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INSIDE



All Aboard
Menominee Park train
opens for the season
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ATLAS
Find your arts, dining
and entertainment
guide inside

Trinity Lutheran School to close

Church members reflect on 169-year ministry

By Chris Lusvardi
OSHKOSH HERALD

Trinity Lutheran School has long been an important part of Donn Bartelt's family.

As the school prepares to welcome students Thursday for the final time led by Trinity Lutheran Church, Bartelt is among the staff and church members, some whom are parents and former students, looking back with valued mem-

ories on the 169-year history of the church's efforts to educate students in Oshkosh.



Reinl

"I'm still a member of the church, and it's sad to see the school closing," Bartelt said. "Financially it seems like a decision that had to be made. I did enjoy my time going to school there."

Bartelt attended the school in its former two-story building but was among those who attended class-

es at St. John's Catholic School on W. 12th Avenue as an eighth grader while its current building was being built in 1971 and 1972.

Bartelt's siblings also went to school there and later his daughter and son attended the school as well.

He remembers all the teachers he had while at the school, some of whom his family has remained in contact with over the years.

A farewell reception is scheduled for 11 a.m. Sunday marking the end of the

SEE **School closing** ON PAGE 9



Photo by Michael Cooney

YMCA Kid's Mud Run

After completing the obstacle course, participants cleaned up with a soapy celebration in the parking lot during the Kid's Mud Run last Sunday at the 20th Avenue YMCA. The mud run, geared for children ages 4-16, features a course that was approximately one mile long, with 20 wet and muddy obstacles.

Gallery Walk aims for comeback to downtown scene

New features added to promote local art

By George Halas
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Organizers of an upcoming event are hoping Oshkosh loves it when a plan comes together, and Oshkosh loves a good night out.

The synergistic results of the efforts of the city, several arts organizations, artists and businesses to promote local business and local artists will be on full display from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday when the Night Gallery will be added to a reinvigorated and expanded Oshkosh Gallery Walk.

A long-standing tradition, the Gallery Walk declined after the pandemic.

"Prior to COVID, we had 200 or more people coming through," said Amie Brownfield, president of Jambalaya Arts, Inc. and one of the primary drivers of the new initiatives. "Since then, the attendance has been disappointing."

In conjunction with the city's desire to promote both local business and artists, Brownfield is collaborating with Artspace Collective, the Oshkosh Fine Arts Association, the Oshkosh Art Collective and the Downtown Oshkosh Business Improvement District (BID) as well as Jessica Lomena, who started the Arts Collective and is now events coordinator for Downtown Oshkosh BID.

"Our goal was to bring together several Oshkosh arts organizations to collaborate to give local artists a new opportunity

to show their work publicly and to bring renewed energy to the monthly Gallery Walk," Brownfield said. "After cultivating the concept, we contacted the other arts organizations and all were more than happy to collaborate on creating, supporting and marketing these events to their members and the general public."

Building on tradition, the organizations and individuals including Jim Evans, Gail Panske and Vicky Redlin warmed to the idea of creating "something classy and special."

"We were trying to brainstorm ideas, wanting to make something fresh and new to spark more interest and bring it (the Gallery Walk) back to the forefront in



Submitted photo

The Algoma Art Alley will be featured during the new Night Gallery portion of the Oshkosh Gallery Walk slated for Saturday.

SEE **Gallery Walk** ON PAGE 10

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www.oshkoshherald.com.



Oshkosh Herald

The train at Menominee Park is making its regular passes through the park after fundiung concerns were raised earlier this year.

Menominee Train back on the tracks

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The amusement train at Menominee Park is up and running for the 2025 season after funding concerns were raised earlier this year.

The train is open at the park from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. every Friday, Saturday and Sunday until Sept. 1, when the train will close for the season. Tickets are \$1.50 per ride.

Parks director Ray Maurer said the train is fully staffed for the season.

The Oshkosh Common Council approved a budget last year that would not fund the \$50,000 for regular repairs and maintenance on the train engine. After public outcry and support for the train being brought back, the council this winter amended the budget to fund the repairs through interest earned on ARPA funds.

The train engine is approximately 70 years old, and Maurer said the department

can continue to make routine repairs on the train. However, he said if a major issue occurs, the department will need to evaluate the situation as it has no money in the budget for a major expense.

Last year the train was closed for the entire season due to construction on Pratt Trail. Since 2019, the train has seen over

10,000 riders annually.

Jen McCollian, parks department revenue facilities manager, said the staff and community are excited for a new season at Menominee Park.

“The community has been very, very excited and thankful that the train is open again for the season,” McCollian said.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical Society

June 5, 1929

Annual Doll Buggy Parade: The annual doll buggy parade for children in the kindergarten at Jefferson school will be held today at 2 pm. This will be the sixth year the event will be held and

about seventy children are expected to take part. Little girls will have their doll buggies all trimmed and the boys will have decorated tricycles, coasters, and wagons. The parade march will begin at the school to Ninth St.; Ninth St. to Oregon St.; Oregon St. to South Park Ave.; then to Minnesota St and back to the school. The event is being arranged by Miss Charlotte Miller and Miss Hester M. Baumgartner, kindergarten directors.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, June 1, 1929

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Winnebago County Board Chairman Thomas Egan is accepting applications for Winnebago County Board Supervisor, District 23. To be eligible for this position, you must be a qualified elector and reside in District 23.

District 23 is comprised of Part of Ward12 in the City of Oshkosh.

For a map of the district, please contact the Winnebago County Clerk's Office at 232-3430.

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Submitted this 4th day of June 2025,
Julie A. Barthels
Winnebago County Clerk



Submitted photo

Bringing the community together

Attendance at the CARRnival for KIDS Saturday exceeded expectations, said Jim Boehm, executive director of Father Carr’s Place 2B. Boehm said 3,500 people attended the event, with 100 gallons of ice cream served, along with 2,000 hot dogs, 2,000 hamburgers, 200 pounds of potato chips and many other treats. Boehm said the free carnival, which is in its third year, is intended for everyone in the community with local service clubs, resource agencies and youth organizations participating. Attractions included carnival rides, inflatable obstacle course, climbing wall, bouncy castle, multiple kids games and challenges, sidewalk art, face painting and more.

Community yard sale to benefit literacy programs

Oshkosh Herald

The Winnebago Area Literacy Council (WALC) is hosting a community yard sale Saturday to support its adult learner-centered programs.

The organization is also aiming to raise awareness about its mission and bring community members together to connect and give, said assistant director Emma

Thompson.

Thompson said the programs include English language classes, one-to-one tutoring and workplace development.

The sale will be from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Opera House Square, 315 N. Main St. The rain location is Trinity Episcopal Church, 203 Algoma Blvd.

Board approves playground, despite funding concerns

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Area School District is set to have new playgrounds built at two elementary schools this summer.

The OASD Board of Education voted May 28 in favor of spending just under \$830,000. The playgrounds at Jefferson and Lakeside elementary schools are expected to be completed by the start of the 2025-26 school year.

The district has a policy in place that requires “competing” bids for projects over \$25,000 but only received one bid for the new playgrounds.

The Lakeside Elementary playground is estimated to cost \$416,508, and the Jefferson Elementary playground is estimated to cost \$413,476 for a total of \$829,984.

OASD executive director of business services Drew Niehans explained to the school board that Burke/Lee Recreation was the only company to submit a bid for the playgrounds.

Last week the school board approved waiving the policy requiring multiple bids and approving the playgrounds to be built this summer. Board members Kelly DeWitt and Tim Hess were the only opposing votes on both measures.

Hess said the district may not be getting the best deal by only receiving the single bid from Burke/Lee. DeWitt added that the district has these policies in place, and the board should be following them.

Niehans said the district reached out to several other companies to solicit bids, but none of those companies responded. The district is in the process of taking more

control of funding and buying the playground equipment from the parent-teacher organizations.

The previous policy had the PTO putting a design together and then put a bid out on the design. Niehans said the new process will allow for more design options and hopefully more competitive bids.

Part of the reason for this new process is because the previous method tied PTO’s ability to raise funds with building new playgrounds. Board member Chris Wright said the new process will address equity in playgrounds across OASD.

“This process allows us to, over time, ensure that all children can play on safe playgrounds without it being tied to PTO’s ability to generate and raise funds,” Wright said.

For example, the Read Elementary PTO raised \$500,000 for the school’s new playground.

DeWitt and Hess both said they were not opposed to the new playgrounds but voted against them because they disagreed with the process.

Hess read a statement with several concerns he has about the district use of Fund 80 dollars to help pay for the playgrounds. Fund 80 is a community service fund and is used for activities such as adult education, community recreation programs and other programs and services that serve the community.

Niehans said the Department of Public Instruction has approved the use of Fund 80 dollars to pay for the playgrounds.

“I’d hate to see a summer go by without putting in some playgrounds for some students and neighborhoods that really need them,” board president Beth Wyman said.



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Photo from Oshkosh Area Community Foundation

The Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation recently awarded \$70,000 in grants to seven local organizations.

Organizations receive funding to benefit women, girls

Oshkosh Herald

Local nonprofit organizations serving women, girls and their families in Winnebago County will receive \$70,000 in grant support from the Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.

"There's always going to be needs we can't quite meet, but I'm grateful to our donors who make it possible for us to fulfill as many requests as we can," said Karlene Grabner, Women's Fund director. "We're excited to partner with a few new organizations and programs this year. Our nonprofit partners are making beautiful things happen in the community."

One of the new programs is Safe Families for Children, which will expand into Winnebago County due in part to the Women's Fund grant support. Founded in 2003, Safe Families for Children (SFFC)

surrounds families in crisis with a caring, compassionate community through partnerships with hundreds of churches, volunteer families, community agencies and government organizations.

"We're honored to expand our services into Oshkosh with the generous support of the Women's Fund," said Betsy Borns, director of Safe Families in Northeast Wisconsin. "This opportunity allows us to reach more isolated families, provide vital services and continue building a community where every family feels supported, valued, and empowered."

SFFC has over 100 chapters nationwide and globally.

Other organizations receiving grant awards include HeadsUp Fox Cities, Reach Counseling, Solutions Recovery, Salvation Army Oshkosh, Tri-County Community Dental and Apricity.

Board member takes executive assistant job

By Bethanie Gengler
OSHKOSH HERALD

Newly elected Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz has hired Koby Schellenger – who served as a County Board supervisor until his recent resignation – as his assistant, filling the vacancy left when the former executive assistant resigned following the transition from the previous administration.

Schellenger served on the County Board for about seven years. He was first elected in 2014 and served through 2015 before moving to a new district. He was elected as the District 23 supervisor in 2020 and was re-elected in 2022 and 2024.



Schellenger

Outside of his work on the board, Schellenger led and developed civic engagement and political programs at Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin over the last 12 years and ran as a Democratic candidate for the Wisconsin State Assembly in 2012.

When asked what motivated him to transition from an elected supervisor to the executive's assistant, he said it seemed like a good opportunity.

"I was in a position where I knew the issues that the county was facing," he said. "I knew a lot of the county staff and a lot of the board members and felt like I could be really helpful to the new executive."

As part of the transition, Schellenger submitted a statutory resignation to the county sheriff and county board chair, a procedural requirement for board members stepping down. The process to fill his vacant county board seat is underway, with a potential appointment expected at the June 17 board meeting.

Hintz was elected county executive on April 1, defeating incumbent Jon Doemel with 52.7% of the vote. He was sworn in on April 15 and initially started the position without an assistant.

The decision to hire an assistant with previous political experience is similar to an earlier move by Doemel, who, after running for

the nonpartisan executive seat as an Independent, appointed Republican communications specialist Ethan Hollenberger to an assistant role he created shortly after taking office. The move drew criticism at the time for bypassing County Board approval.

Hollenberger resigned after Doemel's election loss and chose not to stay on with the new administration.

When asked about hiring Schellenger for the position, Hintz noted that he was well regarded by County Board members across the political spectrum for his preparation and thoughtful questioning.

"His hiring has been well-received by staff and supervisors alike precisely because he is not a divisive person and because he understands how government works," Hintz said. "Koby has a record of non-partisan governance on the Winnebago County Board."

Although the position was publicly posted and other applicants were considered, Hintz said Schellenger was ultimately selected due to his familiarity with Winnebago County government and existing relationships with board members and staff. Several board members had also recommended him for the role, and Hintz noted the need to fill the vacancy quickly given immediate challenges.

"Koby brings broad policy experience and familiarity with the responsibilities and operations of county government," he said. "He has served on numerous committees over his seven years on the board and demonstrated an attention to detail on the rules and process of Winnebago County government. He is a good listener and has incredible attention to detail."

Schellenger said he plans to build on his existing relationships with county staff and supervisors.

"I know I've worked with a lot of the supervisors in the time that I was on the board and have seen a lot of new supervisors come in, so I think moving forward I'll also have some of those shared experiences to help us build relationships and work together," he said.

Schellenger will play a key role in day-to-day operations and help implement the executive's policy agenda.

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Oshkosh
Herald
Bringing Oshkosh news home

Governor’s Pothole Patrol hits Oshkosh streets

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Gov. Tony Evers made a stop in Oshkosh May 27 for his continuing Pothole Patrol initiative.

Evers was joined by State Rep. Lori Palmeri and County Executive Gordon Hintz as part of annual trips he has made to communities across Wisconsin over his last six years in office. These trips are meant to put a focus on the need for infrastructure funding.

Evers, Hintz and Palmeri used cold-mix asphalt to fill potholes on White Swan Drive. They worked for about 15 minutes and filled several potholes with the help of Oshkosh public works employees.

As he has done throughout his Pothole Patrol events, Evers said it’s important to keep a focus on funding local infrastructure.

While the trio was filling in potholes, Palmeri commented, “This one’s a leg breaker” in regard to a fairly deep pothole in the roadway.

“It’s always good to be back in Oshkosh,” Evers told the Herald after the event.

Evers lived in Oshkosh for several years while working for the education non-profit CESA 6.

In Madison, Wisconsin legislators are currently going through the 2025-2027 biennial budget. Evers called for the Municipal Services Payment (MSP) program to double the program funding from around 36% to 72%. The MSP was designed to reimburse municipalities with state-owned buildings for services received such as police, fire and garbage collection.

“It’s a step in the right direction,” Evers said.

He admitted that it would be difficult to



Gov. Tony Evers was in Oshkosh last week for Pothole Patrol. The governor spent about 15 minutes filling potholes on White Swan Drive with help from Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz (center) and others including State Rep. Lori Palmeri.

get the legislature to approve funding the program to 100%, which could be a total of \$50 million for all state-owned properties.

Oshkosh officials, including City Manager Rebecca Grill, have been urging lawmakers in Madison to fund the program

to 100%, which would mean \$2.7 million of taxpayer dollars would go to city services.

In Wisconsin, Oshkosh ranks third in state buildings behind Madison and Milwaukee. Last year, with MSP funded to about 36%, the city received around \$1

million for state buildings such as the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Oshkosh Correctional Institution and the Wisconsin Resource Center.

If Evers signs the biennial budget with 72% of the MSP funded, the city would receive about \$2 million from the state.



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July 16

Judge recuses himself in hit-and-run death case

Oshkosh Herald

A Winnebago County Circuit Court judge has recused himself from a hit-and-run death case after stating he recently heard details about the case from his tattoo artist.

Judge Scott Woldt announced at a hearing last week he was recusing himself from the high-profile case. For several hearings leading up to last week's status conference, both sides of Woldt's courtroom on the fourth floor of the Winnebago County Courthouse would fill up with the victim's family and supporters of defendant Drake Dodge.

Dodge is currently out on a cash bond of \$20,000 for a single count of hit and run involving death. Court documents allege Dodge struck 29-year-old pedestrian Ethan Luaders.

Dodge's attorney, Erik Johnson, told the court they were looking for a jury trial before Woldt made his statement.

Neither Johnson nor assistant district attorney Anthony Prekop requested Woldt recuse himself from the case. The

case has been reassigned to Winnebago County Circuit Court branch 4 Judge Michael Gibbs.

In a brief statement, Woldt explained that while at an appointment with his tattoo artist, he heard information about the case that came from someone closely linked to the case from the defendant's family.

"This stuff happens," Woldt said.

He added that people often discussed cases with him and that he did not bring the case up during the tattoo appointment. He did not repeat what he heard about the case because he did not want the information to be part of the court record of the case.

Woldt said he is "skittish" about going forward with hearing the case after several other complaints have been filed against him.

In 2023, the Herald reported that the



Woldt

Wisconsin Judicial Commission filed a complaint against Woldt with the Wisconsin Supreme Court, based on six incidents of misconduct from 2009 to 2016.

The Supreme Court suspended Woldt for a week without pay in 2021. Then, an Oshkosh attorney, Matthew Goldin, filed a complaint in 2023 alleging Woldt threatened to use his judicial power to punish him because Goldin supported Woldt's opponent in the April 2023 branch 2 judge race.

According to the criminal complaint in the hit-and-run case, Oshkosh police were dispatched to New York Avenue and Algoma Boulevard after a 911 caller stated there was a man lying in the middle of the road just before 3 a.m. Oct. 5. When paramedics arrived, they attempted lifesaving measures, but Luaders was pronounced deceased on the scene.

Luaders' shoes were found about 30 feet from his body at the scene in the 1400 block of West New York Avenue just east of Algoma.

At 11:20 a.m. that day, Dodge went to

the Oshkosh Police Department with his parents to turn himself in for his involvement in the accident. He told police he had been out with friends the night before and had been to a couple of Oshkosh bars where he said he had two beers and four rum drinks.

His friends went to bed around 2:30 a.m., but Dodge decided to drive from his friend's house on Wright Street to his home on Omro Road. Dodge told police, "A dude came out" and "he was just there" and hit him with his parents' vehicle.

"The defendant stated that when he hit the person, he stopped, sat there for a second, and then drove around him and stopped near the stop sign at Algoma," the complaint states.

Dodge told police he made a "dumb" decision to drive away instead of calling 911. He told his parents what happened after he saw the news that Luaders had died.

There are no future hearings scheduled in the case.

Attempted robbery case could be headed to trial

Oshkosh Herald

An Oshkosh man charged with attempting to disarm an armed guard to then steal money from an ATM being serviced could be headed to trial later this year.

Jaymin Blankinship is charged with one count of attempted first-degree intentional homicide, attempted armed robbery and three counts of second-degree recklessly endangering safety.

Blankinship has been in custody on a \$500,000 cash bond since September. He initially pleaded not guilty about six weeks after the incident. Blankinship in December changed his plea to not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect.

