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District considers cutting 70 positions

Plan comes amid budget shortfall

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

As many as 70 positions could be cut by the school district next year, according to a plan created by district administration.

The Oshkosh Area School District's Board of Education will review and discuss the recommendations at tonight's meeting for proposed cuts of teachers and support staff. However, the board will not be taking any action at the meeting.

The board is scheduled to have a vote

on the proposed cuts at its Jan. 14 meeting.



Davis

The administration's plan comes a month after district officials announced a projected \$6 million deficit going into budget discussions for the 2026-27 school year. Superintendent Bryan Davis said the deficit is due to state funding not keeping up with inflation, evolving student needs, declining enrollment and increasing operational costs.

According to the district, the recommended cuts include 11 positions at the central office, 13.7 positions at the district level, 33.6 positions in middle and high school and 11.9 positions at the pre-K and elementary level.

These proposed cuts include 23 elective teachers at the middle and high schools. The teaching positions that will be eliminated has yet to be determined as it will be "based on student course requests."

The district is also set to cut the driver's education classroom instructor and the

SEE **District cuts** ON PAGE 8

INSIDE



Wildcats win

West girls topple Fondy in FVA tussle

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Spring elections

No council incumbents will be on ballot

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Photo by Kodiak Creative

National champs

The UW-Oshkosh volleyball team captured the NCAA Division III national title on Saturday night, with a three-set win over the University of La Verne inside the Shirk Center on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Ill. This is the first national title in the program's history and the Titans were the first team since 2004 to win the crown without dropping a set in the tournament. More on the championship can be found in sports.

Oshkosh company providing help through coolers

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

An Oshkosh company is spearheading a new program to help food banks and pantries.

Barr Inc., a family-owned Oshkosh company founded in 1978, has officially launched "Coolers for a Cause" that will help food banks and pantries across the country get commercial coolers and freezers. The company hopes its local success with a pilot program will spread at the national level.

Since 2018, the company has helped a local pantry and two shelters with walk-in coolers/freezers to help store food for people who need it most.

"Recognizing the increased struggle many hard-working families face — particularly during the holidays — the company is leveraging its expertise and inventory, the largest in the world, to help community organizations ensure everyone can celebrate with a warm meal," Barr

Inc. said in a statement.

"Hunger is a problem that touches every county in America, and its impact is especially harsh on the most vulnerable," said Jarvis McLimans, Barr Inc. vice president of sales. "More than 50 million people rely on food banks for support, and with one in five children facing food insecurity, these organizations play a more vital role than ever. The ability to safely store fresh produce and meats is essential to their mission. With 'Coolers for a Cause,' we are putting our industrial refrigeration expertise to work for a good cause, making it easier for food banks to keep their shelves stocked with nutritious, high-quality food."

Food banks and pantries rely heavily on commercial refrigeration and freezers, and through the "Coolers for a Cause" program, Barr Inc. is offering the following to designated 501(c)(3) food banks and pantries:

- **Deep Discounts:** Significant cost

reductions on new coolers, freezers and commercial refrigeration units, as well as cost-effective, gently used refurbished units.

- **Free Consultation:** Complimentary consultation services to help organizations design and implement customized cold-storage solutions that meet their specific needs and goals.

"Our team of experts work closely with each organization to design a system that will meet their unique needs," said Kristina Hoffman of Barr Inc. "We use our global sourcing capabilities to offer our discounted pricing, which is as unique as the design of each system."

Barr Inc. started the program working with the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry (OACP) and a commercial walk-in freezer was installed at the pantry several years ago.

OACP serves the area and as a region-



Submitted photo

Yolanda Suess of the Day by Day Shelter shows off the Barr Inc. cooler/freezer combination the shelter received in 2023 to expand the organization's storage capacity.

SEE **Cool help** ON PAGE 9



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

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Photo by Michael Cooney

Karen Schibline of the Oshkosh Rotary Club helps students shop during Jefferson Elementary School's annual Holiday Treasures Family Night.

Students find treasures at holiday shopping event

By Michael Cooney
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Jefferson Elementary School's annual Holiday Treasures Family Night is a program that gives young students the chance to shop — independently — for gifts for the people they love.

The school's gymnasium on Dec. 3 became a festive mini-holiday market, with gift items priced from 50 cents to \$5. Each student received \$1 from the PTO to get started and was paired with a volunteer "shopping assistant" to help them choose

just the right present.

A separate crew of holiday helpers wrapped gifts so parents could be surprised later. Grown-ups waited outside the room while children made their secret selections.

PTO President Nicole Brewer said the evening delivered exactly what families look forward to each year.

"Holiday Treasures was a huge success," Brewer said. "They really love being able to shop for their loved ones and really take the time to think about what they are buying."

Madrigals to perform at Lourdes Academy

Oshkosh Herald

The annual Madrigal performance will be at 1 p.m. Sunday at Lourdes Academy, 110 N. Sawyer St.

The festivities will take place in the Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room. Guests should arrive through the elementary school doors.

Wine, mimosas and a cash bar will be

available starting at 1 p.m. The call to the hall will be at 1:30 p.m. The meal served at 2 p.m. will include a fruit cup, roasted asparagus and tomato quiche accompanied by double smoked bacon, wassail, sweet treats, coffee and hot tea.

Tickets cost \$35 per person. For further details and to purchase tickets, visit e.givesmart.com/events/LEM/.

Cold weather leads to parade cancellation

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Holiday Parade that had been scheduled for last week was cancelled due to dangerously cold weather conditions.

The Downtown Oshkosh Business Improvement District (BID) made the decision after consulting with the City of Oshkosh administration and police department, weather experts and parade partners. BID determined that proceeding with the event would pose unnecessary safety risks to participants and spectators.

The forecast showed temperatures and wind chills falling well below safe levels for extended outdoor activity. According to BID, many parade units — including youth groups, marching bands, volunteers, and families, as well as public service professionals — would face significant risk of cold-related health issues.

"We know how much the Holiday Parade means to our community and our downtown businesses, and this is not a decision we take lightly," said Megan Lang, Downtown Oshkosh BID board chair. "However, the well-being of our participants, staff, and attendees is our top priority. With the extreme cold expected, canceling the parade is the safest and most responsible choice."

Because of the tight timeline of the holiday season and the logistical requirements of the event, BID said a rescheduled date is not planned. BID is planning for Reindeer on the Square on Saturday in Downtown Oshkosh.

