to beat Marshfield on Saturday to win the Division 1 crown, used a 6-0 run early in the second half to take its biggest lead at 45-32.

That's when the Spartans mounted their charge.

Mitchell, who missed his first eight shots but finished with 27 points and 13 rebounds to lead North, started the Spartan comeback with two free throws and then scored off a putback. Bryce Ott then converted a reverse layup and Mitchell followed with a three-point play to cap a 9-0 run and bring North within 45-41.

"Once we started mixing up our defenses a little bit that confused them a little bit, which gave us a little momentum and that got us back into the game," Mitchell said. "We were down 13 and we got punched in the mouth, but we knew we weren't out of it. We always know we are never out of a game."

The Vikings pushed the lead back to seven points at 50-43 before North rattled off another nine straight points to take the lead.

Anderson started the outburst with a driving layup before Jon Coleman knocked down the last of his three 3-pointers in the game to pull the Spartans within two.

"(Coleman) hits a couple of big shots and Jackson has been charged with run-

SEE **North boys** ON PAGE 17

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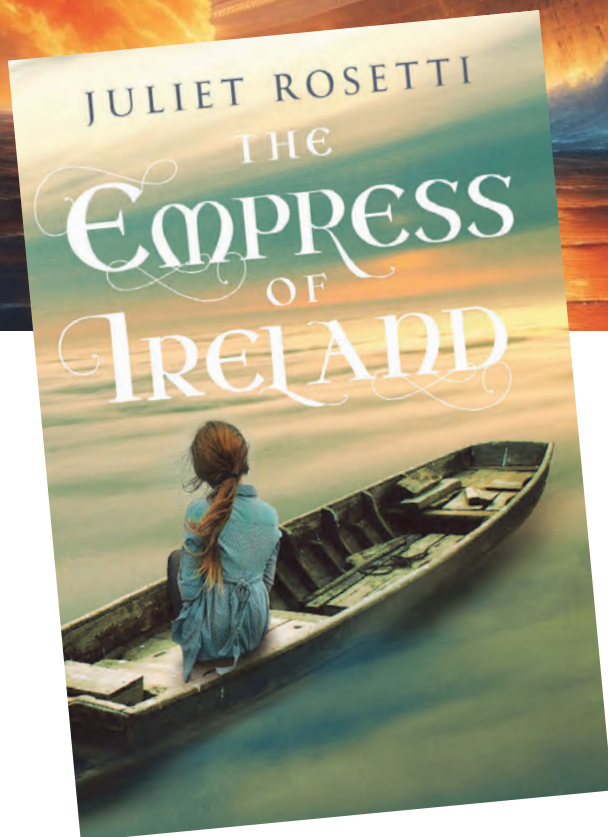
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Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh North squad huddles before facing Wisconsin Lutheran in a WIAA Division 1 state semifinal at the Kohl Center.

North boys

FROM PAGE 15

ning our offense because teams try to trap the ball out of Zay's hands," Weber said. "All of those guys that hit the court for us found a way to make plays. That's something I'm extremely proud of."

Two free throws each from Mitchell and Ott – who chipped in 10 points – capped the North run and gave the Spartans their first advantage since taking a 3-2 lead two minutes into the game.

"Proud of this crew," Weber said. "Tonight's game was a microcosm of our season – we get knocked down but we get right back up, come back tougher and give ourselves a chance."

North was making its first state tournament appearance since winning the title in 2018 – when the team was led by Tyrese Haliburton.

Mitchell said watching that team inspired him to try to get to Madison for the state tournament and Weber believes the impact of this team's trips will pay dividends in the future.

"Our young players look at him like he is that untouchable person, but he is someone who is so personable so willing to give his time, he's inspired the next group of players," Weber said. "I wonder who is that next person, who right now can't wait to get into a gym because Zay is always in a gym and Zay is always working."

Mitchell, who is committed to play at Iowa State University next season, capped off an unprecedented season and career in leading the Spartans to state.

Mitchell, who before the start of the state tournament was named Mr. Basketball in Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association, averaged 37.4 points this season and finished the year with 1,006 points. That is the fourth highest total for a season and just the fifth time in state history a player reached 1,000 points in a season.

He finishes his career with 2,824 points, which is the third highest career total behind Anthony Pieper of Wausaukee (3,391) and Drew Daoust of Southern Door (3,096).

"What he has meant to us is beyond the points and I don't want to take away from that accomplishment," Weber said



Oshkosh Herald

North's Jackson Anderson goes for the steal against Wisconsin Lutheran's Zavier Zens during the second half of Friday's WIAA Division 1 semifinal.

of Mitchell. "He wants to win. He wants to win for his guys. That's what he's meant to this program. He's a guy who commits himself fully to his training, to his teammates and to his school."

Mitchell was disappointed that he didn't get to play for a gold basketball and match the accomplishment of the 2018 team.

However, he said he was proud of the way the team rallied from an 8-8 start,

winning nine straight games and 12 of 13 to get to the state tournament.

"Us starting out slow this season, built us for this moment, especially playing in our conference. Every game in the FVA, built us for this opportunity and this situation," Mitchell said. "Obviously, we didn't get one off tonight but this is the only group I would want to be with for my senior year."



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Knights' Moore hoping to defend her state title

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Erin Moore moves swiftly on land but glides even faster on snow.

When she's not pounding out training miles, Moore's get-away-from-it-all winter hobby is snowboarding.

The high-speed sport may seem a bit risky for one of the state's top prep runners, but the decorated Lourdes Academy senior is no rookie on a board. Her family owns a cabin near Indianhead Ski Resort in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Erin was taught to snowboard at a young age by her father, Tim.

The latter just happens to be her varsity track and field and cross country coach.

"It (snowboarding) helps with athleticism, but I just do it for fun," Moore said. "My dad used to teach snowboarding to kids, so I've been doing this since I was little. I like being on the snow."