A competency report was submitted to the court after Blankinship was evaluated.

Attempted first-degree intentional homicide has a maximum prison sentence of 40 years, followed by 20 years of extended supervision, while attempted armed robbery could lead to 25 years in prison, and each of the reckless endangerment charges has a maximum prison sentence of five years.

If convicted on all counts, Blankinship, 23, could spend the next 75 years in prison. The

jury trial is on the Winnebago County Circuit Court Branch 1 calendar for five days starting on Oct. 20. Branch 1 Judge Michael Rust will be presiding over the case.

Court documents allege that Blankinship was living in a car at a gas station at W. 20th Avenue and Oregon Street in Oshkosh on Sept. 6. While an armed guard was servicing an ATM at the station Blankinship allegedly tried to take the guard's firearm.

Blankinship was not able to take the guard's gun because the holster had an anti-theft mechanism.

A trio of bystanders intervened after seeing Blankinship try to take the guard's gun. The three, including two women and one man, kept Blankinship on the ground as the guard regained control and was able to hold Blankinship at gunpoint until police arrived.

A gas station employee told authorities a note was left on Blankinship's car earlier that day stating that he leave the gas station or his car would be removed from the property.

A pre-trial conference is scheduled in the case for Aug. 4 before the trial is set to begin in October.

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ATLAS

Your Guide to Local Dining, Arts, and Entertainment

Look for the June issue of the Atlas in today's paper for summer events!

The Atlas covers local dining, arts, and entertainment every quarter, and reaches 55,000 mailboxes in Winnebago County.

June 2025

ATLAS
Your Local Guide to Arts, Dining & Entertainment

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Former council member Miller remembered, loved Oshkosh

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

A former Oshkosh Common Council member and community leader passed away on Memorial Day.

Bill Miller was known in the community as someone who was generous in giving back. He grew up in Oshkosh and was a businessman who served on the Common Council from 2019 to 2023.

“Bill loved this city. Bill was a huge supporter of anything that could help not only this city, but the children of this community,” Mayor Matt Mugerauer told the Herald. “Not only have we lost a former council colleague, the City of Oshkosh has lost a friend.”

Miller was president of Northern Telephone and Data for over 30 years. The company had recently been expanding fiber-optic cable for faster internet service around Oshkosh.

Mugerauer called Miller a huge supporter of Oshkosh at the council meeting May 27.

State Rep. Lori Palmeri served on the council with Miller. The two may not have always agreed, but Palmeri will remember his service to Oshkosh and his funny stories.



Miller

Man indicted on federal obscenity and child pornography charges

Oshkosh Herald

An Oshkosh man is facing a five-count federal indictment on obscenity and child pornography charges.

David E. Dejanovich, 52, allegedly engaged in the receipt of obscene visual depictions of the sexual abuse of children in April 2024, according to Richard G. Frohling, acting United States attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

The indictment announced May 28 further alleges Dejanovich did so as an individual required to register as a sexual offender under state and federal law. He is also charged with a single count of receipt of child pornography.

The obscenity and child pornography charges carry a mandatory 15 years of imprisonment and up to 40 years’ imprisonment as to each count. Dejanovich faces

an additional 10 years of mandatory imprisonment consecutive to the obscenity charges if prosecutors prove his status as a sex offender.

He may also be fined up to \$250,000 for each count and would continue to be required to register as a sex offender under state and federal law.

The case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Oshkosh Police Department investigated the case with the assistance of the United States Office of Probation and Parole located in Green Bay. Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel R. Humble will prosecute the case.

Caregiver self-defense workshop scheduled Saturday

Oshkosh Herald

A community workshop for caregivers will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday at Impact Martial Arts, 2325 State Highway 44 in Oshkosh.

The Guided Discovery workshop in partnership with Love the Mess is designed for caregivers of individuals with special needs, focusing on emergency preparedness, situational awareness and physical self-defense strategies tailored to chaotic public environments.

Attendees will gain knowledge and practical tools to help ensure the safety of their loved ones in the event of unexpected, high-stress scenarios.

Chris Baardsen, owner of Impact Martial Arts, a former law enforcement officer

and parent of a child with special needs, will lead the workshop, with participants receiving hands-on defensive tactics training.

In addition, Kim Nichols-Green of Guided Discovery — a BCBA-certified clinician, an autism diagnostician and behavioral expert — will present behavioral strategies and tools to support decision-making during emergency situations.

The workshop is open to the public for a suggested donation of \$5, benefiting Love the Mess and its mission to support families navigating neurodivergence and disability. For more information, email lovethemessgroup@gmail.com or call 715-316-5107.

“He will be missed,” Palmeri said. “While we may not have agreed on issues, one could never doubt his love for the city and enthusiastic support for non-profits, like the Boys and Girls Club. I respected his willingness to serve the community and his characteristically humorous stories.”

Miller helped the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh secure \$1.6 million in funding from the city. Those funds were instrumental in helping the club complete its

recent renovation and expansion.

The club’s CEO Tracy Ogden also spoke to the Herald about Miller’s legacy.

“Bill’s legacy at this club and in the community will be missed by so many. He made magic happen for our kids and families with his infectious smile and generous spirit,” Ogden said. “His love of the club always shined bright, and he was proud of what he was able to accomplish here for the kids in Oshkosh.”

Teen homicide case going back and forth

Oshkosh Herald

In a courthouse, there is sometimes a major difference between the word “a” and “the.” That is what happened in the current case involving a Menasha teenager charged with attempted homicide.

In court last week, defense attorney Brianne Patzer argued that Court Commissioner Eric Heywood did not make a proper judgement on probable cause in the case, and therefore the case should be thrown out.

For any felony case to move forward in Wisconsin courts, a judge needs to state there is probable cause that a felony happened and that it was probably committed by the defendant in the case.

Winnebago County Circuit Court Branch 3 Judge Michael Gibbs agreed that a further decision needs to be made in the case by Heywood, but denied the case should be dismissed.

Patzer argued last week that the judgment was not proper because Heywood ruled that there was evidence that a felony took place, not the felony being charged. She continued saying that the probable cause being linked to the attempted homi-

cide charge is the only reason the case is in adult court and not a juvenile matter.

“The Court must find probable cause for the specific (count 1) crime charged in the complaint,” Patzer’s motion to dismiss stated.

In Wisconsin, anyone ten years or older at the time of the incident will be charged as an adult for the most serious offenses such as attempted homicide. Patzer argued if the attempted homicide count is dismissed, the entire matter would go back to juvenile court.

The suspect in this case is a 16-year-old girl from Menasha. She allegedly went to her stepfather’s house on Jefferson Street with a gun. After a brief altercation, the girl allegedly fired multiple rounds into or at the house. No one inside the house was struck, but a dog inside the home was hit.

Since the case could still be sent to juvenile court as the suspect was 16 at the time of the incident, the Herald is not identifying her.

The case will be back in front of Heywood on June 9 to further consider the probable cause issue in the case.



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Emmeline Cook student hit by car

Oshkosh Herald

An Emmeline Cook Elementary School student was hit by a car near the school Monday morning.

Principal Michael Ruhl said it happened before school started when the child unexpectedly walked onto Hazel Street.

In a letter to families, Ruhl said the response from staff and emergency services was immediate, and the child was conscious and alert when an ambulance took them to a hospital.

Their parent followed the ambulance, Ruhl said.

He said most students were entering

the school and there were very few on the playground at the time, but counselors from around the district were at the school Monday to give support to students and family members who needed it.

Staff will also have conversations with students about rules and safety.

The school asks parents to reinforce safety rules with kids, such as always following instructions from crossing guards and school staff, only use crosswalks and look in both directions before crossing a street.

The school also reminds drivers to be alert and drive slowly in school zones.

Veteran's Benefit and Ride set for Saturday

Oshkosh Herald

The Winnebago Detachment Marine Corps League No. 357 and Auxiliary of Oshkosh is holding its 14th Annual Veteran's Benefit and Ride on Saturday at the Marine Corps League, 4715 Sherman Road.

The event will feature a self-guided poker run for motorcycles or any other type of vehicle, with six stops.

The cost for the poker run is \$20 per participant and \$10 per passenger and includes the poker hand and a meal following the ride.

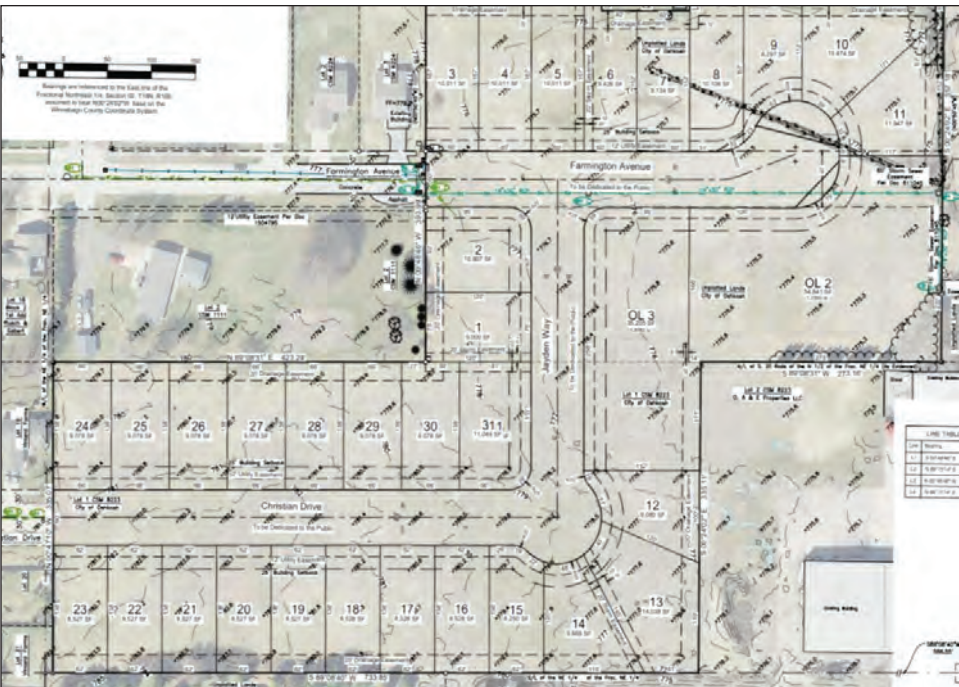
Registration will be from 8 to 10 a.m.

Riders should return to the Marine Corps League No. 357 to obtain their poker hand and complimentary meal.

Drawings for different raffles will begin at 6 p.m. Food and refreshments will be available on the grounds from 3 to 6 p.m. along with music by the band Vice Versa. It is free to enter the grounds.

Proceeds from the event will support the Marine Corps League as well as other community programs and local non-profit organizations.

For more information, visit the Annual Veterans Benefit and Ride Facebook page or website winnebagodet357.org or call 920-235-2222.



City of Oshkosh photo

The preliminary plat for new homes on Farmington Avenue and Christian Drive shows 31 single-family home lots with a park and detention pond planned for the area.

Council creates new housing lots

Farmington Avenue and Christian Drive to get homes

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Work is underway for vacant land in Oshkosh to soon be made suitable for 31 single-family homes.

The city purchased two plots of land last year in anticipation of building new homes in Oshkosh to add to the housing stock. The land is south of Snell Road and west of Jackson Street on the city's north side.

The 5.5-acre lot east of Farmington Avenue along with a 5.7-acre lot east of Christian Drive were purchased last year with ARPA funds for just over \$300,000. Both roads will be extended to the east and a new north/south road, Jayden Way, will

connect the streets. The city plans to have one lot, on the corner of Jayden Way and Farmington Avenue, be transformed into a park. The city's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) has identified the area as lacking park facilities; the 0.8-acre lot will serve as green space for the new homes.

The city has also proposed turning the lot to the east of the park into a detention pond for stormwater runoff.

The 31 lots range from 8,250 square feet to 14,038 square feet.

The preliminary plat for the homes, called Farmington Estates, was approved by the Oshkosh Common Council as part of the consent agenda at its May 27 meeting with no opposing votes.

Emotional CPR program offered for the community

Oshkosh Herald

The League of Women Voters of Winnebago County is offering an opportunity to hear from Karen Iverson Riggers and Lynn McLaughlin, founding mem-

bers of Ebb & Flow Connections Cooperative.

They will discuss Emotional CPR — a public health education program that teaches people how to assist another person experiencing emotional distress or crisis.

The program will be at 11:30 a.m. June 11 at the Oshkosh Co-op Community Room, 155 Jackson St.

Ebb & Flow Connections Cooperative is a worker-owned cooperative formed in 2021 in Northeast Wisconsin that is committed to expanding opportunities for social connection and emotional wellness that improve the quality of life for residents in the area.

To attend, send an email to wLWVinfo@gmail.com by Saturday. A sandwich lunch can be reserved for \$11.



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Valley Christian plans early childhood program move

By Chris Lusvardi
OSHKOSH HERALD

Valley Christian School will begin using the former Trinity Lutheran School building at 819 School Ave. in the fall for its preschool program.

Head of school Brad Dunn said Valley Christian officials had been looking for over a year for space to house its early childhood education programs. When he heard the Trinity Lutheran School would be closing and looking to sell its building, Dunn said he was amazed by the opportunity.

“It dropped in our laps,” Dunn said. “It

was a godsend for us. We wanted to find the best use for it.”

Valley Christian will begin by moving its preschool program to the Trinity building for next school year, Dunn said. Then for the following year, he said they plan to have kindergarten through second grade classes added there.

For the past six years, Valley Christian has been renting space at Zion Lutheran

Church on Sawyer Street for its three and four-year-old classes. He said the church has been a wonderful partner.

Dunn estimates 150 students will be at the Trinity building after Valley Christian moves their classes there.

“We’ve been needing more space,” Dunn said. “This has truly been a blessing.”

The move comes as Valley Christian’s overall enrollment has been increasing. For the past three years, Dunn said they’ve been raising money to secure financing for a \$20 million high school expansion at their Vinland Street campus.

Dunn said the school previously hadn’t benefitted from any seven-figure donations but has secured five of them so far to be over halfway to their fundraising goal.

With enrollment approaching 800 students, Valley Christian opened a kindergarten through eighth grade campus in Neenah to help address the school’s space needs. Dunn said it has been a blessing in the past 10 years for the school to be able to grow. He credits the school’s leadership and staff for being focused on providing a Christian-centered education to aid in the growth.

School closing

FROM PAGE 1

school building’s service.

Displays will include old films, musical recordings, photos, yearbooks and opening time for time capsules hidden in the school.

“The focus will be thanking and praising God for the 169 years of school ministry He has blessed us with,” said Anne Herlihy, the church’s office manager. “We encourage past staff, alumni and families to come together to share memories and comfort one another.”

A Lutheran Charities K-9 comfort dog will be there, she said.

“I can’t wait for the farewell to hear more stories,” said Herlihy, who has been researching records about the history of the church and school. Her children attended the school.

Trinity Lutheran School is among the private schools across Wisconsin struggling financially to keep their doors open for students as enrollment drops.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 47 private schools in the state have closed in the past two years.

Whether to keep the Trinity Lutheran School, 819 School Ave., open has been the subject of a debate among church members for over the past decade, Herlihy said. Earlier in the school year, she said it became apparent keeping it operating was not going to be sustainable, and the decision was made to find somebody else interested in using the building.

Valley Christian School became interested in using the facility in a slightly different capacity and will begin offering its early childhood programs there in the fall.

Longtime Trinity Lutheran School principal and teacher Joe Reinl said parts of the school year have been bittersweet with the closure looming ahead. He said some of his favorite memories have been because of the students.

“For the past 27 years, they have been so fun to deal with,” Reinl said. “In my eyes, they were the best part of each day.”

Enrollment has dropped in the past few years to just over 30 students, said Reinl, who has been working as both principal and a classroom teacher.

As the school struggled to attract students and have enough teachers, Reinl said, “It’s been challenging. We have to wear a ton of hats. The hours get crazy, but I felt like it’s what I was called to do.”

Reinl said the school has provided students with unique opportunities, including trips over the past 20 years to Catalina Island in southern California. He said the trips were a chance for seventh and eighth grade students to study marine biology and go snorkeling. They took the last trip in early May, Reinl said.

Reinl said the last day will be spent



Trinity Lutheran Church will be ending its longtime education mission operating Trinity Lutheran School, 819 School Ave., as the school year finishes Thursday. Valley Christian School will begin using the building in the fall for its early childhood education program.

with the students doing fun activities such as having a picnic lunch. After the closure was announced, Reinl said the school staff did what they could to help families figure out the process about what to do next.

“It was sad because we had children who wanted to be here next year,” Reinl said.

Although it will no longer be operating a school, Herlihy said this isn’t the end of the church’s efforts to educate children. The church voted in November that it could no longer support the school as one of its missions, Herlihy said, but it wants to continue looking for ways to engage the children in its activities.

“We can’t dwell on the closure as the end of our mission to provide an education for our young people,” Herlihy said. “It isn’t just a school education. It’s life education. We need to figure out how we do that for the children going forward. We aren’t closing our ministry. It’s part of who we are. It’s part of the church mission.”

The church’s connection to providing a Christian education dates back to 1856 when a school was arranged in the rear part of the main floor of the church. The first schoolhouse, built in 1859 for \$225, later burnt down in 1875 before being rebuilt.

The Great Fire on April 28, 1875 started along the river and destroyed most of the east side of Oshkosh. In total, the fire burned a strip over a mile long and quarter mile wide, destroying 70 stores, 40 factories and 500 homes with damage estimated at \$2.5 million.

The school was soon rebuilt as a two-room building, with a third room added in 1885 before hitting an enrollment high of 254 students in 1886. After that four rooms were needed.

The school where Bartelt later attended was built in 1912. He remembers one of the unique features being a two-lane bowling alley with manual pinsetters used primarily by adults.

“They had a league with the church



The previous building built in 1912 included features such as a bowling alley in the basement that former students still remember.

that would have bowling a couple nights a week,” Bartelt said. “I was too young to bowl at that time.”

The first floor had classrooms with a multi-purpose auditorium on the second floor, he said. Grade levels were combined when Bartelt attended with anywhere between 80 and 100 kids in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Sue Cavanaugh, who attended school in the 1950s in the previous building, also remembers the bowling alley. Cavanaugh said she and her sister would sometimes go along to watch when her mother bowled in the ladies’ league.

“We had some wonderful experiences there,” said Cavanaugh, whose mother and grandmother also attended the school. Her family’s connection to the school dates back to 1899. “We had nice teachers, but they were strict, and made lots of good friends, some of which I stay in touch with today.”

