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SCAN ME

County, city seeking to install sales tax

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The topic of a sales tax has been taken under consideration by both Winnebago County and Oshkosh officials.

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors were set to consider during its meeting Tuesday a proposal that could lead to a 0.5% sales tax on all taxable purchases in the county. Oshkosh officials have sought approval from the state for its own 0.5% sales tax.

In Wisconsin, 70 counties already have a county-wide sales tax. Waukesha and Winnebago counties are the two counties

without a sales tax. Wisconsin has a state-wide 5% sales tax.



Nichols

DJ Nichols of the Oshkosh Common Council put together a resolution asking state officials to approve Oshkosh having its own 0.5% sales tax. Milwaukee is the only city with a city-wide sales tax.

Nichols said he supports the county sales tax as a Winnebago County resident.

“We’re still seeking approval from the

state to allow us to create a sales tax,” he said.

Nichols added, “Any revenue is good for the city so we don’t need to rely on property taxes.”

Oshkosh finance director Julie Calmes said the city has not yet reached out to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. The DOR would be able to help the city estimate how much revenue could be earned from a potential sales tax.

Other council members showed support for the city sales tax with most agree-

SEE **Sales tax** ON PAGE 10

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Oshkosh Herald

Excitement building

The UW-Oshkosh Titan Thunder Marching Band performed tunes such as Hey, Baby! last week on Opera House Square in Downtown Oshkosh. The band is preparing for the start of its season, with the UWO football home opener against Roosevelt University scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday at Titan Stadium.

City officials look for more information on ATVs

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Some members of the Oshkosh Common Council want to open city streets and roads up to ATV traffic. However, the police chief and members of the public may not be on their side.

Council members briefly discussed an ATV/UTV ordinance at its Aug. 12 meeting. Council member Kris Larson brought the issue to the council.

“This is a tourism discussion,” Larson said. “It’s a big dollar as far as tourism and attracting people goes.”

Council member DJ Nichols said he sees it as a recreational activity and said he supported lifting the ban on ATVs in the city. There are no ATV/UTV trails in Oshkosh or that lead into Oshkosh.

Part of that conversation at the Aug. 12 meeting was that these vehicles are not designed to be driven on asphalt roads; they are designed to be driven on off-road trails.

Mayor Matt Mugerauer has stated he is opposed to lifting the ban. He questioned how much will be generated in tourism dollars. Mugerauer stated this makes more sense for Northern Wisconsin communities that have trails and infrastructure in place.

“We don’t have that infrastructure, so we want to put them on city paved roads,” he said.

Mugerauer pointed out there is a correlation between ATV crashes when allowed on paved roads.

“They weren’t built for concrete and asphalt,” he said. “The safety side of this is what really concerns me about putting these

on city roads. I don’t think the tourism side of this is a thing for us. There’s no draw for people to use these in this space.”

Nichols stated he approves of allowing these vehicles on the city roads to access the county roads and possibly stop at bars and restaurants along the way.

“I’m tired of watching these dollars drive around us,” Larson said.

Larson owns Becket’s and Wagner’s Market, and he made it clear he is interested in the revenue side of the issue.

“That’s just more dollars coming our way,” he said.

However, it is also a safety concern. Oshkosh Police Chief Dean Smith said there were certain parts of the city that he was concerned about allowing ATVs, including on the roundabouts that cross Interstate 41

with highway access.

Dave Schmidt said that the traffic into the city could be on 20th Avenue and Witzel Avenue because these intersections don’t have direct highway access.

“We don’t want to see anyone have access to four-lane highways as interstate highway riding is not permitted in the state of Wisconsin,” he said.

Schmidt is the president of the Fox Valley Wheelers ATV Club and president of UTV/ATV Alliance of Winnebago County.

Schmidt commented online following the meeting that he hopes Oshkosh is the first “urban community” to bring ATV/UTV traffic into a city.

There was also discussion of being able

SEE **ATV debate** ON PAGE 10



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UWO reports growing enrollment estimates

Oshkosh Herald

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh last week reported preliminary fall 2025 enrollment estimates showing growth across several student populations.

The university said it is welcoming nearly 12,500 students on campus, throughout Wisconsin and beyond. The UWO data, captured as the Universities of Wisconsin prepares to report estimates for the upcoming official fall student census, shows year-over-year increases in several categories.

Honors College enrollment is up 2% after a record year of growth in 2024-25, transfer student enrollment is up 4%, new

graduate student enrollment is up 17%, first-year student retention is up 4% and the first-year class on the Oshkosh campus is up 2%.

“These categories highlight UWO’s ability to attract and support students seeking strong academic communities, pathways to advanced degrees and accessible transfer opportunities,” UWO Chancellor Manohar Singh said. “They are proof that students continue to see UW-Oshkosh as a place where they can launch, continue or elevate their higher education journeys.”

Universities of Wisconsin estimates for UWO’s new freshman class released last

week project an overall first-year student decline from fall 2024 to fall 2025 due to the discontinuation of teaching and learning at UWO Fox Cities in June. New first-year student estimates specifically for the Oshkosh-campus, year-over-year, indicate a 2.2% increase.

The deeper dive into UWO enrollment reveals resilience and encouraging momentum in student populations that align with institutional strengths and growth strategies, Singh said.

UWO will provide final enrollment reports to the Universities of Wisconsin later this fall.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical Society

Sept. 11, 1980

Officials Preparing for Closing of Two Schools: School officials are moving along quickly to prepare for the closing of Dale and Longfellow elementary schools next year. When these schools close, an elementary school will be put into operation within the current Webster Stanley Middle School building. Once district boundaries are determined, some students may be transferred to Washington School. Washington School is already overcrowded so concerns over adding more students there must be closely reviewed.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Sept. 11, 1980



Dale (top photo) and Longfellow elementary schools closed in 1981.

Common Ground withdraws from health insurance exchange

Oshkosh Herald

Non-profit health insurance provider Common Ground Health Care Cooperative recently sent out letters to consumers in 11 counties across Wisconsin, including Winnebago and Outagamie counties, announcing that they would not be offering coverage on the health insurance exchange in 2026.

Common Ground will not be on the health insurance exchange in 2026 in certain counties, and the 6,955 residents in Outagamie and Winnebago counties who are currently covered by Common Ground will have to find coverage elsewhere during the open enrollment period starting on Nov. 1.



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Oshkosh Community Players to stage psychological thriller

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Community Players (OCP) is bringing Patrick Hamilton's chilling psychological thriller *Rope* to The Grand Oshkosh.

With three evening performances Sept. 25-27 at 7 p.m. and a Sept. 27 matinee at 2 p.m., this suspense-filled production promises to keep audiences on edge from the opening scene to the final revelation, providing the perfect kick-off to fall's official "spooky season."

Set in a London apartment, *Rope* follows two young university students who commit what they believe to be the "perfect crime" and then host a dinner party with their victim's body hidden inside the chest they use as a dining table. The strange gathering includes the victim's unsuspecting mother, his aunt, his former girlfriend, and the student's old professor, whose sharp observations begin to unravel their façade of superiority.

The production features Noah Matthew as Wyndham Brandon, Adam Baurain as Charles Granillo (the two murderous students) and Zach Caldwell as Professor



Amsden



Matthew



Schmidt

Rupert Cadell, supported by a talented cast.

Director Dr. Robert Amsden, who enjoyed a 27-year career at Ripon College directing and designing more than 50 productions, shared his excitement about the show.

"It is a privilege to work with such a joyous cast," he said. "We make remarkable progress toward a well-rehearsed and acted play each week. I am excited to finally get to The Grand and see the play on the big stage."

Amsden shares directorial responsibilities with assistant director Madysen Schmidt, who has been acting since 2022 with 16 productions under her belt, becoming president of OCP in 2025.

"The production is incredible," Schmidt said. "Enthusiasm from both cast and crew alike makes this 100-year-old story just as relevant and gripping [today] as it was back then."

Audiences can expect a balance of tension and wit during the evening.

"Suspense and humor," Amsden explained. "Alfred Hitchcock, master of suspense, produced a film adaptation of the stage play, so it is no surprise that he selected this rather frightening story. Playwright Patrick Hamilton — also the playwright of the famous play *Gaslight* — has provided some lovely humor, so the tension is leavened with some laughs."

For Amsden and Schmidt, community theater itself is a vital part of the experience.

"In the best of all possible worlds, theatre goes get to see talented individuals in the community practicing their crafts out of love of the art," Amsden said. "They are rewarded by seeing new and promising

actors and they can see favorites perform a variety of roles in different shows over the years."

Schmidt wholeheartedly agrees.

"Community theater showcases community stories and interests while providing an affordable means of interactive entertainment," Schmidt said.

"The energy of live productions is unlike

any other sort of entertainment and Oshkosh Community Players is honored to share that with the greater Fox Valley area."

Tickets for *Rope* can be reserved online using the QR code on promotional materials or by calling The Grand Box Office at 920-424-2350. The play is suitable for high school age students and above.



Craft fair coming to Menominee Park Zoo

Oshkosh Herald

A craft fair will be held in the Menominee Park Zoo from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 28.

"Crafts & Critters" will feature the opportunity to shop handmade crafts, art

and fall-themed decor all while visiting the animals at the zoo. Goodies and local food trucks will also be available.

Admission is free. Proceeds from the event will benefit the zoo.



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An afternoon of hospitality and community: ribbon cutting, open house, tours and refreshments. Complimentary boat rides by *Your Boat Club* and more!
- SEPT 19 & 20** **Oshtoberfest**
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- SEPT 20** **UW Oshkosh Football**
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District signs emergency food service contract

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education approved an emergency food service contract with an outside company following a resignation just prior to the start of the school year.

OASD worked with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to find a company that could manage food services for the school year. This move comes after interim food services director Nicole Howard resigned her position last month.

Howard was appointed to the position in July. She had previously served as assistant director of food services for the district. Without a director or an assistant director, the district needed to hire a company to handle food services for the school year.

Chartwells was hired for an emergency contract to cover food services for the 2025-26 school year. Chartwells serves over 700 districts, including Appleton Area School District, Kimberly Area School District and

Menasha Joint School District.

A fixed cost contract was approved by the OASD Board of Education last week to ensure the district has breakfast and lunch available to students across the district.

OASD director of business services Drew Niehans said there were some drawbacks to the fixed cost contract.

"With the fixed cost contract, there is no clarity or transparency on any other expenses," Niehans said.

The costs include the food from Chartwells' vendors. The district will be charged per meal for breakfast \$2.05 and lunch \$2.40, according to Niehans.

The total cost of the contract is expected to be \$3.6 million.

"We expect to serve 569,430 breakfasts and 871,292 lunches this year," Niehans said.

Students may notice a difference in the food available. Niehans said the biggest difference will be the quality of food, due to the buying power of Chartwells - a multi-billion dollar company - students can expect a high-

er quality food.

"They can get much better quality food than we (OASD) can because of how large they are," Niehans said. "The quality of food is going to change."

This will include more food options that are made from scratch instead of premade options. By January there will be expanded options available for students.

There is also an option for a "celebrity chef" station where a teacher or principal could be the one serving students stir fry from a selection of ingredients chosen by the students, similar to HuHot Mongolian Grill.

Niehans said the district is approaching this like Chartwells is just getting through this year and next year the district will put out a request for proposals (RFP) to get bids for a food service provider as Chartwells is only contracted for this school year.

At this time the district will be adding five Chartwells employees, but the food service employees currently working for the district will remain district employees.



Photo from Oshkosh Area School District

After its inaugural run through the 2024-25 school year, the second Oshkosh Schools Academy will start in October and continue through April.

Oshkosh Schools Academy seeks applications

Oshkosh Herald

As the Oshkosh Area School District (OASD) welcomes students and staff for the new school year, it's also inviting community members to engage in a new way by joining the Oshkosh Schools Academy. Applications are open for the 2025-2026 cohort of this immersive, seven-month program designed to give citizens a behind-the-scenes look at the district.