The event is scheduled to take place from 1 to 4 p.m. with live reindeer live music, activities, letters to Santa, cocoa, cookies and more. Children's performer Randy Peterson is set to perform during the event.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical Society

Dec. 8, 1992

Wax Works Goes Up in Flames: An alarm was sounded at 3:15 a.m. early Tuesday morning, alerting night workers of a fire at the IGI Boler Company on Bay Shore Drive. The plant was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived. Police alerted neighbors to evacuate a 12-block area due to the possibility of toxic fumes from the burning paraffin. Flames reaching up to 100 feet erupted from the wax manufacturing warehouse, spewing billowing black smoke and tens of thousands of gallons of wax around the northeast neighborhood. Pockets of wax located throughout the facility hindered the efforts of firefighters who eventually brought the blaze under control by noon Wednesday. This was not the first wax fire at this location. In 1967, the building then owned by Paragon Products suffered major damage from a fire there on April 12. IGI Boler uses the plant to blend wax products primarily used by paper and packaging companies. No injuries in yesterday's blaze were reported.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Dec. 8, 1992

HOLIDAY EARLY AD DEADLINES



Oshkosh Herald Dec. 24 issue Display Ad Deadline
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Classified Ad Deadline
Tue., 12/23 3pm

Obituary Deadline
Fri., 12/26 Noon

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Photo by Michael Cooney

Child care incubator project gets underway

Oshkosh Herald

Construction is underway on a new facility designed to expand child care access in Oshkosh.

Advocap and Signature Homes by Adashun Jones Real Estate, together with their construction and design partners, plan to hold a groundbreaking for the Advocap Childcare Incubator on Thursday.

The Childcare Incubator located on Jackson Street will provide startup space and business development resources to help child care providers launch and sustain quality programs that meet community needs. The initiative is designed to help address the child care shortage facing families and employers in the Oshkosh area, while also offering new opportunities for child care entrepreneurs.

“The shortage of child care in Winnebago County is reaching a critical point, affecting both families and local businesses,” says Tanya Marcoe, ADVOCAP executive

director. “By creating a supportive environment for providers to launch and thrive, we are investing in families, the workforce and the long-term health of our community.”

Signature Homes by Adashun Jones Real Estate, the project’s construction partner, is leading the development of the facility.

“Being involved from the earliest stages — from site selection through design and build — has allowed our Signature Homes team to help shape something that truly strengthens our communities,” says Glenn Elmer, broker/owner at Adashun Jones Real Estate & Signature Homes. “This Childcare Incubator opens doors for entrepreneurs who might not otherwise have the opportunity to build a business in child care, creating a model that’s both sustainable and scalable for the future.”

For additional information about the Childcare Incubator, visit advocap.org/services/childcare-incubator.

Remembering Pearl Harbor

The names of 56 Wisconsinites that died at Pearl Harbor were read along with the tolling of a bell Sunday during a remembrance ceremony hosted by Oshkosh AMVETS Post 7 at the Elks Lodge. During the ceremony, Bill Wiley – a 19-year-old at the time of the attack who eventually settled his family in Winnebago County – was honored for his heroism aboard the USS Nevada as a Seaman First Class. Wiley is an example of one of the countless acts of courage that took place Dec. 7, 1941 but his story is one that lives on in Wisconsin as a special certificate was presented to his family so that the sacrifices of all who served that day will never be forgotten. Secretary for Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs James Bond was a guest speaker during the ceremony.

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Casey's Meadow receives recommendation for newest plat

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The final plat for 30 new single-family homes will need to be approved by the Oshkosh Common Council after receiving the Plan Commission's recommendation. The proposal received criticism from the commission for parkland dedication and an extended road.

The Plan Commission on Dec. 2 recommended approval by a vote of 7-2 to the council. The initial plat for 90 single-family lots was approved earlier this year. The three-phase project begins with these 30 homes.

The city is set to pay to connect Windsong Terrace to Mockingbird Way and then the street will all be renamed Mockingbird Way. That connection is set to be made in January.

Chet Wesenberg, who is the developer on the project, did not attend the meeting on Dec. 2, but he did attend the meeting where the initial plat for the 90 homes received approval. At that meeting he said it was unfair for him to have to pay for the connection.

City staff highlighted that connecting the roads will provide a crucial connection to Clairville and give residents an exit from the subdivision without having to drive north to West Ninth Avenue or east to South Oakwood Road.

Two roads will run south off of Mockingbird Way, Autumn and Lyla Lanes will be pivotal for this phase of the project with 21 of the 30 houses being built on these roads.

The city will pay to construct the roadway connecting Windsong Terrace and the proposed extension of Mockingbird Way as part of the capital improvement process, per an agreement with Wesen-



Oshkosh Media

A proposed addition to Casey's Meadow subdivision off Windsong Terrace and Clairville Road would add 30 single-family homes.

berg. Ed Bowen of the Plan Commission wanted to know why that was the case.

"Why should the city pay for it, when normally a developer would? Is there some sort of reason for that?" Bowen asked.

Community development director Sarah Rutkowski explained that because Wesenberg is set to build 30 homes that the city would pay for this connection.

"Mr. Wesenberg is going to take care of all of the stuff located on his plat. That is not the portion of the Windsong Terrace extension that he actually owns," Rutkowski said. "So because of the process where he's putting in 30 homes, we negotiated a deal with him where we will assist in that connection."

This move falls in line with the city's recent motives to streamline processes for developers in the city and give them preferential treatment to get more housing units in the city.

It is unclear right now if taxpayers will cover those costs or if the city will put those costs of extending the road onto the property owners on Windsong Terrace, who already have a connection to Clairville Road.

"Some of that is still being determined," Rutkowski said. "The only thing that we're worried about right now is making sure that this plat passes (the Plan Commission)."

Parkland dedication

In Oshkosh, when these subdivisions are built, a portion of the land must be dedicated to green space. That's called parkland dedication. For the original Casey's Meadow, Rusch Park was dedicated. The park is 42 acres – significantly more than the requirement of 5.1 acres.

Plan Commission member Margy Davy pointed out that the city should amend the parkland dedication section of the zoning ordinance to reflect that the park-

land should be usable for recreation.

"You really can't play in a marsh," she said.

A 2018 site analysis of the park done by Rettler Corp. for the city states the park was dedicated in 1998 and is 42 acres, including over 17 acres of wetlands and about half a mile of trails.

Plan Commission member John Kiefer also had concerns that there wasn't a playground at Rusch Park, with the closest playground being at Traeger Elementary School.

"We're adding a number of new homes again, and we're not having anything for these kids to play on," he said.

Almost 30 years ago this land was dedicated as parkland when the Rusch Family owned much of the land north of 20th Avenue and west of South Oakwood Road.

"We've basically got a bunch of marshlands that's considered the parkland dedication for thousands of homes, thousands of kids. It's pretty sad," Kiefer said.

He added that no developer made any financial commitment when Traeger School was built.

"We can't just keep going back to the 40 acres that they dedicated," Kiefer said. "How does he get to keep using that parkland for parkland dedication?"

Plan Commission Chair Thomas Perry said he was also disappointed with the parkland dedication, but the group is set to have a workshop with the parks department in the future regarding parkland dedication.

The two opposing votes came from Daniel Paulick and Kiefer.

The final plat will go to the council for final approval for the first phase of the three phase project.

NOTICE OF CITY OF OSHKOSH SNOW SHOVELING REQUIREMENTS

Residents are reminded of the following snow removal regulations:

PER SECTION 25-68 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE:

Property owners are required to clear sidewalks abutting their property of snow and/or ice within 24 hours after the end of precipitation or accumulation. These requirements include all handicap ramps/crosswalk accesses which are adjacent to their property.

