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## Amos appointed to fill open council seat

By Jonathan Richie  
OSHKOSH HERALD

In a move that is becoming a trend in Oshkosh the common council appointed a new member to sit on the council for the next four months.

Jacob Amos is the first black man to serve on the Oshkosh Common Council since its inception in 1956. Amos was one of 14 candidates who applied for the seat

following the resignation of Kris Larson in October.

Larson resigned over a conflict of interest with the city looking to purchase or lease City Center, which Larson has a financial interest in as the owner of Becket's restaurant and his father being one of the owners of City Center.

Amos pitched himself as a newcomer to Oshkosh as he moved to the city about

two and a half years ago. He grew up in Milwaukee and noticed differences between the two Wisconsin cities.

"I noticed that the streets were clean. I noticed how friendly the neighbors were when I waved at them," Amos said about the time he first walked his dogs through his neighborhood. "All of those things

SEE **Amos appointed** ON PAGE 9



Photo by Michael Cooney

### Holiday decorating

Lisa McLaughlin, treasurer for the Altrusa Club of Oshkosh, helps to decorate for the Festival of Trees at The Grand Oshkosh. The event, being held at the Grand this year after a lengthy break, is a fundraiser to benefit area nonprofits and programs. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. today, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The festival is a walk-through experience featuring 61 trees and six wreaths throughout the building.

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## New rental service provides tools to complete projects

By Jonathan Richie  
OSHKOSH HERALD

With the average power drill operating for less than 15 minutes in its lifetime, a new type of library for tools has popped up in Oshkosh as part of a trend that is continuing to grow as expenses continue to increase.

Organizers had the power drill in mind when they opened the Oshkosh Tool Library earlier this year. The library operates at 300 S. Koeller St., behind Takiza restaurant.

Stephanie Losse is one of the initial organizers of the group. She explained the

rules are similar to those of book libraries - become a member and gain access to tools.

Tools can be rented and used at home or the tools can be used at the library. All tools are expected to be returned in the same or better condition than when they are rented.

To ensure customers have time to finish their projects, tools are typically rented for seven days.

Anyone in Winnebago County can join the library. Losse said they must bring an ID and proof of address to the library, then fill out an agreement and policy form

to become a member.

"Borrowers must know how to safely operate the tools before borrowing," Losse said. "We trust each other to ask for help, be responsible to one's self and others, and treat our shared tools with respect."

The idea for the library, Losse said, came from the Oshkosh Repair Cafe. The group noted that volunteers fixing items for people reducing waste and sharing their skills was a positive for the community.

They then formed the tool library for some of those same volunteers to have a space year-round.

"Our mission is to provide equitable access to tools, encourage creation and repair, and foster community empowerment with education and cooperation," Losse said. "We also want to be your first stop in a weekend project to save money and reduce waste from disrepair and idle tools."

The library is a non-profit organization that relies on contributions from the founders, organizers and members.

"Memberships are donation based to

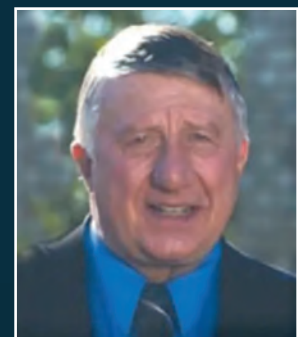
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www.oshkoshherald.com.

# Peniel Welsh Chapel earns state honor

Oshkosh Herald

In a milestone for Wisconsin's Welsh heritage, Peniel Welsh Chapel on Nov. 14 was officially listed on the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places.

Initial application work was completed by Alexis Ludewig in collaboration with other members of the board. The nomination was written and presented by Kate Bissen, whose advocacy helped shine a spotlight on this modest but deeply significant structure, Ludewig said.

The chapel's inclusion reflects not only its architectural integrity but also its central role in preserving the cultural traditions of Welsh immigrants in rural Wisconsin," Ludewig said.

Built in 1856 by early Welsh settlers, Peniel Chapel stands as a classic example of the small "white church" common in America's rural past. The Chapel became a hub for the area's Welsh.

Not only used for prayer meetings, it was the site of communal gatherings featuring musicians, poetry readings, debates, noted speakers and its annual Gymanfa Ganu.



Submitted photo

Peniel Welsh Chapel, a part of the Oshkosh Welsh Settlement, last month was placed on the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places. The application will now move on for consideration at the federal level.

Over time, the congregation dwindled. By 1977, only about 20 members remained and regular Sunday worship ceased.

But in a remarkable turn, Ludewig said former congregants formed the Peniel Gymanfa Ganu Association, now known as the Peniel Welsh Chapel Association, purchased the building and revived its Welsh legacy as a gathering space, es-

pecially for religious, charitable and educational events.

The historic designation comes as a strong affirmation of Peniel's cultural value. The chapel is known statewide and beyond as home to Wisconsin's longest-running Gymanfa Ganu, a Welsh-style hymn singing festival.

The 104th annual Sing was held in August, an event that draws visitors from across the country and internationally. In addition, the chapel hosts a public program every month from May through September, welcoming all who wish to experience its music, fellowship and history.

The State Register listing not only honors its architectural heritage but Ludewig said also helps secure its future, ensuring that future generations can continue to sing, gather and celebrate at this small but mighty Welsh house of worship.

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**Back in the Day**

Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical Society

**Dec. 1, 2010**

**Oshkosh Public Museum Receives \$2.9 Million Gift:** Through his estate, a California man has gifted a \$2.9M trust to the city's Public Museum. The estate of Fred Durow, who lived in California for decades, has bequeathed a trust to be used for glassware and ceramic acquisitions. Over the years, Durow and his wife had made several visits to the museum since the 1930s and fell in love with it. According to Museum Director Brad Larson, "When Fred decided he wanted to establish a trust for the museum, I had no idea how much money was involved. He never told me he was a millionaire." Durow has no direct heirs and he and his wife, Marion, wanted to preserve their passion for the Oshkosh Public Museum and for decorative arts. Mr. Durow passed away in September 2009 and was in his mid- 90s.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Dec. 1, 2010

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Submitted photo

Key Club high school students teamed up with Oshkosh Noon Kiwanis members to collect garbage along Witzel Avenue.

## Students, Noon Kiwanis clean up highway

Oshkosh Herald

Students from Oshkosh North and West high schools recently helped a local organization make the city a little cleaner.

Members of the Oshkosh Noon Kiwanis spent a recent Saturday morning collecting garbage with the students in the vicinity of Witzel Avenue from Oakwood Road to Clairville Road. The club has maintained this stretch of road through the Wisconsin Adopt-a-Highway program for decades.

“Spending a couple of hours on a Saturday morning on a project like this is a wonderful way to start a weekend,” said Joe Bongers, vice president of the club. “It’s even more gratifying when young people volunteer to help. They were clearly proud of what they accomplished.”

Bongers and other Oshkosh Noon Kiwanis members were joined by students from key clubs at Oshkosh North and West high schools.

The Oshkosh Noon Kiwanis supports many programs throughout the year that promote childhood literacy, including the Kiwanis ‘N Cops ‘N Kids program and 1,000 Books Reading Challenge at Oshkosh Public Library. Recently, the club was responsible for bringing back the Oshkosh Children’s Parade.

The club is offering a new scholarship for graduating seniors in June 2026. One senior at each of the two Oshkosh public high schools will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

For more information about the club, visit [oshkoshnoonkiwanisclub.org](http://oshkoshnoonkiwanisclub.org).

# Molina Healthcare donates to local food pantries

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Area Community Pantry is among the organizations across the state receiving grants from Molina Healthcare of Wisconsin.

Molina presented grants to seven food pantries spread across Wisconsin to help stock their shelves. In addition to Oshkosh, the donations will support food centers in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Madison, Sun Prairie and Green Bay.

Molina said the \$25,000 total donation provides relief for charities overwhelmed with demand due to the winter months approaching and the temporary pause on FoodShare (SNAP) benefits.

Over 700,000 Wisconsinites were impacted by the government shutdown, which is nearly 1 in 8 residents. With more than 60% of FoodShare recipients being children, the disruption intensified pres-

sure on food pantries and community centers already struggling to meet an unprecedented number of requests for assistance.

“Due to the government shutdown, FoodShare benefits for November left families uncertain as to where their next meal may come from,” said Elizabeth Ahnert, program manager for Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. “As a result, we saw an increase in need as our call volume and guest visits spiked. Thanks to Molina Healthcare of Wisconsin and our community wrapping their arms around us during this challenging time, we were able to continue our steadfast mission and be a reliable source of food for these families.”

Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, which received a \$2,500 grant from Molina, distributes groceries and essentials to more than 31,000 guests, but demand has surged in recent weeks.

## UWO athletics collects food drive items

Oshkosh Herald

The UW-Oshkosh Athletics Department collected nearly 3,000 food items in its third annual Take Down Hunger Food Drive. The 21 intercollegiate programs raise items for the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry each fall.

As a department, Oshkosh intercollegiate athletics donated 2,893 food items, which is 1,000 more items than last year.

“We’re really grateful with how much this food drive has grown over the past few years”, said head men’s wrestling coach Aaron Konitzer, who operates the food drive. “We make it fun competition

amongst the teams, but I think it’s awesome how our athletics department has stepped up to help those in need within our community during this time of year.”

The program that is awarded the trophy each year is determined by items per student-athlete and not total items due to the large differences in roster sizes. This year, men’s and women’s swimming and diving’s 40.5 food items per student-athlete won the trophy for the second time in three years. The teams combined for 1,742 items. Women’s volleyball, the defending champion, brought in 810 items, averaging 36.82 items per student-athlete.

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# Local recycling programs receive statewide recognition

Oshkosh Herald

Two organizations from Winnebago County were among the winners of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Recycling Excellence Awards.

The Oshkosh Correctional Institution and Tri-County Recycling received the recognition from the DNR each in the Projects and Initiatives category.

## Vermiculture program

The Oshkosh Correctional Institution started a vermiculture program in 2004 with only a couple pounds of red wiggler worms. Today, this has grown to approximately 420 pounds of red wigglers that fill

284 worm beds. The beds are repurposed barrels from the institution.

In 2024, OSCI purchased 2,000 European nightcrawlers that filled four barrels, and since then it has multiplied to fill 16 barrels. Vermiculture is a process of using earthworms to recycle organic waste into nutrient-rich compost. The program started by putting containers outside each unit to collect "worm appropriate" food daily.

To assist unit workers, menus were delivered weekly with foods highlighted as appropriate for the vermiculture program to increase food waste collection. From July 2024 to June 2025, OSCI recycled approximately 57,600 pounds of food waste, which

was consumed by the worms or added to the vermiculture or horticulture compost piles.

Approximately 16,440 pounds of paper and 4,332 pounds of cardboard has been used for worm bedding or composted. Also from July 2024 to June 2025, the worms produced more than 3,800 pounds of worm castings. The program also utilizes shredded paper, old t-shirts, blankets, egg and fruit crates, coffee and filters, sawdust and plastic containers (which are repurposed to sell worm castings).

## Recycling master class

Tri-County Recycling (consisting of Winnebago, Brown and Outagamie counties) recently began offering a "Recycle Right Master Class" program.

The program launched in late 2023 to address growing public skepticism around recycling and strengthen community knowledge of proper recycling practices. This interactive initiative combines in-depth education, facility access and hands-on volunteer service to reduce contamination and increase community participation in recycling.

The program consists of three core classes, each designed to build on one another. The courses include: 101 Curbside Recycling, 201 Beyond the Bin and 301 Recycling in Context.

To graduate, participants must also complete 10 hours of volunteer service within six months, applying what they've learned to support local recycling outreach efforts. Volunteer opportunities include assisting at community events, giving short presentations and helping neighbors recycle right.

By transforming residents into "Master Recyclers," the program builds long-

term champions for waste reduction and demonstrates leadership in advancing Wisconsin's recycling goals through education, outreach and measurable behavior change. Graduates are emerging as trusted local advocates, helping to reduce contamination and build public confidence in recycling.

This program demonstrates how a proven education model can be adapted to meet today's recycling challenges.

## Statewide recycling

Wisconsin's recycling law bans certain materials from the trash and establishes a statewide recycling program.

For the last 13 years, the DNR has celebrated outstanding recycling and waste minimization efforts through its annual awards recognizing high-performers and highlighting proven ideas and strategies that other organizations may use to improve their recycling efforts.

For 2025, the DNR is recognizing 22 organizations for going beyond what is required by law.

"This year marks a new record high number of Recycling Excellence Award winners," said Jennifer Semrau, DNR waste reduction and diversion coordinator. "The number of nominations we received exemplified an outstanding commitment to recycling, upcycling and food waste reduction."

In addition to landfill-banned items, which include curbside recyclables and electronics, the winners diverted many tons of food waste, roof shingles, plastic bags and film, propane cylinders, bicycles and other common materials for reuse or recycling.

Awards are given in one of four categories: Projects and Initiatives, Overall Program, Special Events and Innovation.

## Nonprofit proposals available for funding

Oshkosh Herald

The city of Oshkosh will utilize federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to support public service grants.

The Community Development Department is accepting grant proposals for Public Services Activities from local non-profit organizations for expenses expected to be incurred during the 2026 calendar year.

For more information regarding what qualifies as a Public Service Activity, refer to the Public Services category at files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Matrix-Code-Definitions.pdf.

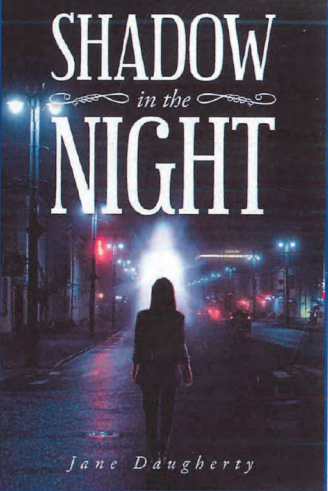
All clients benefitting from the use of CDBG funds must live within the city limits of Oshkosh. The proposal must provide a direct benefit for low to moderate income residents of Oshkosh. The funds can be used for administration, supplies, materials and other costs related to the implementation and operation of a pro-

gram. No applications will be accepted for startup costs or capital expenditures such as vehicles, facility renovations and similar items.

The minimum grant request may be no lower than \$10,000 and the maximum grant request may be no higher than \$135,000. Other eligibility requirements include beneficiary income and demographic tracking capabilities, as well as financial documentation (receipts or invoices) proving expenses were incurred between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2026.

Applications are due before noon Dec. 15. The application will be available through Neighborly. Interested applicants must create a Neighborly "participant" login account to apply for the grant. The application will be available at shorturl.at/IqmW1 once the interested applicant's "participant" account is set up. Contact city staff at cdbg@oshkoshwi.gov or 920-236-5029 with any questions.

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# City considers options to address drainage pipe concerns

By Jonathan Richie  
OSHKOSH HERALD

A drainage pipe a developer installed 36 years ago may not cause the city too many issues in the future as an agreement could soon be struck to buy an easement in the area to ensure the pipe properly drains into the sewer system.

The Oshkosh Common Council in September delayed approving the easement because members thought they were not given enough information or details on an easement. A resident in the area also spoke about how his property would be affected by the easement.

At the time it appeared the council was favoring the wants of a few over the needs of the many as council members delayed a vote that would affect a handful of property owners because they insisted they did not have all of the details or all of the options.

"We asked for options," Mayor Matt Mugerauer said. "To be honest, councils in the past haven't always asked for options."

He said the council has usually been presented with the "lowest cost always" options and in this situation the council was clear they were open to other ideas that may be more costly but would decide what was best.

One of the property owners, Connor Miller, spoke Sept. 9 about a concern that his home's value would decrease because of an odd drainage pipe installed in the 1980s.

The 24-inch drainage pipe was installed in 1989 by a private company. It goes from Miller's backyard and connects with the storm sewer beneath Jackson Street. The pipe takes storm water drainage from Jackson Street.

Miller told the council the easement will not allow him to have a fenced-in backyard which was important to himself and his wife when they bought the home.

The city's public works department went over four options. City Engineer Justin Gierach explained the four options, adding that a pair of the options will not work because they are not hydraulically feasible. The remaining options are feasible but would require updating sewer systems into the area.

The options still being considered would also require more easements and would affect more property owners.

Mugerauer was satisfied with the work city staff did. The council voted earlier this month to go with the original option of buying the easement that will affect two properties on Summerset Way.

An easement is placed to allow city workers access to the land that the drainage pipe runs through. This would be a 20-foot-wide by 400-foot-long strip of land running from Summerset Way to the right of way east of Jackson Street.

The financials of purchasing the ease-

ment were not discussed at the Nov. 11 council meeting, but will be brought back at a future meeting when the city finalizes the paperwork.

The easement would not have been something that needed to be acted upon except for the fact that not having the easement could have delayed a child care facility planned in the area.

Advocap executive director Tanya Marcoe spoke at the Nov. 11 council meeting urging the council to approve the easement to not delay the childcare incubator.

"This easement is critical to the timely construction of Advocap's child care incubator, a project you unanimously approved on Aug. 12, 2025," Marcoe said. "The incubator is not just a building, it is a cornerstone of our community's economic development strategy designed to address the severe shortage of childcare services that impacts working families and local employers."

She added that everyday the project is delayed could lead to rising costs, linked to not only materials but also engineering costs.

Macro said after the meeting that Advocap has not had any additional costs because of the delay.

The Advocap child care incubator is set to be built on Jackson Street. The council in August approved the general development plan and a specific implementation plan for the incubator.

Last year, the council approved allocating \$217,660 in ARPA funds for the project. The total estimated cost for the project is around \$2 million to build on the three-acre site.

Advocap anticipates 32 children and four to six employees on site per shift. Advocap's child care incubator program is designed to allow low-income individuals to start their own child care business. It will function as a shared facility with separate child care businesses operating in the same building but independently from each other.

Multiple child care centers have closed in the last couple of years including the Christian Community Child Center that is located just north of Advocap's site at 3870 Jackson St.



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ZIMMER BIOMET



Submitted photo

Chloe was honored as the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh's 2025-2026 Youth of the Year.

## B&G Club names youth award recipients

Oshkosh Herald

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh announced an Oshkosh West High School junior named Chloe as its 2025-2026 Youth of the Year representative.

The announcement was made during the Youth of the Year Dinner, sponsored by The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh Alumni Association, on Nov. 12.

Each year, outstanding high school members compete for the prestigious Youth of the Year title — an honor that recognizes their leadership, service, academic excellence and personal growth. Chloe competed against three peers — Happiness (Oshkosh North High School), Donovin (Oshkosh West Riverside Campus) and Grace (Oshkosh West High School) — to earn the title.

As the 2025-2026 Youth of the Year, Chloe will receive a \$10,000 scholarship from the Charles F. Hyde, Jr. Scholarship Endowment to support her higher education. She will go on to represent the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh at the Wisconsin Youth of the Year competition in Madison in March, where she'll have the opportunity to earn additional scholarships and advance to the regional and national levels.

Chloe has been a proud member of the

Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh since she was just four years old. Over the years, the club has become her "home away from home," helping her discover her voice, confidence and purpose. Today, Chloe serves as president of the Keystone Club, leading her peers in community service projects and mentoring younger members through Torch Club.

Through her leadership, Chloe has helped shape the teen center into an inclusive space where everyone feels welcome.

"The Club has shown me what impact I can have on people and created a community where everyone feels valued," Chloe said.

Through the Club's Keystone program, Chloe discovered that giving back and seeking justice often go hand in hand. "Keystone showed me how real it could be for me to help others," she shared. "It taught me that giving back can also be a way to provide justice."

Her curiosity, compassion and leadership continue to guide her as she works toward her dream of becoming a criminal analyst.

"We are so proud of Chloe," said Alyssa Martinez, Director of Workforce Development & Teen Services. "In the year and a half that I've had the privilege of working with her, I've watched her grow into a confident, driven and compassionate leader. Chloe consistently goes above and beyond to support those around her and truly represents the heart of what the Boys & Girls Club stands for."

The Youth of the Year Dinner also celebrated the achievements of club members ages 5-18 in areas such as Health & Wellness, Academic Success and Character & Leadership. Families, donors, mentors and alumni joined in applauding these youth during an evening when the kids proudly took the stage to receive medals recognizing their accomplishments.

# Two local honorees receive statewide recognition

Oshkosh Herald

Two honorees from Oshkosh received statewide recognition as they were inducted into the Wisconsin Boys & Girls Clubs Hall of Fame.

The Wisconsin Boys & Girls Clubs Hall of Fame honors individuals who have made exceptional contributions to Boys & Girls Clubs across the state — whether through club membership, board or volunteer service, or other efforts that have significantly benefited one or more clubs.

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh inductees include the Hyde family — Doug and Chrys Hyde and Peg Wachtel — and the Oshkosh club's CEO, Tracy Ogden.