Cavanaugh said some of what she learned with religion classes every day provided a strong base for her faith that still remains with her. The family lived about a block from the school, she said.

“We didn’t realize what good students we were becoming,” Cavanaugh said. “When we moved to other schools, they loved the kids that came from Trinity.

We are proud of the education we did get there.”

Cavanaugh noticed at the time she went there the floors were creaking and other signs the old building was aging.

The old building was torn down to make way for the new school that opened at a cost of \$325,000 in 1972, which has been in use since then. Even at the time, church leaders addressed the need for a Christian-based school.

The Rev. Ronald W. Meier, then the pastor of the church, wrote, “Trinity Lutheran Congregation was prepared by the Lord for the work of building a new educational and parish building that would stand as an example of what trust and confidence in Christian Education can accomplish in a day when most of society hears that the Christian School is dying. We glorify God for using our congregation as evidence that this is not universally true.”

According to her research, Herlihy estimates over 3,000 students have attended the school.

“I love the history to find all these things and hear the stories of the people who went here,” Herlihy said. “We’re trying to document a lot of this. There is so much history here.”



Artist Ted Wilcox is working to have about 100 ceramic mushrooms on display at Great Estates Fine Furniture at 318 N. Main St. during the Oshkosh Gallery Walk.

Gallery Walk

FROM PAGE 1

people’s minds,” Brownfield said.

“It’s a great date night and something fun to do in downtown Oshkosh,” she added.

The most prominent addition to the event is the Night Gallery, which will be held in the Algoma Art Alley. In addition to featuring the work of six local artists, the Night Gallery will include live music provided by the Brigade Music Academy and a selection of hand-crafted beers, wine and ciders served by Emprize Brew Mill as well as non-alcoholic beverages.

The Algoma Art Alley was recently renovated with help by a grant from the state and, in addition to augmenting the city’s efforts to bring renewed focus on down-

town, it provides a unique space for the artists.

“We have set it up to make sure that the artists have enough space to show as much of their work as possible,” Brownfield said.

Local artists and businesses have been enthusiastically supportive, and the Gallery Walk will include 13 different locations.

“I love Oshkosh. I have been an Oshkosh townie all my life, and I am very excited to do anything I can to do something fun that will draw people downtown and support local businesses,” said ceramic artist Ted Wilcox, who will be exhibiting his work at Great Estates Fine Furniture with the support of owner Michael Russell. “We’re hoping to help each other, revitalize the Gallery Walk and bring back the people who have attended in the past.”

Additional Oshkosh Gallery Walks are scheduled for Aug. 2 and Sept. 6.

West celebrates three top test scores

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Area School District announced the academic achievements of three Oshkosh West High School juniors on the recent ACT standardized test.

Roman Stanuch achieved a perfect score of 36, while Aria Boehler and Samuel Kuerschner each earned a score of 35.

These scores place Stanuch, Boehler and Kuerschner among the top students nationwide. The ACT is a national college admissions examination that measures high school students’ gen-



Stanuch

eral educational development and their ability to complete college-level work.

“It feels great to see that all the effort I put into studying paid off,” said Stanuch, who credited his success to “the hours spent practicing with resources like the pre-ACTs, PSAT, Xello and the ACT Red Book.”

Describing his initial reaction, Stanuch said, “I was very surprised when I saw my score. I didn’t believe I had gotten that score until I refreshed the page a few times.”

Looking to the future, Stanuch plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in computer science at a university, with a dream of becoming a software developer at Pixar. He plans to apply to Stanford University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Children’s book fair set for Saturday

Oshkosh Herald

A group of local children’s authors will be at Caramel Crisp Corner Saturday for a book fair.

The third annual event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 200 City Center will feature children’s activities, baby goats and more, said Jennifer Frank of the Caramel Crisp Bookstore.

“There is nothing more magical than reading a great book to a child,” Frank said. “There is something extra special about reading a book written by someone whom your child has met in person. What a great opportunity for your family to meet the creators of the books that they love. And what a great chance for parents to find some excellent books to keep their children immersed in reading over the summer months.”

The book fair features over 25 authors from the Oshkosh area, including Bob Allen, of Walter the Wily Walleye fame and Jac-

queline Paske Gill, a local teacher and library professional. Lisa Heller will be on hand with her books, A Dragon for my Birthday and Sister Wants a Unicorn, whose sales benefit the Oshkosh Children’s Museum project. The museum project will be facilitating a “Tell Your Own Story” activity, during which children can write or draw their story with the help of adult volunteers.

Other activities include a “make your own bookmark” table with Elle Binder and a petting zoo that will include baby goats provided by Becky Mills.

The Oshkosh Public Library will also be there, kicking off their Summer Reading Program.

Visit the Local Author Children’s Author Book Event on the Caramel Crisp Facebook page for a list of authors and activities. For information, contact Caramel Crisp Bookstore at 920-231-4540 or information@caramelcrispcorner.com.

Packers executive to lead golf event

Oshkosh Herald

Outgoing Green Bay Packers president and CEO Mark Murphy will serve as master of ceremonies June 13 for the Fifth Annual Oshkosh Country Club Golf Classic.

The event will be hosted by T.J. Rodgers and features Packers Pro Bowl offensive lineman Elgton Jenkins.

Murphy, who joined the Packers in January 2008, plans to retire from the team in July. He is donating his emcee fee to JAS House,



Murphy

the “Journey to Adult Success” charity his wife, Laurie, launched to care for young adults who have aged out of the foster care system.

The event is dedicated to supporting children and families, with all charitable donations going toward the Oshkosh Kids Foundation’s Tiny House Village Project and Jenkins’ hometown Clarksdale High School Athletics.

A shotgun start for golf begins at noon, followed by 4:30 p.m. cocktails, dinner and awards.

For more information, including registration details and sponsorship opportunities, go to oshkoshcc.com or call 920-231-1078.

Nova Counseling Services recognizes retiring leaders

Oshkosh Herald

Two longtime staff members are leaving Nova Counseling Services, and a new executive director has started with the organization.

Board president Dennis Davey said executive director Jody Willeford is retiring after 31 years with the organization. Marcia Larson, previous executive director

and current board member, is retiring after being involved with Nova for 43 years, Davey said.

Both will be recognized for their service today during a luncheon.

“We’re going to miss them with Marcia having been involved so long knowing all the state and federal statutes,” Davey said. “Jody learned a lot from Marcia. All the people they know has been important.”

Davey said the new executive director, Patrick Drury, started work Monday. Drury is a former client of Nova, Davey said.

“He knows the ins and outs both as a client and clinician,” Davey said. “He already knows some of the staff, who have confidence in him.”

Davey said having an experienced team in place will help with the transition as Nova continues to offer residential substance use disorder treatment programs at a 50-bed facility on Jackson Street.

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15.99

12 pk, 12 oz Cans Topo Chico Hard Seltzer



15.99

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AFTER \$5 MAIL-IN REBATE WHEN YOU BUY MULTIPLES OF 2



8.49^{ea}

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AFTER \$3 INSTANT SAVINGS!



26.99

750 ml Bottle Bulleit Bourbon

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18.99^{ea}

1.75 ltr Bottle Seagram's 7 Crown Whiskey

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12.99

Select 750 ml Bottle Josh Cellars White Wine



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4 pk, 187 ml Bottles Sutter Home Wines



Submitted photo
The cast of the Oshkosh Community Players’ upcoming production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* includes (back row) Richelle Hudson, Tierney Potter, Austin Borgardt, Erica Dabrowski and Andrea Thiel along with (front row) Jennifer Shields, Aaron Kunz, Scott Hamilton and Madeline Molchany.

Satire “The Importance of Being Earnest” coming to The Grand

Oshkosh Herald

Oscar Wilde’s comedy “The Importance of Being Earnest” first debuted in 1895, yet it continues to dazzle audiences with its razor-sharp wit and biting spoof of Victorian society to this day.

Lovers of local theater are invited to enjoy its hilarity at The Grand Oshkosh this month as the Oshkosh Community Players (OCP), now in its 86th season, readies to bring the comedy to life at 7 p.m. June 12-14, with a 2 p.m. matinee on June 14.

The show is guided by the directorial talents of James Lawrence. Lawrence, a University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh graduate and local novelist, is excited to lead a production close to his heart — one he co-starred in three decades ago.

Lawrence is a self-proclaimed “passionate thespian” and a new board member of OCP, bringing years of experience to the production.

“The fun of directing Earnest is watching actors navigate the absurd logic of the script where everyone lies but no one actually gets hurt,” Lawrence said.

A “trivial comedy for serious people,” according to Wilde, the play follows two young gentlemen — Jack Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff — who lead double

lives to escape social obligations and pursue romance.

Jack, who poses as “Ernest” in the city, seeks to woo the sophisticated Gwendolen Fairfax, while Algernon impersonates “Ernest” in the countryside to charm the naïve Cecily Cardew. As mistaken identities multiply and romantic entanglements spiral, Wilde unravels the absurdities of aristocratic manners, customs, and the obsession with appearances.

The cast of nine area players includes Scott Hamilton (Jack), Aaron Kunz (Algernon), Tierney Potter (Gwendolyn), Madeline Molchany (Cecily), Jennifer Shields (Lady Bracknell), Erica Dabrowski (Ms. Prism), Austin Borgardt (Dr. Chasuble), Richelle Hudson (Merriman) and Andrea Thiel (Lane)—some performing in their first-ever show with OCP.

“This play is a must see for anyone who has ever told a little white lie and gotten in way too deep,” Lawrence said.

And he added it’s for those who enjoy the power of cleverness, a cucumber sandwich and a very happy ending.

Tickets are available online at thegrandoshkosh.org/events/2024-2025-season or by calling the box office at 920-424-2350.

To advertise in the Oshkosh Herald, call 920-385-4512.

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Calendar of events

Wednesday, June 4

Music on Main featuring The Water City Jazz Orchestra, 5:30 p.m., Opera House Square

Friday, June 6

Food Truck Friday, 4:30 p.m., South Park
Morgan House tour, 6 p.m., 234 Church Ave.

Saturday, June 7

Downtown Oshkosh Farmers Market, 8 a.m.
Veterans Benefit and Ride, 8 a.m., Winnebago Detachment Marine Corps League, 4715 Sherman Road
EAA AirVenture Hiring Event, 9 a.m., EAA Aviation Museum
Community Plant Cutting Swap, 10 a.m., Oshkosh Public Library
Local Author Children’s Book Fair, 11 a.m., Caramel Crisp Corner, 200 City Center
Opening Day at Pollock Community Water Park, noon, 1550 Taft Ave.
Oshkosh Gallery Walk, 6 p.m., Downtown Oshkosh

Sunday, June 8

Bowen Street Flea Market, 10 a.m., 2837 Bowen St.
Summer Fun Run, 6 p.m., Winnebago County Community Park

Wednesday, June 11

Brews by the Waterside featuring Minus 1, 5 p.m., Menominee Park
Music on Main featuring Mama Ginger and the Red Hots, 5:30 p.m., Opera House Square

Thursday, June 12

Waterfest featuring Hairball, 5:45

p.m., Leach Amphitheater
The Importance of Being Earnest presented by the Oshkosh Community Players, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Friday, June 13
The Importance of Being Earnest presented by the Oshkosh Community Players, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Saturday, June 14
Downtown Oshkosh Farmers Market, 8 a.m.
June Dairy Day, 10 a.m., Leach Amphitheater
The Importance of Being Earnest presented by the Oshkosh Community Players, 2 and 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Tuesday, June 17
Live at the Leach Tuesday Night Concert featuring the Glam Band, 5:30 p.m., Leach Amphitheater

Wednesday, June 18
Music on Main featuring Janet Planet, 5:30 p.m., Opera House Square

Thursday, June 19
Waterfest featuring George Thoroughgood and The Destroyers, 5:45 p.m., Leach Amphitheater
EAA Aviation Museum Speaker Series: The Art of Flying Historic Aircraft, 7 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum

Friday, June 20
Family Outdoor Movie Night featuring Inside Out 2, 6:30 p.m., Leach Amphitheater
Oshkosh’s Funniest Comedian: Preliminary Round 2, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Saturday, June 21
Downtown Oshkosh Farmers Market, 8 a.m.
Square Fare, 8 a.m., Opera House Square

Sunday, June 22
Oshkosh Century bike tour, 7 a.m., Oshkosh Community YMCA – 20th Avenue

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Spartans’ Trochinski driven by love of the game

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

High school students often hit athletic crossroads where they need to make a decision.

Should they put extra focus on a particular sport or prepare to eventually let it go?

Hailie Trochinski remembers her turning point.

She was a freshman at Oshkosh North who was starting to ponder her future on the pitch.

“I remember talking with my mom (Melissa) and she asked me, ‘Do you want to continue soccer or would you be willing to stop after these four years in high school?’

“To be honest, I started bawling because I couldn’t see myself really leaving the sport. So we started looking into soccer camps and at colleges I might be interested in that had good soccer programs.”

She found one. Trochinski will be taking her athletic and academic talents to Ripon College next year.

But first she is putting the finishing touches on a fine prep soccer career at North.

Trochinski, who spearheads the North defense at center back, is one of the top defenders in the Fox Valley Association. She was a second-team all-conference selection in 2024 after receiving all-FVA honorable mention in 2023.

Trochinski is a talented player, but has never been one to coast on her skills. She is a high-effort, high-energy performer.

“She is a workhorse,” said North coach Nicole Palmquist. “Her work ethic will take her far in the game of soccer and in life. She’s an exceptional young woman and soccer player. We’re really going to miss her.”

Palmquist is also going to miss her scouting reports, too. In addition to being a defensive stalwart and team leader, Trochinski is a good scout – literally. She regularly watches game film of upcoming opponents and texts notes and information to Palmquist



Oshkosh North’s Hailie Trochinski is the leader of the Spartans’ back line and has a future in the game both as a player in college and possibly as a coach when her playing days are over.

“I’ve probably been doing that since my sophomore year,” said Trochinski. “Coach finds it useful. It helps me, too. Just seeing who I’m going against is really helpful. You

don’t want to go into a game blind. You want to know what to expect.”

Palmquist knows what to expect from Trochinski: quality play and a willingness to do whatever it takes to help the Spartans win games.

“Hailie does that because she loves the game and can’t get enough of it,” Palmquist said. “She is willing to help you out with whatever is needed.”

That requires intangibles such as strong communication skills and a willingness to quarterback the team on the fly.

“I’m way more quiet in school,” she said with a laugh, “Once I’m on the field, I’m a lot louder. As a center back, you see the whole field, so you have to communicate with your teammates and let them know where everyone is. You are the person who

Senior Spotlight

connects things out there.” Trochinski started playing soccer in the third grade and has been a defender for most of her career. She has played club soccer for years with the Wisconsin Loons and the Oshkosh-based Water City soccer club.

“I was more of an offensive player when I started out, but when the coaches tried me on defense, they found out I was way more aggressive than other players,” she said. “I fit that role and I’ve stayed there ever since.”

Defenders don’t get many opportunities to score goals. That’s why Trochinski was stoked earlier this season when she scored twice against Menasha – both on free kicks – in a 3-1 victory.

“Those were my first (high school) career goals. They helped us win the game, so I was pretty excited,” Trochinski said. “When I saw that ball go into the net, I was jumping around and my parents were so happy. I could hear my dad (Matthew) in the stands yelling, “good job.”

Trochinski’s passion for the game is fueled by her love of competition along with the camaraderie and team aspect of soccer. She’s stoked about the opportunity to play college soccer at Ripon where she plans to enroll in the school’s pharmacy program.

“I’ve always cared about people and their health and wanted to do something in the medical field,” she said. “I’m really good at math and science and pharmacy seemed like the best option for me. That will allow me to help people.”

Expect Trochinski to help the Red Hawks soccer program with her all-around skills and leadership ability.

“I enjoyed meeting the (soccer) coach and everyone on the team seemed so close,” Trochinski said. “I could just see myself in that environment.”

As good as Trochinski is on the pitch, she’s even better in the classroom. She is a high-honors student who prioritizes academics and carries a perfect 4.0 grade-point average.

“It’s very hard balancing sports and school,” she said. “But I believe that being a student comes before being an athlete.”

Even when she’s done playing, Trochinski may not be through with soccer. She has coached girls at the U-11 level and would consider a part-time coaching job in the future.

“I really enjoy being with the kids and could see myself doing something like that (coaching) once I’m out of college,” she said. “I like showing the kids how much I like soccer and how they can enjoy it as well.”



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Nelson, Moore earn shots at defending state titles

Oshkosh Herald

A pair of reigning state champions will be returning to La Crosse this weekend to defend their state titles at the WIAA State Track and Field championships.

Oshkosh West's Sydnee Nelson and Lourdes Academy's Erin Moore both earned their spots at state last Friday at their respective sectional track and field meets.

Nelson won the 100-meter hurdles to claim the Division 1 sectional title at Neenah last week, while Lourdes Academy's Erin Moore will have the chance to win her second straight Division 3 800-meter title after winning her sectional crown at Marathon.

Both Nelson and Moore qualified for state in multiple events and both will be joined by teammates in La Crosse.

For the Wildcats, Nelson's win in the 100-meter hurdles was backed by Camille Phillips, who placed third in the event to advance to La Crosse.

Kylie Triebold added a second place in the 400 meters, while Nelson also qualified for state with a third place in the 200 meters.

Nelson, Kayana Turner, Samantha Panske and Emma Liebergen took second in the 800-meter relay to earn a trip to La Crosse as well.

The Wildcats ended up tied for fourth in the final team standings after sending a strong contingent to the sectional meet. Oshkosh West had finished second at the regional meet at Beaver Dam earlier in the week.

Other sectional finishers for the West girls were: Triebold, fifth in the 100 meters; Turner, fifth in the triple jump; Phillips, sixth in the 300-meter hurdles; Abby Tercha, seventh in the 1,600 meters; and Liebergen, seventh in the triple jump.

The Wildcats also finished sixth in the 400-meter relay with a team of Turner, Panske, Liebergen and Hailey Gibbs, seventh in the 1,600-meter relay with a team of Tercha, Kate Elliot, Turner and Triebold and sixth in the 3,200-meter relay with a foursome of Eliot, Coraline Strelinski, Gwen Liptow and Rowen Stellpflug.

Oshkosh North qualified in a handful of events at the sectional meet but were unable to advance any athletes onto state.