Moore likes being on a rubber track and a cross country trail as well. She hits high speeds on both. Moore was a WIAA state meet competitor in all four of her cross country seasons with the Knights and is expected to make her fourth and final appearance at the WIAA state track and field meet in La Crosse June 6-7.

Moore made a name for herself at the 2024 state track meet in Division 3 by winning the 800-meter run. She claimed the gold medal by running a state-record time of 2:10.48 to edge 2023 state champion Autumn Michalski of Chequamegon.

"It was definitely an intimidating race. I was a little nervous at the beginning," Moore said, "but as I felt more and more confident as I was running it, especially with the strength of my kick. I was proud of myself"

Senior Spotlight

She should be. In addition to her gold-medal run, Moore made the podium in two other state meet events. Moore teamed with Dasha Averkamp, Kylie Rietz and Natasha Konop to place fourth in the 1,600 relay (4:02.21) and joined Averkamp, Melanie Tushar and her younger sister, Annie, on the Knights' sixth-place 3,200 relay (9:48.92).

Moore will look to defend her state title in the 800 this spring and plans to stick with the 1,600 relay. The 400 and 1,600 individual runs are additional options. Moore began her WIAA state track medal collection in the 1,600 as a freshman, placing third (5:07.59) at the 2022 WIAA Division 3 state meet.

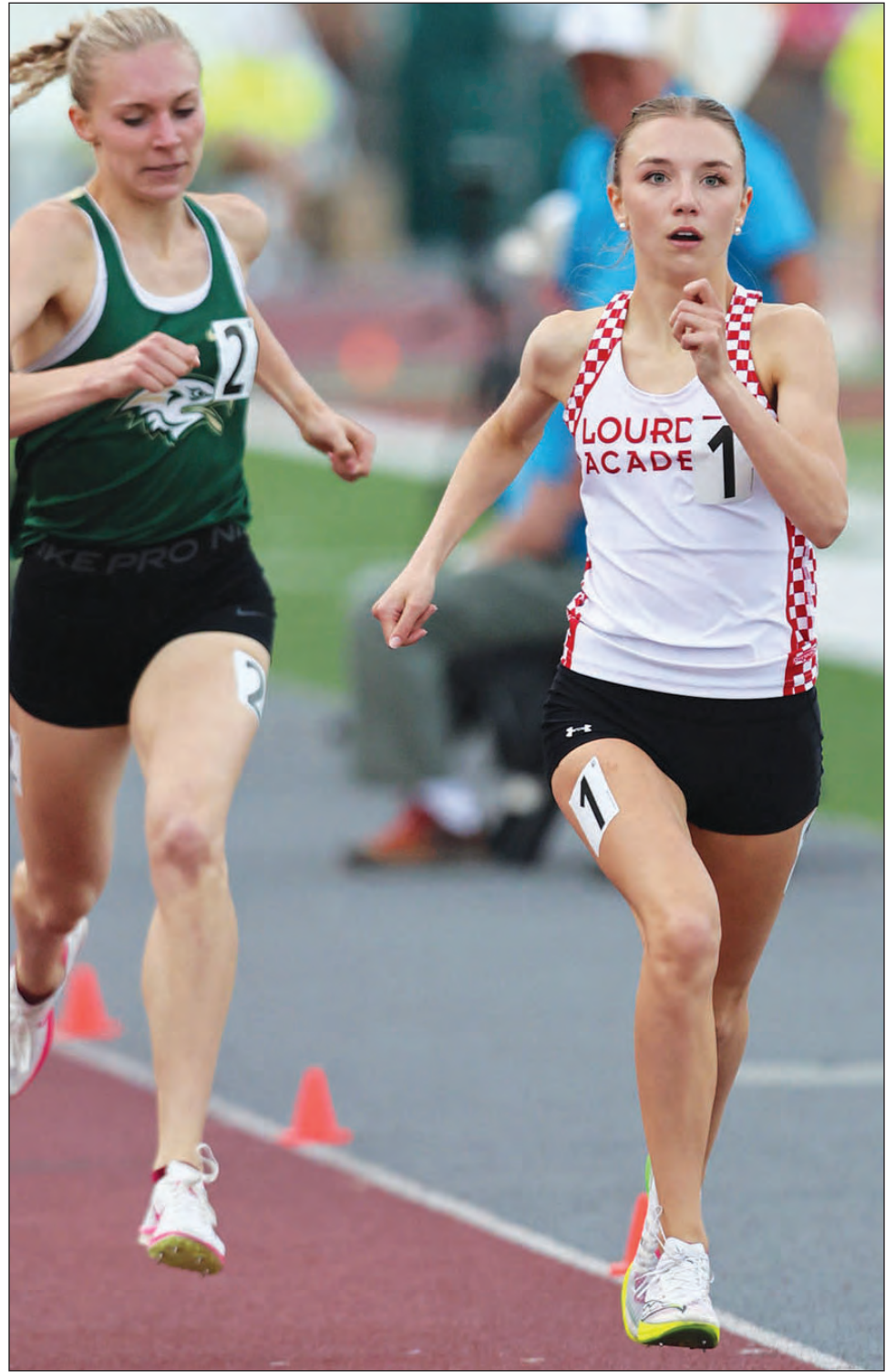
"I definitely want to go back for the 800 and see if I can win it again," Moore said. "The 800 will be my focus, but my dad and I have been talking a little about the 1,600. I like that race, too, so we'll see how that goes. I definitely want to stick in the 4x4 (1,600) relay because I really like that team."

Moore also likes zipping through the 400 leg required of each 1,600 relay runner.

"Running a 400 is super fun," she said. "I try to get out as fast as I can and finish as fast as I can. I definitely pace myself a little more in the 800, but sometimes those two races feel pretty similar."

"I have a good training season under my belt and completely trust our coaches. I'm excited to see what the track season brings."