The Hyde family was nominated by the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh and selected by past Hall of Fame inductees in recognition of their extraordinary commitment, generosity and long-standing support of the Oshkosh community.

"The Hyde Family's extraordinary commitment to the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh spans more than four decades and multiple generations," said Sue Ackerman, Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh past board president, current board member and Hall of Fame member. "Their legacy of leadership and generosity began with Charles F. Hyde Jr. and Joyce Hyde and continues through their children Doug and his wife Chrys, Peg Wachtel and Thomas Hyde."

Ogden was chosen by WI CEOs who



Submitted photo

Tracy Ogden (second from left) was recently inducted into the Wisconsin Boys & Girls Clubs Hall of Fame.

are Hall of Fame recipients for her dedication to advancing the club's mission — not only locally in Oshkosh, but also across Wisconsin and on a national level.

Since 2018, the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh has had five previous inductees into the Wisconsin Boys & Girls Clubs Hall of Fame: Ron Lampe, Jamie Wilcox, Sue Ackerman, Lorie Bunke and Dave Elbing.

The Hall of Fame Dinner took place on Nov. 17 at the Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center, in conjunction with the Wisconsin State Conference.



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Since the early 1980s, the Hyde Family has played a transformative role in the growth and life of the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh.

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# Campaign started to encourage reading in Oshkosh

By Jonathan Richie  
OSHKOSH HERALD

Reading is one of the fundamental skills in life. People rely on it every day, email, text messages, menus, road signs and newspapers.

The Read More campaign, started by a group of individuals in Oshkosh, is bringing reading back to the forefront by highlighting the community and individual benefits.

A group from the campaign will be in the Downtown Oshkosh Holiday Parade Thursday evening handing out holiday books to children as an encouragement for kids and adults to read.

The campaign's creation was sparked when assistant superintendent of instruction at Oshkosh Area School District Sam Coleman spoke to the Leadership Oshkosh class of 2025 about education in February.

"Falling in love with reading changed my life in so many ways. I believe reading is transformational, and it is a fundamental right that should be accessible, celebrated and experienced by everyone," Coleman said. "This campaign taps into the power of literacy and shines a light on the countless ways reading strengthens individuals, families, businesses, communities and ultimately, the future of our city."

Coleman along with E-Power marketing owner Justin Tadych, Oshkosh Public Library director Darryl Eschete and Leadership Oshkosh coordinator/community volunteer Trina Woldt have teamed up to launch the 'Read More' campaign in Oshkosh.

The message is simple: Reading Makes Better \_\_\_\_\_. Families, educators, busi-

## The Monthlies Project launches in Oshkosh

Oshkosh Herald

The Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation is bringing The Monthlies Project to the Oshkosh area, with the support of two local donors and the passion of a growing community coalition.

The Monthlies Project was first launched in Appleton in 2022 to confront period poverty — a widespread but often overlooked issue where people who menstruate lack access to basic products like pads and tampons. The impact on education shows 84% of students who menstruate say they know someone who has missed class because they couldn't access menstrual products.

"Access to something as simple as a pad can make the difference between a student focusing on their education or being held back by embarrassment, discomfort or missed class time," said Karlene Grabner, Oshkosh Women's Fund executive director. "That's why bringing The Monthlies Project to our community is so important."

Since its inception, The Monthlies Project has distributed more than one million period products across Northeast Wisconsin, providing dignity and opportunity to students who otherwise would go without. With this expansion, students in the Oshkosh area will have free access to menstrual products through schools and youth-serving organizations.

The fund is supported within the Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and powered by local and national partners, including Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin and Kimberly-Clark. Learn more about The Monthlies Project at [monthliesproject.com/](http://monthliesproject.com/).



Submitted photo

The Read More campaign team has been busy with a book drive that will culminate in books being handed out to kids during the Oshkosh Holiday Parade Thursday evening. Justin Tadych, Darryl Eschete, Trina Woldt and Sam Coleman are spearheading the initiative, which will officially launch in January.

nesses, and neighbors are invited to fill in the blank — and join the movement.

The campaign received almost 500 books for the first book drive. Those books will be handed out during Thursday's parade.

The group will be holding a book drive in the future for those who missed this opportunity to donate books.

The conversation between Coleman and the Leadership Oshkosh class centered on the joy of reading and the difficulty people have getting into reading. They discussed the importance of reading and their own personal experiences with getting back into reading. The group also discussed the anti-intellectualism trends continuing in the region and nation.

"Frederick Douglass said that literacy makes a person forever free, as it empowers people to learn new things, to fact

check and to craft a unique worldview," Eschete said. "The Read More initiative is our community's opportunity to remind ourselves of that on an ongoing basis."

The National Endowment for the Arts published an article last year with the headline — "Federal Data on Reading for Pleasure: All Signs Show a Slump." The article cited a 2022 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts that 48.5% of U.S. adults read at least one book in the past year. That number was 52.7% in 2017 and 54.6% in 2012.

The number of people that reported reading a novel or short story has also declined from 45.2% in 2012 to 37.6% in 2022.

"Plain and simple, reading builds stronger students, families and communities," Tadych said. "By uniting education, nonprofits and business leaders, Oshkosh can

model what's possible when literacy is treated as a shared responsibility. This has a profound impact on our workforce talent and the future of Oshkosh."

Woldt noted the power of reading just ten minutes a day. The benefits of reading 10 minutes every day include:

- Builds vocabulary skills
- Supports brain development
- Improves school readiness for students
- Creates connection between adults and children
- Helps establish lifelong reading habits

"Research consistently shows that reading aloud and having books at home boost language development, confidence and long-term academic success," Woldt said.

A 2019 study by the Ohio State University found that young children whose parents read to them five books daily will hear nearly 1.5 million more words by the time they turn five than children who were not read to at all.

"Many families, however, lack access to books — making community-wide support essential," the study stated.

The Read More campaign will officially launch in January, alongside additional literacy initiatives for the Oshkosh community. Campaign partners include Discover Oshkosh, Downtown Oshkosh, Oshkosh Chamber, E-Power Marketing, JEK Foundation, Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, Oshkosh Public Museum, Oshkosh Area United Way, UW-Oshkosh and the Winnebago Area Literacy Council.

Anyone interested in getting involved can donate a children's book to the Oshkosh Chamber, volunteer to read in local schools or read aloud at home.

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Photo from Nekimi Volunteer Fire Department

## New truck

New Utility 11 is in service for the Nekimi Volunteer Fire Department. A large portion of the funds that paid for this truck is from the department's annual Mud Run picnic. The truck was lighted and customized by Rennert's Fire Equipment Service and the lettering completed by Image 360.

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# Fond du Lac man convicted of homicide in Oshkosh

Oshkosh Herald

A man from Fond du Lac has been found guilty of reckless homicide from a shooting in Oshkosh in July 2024.

Daniel T. Wilson, 18, on Nov. 24 was found guilty of first-degree reckless homicide. He was initially charged with intentional homicide, which comes with a potential life sentence. However, the lesser charge will result in a maximum prison sentence of 40 years followed by 20 years of extended supervision.

Wilson remains in custody on a \$100,000 cash bond. Judge Scott Woldt will decide how long Wilson will serve in prison at a sentencing hearing in February.

Wilson entered the plea of no contest and was found guilty by Woldt. The state is planning to argue for a prison sentence between 30 and 35 years.

Wilson shot Atem Mathiang, 19, who was visiting family in Oshkosh from Michigan.

When reading off the charges, Woldt explained that Wilson had "utter disregard for human life" when he killed Mathiang.

During the plea hearing Mathiang's mother spoke to the court and stated she wanted to see Wilson spend the rest of his life in jail.

"I lost my son. I lost the head of the family," she said. "Life in prison - that's the thing that I want."



Wilson

According to the criminal complaint, on July 2, 2024 OPD was dispatched to the 1000 block of Wisconsin Street after a woman called stating there was a body lying in her front yard.

Mathiang was lying on the ground next to a pool full of blood. EMS personnel attempted life saving measures, but he was pronounced dead at the scene. Two gunshot wounds were located in his upper chest.

An autopsy was done at Aurora Medical Center which determined the victim had five gunshot wounds. Police recovered six spent shell casings at the crime scene.

Officers spoke to two witnesses who were playing video games with Wilson at their home before going outside for a smoke break.

The trio went outside when they were approached by Mathiang, who allegedly was trying to sell the group marijuana. The witnesses told police Wilson fired a black handgun and then they ran back inside the home.

Wilson fled the scene and was later arrested during a traffic stop by Fond du Lac police.

The Herald was able to confirm Mathiang's identity after news reports stated Mathiang was facing criminal charges of reckless driving causing death after he was accused of striking a motorcyclist in Grand Rapids then fleeing the scene.

Those charges were dropped in Michigan after prosecutors learned of Mathiang's death in Oshkosh.

Wilson will be back in court for the sentencing hearing in February.

## Two local business owners killed in plane crash

Oshkosh Herald

Two men from Winnebago County were killed last week in a plane crash in the Town of Sylvester.

According to Green County Sheriff Cody Kanable, the sheriff's office received a call at 5:14 p.m. Monday reporting an aircraft crash. The area where the plane crashed is a gravel quarry on the north side of Wisconsin Highway 59 immediately adjacent to the Monroe Municipal Airport, Kanable said.

A sheriff's deputy arrived on scene and reported a large fire with construction

equipment on fire in the quarry along with a large debris field from the aircraft. Monroe Rural Fire Department, Juda Fire Department and Green County EMS responded to the scene. The fire was extinguished by the fire departments.

Emergency personnel located two individuals deceased on scene. Kanable identified the individuals who were killed in the crash as a 43-year-old man from Oshkosh and 41-year-old man from Omro.

Online postings identified the deceased men as 43-year-old Brett Gelbach and 41-year-old Eric Felix. Gelbach owned two businesses in Oshkosh, including Oshkosh Dock and Lift and Boondocks Piling and Piers. Felix owned Felix Auto and Tire.

Investigators from the Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board were at the scene of the crash conducting an investigation. The sheriff's office determined preliminary information that the fixed wing airplane was inbound to land at the Monroe Municipal Airport and crashed prior to landing at the airport.

Kanable expected to release no further information about the incident.

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# Pedestrian bridge over Interstate 41 goes back into city's budget

By Jonathan Richie  
OSHKOSH HERALD

In the coming years Oshkosh should have a pedestrian bridge that crosses Interstate 41 thanks to federal grant funds.

An exact timeline for construction of the bridge has not been set, but it is expected to be completed within five years. The bridge is expected to connect North

Koeller and North Washburn streets and will cross near Taft Street on the east side of the interstate.

The federal grant that the city has been awarded to build the pedestrian bridge is a reimbursable grant, meaning the city will need to have the approximately \$11.1 million for the project appropriated and then the federal government will reimburse the

city up to 80% of the total project costs.

City staff has pushed for this project as there continues to be safety concerns for pedestrians crossing the interstate through the roundabouts at Ninth Avenue, Witzel Avenue and Oshkosh Avenue.

There have been 17 bike injuries and four pedestrian injuries between 2018 and 2022. In that same time there have been

two fatal crashes and multiple crashes involving serious injury.

The city is set to allocate \$800,000 for the bridge in 2026, \$1.3 million in 2027, \$2 million in 2028, \$4 million in 2029 and \$3 million in 2030. The plan is to use tax incremental district funds and general obligation debt to pay for the city's portion of the project.

## Amos appointed

FROM PAGE 1

stood out to me, and it made me really realize that Oshkosh is a place that I want to call home."

He outlined his major goal is to ensure all citizens are heard by the council. Amos said all residents deserve safe communities that are accessible to everyone and a community that is focused on the future.

Amos serves on the city's long range finance committee and works in the banking sector. He plans on bringing that knowledge to the city in his new role.

He told the Herald after he won the appointment vote that he was thankful to the council and said he was ready to roll up his sleeves and get to work.

All candidates were sent a list of questions to answer regarding their potential appointment. The questions focused on the time commitment of the job, the role of council members and interacting with the public.

After each candidate pitched themselves to the council, council members were invited to ask questions. Council member DJ Nichols asked each candidate the same question: what is the biggest challenge facing Oshkosh and the biggest challenge

facing the residents.

After the presentations, the council members began the nomination process and voting.

Council member Karl Buelow nominated Amos, Nichols nominated Logan Jungbacker, council member Jacob Floam nominated Tim Neubauer and deputy mayor Joe Stephenson nominated Meredith Scheuermann. A nominee had to receive four votes to be nominated to the council.

Jungbacker and Neubauer were taken out of contention after receiving one vote each and Amos and Scheuermann receiving two votes. On the next vote, Scheuermann received two votes and Amos received four votes.

With that vote Amos was selected by the council. There was a procedural misstep by Mayor Matt Mugerauer as the council voted to appoint Amos but did not vote to pass the resolution to have him fill the seat.

After a short discussion with deputy city attorney David Praska the council voted unanimously to pass the resolution appointing Amos to the council.

Amos told the council during his presentation that even if he did not get appointed to the council that night, he was already prepared to declare his candidacy



Oshkosh Herald

Newly appointed Oshkosh Common Council member Jacob Amos shakes city clerk Darla Salinas's hand after being sworn in as the newest member of the council.

for the April election.

The council seats of Amos, Floam and Nichols will be on the April 2026 ballot. Each of the 14 candidates were asked if they planned on running for the seat in April with 12 saying they were going to run or were considering running for the seat.

Amos publicly declared his candidacy

for the April election last week. Floam and Nichols have not confirmed if they are running for re-election. Both Floam and Nichols have served one term on the council since their April 2024 election.

Candidates interested in running for a seat can now take papers out. Applications with signatures supporting their candidacy are due to the city at 5 p.m. Jan. 6.

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# Law office purchases building

Oshkosh Herald

Greg Wright Law Offices is planning a renovation for its office space after purchasing a building in Oshkosh.

The newly acquired office space on Universal Street will undergo extensive renovations to create modern, client-centered law practice environment. Greg Wright, Erik Johnson and Jenna Ashbeck, principal attorneys at Greg Wright Law Offices, plan to tailor the facility to support the firm's growing team and client base.

Construction is slated to begin shortly, and the firm anticipates moving into the upgraded space by mid-2026. Upon completion, the expanded office will not only

enhance client service capabilities but also contribute to the local economy by engaging Wisconsin contractors and vendors during the build-out phase and bringing additional professional staff into the Oshkosh area.

Fortifi Bank financed the purchase of the new office building. The closing was finalized recently, with Fortifi Bank's business banker John Mirr facilitating the financing of the acquisition.

Wright added that the expanded facility will provide room for future growth, positioning the firm to potentially add staff and services as client needs continue to increase.

# Veterans Affairs Secretary to speak at Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony

Oshkosh Herald

The United States was attacked 84 years ago by the Japanese Imperial government at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, sparking the nation to join the Allied Forces and enter World War II.



Bond

An event will take place Sunday in Oshkosh to remember the attack on Pearl Harbor hosted by Oshkosh AMVETS Post 7 at the Elks Lodge, 175 W. Fernau Ave.

James Bond, secretary for the Wisconsin

Department of Veterans Affairs, will be the keynote speaker. Bond is a veteran who served in the Marine Corps with over 30 years of service to the country, Wisconsin and his fellow veterans.

Master of Ceremonies for the event will be retired Lt. Col. Mike Hert. Winneconne High School student Lily Krueger will lead the ceremony in song.

The ceremony will honor the more than 2,400 American service members who died during the surprise attack.

A bell will toll for the Wisconsinites who died at Pearl Harbor with a rifle salute to conclude the ceremony.

The event begins promptly at 7:55 a.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

# Hygiene drive organizers seeking collection sites

Oshkosh Herald

The Annual Help For The Homeless Hygiene Drive will be held from February through March. Organizers are looking for volunteers to host collection boxes.

All items collected during the drive from Feb. 22 to March 15 benefit members of the Oshkosh community.

For questions or to sign up to host a box, contact Hannah Wainio at hwainio@winnebagocountywi.gov or call 920-420-2410.



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Photo by Jim Koepnick

The Topsy Tinsel Taproom is decorated for the holiday season with a winter wonderland theme.

# Taproom decorated with festive holiday theme

Oshkosh Herald

The Topsy Tinsel Taproom has opened at Fox River Brewing Company designed to immerse guests in the magic of the holiday season.

The room is decorated with twinkling lights, shimmering tinsel and jolly decorations that Fox River Brewing Company's Jay Supple said turns "the taproom into a winter wonderland where every corner sparkles with joy."

Supple said the Topsy Tinsel Taproom features Hallmark Corner, which will be streaming Hallmark holiday classics. Holiday-inspired drinks include Elf Shots,

Snow Globes and others created for the event. Elf Hour Happy Hours will be offered each day.

"Our mission? To sprinkle a little extra sparkle and a whole lot of fun into your holiday season," Supple said. "The Topsy Tinsel Taproom is where you come to sip, savor and make merry memories that last a lifetime."

The Topsy Tinsel Taproom will be open all season long through January at Fox River Brewing Company, 1501 Arboretum Drive. Fox River Brewing Company Oshkosh also has four River Domes available to reserve for an outdoor dining experience in a snow globe.

# Tool library

FROM PAGE 1

achieve our mission of equitable access," Losse said. "Membership gives you access to hundreds of tools that'd normally cost you thousands to purchase yourself."

The library has a wide variety of tools, some donated and some purchased through a grant from the Oshkosh Southwest Rotary Club.

"We offer our space for free to community groups and non-profits to use for gatherings, meetings, projects, and more because together we're stronger," Losse

said. "We also work to help others learn to use tools with regular classes posted to our Facebook page and website event calendar."

More information on events can be found at oshkoshtoolibrary.neocities.org.

The Oshkosh Tool Library is holding two days of workshops open to the public on Dec. 13 and Dec. 14. Santa's Workshop Gift Making Open House will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days that will feature hands-on tool demonstrations. All ages are invited to make gifts for the holiday season.

"Bring wrapping paper to share," Losse said. "Snacks provided."

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**2.49** 6-7 oz Crystal Farms Sliced Cheese

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	 <p><b>19.99</b> 1.75 ltr Bottle E&amp;J VS Brandy</p>	 <p><b>7.99</b> 750 ml Bottle Andre Sparkling Wines</p>

# Calendar of events

## Ongoing

Celebration of Lights, through Dec. 31, EAA Grounds

Nutcracker in the Castle, through Jan. 5, The Paine Art Center and Gardens

## Wednesday, Dec. 3

Altrusa Club Festival of Trees, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Crazy Train: America's Ozzy Tribute with opener Johnny Wad, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

## Thursday, Dec. 4

Altrusa Club Festival of Trees, 10 a.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Live Music and Tree Lighting Ceremony, 5 p.m., Opera House Square

Downtown Oshkosh BID Holiday Parade, 6:15 p.m.

Lonestar Christmas and Hits Tour, 8 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

## Friday, Dec. 5

Encore Handbell Ensemble presents Christmas Classic, 6 p.m., St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 1250 Leonard Point Road

Morgan House Tour, 6 p.m., 234 Church Ave.

A Very Peanuts Christmas with The Mike Malone Trio, 8 p.m., Becket's, 2 Jackson St.

## Saturday, Dec. 6

Cookie Walk, 9 a.m., St. John's Lutheran Church of Nekimi, 491 Old Oregon Road

EAA Christmas in the Air, 10 a.m., EAA Aviation Museum

Altrusa Club Festival of Trees, 10 a.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra presents Togetherness, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., 1010 Algoma Boulevard

Live Nativity, 4-7 p.m., Martin Luther Church, 1526 Algoma Boulevard

Race for the Light 5K Run/Walk presented by Oshkosh Area United Way, 4:30 p.m., EAA Education Center

Oshkosh Gallery Walk, 6 p.m., Downtown Oshkosh

Die Hard, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

## Sunday, Dec. 7

Countdown to Christmas Craft and Vendor Fair, 10 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

UW Oshkosh Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band, 7 p.m., Theatre Arts Center

## Monday, Dec. 8

Christmas with Lorie Line, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

## Tuesday, Dec. 9

Finish the Lyrics Live: Holiday Edition, 6 p.m., Venue 404, 404 N. Main St.

## Wednesday, Dec. 10

Christmas with John Berry - The 29th Annual Tour, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

## Thursday, Dec. 11

Rock Infused Orchestra Christmas in the Vault 2025, 7 p.m., Venue 404, 404 N. Main St.

From Kids 1 to 92, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

## Friday, Dec. 12

Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo, 1 p.m., EAA Grounds, 3000 Poberezny Road

Wright Brothers Banquet, 5 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum

Santa Claus (1959) at Friday Fright Night, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

From Kids 1 to 92, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh



Photo by Michael Cooney

## Holiday fun run

Friends and families joined together to start Thanksgiving Day with the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival Foods Turkey Trot in Oshkosh. The event included a two-mile walk, two-mile run and five-mile timed run. Dogs were welcomed on the two-mile fun run. The nearly 2,500 participants received a Turkey Trot T-shirt and pumpkin pie. The event raises funding for the Oshkosh Community YMCA and Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh.