"The start of a new school year is a perfect time for our community to get involved," said OASD Superintendent Dr. Bryan Davis. "The Oshkosh Schools Academy program is a vital way for us to build a stronger partnership with the people we serve. This program gives participants a hands-on understanding of our operations, priorities and mission. We're eager to welcome the next cohort and continue this important collaboration."

The program's inaugural cohort engaged with the district throughout the 2024-2025 school year. The second cohort will kick off in October and run through April, with monthly sessions covering a variety of topics, including district operations, academic priorities and community engagement. Sessions take place once a month from 8 to 10 a.m. on Fridays at the OASD Administration Office at 215 S Eagle St.

Applications are being accepted through Friday. The program is limited to 20-30 participants. All applicants will be notified of their status by Tuesday.

"The Schools Academy is an important bridge between the community and district. It's helping create a more transparent, inclusive, and collaborative environment," said Ashley Schneider, a parent and participant in the 2024-2025 Oshkosh Schools Academy.

Trina Woldt, a member of the business community and participant in the 2024-2025 Oshkosh Schools Academy, shared: "The Oshkosh Schools Academy gave me a behind-the-scenes look at the passion, challenges, and dedication driving our schools. I feel more connected, informed and ready to be part of the solution."

For more information and to apply, visit oshkosh.k12.wi.us/district/oshkosh-schools-academy.

Financial literacy class offered at seniors center

Oshkosh Herald

The 2025 edition of the Adventures In Investing classes with Jeff Kemp will be coming this fall to the Oshkosh Seniors Center.

Adventures In Investing seeks to empower individuals attending with the knowledge required to make informed decisions when managing money invested in the stock and bond markets.

Topics covered will be how mutual funds work and the importance of being aware of the expenses associated with the financial products being offered. Also covered will be bonds, a retirement planning, the economic factors investors need to be aware of which influence one's investments and more.

The series of six free of charge investment classes at the Oshkosh Seniors Center will begin at 6 p.m. Oct. 1 and run through Nov. 5. Adventures In Investing

is offered as a community service and all ages are welcome to attend.

If interested in the classes, call the seniors center at 920-232-5308.

Fire Department Explorer Program seeks applicants

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Fire Department will hold an open house from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday for applicants for its Explorer Program.

The event will include an opportunity to meet the fire chief and tour Station 15, 101 Court St. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Applicants are required to be in high school and between the ages of 14 and 18. They must maintain a GPA of at least 2.5.

Applicants must be willing to learn and actively participate in various drills.

A signed application must be submitted along with paying a \$75 fee. Financial assistance is available.

Anyone interested in the program that cannot attend the open house can fill out an application and turn it in at Station 15. Applications can be found on the OFD website, under Explorer Program.

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Business news roundup

Julie Meyer, MPS, FACHE, has been named CEO of **Catalpa Health and Catalpa Foundation** president. Meyer has served as Catalpa's interim CEO since December 2024. She has also served as a Catalpa board member and treasurer since 2020 where she provided strategic and financial leadership. In her new role, Meyer will guide Catalpa Health to advance its mission to help children and families improve their mental health and wellness, while also serving as president of the Catalpa Foundation to ensure alignment and transparency between both boards.



Meyer

as the architect and general contractor/builder for a 6,000 square foot interior remodel building project for Winnebago Oral Surgery, located at 1885 W. Pointe Drive in Oshkosh. This project will support the practice's expansion by doubling its current space and relocating to a new facility. Construction is set to begin this fall and will be completed in early 2026.

John's Hobbies has opened at 807 Oregon St. in the former HobbyTown location. A grand opening was held Friday. Owner John Hetzel is expanding the business to Oshkosh from Hartford with support from Greater Oshkosh EDC through its RLF Access Capital program.

Cyrene Wilke has been appointed as chief operations officer for **Verve, a Credit Union**. Wilke joins Verve from Horicon Bank, where she served as chief operations and information officer. In her new role as COO, Wilke will provide strategic leadership and oversee Verve's operational infrastructure. She will ensure that processes, systems, and service delivery align with organizational goals, compliance expectations, and member experience standards.

The **Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Hotel** and its in-house restaurant, Anchor & Port, are celebrating their official grand opening Thursday with an afternoon of self-guided tours, tastings and festivities along the Fox River. The ribbon cutting will take place at 2 p.m.

Keller, Inc. announced its selection Noon Kiwanis Club organizing Bingo For a Cause

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Noon Kiwanis Club is organizing Bingo For A Cause Oct. 3 at LaSurre's Banquet Hall, 3125 S. Washburn St.

The event will include fun, food and prizes, all while supporting local programs. Proceeds will benefit the Kiwanis N' Cops N' Kids Reading Program and Oshkosh Public Library ~1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program.

Doors open for the event at 4:30 p.m.,

followed by a fish fry dinner at 5:30 p.m. that includes fried or baked fish with sides, bread and dessert. Bingo starts at 6:45 p.m.

With every \$50 dinner ticket, attendees get a Wisconsin fish fry dinner, two bingo cards per game (4 games total), the chance to win prizes and access to bucket raffles and 50/50 drawings.

More information is available at oshkoshnoonkiwanisclub.org/bingo-event.

Driver killed in Black Wolf crash

Oshkosh Herald

A driver was pronounced deceased after a two-vehicle accident Sunday in Black Wolf.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office was dispatched at about 10:38 a.m. to a two-vehicle accident with injuries at the intersection of County Highway Z and Country Club Road. Multiple units from the City of Oshkosh Fire Department and the Van Dyne Fire Department were also dispatched to the scene.

According to the sheriff's office, upon arrival, one of the drivers was pronounced deceased, and one occupant sustained significant injuries and was transported to a local hospital via ThedaStar Medical Helicopter.

The other driver sustained minor injuries, not requiring medical transport.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Crash Investigation Team processed the scene.

No names of the involved parties, nor any further information was released by press time.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office was assisted on scene by the Fond Du Lac County Sheriff's Office, the City of Oshkosh Fire Department, the Van Dyne Fire Department, ThedaCare's ThedaStar Medical Helicopter, the Winnebago County Medical Examiner's Office, the Winnebago County Highway Department and Expert Automotive Services.

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Attempted homicide case headed to juvenile court

Oshkosh Herald

In March, a 16-year-old allegedly fired multiple gunshots into an Oshkosh home.

Due to the seriousness of the offense, charges were initially brought in adult criminal court. However, a decision by Judge Michael Gibbs has moved the case back to juvenile court, even though prosecutors said the incident could have led to multiple people dying.

Court documents allege the teenager from Menasha was driven to Oshkosh on March 14 and after an argument with her stepfather, she fired multiple gun shots at the home and then fled the scene.

She was eventually taken into custody and charged with attempted first-degree homicide, three counts of first-degree recklessly endangering safety and one count of misdemeanor intentionally mistreating animals.

State statutes say the most serious crimes, like homicide and attempted homicide, all go to adult court if the suspect is 10 years or older at the time of the offense. The court hearing on Thursday was

a reverse waiver hearing as the defense attorneys argued the case should be sent to juvenile court.

There was a similar case in Winnebago County last year when a 12-year-old attacked their sibling with a kitchen knife and was initially charged with attempted first-degree homicide before the case was sent to juvenile court following a reverse waiver hearing in front of Judge Daniel Bissett.

Multiple witnesses testified in court last week including a social worker, forensic psychologist and staff from the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

There were two factors the defense, attorneys Miles Leon and Brianne Patzer, had to focus on to prove the case should be waived to juvenile court. The first was whether the teenager will receive adequate treatment at the adult facility like Taycheedah Correctional Institution or a youth facility like Copper Lake.

The second factor is whether moving the case to juvenile court depreciates the seriousness of the offense, which in this

case is a class A felony charge of attempted first degree intentional homicide.

Online records show the case is dismissed as it has been moved to juvenile court. The move takes it out of the public view.

During the hearing, assistant district attorney Stephanie Stauber said the maximum confinement associated with this case is five years. The teen will turn 17 this month and if she would have committed this crime when she was 17, there would be no option for juvenile court.

Stauber pointed out the teen's actions on March 14 could have led to the death of four people in the home in the 1000 block of Jefferson Street.

No people were injured in the incident, but court documents state a dog inside the home was struck at least once by a bullet.

Stauber added the teenager's actions were very serious, very reckless and very intentional.

Patzer argued that the shooting was a result of trauma the teenager had gone through.

The Menasha teenager told Johnson that she had drank alcohol every day for about a year and was using marijuana to self-medicate. She added self-medication is a common way that people deal with trauma and testimony showed the teenager had trauma in her past.

Johnson testified that there were certain types of therapy and counseling that

the teenager could benefit from at a youth facility but those same treatments would not be available at an adult institution.

The teenager's social worker said in court that he was assigned to the case in August 2023 but could not meet with her until December 2023 because she was "on the run."

Social Worker Mark Klug testified the teen had truancy issues and did not show any interest in treatment until she was placed in juvenile custody in Fond du Lac. Klug stated the teenager's attitude for treatment before the shooting was "I don't need this."

Gibbs ruled the defense had proven the teenager would not receive the same treatment in an adult institution and that a potential maximum five-year sentence did not depreciate the seriousness of the alleged crime.

Gun violence is on the rise in Oshkosh. The Herald has reported multiple shootings in the city over the last 12 months. Oshkosh Police has reported nine reports of gunshots fired in the city and a single officer-involved shooting in December when an officer shot and killed a man.

The officer in that case was not charged as his actions were deemed justified. The nine other reports have led to multiple suspects being charged with charges ranging from attempted homicide to recklessly endangering safety.

Oshkosh North student involved in crash

Oshkosh Herald

An Oshkosh North High School Student was transported to a hospital following a crash involving a vehicle and bike near the high school last week.

An email was sent after the incident to parents of North students on Sept. 9 from North principal Michelle Last.

The student was riding a bike during the lunch period last Tuesday when they were struck by a vehicle.

"The student was conscious and responsive when emergency responders arrived,"

Last said. "They were treated and transported to the hospital, and their family was immediately notified and is with them now."

Due to the district's privacy policy, no other information was provided about the student. A number of students saw the crash and student services staff and school counselors are available at the school for any students who wants to talk.

Last said, "We urge everyone in our community to exercise utmost caution when driving around schools especially when students are present."

Former theater group president charged with theft

Oshkosh Herald

An arrest warrant has been issued for the former president of the Oshkosh Community Players who allegedly embezzled thousands of dollars from the group in a 13-month span.

Justin J. Drabek, 42, has been charged with one count of theft-business setting between \$5,000 and \$10,000. He failed to appear for his initial appearance on Monday morning in front of Court Commissioner Eric Heywood.

Court documents allege Drabek drained thousands of dollars from bank accounts used by the theater group.

Heywood ordered a warrant for Drabek's arrest. Authorities believe Drabek is living in Interlochen, Mich. after leaving Oshkosh in November.

According to the criminal complaint, Oshkosh Police were dispatched to a fraud complaint on Feb. 21. Members of the OCP, a non-profit organization, told police Drabek had access to both accounts. Drabek was authorized to make purchases for the group, but bills were not being paid.

They believed Drabek had stolen approximately \$16,000 based on their belief that there was \$6,000 in the checking account and \$10,000 in the savings account. Both accounts were then left with \$56 in the checking account and \$6 in the savings account.

Bank statements show in February 2024 the organizations savings and checking account had a total of \$8,949.22 and on Feb. 23, 2025 there was a combined \$62 in the

accounts.

Drabek allegedly set up a GoFundMe page for the organization that raised \$2,000, but OCP says they never received the money.

An official at the organization's credit union said Drabek was the only person with a debit card for the accounts. He was removed from the bank accounts on Feb. 26, 2025 after being voted out as president of OCP.

Police reviewed all transactions not related to OCP, like U-Haul, Menards and True Value purchases, and compiled them on a spreadsheet. These non-OCP charges are believed to have been made by Drabek between January 2024 and February 2025, totaling \$29,841.98.

These include ATM cash withdrawals and transactions at Oshkosh bars, restaurants and online retailers like Amazon.

Drabek moved to Michigan in November 2024 and police were unable to set up an in-person interview which led them to do a phone interview. Drabek told police in that call he was responsible for about \$4,000 in transactions.