Lehna Mitchell came within one place of moving on, taking fourth in the 3,200 meters, while teammate Tianna Hayes finished eighth in the event. Mitchell also qualified in the 1,600 meters but did not compete in the event.



Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh North's Jamare Scott hands the baton to Evan Auler during the 800-meter relay at the WIAA Division 1 sectional at Neenah on Friday.



Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh West's Sydnee Nelson flies over the final hurdle en route to taking first place in the 100-meter hurdles at the WIAA Division 1 sectional meet at Neenah last Friday. Camille Phillips (right) finished third for the Wildcats.

Alai Awak tied for sixth in the high jump at sectionals, while Allison Cummings took eighth in the 800 meters to round out the Spartan participants.

The Oshkosh North boys team will be well represented at La Crosse as the Spartans showcased its array of sprinters.

Jamare Scott led the way for North, winning the sectional title in the 100 meters, while also running legs on a pair of state-qualifying relays. Scott was joined by Dalton Clark, Joshua Zietlow and Evan Auler in taking second in both the 400-meter and 800-meter relays as North will compete in both events in La Crosse.

Devon Williams also earned his return to the state meet, qualifying in a pair of events for the Spartans – who finished tied for fifth in the team standings. Williams, who finished ninth at state in the 400 meters last year, advanced to La Crosse with a second place in the 400 meters and a third place in the 200 meters.

Other sectional qualifiers for the Spartans were: Andrew Oehler, sixth in the discus; Jay Weber, eighth in the 3,200 meters; and Harrison Bell, eighth in the 110-meter hurdles;

Williams, Zietlow, Auler and Jaykwon Jones also took fifth in the 1,600-meter relay for North.

The Oshkosh West boys will have one representative at the state meet in Clark Howell, who finished second in the triple jump at Neenah.

Landen Egnoski came within one place of advancing after taking fourth in the pole vault, while Carter Crowe ended up fourth in the 1,600 meters to just miss qualifying for state.

Other sectional qualifiers for the Wildcats were: Crowe, fifth in the 3,200 meters; Jackson Kasper, fifth in the triple jump; Connor Gibbs, sixth in the high jump; Colden Searles, sixth in the pole vault; and Owen Heim, sixth in the long jump. Kasper also qualified in the long jump but did not compete at sectionals.

West also got a sixth place from its 3,200-meter relay team of Celso Collins, Juan Collins, Alex Dedecker and Crowe at an eighth place in the 800-meter relay with a team of Carson Choinski, Ethan Bowman, Gibbs and Dylan McDonald.

Division 3

Moore dominated both of her individual events at the Marathon sectional, post-

ing wins in both the 800 meters and 1,600 meters to lead the Knights, who finished third among the 33 teams at the meet behind only Bonduel and Mishicot.

Moore cruised to a seven-second win in the 800 meters, while taking first in the 1,600 meters by nearly 10 seconds. She also joined Dasha Averkamp, Natasha Konop and Kylie Rietz in winning the 1,600-meter relay at the meet.

Konop also earned a return to state as an individual after placing third in the 300-meter hurdles, while the Knights' foursome of Konop, Bree Kane, Sabur

Machiros and Rietz qualified for state after taking a close second at sectionals.

Other sectional qualifiers for Lourdes Academy were: Annie Moore, sixth in the 3,200 meters; Averkamp, ninth in the 800 meters; Khloe Bunton, 11th in 3,200 meters; Kane qualified in the high jump but did not successfully clear a height.

The Knights' 3,200-meter relay team of Khloe Bunton, Averkamp, Annie Moore and Allison Stromske, nearly advanced but finished fifth in their race. Lourdes

SEE **Prep track** ON PAGE 19

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Prep sports roundup

TENNIS

West qualifies three flights to state meet

Oshkosh West will be represented at the WIAA Division 1 state tennis meet, which begins Thursday at Nielsen Tennis Stadium in Madison.

No. 1 singles player Jacob Stinski will be making his fourth trip to the state meet and will be joined by the Wildcats’ top two doubles teams of Yoseff Edsell and Kole Stauffacher and Reid Potter and Gavin Steiner. Edsell and Stauffacher earned the No. 13 seed in the doubles bracket.

Stinski finished third at the sectional tournament last week, winning his first match in three sets over Cedarburg’s Keenan Haws to automatically qualify for state. He lost to eventual sectional champion Carl Hein of Neenah in the semifinals but bounced back to beat Fond du Lac’s Leyton Batchelder to finish third.

Both doubles teams took second at their respective flights.

Edsell and Strauffacher won a 6-0, 6-0 match over a Cedarburg pairing in the first round at the No. 1 flight and then topped a Hartford duo, 6-2, 6-2 in the semifinals. The West tandem lost to Neenah’s Andrew Werner and Brady Lawatsch in the title match in a three-set match.

Potter and Steiner topped Sheboygan



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Lourdes Academy/Valley Christian's Ellie Koch (23) looks to make a move around a Berlin defender in a 4-0 win last week.

North’s Aiden DeRuyter and Austin Kohn in the No. 2 flight semifinals before falling to Luke Grassl and Henry Farrell, 6-3, 6-2, from Neenah in the title match. Potter and Steiner earned an at-large bid with a 24-6 record.

Oshkosh West’s No. 3 pairing of Jacob Lemke and Isaiah Wilson finished third at the sectional tournament.

Jace Koepsell also finished fourth at No. 4 singles for the Wildcats.

Oshkosh North had a pair of sectional qualifying flights with Nicolas Flandin taking third at No. 2 singles. He outlasted Sheboygan North’s Tyler Konrad in three sets in the third-place match.

Kallum Larson-Poeschel finished

Day leads Valley/Lourdes sectional finishers

Brady Day finished second at No. 3 singles to lead the four flights that advanced to last week’s Division 2 sectional hosted by St. Mary Catholic.

Day knocked off Monroe’s Allen Gerrits in three sets in the semifinals, but fell to Linus Powless of Edgewood in the title match.

Maliha Demler added a third-place finish at No. 4 singles, winning a marathon 6-4, 6-7, 11-9 third-place match.

Both No. 1 singles player Danny Kunde and the No., 1 doubles team of Dawson Miller and Sam Vilski advanced to the sectional tournament but lost in the quarterfinals and did not place.

Kunde won the first set of his match against Monroe’s Matthew Setterstrom but dropped the second set and then lost 10-8 in the super tiebreaker third set.

GOLF

North, West each advance qualifiers

Oshkosh North had a pair of individual sectional qualifiers and Oshkosh West added another for Wednesday’s WIAA Division 1 sectional tournament at Old Hickory Golf Course in Beaver Dam.

The Spartans’ Warren Seeley and Wesley Loewe along with the Wildcats’ Parker Gerlach each carded rounds of 79 at the regional tournament last week at Lake Breeze Golf Course to advance. All three golfers were part of a four-way tie for 13th

place at the tournament.

North nearly qualified as a team, finishing fifth overall, 11 shots behind fourth-place Neenah. Winneconne, Slinger and Fond du Lac joined Neenah as team qualifiers.

Oshkosh West finished seventh.

Owen Weber added an 82, while Jack Anderson chipped in an 88 for the Spartans.

The Wildcats’ scoring golfers behind Gerlach were Landon Brewer with an 83 and Lincoln Houle with an 84, while Jaxen Lloyd and Tyler Moderson each shot 88s.

Lourdes/Valley’s Buttke headed to sectionals

Lourdes Academy/Valley Christian’s Jackson Buttke earned a spot in the Division 2 sectional meet held earlier this week after finishing tied for fifth at last week’s regional tournament held at Quit Qui Oc in Plymouth.

Buttke carded a round of 82 on the day, which was just six shots off the medalist score and he was the only sophomore to finish in the top five.

Fellow Lourdes/Valley golfer Lucas Neuens nearly joined his teammate at sectionals, but his round of 87 was one shot off the final individual qualifying spot.

Overall, the Knights finished ninth in the team standings with Ian Simmons at 111 and Olivia Gelhar at 114 rounding out the scoring golfers.

SOCCER

Knights post pair of shutout wins

The Lourdes Academy/valley Christian soccer team closed out the regular season with a pair of shutout wins last week.

The Knights topped Berlin, 4-0, on Tuesday as Natalie Edwards led the way with two goals and an assist in the win. Hannah McDowell also added a goal and two assists, while Sarah Hafemeister picked up the Knights’ fourth goal of the game.

Taylin Mecklenberg and Julia Miller combined to make three saves in goal for Lourdes/Valley in the win.

Two days later, the Knights picked up a 3-0 win over Campbellsport with Edwards, McDowell and Celia Ralofskey notching the goals in the win. Edwards and McDowell also added assists in the win.

Mecklenberg and Miller again combined for the shutout in goal.

The Knights will open WIAA Tournament play at Peshtigo on Thursday.

West posts win, tie to close out regular season

The Wildcats put a capper on the regular season with a 4-0 win over Hortonville last Thursday night.

Earlier in the week, West played to a

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 19

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 18

0-0 tie with Kimberly and finished tied for third in the Fox Valley Association with a 6-1-2 record.

Spartans drop regular-season finale

Oshkosh North was shutout by Fond du lac, 5-0, to wrap up the regular season last week.

The Spartans finished 6-7-3 overall and tied for seventh place in the FVA.

SOFTBALL

Rough inning sinks Wildcats in tourney loss

West Bend West erupted for seven runs after Oshkosh West had taken the lead as the Wildcats dropped an 11-4 decision in a WIAA Division 1 regional tournament game last week.

Lilly Peterson scored the Wildcats first

run in the second inning, taking advantage of a West Bend West error to cross the plate. The Spartans came right back with seven runs in the bottom of the inning to take the lead for good.

Colleen Fitzpatrick drilled a two-run home run in the top of the third to cut the deficit to four but West Bend West added three runs in the bottom of the inning to regain the momentum.

West wouldn't score again until the seventh when Skylin Quella and Fitzpatrick smacked back-to-back doubles.

Fitzpatrick finished 2-for-4 with three RBIs in the game, while Quella added two hits and scored two runs. Emmy Reichenberger also finished with two hits for West.

Spartans ousted by FVA rival Cardinals

Oshkosh North had its season end in a WIAA Division 1 regional tournament loss to Fond du Lac last week. The Cardinals handed the Spartans a 9-5 loss to end the season.

qualifier in Cameron Kapral. The sophomore finished fifth in the 400 meters, a mere seven hundredths of a second from grabbing the final state qualifying spot in the race.

Other sectional qualifiers for Lourdes Academy were: Henry Spanbauer, sixth in the 3,200 meters; Mat Yaggie, seventh in the 300-meter hurdles; and Zach Foster, 14th in the 1,600 meters.

The Knights also qualified their 400-meter relay team of David Agosto, Isaak Rucinski, Brett Maki and Wade Lindahl, which placed 13th, while the 1,600-meter relay foursome of Kapral, Maki, Rucinski and Mat Yaggie placed 10th.

Valley Christian finished 10th in the 800-meter relay with the team of Wyatt Sawicki, Ethan Robson, Joshua Johnson and Isaiah Hyvonen.

Warrior individuals to qualify for sectionals were: Hyvonen, 10th in 200 meters, Jonah Menet, 12th in the 3,200 meters; Joshua Johnson, 14th in the long jump; and Jack O'Brien, 15th in the 800 meters.

Prep track

FROM PAGE 17

Academy's 400-meter relay team of Monse Luquin, Machiros, Rietz and Christina Agosto placed eighth.

Valley Christian will also be represented in La Crosse as Alaina Wojtkowski finished third in the 100 meters at Marathon to make her second state trip to state. She finished 10th in the event last season.

Valley Christian also received sectional finishes from: Lizzie Fink, 10th in the 100-meter hurdles and 11th in the 300-meter hurdles; Anna Giannopolous, seventh in the discus and 13th in the shot put; and Mya Moran, ninth in the 1,600 meters.

The Warriors also had their 400-meter relay team of Hayley Hill, Madelynn Busch, Raven Meyer and Wojtkowski take 13th.

Neither Lourdes Academy or Valley Christian qualified any boys for the state meet, although the Knights nearly had a

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Obituaries

Judith Ann Davies

Judith Ann Davies (Werner), age 84, of Oshkosh, entered into eternal life on May



30, 2025. Judy was born on November 17, 1940, in Seymour to Fred and Lucille Werner.

Judy graduated from Green Bay Technical School with a degree in nursing. She became a Licensed Practical Nurse and devoted nearly 50 years of her life to caring for others,

particularly the elderly and those with dementia, at the Evergreen Retirement Community in Oshkosh.

Judy married Thomas Davies on May 2, 1964, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Seymour. Their loving union was blessed with three daughters. Tragically, Judy became a widow at a young age when Thomas passed away in 1972. She dedicated her life to raising their daughters, infusing their lives with love and faith.

Judy became a born-again Christian on June 28, 1968, when she placed her faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ's atoning death, burial, and resurrection as pay-

ment for her sin debt and received the gift of eternal life.

To say Judy was an avid soul-winner would be an understatement. She would tell anyone who would listen about her Saviour and loved nothing more than explaining God's simple plan of salvation. She led scores of people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

She was a longstanding and active member of Wyldewood Baptist Church in Oshkosh, where she served in various capacities including Sunday School teacher, Bus Captain, and Deaf Interpreter. She also worked as a Teacher's Assistant at Wyldewood Christian School.

Judy was always a farmgirl at heart, a trait that translated into her love for gardening, canning, and yard work. Her strong work ethic was evident in all she undertook.

Judy is survived by her daughters, Kim (Tom) Brayton of Pickett, Tammy (Robert) Hatch of Butte des Morts, and Jill

(Travis) Shold of Superior; six grandchildren, Adam (Arlene) Spanbauer, Rachel (Joseph) Stewart, Kim (Samuel) Coman, Mark (Cassie), Troy (Hannah), and Aimee Shold; and 13 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Davies; her parents, Fred and Lucille Werner; her in-laws, Glen and Christine Davies; her siblings, Shirley Row, Mildred Kraning, Carol Pingle, David Werner, and Darrell Werner; and grandson Trevor Shold.

A funeral service, officiated by Reverends Randall King and Jason Brenenstuhl, will be held at Wyldewood Baptist Church, 3030 Witzel Ave, Oshkosh, WI on Tuesday, June 10th at 7:30 pm. Visitation will be prior to the service starting at 5:30 pm.

Judy's family would like to extend a special "thank you" to Moments Hospice in Appleton.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN FUNERAL HOMES

Theresea A. Klima

With deep sadness we announce the passing of Theresea "Terri" A. (Bradley)



Klima on May 30, 2025, after a brief and courageous battle with cancer. She was born on October 12, 1955, in Wisconsin to parents, David and Donna (Husiman) Bradley. Terri graduated from Omro High

School and married Craig Klima on May 19, 1989.

Terri worked at Bergstrom - Honda in Oshkosh as a parts coordinator for many years before retiring in 2023. She enjoyed tending to her garden, crocheting, crafting, and sewing blankets. She loved spending time with her grandchildren most of all. She will be remembered for her loving ways, caring nature, and wonderful sense of humor. She was independent but loved her rescue dog Lucy, a hound/lab mix.

She is survived by her children, Amanda (Drew) Van Der Linden and Brandon (Taylor) Klima; grandchildren, Carson, Brycen, Elliott and Croix; best friend and sister, Debbie (Brady) Johnston; sibling,

Dianne Rucks; nephew, Ty (Meredith) Johnston; as well as many other nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Proceeding her in death was her husband, Craig Klima; parents, David and Donna (Husiman) Bradley; siblings, Kathy Miller and Edward Raeder; as well as many other relatives and In-laws.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial is being established in her honor.

Per her wishes, no formal services are being held. She will be laid to rest next to her beloved Husband at Rushford Cemetery.

A special thank you to Debbie, Brady and Ty for all of the care and support they provided during this difficult time. Also, a thank you to Compassus Hospice, and the Michael D. Wachtel Cancer Center staff.

Mom- Thank you for being our rock, biggest supporter, our first phone call, our best friend, our home, the best grandma, and showing us endless love. The void in our life is deep without you. We miss you terribly and love you with all of our heart.

"There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be in my heart."

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Michael Koslowski In Loving Memory of Michael Koslowski



December 16, 1947 - May 18, 2025

Michael Koslowski, 77, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on May 18, 2025.

Born on December 16, 1947, in Neenah, Wisconsin, Michael dedicated his life to education, family, and faith. A proud graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stout, he went on to earn his master's degree and spent his career as a teacher in the Oshkosh Area School District, where he taught Industrial Technology and Driver's Education. His work left a lasting impression on generations of students, instilling in them practical skills, confidence, and lifelong lessons.

Michael was a devoted husband to Mary (Anders) Koslowski, and a loving father to Tanya, Jered, Terra, and Lisa. He is also survived by his sister Judy, who shared a deep and lasting bond with him throughout their lives.

A man of steadfast faith, Michael was an active member of New Life Community Church, where he found strength, community, and purpose. Michael was an avid sports fan. He grew up watching his uncle, Dave Koslo, pitch for the New York

Giants, but later his loyalty was to his favorite Wisconsin teams—the Green Bay Packers, Milwaukee Brewers, Milwaukee Bucks, and Wisconsin Badgers. When he wasn't teaching, he spent countless hours as a volunteer driving instructor for World Relief and coordinating rides for missionary pilots during EAA with MASA.

Michael's kindness, quiet strength, and humor will be missed by all who knew him.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, June 14th, 2025, at 10:00 AM followed by a reception at MillCity Church Oshkosh (formerly New Life Community Church), 3250 W 9th Ave, Oshkosh, WI 54904. All are welcome to join in remembering and honoring his life. A live-stream of the service will be available.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Chi Alpha Campus Missionary, Davana Boushele To donate or share memories of Michael, a memorial website has been established at www.everloved.com/memorial/michael-koslowski.

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Darlene Lyness

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Darlene Lyness on June 1,



2025, at Aurora Bay-Care Medical Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Born at home on March 10, 1940, in the Town of Helvetia, Waupaca County, Darlene was the beloved daughter of the late Elmer and Irma

(Dorow) Prellwitz.

Darlene Retired from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh in 1997. She also contributed her time by working part-time at J & T Services of NFDL.

On February 27, 1960, Darlene married Kenneth G. Lyness, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Together, they built a life filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories. Darlene enjoyed bowling, crafting, and embarking on adventures to Las Vegas and the various casinos throughout Wisconsin.

Darlene was a devoted member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Nekimi.