## School bands to perform Band-O-Rama concert

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Area School District Band Department will hold its fifth annual "Band-O-Rama" concert at 6 p.m. Dec. 13 in the Frank Schade Fieldhouse at Oshkosh North High School.

Students in grades 6 through 12 will perform various selections, including a

grand finale of the Leroy Anderson favorite, "Sleigh Ride." This area event has featured middle and high school band musicians in the district since 2021.

The emcee for the evening will be OASD Superintendent Dr. Bryan Davis. He has helped emcee for "Band-O-Rama" since its inception.

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

## Christmas carol concert features local groups

Oshkosh Herald

Guests can enjoy listening to and singing music of the season at the 40th annual Christmas Carol Sing which will be held at 7 p.m. Dec. 14 at The Grand Oshkosh.

Madrigal singing groups from Lourdes Academy, under the direction of Kristin Ramseyer; Oshkosh West High School under the direction of Bethany Meyer; and Oshkosh North High School under the direction of Bridget Duffy-Ulrich, will perform. The Oshkosh Area Community Band, under the direction of David Berndt, will lead off the evening's musical selections.

Each group will perform separately and

lead some carol singing. All the groups will combine with the audience for the grand finale of familiar songs of the season including "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World."

No admission will be charged, but monetary donations will be collected for the Salvation Army. The Oshkosh community benefits from the Salvation Army, which provides social services including food for the hungry, relief for disaster victims, assistance for the disabled, outreach to the elderly and ill, clothing and shelter to the homeless and opportunities for underprivileged children.

The concert will last slightly longer than one hour.

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# Kuehn, Neuens drive Knights to win over Florence

By Steve Clark  
OSHKOSH HERALD

Harlan Kuehn surveyed the Florence roster during warmups at the Oshkosh Arena last Friday and believed he could have a big game.

Then he went out and had one.

The Lourdes Academy junior erupted for a career-high 25 points in helping the Knights to a 77-56 win over Florence in the first game of the Steve Randall Memorial Classic.

"I looked at their height before the game. I was like, I just have to go to the rim," the 6-foot-4 Kuehn said. "I feel a lot more conditioned and a lot more athletic this season."

It wasn't a perfect day for Kuehn, though.

Despite a handful of attempts, he was unable to connect from the 3-point line.

"Yeah, I wanted one," said a grinning Kuehn, who made eight 3-pointers last season. "That's the most I have ever shot in a game. I was chucking."

Kuehn may not have been able to find the range against Florence, but everything else was clicking for the Knights.

Lourdes Academy never trailed in the game and seized control of the contest by closing the half with a 16-4 run.

Kuehn scored six points in the run, including a putback with two seconds left for a 37-24 advantage. Lucas Neuens also



Oshkosh Herald

Harlan Kuehn drives through a bevy of Florence defenders in the first half of last Friday's game at the Oshkosh Arena.

scored six points and Henry Achterberg chipped in four points.

Head coach Brett Baehman was impressed with the way the team performed in light of the fact that they have had limited practice time with the full roster.

"We haven't had too much time together as a team yet so it was good for them to see that they can play their brand of basketball," Baehman said. "Almost everyone

on that court has had varsity experience so we were going to trust them and let them play basketball."

Brady Ridenour's driving lay-up capped an 8-2 run early in the second half that stretched the Knights' lead to 45-28, while Neuens – who added 19 points in the win – ignited an 8-0 surge with a 3-pointer a few minutes later.

Achterberg, who chipped in 11 points

off the bench, also drilled a 3-pointer in the second half as the Bobcats started to collapse on Kuehn in the post.

"It just opens so much more on the floor and it showed today," Kuehn said. "Lucas was open on the perimeter and Jackson (Buttke) can drive, too, when (other teams) worry about me."

Baehman was impressed with Kuehn's all-around performance and said that he has improved greatly from last season.

"Harlan is a kid I adore as a coach," Baehman said. "He put in a lot of work and proved what he can be today. He wants to get better every day. I'm really happy for him."

Florence would only get as close as 13 points in the second half as the Knights responded with another little surge to put the game away.

Kuehn scored a pair of baskets in the outburst, while Jackson Buttke converted a three-point play and Max Behnke added a lay-in to push the lead to 72-50 with just under three minutes left to play.

"We are very deep and every kid has something that he is good at that other kids are not," Baehman said. "We are going to be able to try some things this year. We have a full deck to work with and that's because of what they did in the summer. I'm excited for the opportunities these kids have this year."

# Defense plays well for Oshkosh West in loss to Bay Port

By Steve Clark  
OSHKOSH HERALD

For much of the first half against powerhouse Bay Port, the Oshkosh West boys basketball team was holding its own.

After allowing the first points of the game, the Wildcats had rebounded to lead much of the first half and were sporting a four-point advantage with less than five minutes to play before intermission.

That's when the offense disappeared.

West went more than four-and-a-half minutes without scoring, allowing the Pirates to rattle off a 12-0 run to take control of the game en route to handing the Wildcats a 52-39 loss in their first game of the Steve Randall Memorial Classic on Friday evening at the Oshkosh Arena.

"A good team will make you pay when that happens," Oshkosh West head coach Dan Weisse said. "If you don't score for a four-minute stretch, (an opponent) can separate the game a little bit. Those are the things we need to work on."

The Wildcats, who would beat Lourdes Academy to finish the season-opening

tournament 1-1, never backed down against the potent Pirates.

Bay Port were held to less than 55 points just twice all of last season and are expected to challenge for the title in the Fox River Classic Conference this year.

"That was a really good team we played and I thought it was good we got to go against a (top) team in our first match-up," said senior Joey Ware. "I thought we played well as a team."

Ware had a strong season-debut for the Wildcats, posting 14 points and eight rebounds in the contest.

The 6-foot-4 powerfully built forward was aggressive when getting the ball in the post and also attacked the offensive glass where he totaled five boards.

"The first game, I had fun. It felt really good to be back out there," Ware said. "I was getting the ball in the post and attacking right away. If I missed, I would just go get the next one."

Ware's putback basket just before the halftime buzzer brought an end to Bay Port's scoring run and left West trailing



Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh West's Joey Ware looks to make a move in the post during the first half against Bay Port at the Steve Randall Memorial Classic at the Oshkosh Arena.

25-19 at intermission. He then opened the second half with another basket to narrow the deficit to four.

Malakai Herlihy's driving layup answered a Pirate basket to keep the deficit at four but Bay Port would then start to pull away.

The Wildcats suffered through a nearly three-minute scoring drought that opened the door for Bay Port to build an 11-point lead but countered with a 7-2 spurt – highlighted by a basket from Billy Berg and a Herlihy 3-pointer – to get back within six.

But the Pirates scored the next eight points and finished 13-of-16 from the free-throw line in the second half to hold off the Wildcats' comeback attempt.

"Defensively I thought we were pretty solid," Weisse said. "We were talking, we were switching a few things and we were just battling. We weren't letting them get catches where they wanted to get catches and I think we can build off of that."

Herlihy added 13 points for the Wildcats, but no other West player had more than four points in the game.

The Pirates also took advantage at the free-throw line finishing 21-of-24 at the charity stripe, while West went just 1-of-4.

"Offensively, we have a longer way to go," Weisse said. "I just think there were a couple of segments in the game where if we can button those things up that will help us a lot."

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# Reeves shines as one of state's top high school divers

By Tim Froberg  
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Wisconsin has roughly 84,000 rivers flowing through its lakes and wetlands.

That's not counting a River that runs through the Oshkosh North-Lourdes swimming and diving program.

Meet River Reeves: a North student and one of Wisconsin's elite prep divers.

Reeves has the medals to prove it. He placed third in the Division 1 diving competition at the WIAA state meet the past two seasons and took eighth as a freshman.

Reeves has set his sights on the gold this season and has the talent to get it.

"Winning state is definitely my biggest goal," said Reeves. "But really any improvement would be nice. I'm just trying to get the best score I can. If I get a good score and someone outscores me, I'm not going to be super bummed."

Not many Wisconsin divers have outscored Reeves in his distinguished prep career. He's a skilled diver, combining athleticism and agility with technical knowledge he's gained the past three years. Add mental toughness and a willingness to push boundaries and you get Reeves: a confident performer who is comfortable flying through the air and contorting his body in precise, acrobatic movements to pull off complex diving maneuvers.

"He's pretty fearless and that's a big attribute for any diver," said North-Lourdes swimming and diving coach Ian Sewell. "If you're able to get on that board and just throw something new and try it, it's huge. Even if you fail and smack, you need to get up there, try it again and maybe make a small adjustment."

"River has that fearlessness along with aerial awareness. He's able to feel where he is in the air and make tiny adjustments if needed. He will try something new every time and he's coachable. Being able to take feedback really well is another wonderful attribute of his and he's very selfless."

As accomplished as Reeves is on the board, one would think he's been diving since he could walk. However, Reeves got a late start with the sport and didn't do his first competitive dive until his freshman year.

Sewell had Reeves for a student in the eighth grade when he was teaching physical education at Webster Stanley Middle School. He encouraged Reeves to come out for the swimming and diving team



Submitted photo

Oshkosh North/Lourdes Academy diver River Reeves has placed third in the last two state meets after taking eighth as a freshman.

after observing his bold aerial talents in class.

"We were in our gymnastics unit and he said, 'Hey, Mr. Sewell, Can I do a back flip?'" recalled Sewell. "I was like, 'No, because if you land on your neck, your mom is going to sue me.' I turned around knowing he was just going to do it and I caught him in mid-flip. I said, 'Hey, don't do that again. But why don't you try diving next year?' He came out and qualified for state

his freshman year."

He may have been new to diving when he started high school, but Reeves wasn't a newbie in terms of aerial body movement. He had been jumping for several years on a backyard trampoline which his parents, Phil and Rainbow, gave him for his ninth birthday.

"I had to convince my mom that I would be safe on it," said Reeves. "I taught myself different skills on it and got really good on

## Senior Spotlight



the trampoline. It was just a normal backyard garden trampoline. I did as many flips and spins as I could. I'd look at different videos online and try different things. The trampoline definitely paved my way for diving."

Reeves also trained in gymnastics for a year and has been an avid skateboarder since his childhood days.

"Both gymnastics and skateboarding also helped me as a diver," Reeves said. "Diving is great. I feel like it's more of a free type of sport. You can do your own dives and have your own style. There aren't as many rules as with other sports. I like the freedom you have. It's a sport that allows you to show a little more personality than other sports."

Reeves's favorite competitive dive is the inward two and a half: a maneuver that involves standing on the board facing away from the water, jumping slight back and towards the board and performing two-and-a half somersaults inward before hitting the water headfirst. He receives excellent instruction from Sewell and Max Zellmer, the North-Lourdes diving coach. The latter was a former diving standout with the program, taking second at the WIAA state meet in 2013.

"It's the dive with the highest degree of difficulty on the sheet," Reeves said. "I usually get pretty big scores on it."

Reeves added that the reverse two and a half is probably his most challenging dive in competition. In the maneuver, the diver jumps upward and slightly backward facing the water and performs two-and-a-half backward somersaults in a tucked position before entering the water headfirst.

"Mentally, going forward while also doing a back flip is always going to be pretty scary," Reeves said. "I haven't really gotten the correct spotting on it to nail it just yet. That's going to be a focus for me this year."

That no-fear attitude is a huge part of Reeves's diving success.

"I think you can be a pretty good diver with pretty much any physical capabilities," Reeves said. "But what separates

SEE **Senior Spotlight** ON PAGE 18

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# Experienced Wildcats looking to end state meet drought

Oshkosh Herald

It's been a few years since the Oshkosh West boys swimming program has ended its season with a competitor at the WIAA State Swimming meet.

Head coach Kelly Van Sistine hopes the current crop of Wildcats can end that drought.

## Swimming PREVIEW

"First and foremost, we want everyone to improve their times and reach their individual goals. That is always the focus of our team," commented head coach Kelly Van Sistine. "Second, we would love to get a state qualifier. It has been a few years since our boys team has made it to state and last year we had a few close to qualifying so we are hoping this is the year."

The last time Oshkosh West was represented at the state meet was in 2019 when Andrew Groth qualified in both the 200-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle.

The Wildcats will have a veteran group

as West graduated only one senior who competed at the sectional meet last winter.

All of that experience will limit the amount of opportunities for newcomers to break into the varsity lineup but Van Sistine isn't closing the door on a freshman jumping into the team's mix.

"We have a big senior class this year with a lot of returning swimmers who know the drill and have goals they want to reach. We can really hit the ground running," commented Van Sistine. "It is also a great opportunity to use our senior leadership to build up our underclassman talent for years to come."

"I think we will have to wait and see who develops as a varsity newcomer because we have so many returning."

Topping the group of returning swimmers will be seniors Caleb Bergin and Carter Crowe.

Bergin fell about three-tenths of a second short of advancing to state in the 200-yard freestyle a year ago, while he also

came close in the 500-yard freestyle.

Crowe, who ran at the state cross country meet this fall, finished seventh in both the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle at the sectional meet last season.

Seniors Sam Roblee and Logan Auxier also return after playing a key role on the squad last season along with sophomore Evan Booms. The core group of swimmers will not only be key in the individual events for the Wildcats but could also combine to give West some top-notch relays.

## North/Lourdes

The Oshkosh North/Lourdes Academy co-op team will have one of the best divers in the state in River Reeves and will use some increased numbers to be competitive in the Fox Valley Association.

Reeves is a three-time state qualifier who has finished third at the state meet the past two seasons. He finished eighth as a freshman.

"Last year going into state, he dove well, but some others beat him out on the podium," commented Sewell. "I expect some serious focus with River. I believe his focus will be to practice perfection this year to complete (his dives) as close to perfection as possible."

In the pool, North/Lourdes will have a strong core of returning swimmers to help lead the way and will combine with a number of newcomers.

Senior Sullivan Snow, junior Zayden Yenter and sophomores Max Collins, Justin Parrott and Jeffrey Parrott all bring varsity experience to the pool this season. The nucleus will compete in individual events as well as swimming relays.

Sewell also expects freshmen Blake Ludwig, Otto Pinnow and August Pinnow to contribute to the varsity lineup.

"We have a large number of new swimmers, some seniors, some freshmen," commented Sewell. "Team numbers are up as of right now and it's refreshing to see a team of 20."

# New coach looking to invigorate Ice Hawks program

Oshkosh Herald

First-year head coach Clint Zumer has a vision for the Oshkosh Ice Hawks co-op hockey team.

And he believes he has a group of players who can start making that happen this season.

## Hockey PREVIEW

The Ice Hawks are coming off a season with just two victories but with a strong returning nucleus to build around Zumer sees a brighter future for the program.

"Our goal is to make Oshkosh Ice Hawks hockey become a team that no one wants to play against," commented Zumer. "We have a good hungry group that is eager to learn and compete. They are now what their record was the past few seasons.

This is a good group of hockey players and we will start to showcase that as the season progresses."

The Ice Hawks struggled to score goals last season, however, with an added year of experience the point production could improve.

Senior Dayton Briski led the team with five goals last season and is returning and is one of eight players coming back who scored at least one goal a year ago.

Seniors Zander Crook and Brennon Kraft along with junior William Beck were also multiple goal scorers for the Ice Hawks.

Briski, Crook and Beck, along with seniors Trent Krueger, Orlando Wetzell and Elijah Johnson, junior Zach Zimpel, sophomore Andrew Toonen and freshmen Maxtyn Hammermeister and Mio Sem-

merow will be key offensive players for Oshkosh this season.

Kraft will lead the group at the blue line along with junior Clayton Poquette, sophomores Frank Ulrich and Jaxson Schmid and freshmen Grant Magnuson.

We are going to be a fast, aggressive team. We are going to take chances and push our defensemen up ice to create offense," Zumer commented. "Our strength is our defense and goaltending and we are going to lean on that group to help be catalysts for our offense."

The Ice Hawks will welcome back a pair of players who saw action in net last season.

Senior Chase Magadan is the most experienced netminder of the goaltender group, while sophomore Phoenix Landry saw limited action a year ago. Junior Ethan

Eichman could also figure into the mix in net for the Ice Hawks.

Zumer is ready to lead the Ice Hawks and brings plenty of hockey experience to the bench. He played collegiately at Illinois State and then played two years of junior hockey in Canada.

He hopes to get the program to a .500 record this season and possibly the program's first WIAA tournament win since 2016.

"I am bringing a new level of energy and focus to the program and our goal is to reinvigorate the players to compete and love the sport of hockey," Zumer commented. "We have a group of young men who are good hockey players and want to be pushed and challenged to be their very best selves. That is what we, as a staff, are going to strive for."

## Senior Spotlight

FROM PAGE 17

good divers from great divers is their mental state. I've seen divers with loads and loads of talent, but their minds will push back and they're not able to compete as well as others who are just better mentally."

Athletically, Reeves has focused solely on diving in recent years, but he's considering rejoining the North track and field program this spring after dabbling in the sport as a freshman. He will likely compete in the long jump and possibly the sprints.

"I hurt my jump leg my sophomore year and have a partial tear in my (left) ACL, so I wanted to keep it safe for diving," Reeves said. "But now that diving will be over, I'm probably going to do track again."

Reeves – a solid student – is interested in extending his diving career in college if an opportunity presents itself.

"I would like to do that and I've talked to a few colleges," Reeves said. "Academics would definitely figure into it. I don't want to go to college just for diving. I want to get a degree."

As for his future pursuits, Reeves is also interested in a unique occupation: being a stunt double, possibly for Hollywood movies.

"I'd like to be able to perform some of the tricks you see like maybe in a Spider-Man movie where you're doing a bunch of flips," said Reeves. "You can find information about it online and go to stuntman training camps. There you get your credentials where you learn how to do these things and do them safely."

"We'll see what happens, but I think that would be a lot of fun."

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# Prep sports roundup

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

### Rough first half stings Spartans in loss

Oshkosh North was held to just 11 first-half points as the Spartans fell to Bay Port, 75-36, last week.

Awut Alic posted a double-double in leading the Spartans, finishing with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Brinna Paulson hit three 3-pointers and added 11 points. Navi Lao-Facundo chipped in six points and seven rebounds for North.

### Schettle paces Knights in win over Oakfield

Aubrey Schettle knocked down seven 3-pointers and finished with 23 points in fueling Lourdes Academy's 73-33 win over Oakfield last week.

The Knights improved to 3-0 in the win.

Schettle finished 7-of-15 from behind the arc in tallying her career high. She also picked up six rebounds and four steals in the game.

Sarah Hafemeister added 13 points and

eight rebounds, while Naomi Liabwill chipped in 11 points and a team-high nine rebounds in the victory.

## BOYS BASKETBALL

### Hot-shooting Wildcats topple Knights

Oshkosh West knocked down 15 3-pointers and rolled to an 81-50 win over Lourdes Academy on the second day of the Steve Randall Memorial Classic at the Oshkosh Arena on Saturday.

The Wildcats finished 15-of-29 from behind the arc. Drew Abitz finished 6-of-9 on 3-pointers to lead the way, while six different players had at least one 3-pointer in the game.

Abitz led the way for West with 20 points followed by Malakai Herlihy with 16 points. Joey Ware posted a double-double with 13 points and 16 rebounds, while Kole Stauffacher also reached double figures with 11 points.

Lucas Neuens scored 13 points and Jackson Buttke added 11 to lead the Knights.

Oshkosh West led 46-26 at halftime.



Submitted photo

## UW-Parkside bound

Oshkosh North senior Ava Duran signed her National Letter of Intent recently to play soccer at NCAA Division II UW-Parkside. Duran is a three-year letter winner for the Spartans and was an all-Fox Valley Association defender last spring. Flanking her at the signing were her mom, Miranda, and dad, Javier.

## Titan volleyball team heading back to NCAA tournament quarterfinals

The UW-Oshkosh volleyball team is returning to the NCAA Division III Tournament quarterfinals.

The Titans will head to Bloomington, Illinois for the national quarterfinal on Wednesday, December 3. The eight team-quarterfinal, including No. 1 nationally ranked East Texas Baptist University (34-0), No. 16 Berry College (Ga.) (27-7), No. 19 Calvin University (Mich.) (28-3), No. 7 Colby College (Maine) (26-3), No. 5 University of La Verne (Calif.) (28-2), No. 11 Trinity University (Texas) (25-5), and fellow WIAC program No. 4 UW-Eau Claire (30-4).

UW-Oshkosh has beaten two of the eight teams at the quarterfinals, having

beaten Colby College and UW-Eau Claire already this season. The Titans dropped a match to the University of La Verne for one of their three losses.