During the phone call police listed off a number of transactions that Drabek admitted to making. This included purchases at Lion's Den adult shop, Only Fans, Airbnb and Allegiant Air.

Drabek told police he made the purchases when he was going through a difficult time in his life - mentally, emotionally and financially. He said he planned on paying the money back but was not able to do so.

"He was going through a bad relationship, strapped for cash, and he wanted to maintain an illusion that he was doing okay with everybody," the complaint states.

Drabek went on to say he did collect the \$2,000 from the GoFundMe page and added it to the OCP bank accounts - the same accounts he was using for unauthorized transactions.

Heywood issued an arrest warrant on Monday after confirming the court summons was sent to Drabek in Michigan and not returned to the court as undeliverable.

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Solutions Recovery's peer response team may lose funding

By Anya Kelley
OSHKOSH HERALD

The peer response team for Solutions Recovery is facing a \$322,050 deficit for 2026 and is at risk of losing its funding.

Solutions Recovery is the Winnebago County overdose fatality review (OFR) board's primary partner for peer response. The OFR is made up of 49 government and community partners working together to prevent overdose deaths in the county.

The peer response team (PRT), started in 2022, is a sister program to STAR, or Sobriety Treatment Assisted Recovery.

The STAR program works directly with the Winnebago County Jail to get people struggling with addiction access to recovery coaches, medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and addiction resource programming for any inmate as soon as they're booked.

A facet of the program is its two recovery pods. The recovery pods, separated by gender, are a living environment that is recovery oriented. Those in the pods are required to participate in daily groups focusing on recovery, emotion management, trauma resource navigation and more.

In the three years since STAR's launch, there were 1,742 participants, 3,811 community follow ups post-release, 936 support group provided by Solutions Recovery and 4,763 in person meetings with recovery coaches. For people who participated in STAR for 30 days or more, 28% are in recovery today. STAR is fully funded by the federal government for next year.

The community-based PRT functions as post-release support and upstream intervention led by people with real life ex-

perience.

"We literally will meet them at the door when they get released to transport them to treatment, get them to Solutions, make sure that they don't have any substances in their possession at their homes," Solutions Recovery's executive director Megan Edwards said.

Edwards said the PRT helps to bridge the gap between incarceration and life outside of jail.

"It's hard to have one without the other you guys," Edwards said during a recent presentation to the County Board of Supervisors. "We have this beautiful, amazing funding going into a wonderful program inside of the jail, but if it stops at release, we are going to see an increase in recidivism, we are going to see an increase in overdose deaths because that's when it happens, right?"

The PRT is split into three sectors at Solutions Recovery: the recovery center, which is open 365 days a year and offers drop-in-style meetings with recovery coaches; Sober Living, a six-month live-in program that has 80 beds to offer in the City of Oshkosh, and the peer support team, a 24/7 rapid response team fielding phone calls to the hotline.

"[Release] is the most vulnerable time," Edwards said during the county board's Sept. 2 meeting. "We are doing a fabulous job, and the jail is doing a fabulous job educating people and getting people the resources that they need. But, like you've heard from some people tonight, they walk out of there with really good intentions because we always have good intentions, but if there's not follow through and there's not follow up support when some-

body gets out, there's a lot of people who are going to be at risk."

On average, each graduate of the STAR program receives 10 follow-ups per year leading to 1,500 contacts a year being lost if the PRT cannot secure the necessary funds. For the last three years, the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Use Program, or COSSUP, grant helped fund the PRT. In February of this year, the grant application was unexpectedly pulled with no explanation as to when it will be back.

Winnebago County Public Health applied for a \$200,000 state grant for the PRT that was recently denied as well.

"We have people working for us and with us trying to secure funding," Edwards said.

Currently, a grant is pending through the basic needs giving partnership. That grant would be used to bring all the department heads together to discuss how to make both STAR and the PRT more sustainable going forward.

"My intention is not to come back up here and ask the county board for help in the future," Edwards said. "I want to be able to diversify the revenue streams to be sure that we can make this last long term."

According to Edwards' presentation, over 600 people in crisis will lose direct peer support, over 150 STAR participants will no longer receive post-release support, the recovery center will not be able to staff peer coaches for walk-ins, there will be no access to transportation assistance, housing assistance and employment assistance and the 24/7 hotline will end if Solutions Recovery can't secure the funding for the PRT.

"There's a 10 to 40 times higher likelihood of somebody experiencing a fatal overdose death leaving jail with no support within the first two weeks," Edwards said. "People will die."

Edwards asked the County Board to fund the program for 2026 to cover the gap year and was met with an overall positive response. Supervisor Conley Hanson said he would work with County Executive Gordon Hintz to see where funds from the Sheriff's office, health department and human services department could be reallocated to close the deficit.

The reaction to the presentation was very positive, Edwards said. County Board members, employees throughout county departments and community members have reached out to extend their support to STAR and the PRT. During the public comment section, 17 participants in the various Solutions programs spoke to advocate for funding and share their experiences.

"Almost every single one of them has pulled me aside, multiple times actually, at Solutions," Edwards said. "They're like 'what happened? Are we going to get the funding? What's going on?' They're very invested in the outcome because it saved their lives, it helped them and helped get them started on their recovery journey and I think they're just really grateful for that."

The County Board is currently holding budgeting sessions. Edwards said that Solutions is hoping to know more about possible funds by the end of October. Community members who wish to donate directly can visit solutionsrecovery-inc-bloom.kindful.com/.

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Oshkosh United soccer club setting up facility downtown

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Oshkosh's youth soccer club will soon have a new indoor facility in downtown Oshkosh.

Oshkosh United Soccer Club recently announced plans to transform the former Rhyme building into a high-level indoor facility. The building, 641 N. Main St., is owned by the Hoopman Foundation and the club is calling the facility The Lab.

The building will be repurposed into a year-round, climate-controlled training space that will provide athletes with opportunities to continue their development regardless of the weather. The new facility will include a turf area for training, space for individual or small group technical and tactical instruction and a film room for game analysis.

"This is an exciting step forward for our club," said Matt Callahan, director of coaching for Oshkosh United Soccer Club. "Having a dedicated indoor training space will allow players to grow their skills in a consistent and supportive environ-

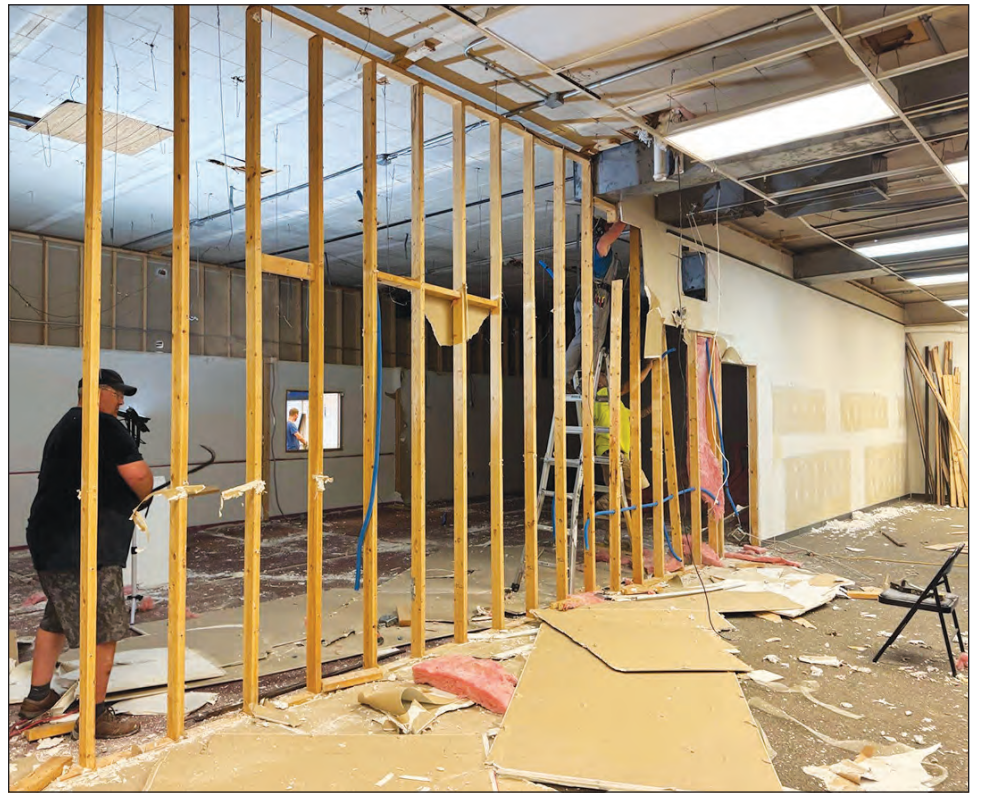
ment while keeping them active throughout the year."

Oshkosh United's president Jim Thomas told the Herald the Lab will be big for the club and community.

"The Lab is a game-changer for Oshkosh United Soccer Club and the entire community. It's more than a building — it's a dedicated home for player development," he said. "With a year-round, climate-controlled environment, our athletes can train and improve regardless of Wisconsin's unpredictable weather."

Thomas continued, "The facility will feature a turf area for team sessions, plus space for individual and small-group technical training. We will also have a film room that will allow for in-depth game analysis, giving our players and coaches a competitive edge. This permanent home ensures flexibility, consistency and a stronger foundation for the future of our club."

Renovation work will begin in the coming weeks, with plans to open the facility in phases starting later this year.



Submitted photo

Volunteers have been working to transform the former Rhyme building on North Main Street into a soccer training facility for the Oshkosh United Soccer Club.

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"We're making great progress and working closely with sponsors, volunteers, and supporters to complete renovations. Our goal is to open in late fall — just in time for the shift to colder weather — so our teams can seamlessly transition indoors and keep developing without interruption."

Hoopman Foundation, which owns the former Rhyme building, expressed enthusiasm for the new partnership.

"Growing up in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, sports played such a huge part in my for-

mative years. The Hoopman Foundation is excited to be able to help support a program that provides that same experience to today's youth," Hoopman Foundation CEO Eric Hoopman said. "Partnering with Oshkosh United to create a year-round space where kids can work to improve their soccer skills should be a great asset to the Oshkosh community."

Updates and information about the project will be available on the Oshkosh United Soccer Club website and social media platforms.

Halloween costume swap planned

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Public Library invites all ages to participate in its Halloween Costume Swap, a creative and eco-friendly way to gear up for spooky season.

Gently used costumes can be dropped off at the library's first floor circulation desk from Sept. 21 through Oct. 3. The swap event is from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 4 in the library's first floor Reading Room, where everyone can browse or try on do-

nated costumes.

Participants are not required to donate to select a costume and costumes donated by individuals who are not interested in swapping are welcomed.

Costumes are offered on a first come, first served basis.

All leftover items will be donated to local second-hand stores.

For more information, visit oshkoshlibrary.org or call 920-236-5203.

Zoo animals scheduled to visit the library

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Public Library is hosting a free Menominee Park Zoo Live Animal Event from 10 to 11 a.m. Sept. 26. It's a hands-on experience that brings the zoo to kids and families.

Library visitors will get the chance to

meet some of the zoo's feathered and furry residents up close. Zoo staff will introduce each animal and share facts about their unique characteristics, habitats and behaviors.

Visit oshkoshlibrary.org or call 920-236-5208 for more information.

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Amtrak gearing to stop I-41 Thruway Bus Service

Oshkosh Herald

The Amtrak I-41 Thruway Bus Service between Green Bay and Milwaukee will cease operation on Oct. 1.

The contract between the state of Wisconsin and the service provider was unable to be renewed as the legislature did not provide adequate resources through the 2025-27 biennial budget to keep the

bus service operational.

Gov. Tony Evers requested over \$15 million in additional funding to support potential passenger rail expansion as well as existing passenger rail-related operations, including this bus service, in his state budget proposal. Ultimately, the legislature did not provide new funding to support passenger rail-related operations.

Ticketing revenue covered a percentage of operational costs for the Thruway bus service, while the state covered the remaining costs via WisDOT's passenger rail program. WisDOT officials said operational costs continue to rise due to equipment and maintenance needs along with inflation.