When ice cannot be removed, the sidewalk and handicap ramps/crosswalk accesses shall be kept sprinkled with material(s) to accelerate melting and prevent slipping. The ice must be removed as soon as possible.

Depositing snow from private property onto any public right-of-way, public property, or fire hydrant is also prohibited.

PER SECTION 25-69 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE:

Failure to clear the sidewalk or handicap ramps/crosswalk accesses will result in the City completing the work and invoicing the property owner for the snow or ice removal.

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Property owners also face a potential citation for violation of the Municipal Code.

THIS FORFEITURE IS \$232 FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE.

Violators can be reported to the Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works.



Photo by Michael Cooney

Seasonal performance

Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra performed its holiday concert of *Togetherness* Saturday at the UWO Theatre Arts Center. The concert shared with the audience the wonder of joy of opera as the enchanting tale of Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* was a featured part of the performance. OSO partnered with Brew City Opera to feature singers from all over the state, including the witch played by Colleen Brooks, Hansel played by Kristen DiNinno and Gretel played by Marissa Lake (seated).

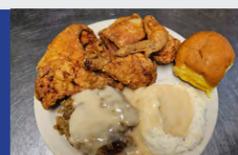
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No council incumbents will be on the spring ballot

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

No incumbents are planning to run for Oshkosh Common Council in the spring, so voters will be asked to put three new members on the council.

Council members DJ Nichols and Jacob Floam have announced they will not be seeking reelection. They were both elected in April 2024 along with former council member Kris Larson as first-time council members, although Floam previously served on the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors.

“After a very productive two years on the Oshkosh Common Council, I have decided to not seek reelection this upcoming spring,” Floam said in a statement. “I’ll be prioritizing my new family and preparing for the future ahead.”

Council member Jacob Amos was appointed to the council Nov. 25, but he will now need to earn his seat on the council the traditional way by collecting signatures, and landing in the top three of vote

getters in the April 7 election.

Twelve of the applicants, including Amos, that applied for the open council seat after Larson resigned in October indicated they planned to run in the spring or that they were leaning toward running for a seat.

If more than six candidates file to be on the ballot, a primary election will be held in February to narrow the field to six candidates.

Nichols told the Herald after the Nov. 25 meeting that he wasn’t sure whether he would run for reelection or not. Nichols joins Floam as serving a single two-year term on the council and then deciding not to continue in that role.

“The demands of my full-time job have grown significantly, and I can’t give this role anything less than the focus and energy our community deserves,” Nichols said



Floam

in a statement.

Nichols and Larson notably spent the first year of their terms working on issues they heard while campaigning like the downtown parking situation and expanding early voting.



Nichols

When City Manager Rebecca Grill was hired by the council, Nichols and Larson got behind her idea of asking the state for more funds through the Municipal Service

Program.

“Stepping back from elected office doesn’t change my commitment to Oshkosh,” Nichols said. “This city moves forward when its residents step up.”

Larson resigned his seat due to a conflict of interest as the city looks to purchase or lease City Center, where he owns Becket’s restaurant.

Nichols also used his seat to ask the

legislature if the city could create its own sales tax to cover rising costs and budget constraints.

Floam was integral in the decision to move funds from the general fund balance to alleviate rising taxes due to the burden the city created with the revaluation process in 2024.

That move caused the city to enter the 2025 budget season with a \$6 million deficit.

“There is more work to be done though,” Floam said. “Our city still faces both challenges we need to address and opportunities we need to take advantage of. I have a strong belief in the people of Oshkosh to step up and serve to make sure our community is the best place it can be.”

Floam’s statement did leave the door open for the possibility that he could run for office again in the future.

Candidates started taking out paperwork last week. Candidates need to submit that paperwork, with citizen signatures backing their campaign, by Jan. 6.

City reaches new service agreement with Humane Society

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Area Humane Society (OAHS) and the City of Oshkosh last week reached a new service agreement after concerns were raised about how much funding the city provides the agency.

The organizations said the agreement reflects a shared commitment to provide high-quality care and services for stray domesticated animals found in the City of Oshkosh.

“We are pleased to have reached an agreement with the City of Oshkosh and look

forward to continuing our strong partnership,” said Ieva Engel, executive director of the Oshkosh Area Humane Society. “The Oshkosh Area Humane Society will continue delivering the exceptional, high-quality care and service that the animals — and the community we serve — deserve.”

The Common Council was expected to consider approving the agreement Tuesday at its meeting.

“We appreciate the great relationship we have with the Oshkosh Area Humane Society,” Oshkosh Police Chief Dean Smith

said. “I’m excited that this agreement has been reached, and the city is poised to continue to work with the Humane Society for years to come.”

As the council discussed in November, the agreement focuses on the city-specific needs providing shelter, care and adoption services for stray domesticated animals found within the City of Oshkosh. The agreement spans from Jan. 1, 2026, to Dec. 31, 2028, guaranteeing a structured and consistent service period.

A fee of \$50,000 will be paid to provide ser-

vices to the first 500 animals serviced in the calendar year as outlined in the agreement. Additionally, the agreement provides funding for subsequent animals over the initial 500 as outlined in the fee structure which is consistent with the approved budget amount.

The previous contract was a sum of around \$100,000 for services provided to the city. This included being available 24/7, 365 days a year to take in strays, abandoned and impound animals. Smith previously called the changes right-sizing and paying for the services provided.

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County revises proposed housing lending program

Loan fund still needs County Board approval

By Bethanie Gengler
OSHKOSH HERALD

Winnebago County commissioners voted last week to revise a proposed revolving loan fund for affordable housing, incorporating feedback from supervisors after the County Board last month sent the plan back to committee.

The decision comes after months of discussion about how to allocate \$3.5 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars for local housing needs.

The proposed revolving loan fund would use a pool of county dollars to support housing development, including affordable housing projects for working families. The fund would issue loans to qualifying projects, with repayment returning the money to the fund for future use.

County Executive Gordon Hintz previously said the structure allows the money to be reinvested in multiple housing initia-

tives over time, helping spur development in areas where the private market has struggled to meet community needs.

The loan fund is expected to play a role in spurring new housing construction in Winnebago County, with Housing Grants Specialist Lu Scheer stating that the county needs an estimated 10,000 new housing units in the next decade.

The Winnebago County Industrial Development Board committed \$1 million to the program in June, and the county planned to contribute the remaining \$3.5 million.

That plan was paused last month after some county supervisors questioned whether interest from the Spirit Fund, which is the county's name for its ARPA dollars, could be used for that purpose.

Under the initially proposed plan, the revolving loan fund would be overseen by a nonprofit organization. District 26 Supervisor Conley Hansen argued at a board meeting last month that because the Spirit Fund interest was placed in the county government projects category, the

proposed revolving housing loan program does not qualify, since it would be run in partnership with a nonprofit and the broader community.

At a meeting Dec. 2, the ARPA Strategies and Outcome Commission voted to revise the language of the proposal to include that an advisory board for the program will be made up of an equal number of members from the ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission, the Industrial Development Board, the Personnel and Finance Committee, and county staff. Appointments to the advisory board will be made by the county board chair and county executive.