UW-Oshkosh (31-3) has competed in 21 NCAA postseasons and has now reached the quarterfinal round eight times (1991, 1994, 1996, 2008, 2009, 2023, 2024, and 2025).

The Titans have finished fifth in each of the last two NCAA Tournaments. They were also fifth in 2008.

UW-Oshkosh's best finish in a national tournament was in 1994 when the Titans were the national runner-ups. They also finished third in 2009 and fourth in 1991 and 1996.

## Oshkosh Arena implements new clear bag policy

Oshkosh Herald

VenuWorks of Oshkosh, the management team at the Oshkosh Arena, has announced a new clear bag policy designed to improve safety and security for all guests attending events at the venue.

Effective immediately, only bags for medical purposes, lactation bags, small diaper bags and clear bags measuring 10" x 6" x 2" or smaller will be permitted inside the arena. All other bags will not be

allowed.

"Our top priority is the safety and security of everyone who visits Oshkosh Arena," said Executive Director Andy Linton. "This policy helps us create a safer environment while ensuring that guests can still bring essential items in a way that is quick and efficient during entry."

For more information on the clear bag policy and all other venue guidelines, visit oshkosharena.com.

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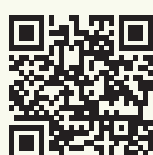
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## Obituaries

### Michael R. Goyke

Michael R. Goyke, 63, of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully on November 24,



2025, with his wife and daughter by his side, after a short, but courageous battle with Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD) with the subtype Primary Progressive Aphasia. Born August 13, 1962, Mike lived a life filled with love and laughter, and he cherished his family, friends and the outdoors deeply.



As an avid outdoorsman and conservationist, Mike's happiest moments

were spent hunting and fishing. He loved hunting and fishing with his wife Karla, his family, friends, and Cider Bleu, his German Shorthaired Pointer. Cider Bleu preceded him in death on October 27th 2024 at the age of 17. Michael had the tradition of Pheasant hunting on opening day with his daughter Gretchen and granddaughter Samantha. He also started the tradition of duck hunting with his grandson Walker (his faithful little partner from the time Walker was five) and his son-in-law Dusty. Michael also enjoyed bowhunting and gun hunting, he sat with his daughter every year during gun hunting. He participated in many fishing tournaments alongside his wife and best friend of 24 years. Together they taught hunter safety classes for 12 years, passing on their passion and respect for nature to generations of young

people. He loved teaching his grandson, Logan, how to tie a hook and put a worm on.

For 45 years Mike was a familiar and beloved figure at Ascension Mercy Hospital (formerly Mercy Medical Center) working as a Maintenance Mechanic where his kindness touched countless lives. He was known for brushing snow from cars during blizzards in the parking lot, a gesture that once earned him the title "Snow Angel" in a letter published in the local newspaper, offering bus money to someone in need, mentoring Project Search students, sneaking treats to his daughters at work, or simply lending a hand. Mike made everyone feel cared for at all times, and this extended outside of his working hours.

At Mercy, he met his lifelong best friend Scott Miller and shared decades of adventures together: fishing tournaments, 38 Special concerts, truck pulls, and cold beers. Michael and Scott found property to lease in Neshkoro, WI for deer and turkey hunting. It was then that an unbreakable bond was formed with the Naparalla and Good Families (Chuck Good and his wife Jeanne (Naparalla) Good) and Dorothy Naparalla. Over the years Mike, Scott, and Chuck shared many amazing memories together. Michael and Chuck made Sturgeon spearing on Lake Winnebago an annual tradition that produced many legendary stories, including Chuck's perfect skull shot and Mike's 100-pounder, along with laughter that echoed across the ice.

Mike is survived by his devoted wife, Karla Goyke; children Gretchen (Dusty) Goyke-Emerson, Barbara (Nick) Feutz, and Alan Byczynski; cherished grandchildren Samantha, Walker, and Logan Feutz;

great-granddaughter Charlotte Ruby; sister Victoria (Jerry) Mueller; brother Tom (Jean) Goyke; mother-in-law Barbara Norman (Granny); Former wife, Barbara Goyke; and many dear nieces, nephews, and friends who became family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mary Ann and Thomas Goyke; brother Mark Goyke; and his faithful Furbabies, Cider Bleu, Charlie, Mercury, Lady, Jade, Laizer and Red Dog.

Despite living a short life, Michael lived life to the absolute fullest. In one final act of generosity, Mike donated his brain to the Brain Support Network in hopes of helping researchers find a cure for the cruel disease that took him far too soon. To learn more or support the search for a cure, please visit [www.theaftd.org](http://www.theaftd.org). In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration at <https://www.classy.org/fundraiser/6847059>

### Thomas J. O'Connell

Thomas J. O'Connell, age 75, of Oshkosh, passed away on Friday, November 28, 2025, at Peabody Manor in Appleton.



Tom was born on September 13, 1950, at Mercy Hospital in Oshkosh, WI, to the late John P. and Shirley H. (Lee) O'Connell.

Tom grew up on the family farm in the Town of Poygan, where he learned the value of hard work and developed a lifelong love of the outdoors. After graduating from Winneconne High School in 1968, he spent a couple of years trying his hand at farming before eventually settling in Oshkosh.

Throughout his life, Tom worked a variety of jobs before finding his long-term career at Bemis, where he dedicated more than 20 years before retiring.

Tom had a deep appreciation for the simple joys in life. He enjoyed exploring the United States many miles of it on his Harley's. He took great pride in his garden, especially his radishes and ground cherries. He loved deer hunting, fishing, and above all, playing cribbage. In recent years, he especially cherished Tuesday fish fries at Jorgie's and long cribbage games with friends, particularly Wendell O'Connell and Warren Utecht. Wendell, who recently passed away, shared many of these good times with Tom.

Tom is survived by his four children, Patrick O'Connell of Oshkosh, Cari Blank of Oshkosh, Michael O'Connell of Madi-

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the extraordinary staff at Parkview Health Center, especially Christa, Carlyn, Sue, Kaylie, Alycia, Stephanie, and Elizabeth, for their compassionate care that wrapped Michael and his family in love during his final days.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Jerry's Bar, 1210 Ceape Avenue in Oshkosh on Saturday, December 6th at 1pm. Come prepared to share stories, raise a glass, and laugh, just as Mike wanted.

Mike's love for his family, his dogs, and the outdoors will live forever in every deer rut, turkey gobble, sunrise over a duck marsh, every rooster flushing through the grass, and every tug on the end of a fishing line. Keep your loved ones close and hug them tight. Rest easy, hunter we will miss you and always love you!

**KONRAD-BEHLMAN**  
FUNERAL HOMES

son, and Mathew (Jessica A.) O'Connell of Appleton; He is further survived by five grandchildren, Jessica L. (Sam) O'Connell of Winneconne, Hunter Blank of Oshkosh, and Rachael, Luke, and Christopher of Appleton; He leaves behind his two sisters, Lynn Huettl and Sharon Huettl, both of Poygan; one niece, Rachel; two nephews, Kevin and Nick; one great niece, Morgan; two great-nephews, Alex and Dean; and many cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John P. and Shirley H. O'Connell; and his brother-in-law, Ralph Huettl.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the ThedaCare Peabody Manor staff for the exceptional care, compassion, and support they provided to Tom. Their kindness and constant presence meant so much, especially during times when his family could not be at his side.

Visitation for Thomas will be held on Friday, December 5, 2025, at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Dr, Oshkosh WI, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., with a memorial service immediately following at 11:00 a.m.

Following the service, family will have a small luncheon until 2:00 p.m. at Twisted Roots, 693 N Main Street Oshkosh, WI, a bar owned by friends, Brenda Brown (Jeff).

Private family burial will be held on Monday, December 8, 2025, at Lake View Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial is being established.

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### Suzanne G. Ruedinger

Suzanne G. "Suze" Ruedinger, age 85, of Larsen, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully on November 25, 2025 at Mercy Medical Center. She was born on February 22, 1940 in Berlin, WI a daughter of the late Louis and Lorene (Liddle) Resop. Suze married Joseph J. Ruedinger on February 19, 1971 in Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oshkosh. Joe preceded her in death on September 8, 2004. She and Joe were long-time members of St. John Catholic Church in Oshkosh. She had worked for and sewed at Sportsman's Manufacturing in Berlin and had worked for and retired from Miles Kimball and in retirement worked as a lunch lady at Jacob Shapiro Elementary in Oshkosh. Suze will be remembered as being an excellent bowler and sewer and also enjoyed reading and time spent with her grandchildren and beloved pets.

She is survived by and her memory will

be cherished by a son, Joseph (Becky) Ruedinger of Oshkosh; a daughter, Patricia (Tim) Olson of Larsen; seven grandchildren, Daniel, Louis, Jeffrey, and Jackson Ruedinger; Molly, Meagan and Hunter Olson. She is further survived by a sister-in-law, Bonnie Resop. She was preceded in death by brothers, Jake and Merlie and sisters, Loretta Resop, Margie Happersett, Donna Sina and Laurie Resop.

Funeral services for Suze will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 11 am in the Fiss and Bills-Poklasny Funeral Home, 865 S. Westhaven Drive in Oshkosh with Rev. Louis Golamari officiating. A time of visitation will be held at the funeral home from 10 am until the time of service. Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery in Berlin.

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# Obituaries

## Andrew Gary Lerch

Andrew Gary Lerch was called home to Heaven Thursday, November 20. He told his mom he was tired, that he wanted to rest. He was 43 years old.



Born in Oshkosh on October 15, 1982, to parents Anne (Gartman) and Gary Lerch, Andy was the oldest of three children. He set high bars for his little sisters, Bethany and Erin. Andy married Maria Esther Alcocer Jain of Mexico City in fall 2007. They were blessed with a daughter, Sofia, and a son, Sebastian.



Andy's affinity for the military came early. His parents gifted him a PBS Civil War documentary with multiple VHS tapes. Andy went on to write a story about the Civil War. He was in fifth grade.

Andy attended Oshkosh West High

School where he enjoyed playing football. He also worked as a gas attendant at Service Oil Company in the Town of Algoma. At 16, Andy became a Congressional Page in the US House of Representatives in Washington, DC. He lived and worked on Capitol Hill afterwards, attending George Washington University to finish high school.

Andy was nominated and appointed to the US Military Academy in New York. As a member of the Class of 9/11, he graduated in May 2005. Some of his West Point friends called recently from their 20-year class reunion. It made his day. "They got me out of a lot of jams," he wrote after talking to them. "I did the same."

Andy went on to become an armor officer in the Third Infantry Division. He deployed to Iraq in March 2007, returning in May 2008. "Soldiers make the best of things," he said. "Heating shaving cream in a canteen cup hung on the exhaust of a tank's turbine engine or heating a can of soup in those same vents. Those were the best meals because you share it with others." Andy was so proud of the soldiers with whom he served. "We didn't refer to each

other by rank. These are my boys."

Andy's platoon witnessed tragedy and experienced suffering. They saved each other over and over again. "I was shot at in the street and would not have a lower left leg unless my Platoon Sergeant, SFC Craig Black, pulled me back into the perimeter by the backstrap of my vest." Andy's family suspected he rescued people as well, confirmed by numerous awards that came to light only after his passing: Valorous Unit Award, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Army Achievement Medal (2nd Award), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal (2nd Award), Joint Service Commendation Medal (3rd Award), Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Award), and the Bronze Star.

Andy was devastated when one of his own was killed or wounded in action. Their losses lived with him and he returned wounded. His injuries were on the inside, though, and he was not the same.

"Soldiers make the best of things." In his own way, Andy kept trying to do that. Once, in a bright moment back at Fort Benning, he doctored Bethany's ID to go out. (It didn't work.) After she turned 21, they went out dancing in Dayton and were among the last to leave. Andy smiled and laughed more at Erin and Tom's 2018 wedding, singing along to Top Gun songs with all his cousins.

Andy went on to attend the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. There he studied nuclear engineering. Upon graduation, Andy and his family relocated to northern Virginia. He was assigned to the Pentagon, and later the US Space Force.

Andy retired from the US Army in 2024 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He spent the last year of his career at Tranquility Hall Wounded Warrior Barracks at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. His life was quieter then, first at VA domiciliary care facilities in Milwaukee and Union Grove, then on his own in Oshkosh.

Andy resided on the Fox River and frequented the Food Co-op, usually in his

Iraq War Veteran hat. He spent time with his parents and sisters and their dogs. His spirits always lifted when his friends and fellow veterans called and visited, or when his dad took him fishing on Lake Butte des Morts, just like when he was a kid. Andy had tenderness, especially for his mom, who always called, always invited him for a warm meal (or brought multiple), and always showed up with unconditional love.

Andy was an avid baseball fan, too. He liked watching the Brewers and treasured seeing them in-person when he could. He wanted to cheer from seats behind home plate in 2026. He will be there in spirit, to be sure. His friends and family will cheer with him, miss him, and love him—every day.

Andy is survived by his wife, Maria Esther, daughter Sofia, and son Sebastian; his parents Gary and Anne Lerch, and sisters Bethany (Darrell) Rentsch and Erin (Tom) O'Connor; nieces and nephew Ava O'Connor, Julian Rentsch, and Zaria Haseleu. He was preceded in death by his Kentucky rescue dog Eva, grandparents Dorothy and Ronald Gartman and Warren and Margaret Lerch, and members of the Convict Platoon Killed in Action in Iraq: Glenn Dale Hicks, Cole Spencer, and Jay-D H. Ornsby-Adkins.

Andy chose to be cremated. His ceremony will be private. Andy's family would like to extend their gratitude to the hard-working staff of Walter Reed in Maryland and VA care facilities in Wisconsin, as well as responding personnel from the Oshkosh Police Department and Winnebago County.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Disabled American Veterans (DAV) in Andy's memory. "Soldiers make the best of things," he would tell you. "Thanks for letting me bend your ear."



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## Claude D. Benedict Jr.

Claude D. "Sonny" Benedict Jr., age 95, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully on November 25, 2025. Born on July 2, 1930, to the late Claude and Ruth Benedict in Oshkosh, Sonny was a beloved son, husband, father, and friend. He dedicated 48 years of his life to Georgia Pacific, where he built lasting friendships and made a significant impact as a supervisor.



Sonny was a familiar face in the Oshkosh community, often starting his day with breakfast at Mike's Place Diner and enjoying Sunday mornings at Two Brothers Restaurant. Fish fries with his friends were treasured outings, and he took pleasure in watching the news and cheering on his beloved Cubs and Packers while spending quality time with family. For 15 years, he served on the Aging Community Committee, always advocating for the welfare of others. He will be cherished forever by his family, along with the memories of joyful

hours spent picking out flowers at Honey-moon Acres for his yard and going on bus trips with friends from the senior center.

Sonny is survived by his daughter, Claudia Block (Steve Boettcher); grandchildren, Jason (Amy) Block and Michael Block, Curtis Sawall; great-grandson Austin Block. He is further survived by his sister, Lorna K. and her children Patricia and Andrea.

His late wife, Edwina, who passed away in 2016, and their daughter, Carla Sawall, will warmly welcome him in the next life.

The family will celebrate Sonny's life with a visitation on December 4, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at Konrad-Behlman-West (100 Lake Pointe Dr) followed by a funeral service at 11:00 a.m. A gathering of friends and family will take place to honor the man who brought so much joy and love to those around him.

Sonny's warmth, laughter, and kindness will be greatly missed, but we will carry his spirit in our hearts as we remember his incredible life filled with love and laughter.

**KONRAD-BEHLMAN**  
FUNERAL HOMES

Carly (Alex) Vechart, Annalise Schraa, Brock (Michelle) Reisler and Bennett (Taylor) Reisler; great-grandchildren, Truett, Celeste and Emmett; sister, Hazel (Joe) Martinez; brother-in-law, Brett (Sunny) Hedtke; as well as many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Preceding him in death was his beloved wife, Marlene Norma Reisler; parents, William and Carol Bonita (Hunter) Reisler; parents-in-law, Norman "Fritz" and Hazel (Brusius) Hedtke; and stepson, Gary Zarling and great grandson, Jude Vechart.

Visitation will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2450 W. 9th Ave., Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on Thursday, December 18, 2025, from 9:30am to 11:00am with service to immediately follow. His final resting place will be next to his wife, at Lake View Memorial Park Cemetery, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in his honor.

The family would like to thank Compassus Hospice and Senior Stride, for their continued care and support over the years.

## Alfred John Reisler

Alfred "Al" John Reisler, age 82, passed away on November 24, 2025, in Wisconsin. He was born on May 29, 1943, to parents, William and Carol Bonita (Hunter) Reisler, in Wisconsin.



After graduating Omro High School, he served in the United States Army and the Wisconsin National Guard from 1964 to 1970. He was an over-the-road truck driver for many years until his retirement.

On July 10, 1993, he married the love of his life, Marlene Norma Hedtke, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. They shared a home full of love.

Al enjoyed woodworking and helped building houses in his free time. He also liked to watch NASCAR and the Green Bay Packers Football team play. He will be remembered for his strong work ethic and kindness he showed to others.

He is survived by children, Clay (Louise) Reisler and Michael (Christine) Schraa; grandchildren, Lauren Schraa,

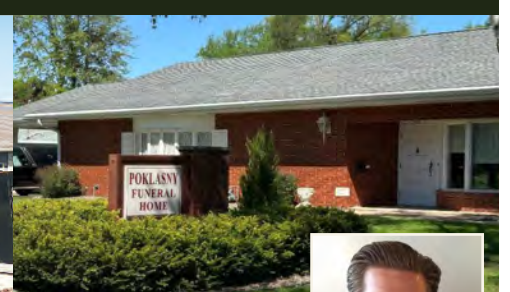
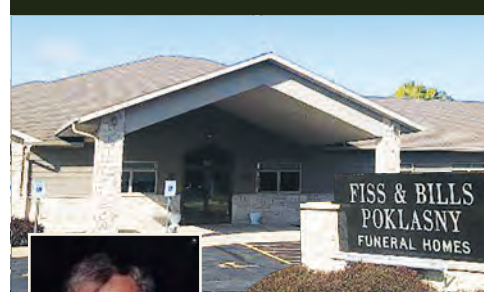


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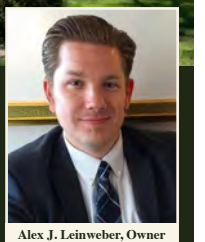
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# Obituaries

## Carol Lee Stewart

Carol Lee Stewart of Oshkosh, Wisconsin went to be with her heavenly father on



November 11, 2025 at the age of 91. She was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Oral and Evelyn (Gudex) Stewart on November 23, 1933.

Carol's journey on this earth was marked by her skills as an educator, community service support member, and her unwavering faith in God.

Carol is survived by her loving sister, Nancy Peterson, nephews; Mark (Connie), Keith (Carla), and Gary (Mary) Peterson, great nephews and nieces; Kyle (Julie), Morgan, Elizabeth, and Ethan Peterson. She was preceded in death by her parents, grandparents, and brother-in-law Charles

"Chuck" Peterson.

After graduating from Milwaukee Pulaske High School in 1951, Carol received a Bachelor of Science in Lower Elementary Education from Wisconsin State College of Milwaukee in 1955. She earned a Master of Science in Education at The University of Wisconsin (Madison) in 1962. Later, Carol enjoyed continuing education with the Learning in Retirement Program at UW.

Carol dedicated her life to the love of teaching. She worked as an elementary teacher for 6 years in Milwaukee, 4 years in Sauk City, and 23 years in Oshkosh. She worked and came to love hundreds of children at Green Meadow, Merrill, Roosevelt, Read, and Oakwood Elementary Schools in Oshkosh. As an educator, she

was a member of several teacher organizations, including the Wisconsin National Education and Oshkosh Education Associations.

After retiring in 1990, Carol spent her time studying the history of, and volunteering for, the Oshkosh Paine Art Center and Gardens and The Grand, Oshkosh. She took pleasure in giving tours, selling tickets, and ushering at these community centers.

Carol served her Almighty Savior by teaching Sunday school, playing organ, and reading during service at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church. She was also a member of the Choir, Altar Guild, Council, Mary Circle, and Bell Choir.

Getting to know others in the community was something Carol cherished. She was a member of The Red Hat Society, Com-

munity Theater, Oshkosh Choraliers, and Women of ELCA.

Carol enjoyed traveling worldwide to Minneapolis, London, Great Britain, and Canada. She especially treasured traveling to her ancestral countries of Scotland and Denmark on her father's side, and Germany on her mother's side.

Although Carol's presence may no longer grace our lives, her spirit of teaching and learning will continue to inspire us. May her memory be a blessing.

Thank you to the entire Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church Care Team for the many, many hours spent helping in the final months of Carol's life.

**KONRAD-BEHLMAN**  
FUNERAL HOMES

## Jacob V. Jenson

Jacob V. Jenson, age 90 of Oshkosh, passed away at Oakwood Manor on Monday, December 1, 2025.