The state of Wisconsin has supported the Amtrak I-41 Thruway Bus Service, operating two daily round trips between Green Bay and Milwaukee since 2019. The bus schedule was timed to connect with the Hiawatha train at the Milwaukee Intermodal Station with stops in De Pere,

Appleton, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac and Milwaukee Mitchell Airport.

The Thruway bus service was created to connect directly to the Hiawatha train and bring riders to destinations beyond the train station. Currently, there are multiple other bus services between Green Bay and Milwaukee available to riders that provide similar options.

A list of alternative available bus services across the state, including service between Green Bay and Milwaukee, can be found on WisDOT's website wisconsin.gov/Pages/travel/pub-transit/bus-service.aspx.

Walk to End Alzheimer's to be held at Rainbow Park

Oshkosh Herald

The Alzheimer's Association is inviting Oshkosh area residents to join the fight to end Alzheimer's by participating in the Walk to End Alzheimer's on Sept. 27 at Rainbow Park, 650 Rainbow Drive.

The event opens at 8:30 a.m. with the opening ceremony at 9:40 a.m., immediately followed by the Walk at 10 a.m.

John Kriz, president and COO of the Jor-Mac Company has served as chair for the event. The organization said his support has played a vital role in driving forward the mission to end Alzheimer's and strengthen community engagement across the Oshkosh area.

The event will begin with the National Anthem sung by Joseph Scala. Participants can also join pre-walk warmups led by Kylie Kintopf of Jazzercise Oshkosh to get energized and ready for the walk. The event also features the inspiring Promise Garden Ceremony, where participants carry colorful flowers, each representing a personal connection to the disease.

"I am thrilled to see our community come together for this vital cause," Kriz said. "Each step taken, and every dollar raised brings us closer to a world without Alzheimer's. Our collective efforts make a

real difference in the lives of those affected by this devastating disease."

More than 7 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's, one of the nation's leading causes of death. Over 11 million family members and friends provide unpaid care for those affected. In Wisconsin, more than 110,000 people are living with Alzheimer's, and tens of thousands of caregivers are supporting them every day. In Winnebago County alone, over 3,951 residents age 65 and older are living with dementia.

Progress in both treatments and early detection has brought new hope to millions of families. Breakthroughs in medical science, fueled by decades of research, advocacy and community support, are helping people receive answers sooner and benefit from new ways to slow the progression of the disease.

This year, the Alzheimer's Association proudly welcomes Bill Schroeder, former Milwaukee Brewers player and longtime television color commentator, as the Honorary Statewide Chair for all 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's events in Wisconsin.

To register and receive the latest updates on this year's Walk to End Alzheimer's, visit act.alz.org/oshkosh. Pre-registration is encouraged.

Camp Hiwela scheduled to host open house

Oshkosh Herald

A special event called "Remember ... Hiwela and Camp Fire" memorabilia open house will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 3 and Oct. 4 at Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church, 1174 Algoma Boulevard.

Camp Hiwela was once a favorite summer camp on Round Lake near Wild Rose run by the Winnebago Council of Camp Fire Girls from 1937 to 1995. For decades, kids who attended the camp made lifelong memories — exploring nature, making new friends and having fun-filled adventures.

Over time, Camp Fire welcomed its doors to all youth, continuing its mission to be inclusive and supportive of everyone.

Although the camp closed in 1995, its legacy lives on through the Hiwela Youth Fund. As the first youth-focused scholarship fund of the Oshkosh Area Commu-

nity Foundation, it still helps kids in Winnebago County and nearby areas enjoy outdoor education, nature programs and camp experiences.

The open house, which coincides with the fund's 30th anniversary, will feature displays of Camp Hiwela and Camp Fire memorabilia, sing-alongs with favorite camp songs, classic camp snacks like s'mores, trail mix, ants on a log and "bug juice" and sharing memories of camp.

It's a chance to reconnect with old friends, share stories and relive the magic of camp days.

Anyone is welcome to bring and display their own memorabilia. To reserve a table to share your items, contact Jenny Stelzner at 920-570-0581.

More information about the Hiwela Youth Fund is available at oacf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1278.



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Discover story beneath Oshkosh's Pratt Trail

Oshkosh Herald

What began as a routine road project quickly turned into a journey into Oshkosh's ancient past. The Pratt Trail: A Path to Preserving History and Heritage presentation will reveal how a quiet stretch of trail in Menominee Park became a portal to a long-lost Native American village.

The presentation is scheduled from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Sept. 24 under Oshkosh Public Library's Dome.

In 2023 and 2024, construction crews working on Pratt Trail unearthed pottery shards and other cultural artifacts dating back as far as 500 B.C. The discovery halted the project and sparked a full-scale archaeological investigation led by experts from the University of Wisconsin-Mil-

waukee, who had developed a preservation plan before the program began, in collaboration with the Wisconsin Historical Society, Wisconsin DNR and Tribal Nations.

Dr. Seth Schneider, archaeologist and researcher at UWM's Archaeological Research Laboratory Center, will share first-hand insights from the dig site.

Guests will learn about the Woodland and Oneota pottery, ancient post molds and pit features uncovered during the excavation, and why this site is considered one of the most historically significant in the region.

This program is free, and no registration is required. Visit oshkoshlibrary.org or call 920-236-5205 for more information.

Sales tax

FROM PAGE 1

ing that a sales tax would be an additional tool the city could use to avoid relying so heavily on property taxes to fund city services.

If both sales taxes are approved, Oshkosh purchases would be taxed at 6%. The sales tax would be applied to non-essential purchases. Purchases like groceries and medication would not be part of the taxable purchases.

The county resolution calls for sharing 30% of the revenue from the sales tax with other towns, villages and cities in Winnebago County. In making the proposal, county supervisors estimate the sales tax will bring in about \$20 million annually with \$6 million going to municipalities.

If the resolution passes, Oshkosh would receive about \$2.3 million based on the county estimates.

Winnebago County Board vice chairman Chuck Farrey has proposed the county sales tax and wrote the resolution that was set to be considered at Tuesday's board meeting. The proposal was first discussed during the board's Aug. 19 meeting.

The resolution states the county is currently handling a growing structural deficit of \$5.2 million, a deficit of \$8.5 million and the proposed 2026 budget will add \$3.3 million to the deficit.

If the resolution passes, the county's corporation counsel and administration would need to craft an ordinance to establish the county sales tax. The ordinance would then need to be approved by the personnel and finance committee. The ordinance would also need to be approved by the full county board.

If the ordinance is approved, it will be submitted to the DOR and would be implemented on April 1, 2026.

ATV debate

FROM PAGE 1

to use ATVs and UTVs to access Lake Winnebago as well as other recreational opportunities for riders.

Wisconsin law allows municipalities to allow ATVs and UTVs on any road that is posted at 35 mph or less. This has been an option for municipalities since 2017 when Wisconsin Act 87 was passed and allowed municipalities to make these decisions instead of the state.

No city Oshkosh's size has approved ATV on its roads, including Appleton, Green Bay, Madison or Milwaukee. Neenah and Fox Crossing have ordinances prohibiting these vehicles from operating on its roads.

Wisconsin state law allows people as young as 12 to operate the ATVs with a guardian. A city would have the ability to write an ordinance stating all ATV operators must be 16 years old with a valid driver's license.

The DNR has reported 26 deaths in Wisconsin this year on ATVs and UTVs, on public roads, public routes and private property. There have been 33 total deaths from ATVs this year but seven were from incidents that happened on frozen bodies of water.

The victims in these crashes span from 6 years old to 97 years old.

In 2024, there were 40 fatal crashes involving ATVs or UTVs. The deadliest year for ATVs and UTVs was in 2021 with the DNR reporting 47 fatal crashes in Wisconsin.

The crashes range from the vehicles rolling over onto the operator, crashing with another vehicle or crashing with an external object like a tree and the occupants being ejected from the vehicle.

In Winnebago County there were five crashes in the county between 2019 and 2024.

Winnebago County earlier this year approved opening county roads up to ATV/UTV traffic. However, there are a number of sections of county highways (CTH) that remain closed to ATV/UTV traffic.

This includes:

CTH BB

CTH CB

CTH P

CTH AP

CTH II east of Jackson Street

CTH JJ

CTH O

CTH M between State Highway 116 and Lasley Point Road

CTH A except between CTH G and Indian Point Road

One major point the city's transportation committee discussed was drunk driving enforcement. Due to state law, ATVs and UTVs are covered under the DNR and are not the same as state statutes used when driving a passenger vehicle.

Therefore, if a person were to be pulled over in an ATV for drunk driving, they would receive a ticket for operating under the influence under the DNR code, according to Chief Smith.

The transportation committee is looking for more information. Jeff Armstrong, who sits on the committee, said he wants to see the economic impact of potentially opening up roads to these vehicles and to hear the benefits.

"It's easy to say this would help or impact the economy, but how?" Armstrong asked. "We talk about the ice, that's two months. Do we want UTVs driving all through the city all the time because of that - to help a guy not have to trailer it?"

Armstrong added, "These are meant for rural areas, and I'm having a hard time seeing the benefit of these riding around in the city of Oshkosh. I'm not hearing a huge benefit for the city."

There are no trails in the city of Oshkosh that people would be able to ride on. Smith said these vehicles would not be allowed on the Wiouwash State Trail.

Smith said there were other cities considering this type of ordinance and that they are watching Oshkosh to see what the city does.

The committee discussed other things that would be in the city ordinance including mandating driver's licenses for an operator, operators wearing helmets, seatbelts and having the proper insurance.

The committee plans to use Polco to poll residents about their opinions on the issue.

Learn about the U.S. Constitution at Library

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Public Library is offering a free, three-part lecture series on the U.S. Constitution, led by attorney and Oshkosh native Lara Hansen.

The U.S. Constitution: A 3-Part Course for Citizens will explore key moments in U.S. history and show how the Constitution has been shaped, interpreted and amended over time.

Each session will take place under the library's Dome from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the

following dates:

- Sept. 29: The Origins and Realization of the Constitution in the Colonial Era

- Oct. 6: The Bill of Rights and Reconstruction

- Oct. 13: The Civil Rights Era in the 20th Century

All sessions are free and open to the public. Participants are welcome to join any or all of the programs.

For more information, visit oshkoshlibrary.org or call 920-236-5205.

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Photo from Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin

Fighting hunger

Rosenow Customs helped to raise money during the XRoads41 music festival in August to fight against hunger. With the company's support and donations from concert-goers, \$5,000 was donated to Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. The money will provide 20,000 meals for families in the area.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony to be held at South Park on Saturday

Oshkosh Herald

The Vietnam Veterans of America and Associates, Chapter 437 of Oshkosh will be hosting their annual POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony at 1 p.m. Saturday at the South Park War Memorial on the corner of Ohio Street and 11th Avenue.

The ceremony is to remember and honor all of the service men and women who served the country in all wars who never came home as they are still listed as Prisoners of War or Missing in Action.

The speaker this year is Lt. Colonel Michael Hert (Ret) who served in the U.S. Army.

He served twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and three times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan and Horn of Africa).

Hert was awarded the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf cluster and many more medals. He is proud that he started his service as a Private and retired as a Lt. Colonel. He is a member of the D.A.V., Chapter 17 and is a past Department Commander of the Wisconsin D.A.V. and AMVETS, Post 7.

The series will continue in September with a concert at 7 p.m. Monday featuring touring New York City jazz musicians for a theatrical and jazz performance featuring Janet Planet as the character Satan. A full-band jazz interpretation of the biblical story will be held inside the church sanctuary, located at 1174 Algoma Boulevard.

It will be a one-hour show, flipping back and forth between theatrical monologues narrating the story and visceral, full-band, jazz performances.

School, church team for concert series

Oshkosh Herald

The 12:34 Concert Series continues at 11:30 a.m. Sunday with a community potluck at Read Elementary School.

Katrina deVillie & the Nobody Famous will play a two-hour show starting at 12:34 p.m. on the baseball diamond behind the school. The group is a 10-piece horn band playing soul and R&B, fronted by Oshkosh native Katrina deVillie.

Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church is organizing the concert series.

Calendar of events

Wednesday, Sept. 17

Music on Main featuring Sundae & Mr. Goessl, 5:30 p.m., Opera House Square

Thursday, Sept. 18

Fantastic: A Tribute to Elton John, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Friday, Sept. 19

UWO Faculty Recital, 7 p.m., Allen Priebe Art Gallery, Arts & Communication Building N102

Back in Black, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Saturday, Sept. 20

Downtown Oshkosh Farmers Market, 8 a.m.

Ruby's Pantry, 9:30 a.m., St. John's Lutheran Church of Nekimi, 491 Old Oregon Road

Touch A Truck, 10 a.m., Leach Amphitheater

Red Arrow Disc Golf Fundraiser Tournament, 10 a.m., Red Arrow Disc Golf Course

Walk to Defeat ALS Northeast Wisconsin, 10 a.m., Menominee Park - Kiwanis Shelter

Covey Open House, 10 a.m., 1325 Eastman St.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony, 1 p.m., South Park War Memorial

Mexican Rodeo and Concert, 1 p.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Rocky Horror Picture Show, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

Wednesday, Sept. 24

Music on Main featuring The Professionals, 5:30 p.m., Opera House Square

Thursday, Sept. 25

Community Players Theater presents Rope by Patrick Hamilton, 2 and 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Friday, Sept. 26

Community Players Theater presents Rope by Patrick Hamilton, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

The Brain That Wouldn't Die, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

UWO Volleyball Community Night, 7 p.m., Kolf Sports Center

Saturday, Sept. 27

Downtown Oshkosh Farmers Market, 8 a.m.

Walk to End Alzheimer's, 8:30 a.m., Rainbow Park

Oshkosh Earth Science Club Gem and Mineral Show, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Oshkosh Ukefest on the Fox River, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Seniors Center, 200 N. Campbell Road

Oktoberfest, noon, Oshkosh Masonic Center

Lara Beitz Comedy Show, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

Community Players Theater presents Rope by Patrick Hamilton, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Sunday, Sept. 28

Crafts and Critters Fall Craft Fair, 9 a.m., Menominee Park Zoo

Oshkosh Earth Science Club Gem and Mineral Show, 10 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Wednesday, Oct. 1

Weather from Space: How Satellites Save Lives, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Public Library

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Spartans pull away in second half to thwart Menasha

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Two plays into the third quarter, Oshkosh North's once comfortable 17-point lead had evaporated.

Menasha put together an 80-yard drive over the final five minutes of the first half and then used a 64-yard run on the first play from scrimmage in the second half to set up another score to stun the Spartans.

North never buckled.

Two touchdowns in a 19-second span paved the way for a 27-point third quarter as the Spartans rebuilt their cushion and pulled away for a 44-13 win over the Bluejays last Thursday night at Calder Stadium.

"That was a big stretch for us. Our guys responded," North head coach Luke Ott said. "It was good for us and something we can use down the road because we are going to get punched, but to know it's a long game and we have to come and punch right back."

After Menasha narrowed the margin to 17-13, North responded with a six-play scoring march capped by Jamare Scott's 16-yard touchdown run. The senior running back burst through the middle of the Bluejays' defense and dragged two defenders into the end zone for the score.

On the first play of the ensuing possession, the Spartans' Cole Meiselwitz punched the ball out of the hands of Bluejays' quarterback Paul Schmolinske and Antonio Thompson pounced on the fumble for a turnover.

Bryce Ott then connected with Dalton Clark at the back of the end zone for an 11-yard touchdown pass as the Spartans pushed the lead to 31-13.

"We drove the ball down the field and



Oshkosh North's Jamare Scott fights through a tackle attempt to gain extra yards during the Spartans win over Menasha last Thursday.

Oshkosh Herald

that brought our energy up and then the defense did their thing," Scott said of the Spartans' first scoring drive.

"Right after that (first score) I came out and punched the ball and our other d-end

Tony came over and wrapped it up and we scored again right after that," Meiselwitz said. "That was really important."

The Spartan defense then stopped the Bluejays' on a fourth-down run to give the ball back to the offense and North needed just three plays to extend the lead further.

Scott scored on an 11-yard touchdown run as North upped its lead to 37-13.

Scott finished with a season-high 149 yards on 16 carries, often using his speed to find space on the edges of the Bluejays' defense.

"When we were watching film, we could see the perimeter defense wasn't really there so I felt like I could take that out," said Scott, who also added 78 yards on three catches. "Today, the o-line did really good. Everything was open, everything was working. Today was a really good day."

Luke Ott was also impressed with the work of the Spartan offensive line – which starts three sophomores and is anchored by senior Connor Kuehn – and believes the performance will be something to build on moving forward.

"The offensive line responded tonight. We know we can throw the ball but tonight we ran it," Luke Ott said. "Teams are preparing for our pass game and rightfully so, but our offensive line has done a great job the last couple of weeks and that will open things up. It's going to be great for us, but we have to keep working."

Bryce Ott finished 12-of-18 for 216 yards in the game, hitting Clark for an 11-yard touchdown before finding Andrew Brockman for a 4-yard touchdown in the first half en route to building the 17-0 lead. Mason Krings added a 32-yard field goal.

Clark finished with eight catches for 124 yards, adding a 71-yard touchdown pass to end the third quarter scoring barrage for the Spartans.

Andrew Oehler paced the North defense with 8.5 tackles and a fumble recovery, while Clark and Max Rohr had interceptions in the game. Clark's interception came early in the second quarter in the end zone to keep Menasha off the scoreboard.

The Spartans have now held three straight opponents to 14 points or less.

"Defense the last few weeks we have been going crazy and today we did not stop," Meiselwitz said. "Everybody is working together. Nobody gets down on anybody, we just pick each other up and keep playing."

After back-to-back road games, the

SEE North football ON PAGE 20

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Wildcats rebound to take down Appleton North

By Joe Matzek
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

After cruising to a win in the first set, the Oshkosh West girls' volleyball team dropped the second set to Appleton North and found itself in a battle.

The Wildcats recovered nicely by taking the next two sets to defeat the Lightning 25-10, 25-27, 25-17, 25-13 in a Fox Valley Association match last Thursday.

West (8-4 overall, 2-1 conference after the win) broke free in both the third and fourth sets with long scoring runs to build a cushion and clinch the victory.

"I think our last set was our best just because we knew that would end the game, and I think we really were focused the entire set," said senior outside hitter Sydnee Nelson, who led the Wildcats with 20 kills and recorded her 1,000th career kill the previous weekend. "And that's kind of what we needed to motivate us to finish the game. I would say our first set we came in with the most energy, but I think our fourth set, we executed it."

The opening set was mostly about Appleton North struggling with errors. West didn't need much offense to take the early lead.

Yet the Lightning (1-11, 1-1) took a 20-12 lead in the second set as the Wildcats watched a few serves drop inside the baseline and committed several errors. Only a late rally kept West in the set before the Lightning prevailed on their third game point.

"For the second set, I'll give credit to Appleton North," West coach Will Brydon said. "They came out swinging and trying to make life difficult for us.

"But what I didn't really like about our play is that we let them dictate pace, and we got into our own minds and started to doubt. ... So what we challenge (the players) to do is to have a response and to see errors as the outliers and the successes are their own. We just need to start believing it a little bit more."

Nelson said the Wildcats lost focus after an easy first set.

"I think after the first set, we kind of were all over the place, and not being focused," Nelson said. "So we needed to really settle back in and get our minds in the right place."

West led the third set 9-8 before Olivia Xiong settled behind the service line. Xiong served three consecutive aces and helped the Wildcats win eight straight points.

"Ox' is great at varying locations, keeping the ball flat, which makes it difficult for other teams to predict where she's going," Brydon said of Xiong. "Her setup looks the same every time. She's been working hard at that, so credit to her. She's been really trying to hone in on that part of the game."

West held at least a five-point cushion the rest of the third set, and a kill by Emma Liebergen closed out the set.

The teams were tied 10-10 in the fourth set before West finished the match on a 15-3 run. Three players recorded kills, MaKaelyn Clark served back-to-back aces and Xiong had two more aces during the run.

Xiong finished with eight aces. Clark had 34 assists, Elaina Butz had 32 digs and Liebergen had nine kills for West.



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Oshkosh West players (from left) Emma Liebergen, Addie Benesh and Elaina Butz celebrate after winning a point against Appleton North last Thursday.



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Oshkosh West's Sydnee Nelson tips a shot past a pair of Appleton North blockers last Thursday.

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Family plan helped Giannopoulos learn to compete



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Valley Christian's Anna Giannopoulos is a powerful hitter for the Warriors who also excels playing all around the court.

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Skills can be learned and developed, but competitiveness comes from the heart.

The latter trait is what separates Anna Giannopoulos from other athletes...and the origin of her competitive nature is no great mystery.

She has three older brothers, Aristidis (2018), Yianni (2020) and Alexandros (2021), who were top basketball players and all-around athletes at Valley Christian School. Anna spent countless hours of her childhood playing hoops against her brothers in the family driveway.

And they made their little sister earn every bucket.

"They would never let me win," said Anna with a chuckle.

Playing against her older brothers sparked Anna's competitive spirit, giving her the mental toughness and the "I want to beat you" mantra she has today.

"Growing up playing basketball against brothers – it was super competitive – and it made me a really competitive person," said Anna. "Playing against them and my cousins made me want to try my hardest to beat them, even though I never did."

"It really impacted me. It made me the competitor I am today. I like to win and I like proving people wrong. Those basketball games motivated me to try and be better than them."

The hard lessons learned from Giannopoulos' brothers has helped Anna develop into a triple threat: a three-sport athlete at Valley Christian who has been a starting forward in basketball, a school-record holder in the discus in track and field and an exceptional outside hitter for the Warriors' girls' volleyball team.

On top of that, she's an all-star in the classroom, carrying a dazzling 4.01 grade point average.

"Anna is a very disciplined athlete who wants to be great," said Valley Christian coach Lizzy Potratz. "She's a very skilled player and developed those skills at a young age. Despite her talents as a volleyball player, Anna's biggest strength is probably her leadership. She's a very calm

Senior Spotlight



and consistent player who her teammates look up to.

"Anna wants to play in the big moments and is the player her teammates always turn to when we hit rough patches."

Volleyball is Giannopoulos' best sport. She was a unanimous first-team all-Trails East selection last year and a second-team choice as a sophomore. She is a stellar all-around player who never leaves the court and contributes from different spots in the team's rotation. Giannopoulos had 365 digs, 263 kills and a school-record 96 service aces last season.

"I consider myself to be a volleyball player first," said Giannopoulos. "But I've always been part of a basketball family, so basketball has also been very important in my life."

Giannopoulos has been playing club volleyball since the age of 10 on teams such as FC Elite, Impact and Spike Town. Even though she's a complete player, Giannopoulos' favorite part of the game is hitting – and she does it with power and precision.

"Anna is one of the hardest hitters Valley Christian has produced in the last decade," said Potratz. "She's not the highest jumper in the gym, but she has a powerful arm swing. She's also a very talented passer and defender and truly shines in the back row."

Giannopoulos began developing the raw power in her swing as an undersized middle school player.

"I used to be really short, like 5-2 in middle school," said Giannopoulos, who now stands 5-9. "But even though I was shorter than everyone else, I would still try and hit as hard as I could. Then I hit a growth spurt my sophomore year and it came easier."

"I just love how volleyball teaches me

SEE **Senior Spotlight** ON PAGE 20

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Prep sports roundup

FOOTBALL

Bauer helps Knights hold on for win

Brady Bauer accounted for five touchdowns while Lourdes Academy erupted for 29 second-half points as the Knights topped Johnson Creek, 36-12 on Friday night.

The Knights led 21-0 midway through the third quarter before Johnson Creek hit on a pair of long touchdown runs to pull within 21-12.

Bauer then connected with Lucas Neuens for a 58-yard touchdown early in the fourth quarter before adding a 60-yard scoring run later in the period to help Lourdes Academy seal the win.