It has brought Moore – a two-time state track gold medalist – considerable success the past three years. In addition to her 2024 state triumph in the 800, Moore teamed with Averkamp, Mackenzie Stelter and sister Molly to win the Division 3 state title



Submitted photo

Lourdes Academy's Erin Moore is one of the top distance runners in the state and will be continuing her career at the University of Nebraska next year.

in the 3,200 relay her sophomore season (9:34.30) of 2023.

Moore has also been a cross country star at Lourdes. She was part of the school's second-place team finish at the 2022 state cross country meet and took seventh individually (18:32.7) at the 2024 WIA Division 2 state meet.

"They're definitely two different sports," Erin said. "With the distance involved, you really need to pace yourself in cross country and run to your strengths and weaknesses. In track, I love the feeling of putting it all out there."

Erin hails from a true running family. She is the second youngest of seven children raised by Tim and Polly Moore. All of the Moore kids are runners – and elite quality. All five of Erin's older siblings have collegiate running experience. The long list includes Angela (University of Alabama-Birmingham), Molly (Bellarmine), Ellen (University of Mary), Jackson (University of Mary) and Abby (Minnesota-Duluth).

Big things are also expected from the youngest member of the family: Annie, a talented sophomore runner at Lourdes.

"I look up to all of my siblings," said Erin. "They're fast in different events, so I take advice from each of them. My sister, Angela, was really good in the 400 and 800, so she helped me with those two events. Abby was really good in the 3,200, and she's helped me with distance races. My brother Jackson was really helped me, too, with the mental state of running. I run with all of them and it's fun to just talk about running."

Tim (a 1986 graduate) and Polly (1987) were both exceptional prep runners at

Lourdes. Tim went on to run competitively at Eastern Kentucky and later the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, while Polly ran at UW-La Crosse and UW-Oshkosh.

All the Moore children have competed in varsity cross country and track with Tim as their head coach. Most have also been coached by Polly, who runs the Lourdes' junior high running programs.

Competing in a sport where a parent is the coach can be tricky, but Erin enjoys running for her father.

"He's definitely easy to run for," Erin said. "He has great advice and give all the girls the amount of attention they deserve."

Erin's running career will shift to the next level in the fall. She has received a full scholarship from the University of Nebraska to run cross country and track and field. She chose the Cornhuskers over prominent schools such as Illinois and Auburn.

An exceptional student who carries a 3.8 grade-point-average, Moore plans to major in business or accounting.

"I really liked the team and the facilities after visiting there," Moore said. "The community there is very supportive. Even for indoor track meets, the stands are filled. That's pretty awesome."

Moore has been careful to avoid overtraining during her prep running career and has limited herself to roughly 25 miles per week. She knows she will have to expand on that in college but eagerly awaits the challenge at the next level.

"I'm definitely going to be running more than 25 miles a week, but I will be excited to run with the team and have them push me. Hopefully I can push them as well."

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Prep roundup

TRACK AND FIELD

Lourdes girls third at Stevens Point invite

Erin Moore won the 800 meters and helped lead Lourdes Academy to a win in the 1,600-meter relay as the Knights finished third among the 26 teams to score points at the UW-Stevens Point girls indoor invitational Friday.

Lourdes Academy finished behind only Kimberly and Neenah in the team standings.

Moore was joined by Dasha Averkamp, Natasha Konop and Kylie Rietz in winning the 1,600-meter relay, while Erin Moore, Averkamp, Annie Moore and Allison Stromske took second in the 3,200-meter relay.

Konop picked up a second place in the 60-meter hurdles, while Averkamp was third in the 400 meters and Annie Moore was ninth in the 800 meters.

Oshkosh West finished 11th overall and was led by the 800-meter relay team of Kiara Deppiesse, Samantha Panske, Kylie Triebold and Kayana Turner, which took fourth. Triebold, Abigail Tercha, Kate Elliot and Coraline Strebelski added a fifth place in the 1,600-meter relay.

West also finished seventh in the 3,200-meter relay.

Top individuals for the Wildcats were: Turner, seventh in the 60 meters and 10th in the triple jump; Gwen Liptow, seventh in the 3,200 meters; Tercha, eighth in the 1,600 meters; Henna Kaiser, tied for eighth in the high jump; and Charlee King, tied for 10th in the pole vault.

Results of the boys meet Saturday were not available.

Obituaries

Edward P. Kaltenbach

Edward "Ed" P. Kaltenbach, age 90, of Oshkosh, WI, was greeted by his wife,



Betty on Saturday, March 22, 2025, to dance to polkas in Heaven, after sharing a big smile with his 2-year-old great-grandson, Malakai at Aurora Bay-Care Medical Center.



Ed was born on November 6, 1934, son of the late Emil and Amelia (Lautenschlager) Kaltenbach, in Oshkosh, WI. He graduated from Omro High school. He met the

love of his life, Betty Grams, at a dance at the Eagles Club in Oshkosh. They were married October 9, 1954. He started his own truck driving business, Ed Kaltenbach Trucking, he hauled bulk

milk from dairy farms. Later on he hauled gravel. Ed was a hard worker and finally retired when he was 80 years old.

He enjoyed playing sheepshead on Tuesday nights with the guys and playing cards with friends. He was a dedicated Bucks, Brewers, and Packers fan. Ed could be seen out in his yard planting various flowers for him and Betty to enjoy. He was a good cook and supplied wonderful food for family gatherings.

Ed is survived by his children, Suzanne (Wayne) Ritschke and Tim (Jane) Kaltenbach, of Oshkosh, WI, and Lori (John) Helstrom of Omro, WI; 5 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; he is further survived by nieces and nephews in Wisconsin, Michigan, and

Minnesota.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife, Betty Kaltenbach; son, Michael Kaltenbach; brother, Richard (Barbara) Kaltenbach; and sister, Joan (Dennis) Kinderman.