She is survived by four daughters, Cindy Verzal of Oshkosh, Kim (Dave) Butz of Fond Du Lac, Vickie (Thomas) Michels of Van Dyne, Cathy Jupp (Peter) of Iola; 12 grandchildren, Nicholas Braasch, Matt (Laura) Braasch, Emily (Tyler-friend) Braasch, Jeffery Pfeiffer, Nicole (Jacob) Frey, William Pfeiffer Tory Busch (Russell), Stephanie (Ryan) Lueck, Amanda (Eric) Kraus, Chris (Elyse) Michels, Betsy (Chris) Fischer, Amber (Tom) Lichtensteiger; 15 great-grandchildren, Beau, Brooklyn, Jeffery

Jr, Jackson, Mason, Taylor, Wyatt, Brinley, Austin, Raeann, Riley, Peyton, Bruce, Charlotte, Sophia, Chloe and Scarlett; one sister, Nancy (Roger) Wolf; two sisters-in-law, Judy Schultz and Marcia Galicia; along with several nieces and nephews.

Darlene is preceded in death by her husband, parents; in-laws, Ray and Ruby Lyness; two brothers, Lester (Trudy) and LeRoy Prellwitz; sister, Arvilla (Andy) Andreson; grandson, Bill Pfeiffer; two brothers-in-law, Don Schultz and Tom Galicia.

A visitation for Darlene will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 9:00 am, at St. John's Lutheran Church of Nekimi, 491 Old Oregon Rd, Oshkosh, until the start of the funeral service at 11:00 am.

Interment at St. John's Lutheran of Nekimi Cemetery will follow.

Memorials are being established in Darlene's name.

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Obituaries

Kenneth K. Ruedinger

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Kenneth K. Ruedinger, a beloved husband, father, and friend, who left us on May 25, 2025, at the age of 94. He was born to the late Oscar and Caroline (Binder) Ruedinger on August 30, 1930, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Ken spent his entire life in this community, where he made lasting memories and meaningful contributions.

Ken was a proud member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and dedicated 37 years to working at Kimberly Clark; while he was simultaneously the owner and operator of Master TV, where his hard work and innovative spirit shone through.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Ken was drafted during the Korean Conflict. Outside of work and service, Ken was passionate about physical fitness, an integral part of his life that reflected his strong work ethic and dedication. He was not just a gym enthusiast; starting early in high school sports such as baseball, football, boxing, and swimming, he was a true believer in the importance of health and wellness.

Ken explored the world with his be-

loved wife, Audrey. He also cared about his friends and especially the beloved Poker Night. His love for Audrey and her passion for nature led them to own and develop property into beautiful native Wisconsin woodlands and wetland, affectionally called Prairie Meadows, a testament to his commitment to preserving the beauty of this world.

Ken is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Audrey Hildebrand; children, Kay (Dennis) Malchow; Amy Ruedinger, and Moss Ruedinger; grandchildren, Porter and Zayne Ruedinger; sister, Lorraine "Poppy" Hertzberg; Irene (George) Wood; sister-in-law, Barbara Ruedinger. He is further survived by his brother-in-law, Donald (Rosemary) Hildebrand as well as many nieces, nephews and friends.

In addition to his parents, Ken was preceded in death by brother, Jerome Ruedinger; brother-in-law, Richard Hertzberg.

A service for Ken will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes- West (100 Lake Pointe Dr) on Thursday, June 5, 2025. A time of visitation will be held from 12PM until the time of service at 1pm.

In lieu of flowers the family requests you plant your favorite tree in Ken's honor.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

Janice Jean Schrank

Janice Jean "JJ" Schrank, age 73, of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully on May 24, 2025 at Parkview Health Care Center. She was born on May 23, 1952 in Oshkosh, a daughter of the late Ferdinand and Doris (Turner) Schrank.

Janice greatly enjoyed puzzles and card games and cats were her favorite pets. JJ will also be remembered for her time spent at the Jockey Club and Honey Bee for a smile and a pepsi and Karmali's occasionally for an "apple pie" shot or drink on rocks.

She will be sadly missed by her family who cared for her for years and the friends she made throughout her lifetime. She is survived by and her memory will be

cherished by two sisters, Cheryl (Jim) La-Fontaine and Donna (Hans) Czipri, both of Oshkosh. She is further survived by two sister-in-laws, Judy Schrank and Sharon Schrank; other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by brothers, Russ, Allyn (Karen) Schrank, Dick (Billie) Schrank, Keith Schrank, Donald Schrank and Sharon Schrank.

Private family services will be held.

The family would like to thank the staff at Parkview Health Care Center, Lakeside 1 for the wonderful care that Janice received.

FISS & BILLS - POKLASNY
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& CREMATORY

Sharon L. Phillips

Sharon L. Phillips passed away on May 20, 2025, at Mercy Medical Center, Oshkosh, WI. She was born December 3, 1950, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin to Virginia and Howard Freund.

Sharon graduated from Sheboygan High School in 1969. Sharon was briefly married in 1974. She went on to work and make many friends at Buckstaff until she retired in 2011.

Sharon had many "Sharonisms" such as "Okay, well, bye" and "Helloooo" and a high-pitched laugh that went Ha Ha Ha. Her family and friends remember her fondly using and continue to use these

"Sharonisms." She enjoyed throwing darts and horseback riding, and she even owned her own horse, Sundance.

Sharon is survived by her daughter, Jennifer; cousin, Missy Hansen and all of the Doule cousins; and many nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Virginia; three brothers, Terry, Ricky and Ken; as well as many uncles, aunts, and cousins.

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

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Obituaries

William Kenneth Miller
William Kenneth Miller, 59, of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully in his home on Monday, May 26, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. Born on April 17, 1966, in Oshkosh, WI, Bill’s presence lit up every room, leaving a mark on all who had the pleasure of knowing him.


Bill’s childhood memories were filled with laughter and adventure. Growing up, he spent countless hours at the local Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA. When he wasn’t spending time there, he enjoyed hunting and fishing. During these early years he was fortunate enough to find four amazing men he considered family, Dick Kuehn, Tom Rusch, Bob Albright Sr and Rodger Ludwig who played a major role in his life.

Bill married Deanne Becker in January of 1997. Though they divorced, they remained close friends and business partners throughout his life.

Bill was a proud father of three girls and always joked that it was God’s way of getting even with him. Despite his jokes Bill loved his daughters more than anything in the world. He took great pride in their accomplishments and loved cheering them on in sports growing up. Some of his favorite memories included attending Packer games, traveling to Na-

ples, and supporting local businesses by eating out.
An entrepreneur at heart, Bill was involved in many businesses throughout his life, most recently NTD and Badgerland Connections. His genuine love for the Oshkosh community shone through in everything he did. Whether serving on city council, supporting the Boys and Girls Club or helping with the parks department, his passion for his hometown was evident.
Bill was truly the life of the party, always ready with a joke and a smile to brighten the room. He was constantly surrounded by friends and always ready to have a good

Michael G. Brennand
Michael G. “Bucky” Brennand, age 69, passed away with his family at his side on March 16, 2025.
Mike’s family would like to announce that there will be a “business meeting” (as Mike called gatherings) on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at the Van Dyne Lions Park Pavillion to celebrate his life. The meeting (gathering) of family and friends will begin at 10:00 am and end at 3:00 pm. Food and refreshments will be served.



FISS & BILLS - POKLASNY
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time or lend a hand when others were in need.
Bill is survived by his beloved daughters, Megan Miller, Claire Miller, and Katelyn Miller, and his grandchild, Briggs Miller. He also leaves behind his loving sisters, Lisa (Rick) Stiebs and Gail (Jeff) Miller; and the mother of his children, Deanne Miller; and many cherished nieces and nephews.
He was preceded in death by his parents Gloria and Don Miller; his sister Susan Asfaw; and his grandparents.

James E. Smith
James E. Smith, age 83 of Oshkosh, passed away at Bethel Home on Tuesday, May 13, 2025. He was born in Oshkosh on April 23, 1942 to the late James and Leona Smith. James was united in marriage to Sharon Diestler and had three children, he later married Jean Lett and had one child.
A big sports fan, James had a special place in his heart for baseball, golf, and bowling. He loved cheering on his son and great-grandson from the stands at baseball games, and his loyalty to the Milwaukee Brewers and Green Bay Packers was unmatched. Anyone who knew him knew how much he adored Brett Favre!
James is survived by his children, Debbie (Mike) Becker, Dan (Beth) Smith,

His laughter, enthusiasm, and infectious love for life will be dearly missed. Cheers to you, Bill—you truly lived life to the fullest!
The family would like to thank Ray Mauer, Dean Smith, Todd Boyce, Mike Ganther, and the Aurora Hospice Staff for making sure he was cared for and comfortable during his last days.
In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to The Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh in Bill’s memory. <https://bg-cosh.org/support/donate/>

Sue Hinz and Jamie (Stacy) Smith; step-children, Rick Lett and Shane (Lisa) Lett; twelve grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren; sisters, Joan (Gary) Wesenberg and Jeanette Pochojka.
In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Judy Dunn; first wife, Sharon Williams; second wife, Jean Smith and stepdaughter Amber Apps.
A celebration of life for James will be held from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 14, 2025 at Winkler’s Westward Ho, 4905 County Hwy S, Oshkosh, WI 54904.
A heartfelt thank you goes out to the amazing staff at Bethel Home for their compassion and care during James’s final days. He will be missed greatly and remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

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

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Garage/Estate Sales

Friday June 6th and June 7th, 8:00AM to 4:00PM: Lots of Home Interior items, kitchen items such as microwave, Tupperware, glasses etc. Record player and albums (over 100), chest freezer, suitcases with wheels, lawn items, lamps, Lawn chairs, tools: Drill press, 4 cycle pressure washer gas, 2 cycle tiller, Toro gas 22 electric start lawnmower, chop saw, 59" snowshoes with straps, dresser, cedar chest, child's two-wheel bike and much more. 827 Eastman Street, Oshkosh.

Neighborhood Garage Sales! 1297 & 1309 Kewaunee St (off Old Omro Rd). Something for Everyone and Great Prices!! Wed. 6/4, Thurs. 6/5, Fri. 6/6 (8-4). Rain or Shine!

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Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: Raymond Kenneth Stieg
Notice and Order for Name

Change Hearing Case No. 2025CV000452

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Raymond Kenneth Stieg
To: Avery Kenneth Stieg
Birth Certificate: Raymond Kenneth Stieg

IT IS ORDERED:
This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin:
Judge's Name: Hon. Daniel J. Bissett
Place: Winnebago County Courthouse, 5th Floor, 415 Jackson Street, Room 531 Oshkosh, WI 54901
Date: June 19, 2025
Time: 11:30 am

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4912 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: May 6, 2025 /s/ Hon. Daniel J. Bissett Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 6
Runs: May 21, 2025, May 28, 2025 and June 4, 2025

WNAXLP
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE

NAME CHANGE OF: Hannah Nang

Amended Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2025CV000227

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Hannah Nang
To: Nanghannah Jēju Jireh
Birth Certificate: Hannah

IT IS ORDERED:
This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin:
Judge's Name: Hon. Michael D. Rust
Place: 415 Jackson Street, Room 410 Oshkosh, WI 54903
Date: July 22, 2025
Time: 11:30 am

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 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: May 13, 2025 /s/ Hon. Michael D. Rust Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 1
Runs: May 21, 2025, May 28, 2025 and June 4, 2025

WNAXLP
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE

NAME CHANGE OF: Nang Jan Hom By (Petitioner): Ja Nu By (Co-Petitioner): Sai Long Jireh

Amended Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2025CV000228

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Nang Jan Hom
To: Nangsarah Mewan Jireh
Birth Certificate: Nang Jan Hon

IT IS ORDERED:
This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin:
Judge's Name: Hon. Michael D. Rust
Place: 415 Jackson Street, Room 410 Oshkosh, WI 54903
Date: July 22, 2025
Time: 11:30 am


If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 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: May 13, 2025 /s/ Hon. Michael D. Rust Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 1
Runs: May 21, 2025, May 28, 2025 and June 4, 2025

WNAXLP

Public Notice Invasive Plant Control Project

In coordination with a private landowner, an aquatic approved herbicide treatment to control non-native Cattail (*Typha x glauca*), Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), non-native Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), and Glossy Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*) is scheduled to commence as early as June of 2025 and to be completed by October 31, 2025. Treatment efforts will occur on a private mitigation bank located off Brooks Rd in Oshkosh, WI. Adjacent landowners of the mitigation site will receive notice and have access to the Aquatic Management Plan (APM). Treatments will be completed using aquatic approved surfactants and herbicides. Active ingredients Triclopyr, 2,4-D and Glyphosate are anticipated to be used onsite. Chemical applications will be performed by a state herbicide licensed contractor. Applications may include the use of a UTV mounted spray tank and with selective backpack treatments. Roughly 14.8 acres within the private mitigation site will be treated for the target species listed above. A public information meeting on the proposed herbicide application can be requested by local landowners or others with an interest in this project. The request must be made in writing within five days of this notice. Send request to Jon Gumtow at jon.gumtow@merjent.com.

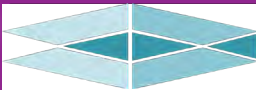
Runs: June 4, 2025
WNAXLP



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MOSQUITO ALERT!

Watch out! Summertime is also mosquito time. Millions of mosquitoes are out there. And they're looking for their favorite food: **YOUR BLOOD!**

The Four Stages of a Mosquito's Life Cycle


STAGE 1: EGG

Female mosquitoes lay about 200 eggs on the surface of water. The eggs stick together and make a tiny raft.




STAGE 2: LARVAE

After just one warm day, larvae hatch from each egg. They look like tiny, wiggling worms. Some people call them wigglers!



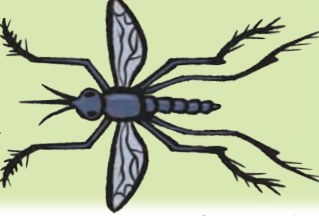
STAGE 3: PUPA

After a larva is grown, it changes shape and becomes a pupa. The pupa breathes air through a tube that it holds above the water's surface while tumbling around in the water.



STAGE 4: ADULT

It takes as little as one and a half warm days for a pupa to become an adult, flying mosquito.



Is there a way to stop mosquitoes?

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Mosquito abatement specialists study the life cycle of a mosquito and then try to kill them before they become flying adults.

Stage 2 Strategy

The best time to battle the bug is at the larva stage. Mosquito abatement teams often put mosquito-larvae-eating fish in the ponds and puddles where female mosquitoes have laid eggs.

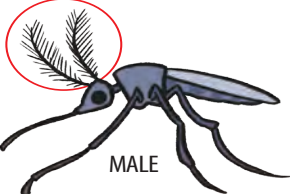
Leave your spider friends in peace. We like to eat mosquitoes before they eat you!



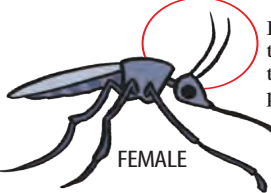
Vive la difference!

Which mosquitoes are males and which are females? It is important to know because only one sex drinks blood.

Look closely at the head. Between the eyes are the antennae. They can sense sounds and odors. Male antennae are feathery. The female mosquito has long thread-like antennae.



MALE



FEMALE

Do you see a tiny, straw-like tube sticking out between the antennae? That is the proboscis, or mouth. The female uses this to drink blood. Male mosquitoes feed on plant juices and flower nectar.

Extra! Extra! Mosquito Math

Pretend each letter of the alphabet has points. For example, A=1, B=2, C=3, and so on. How many points would the word "mosquito" be worth? Look through the newspaper for five words worth more than "mosquito" and five words worth fewer points.

Standards Link: Math: Find the sum of numbers up to 200.

Hold this page up to a mirror to discover a surprising mosquito fact!

otniupzom 9lsm9t A
E ot qu 9muvznos n6o
ni trlpiew zti 9omit
6 prnub boold
!l9em 9lgniz


Standards Link:

Life Science: Animals have structures that serve different functions in survival.


Let's Draw

Follow these steps to draw a cartoon mosquito.


1




2



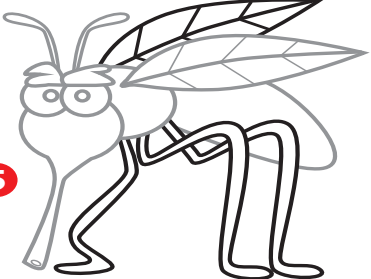
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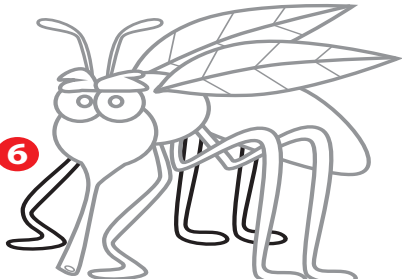
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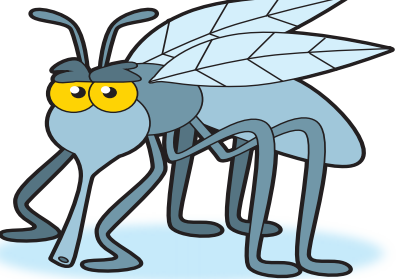


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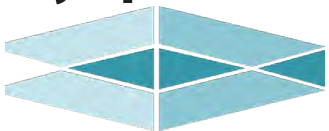
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Calendar of Events - 11-13

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Ultimate Daycation

Cruisin' Tikis Tours brings taste of the tropics

By Cassidy Johnson

Cruisin' Tikis Oshkosh has brought a tropical vacation experience feel to Oshkosh.

The cruises are considered the first of its kind in Wisconsin and the "ultimate daycation" spot for fun with friends and family this summer.

A family-owned business, Joe and Tammy Lefebber started the company in 2022 with the help of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh's (UWO) Small Business Development Center (SBDC) after getting the inspiration from seeing one in Key West, Fla. COVID hit shortly after, and with the extra time working from home, Joe began forming a plan and slowly "building an empire in his mind," as his wife described it.

"I decided I would only do it if the city of Oshkosh allowed us to run a business off the water," Tammy said. "I came [originally] for college at UWO and never left. [Now we have] a unique business in the city that we love."

As suggested by the name, Cruisin' Tikis are floating tiki bars that combine the quintessential summer experiences of boating, watching the sunset and drinking at a tiki bar.

The tiki boat fits up to six people at about \$50 per person, and every trip is two hours long. Docked at Fox River Brewing, boat-goers can also feel free to grab a bite before or after setting sail.