Bauer also threw two touchdowns to Michael Santiago – one covering 45 yards for the only score in the first half and a 56-yarder to open the scoring in the second half – while also adding a 10-yard touchdown run. The junior finished with 121 yards rushing on 18 carries and was 13-of-22 passing for 249 yards.

Bauer also led the Lourdes Academy with 8.5 tackles, while Ryder Mullen finished with a pair of interceptions.

Lourdes Academy is now 4-0 on the season and 2-0 in the Trailways Conference.

Warriors remain unbeaten with win

Derek Wallace rushed for a pair of touchdowns, while the Valley Christian defense forced five turnovers in crushing Williams Bay 41-14 on Friday night.

The Warriors are now off to their best start since resuming football with a 4-0 record.

Wallace finished with 106 yards and the two touchdowns and Valley Christian finished with 226 rushing yards and had five touchdowns on the ground. Carter Belville added a pair of touchdown runs and finished with 50 yards rushing, while quarterback Mason Everts totaled 53 yards on nine carries and a touchdown.

Everts also threw for 135 yards, with all seven completions going to Mathias Behling.

Ian Kramer finished with 10.5 tackles and recovered a fumble for the Warriors, while Sam Gloudeans intercepted two passes, including one he returned for a touchdown, while Behling also had a pick and Ben Curtis added a fumble recovery.

Wildcats upended by Lightning in FVA tilt

Oshkosh West scored its first touchdown of the season but couldn't keep up with Appleton North in a 28-6 loss on Friday night in Appleton.

Drew Abitz connected with Owen Heim

in the second quarter for a West touchdown but the Wildcats would trail 21-6 at intermission. The Lightning added a score in the third quarter for the final margin.

Abitz threw for 71 yards, while Heim caught four passes for 83 yards to lead the West offense. Wyatt Marten chipped 42 yards rushing.

Leading the defense for the Wildcats was Joey Ware with six tackles.

SWIMMING

Dietschweiler nets four wins in West victory

Kiersten Dietschweiler was a part of four victories to help Oshkosh West pick up a 120-47 victory over Appleton East/Hortonville/Kaukauna last week.

Dietschweiler posted individual wins in the 100-yard butterfly and 500-yard freestyle for the Wildcats, while joining Rylee Coppennoll, Avery Booms and Molly Dudzinski to win both the 200-yard medley relay and 200-yard freestyle relay.

Dietschweiler, Layla Leinen and Genna Blustin combined for a 1-2-3 finish in the 500-yard freestyle, while Mia Drexler, Bellina Schiedmeyer and Joy Wheel grabbed the top three spots in the diving competition.

Dudzinski and Linsey Koslowski added a 1-2 finish in the 200-yard freestyle, while Dudzinski added a second place in the 100-yard butterfly.

Hailey Knutson and Booms finished first and second, respectively, in the 50-yard freestyle with Knutson also picking up a second place in the 100-yard freestyle. Coppennoll in the 100-yard backstroke, Booms in the 100-yard breaststroke and Kenzi Nicholson-Colbert in the 200-yard freestyle each picked up second places.

West was also second in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

West fourth, North/Lourdes sixth at Relays

Oshkosh West had a pair of third-place relays and Oshkosh North/Lourdes Academy had one at the Terror Relays last weekend.

The Wildcats finished third in the 200-meter freestyle relay with a team of Hailey Knutson, Brooke Leinen, Fern Ulrich and Kiersten Dietschweiler, while the 400-meter medley team of Rylee Coppennoll, Avery Booms, Dietschweiler and Linsey Koslowski also finished third.

West also took second in diving and was fourth in the 100-meter freestyle relay, 200-meter medley relay, 400-meter freestyle relay and 200-meter breaststroke/butterfly relay.

North/Lourdes earned its third place in the 100-yard freestyle relay with a team

of Addison Perzentka, Lucy Fiedler, Lucy Schade and Teya Zinth.

North/Lourdes also took fourth in the 500-meter freestyle crescendo relay and the 300-meter individual medley relay.

SOCCER

Wildcats split pair of FVA contests

Oshkosh West tallied a season-high three goals in a 3-2 win over Appleton West last week.

The Wildcats also suffered a 2-1 loss to Neenah and are now 2-2 in the Fox Valley Association.

North falls to Neenah, ties Patriots

Oshkosh North slipped to 0-2-2 in the FVA after losing a 3-1 decision to Neenah last Tuesday before playing to a scoreless tie against Appleton East.

VOLLEYBALL

Wildcats win title at Beaver Dam invite

Oshkosh West knocked off Germantown 25-15, 25-16 in the title match to finish a perfect day at the Beaver Dam Invitational on Saturday.

The Wildcats won all five matches in straight sets and allowed more than 20 points in a set just once in the tournament. West beat Waukesha North, Campbellsport and Edgerton in pool play before topping Beaver Dam to advance to the title match.

Sydnee Nelson and Emma Liebergen finished with 40 and 37 kills, respectively, to lead the West hitters, while Kayana

Turner added 16 kills. MaKaelyn Clark finished with 98 assists in the match.

Elaina Butz led the way with 60 digs with Nelson picking up 22 and Olivia Xiong adding 19. Halle Stern with five aces and Noelle Prickett with 2.5 blocks also posted team bests for the tournament.

Last Tuesday, the Wildcats breezed past Appleton West 25-5, 25-18, 25-10 with Nelson leading the team with 10 kills. Butz finished with nine digs and four aces and Clark had 21 assists.

Warriors outlast Oaks in Trailways tussle

Valley Christian remained undefeated in Trailways Conference matches after outlasting Oakfield in five sets 19-25, 25-20, 20-25, 27-25, 15-8 last Thursday.

Anna Giannopoulos led the Warriors with 20 kills with Lizzie Fink added 12 and Laila Gostas-Sims finish with seven. Gostas-Sims also had a team-high four aces in the match.

Ludia Hardy and Bella Birr finished with 19 and 17 assists, respectively, while Aubrey Lehnham with 25 digs and Gostas-Sims with 22 anchored the Warrior defense.

Earlier in the week, Valley Christian toppled Wayland Academy 25-8, 25-20, 25-2 behind 16 kills from Giannopoulos and eight each from Fink and Birr.

Gostas-Sims and Lehman each had five aces to top the Warriors, with Hardy and Birr picking up 18 and 17 assists, respectively.

The Warriors also went 2-2 at the Appleton West tournament on Saturday, beating Weyauwega-Fremont and Appleton West, while falling twice to Waupaca.

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 20

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 19

Spartans top Polar Bears

On Thursday, North won the first two sets against Hortonville but didn't secure the win until the fifth set in a 25-22, 25-16, 18-25, 22-25, 15-10 win on the road.

CROSS COUNTRY

Knights, Warriors run at Nightfall Classic

The Knights placed all five of their scoring runners in the top 24 and won the Division 3 girls title at the Neenah Nightfall Classic on Friday night.

Lourdes Academy finished with 61 points to take first, with Kewaunee following in second place with 74 points. Valley Christian placed ninth overall.

Khloe Bunton led the Knights with a 10th-place finish, followed by Annie Moore in 12th place. Evelyn Heinzen in 19th place, Ana Schneidewend in 20th place and Allison Stromske in 24th place rounded out the scoring runners for Lourdes.

Valley Christian was the area's top individual finisher placing third overall. McKenzie Murphy was the next Warrior to finish in 22nd place, while Madaline Weiss was 95th, Maura Willis was 104th and Evangeline Bratton Wesner took 106th.

On the boys side, Valley Christian finished sixth and Lourdes Academy took seventh with both teams having a runner place in the top 10.

The Knights had Henry Spanbauer place third overall while the Warriors were led by Jonah Menet in eighth place.

The rest of the scoring runners for Valley Christian were Jack O'Brien in 14th, Simon Menet in 31st place, Zachary Werner in 34th place and Joshua Sandahl in 115th.

Following Spanbauer for the Knights were Mason Piechowski in 20th place, Kody Neitzel in 52nd place, Cameron Kapral in 59th place and Connor Salm in 104th place.

Hayes, Weber lead Spartans at Shawano

Tianna Hayes finished sixth in the girls race and Jay Weber was seventh in the boys race at the Shawano Hawk Invitational on Saturday.

The North girls finished fourth overall with Adri Clark taking 14th place to fill the second spot behind Hayes. Allison Cummings and Nahla Whitley were 26th and 28th place, respectively, while Savannah Rust was 31st.

The boys were sixth in Division 1 led by Weber. The other scoring runners for the Spartans were Mason Gumz in 25th, Blake Ludwig in 36th, Campbell Harrison in 37th and Reid Anderson in 39th.

West girls, boys take third at Druckery Invite

Carter Crowe finished third for the Oshkosh West boys, while Abby Tercha led the way with a sixth-place finish for the girls as both Wildcat teams took third at the Druckery Invitational hosted by South Milwaukee High School on Saturday.

Tercha was one of three Wildcat runners to finish in the top 12, joined by Haylie Hullar in 11th place and Coraline Strebelski in 12th place. Gwen Liptow placed 16th in the race, while Mila Crowe

and Ellie Trebiatowski were 23rd and 24th, respectively.

Carter Crowe was the West boys top runner with his third-place finish, while Dominic Moore took ninth. Juan Collins and Arjen Karns were 16th and 17th, respectively, with Owen Moon rounding out the West runners in 52nd place.

GOLF

Wildcats come up short against Terrors

Lauren Klinger led Oshkosh West with a round of 52 at the Oshkosh Country

Senior Spotlight

FROM PAGE 18

life lessons like perseverance, and it brings me closer to God."

Giannopoulos will be a fourth-year starter in basketball this winter. She averaged 4.8 points, 5.4 rebounds and 2.8 assists last season. In addition to her brothers' hoops history at Valley Christian, her father, Louis, was the school's boys' basketball coach for several years. Anna's cousins, Ari and Christo, were both part of Oshkosh North's 2023 basketball team.

Anna also teamed with her cousin, Anna Y. Giannopoulos, on Warriors' basketball and volleyball teams until Anna Y's graduation in 2023. Anna's middle name is Elias and she often goes by Anna E. to differentiate her from her cousin, whose middle name is Yianni.

"Obviously, my family loves sports and it's just exciting and fun to be a part of sports at Valley Christian," said Anna.

The Giannopoulos brother-sister connection continues in track and field where Alexandros is Anna's throwing coach for the shot put and discus. Alexandros has taught Anna well. She is the school-record holder in the discus with a launch of 116 feet, 5 inches.

"I started throwing the discus and shot my freshman year," said Anna. "He threw both in high school, too, and he holds the boys' record in the discus. So my goal is to

Club as Oshkosh West came up short in a Fox Valley Association dual meet, 203-218 against Appleton West.

Valerie Mantia added a 54 for West, while Samreen Chahal and Hailey Gibbs each chipped in rounds of 56.

North drops dual meet to Papermakers

Nelly Harrison led the way with a 53 but Oshkosh North fell to Kimberly 228-180 in an FVA dual meet at High Cliff.

Maci O'Loughlin added a 56 for the Spartans, followed by Sammie Leib with a 59 and Ashling Lynch with a 60.

beat him. He can be hard on me, but he's very helpful and knowledgeable."

In addition to her excellence in athletics and academics, Anna also works as a hostess at Two Brothers Family Restaurant in Oshkosh, owned by Louis and his brother, John. Many of Anna's brothers and cousins have also worked at the restaurant.

"The restaurant has taught me a lot of valuable life lessons like how to talk to people and things of that nature," said Anna.

Louis and his wife, Katerina immigrated to the U.S. from Greece in 1999. The Greek culture is shared and celebrated in the Giannopoulos household and the Greek language is commonly spoken.

"My grandma lives with us and she only speaks Greek, so we speak Greek at home," Anna said. "We celebrate the Greek culture all the time and it's very important for my family to keep the Greek culture going. We're Greek Orthodox so we're also heavily involved with the church."

Giannopoulos will look to close her Valley Christian volleyball career on a high note. The Warriors went a solid 24-13 last season and took second place in the Trailways East at 6-1. Valley Christian was eliminated in regional play last season, but was a sectional finalist two years ago.