A funeral service with Military Honors for Jacob will be held at noon on Saturday, Dec. 6 at First English Lutheran Church, 1013 Minnesota St. with Rev. Jon Radichel-Wills officiating.

Visitation will be held at the church from 10:00 am until the time of the service. Private burial will take place.

**KONRAD-BEHLMAN**  
FUNERAL HOMES

## Diane M. Harrington

Diane M. (Stiller) Harrington, age 81, passed away on November 21, 2025, in Osh-



kosh, WI. She was born on April 20, 1944, to parents, Kenneth H. and Beatrice L. Stiller, in Oshkosh, WI.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2025, at the Parkview Health Center Multimedia Gathering Room, 725 Butler Ave, Oshkosh, WI, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm, with a formal service to follow at 4:00pm.

For the full obituary, see the Fox Cities Funeral and Cremation website at <https://www.foxcitiesfuneral.com/obituaries-oshkosh>.

## Harold E. Stadler

Harold E. Stadler, age 95, of Oshkosh passed away on Saturday, November 22,



2025 at Eden Meadows in Oshkosh. Harold was born in Oshkosh on November 4, 1930 the son of Joseph and Ida (Ziebell) Stadler. On July 27, 1947 he married Corrine Heinzl.

Harold was a member of St. Jude Parish (Sacred Heart Church), an avid cribbage player and was employed for many years for the street department in Oshkosh.

Harold is survived by two sons, Mike (Lori) Stadler and Doug (Cindy) Stadler all of Oshkosh. One brother, Roger

Stadler of Oshkosh. Four grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and nine great great grandchildren.

Harold was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Corrine in 1984, one daughter, Vicki Schmidt, one brother and one sister.

Private family graveside services will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery.

Harold's family would like to thank the staff at Eden Meadows and Moments Hospice.

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# Obituaries

## Theodore Bowen

Theodore "Ted" Bowen passed away peacefully, though unexpectedly, on Wednesday, November 19, just shy of his 81st birthday. He left this world the way he lived in it: on his own terms.



Born December 3, 1944 to parents Don and Lorraine (Sheets) Bowen, Ted's first role was as a notorious south-side Oshkosh hooligan. His childhood résumé included partial ownership of a party boat, bowling and pin-setting at the Rec Lanes, smoking cigarettes, and giving his parents and sisters as much grief as they could stand.

Despite his antics, Ted was accepted at the University of Wisconsin Madison and channeled his energy and strong opinions into earning a journalism degree, which he would use in later years to write many "spirited" letters to various newspaper editors. He also met his wife of 57 years, Karen (Mueller), during his time in college, and never looked back. After graduation, he attended Air Force Officer Training School followed by pilot training, eventually becoming a proud F-4 Phantom pilot.

After serving as an Air Force Captain in Germany during the Vietnam era, Ted re-

turned home with Karen and two siamese cats. Despite nearly taking up residence in an Arizona fire tower, they eventually returned to Oshkosh, where he became a dedicated resident who rarely left (except for brief escapes to race ice boats wherever the ice was good, shepherd sailboats around Lake Michigan, and place ill-advised bets at Arlington Park during an annual pilgrimage with friends). Ted took a job with friends working at a small printing company called Challenger Press, where he spent almost as much time playing pinball as printing pages. Eventually, he moved to Service Litho Print, where he helped usher in the era of computer graphic design.

Ted enjoyed his work, but his primary passion was boats of the non-motorized variety. During summer months, Wednesday nights were spent drinking beer and eating peanuts in the Miller's Bay parking lot after Laser races, and Sundays were spent judging E Scow races on Lake Winnebago. In the dead of winter, he could be found on the ice talking shop with fellow ice boaters. He earned lifetime memberships in both the Oshkosh Yacht Club and the South Side Ice Yacht Club after years of membership and dedicated service. He remained a central figure of both even after his sailing, judging, and Friday fish fry bartending days ended.

Ted passed his passions on to his kids, Ed and Ann, teaching Ed to sail and Ann to bowl, and he was proud of their mediocre successes at both. He adored his four grandkids and, despite being a lifelong cat person, converted instantly when he met his son's secret dog, Coach. From then on, he was a dog guy—survived now by Logan, the barkiest dog you'll ever meet.

In recent years, Ted loved reading everything he could get his hands on, grumbling about Wisconsin sports teams, and fulfilling his role of the delightfully cranky old man. He was a creature of habit, and his family often joked that the three things holding him together were Jim Beam, peanuts, and daily trips to the downtown YMCA.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Don and Lorraine Bowen; his aunt and uncle John and May Ziebell, his parents-in-law, Robert and Mary Mueller; his brothers-in-law John Schellpfeffer, Jim Mueller, and Bruce Jovaag; cats Sarah, Moses, and Honey; and dogs Coach and Scuppers.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Karen Bowen; his children Ed (Kari) Bowen and Ann (Michael) Potratz; his grandchildren Elsie, Lillian, and Theodore Bowen and Emily Potratz. He is also survived by his sisters Margaret Schellpfeffer and Cynthia (William) Lemke; sisters-in-law

Elizabeth Klem and Chris (Rick) Maki; nephew Brendan Schellpfeffer, niece Kaitly (Andy) Olsen, nephew Matt (Kris) Lemke, niece Carrie (Brian) Chappa, niece Amelia (DannO) Osterud, nephew Dylan (Michelle) Mueller, nieces Beth Mueller and Jennifer Mueller; along with many grand-nieces and nephews.

Ted's family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the ER and ICU staff at Aurora Medical Center - Oshkosh for their tireless kindness, compassion and support. They would also like to thank his longtime physician Dr. Kirdita N. Ringwala for her decades of tough love and care.

Join us at The Waters (1393 Washington Ave.) on December 3 any time between 3:00-6:00 to celebrate Ted's remarkable life with food, drinks, and laughter, just the way he'd have wanted it. There will be a short tribute at 4:00, followed by more time to connect and share stories. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Bowen Family Fund, care of the Oshkosh Community Foundation, to continue Ted's legacy of supporting the community he loved. Contributions may also be directed to the Oshkosh Humane Society, honoring Ted's late-in-life devotion to dogs.

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## Legal Notice

**STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, WINNEBAGO COUNTY Case No. 25PR280**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Arnold B. Will Sr. a/k/a Arnold Bruce Will, Sr.

Order Setting Time to Hear Petition for Administration and Deadline for Filing Claims (Formal Administration)

A Petition for Formal Administration was filed.

THE COURT FINDS: The decedent, with date of birth 9/3/1932 and date of death 4/23/2025 was domiciled in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1521 Bismarck Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54902.

THE COURT ORDERS: 1. The Petition be heard at the Winnebago County Courthouse, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Room Join Zoom Meeting <https://wicourts.zoom.us/j/88686786577> Meeting ID: 886 8678 6577 One tap mobile +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), before Circuit Court Judge/Circuit Court Commissioner Eric Heywood, on December 9, 2025 at 11:15 a.m. You do not need to appear unless you object. The petition may be granted if there is no objection.

2. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is

February 10, 2026.

3. A claim may be filed at the Winnebago County Courthouse, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Room 242.

4. Heirship will be determined at the hearing on petition for final judgment.

5. Publication of this notice is notice to any persons whose names or addresses are unknown.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4833 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Please check with person named below for exact time and date.

Form completed by: Atty. Emily Z. Dunham 1930 Algoma Blvd. Ste. A, Oshkosh, WI 54901 920-215-4050 Bar Number 1068948 DATE SIGNED: November 6, 2025 Electronically signed by Eric R. Heywood Court Commissioner

Runs: November 19, 2025, November 26, 2025 and December 3, 2025

WNAXLP

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

**Department of Administration/Division of Facilities Development Department of Health Services Winnebago Mental Health Institute (WMHI) Utility and Service Tunnel Improvements Project (Project ID: 23K2J) Oshkosh, WI**

The Department of Administration (DOA), Division of Facilities Development (DFD), on behalf of the Department of Health Services (DHS), announces the availability of a Draft "Environmental Assessment" (EA) for the newly proposed Winnebago Mental Health Institute (WMHI) Utility and Service Tunnel Improvements Project.

The WMHI Utility and Service Tunnel Improvements Project will relocate, replace and/or construct new utility distribution systems necessary to supply existing and future facilities at WMHI and Wisconsin Resource Center (WRC).

The existing network of Service Tunnels is used by staff to transport food, medicine, supplies and patients between buildings. The tunnels provide access to all WMHI patient care buildings. Some of these tunnels require maintenance due to their age and current condition. Others require relocation as they pass under abandoned buildings that are no longer maintained.

Provided there are no substantive comments which warrant further evaluation, the DOA/DFD intends to issue a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) following a fifteen-day public comment period in accordance with the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA) and DHS policy. Interested persons may review the Draft EA report at the Oshkosh Public Library - 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh, WI 54901. Library hours are 9:00 am - 8:00 pm Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Saturday and 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Sunday. The Draft EA can also be accessed electronically at the following link: [sehinc.com/online/wisdoa-dfd](http://sehinc.com/online/wisdoa-dfd) or by emailing a request to [dfortney@sehinc.com](mailto:dfortney@sehinc.com). Written comments on the Draft EA can be submitted via email to [dfortney@sehinc.com](mailto:dfortney@sehinc.com).

[dfortney@sehinc.com](mailto:dfortney@sehinc.com), or mailed to SEH, Attn: Darren Fortney, 6808 Odana Road, Suite 200, Madison, WI 53719 during the review period from December 3<sup>rd</sup> to December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Runs: December 3, 2025

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## STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY

ESTATE OF SHARON L. VELIE 2347 Bird Lane Batavia, IL 60510 Plaintiff, vs PATRICK LIEBERT 1040 Grand Street Oshkosh, WI 54901 APRIL LIEBERT 1040 Grand Street Oshkosh, WI 54901 SALANDER ENTERPRISES, LLC 225 S. Executive Drive Brookfield, WI 53005 WINNEBAGO COUNTY CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT 415 Jackson Street Oshkosh, WI 54901 Defendants.

Case No. 2025CV001078 Case Code: 30404 & 30301 Case Types: Foreclosure/Lane Contract & Money Judgement The amount in controversy is in excess of \$10,000

## AMENDED SUMMONS THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

To each person named above as a Defendant. You are hereby notified that the Plaintiffs named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Complaint, which is attached, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within 40 days of receiving this Summons (45 days if the Defendant is the State of Wisconsin), you must respond with a written Answer, as that term is 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:

Clerk of Circuit Court Winnebago County Courthouse 415 Jackson Street Oshkosh, WI 54901 and to Nathan P. Olson of Olson Legal Group LLC, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is: 21 W. New York Avenue Oshkosh, WI 54901 Telephone: 920-230-7020 Facsimile: 920-230-7021

You may have an attorney help or represent you. If you do not provide a proper Answer within 20 days (45 days if the Defendant is the State of Wisconsin), the Court may grant Judgement 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 Judgement may be enforced as provided by law. A Judgement 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. Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2025.

OLSON LEGAL GROUP, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff /s/ Nathan P. Olson Nathan P. Olson, WSB#105934 21 W. New York Avenue Oshkosh, WI 54901 Telephone: 920-230-7020 Facsimile: 920-230-7021 [www.olsonlegallgroup.com](http://www.olsonlegallgroup.com)

This document is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Runs: December 3, 2025, December 10, 2025 and December 17, 2025

WNAXLP

# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE  
 RENNING LEWIS & LACY

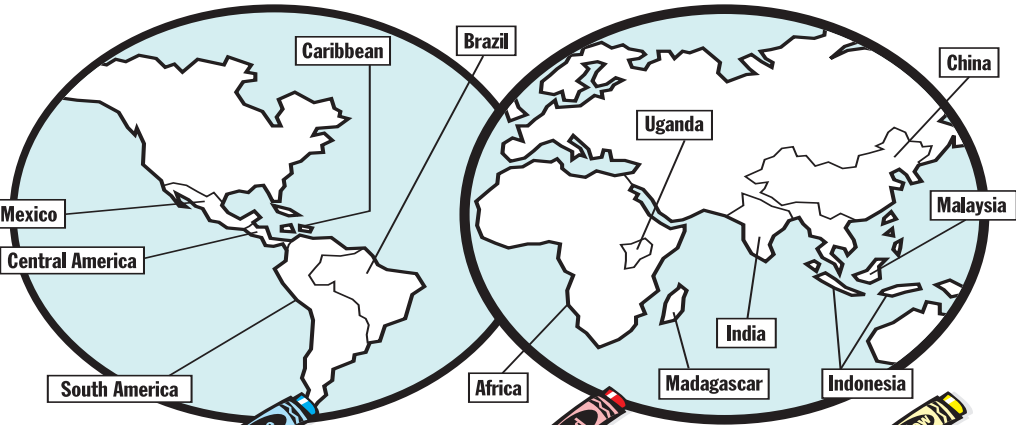
## THE WORLD IN A CHOCOLATE BAR

### Chocolate bars could be called the "World Friendship" candy.

Why? The ingredients in a chocolate bar come from all around the world. Chocolate makers know the importance of how to speak other languages and respect people from different countries.

Read about chocolate's three ingredients. Then, color each country on the map to show where each ingredient grows.

Find your way to the bottom of this gooey, hot fudge sundae!



#### 1. Chocolate

A chocolate bar starts with cacao (ka KOW) beans, which are the seeds of the cacao tree. Leading producers of cacao include Mexico, Central America and South America, the Caribbean and Africa. On the map, color these areas BLUE.

Cacao seeds grow in large, football-shaped pods about 10 inches long and 3 to 4 inches around. Each pod contains 20 to 40 seeds.

#### 2. Vanilla

Strange as it may seem, vanilla is used in the making of chocolate bars and other chocolate products.

The flavor of vanilla comes from the seed pods of the vanilla orchid, a vine that grows in Uganda, Madagascar, Malaysia, Indonesia and Mexico. Color these countries RED.

Look! PURPLE now shows countries that grow both vanilla and cacao!

#### 3. Sugar

Cacao beans are cured, roasted and ground, and formed into solid chocolate. Pure chocolate is bitter. Lots of sugar must be added to make it the sweet treat that people around the world love.

India leads the world in sugar production, followed by Brazil and China. Color these places YELLOW.

Look! GREEN now shows countries that grow both sugar and cacao!

Standards Link: Eye-hand coordination.

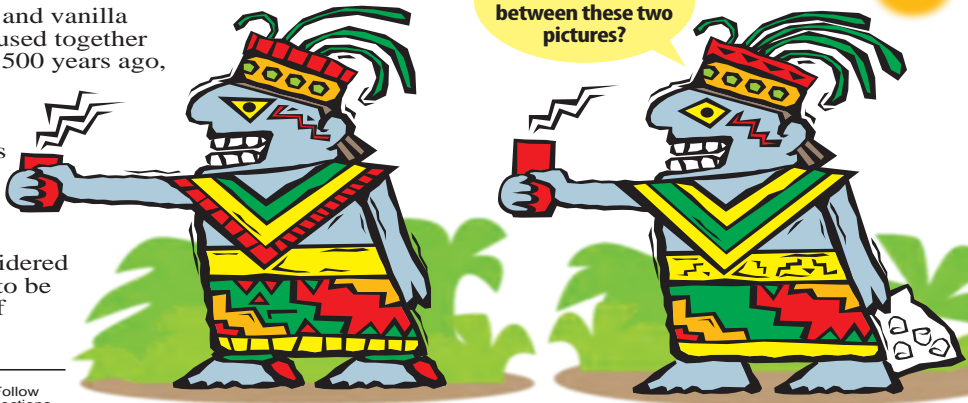
Standards Link: Social Sciences: Students understand the role of consumers and producers of goods; how cultures depend on each other in a global economy. Follow simple instructions.

### The First Chocolate Drink

Chocolate and vanilla were first used together more than 500 years ago, in drinks prepared by the Indigenous people of Mexico.

They considered this drink to be the food of the gods.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.



### Extra! Extra! Sweet Search

Quick! Dash through the newspaper to find:

- Something sweet
- A sweet expression
- 3 words that rhyme with sweet
- Something that is opposite of sweet

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

To find the answers to the two questions, fold the chocolate bars so that arrows meet and the answer will appear!

About how much chocolate does an average American eat each year?  
 a. 9.5 pounds b. 5 pounds c. 50 pounds



About how much chocolate do people in Switzerland eat each year?  
 a. 11 pounds b. 6 pounds c. 19 pounds

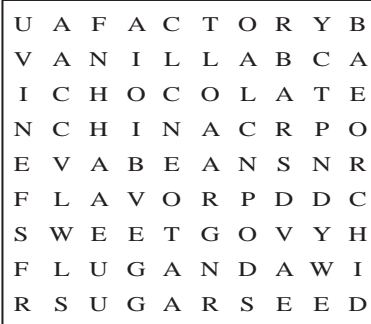


Standards Link: Social Science: Students compare everyday customs in different cultures. Follow simple directions.

### Double Double Word Search

CHOCOLATE  
 CANDY  
 BARS  
 CACAO  
 BEANS  
 VANILLA  
 ORCHID  
 FLAVOR  
 PODS  
 SUGAR  
 VINE  
 SWEET  
 UGANDA  
 CHINA  
 FACTORY  
 SEED

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



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

### Kid Scoop Together

Which of these boxes of chocolates are correct? The correct boxes should contain:

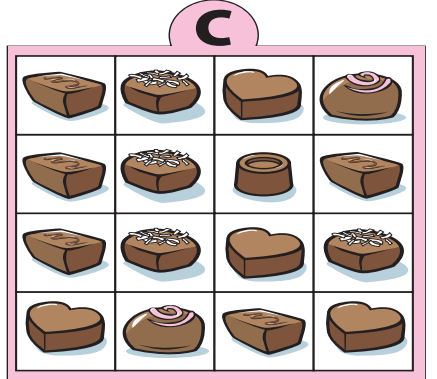
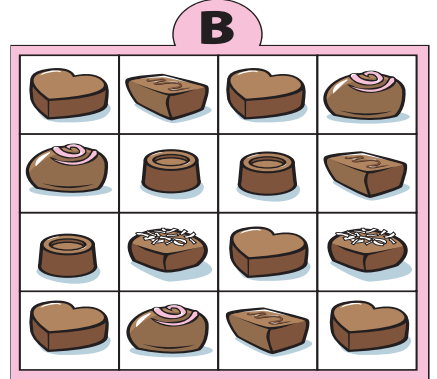
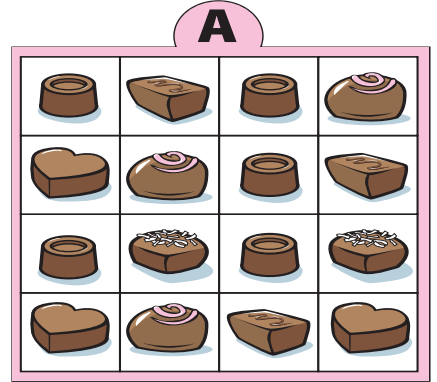
FIVE:

THREE:

THREE:

THREE:

TWO:



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# ATLAS

December 2025

Your Local Guide to Arts, Dining & Entertainment



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**FUTURE NEENAH**




*Brings lights, laughter and local charm*  
**‘A Very Neenah Christmas Market’ brings European-inspired holiday magic to downtown**

Downtown Neenah will shine with extra holiday cheer this month as it transforms into a festive winter wonderland for the inaugural A Very Neenah Christmas Market. The new three-day event is set to bring lights, laughter and local charm to the heart of downtown —just in time to kick off the holiday season.

At the center of the celebration is the Galloway Christmas Village in Gateway Park, where visitors can explore 15 charming, illuminated market huts filled with handmade gifts, artisan goods and seasonal treats. Shoppers can enjoy a cup of Galloway’s famous eggnog or sip European-style Glühwein (mulled wine) while browsing unique finds from local makers — the perfect way to cross items off that holiday shopping list.

Adding to the festive fun is a classic holiday carousel, ready to delight children and adults alike. A heated tent filled with food, music and merriment will provide a cozy retreat where guests can relax, warm up and soak in the joyful spirit of the season. Beyond the Market, Downtown Neenah’s shops and restaurants will be decked out for the holidays, offering special menus, promotions and warm welcomes for visitors throughout the weekend.

 The market will debut during the A Very Neenah Christmas event from 5 to 8 p.m. Fri. Dec 5 and continue from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sat. 6th and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sun. 7th.

**Visitors can look forward to:**

- Holiday shopping in festive, European-style market huts
- Seasonal food and drinks, including eggnog and mulled wine
- A heated tent with food, music and holiday cheer
- Live entertainment and photo opps
- Visits with Santa and family activities
- A classic carousel ride
- Sparkling décor and twinkling lights throughout downtown

“This market brings together the best of our community — local creativity, family fun and small-town holiday magic,” said Michelle Dunning, Future Neenah outreach and development coordinator. “We’re thrilled to share this new experience with residents and visitors alike.”