A memorial service for Ed will be held on Friday, March 28, 2025, at 2:00pm, at Zion Lutheran Church, 400 N Sawyer St, Oshkosh. A time of visitation will begin at 1:00pm until the start of the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Zion Lutheran Food Pantry.

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Oshkosh High School Varsity Softball Schedules

LOURDES ACADEMY	OSHKOSH NORTH	OSHKOSH WEST
4/1 @ Hustisford 5:00 PM	4/1 VS Green Bay Preble 5:00 PM	3/27 VS West De Pere 12:00 AM
4/10 VS Horicon 5:00 PM	4/3 VS Menasha 4:30 PM	4/1 VS Stevens Point 4:30 PM
4/15 VS Oakfield 5:00 PM	4/10 VS Appleton West 4:30 PM	4/8 @ Neenah 5:00 PM
4/17 @ Oakfield 5:00 PM	4/11 VS Slinger 4:30 PM	4/10 VS Appleton East 4:30 PM
4/22 @ Horicon 5:00 PM	4/15 @ Neenah 5:00 PM	4/12 @ Beaver Dam 10:00 AM
4/25 VS Omro 5:00 PM	4/17 VS Appleton East 4:30 PM	4/14 VS Watertown 5:00 PM
4/28 VS Berlin 5:00 PM	4/24 VS Fond Du Lac 4:30 PM	4/17 VS Fond Du Lac 4:30 PM
4/29 VS Wayland Academy 4:30 PM	4/25 @ Oshkosh West 4:30 PM	4/22 @ Kaukauna 4:30 PM
5/1 @ Oakfield 5:00 PM	4/29 VS Kimberly 4:30 PM	4/24 @ Kimberly 4:30 PM
5/5 @ Princeton/Green Lake 5:00 PM	5/1 @ Kaukauna 4:30 PM	4/25 VS Oshkosh North 4:30 PM
5/6 VS Hustisford 5:00 PM	5/3 @ Hartford 10:00 AM	5/1 VS Appleton West 4:30 PM
5/9 VS Horicon 5:00 PM	5/6 @ Appleton West 5:00 PM	5/2 VS Neenah 4:30 PM
5/12 @ Wayland Academy 5:00 PM	5/8 VS Neenah 4:30 PM	5/6 @ Appleton East 4:30 PM
5/15 VS Hustisford 5:00 PM	5/9 @ Appleton East 4:30 PM	5/9 @ Fond Du Lac 5:00 PM
	5/10 @ West Bend West 11:00 AM	5/13 VS Kaukauna 4:30 PM
	5/15 @ Fond Du Lac 5:00 PM	5/15 VS Kimberly 4:30 PM
	5/16 VS Oshkosh West 4:30 PM	5/16 @ Oshkosh North 4:30 PM
	5/20 @ Kimberly 4:30 PM	5/22 @ Appleton West 5:00 PM
	5/22 VS Kaukauna 4:30 PM	

BOLD designates home games **Schedules subject to change*

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Obituaries

Phyllis Monahan Davis

Phyllis Monahan Davis, 100, passed away on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at Country Villa in Omro.



She was born to John & Alice Monahan in Shawano on August 17, 1924, the fifth of 12 children. She married Dale A. Davis at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Berlin on November 29, 1945. Phyllis and Dale raised their six children, Mike, Dan, Joan, Beth, Rita & Janet, in Omro.

Phyllis was a teacher in the Omro School District for over 40 years, retiring in 1986.

She started her teaching career in a one room schoolhouse. In her later years, she volunteered at Mercy Medical Center and HB Patch School. She was also a faithful member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Omro and enjoyed the weekly Rosary led by Jim at the Country Villa over the past 6 years.

Phyllis loved sports of any kind, both watching and participating, having played on the Omro Speed Queen women's softball team, bowling at Omro Lanes, golfing, watching the Brewers and Bucks and also following the athletics of her children & grandchildren. She especially enjoyed following the Omro Foxes. There was not an event going on in Omro that Phyllis did not attend.

She is survived by her children, Mike (Mary) Davis - Monroe, Dan (Barb) Davis - Omro, Beth (Terry) Redmann - Butte des Morts, Rita (Dave) Kratz - Omro and Janet (Dale) Wegner - Omro;

15 grandchildren, Kim (Tony) Anderson, Ryan Kratz, Bryan (Dawn) Davis, Brigitte (John Pintozzi) Lenz, Danielle (Dale) Cook, Brett (Amy) Davis, Quinn (Jason) Easton, Nicole Kratz, J (Lis) Lenz, Rob (Brenda) Davis, Pat Davis, Meghan (Will) Cronan, Tim Lenz and David (Erika) Wegner; 24 great-grandchildren, Kayla Kiefer, Lauren Davis, Madisen Davis, Aliyah Davis, Will Davis, Audrey Davis, Sam Davis, Bella Davis, Mac Davis, Robert Cronan, Liam Cronan, Mark Anderson, Tyler Anderson, Carson Cook, Damon Davis, Tenleigh Davis, Hannah Millard, Brice Easton, Kallen Easton, Madeline Kratz, Payton Kratz, Della Ferguson, Arlo Ferguson and Veda Wegner; 6 great-great grandchildren, Charlee, Oaklee and Roree Millard, Weston and Lainey Anderson and Parker Anderson; sisters, Shirley Resheski and Darlene (Gilbert) Krentz; and sister-

in-law, Jeanne Davis Gay; as well as many other family and friends.

Preceding her in death was her husband, Dale Davis; daughter, Joan Lenz; brothers, Kermit, Keith, Hugh, Jim, Phil, Merle and Pat; and sisters, Delores Fisher and Beverly Johnston.