Though the previous plan was to take \$3.5 million in interest earnings from the Spirit Fund to start the program, Hintz said Dec. 2 that treating interest separately complicated planning and caused confusion. For this and future projects, the county plans to count all Spirit Fund money, including interest earnings, in a

single "pot" for allocation.

As of late August, about \$11.7 million of the \$33.3 million Winnebago County was allocated in ARPA dollars remained in the Spirit Fund, including about \$3.5 million in interest.

The commission also adopted an amendment Dec. 2 stating that the new revolving loan fund "shall be applied to affordable housing only," while leaving the definition of affordable housing broad to account for future economic changes.

Commissioners agreed to remove language that would have prohibited using the fund for projects in tax increment districts (TIDs), where property tax revenue is used to finance local development, noting that state policymakers may soon change laws to promote more affordable housing in TIDs.

The proposal to create the housing loan fund still needs to be approved by the County Board at a future meeting.

Attempted homicide suspect plea delayed

Oshkosh Herald

An Oshkosh man has been in custody at the Winnebago County Jail for the last seven months after he allegedly fired a gun into a crowded downtown bar. His plea hearing has been delayed again as he has new attorneys.

Marcus M. Norfleet is facing a life sentence with attempted first-degree intentional homicide. He is also charged with two other felony charges of first-degree recklessly endangering safety and endangering safety/reckless use of a firearm.

If convicted of the two felonies, Norfleet faces over 12 years in prison, followed by up to 10 years of extended supervision.

Norfleet, 39, allegedly fired a gun into Oblio's, 434 N. Main St., last April after being physically removed from the establishment moments earlier. He remains in custody at the Winnebago County Jail on a \$500,000 cash bond.

Medical professionals said it was a miracle the bullet passed through the victim's neck without causing significant damage to the spine or major arteries.

A plea hearing was scheduled for the case on Oct. 16. However, two weeks before the scheduled hearing Norfleet's attorneys withdrew from the case.

Norfleet is now being represented by attorneys Trisha Fritz and Tim Hogan. Hogan appeared in court last week for a new plea hearing as the new team of attorneys said it has not had adequate time to review discovery in the case.

Restitution is being requested from Oblio's and an insurance company. The total request is for over \$137,000 with Oblio's requesting \$101,042. The county has a 10% victim witness surcharge that could bring the total restitution charge to \$151,415.03.

According to the criminal complaint, officers responded to Oblio's at 434 N. Main St. early on April 18 after several reports of a gunshot in the area. One officer noted the front door of the bar was shattered.

Officers quickly rendered aid to the 27-year-old gunshot victim who was shot in the neck and then transported to The daCare Medical Center in Neenah.

In the frenzy after the gunshot, the victim and patrons ran to the back door. The victim told police he didn't know he was shot until he was in the back parking lot.

Norfleet was located by police shortly after the shooting, and they were able to bring him into custody. Authorities then went to Norfleet's home and found multiple firearms and ammunition.

Video footage reviewed by police showed Norfleet being escorted from the bar and lingering before fleeing the scene on foot. The video allegedly shows that when the gunshot was fired, there were about 10 people in the immediate area.

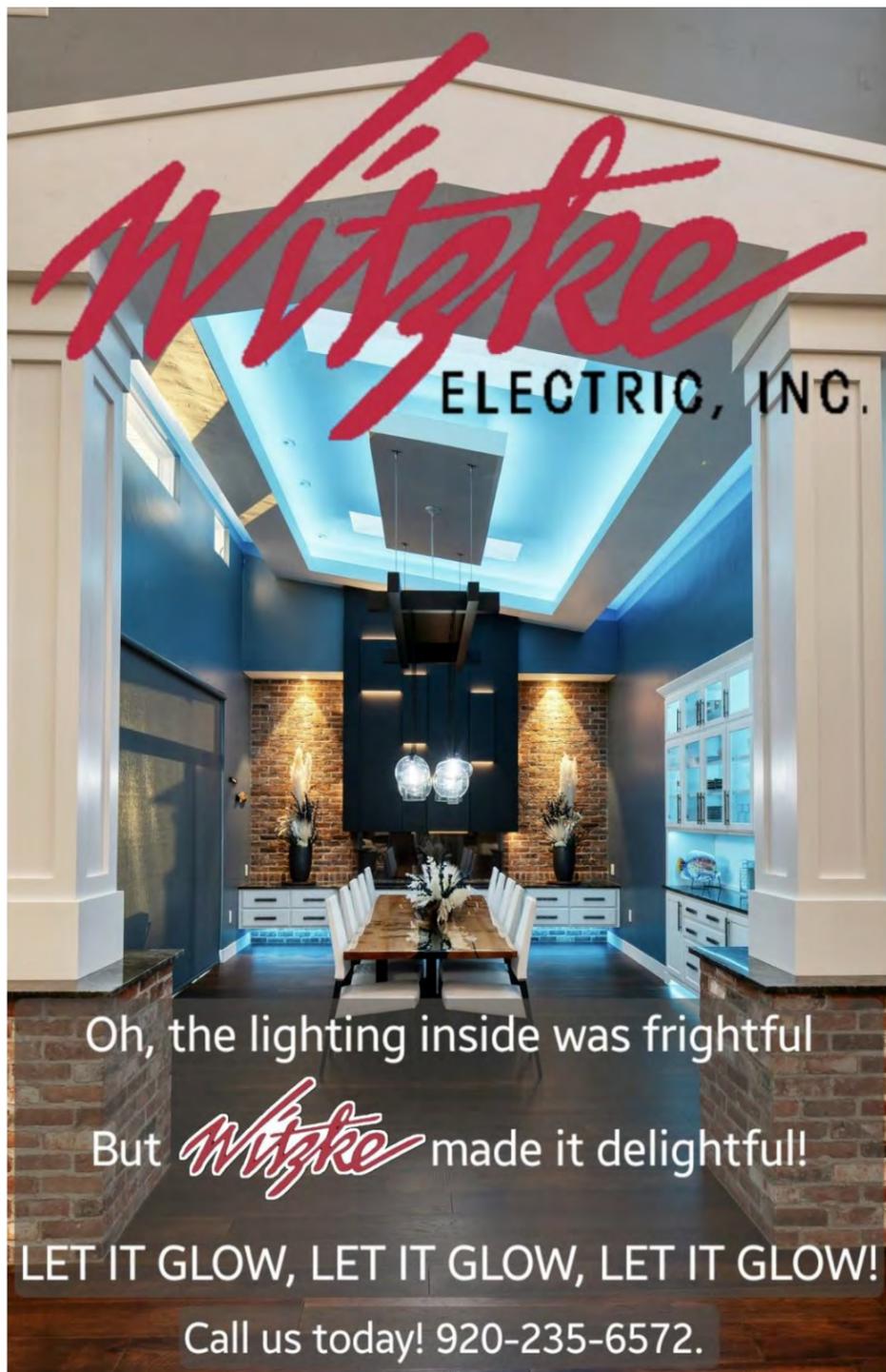
The case is scheduled for a further proceeding hearing in March.