*Live mannequin displays in windows of downtown Neenah businesses and are a holiday favorite at the Friday A Very Neenah Christmas . - Photographs from Future Neenah*

The event is made possible through the support of local sponsors and community partners. Galloway Company serves as the presenting sponsor, bringing the Galloway Christmas Village to life. Additional support comes from the Fox Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau (Hut Support), Neenah Rotary (Volunteer Support) and partners including the Neenah Joint School District and Neenah-Menasha Firefighters Charitable Foundation.



Holiday Hut Sponsors include *Simplicity Credit Union, Romportl's Contracting, Floors By Angie, DiRenzo & Bomier and Kimberly-Clark.* Festive Fun Sponsors are *Evergreen Retirement Community, Brehmer Law, ABT, and VanSistine Homes/Urban Market Neenah,* with *Stocking Stuffer Sponsors Kerber Rose, Central Temperature, Vizance, and Wendy Tuchscherer.*



**Holiday Events**  
THE ELSEWHERE COLLECTION

 <p><b>AN ELSEWHERE CHRISTMAS</b> Elsewhere Market is staying open late every Friday &amp; Saturday thru Christmas! Enjoy a festive shopping experience with exclusive holiday discounts, hot drinks &amp; wine, and our new holiday photo backdrop—perfect for family holiday photos. Sip, shop, and make merry all season long!</p>	<div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px;">FRI &amp; SAT</div> <p>Open until 7:00 PM</p>	<div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>WREATH CLASS</b> WITH NORTH ROAD FLOWER FARM         </div> <p><b>HOLIDAY WREATH CLASS</b> Join us at the Gibson Social Club for a custom holiday wreath workshop, led by the talented Melanie at North Road Flower Farm. Learn, design &amp; take home your own beautifully crafted wreath.</p> <div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>DEC 09</b> 6:00 PM         </div>
 <p><b>12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS SALE</b> Come on in to Elsewhere Market and celebrate our annual 12 Days of Christmas Sale! Enjoy 25% off Market items from Tuesday, Dec 2nd through Sunday, Dec 14th. 'Tis the season to shop + save!</p>	<div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px;">DEC 02</div> <p>Thru Dec 14</p>	 <p><b>BIER HALL HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG</b> It's our favorite night of the season! Join us at The Gibson Social Club's Bier Hall for a special Christmas carol sing-a-long hosted by the Jerabek Family Band.</p> <div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>DEC 18</b> Starting at 7:00 PM         </div>



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# 'Vote' for your favorite cup of cocoa and keep the mug!

## Winneconne Cocoa Walk highlights village's holiday celebrations

By Cassidy Johnson

Santa's version of a bar crawl is coming to town with the Winneconne Chamber of Commerce's second annual Cocoa Walk.

Typically, when Wisconsinites go from place to place drinking, it results in more of a buzz than a sugar rush, but the Winneconne Cocoa Walk allows for both.

The event from 3 to 7 p.m. Dec. 12 allows participants to walk through town and explore different local businesses while sampling various complimentary cocoa from each.

Several businesses are participating in the Cocoa Walk, including *The Cottage Collective, Winneconne Crafts, Off the Wolf Supper Club, Anchor Nutrition, Compass Boutique, Premier Community Bank, Fin 'n' Feather, Tiny's Sports Bar and more.*

Each business has its own version of hot cocoa — some adding a "twist" like peppermint, with others offering a boozy version with Baileys or Peppermint Schnapps.

The walk starts at the Winneconne Chamber of Commerce on 140 W. Main St. in Winneconne, where participants will be given a free, collectible mug as well



*Last year's participants thoroughly enjoyed the event!  
- Submitted Photographs*

as a map and a voting sheet for the "Best Cocoa" competition later that evening.

Participants are encouraged to rate each cocoa on the walk as they go, and then drop the ballot off at the Winneconne Chamber of Commerce before the "Best Cocoa" judging and prize drawing at 7 p.m.

This gives both participants and participating businesses the chance to win a prize, with the "Best Cocoa" competition for participating businesses and the drawing for participants who turn in their ballot.

The judging will "wrap up" the event, though festivities will continue the next day with the Winneconne Chamber of Commerce's fifth annual Celebration of Lights Parade at 4:30 p.m. on Main Street. This year's theme for the Dec. 13 parade is "Christmas in Whoville," featuring a giant Grinch float.

"Sips and Treats with Santa" will take place from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in front of the Winneconne Chamber of Commerce office, where the Winneconne Area Community Foundation will be serving hot cocoa and cookies.

After the parade, the chamber office will be transformed into Santa's Workshop for pictures with Santa from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. "I think [the Cocoa Walk] is a really cool community event," said Cindy Herbert, executive director for the Winneconne Area Chamber of Commerce. "I love watching all the groups of families have fun and dress up; it's just adorable."

Those interested in the Cocoa Walk can buy tickets online for **\$12 at [eventbrite.com/e/winneconne-cocoa-walk-2025-tickets-1625257261219](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/winneconne-cocoa-walk-2025-tickets-1625257261219)**. The registration deadline is dependent on how many tickets are sold, so anyone interested is encouraged to get them before they run out.



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# ATLAS

Your Local Guide to Arts, Dining & Entertainment

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Mark your calendars for the next ATLAS and upcoming 2026 Publication Schedule for **March 4th, June 3rd, September 2nd and December 2nd.**



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*Over 80 different vendors!*

# Winter Farmer's Market provides holiday fun from Thanksgiving to Easter

By Cassidy Johnson

The outdoor Oshkosh Farmers Market is over, but the fun doesn't have to be.

This winter, the Oshkosh Farmers Market will be having its 13th annual winter farmers market from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on **select Saturdays until April 18** rotating between the Oshkosh Arena and Oshkosh Convention Center. The indoor farmers market season started Nov. 15.

Participants can choose from over 80 different vendors supplying a variety of artisan goods from mandala art, rings made out of silverware, soap making and much more, with OFM's Market Manager Michelle Schmid-Schultz saying she's "pretty excited" for all the new vendors coming in.

Produce will also be sold, such as sweet potatoes, mushrooms, apples, carrots, squash and more.

Similar to recent years, the winter farmers market will have both a Kid's Day Feb. 7 and Christmas Bazaar days Dec. 13 and Dec. 20, including free visits and photos with Santa on Dec. 20.



*Views of the Oshkosh Convention Center and vendors during a market day. - Submitted Photographs*

During the Kid's Day, children will have the opportunity to make and sell their own items as a part of their Young Entrepreneur Program.

The Rotary Club of Oshkosh covers booth fees, and kids pay \$5 "so they understand it costs money to make money," Schmid-Schultz said.

The Wave Robotics team of Oshkosh will also be making an appearance for Kid's Days.

"The last time we had them at the arena, they had robots playing basketball," Schmid-Schultz said. "That was pretty fun."

According to Schmid-Schultz, they also allow kids to make their own paper rockets, which can be launched slingshot-style into the bleachers.

There will also be an after-Christmas sale Jan. 3, with holiday items and other merchandise being sold at a discount.

An Easter Market & Spring Bazaar will be held April 4, featuring more spring-like items and a free selfie booth with the Easter bunny.

Keeping with the artisan theme, they are also welcoming back the Oshkosh Fine Arts Association on April 18 for their WRAP art competition and show after a year hiatus.

"We usually have 30 to 50 artists come and display their artwork," Schmid-Schultz said. "It's an art competition that functions statewide; it's really cool."

Whether you're looking for Christmas gifts, holiday decorations or unique artisanal pieces, the winter farmers market has tons of holiday fun for both friends and family.



*Seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables are available. - Submitted Photographs*

*Sugar Rushlow*  
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SCAN TO BOOK



# time to make a list!

Tis the Season to Celebrate in Oshkosh!  
Enjoy these holiday highlights, and more!

- Celebration of Lights** EAA Grounds  
Now–Dec. 31, 5:30–9pm | Over 1M  
twinkling lights, Santa visits (through  
Dec. 23), horse-drawn rides & more!
- Nutcracker in the Castle** Paine Art  
Center | Now–Jan. 5 | Tour 20 themed  
rooms & 70 trees inside the stunning  
Paine mansion.
- Downtown Holiday Parade** | Dec. 4, 6:15pm  
Tree lighting + parade with the theme “*Stories  
That Spark the Season!*”
- EAA Christmas in the Air** | Dec. 6, 10am–3pm  
Free family fun at the EAA Aviation Museum!
- Holly Jolly Holiday Pass** | Shop local, earn prizes:  
[bit.ly/hollyjollyholidaypass](http://bit.ly/hollyjollyholidaypass)
- Holiday Market at The Howard** | Dec. 6,  
10am–4pm | Shop artisan vendors, meet Santa  
& enjoy festive bites.
- Reindeer on the Square** | Dec. 13, 1–4pm  
Live reindeer, kids’ music, cocoa & cookies in  
Opera House Square!
- Oshkosh Farmers Markets** | 9am–12:30pm  
Dec. 13: Holiday Market | Dec. 20: Santa visits!
- The Grand Oshkosh** | All December | Enjoy holiday  
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## *A Rare Delicacy in a Small Town*

# The Truffle Pig

By Cassidy Johnson

Opening earlier this year, the Truffle Pig is an authentic Italian fine-dining restaurant in Oshkosh designed to transport guests to feel like they're in Italy.

A truffle pig is a domesticated pig trained to find and unearth truffles, a type of mushroom considered a delicacy due to its rich flavor and rarity. This rare delicacy can be found across Europe, but the best black truffles are said to be found in a small town in Italy called Alba in the Piemonte region.

Much like their namesake, the new "Truffle Pig" authentic Italian restaurant located in a portion of the former Oshkosh Northwestern building is a rare delicacy found in a small town.

The once-newsroom is now donned with Italian-inspired architecture and décor down to the columns, vaults and mural of the Rialto Bridge in Venice in the main dining hall.

The scene is also filled with authentic Italian cuisine and servers providing an upscale dining experience to guests.

Chef Cristiano Bassani and General Manager Riccardo Lupi each bring authentic Italian dining knowledge and nearly 80 years of experience to the table at the Truffle Pig.

Bassani was born and raised in Bergamo, Italy, where he was influenced by his mother and grandmother to start culinary school at 14 years old.

Bassani has worked in restaurants around the world for almost 40 years, including Italy, New York, the Virgin Islands, Chicago and California – experiences that he has carried with him while developing his craft.

Bassani said that he prioritizes seasonality, simplicity and sourcing the best, freshest ingredients, down to having a different menu for each season.

"Everything in my kitchen is fresh," Bassani said. "I don't buy anything frozen, other than ice cream."

Bassani has curated the menu with traditional Italian dishes, from bolognese to carbonara to Bassani's "forte," risotto. He has also included a taste of his childhood in Italy with some recipes from his mother and grandmother such as the Polpetta Cristiano, which is Italian meatballs with fresh tomato sauce and Parmigiano.

Bassani has also added more adventurous dishes, such as "La Dolce Vita" (or "The Sweet Life"), a flatbread topped with



Bar Area - Ameena Ryan Hainey Photography



*A bonus room off the main dining room is available for intimate gatherings, specialty parties, etc.*

- Ameena Ryan Hainey

burrata, mozzarella, pears, truffle honey and toasted walnuts.

There's also a dish where Bassani comes to the table and finishes it off in a Parmesan cheese wheel, which patron Maria Juarez said was her favorite part of the meal.

"My favorite dishes were the Margherita Pizza and the Spaghettoni Cacio e Pepe," Juarez said. "The cherry on top was the head chef coming out and finishing the pasta in a Parmesan cheese wheel, which was delicious."

The restaurant's desserts are also made fresh in-house, with Bassani saying that their flourless chocolate cake is the best-seller.

Lupi was also born and raised in Italy in a city called Genoa, where working for his family's restaurant inspired him to go to hospitality school, also at age 14.

"I grew up in the environment," Lupi said. "I really fell in love with the beauty, the flavors and the delicious Italian food."

He has also worked around the world for 40 years in hospitality, travelling to California, Miami, Portofino and Washington D.C.

Lupi injects knowledge from all of these experiences, particularly from Italy.

"When people come to my house, I don't want to send them out; I want to enjoy the company and treat them. That's Italy, it's like that," Lupi said. "We want to bring that same mindset in an upscale environment."

Lupi said that the service at the Truffle Pig is the "polished" and "elevated" fine-dining experience combined with the warmth and friendliness of the Midwest.

"We're in Wisconsin, we want to embrace the mentality, the mindset of the people here," Lupi said. "We don't want to be too snobby."

Juarez said she enjoyed both the friendliness and the efficiency of the service.

"The service was great," Juarez said. "Food came out at the perfect times. Right when we'd finish a course of our meal, the next one would be on the way soon after."



Fittingly, the Truffle Pig also provides Tartufo, which is either summer or winter black or white alba truffles shaved fresh at the diners' tables.

Lupi also has an extensive knowledge of wines, and Truffle Pig has over 250 wines, 200 of which are imported from Italy.

The restaurant also serves classic Italian coffee drinks, such as macchiatos, cappuccinos, Americanos and correttos. They also have specialty coffee drinks, such as espresso martinis and their "signature caffè," the Brasiliano.

Or diners can do what Lupi says the Italians do and have some espresso after their meal.

The pair was brought together for this restaurant after a mutual friend, Carmello Imbrogno, told them about these jobs his cousin, Franco Bessia, was consulting for.

Bessia was consulting for T.J. Rogers, who is an Oshkosh native, billionaire and president of SNW Team that bought the building in 2021 from ProVisions, who had taken over the building after Oshkosh Northwestern's lease was up.

There are different plans for the other section of the former Oshkosh Northwestern building.

According to Bassani, Rogers has started construction on a new 32-room hotel next door, complete with a "big, beautiful bar," in the lobby.

The project doesn't stop there, however, as the hotel will also include six different shops; "a tailor shop, a flower shop, a jewelry



*View of the elegant main dining room.*

*Italian-born Executive Chef Cristiano Bassani and General Manager Riccardo Lupi in the wine cellar.*  
- Ameena Ryan Hainey Photography

store, a cheese and wine store, a candy store and a grab-and-go deli," with the project set to be open at the end of 2026, according to Bassani.

In the meantime, diners can enjoy an elevated dining experience at this hidden delicacy, which Juarez calls "The perfect date night spot."

The Truffle Pig is open 4 to 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday and 4 to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 224 State St. Reservations for dining and private events can be made on their website [trufflepigwi.com](http://trufflepigwi.com), although walk-ins are also welcome.

# GIVE THE GIFT OF *Music!*

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2025-26 SEASON



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**MAR 28 | 26**  
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# UPCOMING EVENTS



Heading into Year 2 of managing the Oshkosh Arena, VenuWorks of Oshkosh is booking more shows. Come check us out!



DEC 3

**CRAZY TRAIN: AMERICA'S OZZY TRIBUTE**  
Ozzy Osbourne Tribute Band  
7-9 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)  
Ozzy's Birthday Bash! Celebrate with us!



DEC 4

**LONESTAR-COLLIN RAYE CHRISTMAS & HITS**  
Country Christmas with Lonestar and Raye  
8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.)  
A night of holiday cheer & country music



DEC 20

**OSHKOSH FARMERS MARKETS**  
Holiday Market & Bazaar  
9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Santa will be at the market with 60+ vendors!



DEC 20

**MURDER UNDER THE MISTLETOE**  
Murder-Mystery Dinner Theatre  
7-9 p.m.  
Laughable Productions presents, includes chef-attended dinner buffet in ticket pricing



DEC 28/29

**UW-OSHKOSH'S BSN WINTER CLASSIC**  
2-Day Basketball Tournament  
All day both days; check website for game times  
UWO's men's & women's teams will compete



DEC 31

**HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS**  
Harlem Globetrotters 100 Year Tour  
2 p.m. (doors open at 1 p.m.)  
New Year's Eve basketball fun for all!



JAN 31

**OSHKOSH LOVE YOUR PET EXPO**  
A Day of Fun & Learning for Pet Lovers  
19 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Vendors, entertainment & educational workshops, all supporting OHS, Christine Ann & OPD K9 Unit.



FEB 13-15

**KUNES RV & CAMPING SHOW**  
Complete Show for RV & Camping Enthusiasts  
All-day events each day; check website for times  
See the latest models of RVs/campers/equipment.



FEB 27-28

**BATTLE FOR THE LAKE RODEO**  
Wildhorse Productions & Sandburr Rodeo Event  
7 p.m. both Friday & Saturday (Kids Night)  
Thrilling indoor rodeo bull & bronc riding action!



MAR 12

**BERT KREISCHER PERMISSION TO PARTY**  
Stand-up Comedy Show Featuring Bert Kreischer  
7-10 p.m.  
A night guaranteeing big laughs and tons of fun!

**OSHKOSH ARENA IS THE PROUD HOME OF THE WISCONSIN HERD! PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR HOME GAME DATES & TIMES!**



BUY TICKETS



For full details on any of the above events or to see our full calendar listing, visit [www.oshkosharena.com](http://www.oshkosharena.com)

*Returns for its 19th season!*

## Nutcracker in the Castle brings the classic story to life

By Jonathan Richie

The Nutcracker in the Castle returns for the 19th season at the Paine Art Center and Gardens in Oshkosh. Visitors can experience the wonders of the classic story with tours, candlelight walks and treats.

The exhibition spans 20 lavishly decorated settings along with 70 Christmas trees throughout the historic Paine mansion.

Over 20,000 visitors visit the Paine for this exhibit every year.

The story of the Nutcracker dates back to the 1800s. The classical ballet written by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky set on Christmas Eve comes to live inside the Paine. The exhibition gives people the chance to wander the halls of the Paine Mansion.

"I'm not aware of any museum or historic house that does anything like the Paine's Nutcracker in the Castle. Our historic house becomes the setting of a fairytale, and guests get to enter into the story," said Paine Center Executive Director Aaron Sherer. "It's a magical experience you can only find here."

The sweetest aspect of Nutcracker in the Castle is the Sugar Plum Fairy's Cupcake Cafe, which is located in the Conservatory on the Paine property. The cafe can be visited before or after a tour of Nutcracker in the Castle. There will be cupcakes, hot cocoa, milk and coffee available for purchase and possibly a visit from a fairy from the Land of the Sugar Plums. For those who can't make it to the Paine, no need to worry there is a virtual tour available on the Paine website that goes through the 20 rooms with great detail to immerse guests in the space.

Self-guided tours of the exhibits run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Jan. 5. The Paine is closed on Christmas Day but will be open on Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Guided tours are also available for those who wish to see the Paine with live musical, acting and dance performances. These tours take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Jan. 4. On Fridays and Saturdays tours run from 5 to 8 p.m. and from noon to 3:30 p.m. on Sundays.

Reservations for the self-guided, guided and candlelight tours can be made on the Paine Arts Center website. For more information go to [thepaine.org/event/nutcracker-in-the-castle](http://thepaine.org/event/nutcracker-in-the-castle).