Visitation will be on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at St. Mary Catholic Church of Omro, 730 Madison Ave, Omro, WI 54963, from 9:00am to 11:00 am, with Mass to start at 11:00 am. Her final resting place will be at Omro Cemetery, next to her husband and daughter.

In lieu of flowers, please feel free to donate to the Omro Library, Omro Food Pantry or St. Mary Church in her honor.

Phyllis' children would like to thank all the wonderful caregivers at Country Villa in Omro and Moments Hospice.

****Please check back closer to the service time and date for a link to view the services live on the web.****

Kwiatkowski Funeral Home
425 Jefferson Avenue
Omro, Wisconsin 54963

Rosa Wirth

Rosa Wirth, age 86, passed away peacefully on March 19, 2025 at her home. She was born on September 19, 1938, in Grunthal, Germany. Rosa immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 21 where she met Matt and was married a year later.



Rosa was the daughter of Maria and Alois Neumeier. She married Matt Wirth on February 13, 1960, enjoying 63 years of marriage.

She held numerous jobs throughout her life most notable a devoted wife and mother. She loved being with family, watching them grow, traveling and taking walks with her beloved husband. She always had treats for her great grandchild-

dren when they visited and even treats for the dogs anytime they came.

She is survived by her sons Matthew (Linda) and Mark (Cynthia), four grandchildren Nicole (Andrew) Buckoski, Terri (Kyle) Schutz, Megan (Nate) Regal, and Wesley Wirth, eight great grandchildren, Briana, Bennett, Lennon, Maddox, Knox, Logan, Griffin and Gavin.

Preceded in death by her parents Maria and Alois, sister Maria and brother Carl. Loved by a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, along with many nieces, nephews and friends.

Visitation will be held at Fiss & Bills-Poklansy at 865 S. Westhaven Dr. Oshkosh from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Friday, April 4, 2025. A memorial service will follow at 3:00 p.m.

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Obituaries

Thomas H. Lloyd

“The last goodbye’s the hardest one to say, this is where the cowboy rides away.”



On March 17, 2025, Thomas Harvey Lloyd known to many as TH and to his mother as Precious, took his last ride surrounded by his loving family.

Tom was the second son born to Joyce and Kenneth “Chirp” Lloyd. Tom was welcomed into the world on September 3, 1952 in Oshkosh. Tom cherished his upbringing on the family farm so much that he shared this passion with his sons and four grandchildren. A farm boy at heart, he always valued the simple joys of life, including horses, family and friends. Many times, he was joined by his neighborhood friends as they rode their horses to the one room schoolhouse.

Thanks to the Keeper of the Stars, Tom married Ellen Marie Shea on October 6,

1973. Their two hearts were joined together for fifty-one years, a bond that will never be broken. Tom and Ellen were blessed with two wonderful sons who filled their lives with love and memories.

Although farming was #1, he was a truck driver, a person anyone would be proud to have on their team. He worked as a semi bulk driver for Oshkosh Ready-Mix and 4X Concrete and MCC, Inc. for 40 years.

Tom was a member of the Bethesda Church in Ring. He took on many roles at the church and cemetery and served as a mentor and a living example of his dedication to his own faith.

As a volunteer Fireman for the Utica Fire Department for over fifty-two years, Tom selflessly gave of himself to uphold the fireman’s oath of “Courage, Commitment and Community” which meant so much to him. He was recently awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Tom loved his wife, sons, grandchildren, friends and church community deeply and passionately with all of his heart. When Tom married Ellen, he said

forever and he meant forever until the end of time as stated in one of his favorite Chris LeDoux songs. He considered his sons a beautiful and precious part of his life and he was so very proud of them. A completely devoted “Grampy”, to him, Grandpa was the best job in the world. He loved watching his grandchildren play all of their sports, perform in their dance recitals, he attended all of their school functions and concerts, he hunted and fished with them and there was always a golf cart ride in the mix! The grandkids also loved having him pick them up from school in the Mustang! He loved that his brothers were always there for him, not just as brothers but also as friends. First cousins were thought of as brothers and sisters. His close circle of friends meant everything to him.

Agar, South Dakota. Tom’s home away from home...even purchasing a second home to enjoy out there. Tom loved his second family from out west, hunting and just hanging out with the guys every October on their annual trip.

Tom is survived by his wife, Ellen, of 51 years; sons, Jerod (Shelby), parents of Malley (Brian), Greysen, Leighton and Kase; and Josh (Brittany, her son Leylin); mother, Joyce; brothers, Doug (Kathy)

Lloyd and Rick Lloyd; brothers-in-law, Bob (Sue) Shea and Jeff (Lynn) Briese; sister-in-law, Sue (Jeff) Houle. Tom is further survived by many nieces and nephews and great-nieces-and-nephews. There was never a shortage of cousins or friends to gather with either.

Tom was preceded in death by his father, Kenneth; father-in-law, Robert Shea; mother-in-law, Phyllis Shea; sister-in-law, Linda Briese.

A funeral service for Tom will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Dr. on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 1:00 p.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established for the Bethesda Presbyterian Church.

Tom faced many battles with courage and strength and was always kind and caring to his caretakers.

We’ll cherish the memories we made together and they’ll never be forgotten. For those of us left behind, we must find the strength to “Cowboy Up”! We will love and miss you forever!



Michael G. Brennand

Michael G. “Bucky” Brennand, age 69, of Oshkosh, passed away with his family at his side on Sunday, March 16, 2025 at Ascension Mercy Hospital. He was born on September 18, 1955 in Oshkosh a son of the late George Thomas and Kathaleen Annette Gafney Brennand. He married the former Terry Lynn Levenhagen on May 4, 1979.



Mike was proudly a fifth-generation, self-employed dairy/crop farmer until his retirement three years ago. Mike will be fondly remembered for stops at his daily meeting establishments where you may find him sharing bags of freshly picked sweet corn to share. He greatly enjoyed hunting and sturgeon spearing having many successful years and time spent at the family cabin.