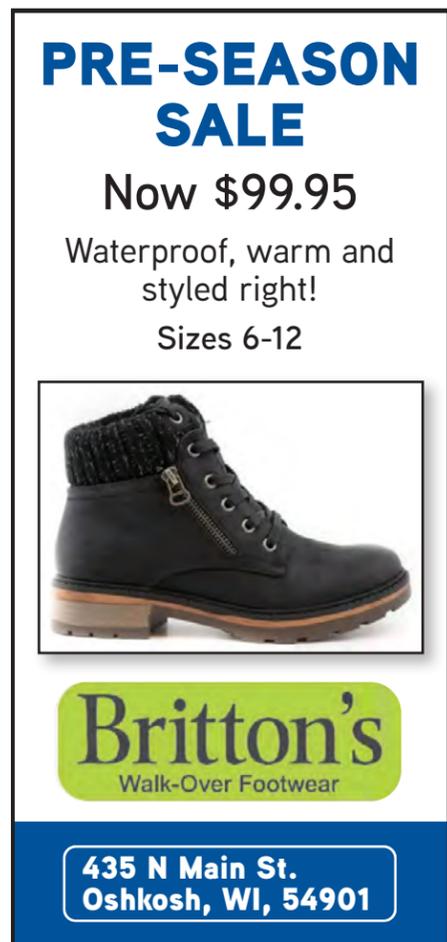
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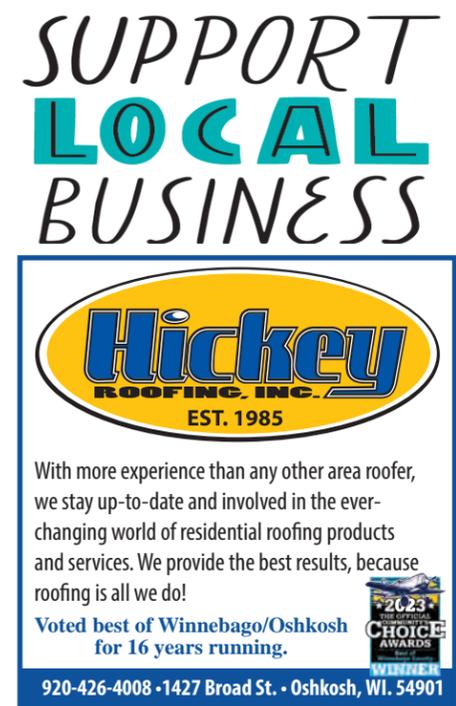
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Oshkosh Chamber gears up for high-impact season

By Rob Kleman
CHAMBER PRESIDENT AND CEO

The Oshkosh Chamber is gearing up for an exciting season as three of its signature events —the Annual Meeting, Economic Outlook Breakfast and Business Expo — return to bring together business leaders, innovators and community members from across the region.

Each event serves as a cornerstone of the Oshkosh Chamber’s mission to support a thriving local economy, foster meaningful connections and shine a spotlight on the organizations that make Oshkosh a vibrant place to live and work.

2026 kicks off Jan. 15 with the Oshkosh Chamber Annual Meeting and Recognition Event, a celebration of the year’s accomplishments and the people who helped drive progress.

Over 500 attendees can expect a dynamic program recognizing the contributions of local businesses, volunteers and community partners. The event also looks ahead, offering insight into strategic priorities for the coming year and reaffirming the Oshkosh Chamber’s commitment to strengthening the region’s business climate.

February brings a look into the economy, both present and future. The Economic Outlook Breakfast Feb. 10 features speaker Danielle DiMartino Booth, CEO and Chief Strategist of QI Research — a



widely respected voice in economics and financial markets whose analysis appears on Bloomberg, CNBC, Fox Business and more.

Her presentation will offer a comprehensive forecast for 2026, translating national and global trends into what they mean for businesses in Northeast Wisconsin.

The event also offers a prime networking opportunity. Tables of eight as well as individual tickets are available, giving business leaders, professionals and community stakeholders a chance to connect as they plan for the year ahead.

The month of March brings the Oshkosh Chamber Business Expo, the region’s largest business-to-business showcase.

This high-energy event March 18 brings together exhibitors across industries, creating powerful opportunities for networking, lead generation and community engagement. Attendees can explore new products and services, meet potential partners, and discover innovative solutions offered by local businesses. For exhibitors, it’s one of the best chances of the year to increase visibility, build

connections and share their story with a wide audience.

As the year winds down and the holiday season approaches, the Oshkosh Chamber is also spotlighting its popular Oshkosh Chamber Gift Certificate Program. Designed to support local businesses, these certificates can be redeemed at a wide variety of participating retailers, restaurants and service providers. They’re an easy, impactful way to give the gift of local —keeping dollars in the community and promoting the small businesses that help Oshkosh thrive. Perfect for holiday gifts, employee incentives or client appreciation, Oshkosh Chamber gift certificates make it simple to spread cheer while supporting the local economy.

As the Oshkosh Chamber heads into a new year, these cornerstone events and programs highlight the organization’s continued commitment to strengthening local business and community connections.

From celebrating achievements at the Annual Meeting to gaining economic insight at the Economic Outlook Breakfast and building relationships at the Business Expo, the season offers valuable opportunities for organizations of all sizes.

Paired with initiatives like the Oshkosh Chamber’s holiday gift certificate program, the Oshkosh Chamber remains focused on driving growth, collaboration and prosperity throughout the Oshkosh region.



Photo from Oshkosh Fire Department

Icy rescue

According to the Oshkosh Fire Department, the crew of Engine 19 assisted a local pet owner Dec. 1 after their dog became trapped after falling through thin ice in a pond. The fire department said to not hesitate or delay calling for help if somebody or their furry friend is in trouble on the ice. A timely response is critical to ensure a good outcome, the fire department said.

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Three city department heads planning to retire soon

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Three upcoming retirements could change city operations next year and go forward.

A total of 86 years of local government experience in Oshkosh is leaving the city at the end of the month due to the retirements of three department heads. City Attorney Lynn Lorenson, parks director Ray Maurer and director of administrative services and assistant city manager John Fitzpatrick are all set to retire.

Oshkosh Human Resources manager Michelle Behnke confirmed the three retirements. She said the city is developing plans for the soon-to-be vacant positions.

Behnke said the city will be hiring a new city attorney and is "currently working on a recruitment strategy" for the position.

At this point it is unclear whether the city will hire a new parks director or fill the vacancies left by Fitzpatrick. Behnke said there are ongoing conversations among city officials about what will happen to the positions of assistant city manager and director of administrative services.

Behnke also stated no decision has been

made right now as to whether the city will hire a new parks director. She said that decision will be made by the city manager's office.

City Manager Rebecca Grill confirmed a decision has not yet been made on the future of those three positions.

Maurer has worked as a municipal parks director since 1998, when he started in the city of Cedarburg. He also worked in the same role in Oconomowoc for a time before being hired as Oshkosh's parks director in 2010 and will retire with 16 years of service to the city.