*Holiday tree in all its glory for Nutcracker in the Castle - Photograph by Jim Koepnick*



*Ballerinas capture the fairytale. - Photograph by Jim Koepnick*

# CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

## ONGOING THROUGH . . .

**Sun Dec 14** Elsewhere Market & Coffee House: 12 Days of Christmas Sale! \*25% off all Market products  
531 N Main St • Oshkosh

**Wed Dec 31** Oshkosh Celebration of Lights  
1858 Neunteufel Ave • Oshkosh

**Batley's Grill & Bar** Buy 3 Gift Cards, Get 1 Free  
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

**Bridgewood Resort** Buy \$100 Gift Certificate  
Get \$25 Gift Card to Batley's • 1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

**Mon Jan 5** Nutcracker in the Castle • The Paine Art Center and Gardens • 1410 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh

## DECEMBER

**Wed Dec 3** Crazy Train: America's Ozzy Tribute  
with opener Johnny Wad • 7pm  
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Thu Dec 4** Live Music and Tree Lighting Ceremony • 5pm  
Opera House Square, Oshkosh

**Downtown Oshkosh BID Holiday Parade** • 6:15pm

**Bier Hall** after Oshkosh Parade with a special  
Madrigal Performance • Gibson Social Club, 537 N Main St

**Lonestar Christmas and Hits Tour** • 8pm  
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Fri Dec 5** First Friday Concert: Mike Malone Trio Plays  
Vince Guaraldi • 2pm  
Neenah Public Library • 240 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**A Very Neenah Christmas** • 5pm • Downtown Neenah

**Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa** • Noon  
Cavanaugh Carriages • 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah

**Christmas at the Octagon House** • 5pm  
The Octagon House • 343 Smith St, Neenah

**Encore Handbell Ensemble** presents Christmas  
Classic • 6pm • St Paul's United Church of Christ  
1250 Leonard Point Road, Oshkosh

**Morgan House Tour** • 6pm • 234 Church Ave, Oshkosh

**Fri Dec 5** Oshkosh Youth Choir Candlelight Concert • 6:30pm  
Oshkosh Public Library • 106 Washington Ave • Oshkosh

**A Very Peanuts Christmas with The Mike Malone Trio**  
8pm • Becket's • 2 Jackson St, Oshkosh

**Sat Dec 6** Timeless Treasures Christmas Bazaar • 8am  
Peace Lutheran Church • 1228 S Park Ave, Neenah

**The Grinch Family Christmas** • 9am  
Washington Park • 631 Winneconne Ave, Neenah

**A Very Neenah Christmas Market** • 10am  
Downtown Neenah

**Holiday Open House** • 10 am  
Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass • 165 N Park Ave, Neenah

**Jingle Bark Bash** • 10am  
Winneconne High School • 100 Wolf Run, Winneconne

**Sat Dec 6** EAA Christmas in the Air • 10am  
EAA Aviation Museum • 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

**Lunch with the Grinch, Buddy the Elf & Santa!** • 11am  
Batley's Grill & Bar • 1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

**Oshkosh Youth Choir: Carols and Sing-Along** • 2pm  
Oshkosh Public Library • 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

**Sat Dec 6** Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra presents **Togetherness**  
3 and 7pm • 1010 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh

**Race for the Light 5K Run/Walk** presented by  
Oshkosh Area United Way • 4:30pm  
EAA Education Center • 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

**Oshkosh Gallery Walk** • 6pm • Downtown Oshkosh

**A Very Divas Christmas** presented by The Grand Oshkosh  
7pm • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

**Die Hard** • 7pm  
Time Community Theater • 445 N Main St, Oshkosh

**Sun Dec 7** A Very Neenah Christmas Market • 10am  
Downtown Neenah

**Countdown to Christmas Craft & Vendor Fair** • 10am  
Oshkosh Convention Center • 2 N Main St, Oshkosh



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**Sun Dec 7** **Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - Noon**  
Cavanaugh Carriages · 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah

**GB Gameday at Batley's Grill & Bar - 12pm**  
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

**YMCA of the Fox Cities Winter Music Recital - 1pm**  
St. Paul Lutheran Church · 200 N Commercial St, Neenah

**Neenah Community Band Winter Concert - 3pm**  
Neenah High School Performing Arts Center  
500 Rocket Way, Fox Crossing

**UW-Oshkosh Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band - 7pm**  
Theatre Arts Center · 1010 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh

**Mon Dec 8** **Christmas with Lorie Line - 7pm**  
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

**Short Story Night - 7pm**  
Lion's Tail Brewing Co · 116 S Commercial St, Neenah

**Tue Dec 9** **Finish the Lyrics Live: Holiday Edition - 6pm**  
Venue 404 · 404 N Main St, Oshkosh

**Holiday Wreath Class with North Road Flower Farm - 6pm**  
Gibson Social Club · 537 N Main St, Oshkosh

**Oshkosh Area Music Teachers Association  
Winter Recital: Winter Wonderland - 6:30pm**  
Oshkosh Public Library · 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

**"A New Santa Claus in Town" Christmas Theater Show**  
presented by the **Fox Valleyaires Men's Barbershop Chorus**  
**7pm** · Neenah HS Auditorium · 500 Rocket Way, Fox Crossing

**Wed Dec 10** **Christmas with John Berry -  
The 29th Annual Tour - 7:30pm**  
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

**Thu Dec 11** **Future Neenah Cookie Crawl & Luminary Night  
4:30pm** · 135 W Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Sgraffito for Beginners - 5:30pm**  
Bergstrom Mahler Museum of Glass · 165 N Park Ave, Neenah

**Rock Infused Orchestra Christmas in the Vault 2025  
7pm** · Venue 404 · 404 N Main St, Oshkosh

**From Kids 1 to 92 - 7:30pm**  
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

**Fri Dec 12** **Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo - 1pm**  
EAA Grounds · 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

**Cocoa Walk - 3pm** · Downtown Winneconne

**Open Late for Holiday Shopping until 7pm**  
Elsewhere Market, 531 N Main St, Oshkosh

**Wright Brothers Banquet - 5pm**  
EAA Aviation Museum · 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

**Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - Noon**  
Cavanaugh Carriages · 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah

**Santa Claus (1959) at Friday Fright Night - 7pm**  
Time Community Theater · 445 N Main St, Oshkosh

**Fox Valley Concert Band Wisconsin - 7:30pm**  
Neenah High School · 500 Rocket Way, Fox Crossing

**From Kids 1 to 92 - 7:30pm**  
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

**Sat Dec 13** **Crazy Craftsmas - 9am**  
Sunnyview Expo Center · 500 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh

**Oshkosh Farmers Market - 9am**  
Oshkosh Convention Center · 2 N Main St, Oshkosh

**Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo - 9am**  
EAA Grounds · 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

**Family Discovery Days - 11am**  
Oshkosh Public Museum · 1331 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh

**Wisconsin Herd vs. Grand Rapids Gold - Noon**  
Oshkosh Arena · 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Reindeer on the Square - 1pm** · Opera House Square, Oshkosh

**Harmony Lane Christmas Market - 2:30pm**  
Fellowship Hall · First Presbyterian Church  
200 S Church St, Neenah

**Open Late for Holiday Shopping until 7pm**  
Elsewhere Market, 531 N Main St, Oshkosh

**Celebration of Lights - Parade 4:30pm** · Winneconne

**Celebrate with Santa Parade - 5pm**  
Town of Winchester Fire Dept · 8522 Park Way, Larsen

**Band-O-Rama Concert - 6pm** · Frank Schade Fieldhouse  
Oshkosh North High School · 1100 W Smith Ave, Oshkosh

**Celebrate with Santa Meet and Greet - 6:30 pm**  
Winchester Town Hall · 8522 Park Way, Larsen

**The Muppets Christmas Carol - 7pm**  
Time Community Theater · 445 N Main St, Oshkosh

**Brady Lee: Home for the Holidays - 7pm**  
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

**Sun Dec 14** **Crafts and Cookies on the Art Bus - 8am**  
The Plaza and Globe Coffee · 229 W Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo - 9am**

**Wisconsin Herd vs. Iowa Wolves - Noon**  
Oshkosh Arena · 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - Noon**  
Cavanaugh Carriages · 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah

**GB Gameday at Batley's Grill & Bar - 12pm**  
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

**Movies with Friends: The Santa Clause - 1pm**  
Oshkosh Public Library · 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

**Oshkosh Community Band Carol Sing-Along - 7pm**  
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

**Mon Dec 15** **Lions Club of Butte des Morts Annual Holiday Party  
Holiday Hayride and Visit from Santa - 5pm**  
5068 Washington St, Butte des Morts

**Tue Dec 16** **Wisconsin Herd vs. Iowa Wolves - 6pm**  
Oshkosh Arena · 1212 S Main St., Oshkosh

**A Swingin' Christmas with Erin Krebs & Friends - 7pm**  
The Waters · 1393 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

**Wed Dec 17** **Holiday Harmony - 6pm**  
Morgan House · 234 Church Ave, Oshkosh

**Thu Dec 18** **Santa Hat Run - 6pm**  
Lion's Tail Brewing Co · 116 S Commercial St, Neenah

- Thu Dec 18 Winter Arrangement - 6pm**  
The Cottage Collective • 118 E Main St, Winneconne
- Bier Hall Holiday Sing-Along with the Jerabek Family Band**  
7pm • Gibson Social Club, 537 N Main St, Oshkosh
- Fri Dec 19 Open Late for Holiday Shopping until 7pm**  
Elsewhere Market, 531 N Main St, Oshkosh
- Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - 5pm**  
Cavanaugh Carriages • 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah
- Cookies with Santa - 6pm** • Fox Crossing Community Ctr  
1000 Valley Road, Fox Crossing
- Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 7pm** • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh
- A Christmas Carol - 6pm**  
The Attic Theatre • 1478 Midway Rd, Menasha
- Sat Dec 20 Oshkosh Farmers Market - 9am**  
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh
- Lunch with the Grinch, Buddy the Elf & Santa! - 11am**  
Batley's Grill & Bar • 1010 Cameron Way, Neenah
- Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - Noon**  
Cavanaugh Carriages • 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah
- Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 2pm** • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh
- Horns a Plenty Christmas Concert - 2pm**  
Church of the Incarnation • 900 N Mason St, Appleton
- Oshkosh Chamber Singers presents A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - 2 and 5pm** • Trinity Episcopal Church  
Algoma Boulevard at Division Street, Oshkosh
- A Christmas Carol - 7pm**  
The Attic Theatre • 1478 Midway Rd, Menasha
- Open Late for Holiday Shopping until 7pm**  
Elsewhere Market, 531 N Main St, Oshkosh
- GB Gameday at Batley's Grill & Bar - 3:30pm**  
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah
- Sun Dec 21 Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - Noon**  
Cavanaugh Carriages • 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah
- Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 2pm** • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh
- A Christmas Carol - 4pm**  
The Attic Theatre • 1478 Midway Rd, Menasha
- Peter Mayer Stars & Promises Christmas Tour - 7pm**  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church • 809 S Commercial St, Neenah
- Mon Dec 22 Water City Jazz Orchestra: Big Band Christmas - 8pm**  
Fletch's Local Tap House • 566 N Main St, Oshkosh
- Sat Dec 27 Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 2pm** • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh
- Sun Dec 28 Bow Hunt Holiday Drop In - Noon**  
Woodey's Bar and Grill • 700 W Main St, Winneconne
- GB Gameday at Batley's Grill & Bar - Noon**  
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah
- UW-Oshkosh BSN Winter Classic - 1pm**  
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

- Sun Dec 28 Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 2pm** • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh
- Mon Dec 29 Live Animal Presentation with J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue - 10am** Oshkosh Public Lib • 106 Washington Ave
- UW-Oshkosh BSN Winter Classic - 1pm**  
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh
- Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 7pm** • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh
- Wed Dec 31 Noon Year's Eve - 11am**  
Oshkosh Public Library • 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh
- Harlem Globetrotters - 2pm**  
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh
- New Year's Eve Party featuring Fork in the Road**  
Winkler's Westward Ho • 4905 County Rd S, Oshkosh

## JANUARY

- Fri Jan 2 Morgan House Tour - 6pm** • 234 Church Ave, Oshkosh
- Sat Jan 3 Oshkosh Farmers Market - 9am**  
Oshkosh Convention Center • 2 N Main St, Oshkosh
- Oshkosh Gallery Walk - 6pm** • Downtown Oshkosh
- Sun Jan 4 GB Gameday at Batley's Grill & Bar - Noon**  
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah
- Mon Jan 5 Wisconsin Herd vs College Park Skyhawks - 6pm**  
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh



Full Coffee Bar | Breakfast & Lunch Served Daily  
Gifts & Jewelry | Home Decor & Furniture | Curated Wine Selection



Downtown Oshkosh | 531 N Main St | Open Tuesday - Sunday 7am - 3pm

**Thu Jan 8** **Weekend Comedy by Jeanne Bobrick & Sam Bobrick** presented by **Oshkosh Community Players - 7pm**  
The Grand Oshkosh - 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

**Fri Jan 9** **Weekend Comedy by Jeanne Bobrick & Sam Bobrick** presented by **Oshkosh Community Players - 7pm**  
The Grand Oshkosh - 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

**Sat Jan 10** **Winnegamie Dog Club Show - 7am**  
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

**Washington Park Winter Festival - 11am**  
Washington Park - 631 Winneconne Ave, Neenah

**Weekend Comedy by Jeanne Bobrick & Sam Bobrick** presented by **Oshkosh Community Players - 2 & 7pm**  
The Grand Oshkosh, 100 High Ave., Oshkosh

**Sun Jan 11** **Winnegamie Dog Club Show - 7am**  
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

**Oshkosh Youth Doubles Bowling Tournament - 10am**  
Revs - 275 N Washburn St, Oshkosh

**Movies With Friends: The Sandlot - 1pm**  
Oshkosh Public Library - 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

**Mon Jan 12** **Sew A Winter Woodland Quilt - 5pm**  
It's Sew Rite - 1821 Harrison St, Oshkosh

**Wed Jan 14** **Wisconsin Herd vs Maine Celtics - 6pm**  
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Thu Jan 15** **Oshkosh Chamber Annual Meeting - 5pm**  
Oshkosh Convention Center - 2 N Main St, Oshkosh

**Fri Jan 16** **Friendly Puzzle Competition - 6pm**  
Fox Crossing Community Center - 1000 Valley Road

**Wisconsin Herd vs Maine Celtics - 7pm**  
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Fri Jan 16** **Girls Night: The Musical - 8pm**  
The Grand Oshkosh - 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

**Sat Jan 17** **Oshkosh Farmers Market - 9am**  
Oshkosh Convention Center - 2 N Main St, Oshkosh

**Wisconsin Herd vs Westchester Knicks - 7pm**  
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Jim Witter's Piano Men 2 - The Sequel - 7pm**  
The Grand Oshkosh - 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

**NHS Jazz Stompin' at the Savoy - 7pm** · Neenah HS  
Performing Arts Center - 500 Rocket Way, Fox Crossing

**Mon Jan 19** **Wisconsin Herd vs Westchester Knicks - 6pm**  
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Thu Jan 22** **Wisconsin Herd vs Noblesville Boom - 11:30am**  
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Oklahoma** presented by **Oshkosh West Choirs - 7pm**  
Alberta Kimball Auditorium - 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

**Fri Jan 23** **Oklahoma** presented by **Oshkosh West Choirs - 7pm**  
Alberta Kimball Auditorium - 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

**Sat Jan 24** **Cinderella** presented by the **Missoula Children's Theatre 3 and 7pm** · The Grand Oshkosh, 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

**Oklahoma** presented by **Oshkosh West Choirs - 7pm**  
Alberta Kimball Auditorium - 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

**Wisconsin Herd vs Noblesville Boom - 7pm**  
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Sun Jan 25** **WI Herd Card Show** presented by **Cardboard Legacy 10am** · Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Oklahoma** presented by **Oshkosh West Choirs - 7pm**  
Alberta Kimball Auditorium - 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

**Thu Jan 29** Neenah HS Winter Drama presents **O. Henry's Guide to the Present - 7pm** · Neenah HS Black Box Theater  
500 Rocket Way, Neenah

**Fri Jan 30** Fox Crossing Parks & Recreation's **Daddy Daughter Winter Formal - 5:30pm**  
Bridgewood Resort - 1000 Cameron Way, Neenah

Neenah HS Winter Drama presents **O. Henry's Guide to the Present - 7pm** · Neenah HS Black Box Theater  
500 Rocket Way, Neenah

**Love Your Pet Expo - 9am**  
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Stuffed Animal Clinic - 10:30am**  
Neenah Public Library - 240 E Wisconsin St, Neenah

**Sat Jan 31** **Party on Poygan** · Woodey's Bar and Grill  
700 W Main St, Winneconne

**Empty Bowls - Oshkosh Soup Dinner - 4pm**  
The Howard - 405 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

Neenah HS Winter Drama presents **O. Henry's Guide to the Present - 7pm** · Neenah HS Black Box Theater  
500 Rocket Way, Neenah

**Steely Dane: The Ultimate Steely Dan Tribute 7:30pm** · The Grand Oshkosh - 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

## FEBRUARY

**Sun Feb 1** Neenah HS Winter Drama presents **O. Henry's Guide to the Present - 2pm** · Neenah HS Black Box Theater  
500 Rocket Way, Neenah

**Mon Feb 2** **Beginning Quilting by Machine Class - 1:30 or 5pm**  
It's Sew Rite, 1821 Harrison St., Oshkosh  
(6 consecutive Mondays through March 9)

**Fri Feb 6** **Fox Cities Golf Expo - 1pm**  
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

**First Friday Concert: Cat Plan - 2pm**  
Neenah Public Library - 240 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Sat Feb 7** **Morgan House Tour - 6pm** · 234 Church Ave, Oshkosh

**Winter Flight Fest - 8am**  
EAA Aviation Museum - 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

**Oshkosh Farmers Market - 9am**  
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Fox Cities Golf Expo - 10am**  
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

**Read to a Dog - 10pm** · Oshkosh Public Lib - 106 Washington Ave

**Oshkosh Gallery Walk - 6pm** · Downtown Oshkosh

**Sun Feb 8** **Fox Cities Golf Expo - 10am**  
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

**Mon Feb 9** **Wisconsin Herd vs Birmingham Squadron - 6:30 pm**  
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Tue Feb 10** **Oshkosh Chamber Economic Outlook Breakfast - 7am**  
Oshkosh Convention Center - 2 N Main St, Oshkosh

**Wisconsin Herd vs Birmingham Squadron - 6pm**  
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Thu Feb 12** **Hadestown: Teen Edition** Osh North HS • 7pm  
Fox Cities PAC • 400 W College Ave, Appleton

**FROZEN The Broadway Musical** presented by  
Winneconne High School • 7pm • WCAC • 100 Wolf Run

**Fri Feb 13** **The Powerplay Trio** • 5pm • Paynes Point Hook &  
Spear Fishing Club • 1934 S Commercial St, Neenah

**A Beary Special Night** • 6pm • Fox Crossing Community Ctr  
1000 Valley Road, Fox Crossing

**"An Affair of the Heart"** Dance & Raffle Benefit  
(Fox Valley Spina Bifida) • 7pm • Bridgewood Resort, Neenah

**Hadestown: Teen Edition** presented by Osh North HS • 7pm  
Fox Cities PAC • 400 W College Ave, Appleton

**FROZEN The Broadway Musical** presented by  
Winneconne High School • 7pm • WCAC • 100 Wolf Run

**Sat Feb 14** **Family Discovery Days** • 11am  
Oshkosh Public Museum • 1331 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh

**JED** • 1pm and **Star Six Nine** • 5pm  
Paynes Point Hook & Spear Fishing Club  
1934 S Commercial St, Neenah

**Hadestown: Teen Edition** presented by Osh North HS • 7pm  
Fox Cities PAC • 400 W College Ave, Appleton

**FROZEN The Broadway Musical** presented by  
Winneconne High School • 7pm • WCAC • 100 Wolf Run

**Sun Feb 15** **Movies with Friends: Disney's Princess and the Frog**  
1pm • Oshkosh Public Library • 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

**Hadestown: Teen Edition** presented by Osh North HS • 2pm  
Fox Cities PAC • 400 W College Ave, Appleton

**FROZEN The Broadway Musical** presented by  
Winneconne High School • 2pm • WCAC • 100 Wolf Run

**Fri Feb 20** **Battle on the Bago** • ALL DAY  
Miller's Bay in Menominee Park • Oshkosh

**Fri Feb 20** **Hypnotized: Fleetwood Mac Tribute & Eagles Tribute**  
7pm • The Grand Oshkosh • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

**Wisconsin Herd vs Greensboro Swarm** • 7pm  
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Jolly Jester Theater for Children** presents **Newsies Jr.**  
7pm • Oshkosh West High School  
Alberta Kimball Auditorium • 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

**Sat Feb 21** **Battle on the Bago** • ALL DAY  
Miller's Bay in Menominee Park • Oshkosh

**Oshkosh Farmers Market** • 9am  
Oshkosh Convention Center • 2 N Main St, Oshkosh

**Read to a Dog** • 10pm • Oshkosh Public Lib • 106 Washington Ave

**Jolly Jester Theater for Children** presents **Newsies Jr.**  
2 and 7pm • Oshkosh West High School  
Alberta Kimball Auditorium • 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

**Sat Feb 21** **Wisconsin Herd vs Greensboro Swarm** • 7pm  
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Sun Feb 22** **Jolly Jester Theater for Children** presents **Newsies Jr.**  
2pm • Oshkosh West High School  
Alberta Kimball Auditorium • 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

**Mon Feb 23** **Read to a Dog** • 4pm • Oshkosh Public Lib • 106 Washington Ave

**Thu Feb 26** **Wisconsin WWII POW Camps** presentation by the  
Neenah Historical Society • 6:30pm  
Neenah Public Library • 240 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Fri Feb 27** **Special Family After Hours Event: Campout** • 6:30pm  
Neenah Public Library • 240 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Battle for the Lake Rodeo** presented by  
Wildhorse Productions and Sandburr Rodeo Productions  
7:30pm • Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Sat Feb 28** **Battle for the Lake Rodeo** presented by  
Wildhorse Productions and Sandburr Rodeo Productions  
7:30pm • Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh



## GIVE THE GIFT OF ART!

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rootandrunnercreative.com



*Winnebago County offers festive, frugal ways to give with heart*

## A Very Thrift Christmas!

By Becky LaDue

Thrifting for Christmas gifts is more than just a trend—it's a joyful, budget-friendly way to spread holiday cheer while embracing creativity and sustainability. Across social media and Main Street alike, more shoppers are turning to thrift and resale stores to find unique treasures with stories to tell.