Mike is survived by his wife, Teri of Oshkosh; a son, Scott (Sara) Brennand and

their children McKenna and Aubrey all of Oshkosh; a granddaughter, Evelyn Mueller and her father, Jon Mueller; a brother, Patrick (Susan) Brennand of Winneconne; a sister, Eileen (Tom Polzin) Brennand of Oshkosh. He is further survived by two brothers-in-law, Doug (Linda) Levenhagen and Phil (special friend Deb) Levenhagen; two sisters-in-law, Lisa (Tim) Schneider and Ellen (Jim Erickson) Brennand; nieces, nephews, other relatives and many dear friends. He was preceded in death by a son, Lee Matthew Brennand; a daughter, Sara Ann Brennand-Mueller; two sisters, Mary Margaret Brennand-Wegener and Kathaleen “Babe” Brennand-Zimmerman; a brother, Tom “Flip” Brennand.

A celebration of life, time of sharing and service will be announced at a later date. The family wishes to thank the Ascension Mercy Hospital staff especially the ICU staff for Mikes care in his final days and also to Stephanie at Compassus Hospice.



Karen L. Gialdella

Karen L. Gialdella, age 75, passed away peacefully at her home on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. She was born on July 18, 1949, in Oshkosh, WI to the late Kenneth Bunke and Joan (Rhyner) Fugelberg.



A graduate of Oshkosh High School, Karen worked at Reeve Union Hall at UW-Oshkosh before embarking on travels across the country. She later owned and operated a dairy farm in Ohio before returning to her hometown of Oshkosh, where she spent over 20 years working at the Oshkosh B’Gosh corporate office until her retirement.

Karen had a deep love for music and dancing, and she played the bass clarinet in her high school band. One of her fondest memories was a European tour with her high school band and performing on the Eiffel Tower. She also found joy in watching her favorite TV shows, cooking for her family, and admiring the tulips that bloomed around her home each spring. However, nothing brought her more happiness than her children and grandchildren. She spoke of them with immense pride, and the love she had for them shone

brightly in her eyes.

Karen is survived by her children, Jessica Gialdella, Erik (Anna) Gialdella, and Jillene (Jacob) Buckner; her beloved grandchildren, Caleb Gialdella, Zephyr, Tempest, and Atlas Buckner; her sister, Lois Kaufman; sister-in-law, Lorie Bunke; and brother-in-law, Mike Leaman. She is also survived by Becky Gialdella, many cherished nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her son, Ryan; her siblings, James Bunke, Kay Bunke, and Linda Leaman; and her former spouse, Gerald Gialdella.

A celebration of Karen’s life will be held on Friday, April 4, 2025, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes – Westside (100 Lake Pointe Dr.). There will be a private ceremony at Lake View Memorial Park’s Mausoleum, which will be her final resting place.

Karen’s warmth, kindness, and love for her family will be deeply missed but forever remembered.

Isaiah 40:31 But those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint.



Allen Reginald Heim

Allen Reginald Heim, age 58, passed away, in Beaver Dam Wisconsin, on March 12, 2025. Allen was born to Reginald and Eva (Hall) Heim on April 23, 1966.



Allen was eager to learn and took pride in furthering his education. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Allen earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. He also earned a Web Analyst/Programming Degree at the Technical College in Madison. Allen was employed at the family business, Supreme Manufacturing, in Beaver Dam for 20 years.

On December 23, 2023 Allen married Melissa Kasper of Oshkosh Wisconsin. Allen became a stepdad to her four children and enjoyed his role as a step grandpa. Allen enjoyed reading, hiking, biking, and traveling. He also enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. Allen cared deeply for others, was kind and compassionate, and made an impact on many lives. Allen will be

forever missed.

Allen is survived by his wife Melissa, his stepchildren Amanda (Shawn) Kasper-Frees, Christina (Caitie) Kasper, Matthew (Emily) Kasper and Sarah Kasper. Allen is survived by three step grandchildren Lilyanna Frees, Joseph Kasper, Faith Marie Kasper, and his mother-in-law Mary Gilkes.

Allen is further survived by his parents Reginald Heim and Eva Heim, brothers Eric (Kathy) Heim, Kevin (Holly) Heim, his niece Alyssa Heim, his nephews Logan Heim, Bryce Heim and Spencer Heim.



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Obituaries

Donavon H. Weitz

Donavon Herman Weitz passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family on March 17, 2025, at the age of 81. He was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin to Herman and Lois (née Washburn) Weitz on January 14, 1944, or as he would always say, "the first, the fourteenth of forty-four."

On February 17, 1962, Donavon married the love of his life, Lee, and together they shared 60 wonderful years. They were blessed with two daughters, Julie and Amy, who filled their lives with joy and pride.

A skilled stonemason and proud member of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craft Workers, Donavon enjoyed a long and fulfilling career helping build some of the community's most historic structures. Known for his craftsmanship, Donavon was a man of many talents who could fix almost anything you put in front of him. He especially enjoyed rebuilding old cars and restoring tractors. He was a lifelong sportsman, looking for every opportunity he could to get out hunting or fishing with family, and could almost always be found with some sort of sweet treat in his hand.

As a loyal husband, supportive father, loving grandpa, and trusted great-grand-

pa, Donavon's devotion to his family was unwavering. He especially enjoyed watching his great-grandchildren grow, always making them feel seen and loved. Whether listening to their stories and laughs at family cookouts, playing "student" in their make-believe classrooms, or teaching them how to fix something — he was always there for those he loved.

Donavon was Lutheran by faith and maintained a close relationship with the Lord. When his time came, the Lord embraced him with open arms, welcoming him with peace and love as he was reunited with those who had gone before him, especially his beloved wife, Lee.