"We typically like to go about an hour toward Lake Winnebago and get a little more of that local, scenic city tour," said Tammy. "Then we come back, stop at Fox River brewing in case anyone wants to do a restroom stop [or] grab a drink."

Next, the captain will take passengers down Lake Butte des Morts and underneath the Highway 41 bridge.

McKenzie Moore, an Oshkosh resident and UW-Oshkosh student, said this was one of the highlights of the tour.

"One of my favorite parts was when we went under the highway bridge and the captain showed us all of the murals of fish we could catch in those waters," Moore said. "It was cool to be able to

see parts of Oshkosh I've never seen before."

Beyond showing guests neat and otherwise hidden history, the surrounding nature also provides a beautiful view.

"It's a lot slower and scenic, it's really beautiful," Tammy said. "[It's] probably the most Instagrammable place in Oshkosh."

While the route is the same, Cruisin' Tikis offers four different types of two-hour cruises based on the vibe guests want for their get-together or event.

For those looking to start their daycation sooner rather than later, they can choose the "Sight Sea-ing" tour from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or the "Why Limit Happy to an Hour" tour from 2-4 p.m.

Otherwise, they can get the party started at the "It's 5 O'clock Somewhere" cruise from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., or experience the Sunset Cruise, perfect for anything from a pregame to a romantic proposal.

Regardless of which tour is picked, the Lefebbers said personable customer service stays the same.

"I always tell people; I'm your DJ, I'm your bartender (A.K.A. Tiki Tender, as named by the owners' youngest son), I'm your captain..." Joe said. "I can do everything you need, and you can just enjoy the trip."

Truly a one-stop-shop, Moore personally felt the hospitality described while on the cruise.

"The people who did it were very welcoming and tried to make us comfortable," Moore said. "[They] made the experience very relaxing by offering to grab drinks and taking photos for us." One difference with this tiki bar versus other experiences is that this one is BYOB, or bring-your-own-booze.

"I think it's an advantage," Tammy said. "Instead of us trying to make \$20 blender drinks, you can literally bring whatever you like."

She said another advantage is that the speakers are bluetooth-



See Tiki Tours, page 4



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TIKI TOURS

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capable, allowing passengers to play whatever music they desire.

"[Bachelorette] parties tend to come with their own, like, music. So that's always fun," Tammy said. "They have a playlist ready." Another way the owners said they create a customizable experience for their guests is by adding decorations and by going above and beyond whenever they can.

"One time a girl flew her husband's parents in as a surprise for his 40th birthday," Tammy said. "She called and asked if she could decorate the boat, and we brought and put [the parents] in the Tiki shirts and the captain's hats and had them standing with their backs to the dock. [When] they turned around, it was his parents."

As it turns out, going above and beyond makes the experience better not only for the guests, but also for the owners.

"We all started crying, including me," she added. "It was so cute being able to be part of people's memories like that and their special moments and helping make things a little extra special."

Whether guests are looking for a relaxing cruise with friends, a chance to reconnect with family or a party on the water, Cruisin' Tikis has something for all needs and all ages.

"Our tagline [and goal] is, 'putting smiles on people's faces one cruise at a time,'" Joe said.

Visit cruisintikisoshkosh.com for more information and to book a cruise.



Spent a beautiful summer night cruising around the lake with a Tiki Tour.

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ATLAS

Your Local Guide to Arts, Dining & Entertainment

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Electric Energy and Excitement on Stage

Waterfest Rocks On: Supporting local artists & the community

By Cassidy Johnson

The sunset spills over the Fox River, and as visitors meet with a friend, drink in hand, a breeze that brushes past their face carries an electric anticipation and excitement from the stage.

Waterfest has been bringing this electric energy and excitement to the stage, and to the overall city of Oshkosh for almost 40 years.

With the idea stemming from the 1986 economic recession, Waterfest has brought a lot more than just awesome vibes to the city of Oshkosh. It has also brought great economic revival to the city.

"We wanted to remind the communities that this is a great place to live, work and play," Waterfest president Michael Dempsey said. "What we wanted to do was to create an atmosphere of positivity and confidence that was eroded as a result of the economic situation."

Waterfest was seen as a way to help invigorate the riverfront and downtown area in an attempt to endorse the city as a desirable place to live, and they used the area's biggest natural asset to help promote it.

"The community [decided to] accentuate our most significant natural resource as a differentiator, our waterways," Dempsey said. "So they said, well, let's accentuate the waterways. The motivation at the core is community and economic development."

From there, Waterfest was born. To this day, Waterfest still continues to revitalize the city through its energetic live music performances.

June 12 is opening night, and the band Hairball is launching the festivities with big hair, pyrotechnics and high-energy '70s and '80s rock n' roll.

With gates opening at 5:45 p.m., tickets are \$30 for standing-room only VIP, \$20 for general admission and \$10 for fans who get in line before 6 p.m. Teachers can also get in free on opening night with a school ID. Ticket prices may vary depending on the show.

Australian-based band The Cat Empire will be playing their Caribbean and Latin-inspired pop-ska fusion music perfect for summer listening.

"If you like something a little less nostalgic, come on [June] 26

for the Cat Empire. You'll go crazy," Dempsey said. "It's killer music, and it's a great live show."

Fans can also check out Copper Box and Kate Voss and the Hot Sauce on June 26 to listen to and support some local artists from Wisconsin.

Next up is award-winning Marcia Ball accompanied by the Jimmy's, another Wisconsin-based band, with some New Orleans swing and jazz on July 10.

Earlier that day, there will be performances by Rising Phoenix, an Oshkosh-based band, and Alex McMurray band with Paul Sanchez.

"It's an all-star band with all-star

See Waterfest, page 23



Crowds gather at the Leach Amphitheater on Thursday nights in the summer for the Waterfest music series.

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Sovereign State Days celebrates the lost village of Winneconne

By Cassidy Johnson

It was a bitter winter day, and a travelling salesman from Milwaukee was getting colder— and more lost— by the second.

He was trying to make his way to Winneconne, but couldn't seem to find the humble fishing community anywhere on the map, just a dot where it used to be.

Eventually finding it somewhere between Omro and Butte des Morts, the guy (a printing salesman, ironically), told the townspeople that the newly-printed highway maps had forgotten Winneconne.

Led by Vera Kitchen, Winneconne's Chamber of Commerce sent letters to Gov. Knowles and the map makers. "[They] basically said, 'hey, we demand to be put back on the map. How is this little fishing community going to stay afloat if people can't find us?'" said Jordan Dunham, Winneconne local and longtime President of the Sovereign state board.

The Governor denied this appeal on account of all the maps already being printed and sent out, and the townspeople realized that they had to take bold action.

On July 21, 1967, the village of Winneconne declared a seces-

sion from Wisconsin.

With the governor finally taking them seriously, they agreed they would add extra signage on highways 41 and 110 to make up for the loss of tourism.

The village celebrated their victory with their first-ever Sovereign State Days the next day, complete with a parade, pancakes, and even a flag-raising ceremony.

They even created their own flag with their own "state" animals and plants and their "state" slogan, "Winneconne: We like it Where?"

"[It's] because the 1967 map that left us off was titled, 'Wisconsin: We like it here,'" Dunham said. "That's our little joke."

Fifty-eight years later, Winneconne still celebrates their community's boldness and their "little claim-to-fame" as Dunham calls it with the same parade and pancake breakfast during what they call their 'Sovereign State Days.'

It really just celebrates Winneconne's uniqueness of being left off the state highway map and our little claim to fame," Dunham said.

While Winneconne works hard to keep the celebration true to its origins, the event has evolved with its residents throughout the years, and they've added a lot more events and festivities since to make the celebration bigger and better for its residents.

"Today, we put on about a \$60,000 event," he said. "Everything happens through local donations from very generous people and businesses."

In addition to the historical parade and pancake breakfast, Winneconne's Sovereign State Days has since added concerts, an artisan fair, a steak cookoff, a petting zoo, and many more activities and events spanning from July 17 to July 20.

On Thursday, they have "Family Fun Night" at Waterfront Park starting at 5 p.m., complete with food trucks and meal vouchers for kids 17 and under, an archery range, and the Winneconne school district FFA's 'Good Dairy Golf,' which is a "mini putt-putt golf they set up for the kids," according to Dunham.

Friday, July 18 the Winneconne Pyrotechnics team will light up the sky, but before that, TBD performances will light up the stage at Waterfront Park, courtesy of the Winneconne Men's Club and the StoneRidge Piggly Wiggly Round Up.

Saturday is the day of the iconic parade, starting at 10:30 a.m. on Main Street.

"Our parade is very well known to surrounding communities," Dunham said. "We probably draw in about 10,000 people into our community throughout the weekend."

There will also be food trucks available all day at Marble Park, where they will also have an artisan fair with homemade goods and crafts, a petting zoo, a tractor pull, and much more.

For their third year in a row, they will also be holding their steak-cookoff in Marble Park hosted by the State Cook-Off Association (SCA), but they're adding something new this year.

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Family and friends line up to enjoy the iconic annual parade.

"We're going to have up to 40 tents set up right after the Artisan Fair that people can walk down and ask questions," Dunham said. "It's a really unique competition. We draw people in from different states for this."

The day's festivities will music on the Beiser Realty Stage later in that afternoon.

A perfect way to kick off the last sovereign state day, they will have the nostalgic pancake breakfast at Marble Park and followed by a visit from Mischief and Magic to entertain the youngsters.

After a tasty breakfast, feel free to stick around, grab a beer, and enjoy the live music by 4 North Acoustic under the Beiser Realty Stage.

During music intermission, you can also participate in their meat raffle. Otherwise, families with children can head over to Wolf River Resort for the Kids Fishing Contest.

For some much-needed relaxation and reflection after the crazy weekend, attendees of all denominations and religious backgrounds can head over to the ecumenical Sunset Worship Service at Lake Winneconne Park Gazebo at 7 p.m.

"It doesn't matter what your belief is, just come to worship the Lord," Dunham said. "A [church leader] preaches and does a service for everyone right at sunset. It's really beautiful."

While the point was, and still is, to create it bigger and better for Winneconne locals, the growing event has also caught the eye of surrounding areas, and they welcome residents from surrounding communities to check it out.

No matter how much it grows, however, Dunham says the event will always be, at its core, for the local community. "It's really about the community, that's why we do it. That's why I do it," Dunham said. "I don't do it for the pat on the back, but to see everyone smiling, having a good time, talking to their friends and family that they haven't seen in a while, enjoying the music, and enjoying the atmosphere of Winneconne."



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Choose Your Farmers Market Vibe

Big & Bustling or Small & Scenic?

By Cassidy Johnson

Winnebago County has two vibrant summer farmers markets in Oshkosh and Neenah to check out.

Kicking off Saturday, June 7 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. is the Oshkosh Downtown Farmers Market on the 400 and 500 blocks of Main Street, featuring over 100 vendors.

"On any given Saturday, including early season and late season, we'll have 80 to 90 vendors," market manager Michelle Schmid-Schultz said. "Last year, we ended up right at 100. We never got below 100 after the third week of June, and peak season we'll hit around 140."

The market has a wide range of vendors, including farmers, food trucks, coffee roasters, bakers, crafters and more, as well as having live music every Saturday with a variety of different genres.

The Oshkosh Farmers Market will have many of the same fan-favorite vendors, such as Aviator Coffee Co. and their specialty coffees and over five different egg roll vendors, but they've also added a lot of new vendors this year.

"I'm really excited for our food trucks this year," Schmid-Schultz said. "It'll be like a trip around the world every Saturday."



An aerial view of booths set up for the Neenah Farmers Market.

Visitors can snack their way around the world and try out food from Indian Peaks, Moray Gelato, Gigi African Neighborhood, a new Parm food truck and more.

Afterwards, they can burn off some calories and browse the many crafts and goods from local artists of all ages, a perfect way to get unique pieces while also supporting the community.

"Everyone at the market who vends has a reason," Schmid-Schultz said. "They're not just there for fun. I mean, they're paying for college or making ends meet or supplementing retirement or trying to save the family farm."

Sponsored by a grant from the Oshkosh Rotary this year, the Oshkosh Farmers Market has a "Youth Entrepreneur Program" dedicated to providing kids with the real-life opportunity and experience of owning their own business beyond a lemonade stand on the street corner.

Kids sell a variety of items including bracelets, granola and even lemonade.

Beyond providing kids with this entrepreneurial opportunity, the farmers market has found many ways to give back to the community.

One way is through their harvest program, in which the vendors donate still-fresh produce they won't be able to sell by next week's market.

Another is through their EBT program. "Our EBT program is one of the 14th largest in the state," Schmid-Schultz said. "Last year, we generated \$32,000 in revenue for our food vendors at the market, both agricultural and homemade food vendors."

They also work with the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and the Winnebago Literacy Council to provide immigrants with resources to encourage them to come to the market.

"We have a lot of immigrants and refugees in the community, and outdoor shopping and looking for fresh food daily is part of a lot of their cultures," Schmid-Schultz said. "What we find is there's language barriers and service barriers, so we have different programs that [help] bring them down to the market."

A non-profit organization, they do all this and more while operating the entire farmers market solely on vendor fees, sponsorships and donations.

Being an independent organization, however, allows the organizers to have more freedom at the farmers market.

"Because we have more control over what we can and cannot do, I think that's what sets us apart from other markets," she said. "We can do what we feel makes a successful market. We focus on agriculture, but we also [like to] focus on community."



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Farmers Markets in both Oshkosh (left) and Neenah (right) are popular places for an array of shoppers.

Doing all this is no easy feat, but Schmid-Schultz says the people make it all worth it.

"I mean, essentially my job is to make 10,000 people happy every Saturday morning," she said. "9,900 of them usually are, and that's really cool. It's the people, the vendors. I get to be a part of people's businesses, [and] seeing all the smiles is amazing."

Future Neenah Farmers Market - The next weekend, Neenah will open their farmers market on June 14 from 8 a.m. to noon at Shattuck Park on East Wisconsin Avenue, an event that the nonprofit organization Future Neenah has been putting on for over 30 years.

Due to the growing market, they will also be expanding this year to the west into the parking lots nearby.

While the larger farmers market in Oshkosh is great for an all-day excursion, organizers said Neenah's more quaint market is perfect for a more chill outing.

"We're right by the water, so you can pull up on your boat and buy all your fresh produce for the week which I think is pretty awesome," said Michelle Dunning, outreach and development

director for Future Neenah.

With over 50 vendors, Dunning said the market is a good size without being overwhelming.

"Some people just zip in, get what they need, and they're done for the day," she said. "I think that's definitely what sets us apart and what makes it unique and fun."

Something else Dunning said that sets them apart is that everything in their market is handmade and home-grown.

"I think that's what's awesome, too; you're not going to find stuff there that isn't homemade," Dunning said.

Future Neenah is bringing back fan-favorites such as Allen's Produce, but they also like to make sure the market has a lot of variety.

"It's a good mix of things," she said. "Our events coordinator, Meredith [Rathe], does a really nice job of lining up a good variety of foods, crafts and produce."

The event also features live music every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon, adding an ambience to a morning stroll through the market. They also have "Kid's Days" June 28 and Sept 27, complete with bouncy houses and face painting.

To reward loyal customers, they have a Farmer's Market loyalty card in which patrons can check in at the info booth and receive stamps. After 5 stamps, patrons receive a free gift, and after 10 they receive \$5 in tokens to spend at the market.

"It's just a fun way for us to reward our frequent local shoppers," Dunning said.

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See What's On Stage

Attic Theatre continues long community theater run

By Cassidy Johnson

A masters graduate in speech and drama unknowingly started a legacy 75 years ago this March after identifying the need for community theater in the Fox Valley.

In June 1950, Zoe Clark and her family founded Appleton's first community theater troupe in the attic of their house, naming it the Attic Theatre.

Several decades later, the Attic Theatre, Inc. is still going, making it the longest-running community theater in the Fox Valley.

Pam Saulnier, head of marketing for Attic Theatre, said that "75 years is a rare and amazing lifespan for community theater," so achieving this was no easy feat, especially without ever having a permanent home.

In the beginning, Attic Theatre did not have a designated place at all, but instead played at multiple different venues throughout the community.

Now 75 years later, these humble beginnings have come full circle with the closing of the University of Wisconsin Fox Cities campus in June, and subsequently the theater group's venue at the campuses' Arts & Communications building.

According to the group's website, they've "embraced this challenge, and are excited to announce a new partnership with businesses across the Fox Valley" for their 75th anniversary.

The Attic Theatre will be presenting *The Book of Will* with showings at 7 p.m. on June 12-14 and 18-20 and 2 p.m. on June 21 at Xavier High School in Appleton.

Written by Lauren Gunderson, *The Book of Will* is a play about the true story of two of William Shakespeare's friends attempting to save his work post-death for posterity.

"They work to compile the First Folio of Shakespeare's plays, but have to borrow, beg and band together to do it," Saulnier said about the play. "It's a story of love and loss, and of laughter and friendship."

The Attic will next be showing *Kiss Me, Kate* at 7 p.m. July 17-19 and July 23-25 and at 2 p.m. July 26 at Neenah High School. Based on the book by Bella and Sam Spewack and paired with the music and lyrics by Cole Porter, the show is a lively and comedic metadrama about a theatre troupe performing a musical version of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*.

Drama ensues when two bickering— but secretly smitten— ex-lovers are both cast as leads in the musical.

"With music, dancing, romance, misunderstandings, and behind-the-scenes chaos, *Kiss Me, Kate* is a hilarious and high energy show," Saulnier said. "It originally premiered on Broadway in 1948 and has been successfully revived several times over the years."

Despite venue challenges, the Attic Theatre has also managed to keep ticket prices affordable at only \$25 a ticket per person. "Attic Theatre is dedicated to creating live theatre that is affordable," said Saulnier. "That's an important but challenging mission, considering the reality that ticket prices never cover all the expenses of producing a play."

Attic Theatre is able to keep ticket prices low through the help of local donors and sponsorships, such as the Wisconsin Arts Board and the National Endowment for the Arts.

"Our audiences, and those who participate onstage/backstage, are all 'neighbors'."

"Community theatre, by definition, is created by and for the community," she said. "Our audiences, and those who participate onstage and backstage, are all 'neighbors' in a sense."

It's this community that organizers said makes the Attic Theatre so magical.

"Residents of Northeast Wisconsin [get to] come together to create theatre productions," the group said, "which gives them the wonderful opportunity to take part in live performing arts and also build friendships and memories that will last well beyond the end of the show."