Maurer noted several projects the parks department undertook during his tenure. Maurer was with the city when the Riverwalk project began and has overseen the expansion over his time in Oshkosh.

"Lots of big changes that are real good and hopefully the community is able to use them for decades," he said.

Other projects Maurer noted were updates at the Menominee Park Zoo with the new exhibits for the river otters, eagle and the recent addition of the bear and fox exhibits. The department also moved into the new administration building on Wit-

zel Avenue two years ago that has helped with efficiency in the department.

"The Lakeshore Park and Four Seasons Building have become a huge asset for the city. It's something the department and the community can be proud of," he said. "That's been a high focus for us. Making the parks and facilities more accessible for all individuals including people with special needs and the elderly."

He noted one example is the inclusive playground at South Park that has been a great investment for the city.

Lorenson worked for the city for 33 years and as city attorney for the last 18 years. She was appointed to interim city attorney in the fall of 2007 and was formally appointed to city attorney the following spring.

"It has been an honor serving the City of Oshkosh over the past 33 and a half years," Lorenson said. "I appreciate all of the opportunities that I was given and the privilege to work alongside talented and

dedicated staff, community leaders and members of the community. I am proud of the things we've accomplished, and I look forward to this new chapter. I wish continued success for the City of Oshkosh."

Fitzpatrick started working for the city in 1999 as director of administrative services. He also served as a lecturer at UW Oshkosh in public administration.

As assistant city manager, Fitzpatrick was tapped twice to step in as interim city manager. The first time was in 2007 before Mark Rohloff was hired as city manager in 2008. He was asked again to serve in the role last year before the Oshkosh Common Council hired Grill as the city manager.

"I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to work with many dedicated people, and to serve the city," Fitzpatrick said. "I see the community continuing to become more progressive and forward-thinking in the future, while also remaining a place that is friendly and cares for each other."

Referrals to county prosecutor's office decline

By Bethanie Gengler
OSHKOSH HERALD

The number of cases referred to the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office have dropped steadily over the past decade, even as felony referrals have risen and misdemeanor cases have fallen sharply, according to data covering 2015 through 2025.

District Attorney Eric Sparr presented data on law enforcement referrals over the past decade Dec. 1 at a Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting. A law enforcement referral is when police finish investigating a case and forward it to the district attorney's office, asking prosecutors to consider filing criminal charges.

Overall referrals fell from roughly 5,154 in 2015 to 4,176 in 2025, continuing a gradual downward trend. The office reported its highest recent total in 2017, with 5,936 referrals, before beginning a multiyear decline.

"What we see there is a spike there in 2017, we didn't really look back to try to figure out why that happened, but that does look like a bit of an aberration," Sparr said.

Sparr said there are periodic spikes and declines, including a downturn in some categories around the onset of COVID-19, but the overall volume of cases referred to county prosecutors has been "relatively steady, maybe a slight downward trend."

Criminal referrals for misdemeanor charges have decreased significantly since 2015, from 2,273 to 1,680 in 2025. At the same time, felony referrals increased from 1,241 in 2015 to 1,419 this year.

Most categories of drug-related referrals declined, with a substantial decrease in

misdemeanor drug charges, from 1,072 in 2015 to 523 in 2025. Sparr attributed the decline in part to a policy shift away from criminal handling of possession of marijuana cases.

Felony drug possession charges increased from 199 in 2015 to 313 this year. Sparr said the rise is largely driven by an uptick in cases involving methamphetamine and fentanyl.

Criminal traffic cases saw a slight decline during the same period, from 981 in 2015 to 918 in 2025.

"I think criminal traffic is a big one where the resources and priorities of law enforcement can have a significant impact on the data that we see, where I think that's less true for certain types of cases," Sparr said.

Juvenile cases saw about a 76% decrease, from 659 cases in 2015, to 159 cases in 2025.

"With the process going through intake, there have been some additional efforts that are made there to have less cases going through, less cases being sent to court, and that's probably the most drastic decrease from a percentage basis of all the categories we're looking at," Sparr said.

Violent felony referrals showed mixed outcomes. Battery, sexual assault cases involving adult victims, attempted homicides and intentional homicides climbed gradually. At the same time, referrals for robberies declined, which Sparr said is partially attributed to security upgrades.

"The increase in the percentage of businesses that have cameras probably had some impact on that," he said. "But not every robbery is a business."

Sparr said the data presented at the meeting focused on charges requested by law enforcement. The District Attorney's office is working with Loyola University on a public dashboard that will show the number of cases prosecutors have formally charged.

District cuts

FROM PAGE 1

behind the wheel part-time instructors. This would effectively eliminate the program from the district.

The district is also set to eliminate the director of community engagement and equity. The position was created in 2023 to oversee equity in the district and reach the communities and people that are often overlooked in the community.

Other cuts include a security and communications specialist and a social studies curriculum coordinator at central office. The proposal also includes cutting 6.2 positions at the district level that focus primarily on literacy.

"Enrollment and corresponding revenue declines mean we cannot continue as is," board member Michael Ford said in a Facebook post following the announcement from the district. "Our efforts to improve academic performance demand financial stability that works in concert with community values. The next few months are going to be an exercise in priority setting that will be painful, but a challenge we must meet."

Board member Tim Hess speculated online that part of this move could lead to administrative raises. Hess reviewed the meeting packet and explained he believes the \$6 million deficit is really a \$3.9

million structural deficit, recommending a \$1.5 million deposit into the district general fund and \$600,000 in administrative raises.

"It is tough to reconcile this notion knowing we may be removing resources from the classroom so that administrators can be compensated more," Hess said.

Other members of the Board of Education commented online about their anticipation for today's discussion. The meeting has been moved from the district office meeting room to the auditorium at Oshkosh North High School.

Board member Kelly DeWitt mentioned that her concerns stemmed from the district's administration.

"I'm struggling immensely to have this make sense and I am concerned deeply for not only our students and families within our district, but our community as a whole," DeWitt said. "I believe wholeheartedly in the teachers and staff that we have, but until this community makes changes at the top, I'm afraid that we will continue to see the same outcome."

A number of the proposed cuts are related to positions at Jacob Shapiro that were set to be eliminated as the district continues its facilities consolidation plan. Carl Traeger, Franklin and Oakwood elementary schools will be expanded and renovated to accommodate the students from Shapiro and Roosevelt elementary schools.



Sparr

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Cool help

FROM PAGE 1

al hub to Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. In 2024, OACP distributed over 3 million pounds of food in Oshkosh and redistributed more than 700,000 pounds of food to nearby pantries.

OACP Executive Director Ryan Rasmussen said that those numbers are consistent with what the pantry is seeing for this year.

“Our walk-in cooler and freezer are critical to the work we do. They allow us to safely store fresh produce, dairy and proteins at the scale our community needs,” Rasmussen said. “Without this cold storage capacity, we’d lose more food to spoilage and struggle to keep a consistent supply of nutritious options on our shelves for the families who rely on us. It also allows us to be the redistribution point for all the other pantries in the area, so we can assist in providing them nutritious foods, safely, as well.”