From that cozy vintage sweater, nostalgic ornament, or a quirky piece that perfectly fits a loved one's personality, each item carries the fun of the hunt and the warmth of thoughtful giving. And for those looking to shop with heart, Winnebago County offers plenty of local options where every purchase supports a good cause.

### St. Vincent de Paul – Neenah & Oshkosh

1425 S Commercial St, Neenah & 551 Jackson St, Oshkosh

A treasure trove of holiday finds is on display at these massive stores located on the south side of Neenah and the north side of Oshkosh.

Inside the Neenah store you'll find six full holiday aisles offering everything from Christmas glassware, ornaments, village pieces, wreaths and trees to linens and wrapping paper in a clean and friendly atmosphere.

The Oshkosh location boasts a special area for Christmas finds and weekly tag sales for even deeper savings.

During the holiday season, St. Vincent De Paul also distributes winter coats to those in need; vouchers for Christmas trees and decorations; and toys for children (items within store) with the only qualification being that you live in the county and need help.

Proceeds benefit those in need in Winnebago County, offering food, housing, and medical assistance.

Stores are open Monday through Saturday, each with varying hours.



*Aisles of finds await at Goodwill in Oshkosh and Neenah!*  
- Photograph by Becky LaDue



*Holiday treasures can be found at St. Vincent De Paul in Neenah.*

- Photograph by Becky LaDue

### Goodwill Thrift Stores – Neenah & Oshkosh

907 S Green Bay Rd, Neenah & 1600 W 20th Ave, Oshkosh

Whether you're shopping to score that one-of-a-kind treasure, to support a great cause or to help keep items out of landfills, Goodwill is a great option for your holiday treasure hunt. While aiding in its mission to provide pathways for people who are underserved, underrepresented and/or disadvantaged to find sustained employment and improved financial stability, approximately 90 cents of every dollar from your holiday shopping sales is reinvested back into its mission.

Each store offers holiday aisles year-round for thrifty fun, and this time of year you'll find TREES, TREES, TREES and many brand-new holiday items at a deep savings.



Store hours for each location are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays offering many opportunities to shop.

### Winneconne Thrift & Gift – Winneconne

911 E Main Street, Winneconne

Step inside this beloved community gem and you'll find what regulars affectionately call "Christmas on steroids" during the months of November and December. Each year, volunteers transform the shop into a dazzling Christmas boutique filled with ornaments, trees, linens, and themed dinnerware—beautifully curated and displayed.

All proceeds go back into the community, with donations growing from \$2,000 in 2008 to over \$100,000 in 2024, supporting more than 75 charities.



Store hours: Tuesday 9–2,  
Wednesday/Friday 10–3,  
Thursday 10–6, Saturday 10–2.

This holiday season, skip the chaos of big-box shopping and enjoy the charm of a local treasure hunt. You'll save money, find one-of-a-kind gifts, and support causes that make Winnebago County shine a little brighter.

### Second Chance Thrift Store – Oshkosh

753 N Main St, Oshkosh

This unique and strategically located thrift store is a worthy stop in your holiday thrifting journey.





An eclectic mix of holiday decor line the shelves at Winneconne Thrift & Gift.  
- Photograph by Becky LaDue



Festive finds at every turn to greet shoppers!  
- Photograph by Becky LaDue

Once home to Sterling Gardens floral shop, this tidy little store offers big charm. Holiday décor mingles with vintage clothing, from graphic tees to retro jackets and even classic snow-mobile suits.



Proceeds support the Lutheran Food Pantry and local families in need. Open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

offers exclusive discounts and birthday perks once signed up.



Hours for AbleLight:  
Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Closed on Sunday

### AbleLight Thrift Shop – Neenah

846 Fox Point Plaza, Neenah

The AbleLight organization's mission—serving for over 120 years—is to support and advocate for people with developmental disabilities to ensure they have security, dignity, and hope. Through dollars raised at their seven thrift stores they serve 750+ individuals offering 3.8 million hours of support in 2024.

Shoppers can browse a tidy and well-stocked store filled with traditional and unexpected holiday items. Wednesdays bring 25% off for seniors and military members, and a new rewards program



AbleLight Thrift Store, Neenah  
- Photograph by Becky LaDue

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### THE CRYSTAL BALL

**Saturday, February 28, 2026, 7–10pm**

A Gala & FUN-raiser for  
Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

The Ballroom at The Reserve  
116 South Commercial Street, Neenah

Please join us for an unforgettable evening of music by critically acclaimed *Kate Voss & The Hot Sauce*. Dancing, live and silent auctions, artful cocktail attire, and amusements await!

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# *Making sure fans have fun!* EAA Winter Flight Fest takes flight

By Cassidy Johnson



*Skiplane taking off.* - Photograph by Connor Madison



*Building a glider at the Family Flight Fest* - Photograph by Connor Madison

Holiday fun will take flight at The Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) 5th annual Winter Flight Fest from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb 7.

This family-friendly event has a variety of interactive activities and experiences at the museum all day, including the skiplane fly-in.

"You can spend the whole day here, for sure," said Drew Stephani, EAA's Communication Specialist. "[We] have all sorts of little activities and hands-on stuff."

The all-day museum event include interactive activities such as the Rotorcrafting activity, the Paper Airplane Launcher and the Pararescue Challenge.

The Rotorcrafting activity allows participants to build their own helicopter from recycled household materials, complete with a working motor.

The Paper Airplane Launcher activity gives participants the chance to make and launch their own paper airplane through a powered launcher, and the Pararescue Challenge gives participants the opportunity to build a parachute and put it to the test in EAA's wind tunnel.

*Constructing paper airplanes and designing a parachute at the Family Flight Fest* - Photographs by Connor Madison



Winter Flight Fest also has a variety of interactive activities, such as the Wright Flight Simulator, the Indoor Model Airplane Flying activity and Aviator BINGO.

For the opportunity to experience what the Wright Brothers would have experienced over 120 years ago on the first-ever powered flight, you can check out the Wright Flyer Simulator. Afterward, head on over to Aviator BINGO for some aviation-themed fun.

Visitors can also check out the Indoor Model Airplane Flying activity to see radio-controlled model drivers build and fly RC model airplanes, what Stephani calls "the really fancy RC stuff."

"My favorite parts [of WFF] are the RC model demonstrations," Stephani said. "The people that do it are very impressive. Some of them are even powered by rubber bands, which is pretty interesting."

The skiplane fly-ins are also set to take place at the festival all day alongside the complimentary chili lunch, depending on the weather.

According to Stephani, organizers need "the perfect amount of snow" for the skiplane fly-in to take place.

Those who wish to participate only in the skiplane show do not require museum admission, and are welcome to enjoy the chili lunch free of charge.

All events inside are free with admission. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors age 62 and up, \$12 for youth ages 6-18 and free for children 5 and under and EAA Members. For more information, go to [www.eaa.org](http://www.eaa.org).



*Visitors view the skiplane at the Fly-in* - Photograph by Connor Madison



# HERD HOME GAMES IN DECEMBER

**HERD *vs* GOLD**  
**SATURDAY, DEC 13**  
12PM CST

**HERD *vs* WOLVES**  
**SUNDAY, DEC 14**  
12PM CST

**HERD *vs* WOLVES**  
**TUESDAY, DEC 16**  
6PM CST

**THEME NIGHT**  
**UGLY SWEATER HOLIDAY PARTY**  
GIVEAWAY | FIRST 1,000 YOUTH  
HERD YOUTH JERSEY



**ART THEME JERSEY**  
*presented by BMO*  
**THEME JERSEY AUCTION**  
*benefitting Oshkosh Kids Foundation*



**THEME NIGHT**  
**G.O.A.T NIGHT**  
GIVEAWAY | FIRST 1,000 FANS  
**G.O.A.T BOBBLEHEAD**  
*presented by LaClare Creamery*



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*Returning for its 24th year*

# Celebration of Lights celebrates lights, legacy

By Cassidy Johnson

Nothing quite says Christmastime like Christmas lights. Luckily, Friends of the Oshkosh Parks has a longstanding event and community tradition with 2.4 miles worth of them.

Returning for its 24th year, Oshkosh's Celebration of Lights is back to turn the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) grounds into a Christmas wonderland through Dec. 31. The light display started on Nov. 28.

Suzu Dawood, an Oshkosh resident for 20 years, expressed her excitement. "I've gone to the celebration of lights every year since I can remember," Dawood said. "I look forward to it every time."

Dawood's favorite CoL nights are the Free Community Nights, which have been amped up a bit this year. Thanks to sponsors, there will be five community nights. Each now includes free admission to the EAA Aviation Museum.

The first Free Community Night took place Nov. 30, with the next four taking place every Sunday in December, which includes Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 28.

As CoL does every year, there's a variety of other special "nights" celebrating different types of lights and people, including visits with Santa and wagon rides.

Santa will be at the end of the lights in Santa's Lodge from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. through Dec. 23 for children to hand-deliver their letters and see if they made the Nice List.

For the chance to ride through the sea of lights on a horse-drawn wagon, wagon rides will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis every Monday and Wednesday in December until Dec. 17.

Reservations can be made now by contacting CoL coordinator and Discover Oshkosh Sales & Services Manager Jodi Jensema at [jodi@discoveroshkosh.com](mailto:jodi@discoveroshkosh.com) or (920) 303.9200.

Gear up for the 23rd Annual Race for the Light 5K Fun Run/Walk for Oshkosh Area United Way for the opportunity to run through the light show and experience it in a whole new "light" for \$35 starting at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 6. Participants who haven't previously picked up their race packet can do so starting at



3:30 p.m. The race kicks off at the EAA Youth Education Center located at the EAA Aviation Museum

There will be a Veterans Night on Dec. 9 to honor service members, featuring a patriotic display and free admission for all veterans in their vehicles. The next day, there will be the first installment of Senior Night, with the second installment on Dec. 18. Seniors receive a discounted entrance rate of \$10 per vehicle, with busloads only \$2 per person; the bus driver is free.

Another donation night will be Dec. 12, this time for the Oshkosh Area Humane Society Night. Members will be on-site to collect donations, and participants that make a donation can get a \$5 discount on their carload.

Celebration of Lights will be "wrapped" up with "Night of the Torches," now "Nights of Torches," Dec. 27-31 in which solar-powered torches will dot the scene of Christmas lights.

Throughout the month, a special area will be set up on the grounds in memoriam to the late Leon Thompson, who passed away this summer, "because of all that he did and added to Celebration of Lights to make it what it is," Jensema said.

Thompson served as both President of FoOP (Friends of Oshkosh Parks) and as Santa Claus for Celebration of Lights for decades. He was also a teacher for 32 years at Oshkosh West High School.

Thompson had served as Santa for CoL for over 20 years since the event's beginning in 2001, with his wife, Wendy Thompson, serving alongside him as Mrs. Claus.

"Celebration of Lights couldn't have had a more amazing Santa role," said founding CoL member Craig Burnett. "Many very lucky children were graced by his presence."

Thompson later took over organizing CoL in 2011 while he was teaching and coaching baseball and softball at Oshkosh West, after Tom Stephany, the Oshkosh Parks director at the time, passed away.

Thompson served as Santa until 2022, as president of CoL until 2021, and as its vice president until his passing this summer.

"[His passing] was very rough, but he really had an amazing career, an amazing life; he just wanted to spread cheer everywhere," Jensema said. "The legacy's going to keep on, and we're gonna continue making him proud and adding to this event because that was what his wish was."

Another way Thompson is being honored is with the Leon Thompson Youth Leadership scholarship through the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce.

The scholarship "provides financial support to high school student(s) in our community to attend leadership development programs," according to the Chamber's website.

Those who knew him say Thompson will be greatly missed, but his contributions will continue to shine at Christmastime in Oshkosh and bring joy to the community.

"I love Celebration of Lights," said Dawood. "I think it's such a cute way to bring the community together and allow for some holiday spirit and fun for our city."

Regular admission is **\$20 per carload, with up to \$5 off with a donation of either a sealed hygiene item or a non-perishable, in-date food item.**



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*Give a gift to the local economy by shopping local this season!*

# Locally-owned businesses provide options for holiday shopping

By Anya Kelley

As shoppers look for places to shop during the holiday season, they often see it as a time to shop locally. By supporting small businesses, shoppers reduce their carbon footprint by keeping transportation emissions low, bolstering the local economy and finding unique gifts for their loved ones. It's seen as a win for everyone.

Options for shopping at locally-owned businesses are available throughout Winnebago County.

## Lily and Sparrow

119 W. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah

Lily and Sparrow offer a wide variety of handmade and curated home goods and clothing. The highlight of their selection is the wood framed artwork that they make in their warehouse located in Winneconne. They have a fun selection of holiday themed goods, and the décor rotates often. Best sellers from Lily and Sparrow include flameless glass candles, cotton crocheted potholders and coasters, stone dishware and wood framed signs.



*Lily and Sparrow is located at the heart of historic downtown Neenah. The windows are filled with holiday decorations and a full-sized Christmas tree.*

*– Photograph by Anya Kelley*

## Sante Wine Bar and Bistro

108 W. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah

Sante Wine Bar and Bistro is a chic establishment located in downtown Neenah serving a curated selection of over 300 bottles of wine, specialty cocktails and small bites. Bottles are available for purchase, and the food is as locally sourced as possible. Sante also has an exclusive wine club offering a tiered membership scale for affordability. Members get their own happy hour from 4 to 7 p.m. every Monday through Thursday and a monthly pick up of two bottles of wine. Sante is “anti-snobbery” and prides itself on a community built around a love for wine.



*Storefronts decked out for the holidays downtown Oshkosh.*

*– Photograph by Anya Kelley*

## Everweld Jewelry Co

124 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 220, Neenah

Permanent jewelry is all the rage right now, and Everweld offers 300 different chains and a selection of fun charms to choose from. The chains can be welded to fit a wrist, neck or finger and a variety of metals including sterling silver and gold fill are available. Fresh for the holiday season, Everweld has started offering permanent bangles as well. Gift cards for sessions are offered with no minimum amount required and appointments are available by walk in or can be scheduled online.



## Elements Unleashed

224 W. Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

There is nowhere better than Elements Unleashed to find stellar pieces for your fashion forward friend. The boutique is filled to the brim with curated items made from high quality fabrics like genuine leather with new arrivals coming often. They specialize in high quality pre-owned fur pieces and offer professional cleaning and care services including repairs. All the fur products are second-hand making each purchase environmentally friendly.





In downtown Neenah, anyone looking for a break can take a moment to sit with a president of the past. Main Street features bronze statues of Abe Lincoln, George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, though Franklin isn't a president, lounging on benches. During the winter, the statues wear scarves. - Photograph by Anya Kelley

### Yetti Yums

110 Algoma Boulevard, Suite B, Oshkosh

Yetti Yums is a candy store with a twist. They offer a huge selection of freeze-dried candy including skittles, laughy taffy and jolly ranchers. There is also a selection of freeze-dried ice cream and cheesecake. If nothing in their brick-and-mortar store strikes a shopper's fancy, Yetti Yums accepts requests and has an online storefront as well.



### Elsewhere Market and Coffee House

531 N. Main St., Oshkosh

Elsewhere is a two-part coffee shop and marketplace offering sustainable home goods, hand crafted jewelry, décor and more. The vibe is very summer in Italy chic, and the beauty and home products are non-toxic and made from clean ingredients, making their selection perfect for the hippy, health-conscious friend. For a new or expectant mom, they also offer a selection of vintage children's clothes and toys located in the back of the market.



### Gardina's Kitchen and Bar

448 N. Main St., Oshkosh

Gardina's has a marketplace of wine and spirits featuring highly sought-after craft beers, whiskey and wine. They have a selection of budget-friendly options and offer gift cards for both the market and the restaurant.



### Adventure Games and Hobby

408 N. Main St., Oshkosh

Adventure Games and Hobby carry a huge selection of table-top board games, card games, customizable figures for Magic:



Red's Boutique and Market is located on an iconic corner of Main Street in Winneconne across from the Fin 'n' Feather. - Photograph by Anya Kelley

The Gathering and Dungeons and Dragons, Lego sets and more. They also have a selection of hundreds of rare cards from a variety of games worth up to thousands of dollars.

### Red's Boutique and Market

100 W. Main St., Winneconne

Red's is a one stop shop for everything from artisanal snacks and sauces, wool socks, kitchen accessories and bath and body products. The brands carried include stonewall kitchen, Carmie's kitchen soup mix, Tillen Farms, INIS, California Mango and many more.



### Chez's Crafts n Crap

113 Grant St., Winneconne

Chez's offers a variety just as fun as their name. They offer a selection of locally made goods like Twin Lane candles and wax melts, Wolf River Maple's maple syrup and handcrafted jewelry. They offer a leather koozie that can be customized with images and text making for a sweet, personalized gift and birch bark roses that are each made to order making each one unique.



### Winneconne Thrift and Gift

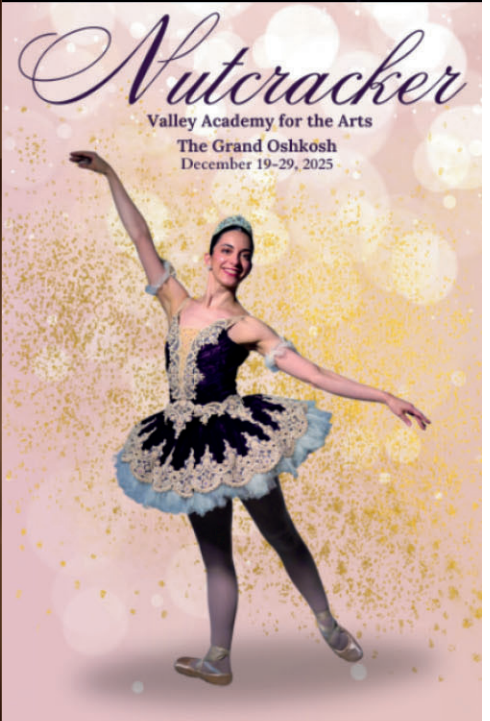
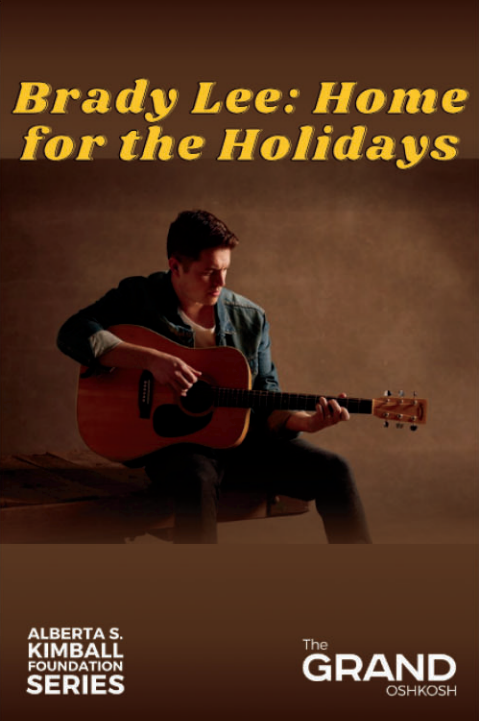
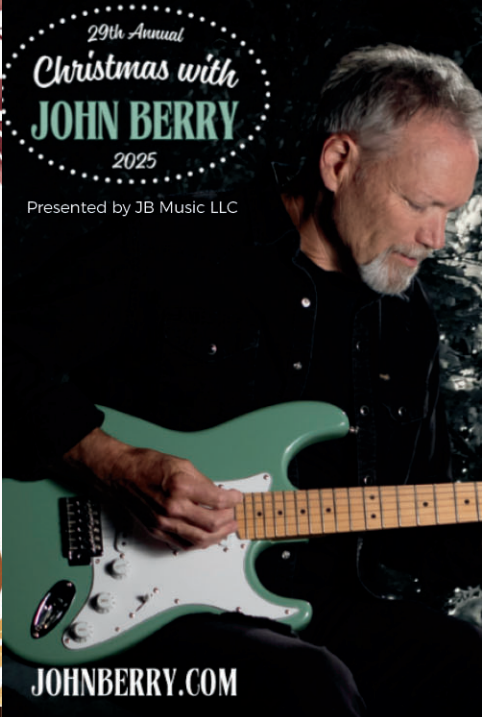
911 E. Main St., Winneconne

Thrift and Gift has a selection of home goods, clothes, décor, jewelry and more for super low prices. From minx jackets to linens to antique China, Winneconne's premier thrift store makes holiday shopping easy, sustainable and affordable. They also donate large sums of their revenue back into the community making the shopping experience a gift in itself.



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# Upcoming Events



To see all events and purchase tickets, visit  
[thegrandoshkosh.org](http://thegrandoshkosh.org)