ATTIC THEATRE PRESENTS



June 12-20
7:00 pm

June 21
2:00 pm

Xavier High School
Appleton

July 17-25
7:00 pm

July 26
2:00 pm

Neenah High School



KISS ME, KATE

Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter
Book by Sam and Bella Spewack

KISS ME, KATE is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC. www.concordtheatricals.com



For more information and tickets, scan the code or go to:
attictheatreinc.com

CALENDAR of EVENTS



EVERY SATURDAY

Oshkosh Farmers Market • 8am-12:30pm
400 & 500 blocks of Downtown Oshkosh

Future Neenah Farmers Market • 8am-12pm
Shattuck Park • 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Farmers Market Pitstop • 8am-1pm
Elsewhere Market & Coffee • 531 N Main St, Oshkosh

JUNE

June 2 **Retrograde - The Spirit of 70s Rock Returns**
The Grand Oshkosh • 7:30pm • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

June 3-6 **MJ The Musical** • 7:30pm
Fox Cities Performing Arts Center
400 W College Ave, Appleton

June 4 **"Elsewhere in Bloom" Fresh Flower PopUp Bar** • 7am-3pm
Elsewhere Market & Coffee • 531 N Main St, Oshkosh

June 5 **Patio Summer Music Series Kickoff Party** • 5-8pm
featuring Big and Tall
Batley's Grill & Bar • 1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

June 6 **Food Truck Friday** • 4:30pm
South Park • 1035 W South Park Ave, Oshkosh

June 6 **Brad Emanuel** • 6-9pm
Fin 'n Feather • 22 W Main St, Winneconne

June 7 **Atomic 78** • 6-9pm
Fin 'n Feather • 22 W Main St, Winneconne

June 7 **June Art Activity Day - Mosaic Coaster** • 10-2pm
Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass
165 N Park Ave, Neenah

June 7 **MJ The Musical** • 2pm & 7:30pm
Fox Cities Performing Arts Center
400 W College Ave, Appleton

June 7 **14th Annual Veterans Benefit and Ride** • 10am
Winnebago Detachment #357
Marine Corps League, 4715 Sherman Rd, Oshkosh

June 8 **MJ The Musical** • 1pm & 6:30pm
Fox Cities Performing Arts Center
400 W College Ave, Appleton

June 9-12 **Art Camp for ages 8-11** • 12:30-4:30pm
Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass
165 N Park Ave, Neenah

June 11 **The Glam Band** • 6-9pm
Downtown Neenah, Wisconsin Ave

June 11 **"Elsewhere in Bloom" Fresh Flower PopUp Bar** • 7am-3pm
Elsewhere Market & Coffee • 531 N Main St, Oshkosh

June 12-14 **The Importance of Being Earnest** • 7pm
presented by Oshkosh Community Players
The Grand Oshkosh • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

June 12-20 **The Book of Will** • 7pm
Xavier Fine Arts Theatre, 1600 W Prospect Ave, Appleton

June 12 **Waterfest HAIRBALL!** • 6pm
Leach Amphitheatre • 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh,

June 12 **Kit Menagerie** • 5-8pm
Batley's Grill & Bar • 1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

June 14 **RINGS Band** • 5-8pm
Batley's Grill & Bar • 1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

June 14 **Udderly Euro 2025 Car Show** • 1:30-5:30pm
Shattuck Park • 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

June 14 **Jay Edward Band** • 6-9pm
Fin 'n Feather • 22 W Main St., Winneconne

June 14 **DC Villars Foundation Fundraiser** • 11am
Barly & Hops • 663 N Main St, Oshkosh

June 14-15 **Battle on Bago Summer Edition Fishing Tournament**
Menominee Park
Oshkosh battleonbago.org

June 16 **Our Cause of the Monday** 4-8pm
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Summer Music Series at Batley's Grill & Bar! Thursdays (and a few bonus Saturdays!) | 5-8PM

June 5 - Big & Tall
June 12 - Kit Menagerie
June 14 (Sat) - Rings Band
June 19 - Sundae & Mr. Goessl
June 26 - Jim & Nancy
July 10 - Ross Catterton
July 17 - Amelia Ford

July 24 - Second Hand Stereo
July 31 - Patty & Jeff
August 7 - Tim Dorsey
August 9 (Sat) - Rings Band
August 14 - The Gentleman Grifters
August 21 - DC Trio
August 28 - Big & Tall

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

June 17	The Importance of Being Earnest • 2pm & 7pm presented by Oshkosh Community Players The Grand Oshkosh • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh
June 18	A-Town Unplugged • 6-8pm Shattuck Park • 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
June 18	"Elsewhere in Bloom" Fresh Flower PopUp Bar • 7am-3pm Elsewhere Market & Coffee • 531 N Main St, Oshkosh
June 19	Sundae and Mr. Goessl • 5-8pm Batley's Grill & Bar • 1010 Cameron Way, Neenah
June 19	Waterfest George Thorogood and the Destroyers • 6pm Leach Amphitheatre • 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh
June 20	Chicago Live - In Concert • 7:30pm Fox Cities Performing Arts Center 400 W College Ave, Appleton
June 20	Oshkosh Parks Movie: Inside Out 2 • Dusk Leach Amphitheatre • 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh
June 21	The Book of Will • 2pm Xavier Fine Arts Theatre • 1600 W Prospect Ave, Appleton
June 21	Hotel California - A Salute to the Eagles • 7:30pm Fox Cities Performing Arts Center 400 W College Ave, Appleton
June 25	Avenue 55 • 6-8pm Shattuck Park • 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
June 25	"Elsewhere in Bloom" Fresh Flower PopUp Bar • 7am-3pm Elsewhere Market & Coffee • 531 N Main St, Oshkosh
June 26	Waterfest, The Cat Empire • 6pm Leach Amphitheatre • 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh
June 26	Jim and Nancy • 5-8pm Batley's Grill & Bar • 1010 Cameron Way, Neenah
June 26	Art After Dark Renaissance Faire • 5:30-9:30pm 165 N Park Ave, Neenah
June 27	Wish you were Floyd - Pink Floyd Tribute • 7:30pm The Grand Oshkosh • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh
June 28	Announcement of the 2025-2026 Performance Season The Grand Oshkosh • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh, see website

JULY

July 3	Parade of Lights • 9pm Neenah
July 3	Fireworks over Fisk • Dusk Downtown Fisk
July 4	4th of July Parade • 9am Downtown Main Street, Oshkosh
July 4	4th of July Parade PitStop • 7am-12pm Elsewhere Market & Coffee • 531 N Main St, Oshkosh

July 4	Community Fest • 11:30am-10:30pm Riverside Park, Neenah
July 4	Independence Day Parade • 12pm Scott Park • E Main St, Downtown Omro
July 4	Fourth of July Community Fireworks • Dusk Over the Wolf River • Downtown Winneconne
July 7-10	Art Camp ages 12-15 • 12:30-4:30pm • Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass • 165 N Park Ave, Neenah
July 9	Star Six Nine • 6-8pm Shattuck Park • 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
July 10	Ross Catterton • 5-8pm Batley's Grill & Bar • 1010 Cameron Way, Neenah
July 10	Waterfest: Marcia Ball - The Jimmys • 6pm Leach Amphitheatre • 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh
July 10-13	Lifest Sunnyview Expo Center • 3450 Vinland St, Oshkosh
July 10-13	Waupaca Boatride Volleyball Tournament Brighton Acres • 4057 Fisk Ave, Oshkosh
July 11	Elsewhere sponsors The Mom Walk Collective • 9am Elsewhere Market & Coffee • 531 N Main St, Oshkosh
July 11	Christmas in July Sale • 7am-3pm Elsewhere Market & Coffee • 531 N Main St, Oshkosh
July 16	Jet Pack Stereo • 6-8pm Shattuck Park • 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
July 17-20	Sovereign State Days Parade July 19 • 10:30am Waterfront Park, Marble Park • Winneconne
July 17-25	Kiss Me, Kate • 7pm Neenah High School Performing Arts Center 500 Rocket Way, Neenah
July 17	Waterfest: Big Bad Voodoo Daddy • 6pm Leach Amphitheatre • 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh
July 18	Oshkosh Parks Movie: WISH • Dusk Leach Amphitheatre • 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh
July 21-27	EAA Airventure 3000 Poberezny Rd, Oshkosh
July 23	STEEM • 6-8pm, Shattuck Park • 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
July 24	40th Annual Cemetery Walk • 6-8:30pm Oak Hill Cemetery • 211 Walnut St, Neenah
July 25	ABBAFAB • 8pm, The Grand Oshkosh • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh
July 26	Kiss Me, Kate • 2pm Neenah High School Performing Arts Center 500 Rocket Way, Neenah

July 27 **Minus One** • 3pm
Bee Hive Barn & Grill (outdoors) • 6897 Hy 76, Neenah

July 30-Aug 3 **Winnebago County Fair / Fairgrounds**
500 E County Rd Y, Oshkosh

July 30 **The Britins** • 6-8pm
Shattuck Park • 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

July 31 **Waterfest Vic Ferrari Encore Performance** • 6pm
Leach Amphitheatre • 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh

July 31 **'Anastasia - The New Broadway Musical'**
Presented by Inspiration Theatre • 7 p.m.
Winneconne High School Performing Arts Center
100 Wolf Run, Winneconne

AUGUST

August 1 **Integrity Automotive 3rd Annual Car Show** • 5pm
112 Langley Blvd, Neenah

August 1 **'Anastasia - The New Broadway Musical'**
Presented by Inspiration Theatre • 7 p.m.
Winneconne High School Performing Arts Center
100 Wolf Run, Winneconne

August 2 **Oshkosh Children's Parade** • 10am
South Park • 1035 W South Park Ave, Oshkosh

August 2 **Oshkosh Humane Society Fundraiser** • 11am
Barly & Hops • 663 N Main St, Oshkosh

August 2 **'Anastasia - The New Broadway Musical'**
Presented by Inspiration Theatre • 6 p.m.
Winneconne High School Performing Arts Center
100 Wolf Run, Winneconne

August 3 **'Anastasia - The New Broadway Musical'**
Presented by Inspiration Theatre • 2 p.m.
Winneconne High School Performing Arts Center
100 Wolf Run, Winneconne

August 6 **Arilya** • 6-8pm
Shattuck Park • 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

August 7-9 **XRoads 41 Music Festival**
4125 S Washburn St, Oshkosh

August 7 **Waterfest: Steely Dane** • 6pm
Leach Amphitheatre • 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh

August 13 **Murphy's Law** • 6-8pm
Shattuck Park • 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

August 14 **Waterfest: Loverboy** • 6pm
Leach Amphitheatre • 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh

August 15 **Oshkosh Parks Movie: Moana** • Dusk
Leach Amphitheatre • 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh

August 18-21 **Art Camp** ages 5-7 • 10-12pm • Bergstrom-Mahler
Museum of Glass • 165 N Park Ave, Neenah

August 18 **Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band and Bobby Rush** • 8pm
Fox Cities Performing Arts Center
400 W College Ave, Appleton

August 23 **Oshkosh Food Pantry Fundraiser** • 11am
Barley & Hops • 663 N Main St, Oshkosh

August 27 **Boogie and the Yo-Yoz** • 6-9pm
Downtown Neenah, Wisconsin Ave

August 28 **Theresa Caputo** • 7:30pm
Fox Cities Performing Arts Center
400 W College Ave, Appleton

August 31 **Beatles vs. Stones - A Musical Showdown** • 6pm
The Grand Oshkosh • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

August 31 **The "Happy Together" Tour** • 6pm
Fox Cities Performing Arts Center
400 W College Ave, Appleton



JUNE 2025

2 **Retrograde - The Spirit of 70s Rock Returns**

Presented by Jennifer Lyn & The Groove Revival

12-14 **The Importance of Being Earnest**

Presented by Oshkosh Community Players

27 **Wish You Were Floyd: Pink Floyd Tribute**

Presented by Fearless Productions

JULY 2025

25 **ABBAFAB**

Presented by Entertainment Events

AUGUST 2025

31 **Beatles vs. Stones- A Musical Showdown**

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WHERE PAST MEETS PRESENT

Fun At The Fair

Winnebago County Fair celebrates 170 Years of making memories

By Cassidy Johnson

Celebrating their 170th anniversary, the Winnebago County Fair is coming to town July 30-Aug. 3, and it's bringing family fun, food and fair rides along with it.

Located at the Sunnyview Exposition Center in Oshkosh, this year's theme is "Carnival Lights, Action-Packed Nights."

Kicking off the carnival on July 30, the CC Bucking Bulls Rodeo will start at 7 p.m. followed by Zach Thomas from American Idol performing at 8 p.m. The entertainment continues July 31 at 7 p.m. with a County Tractor Pull and Dig Deep bluegrass band at 8 p.m.

The line-up on Aug. 1 includes the polka 2/5s Party Band from noon-4 p.m., music by the Delrays at 3 p.m., Badger State Tractor Pull at 6:30 p.m. and Star Six Nine taking the stage at 8 p.m.

The options on Aug. 2 include music by Jet Pack Stereo at 2 p.m., Hollywood Motorsports Demolition Derby at 6 p.m. and Spicy Tie Band at 8 p.m.

A sensory friendly day will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 3 with the fair closing at 4 p.m.

"We offer a lot more of the family entertainment," Fair Board President Mike Domke said. "A lot of fairs have big acts, but don't

have a lot for the kids. [The kids] are a lot of what the fair is for and about."

Daily entertainment options include Whimbubble face and body painting, Bear Hollow's wood carving shows, Hot Glass Academy, The Miller and Mike Show featuring Otis Miller and Mike Lorenz, Pleasure Valley pig, goat and duck races, the Mischief & Magic show, the High Flying Pages thrill show and Nick's Kids Show. Go to the event website winnebagoountyfaironline.com for updated schedule information.

"[My favorite part] is seeing the kids have fun and seeing some of the new acts and stuff that are unique to the area that you don't typically see otherwise," Domke said.

Thrill-seekers can always check out Mr. Ed's Magical Midway Rides in the late afternoon and evening for an adrenaline rush.

The fair also pays it forward to the community through a variety



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A Hotbed Of Live Music

Future Neenah's Summer Concert Series celebrates 20 years of music, community

By Cassidy Johnson

Anyone looking forward to listening to live music this summer is invited to grab a lawn chair and head to Shattuck Park for Future Neenah's Summer Concert Series for free music, parking and family-fun for all ages by the water from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Celebrating their 20th anniversary this summer, they're starting the series off with the Glam Band for the Summer Kickoff Concert from 6-9 p.m. on June 11 in downtown Neenah.

"We run out of room at the park when we try to host bigger bands like that, so we moved it downtown," said Michelle Dunning, outreach and development director for Future Neenah. "It's cool because then people that come [for the concert] can also enjoy and support the bars and restaurants downtown. It give[s] the downtown a little boost."

Another way they like to support local businesses is through their temporary Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) for the two big street concerts downtown.

"We have that in effect for the street concert so people can go to one of their favorite bars in the downtown district [to] get your beverage to go," Dunning said. "It's a great way for people to support the local businesses down here while also enjoying a beverage while listening to some good music."

While the kickoff concert downtown is sure to be big and bustling, Dunning said the rest of the concerts at Shattuck Park are just as fun without being too chaotic.

"The Shattuck Park concerts are fun because they're super family friendly," Dunning said. "We have rotating food trucks that are there [for] some good eats, and then we have the water [right there] so you can pull up on your boat and listen to the music from your boat if you'd like."

Following the Summer Kickoff Concert, local Fox Valley band Avenue 55 will be performing high-energy rock classics on June 25.

Also new to the concert series, popular husband-wife pop-rock duo and company Arilya from Green Bay will be performing on Aug. 6.

"Neenah favorites are always Steem, The Britins and Murphy's Law," Dunning said. "We can be sure that the grounds will



A large crowd gathers in Shattuck Park for Future Neenah's Summer Concert Series last year.

be packed [when they perform]."

On July 23, Neenah-favorite STEEM from Oshkosh will be playing funky R&B-rock-jazz fusion alongside food vendors such as The Wandering Table, Rolling Taco and Kona Ice.

For those looking to delve into Strawberry Fields Forever, The Britins on July 30 are scheduled for a fun and interactive performance by Wisconsin's best dedicated Beatles tribute band.

Feel free to enjoy some authentic cuisine from Lucia's Cocina and

Luigi's and listen to "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds."

Also on July 30, there will be a build-your-own sundae bar, courtesy of Dairy Queen and Simplicity Credit Union.

Since it's Future Neenah's 20th anniversary, this is a nod and nice, full-circle moment to the giant sundae bar they had years ago at the first-ever summer concert series.

Punk-rock band Murphy's Law from New York City will take to the stage on Aug. 13.

The summer concert series will end where it started downtown, this time with performances Aug. 27 by Boogie and the Yo-Yoz.

To get kids excited to "Boogie back-to-school," Future Neenah is partnering with the Neenah Joint School District to make it a community celebration.

"It'll be lots of family fun from different schools, clubs, activities and sporting groups [at the Neenah school district]. We have a good amount of fun bands that [are] new to the Neenah lineup this summer," Dunning said. "We try to do a good mix of music to cover different genres and have a good variety for all people."

Out to Lunch Concerts

Future Neenah also hosts "Out to Lunch" concerts from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursdays creating an ambience for passersby, park patrons and the business person on their lunch break.

"There's a lot of businesses in the downtown district," Dunning said. "It's a nice opportunity for business people to come outside and get some food from a food truck, have their lunch, listen to

See **Summer Music**, page 23

FUTURE NEENAH

Let the summer fun begin. *We'll see you there!*

Downtown Neenah Street Concerts



Summer Kickoff Concert
June 11 from 6-9pm
with **The Glam Band**



Boogie Back to School
August 27 from 6-9pm
with **Boogie and the Yo-yoz**

Visconsin Ave. will be closed for the street concerts. Food & beverage will be available for purchase from the businesses of Downtown Neenah. Please bring a lawn chair. Free parking available in the Church St. ramp and surrounding lots.

2025 Summer Concert Series

Evening Concerts

Wednesdays
6-8pm

June 18 - A-Town Unplugged
June 25 - Avenue 55
July 9 - Star Six Nine
July 16 - Jet Pack Stereo
July 23 - STEEM
July 30 - The Britins (20th anniversary celebration)
August 6 - Arilya
August 13 - Murphy's Law

All concerts are located at Shattuck Park unless otherwise noted and are free to attend thanks to our generous sponsors. Food and beverages available from rotating food trucks. Please bring lawn chair or blanket. No alcohol allowed in the park.