OACP is not the only organization to benefit from Barr Inc.’s coolers. Father Carr’s Place 2B and the Day by Day Shelter both have walk in coolers/freezers thanks to the pilot program.

The Day by Day Shelter received a donated walk-in cooler/freezer in spring 2023. The shelter serves dinner and breakfast to 50 guests every day of the year.

“We would not be able to do this without our spacious cooler and freezer,” Jessica Miller said. “We are blessed to have volunteer meal teams assist with many of the evening meals, who often drop off their meals earlier in the day. We are able to accommodate this convenience in the walk-in cooler.”

Miller is the office and volunteer manager for Day by Day and said the cooler



Submitted photo

The Oshkosh Area Community Pantry was one of the first recipients of a walk-in freezer. Emily James and Ryan Rasmussen stand at the entrance of the walk-in freezer provided by Barr Inc.

and freezer is her favorite part of the kitchen at the shelter.

“Many meal teams leave their leftovers for the shelter to use at a later date, which are typically frozen for future meal planning,” Miller said. “Our walk-in cooler allows us to stock up and store items we use daily such as milk, juice, and fruit. As food insecurities have become increasingly more prevalent in the Oshkosh community, we have been blessed by casserole

drives, which we store in the freezer for future meals.”

Father Carr’s Place 2B Executive Director Jim Boehm said they were gifted their walk-in cooler/freezer in early 2023, and it has tripled the organization’s freezer space that can be used to store meat.

“It’s invaluable to our pantry operations, especially in the last 12 months when our visitor numbers have trended up immensely,” Boehm said. “Having space for



Submitted photo

At Father Carr’s Place 2B, Jim Boehm stands at the entrance of the walk-in freezer that was provided as part of the Coolers for a Cause initiative.

donations of half pigs and half cows is important. Now we have ample room for that.”

After seeing what the local impact has been, Barr Inc. has decided to take the program to a national level with “Coolers for a Cause.”

The impact of this pilot partnership helped shape the national launch of “Coolers for a Cause,” as Barr Inc. works to support food banks across the country in evaluating and optimizing their cold-storage infrastructure.

Barr Inc. urges the public to help spread the word about this program to eligible non-profit organizations across the U.S.

Non-profit food banks and pantries can take advantage of the “Coolers for a Cause” program by calling Todd Ziglinksi at 920-230-7317 or emailing toddz@barrinc.com to learn more.

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DNR reports decrease in number of deer hunters

Oshkosh Herald

The number of deer hunters in Wisconsin slightly was reported to have decreased this year compared to 2024.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said that preliminary figures as of 11:59 p.m. Nov. 30 showed sales for deer hunting privileges reached 790,044, down 0.12% from the same time last year. That figure includes gun, archery, crossbow, conservation patron and sports licenses.

Of those, the DNR said 550,611 were for gun privileges only, which includes gun, conservation patron and sports licenses.

Deer hunting license and harvest authorization sales will continue throughout the remaining deer hunting seasons. Final license sales figures will be available in January, when DNR staff will perform a thorough analysis and interpretation.

The nine-day gun deer hunt kicked off

the holiday season in Wisconsin from Nov. 22 through Nov. 30 with opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, harvest food for the table and create memories with family and friends.

Preliminary figures show hunters registered 182,084 deer during the 2025 gun deer season, including 86,068 antlered and 96,016 antlerless deer. Compared to 2024, the gun season harvest total is down 0.8% statewide, with the antlered harvest down 2.6% and the antlerless harvest up 0.9%.

Since the opening of the bow and crossbow seasons, Wisconsin hunters have registered 294,757 deer. This harvest is 1.1% ahead of the same time last year.

The regular gun deer season was followed by the statewide muzzleloader season from Dec. 1 to Dec. 10, with the statewide antlerless-only four-day hunt from Dec. 11 to Dec. 14 and the antlerless-only holiday hunt in select farmland zone counties Dec. 24 to Jan. 1.

Chamber Singers presenting 'Lessons and Carols'

Oshkosh Herald

"A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols," an Oshkosh tradition for 35 consecutive years, will be presented Dec. 20 by the Oshkosh Chamber Singers.

Two performances will be presented at 2 and 5 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, Algoma Boulevard at Division Street.

Accompanied by pipe organ and brass ensemble, the Oshkosh Chamber Singers will join with members of the community in song and Scripture readings celebrating the Advent and Christmas story. Musical selections will include traditional carols; and works by classical and contemporary composers,



Berendsen

including selections by Dan Forrest, John Rutter and Randall Thompson; and "In Dulci Jubilo," by Matthew Culloton; "O Nata Lux," by Morton Lauridsen; and "My Lord Has Come," by Will Todd.

Herb Berendsen is the conductor. Jared Stellmacher is the organist.

A brass quintet will feature Mike Henckel and Marty Robinson, trumpet; Bruce Atwell, horn; Matthew Bragstad, trombone; and Eric High, bass trombone.

The song "Tomorrow Shall be May Dancing Day" will feature Ben Mackie, tambourine, and Ryan Lindley, snare drum; and "Carol of the Magi" will feature Laura Deming, cello.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students.

They are available from singers; at Heid Music, 1750 W. South Park Ave.; Gardina's, 448 N. Main St. or at the door.



Photo from Winnebago County Sheriff's Office

Lighting up the season

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office and Oshkosh Police Department participated in the Police Lights of Christmas program to support those in need this winter throughout Wisconsin. The sheriff's office said over \$300,000 in donations was raised this year to cover gift cards, which are placed in squad cars for officers to use to help low income, hurting or homeless community members.

Buyer expresses interest in Fox Cities campus

Oshkosh Herald

Faith Technologies Incorporated (FTI) last week announced it has signed a non-binding Letter of Intent (LOI) with Winnebago County. The LOI grants FTI a 90-day due diligence period that began on Nov. 17 to explore and evaluate a plan to acquire the former University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Fox Cities campus in Menasha.

FTI is evaluating whether the site could become a national hub for workforce development and advanced technology training, including its apprenticeship and ICIAN programs, training in energy and technology skills, and potential space for future R&D and advanced manufacturing activities.

The company said this assessment includes examining how the campus could support the long-term growth of FTI's engineering professionals and skilled trades workforce, including whether Wisconsin could serve as a strategic location for these future programs. At present, FTI boasts a total workforce of nearly 5,000 team members and anticipates training thousands in the coming years.

Part of this evaluation will consider whether FTI's acquisition of the campus

would include the community amenities on the property, the Barlow Planetarium and the Communication Arts Center.

"This exploratory step affords us the opportunity to determine whether the former UW Oshkosh Fox Cities campus — and Wisconsin more broadly — could be a strong long-term fit for FTI's training, innovation and technology initiatives," said Charlie Fredrickson, executive vice president with FTI. "We are carefully evaluating how this location could support future engineering, technology and workforce development needs as we look ahead."

County leaders noted that the exploratory process offers benefits for both the community and FTI.