He is survived by his children Julie Nikolaus (Scott Engel) and Amy Volkman (Gary); grandchildren Kiel Nikolaus (Linda), Tara Elmer (Andy), and Trista (Codey) Graham; great-grandchildren Lucy, Charley & Grace Nikolaus, Bentley DuFresne and Ellie Graham, and Owen and Ruby Elmer.

A private service will be held for the family to honor Donovan and celebrate the lasting legacy he leaves behind.

Our family would like to express gratitude for the unconditional love we've received from friends near and far.



Annette Marie Bayer

Annette Marie Bayer, 66, passed away with her husband and pastor at her side on March 9, 2025, at Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh. Her passing followed a years long battle with a type of internal complication. This disease had only recently become debilitating. She was as beautiful with her last breath as she ever had been in her life.

Annette was born in 1958 in the city of Chicago and shortly moved to the Lyndon Station/Wisconsin Dells area. She attended Mauston High School, graduating in 1976.

Earlier in her teenage years, she began a 35-year restaurant career that involved food preparation, head waitressing, and even managing an entire restaurant. Annette was a favorite of her customers.

Following this, Annette served a number of years as a supervisor of tellers at the Kenosha Bank Mutual branch. After this she attended Kaplan (now Purdue Global) University and graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Information Technology.

Annette and her husband of 41 years, Dr. David A. Bayer, lived in several Wisconsin locations, settling in Oshkosh in 2011. They became members of Christ

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Oshkosh. Annette remained a member to her death and David continues to be a member to this day. Annette was considered by all to be the kindest of people and her faith in the Lord was unwavering.

Surviving Annette besides her husband are sister, Georgan (Steve) Nicholson, sister, Donna (Dave) Carpenter, brother, George (Vickie) Pertel; brothers-in-law, Eric Bayer and Glen Breezee and numerous friends.

Annette will be cremated and her remains cared for by Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes of Oshkosh.

A celebration of life will be held at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1800 Wisconsin St. Oshkosh, WI 54901 on April 5, 2025. Visitation will be held at 11:30 AM with services commencing at 1:00 PM. A luncheon will be held at the church following the service.



Arlene M. Paez

Arlene M. Paez, age 93, passed away on March 15, 2025. She was born to the late Leo and Jessie (Schroeder) Jungwirth on March 29, 1931.

A private cremation has taken place.



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Obituaries

Carol Lassila

Carol Lassila had Sisu! Carol passed away on March 18, 2025 at Ascension Mercy Hospital. Carol was born November 14, 1955 in Hancock, Michigan to parents Martha (Ekdahl) Lassila and Waino E. Lassila. Carol married her best friend and soulmate, Wayne Lamar Winistorfer on October 6, 1979 in Rozellville, WI.

Carol was raised in the "thumb" of Michigan's U.P., among an extended Finnish family. Carol regularly heard and spoke Finnish until she started school. Carol attended grade school in Chassell, MI until her family moved to their dairy farm in rural Fenwood/Stratford, Wisconsin in 1966. She attended Stratford Public Schools where she met Wayne on the first day of 7th grade. Carol always referred to Wayne as the "dumb Catholic kid" who arrived at school without a pencil. Their relationship turned from friends to a bonded couple about 10 years later.

Carol graduated in 1979 from UW-Eau Claire with a double major in Sociology and Psychology and a minor in Women's Studies. She referred to this as her "degree in cocktail party conversation", but she used her skills to mentor and expertly manage her work, social and family relationships.

Carol's most valued life role was that of a strong, Bad-A** Mom and Yaya. Carol was a practical, loving guide to her children, and a beloved "Aunt Carol" to her nieces and nephews. Carol instilled her

eclectic tastes for music and literature in her children, who remain fond of "Mom's Mix" CDs. Becoming a "Yaya" to her three grandchildren was among Carol's greatest joys. She retired after a long career in a variety of roles, including in healthcare and office administration, to be a full-time "Daycare Yaya" to her grandchildren.

Carol was a skilled and avid knitter and crocheter and enjoyed spinning, cross-stitch, cooking, baking, collecting Santas and reading, which she considered her actual "jobs," which she said she got to do thanks to her work life. Carol loved sharing and teaching others to acquire these same interests and skills. Carol gifted her hand-crafted creations freely and these are prized treasures by those who received them.

For a time, Carol was active in her church and served as Sunday School Teacher and Senior Warden of the Vestry at Trinity Episcopal Church. Carol consistently explored her faith and spirituality.

Carol was known for her innumerable cooking and decorating magazine subscriptions and for her response to any popular culture question asked: "If you read People magazine you would know that!". Carol embraced all things "Yooper" and loved art and design reflective of her Finnish and Sami ancestry.

Carol is survived by her husband of over 45 years, their son, Andrew Lassila Winistorfer (Saint Paul, MN) and his "perfect for him" spouse, Amanda Geske and the "grandpups". In addition, Carol is survived by their daughter, Hannah Lassila (Winistorfer) Eakin, (Allouez, WI) her devoted spouse, Ron W. Eakin and their three children, Lila Mae, Elliot David and Oliver Wayne. Carol is also survived by her sister, Kathy Lassila, (Walsenburg, CO)

and her brother, Karl Lassila and spouse, Pam (Wausau, WI). Carol's survivors also include her mother-in-law, Alvina Winistorfer (Marshfield, WI), and Wayne's seven siblings, in-laws, cousins and numerous and special nieces and nephews who reside in Wisconsin and across the United States.

Carol's family wishes to express overwhelming gratitude to Carol's "family and friends" at Evergreen Retirement Community, as well as our many friends at Ascension Mercy Hospital. The heartfelt caring, shared stories, laughter, hugs and exceptional quality of care Carol received during the past 1+ years have been a true blessing.

No memorial service will be conducted at this time. A graveside service and interment will be held at the Chassell Township Cemetery while Carol's family

and friends gather for their traditional July week in the U.P. for Chassell Strawberry Festival and "jamming".