"Our goal is to win conference and go to state," Giannopoulos. "We need to stop saying that maybe we'll go to state, or we want to go to state. We need to say that we will go to state if we put our minds to it."

North wins

FROM PAGE 16

Spartans will be at home the next two Fridays hosting Sheboygan South at Titan Stadium on Friday, before welcoming Green Bay East to North's field at the high school the following week.

Four of the Spartans' final five games are at home and Luke Ott likes the way his team is coming together as the season has unfolded.

"We have a group that's dialed in," Luke Ott said. "The seniors are leading the way but the juniors and our sophomores are following suit and that's a great feeling."

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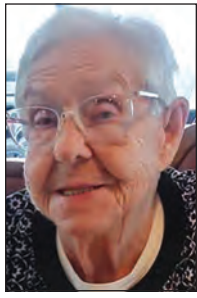
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Obituaries

Irene Srubas

Who among you has a picture of their pregnant mother doing a handstand on the sandy beaches of Lake Michigan?



We do. And, while we may be without photographic evidence, we've seen Irene Srubas do one-handed handstands, back flips off diving boards, and a variety of other gymnastic stunts. She could juggle while balancing a rake or broom on her chin.

Irene died Tuesday, Sept. 9, at age 92 at the Elijah House in Oshkosh.

So she was an acrobat? A gymnast? She was a lot of things: wife, mother of seven children, friend, gardener, athlete, artist. She taught phy-ed at St. Patrick Parish grade school in Menasha and helped teach English to Southeast Asian immigrants at Fox Valley Technical College. She was the family's reigning chess champion. Fiercely competitive always. When she and our fa-

ther played golf, she was unbeatable.

When she joined a bowling league, she carried a 212 average. And she regularly beat all the women and many of the men on the local tennis scene. She loved, loved, loved tennis, a sport she played until age 75, when a new medication she was on started making her too dizzy to remain the killer competitor she needed to be. She had no interest in just batting the ball around recreationally, so she gave it up completely, but with profound regret for most of her remaining years.

Another skill she was proud of into old age – mostly because it made her children jealous: she could whistle loud enough to hail a cab without use of fingers. It's how she used to call us kids in for supper; it could be heard throughout the neighborhood.

More than anything, she'll be remembered for her humor. She was often a wit but always a clown, and even in her final years, with her memory failing, she left a trail of nursing home employees giggling and loving her for her silliness.

Born Irene Kowalewski on May 12,

1933, she was one of three children. Mistreated and then abandoned by an alcoholic father, raised in extreme poverty by a chronically ill mother, Irene had a childhood that seems straight out of "Angela's Ashes." She and her two younger brothers were in and out of institutional care in southside Chicago, and she often found herself the primary caregiver for herself, her brothers, and their mother.

But with her early years teetering constantly between childhood and adulthood, she took the plunge into fulltime adulthood on May 21, 1949, when she embarked upon what would become a 54-year marriage to Stephen Srubas. Together they took care of his aged, widowed immigrant mother for those first few years as they embarked on building a family of their own, which grew to seven children – five of whom were born by the time she was 21.

They started in Chicago and ended up in Menasha.

Irene was already entering middle age when she achieved a couple of the measures of success more typically earned in one's teen years: She got her general

equivalency diploma and a driver's license. Those were also the years she took up the hobby of raising canaries and began working outside the home, teaching phy-ed, later working in an electronics assembly line, and, later still, helping English Language Learners at the Appleton technical college.

After Steve's death in 2003, Irene maintained an active social life, a formidable serve, and a wicked backhand for a good many years. She also maintained a ferocious zest for life for her remaining two decades until the nadir of her memory loss.

Irene is survived by two sons, two daughters, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. All of them are grateful for the care given her in her declining years, particularly by Preceptor Home Health and Hospice.

Celebration of life services for Irene will be a private family event as per her preference.

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Marianne Kettelhut

Marianne Kettelhut passed away peacefully on August 31st 2025. She was born in Chicago, Illinois on November 13, 1929 to Rudolph and Anna Smira. She married Donald Butcher of Stevensville, Michigan in 1950. After his passing from meningitis she raised her newborn daughter, worked for Whirlpool and area banks, and volunteered at a resale shop. She married Karl Kettelhut in 1965 and retired as a fruit farmer. She enjoyed collecting dolls and was a member of the Red Hat Society. Marianne moved to Oshkosh, WI to be near her daughter, and was a member of Living Water Lutheran Church, Oshkosh, and she truly enjoyed her visits with Pastor Dorn.

She is survived by her daughter, Mary Butcher and her husband Charles Putzer and grandchildren Anna Bechner (Putzer), Thomas, Joseph and Mark Putzer, and great-grandchildren Lofton Putzer and Ethan Bechner. She is also survived by step-daughters, Cassie, Mary Lou and Peggy Kettelhut, and step-grandchildren

and great-grandchildren.

Marianne is preceded in death by her parents, brother Robert Smira, husbands Donald Butcher and Karl Kettelhut, stepson Donald Kettelhut and step-daughter Beverly Kettelhut.

A special thank you to nurses and aides, especially Cam, who often made her smile, at The Residence in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Marianne donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, <https://www.stjude.org>, and the American Cancer Society in memory of her mother. Please consider donations in her name. Marianne will be laid to rest in the Lincoln Charter Township Cemetery in Stevensville, Michigan.

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Karon Kay Himmler

Karon "Snoopy Lady" Kay (Evanson) Himmler, age 84, of Oshkosh, passed away on September 8, 2025. She was born 20 minutes after her twin sister, Sharon, on May 27, 1941, to parents, Newell and Irean (Tadych) Evanson, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

She graduated from Oshkosh High School and then married the love of her life, Leonard "Lenny" Himmler on October 22, 1960. Karon and Lenny owned and operated Himmler's Sewing Machine Sales and Repairs for over 30 years. Together, they raised three children, until his passing in 2016. They were married for 57 years.

Karon was known as the "Snoopy Lady," to many. She had everything from clothing to telephones and Christmas decorations all with Snoopy on them. She was even featured in the local newspaper for being a number one fan. She rescued over 21 shelter dogs and helped everyone she could. In her younger days, she tried every sport imaginable at least once, including horseback riding on her sister's horse, Dutchess. Her passion was to teach others how to sew- including a free lesson with each sewing machine purchased. She was also very knowledgeable about alterations and converting wedding dresses into christening gowns or to donate as gowns for babies born sleeping.



She is survived by her children, John Himmler, Donald "Don" Himmler and Shaune Himmler; grandchildren, Jacob (Karla) Himmler, Hailey Himmler, Heather (Josh) Persching, Andrew (Keagen) Buege, Hannah Buege and James Buege; great-grandchildren, Noah Persching, Iris, Ivy and Lilly Himmler and Brinleigh and Callan Buege; godchild, Tim (Grace) Oliver; twin sister, Sharon Oliver; sister-in-law, Marie Evanson (Kansas City); great friends, Julia Hanson and Anne Zeimet; and many wonderful cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Preceding her in death was her parents, Newell and Irean (Tadych) Evanson; brother, Ronald Evanson; parents-in-law, Herbert "Harry" and May (Hartwell) Himmler; sisters-in-law, Delores, Ellen, Joan, Agnes, Janet Himmler and Charlotte Himmler; brothers-in-law, Robert, Harry, Herbert and Jack "the heavy horseman" W. Oliver.

Per her wishes, no formal service will be held. The family will have a private gathering at a later date. Karon's final resting place will be with her beloved husband, Lenny at Lake View Memorial Park Cemetery, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The family would like to thank the staff at St. Croix Hospice and the Avina (Cross-Roads) Home in Fond du Lac, as well as Father Jerry Pastors, for all of their care and compassion.

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Wayne L. Hinz

Wayne L. "Wayne-o" Hinz, 78, passed away on September 3, 2025, he was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin to Edwin and Ruth (Schaefer) Hinz on January 3, 1947.



Wayne graduated from Oshkosh High School and went on to service in the U.S. Army as Military Police, he then married

Violet Hinz on September 23, 1967. He enjoyed spending time at the casino, sing-

ing karaoke, listening to Elvis and even going to Elvis impersonator events.

He is survived by his wife, Violet Hinz; daughter, Wendy Hinz; grandchildren, Shawn Hinz and Merissa Brzostowski; and sister-in-law, Sylvia Fisher.

Wayne is preceded in death by his parents, Edwin and Ruth; sister, Charlene (Dave) Marshall; and granddaughter, Heather Lynn.

Per his wishes, no formal services will be held.

FOX CITIES FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
3026 JACKSON ST
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Patricia B. Follett

Patricia "Pat" B. (Ziegenhagen) Follett, 93, of Oshkosh, passed away on September 14, 2025 at Mercy Medical Center. She was born August 14, 1932 to the late Leonard and Marjorie (Barber) Ziegenhagen in Oshkosh WI. She married Everett Follett October 4, 1952 in Oshkosh, they spent 65 years together.

A funeral service for Pat will be held on

September 22, 2025, at 12:30 pm, at Konrad-Behlman Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Dr. Oshkosh, WI. Pastor Karen Jewell officiating. Visitation will be held from 11am until the time of service. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery.

Full obituary to follow

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
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Obituaries

Maxine Ann Merk

Maxine Ann (Wood) Merk, 88, of Ripon, passed away peacefully on September 7, 2025, in her beloved home on Rush Lake.



Born on February 26, 1937, to Walter and Viola Wood, Maxine grew up in Oshkosh and graduated from Oshkosh High School in 1955.

She went on to earn an associate degree in early childhood education from SE Technical School in Mequon and later a degree in elementary teaching from UW-Whitewater. Teaching was not just her career but her calling, and she began her journey in rural Oshkosh classrooms.

On April 4, 1959, Maxine married the love of her life, Kenneth Merk. In 1966, they moved to Brown Deer, where Maxine became the head teacher in the toddler and infant department at the Deerwood Center. In 1995 Maxine and Ken built their dream home on Rush Lake and settled in Ripon, where she finished her teaching career at the Ripon Children's Learning Center, continuing her passion for guiding and nurturing little ones.

Even after retirement, Maxine's love for children shone through in her time with her grandchildren, Jacob and Rebecca. She cherished their weekends together, teaching them countless card games—though cribbage was always the favorite. She gave of herself endlessly, always putting others before her own

needs. While strong-willed, her every decision was rooted in care and good intentions.

Maxine had many joys outside of teaching. She loved duck and deer hunting with Ken and Jeff. She found peace in her garden and took pride in canning her famous pears, peaches, pickles, and tomato juice. Her kitchen was the heart of her home, where she expressed her love through food—especially her unbeatable chocolate chip cookies and chocolate cake with buttercream frosting.

She is survived by her son, Jeffrey Merk, and daughter, Julie Andaloro; her grandchildren, Jacob (Abby) Merk and Rebecca (Tony) Gill; great-grandchildren, Easton and Rory Merk; brothers George (Irene) Wood and Rod Wood; and many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Merk; parents, Walter and Viola Wood; sisters and brothers-in-law Carla and Ervin Nemitz, Shirley and Roger Radloff; sisters-in-law Beverly Wood, Ester Desbrow, Jeannette Hoffman, Mary Fuller; and brothers-in-law Hugh Merk and Jack Fuller.

Per Maxine's wishes, a private graveside service will be held.

The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Alice Himmler, Kathy Paschke, and Grace Oliver for their compassionate care, which allowed Maxine to remain in the comfort of her home until her peaceful passing.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN FUNERAL HOMES

Louis Lloyd Langhoff Jr.

Louis Lloyd Langhoff Jr. (Grandpa Lou), age 96 of Oshkosh, passed away at



his residence on Saturday, September 13, 2025. He was born in Wausau to the late Louis and Viola (Grawien) Langhoff. Louis married Geraldine Lemke on July 8, 1950, and they

created a wonderful life together, raising three children and sharing adventures until her passing in 2005.

Louis proudly served his country in the United States Army from 1952 to 1954, and after his service, he dedicated many years as a superintendent at Buckstaff Company.