Out to Lunch Concerts

Thursdays
11:30am-1pm

June 12 - Isiah
June 19 - Barefoot Americans
June 26 - Tim Dorsey*
July 10 - Mr. Billy and Friends* (kids' concert)
July 17 - Jacob Fannin
July 24 - Seth Brown Duo
July 31 - Randy Peterson (kids' concert)
August 7 - Kyle Megna Duo
August 14 - Jim 'n' Nancy

• Concert located at The Plaza

Future Neenah Farmers Market

Saturdays, June 14 - October 12
8am-12pm
Shattuck Park

Start your weekend off right at the Future Neenah Farmers Market, nestled along the scenic Fox River in charming Shattuck Park. Every Saturday morning from June 14 through October 12, this open-air market brings together over 50 local vendors offering the very best in homemade, homegrown, and handcrafted goods.



Visit neenah.org or follow Future Neenah on Facebook for more summer fun!

Get Your Swing On

FORE! X-Golf Oshkosh adds to simulator boom in area

By Cassidy Johnson

While green-grass golfing may have been par for the course at one point, golf simulators have gained popularity, with the National Golf Foundation reporting over 6.2 million Americans using virtual golf systems in recent years.

This recent golf simulator boom has made its way to the Winnebago County area, with businesses such as Clubhouse Indoor Golf & Sports Bar and Fairways in Oshkosh along with Appleton Indoor Golf.

The newest addition to the golf simulator businesses in the area is X-Golf Oshkosh.

"Our sims at X-Golf Oshkosh are really the next generation simulators," said Brian Jankowski, head PGA professional and part-owner of X-Golf Oshkosh. "[That's] because you're playing every shot in the game of golf from full swing to putting, and all of it with 98% accuracy."

Each simulator displays 8 different metrics including ball speed, height, distance, swing speed and more, allowing players to adjust their form in real-time as they play.

"It offers the experience of golfing on a golf course while also showing all the statistics within my swing so I can adapt my form



Play courses from around the world in Oshkosh at one of the indoor golf simulators.

accordingly," said Jacob Kremer, an Oshkosh resident and golf enthusiast. "I'm a big numbers guy, so seeing the stats is especially interesting to me."

Whether a professional golfer is looking to polish their swings or a newbie is weary of causing lines at the links, Jankowski said X-Golf is a great way for players of all skill types to refine their game.

"Golf is really a very diverse game," said Jankowski. "I love seeing kids and everybody; it's just awesome. No matter what level of golfer you are, it can be fun."

With seven simulators and two private bays, rates start at \$30 an hour per simulator (not per person) on weekdays, and \$40 an hour on the weekends and after 4 p.m. Fridays. Participants can choose a 30-minute session perfect for the working person trying to squeeze in a session on a lunch break, or they can golf the day away with a group of friends or family.

For only \$10 more an hour, they can also book private simulators and get complimentary access to a lounge in between the bays.

X-Golf also allows customers in private bays to control the screen and sounds, making it perfect for anything from a game day watch party to a business meeting.

For those who get tired after all that golfing, Jankowski said they can fuel up at X-Golf Oshkosh with their wide variety of food and drinks.

One of their most popular menu items are pit sliders, which are three warm pretzel buns topped with barbeque beef brisket and melted provolone, each finished off with a different sauce from J's BBQ in Ripon.

"[The sliders] are probably my favorite menu item," Kremer said. "The meat's very tender, and I like the variety of sauces."

To wash it all down, guests can also check out the happy hour from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday where they can try sand trap paloma, a pink cocktail rimmed with pink Himalayan sea salt.

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Guests can also try out the signature old-fashioned. "It's a Bulleit Bourbon with maple syrup instead of sugar," Jankowski said. "Gives it a great flavor."

This and more can all be delivered by servers called 'caddies' as they make their 'loops.'

"We don't want our customers to have to necessarily leave their sims to come get anything," Jankowski said. "We're out there consistently, if not just to say hello and make sure they're having fun."

While the statistics can be helpful, learning from an actual golf professional can be a game-changer.

Taught by the general manager and Head PGA professional of X-Golf, Jankowski got into golf late in high school and graduated from the Golf Academy of American in Southern California a few years later.

"I love showing people how to potentially do something that they didn't think they ever could," Jankowski said. "A lot of it is really [a] lack of knowledge, I'm just imparting that knowledge of how to do it differently."

Jankowski enjoys taking a personalized approach to his coaching, having those interested in lessons complete a "swing evaluation" so that he can determine what type and duration of training works best.

"It's such a joy to help somebody improve," he said. "When they come in and say, 'I'm so glad that I decided to work with you' – that's it right there for me."

This summer, they are also looking to turn the traditional golf scramble "outside-in," with X-Golf being the perfect venue for, "any



For those not into playing a round or after getting in 18 holes on the simulator, getting a good drink and some food is on the menu at X-Golf Oshkosh.

business owners or charity operators that want to host an outing [but] don't want to have to worry about the weather," according to Jankowski.

He said the simulators are also perfect for individuals looking to avoid the typical weather restrictions of outdoor golf courses, or those who are tired of dealing with overbooked and overpriced courses.

Whether guests are looking to skip the hassle, looking to improve (or acquire skill) or just looking for some leisurely summer fun without the hassle of outside courses, Jankowski said X-Golf can fulfill their needs regardless of age or skill set.

For those new to X-Golf, Jankowski said to make sure to arrive 10-15 minutes early for a quick demo on how to use the simulators.

For more information or to book a tee time, visit <https://playxgolf.com/locations/oshkosh/>.



With an all-new management team since August 2024, VenuWorks of Oshkosh is working hard to revitalize the Oshkosh Arena as the great venue it is for sports and entertainment events. Come check us out!

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OSHKOSH'S FUNNIEST COMEDIAN
Round 2 Preliminary Qualifying Round
7-9 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)
10-12 comedians competing for the title



FOX CITIES ROLLER DERBY
Season 18 Women's Flat-Track
5-9 p.m. (doors open at 4 p.m.)
Double-header of flat-track derby action



OSHKOSH'S FUNNIEST COMEDIAN
Round 3 Preliminary Qualifying Round
7-9 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)
10-12 comedians competing for the title



OSHKOSH'S FUNNIEST COMEDIAN
Round 4 Preliminary Qualifying Round
7-9 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)
10-12 comedians competing for the title



INB OSHKOSH FIGHT NIGHT
International Boxing's 'Bring the Gifts'
7-11 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)
6 fighters enter the ring for glory



JOSH BLUE COMEDY HEADLINER
Finale of Oshkosh's Funniest Comedian
7-11 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)
5 finalists compete; Josh Blue headlines



COCOMELON: SING-A-LONG LIVE!
Featuring YouTube's CoComelon Show
7-9 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)
Dance & sing with characters on stage

Stay tuned for details on concerts in October and December; Wisconsin Herd basketball season and Oshkosh Farmers Markets' Winter Market in November; and UW-Oshkosh Winter Classic, Harlem Globetrotters and Wisconsin Dartball in December!

The Hidden Gem of Fox Crossing

Xe54 Cocktail Lounge boasts undeniable chemistry

By Cassidy Johnson

Xe54, or Xenon, is a colorless, odorless and tasteless noble gas. However, when electrified, the gas begins to glow a beautiful purple-blue hue.

Much like its name, Xe54 Cocktail Lounge is seen as a hidden gem that may take effort to uncover, but rewards visitors with its undeniable chemistry and electricity when uncovered.

Bringing a glow to its Fox Crossing neighborhood through their personable customer service, elevated cocktails and charcuterie, and their upscale, moody vibe, Xe54 has updated their ownership.

Originally opened in October 2018 by Pamela Barnes, the sister duo of Laura and Nicole Spranger have officially taken over as of April 1.

The pair has over 40 years of collective experience in the service industry in Long Beach, Calif., Denver, Colo. and Wisconsin, adding a fresh and trendy perspective to both the bar and the community.

"That's what we [bring] here, being in bigger cities and just knowing trends that were happening and knowing what people are looking for," said Nicole Spranger. "We just have a vast knowledge of different types of service industry, all the way from waitressing, to bartending, to management."

Having worked in almost every type of bar in every type of position across the United States, they have used this experience to their advantage to curate a cocktail bar that is true to themselves and their vision.

"Our vision [is] to just maintain that moody, vibey wine and cocktail lounge, have really good wine, [and] really good craft cocktails," Laura Spranger said.

One way they've achieved this is through their seasonal food and cocktail flights and their constantly revolving menu.

While bringing their own vibe and vision to Xe54, they have also maintained many of the bones Barnes left, including a desire for the business to focus on both philanthropy and community.

One way they like to support the community is through their "pay-it-forward" cocktail program.

"Every month we pick a local nonprofit, customize a drink for them, and donate a dollar of every one of their drinks [we sell]," Laura said. "It's just about using our platform to bring awareness [and money] to the nonprofit."

They also started a monthly women's networking event called
20 • ATLAS Your Local Guide to Dining, Arts & Entertainment



"Women of the (happy) Hour," an event that's "really for anyone with aspirations of meeting other like-minded, strong-willed women," according to Laura.

"It's not like any of the other networking groups; we don't ask for a fee, you don't have to pre-register," she said. "It's just a cocktail hour; we find two women business owners from the valley to be our speakers to host it."

Xe54 has a variety of other events meant to engage with and give back to community individuals and businesses every week this summer.

"We really try to curate everything from the menu to the experiences to the customer interactions," said Laura. "We're very personalized and event-heavy."

On Tuesdays, they are collaborating with Cranked Bike Studio in Neenah to create a bike group in which every time somebody comes in and takes a ride, they are entered into a drawing for an e-bike.

On Wednesdays, they will have their food truck series with local food trucks and vendors in the parking lot of Xe54.

On Thursdays, they have "Cocktail Creations with Laura," in which participants will make three different cocktails fit for the season, perfect for a host around the holidays or somebody just looking to learn.

It's \$50 to sign up, covering the cost of the class, ingredients and the "starter-pack," complete with a shaker, stirrer, recipe card, and everything you may need for the class.

They will also have live music from 7 to 10 p.m. every Friday, and Jen's Piano Bar on the second Saturday of every month.

"[We're] not just a destination, but a place to forge connections," Nicole said. "That's what makes these events so cool, because people know we're invested in it and they know that we spent the time curating the experience."

In addition to the multitude of public events, they also do many private events such as bridal showers, baby showers, and birthday parties.

One customer who opted for this option for her 22nd birthday is Oshkosh resident Shaely Hoch.

"I thought it would be a great idea to have a private cocktail making class for my birthday with some friends," Hoch said. "I reached out to Laura and we worked together to figure out a theme for the cocktails and what I wanted [on] my charcuterie board. She came up with a red velvet chocolate martini, lavender lemon drop and spicy mango margarita."

"[It] was in a beautiful, private room with everything set up for us," she said. "Laura walked us through how to make each drink while we shared many laughs; she is such a fun spirit who truly loves what she does."

They can host a party at the lounge, like Hoch's birthday party,

or they can meet customers where they're at with mobile bartending.

"We are licensed to take it on the road," Laura said. "[If] you wanted to have a party at your house, I'd give you a list of what you need to supply and then show up with the rest, and we can make it happen."

While Xe54 certainly makes a great cocktail lounge, it is much more than that. The sisters' combined experience, passion and philanthropy shines through their many events and their elevated and intimate atmosphere.

"What's cool is that [with our] combined knowledge, we don't really feel limited," said Laura. "We literally just come up with an idea, and we build it. Our possibilities are really endless around here."

Nestled in the Fox Crossings neighborhood and chalk full of endless opportunities, the owners said Xe54 is truly a hidden gem.



Great food and drinks mixed with a perfect atmosphere, whether outdoors on a warm summer evening or inside at the bar, Xe54 Cocktail Lounge brings a unique and electric hotspot to the Fox Crossing area.

"[Xenon] is rare, and it's only seen when there's lots of excitement and energy," Nicole said. "When it's energized, that's cool. Otherwise, it's just gas. It is invisible."

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Pete's Garage Bar: Not your typical dive bar

By Cassidy Johnson

"'Questionable townies gather here,' says one guy named Mitchel . . . you have been warned," reads one of many signs embracing one-star reviews on the back porch of Pete's Garage Bar.

With its garage-theme, dim lighting and bar top as crowded as the walls enclosing it, Pete's Garage Bar at 1514 Oregon St. in Oshkosh doesn't just embrace one-star reviews, but also their dive-bar persona.

One way they embrace the dive-bar nature is through not only welcoming in the "questionable townies," but also by providing them with sarcastic, yet personable customer service.

"I'm not the typical bar owner," owner Pete Haferman said. "I'm the weird bar owner. I bought a bar because I like to talk to people, and I like to serve people drinks and food."

A natural bartender and people-person, Haferman used his experience from Mabel Murphy's (and the agitation he got from his previous job) to motivate him to launch a new bar 20 years ago.

"I literally bought a bar so I could keep bartending," he said. "I know that my biggest asset is to be a bartender."

His unapologetic and playful personality has created an unpretentious culture at Pete's, garnering a loyal customer base that contributes back to Pete's incredibly strong — and hilarious — bar culture.

This exact sentiment is mirrored in a story from loyal regular Tim Diers, also known as "Ten Beers." Wishing not to disturb Pete, and realizing he could make his own drink, Diers went behind the bar to grab a vodka soda. When he caught Diers, Haferman was appalled. "[Pete said to me], 'I've never poured a drink that short in my life, put more vodka in there.'"

To be clear, he said this definitely isn't an invitation to try and make your own drink behind the bar. Not that anyone will ever need to, as Haferman can "hear an empty glass hit [the bar] from Omro."

"In this town, he is truly, unequivocally, hands down, the best bartender," said Diers. "It's like a second nature to him."

While originally cultivated for the customers, this strong culture has inadvertently created a cult-like following, minus the kool-aid: They have rail mixers instead.

"It's a pretty great feeling, not that we won this thing, but the fact that people support us so much," Haferman said after winning #1 Dive Bar nationwide this past April. "The support and the sheer craziness of the people that follow us outweigh the victory in my eyes."

Besides voting for Pete's Garage in the "March Dive-ness" tournament put on by the organization, Dive Bar Road Trip, they have also shown their support in other ways.

"We've won Best Burger for the last eight years in Best of Winnebago County," Haferman said. "We beat Red Robin, who has never been beaten by anybody."

While the support from loyal customers likely helped, the

victory was certainly warranted.

"They definitely have one of the best burgers in the state," said Oshkosh resident Jacob Link.

For those not in the mood for a burger, maybe they'll have an appetite for valve caps or air bags, Haferman's version of cheese curds and jalapeno bacon mac & cheese bites.

"It's a dive bar atmosphere. But then the amount of people are like, yeah, I don't even drink," Link said. "I go in there all the time because they have good food. It's crazy to me."

Beyond being known for its food and service, Pete's also does their part through donations and programs, most notably their Christmas toy drive for kids in the Head Start programs in Oshkosh.

For a decade, they've spent around \$10,000 each year from their own pocket and from customer donations in order to provide gifts to underprivileged youth.

"Our core people are people from Oshkosh or the surrounding community. If we don't have them, we don't have a business," Haferman said. "For me to give back is a no-brainer. It makes no sense for me not to give to a community that's literally making me a business."

Anyone looking for a laugh, a cheap rail drink, a great burger or just looking to meet fellow "questionable townies" can count on Pete's Garage Bar for an eventful summer night.

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WATERFEST

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musicians from New Orleans that have all won awards and run their own bands," said Dempsey. "It's really neat, they'll be cool [to watch]."

For those interested in listening to more jazz, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy will be bringing their swingin' music to Waterfest July 17 with their retro-inspired music from the 40s.

On the same day, the Cigar Store Indians, a "hidden gem" of Waterfest, will perform.

"They're kind of a rockabilly meets Jazz I would say," said Dempsey. "They're absolutely fantastic [and] hilarious. Some real good music."

Another hidden gem will make its way to the stage July 31; an authentic Earth Wind & Fire show called Shining Star, "one of America's best Earth, Wind & Fire tribute bands," according to Dempsey.

"One of the byproducts of [the festival] is that we've been able to provide an introduction to Wisconsin-based artists that might not have had access to those fans, and vice versa," he said. "Both the artists and the general public discover one another here, and that really helps the music scene here in the Fox Valley and beyond."

Ending the music festival with a sha-bang, the last two Thursdays are packed with popular performances from Steely Dane, The Producers, and Lover Boy.

On Aug. 7, Steely Dane, a Steely Dan cover band, and The Producers, a popular band from the '80s that specializes in new-wave power-pop, will be playing.

"The charm of Waterfest lies in the sense of community, the affordable ticket prices and the lively atmosphere created by the interaction between the performers and the audience."

Finishing the season off on Aug. 14 is Loverboy, the iconic classic rock band from the '80s. With four of the original members still remaining and 40 years together under their belt, the band is sure to bring excitement and nostalgia to the stage.

While Waterfest was built on giving back to and revitalizing the city of Oshkosh, the city has also given back to the non-profit in the form of sponsorships, donations, and local volunteers.

"The motivation and the core [of Waterfest] is community and economic development," Dempsey says. "The charm of Waterfest is the sense of community that radiates on any given evening where people [can] visit [with] one another and reconnect."

With versatile and affordable live music spanning genres (and generations), Waterfest has something for everybody in the community.

"The charm of Waterfest lies in the sense of community, the affordable ticket prices and the lively atmosphere created by the interaction between the performers and the audience," Dempsey said. "There's a sense of joy that emanates as a result of getting outside, enjoying a Wisconsin summer evening with some great music in a wonderful venue. All these things come together to create a wonderful live music experience for friends and family."

SUMMER MUSIC

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some music and take a little break."

These concerts will also take place at Shattuck Park, although they are experimenting with using The Plaza in Gateway Park as a venue June 26 with Tim Dorsey and July 10 with Mr. Billy and Friends.

"It's right in the heart of downtown, so it just seemed like a natural space to try and bring some music to," Dunning said.

All of this and more is made possible by sponsorships and donations from local businesses and people.

"We live in a very philanthropic city, so we have a ton of generous sponsors that put these [concerts] on," Dunning said. "Without the support of our sponsors, we wouldn't be able to put these things on."

With Future Neenah being a non-profit, Dunning said this series and all of its concerts, events and food vendors was created for the community, by the community.

"Neenah is a small community, so you end up running into lots of friends and neighbors," Dunning said. "It's just a great community gathering place, and it's super fun to be down by the water on a warm summer evening enjoying great music."



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