Notes and visits with the family are our preferred ways to honor Carol. Donations in Carol's name may also be made to the organizations Carol supported and cherished:

- American Civil Liberties Union
- Ascension Mercy Foundation - Oshkosh
- Evergreen Foundation - Oshkosh
- Southern Poverty Law Center
- Trinity Episcopal Church, Oshkosh

Hyvasti, huomiseen, olet kultaseni!
Farewell, until tomorrow, my sweet heart!



Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday March 28, 2025 at 10 am at St. Jude Parish (Sacred Heart Church, 519 Knapp St). Visitation will be held at the church on Friday March 28, 2025 from 9:00 am until the time of Mass.

In Lieu of flowers, please consider sponsoring a mass at St. Jude parish in her honor.

Joann's family would like to thank everyone who provided love and care at Courtyard Assisted Living, in Oshkosh. The family is very appreciative of the exceptional care provided through St. Croix Hospice.



Rhonda Kay Egger

Rhonda Kay Egger, 72 of Oshkosh, passed away March 15, 2025. Arrangements are being handled by Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home. To view the full obituary, please visit, www.konrad-behlman.com.



Joann M. Ebersberger

Joann Marie Ebersberger, age 92, of Oshkosh, passed away on Sunday October 27, 2024. Joann was born in Oshkosh on September 23, 1932 to the late William and Rose (Baier) Mauritz. She married Mathias Ebersberger on February 1, 1964.

After their children were grown, Joann worked at the Oshkosh Public Library. She was a faithful member at St. Jude Parish (Sacred Heart Church). She will forever be remembered as a loving mom and dedicated homemaker.

Joann is survived by two sons; John (Tana Kinder) Ebersberger of Sacramento, CA and Steven Ebersberger of Oshkosh, two grandsons; Connor and Levi Ebersberger, one brother; William Mauritz and one sister; Barbara Vajgrt.

She preceded in death by her parents, stepmother; Jane Troxell and her husband; Mathias.





August 2, 2025



CHILDREN'S DAY PARADE

Oshkosh Noon Kiwanis in bringing back this Family Favorite Day! Accepting sponsorships now!

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- Pavillion - SOLD** 
- Community - Available**

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To learn more contact Mary at malojann@yahoo.com or Karen at karen@oshkoshherald.com
SAVE THE DATE! Parade and Event information coming soon!

Classifieds

Private party ads deadline is 4 p.m. Friday. \$15 for first 20 words

Employment

Now Hiring: Cleaning Staff We're seeking reliable and detail-oriented individuals to clean and maintain Airbnbs. Starting at \$16/hour, flexible hours - experienced preferred but not required. Must be 18. Apply today by emailing us at info@tjdestinationoshkosh.com

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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

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Yes, I like piña colodas And gettin' caught in the rain I'm not much into health food!

am into champagne I've got to meet you by tomorrow noon And cut through all this red tape At a cafe called on the park Where we'll plan our escape

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

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

IT IS ORDERED: This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago

Kid Scoop

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Cooking Up Facts and Opinions



Cooking with a recipe that uses measurements everyone understands helps to recreate a food dish that tastes similar each time it is cooked.



Which of the following measurements are always the same factual amount? **Do the math.** Ones with even answers are **facts**. Odd answers are **opinions**.

Standards Link: Math: Identify standard measurements.

FACTS are pieces of information based upon things that can be measured, counted or seen by anyone.

OPINIONS describe how someone feels or thinks about a thing or event. They can vary from person to person.

How Much is a Glob?

Ask friends to tell you how big a glob is. Color one space for each person's answer to graph the results.

The size of a pea The size of a golf ball A few spoonfuls About a handful

- 5 + 5 = Teaspoon
- 4 + 8 = Tablespoon
- 2 + 2 = Cup
- 7 + 7 = 1/4 cup
- 3 + 2 = Glob
- 9 + 6 = Smidgeon
- 5 + 6 = Dollop
- 8 + 8 = Quart
- 1 + 2 = Pinch
- 7 + 6 = Dash
- 1 + 1 = Gallon
- 3 + 4 = Morsel
- 8 + 2 = Ounce
- 3 + 6 = Tad

Food Truck Facts

Heroes on the Go is a popular sandwich food truck. Read what each customer is saying. Circle the statements that are **FACTS** in **GREEN**. Circle the **OPINIONS** in **RED**.

Speech Bubbles:

- I think they make the very best sandwiches in the world!
- They use organic veggies on all their sandwiches.
- The *Heroes on the Go* truck stops at this spot every Tuesday and Thursday.
- They make a great grilled cheese sandwich that you'll love!
- The owner has another food truck named *Cool Wheels* that sells smoothies.
- The chili and soups they make are even better than the sandwiches!
- There's a *Heroes on the Go* buy one/get one coupon in the newspaper each week.
- The turkey sandwiches are \$9.95 each.
- The prices at this food truck are not bad at all!

Standards Link: Language Arts: Differentiate between fact and opinion.

Fun Facts

Look through today's newspaper for five facts. List the facts and circle any you think are fun to know. Whether or not the fact is fun would be your opinion.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Use different genres to locate facts and opinions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Look at the picture of the ice cream sundae. Write one **FACT** and one **OPINION** about the picture.

FACT:

OPINION:



Standards Link: Language Arts: Use different genres to locate facts and opinions.

Double Double Word Search

- BALL
- CHEESE
- COOKIE
- CUP
- FACTS
- GLOB
- GRAPH
- OPINIONS
- QUART
- RECIPE
- SALT
- SAME
- SANDWICH
- TIME
- WORLD

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

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

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

Kid Scoop Together Cookie Combos

Work with a friend to draw a line to connect each pair of identical cookies. Can you find the one unique cookie?



Standards Link: Science: Observation: Identify similarities & differences in common objects.

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