Faith was a cornerstone of Louis's life as he was a faithful follower of Jesus and a longtime member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. In his free time, Louis loved the great outdoors, often spending time at the family cabin in Merrill. He had a love for gardening planting almost two football fields of vegetables for family/friends. He cherished moments with family and friends, and he and Geraldine made many memories traveling together. A lifelong Green Bay Packers - Brewer fan, and the biggest supporter and fan of his grandchildren's sports. Louis also enjoyed attending tavern sign-ins or playing sheepshead with his buddies.

He is survived by his children, Rick Langhoff, Rod (Kim) Langhoff and Lisa

(Jeff) Hinn; grandchildren, Stephanie (Jim) Genz, Michael (Rebecca) Langhoff, Cody (Lauren) Hinn and Bryce Hinn; great-grandchildren, Courtney, Christian, Allie and Brooke; sisters, Shirley Borchardt and Clarice (Erv) Boehm; sisters-in-law, Florence Lemke, Judy Hass, Beverly Hintz. He is further survived by many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Louis was preceded in death by his wife, Geraldine Langhoff; sisters, Vernetta (Milton) Kleinschmidt, Marjorie (Bill) Klammer Buffington, Isabelle (Bob) Hoff, Jean (Lawrence) Bubolz, Marion (Dick) Simon, Florence (David) Langhoff; brothers-in-law, Lavern Borchardt, Allan Lemke, Harlan Lemke, Bill Haas, Ron Hintz.

A funeral service with Military Honors for Louis will be held at 12:00 pm on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 508 County Road M Pickett, WI 54964 officiated by Rev. Jud Krohn. Visitation will be held at the church from 10:00 am until the time of the service. Burial will be held at Riverside Cemetery in Oshkosh.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established.

Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure. We are forever grateful for all the years we had together and will cherish them in our hearts forever. Love you Dad/Grandpa.

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Obituaries

James Peter Schumacher Jr.

James (Jim) Peter Schumacher, Jr.
May 12, 1950 – September 5, 2025



James (Jim) Peter Schumacher, Jr., age 75, of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully at home on September 5, 2025, surrounded by family. Born in Oshkosh, Jim was the son of the late James P. Schumacher, Sr. and Betty Jane (Malnory). He proudly served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War as a Storekeeper Second Class aboard the USS Kyes, later earning his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from UW-Oshkosh.

Jim married the love of his life, Gina, on February 24, 1997, and together they shared 28 years filled with love, adventure, and family. He enjoyed a long career as a general store manager for Osco Drug and later worked locally at Piggly Wiggly in Oshkosh. Jim will be remembered for his devotion to family, his warm smile, and his love of hunting and fishing.

Jeffrey Edward Nicolaison

Jeffery "Jeff" Edward Nicolaison, known by many as "Buckwheat" passed away peacefully on September 10, 2025, at the age of 69.



Born on October 3, 1955, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin to Robert and Donna (Sweettalla) Nicolaison. A proud graduate of Oshkosh West High

School, Jeff was proud to talk of and often about his welding days and took immense pride in his craft as a car detailer, before retiring from Wisconsin Ordinance. Jeff had great enthusiasm for life that went far beyond his profession; he greatly enjoyed being outdoors- and you could always find Jeff outside tinkering in his garage, maintaining his lawn, or sitting in his lawn chair with his dog, Lilly, a refreshment in hand, and his music turned up way too loud.

Those who knew Jeff will remember him for his infectious sense of humor. He had a knack for turning mundane moments into joy-filled memories, often with his playful comments and funny nicknames that never failed to cause a laugh. Jeff had a big heart, always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. His kindness and spirit resonated deeply with family and friends alike.

In the realm of sports, whether cheering on his favorite teams or playing games with family, Jeff's passion was evident. Some of his girls best memories were when his competitive side shone through, especially during family Monopoly nights where, despite his best efforts, he often found himself on the losing end where, regardless, the night would end in a room full of belly laughs. Jeff also took immense pride in being called Grandpa and loved spending

Dolores J. Schmude

Dolores J. Schmude (Krueger), age 98 of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully on June 18th, 2025. Her final resting place is at Lakeview Memorial Cemetery. Oshkosh, WI.



Dolores had a warm welcoming home where everyone was always gathered around the kitchen ta-

ble. Snacks, Grilled Cheeses, or her signature Poached Egg on Toast were always offered and gratefully accepted. Dolores will be remembered for her warmth, kindness, and her unwavering devotion to her family! She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Her legacy will live on in all our hearts forever. Love You Mama!

Please join us for a Celebration of her Life on Saturday, September 20th, 2025. To be held at South Park. 1300 Georgia Street, Oshkosh. The Brown Pavilion. 12PM-4PM.

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time with his grandson, Kameron.

Jeff will be dearly missed by his two loving daughters, Alissa (James) Burrows and Rachel Nicolaison, and his grandson Kameron, who will carry forward his legacy of love, laughter, and generosity. He is further survived by his sister; Linda Bosin, sisters-in-law; Sue Nicolaison, Nickie (Dee) Durant, Kerry (Scott) Derr, brother-in-law; Quint (Mary) Derr. His father and mother in law; Les and Sue Derr and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Jeff is preceded by his parents, Robert and Donna, brothers; William "Bill" Nicolaison, Joel Nicolaison, his significant other; Kelly Derr, brother in law Gene Bosin, sister in law; Shelby Derr.

We invite friends and family to join us in honoring Jeff's memory with a visitation on September 19, 2025, at 11:30 AM at Konrad-Behlman-West 100 Lake Pointe Dr. Oshkosh, WI 54904. A memorial service will follow at 12:30 PM. Afterward, we will gather for a graveside service at Lake View Memorial Park in Oshkosh, WI at 3:00 PM.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the staff at Dimensions Living-Cudahy for the care and companionship they provided to our father during his time there, especially Sonya. We are also especially grateful to the team at Brighton Hospice for their compassionate support they provided. Your kindness and dedication brought comfort and dignity to both him and our family, and we will always be thankful.

We'll miss you, Dad — a.k.a. "The Guru of Car Cleaning," as you proudly called yourself.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

ble. Snacks, Grilled Cheeses, or her signature Poached Egg on Toast were always offered and gratefully accepted. Dolores will be remembered for her warmth, kindness, and her unwavering devotion to her family! She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Her legacy will live on in all our hearts forever. Love You Mama!

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

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Friday and Saturday, September 19th and 20th 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Condos on Wyldewood Drive. Off Oakwood or Witzel.

Downsizing-Estate Sale: Sept 19th, 9AM-5PM & Sept 20th, 9AM-4PM. Valley Heights Road, Oshkosh. Scaffolding, Tools, Household, TV's & more!

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Oshkosh 3 Family Sale - 2530 Village Lane. Friday-Saturday Sept. 19-20, 9am - 3pm. Home furnishings, shelf, toys, Legos, tools, jewelry, books, family name-brand clothing and shoes.

Miscellaneous

ATTENTION GRANDFATHER CLOCK OWNERS: We make house calls! Follow "The Clock Doc" on Facebook. Call 920-509-7527

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Legal Notices

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: Colton Ross Cavett

Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2025CV000877

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

From: First – Colton Middle – Ross Last – Cavett To: First – Colton Middle – Eric Last – Ashcroft Birth Certificate: First – Colton Middle – Ross Last – Cavett

IT IS ORDERED:

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin: Judge's Name: Hon. Michael S. Gibbs Place: Winnebago County Courthouse, 415 Jackson St. Room 240, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Date: 10-16-2025 Time: 2:45 PM If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4868 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

NOTICE TO NEWSPAPER AND PETITIONER:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the following newspaper Herald Oshkosh.

BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: September 11, 2025 /s/ Hon. Michael S. Gibbs Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 4 Runs: September 17, 2025, September 24, 2025 and October 1, 2025.

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY Small Claims Publication Summons And Notice
Case No.25-CV-000792

PRESTIGE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC
See attached for additional plaintiffs. Plaintiff(s)
-VS- REBECCA SCHWARZ
2009 MOUNT VERNON ST OSHKOSH, WI 54901
See attached for additional defendants. Defendant(s).

If you need help in this matter because of a disability, please call:

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT:

You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above.

The lawsuit will be heard in the following Small Claims court: OUTAGAMIE County Courthouse

Telephone Number of Clerk of Court: 920-832-5131
Courtroom/Room Number: B
Address: 320 S Walnut St, Courtroom B-2nd FL
City: APPLETON
State: WI
Zip: 54911

Within forty (40) days of receiving this summons, you must respond with a written answer, as that term used in chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the complaint. The court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is: 901 N. 9TH STREET, ROOM 104, MILWAUKEE, WI 53233 and to Shindler & Joyce, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 1990 E. Algonquin Road, Suite 180, Schaumburg, IL 60173. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within forty (40) days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property, at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a complaint in that county.

Date Filed 09-04-2025
Signature of Plaintiff/Attorney MICHAEL R JOYCE /S/ Plaintiff's/Attorney's Telephone Number: (847) 537-1000
Attorney's State Bar Number: 1098691
Law Firm and Address: Shindler & Joyce
1990 E. Algonquin Rd., Suite 180 Schaumburg, IL 60173
Runs September 17, 2025, September 24, 2025 and October 1, 2025

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



SEPTEMBER IS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MONTH Disaster Strikes!

What happens if there's a disaster and you lose your home? What if you can't find food or safe water? That's a scary thought. Yet, every year, children around the world face disasters like floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and conflict.

That's where ShelterBox comes in!



What's in a ShelterBox Aid Package?

Do the math problem under each item. If the answer is an even number, that item may be included in a ShelterBox package. Circle it in green. If it's an odd number, the item is not in the box. Cross it out.

<p>pots and pans 4 + 4 = 8</p>	<p>gloves 2 + 8 =</p>	<p>rope 6 + 4 =</p>	<p>frozen pizza 5 + 4 =</p>
<p>hammer 12 + 6 =</p>	<p>water filter 3 + 3 =</p>	<p>children's activity pack 4 + 4 =</p>	<p>solar light 10 + 6 =</p>
<p>saw 4 + 8 =</p>	<p>waterproof ground mats 6 + 6 =</p>	<p>thermal blankets 11 + 3 =</p>	
<p>water containers 1 + 7 =</p>			

ShelterBox Sends Lifesaving Aid



When disaster strikes, not everyone needs the same thing.

After an earthquake, families might need strong tents and tool kits to rebuild.

In flooding, families may get water filters and blankets.

In conflict zones, aid could include solar lights and cooking sets.

Every package is different, but all are designed to help families survive and recover when they've lost everything.

ShelterBox: A Rotary Idea!

Did you know ShelterBox started in the year 2000 by a Rotary Club in the UK? Today, Rotary members and other supporters help ShelterBox reach families in more than 100 countries.

Together, they've helped millions of people find shelter and safety.



Extra! Extra! Needs and Wants

Look through the newspaper and circle in green pictures and words that are "needs." Circle in orange things that are "wants."

Standards Link: Vocabulary & Concept Development; student understand homonyms.

ShelterBox aid is tailored to local needs. Sometimes the package is a sturdy tent—a safe space to call home. Other times, it's a set of tarps, ropes, and tools to help families repair damaged homes. To find out more, visit shelterboxusa.org

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums and differences to 100.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Children who lose their homes can't read at night without light. ShelterBox includes solar-powered lights in the emergency supplies to help children enjoy reading and do their homework.

Bring this book to the solar light.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

Kid Scoop Together Be Prepared!

ShelterBox USA President Kerri Murray encourages families to pack up their own emergency supplies so they can be prepared if a disaster hits.

Emergency Supplies

Oops! An earthquake shook the vowels out of this list! Replace the vowels, then share this list with your family. Use this list to make your own ShelterBox for your family.

Water and f__d
for four d_ys

M_dicines

F_rst aid k_t

Fl_shl_ghts and
_xtra b_tteres

Bl_nkets or
sl__ping b_gs

Soap and
h_nd wipes

C_ll ph_ne with
b_ckup b_tt_ries

B__ks, t_ys and
g_mes

T_nt, if you have one

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Write On! Report a Solution

Write about a problem that you or someone else solved. Tell what the problem was and how it was solved.

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