"This presents a constructive opportunity to explore new life for a valuable community property," said Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz. "While no decisions have been made, this process allows us to carefully assess the possibilities alongside FTI and determine how to best repurpose the campus to benefit the community, economy, and the taxpayers of Winnebago County."

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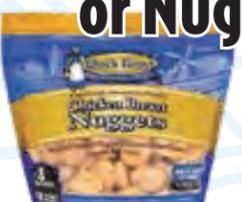
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Pint Blueberries or 6 oz Blackberries or Raspberries

4.99
16 oz Select Daily's Sliced Bacon

1.99 lb
Garden Fresh On The Vine Tomatoes

2.99
3 lb Bag California Navel Oranges

2.99
19-26 oz Potatoes or 14 oz Onion Rings

11.99
24 pk, 12 oz Cans Coke, Sprite, Diet Coke, Pepsi or Mtn Dew

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5/\$5
5.3 oz Select Chobani Yogurt

2/\$7
1 lb Land O Lakes Butter

2/\$10
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	4.99 8-10.3 oz Planters Mixed Nuts or Cashews		2/\$5 7.5-8.5 oz Jays Potato Chips, O-Ke-Doke Popcorn or Krunchers! Chips		2.99 6-15 oz Old Dutch Pretzels or Popcorn		5.99 16 oz Dot's Pretzels
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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. 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

Saturday, Dec. 13

Crazy Craftsmas, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Oshkosh Farmers Market, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo, 9 a.m., EAA Grounds, 3000 Poberezny Road

Authors! Art! Blind Date Books for the Holidays! Christmas-y Mystery Boxes!, 10 a.m., Caramel Crisp Bookstore, 200 City Center

Family Discovery Days, 11 a.m., Oshkosh Public Museum

Wisconsin Herd vs. Grand Rapids Gold, noon, Oshkosh Arena

Reindeer on the Square, 1 p.m., Opera House Square

Christmas Around the World, 1 p.m., Morgan House, 234 Church Ave.

Band-O-Rama Concert, 6 p.m., Frank Schade Fieldhouse, Oshkosh North

High School

Brady Lee: Home for the Holidays, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

The Muppets Christmas Carol, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

Sunday, Dec. 14

Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo, 9 a.m., EAA Grounds, 3000 Poberezny Road

Utica Volunteer Fire Department Open House, 11 a.m., Station 12, 1730 County Road FF

Wisconsin Herd vs. Iowa Wolves, noon, Oshkosh Arena

Madrigal Performance, 1 p.m. Lourdes Academy

Oshkosh Community Band Carol Sing-Along, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Wisconsin Herd vs. Iowa Wolves, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

A Swingin' Christmas with Erin Krebs and Friends, 7 p.m., The Waters, 1393 Washington Ave.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

Holiday Harmony, 6 p.m., Morgan House, 234 Church Ave.

Friday, Dec. 19

Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Holiday Cheer with Sundae and Mr. Goessl, 8 p.m., Becket's, 2 Jackson St.

Saturday, Dec. 20

Oshkosh Farmers Market, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Arena

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

Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts, 2 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Oshkosh Chamber Singers presents A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, 2 and 5 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday, Dec. 21

Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts, 2 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Monday, Dec. 22

Water City Jazz Orchestra: Big Band Christmas, 8 p.m., Fletch's Local Tap House, 566 N. Main St.



Photo from UWO

Spreading holiday spirit

The first holiday lighting ceremony was held Dec. 2 at Sankari Park as part of what University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh officials hope was a bright start to a new campus tradition. Carolers, campus partners and community members took part in the event, which was designed to celebrate connection, community and campus pride. The lamp-post plaza between UWO's Radford Hall and Clow Academic Complex is named in honor of former UWO professor Farouk Sankari.

Seasonal art show underway at The Grand

Oshkosh Herald

Members of the Oshkosh Fine Arts Association are displaying some of their art in The Grand Lounge at The Grand Oshkosh, 100 High Ave.

The member show will be available for viewing through Jan. 13 during regular business hours. This year's theme is "trees" to honor the return of the Festival of Trees, which had been at The Grand earlier this month.

Exhibiting artists are asked to submit at least one piece which depicts the theme. A closing reception, sale and silent auction

will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Jan. 13 at which time pieces from the show will be available to bid on and for purchase.

Proceeds from the silent auction will be split between OFAA Community Enhancement Funds and The Grand to purchase a new gallery hanging system.

The Grand Lounge opens one hour before each performance and can be accessed from the elevator in the main lobby, the back stairwell or directly from balcony level seating.

For a list of events, go to thegrandoshkosh.org/events/2025-2026-season.

Event explores holiday traditions around the world

Oshkosh Herald

A Christmas Around the World event will explore how the holiday is celebrated across the globe.

The Winnebago County Historical Society is hosting the event from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Morgan House, 234 Church Ave.

Father Carr's planning to serve Christmas Day dinner

Oshkosh Herald

Father Carr's Place 2B is holding its annual Christmas Day Dinner program.

Dinner will include baked ham, mashed potatoes, sweet corn and dessert. For meals to be delivered, call 920-231-2378. Meals will be delivered on Christmas Day

between 10:30 a.m. and noon.

For those who prefer to dine in the Saint Mother Teresa Center at Father Carr's on Christmas Day, dinner will be served from noon to 1:30 p.m. No reservations are necessary, just come in. Father Carr's is located at 1062 N. Koeller St.

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Senior Spotlight is brought to you by: **Nicolet NATIONAL BANK**

Delayed start hasn't slowed Oshkosh West's Ware

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The word 'gamer' can be defined a few different ways.

Joey Ware was a former poster child for the electronic gaming industry, spending much of his free time in his pre-teen years playing video games.

Ware has evolved into another type of gamer - one who saves his best athletic performances for game day.

A late start with sports hasn't slowed Ware's development as an impact athlete. The Oshkosh West three-sport athlete is coming off a highly productive football season and has launched his third varsity season on the hardwood.

Ware is the Wildcats' top returning player and looking to build off a strong junior year which saw him lead West in both scoring (11.3 points per game) and rebounding (5.6 rebounds per game).

"Joey is a great athlete and a great competitor," said West coach Dan Weisse. "It's been fun to see him grow each year. I'm looking forward to watching Joey take another step."

The 6-foot-3, 230-pound Ware is a big body who does most of his damage inside the lane. He shot an impressive 54.5 percent from the floor last season and received all-Fox Valley Association honorable mention. Ware joined the West varsity his sophomore year and made a solid contribution, averaging 7.0 points and 4.1 rebounds.

Ware opened the season on a strong note, scoring a team-high 14 points in a 52-39 nonconference loss to Bay Port and then had a 21-point, 10-rebound double-double in the Wildcats' FVA opener against Fond du Lac on Friday.

"I want to take more of a leadership role this season and help develop the underclassmen," Ware said. "We have a lot of good young talent and it's a good group of guys. I think we have a really good chance of placing higher in the conference."

Ware's best sport may be football. A two-way starter at tight end and defensive end, Ware was a second-team all-FVA selection on defense in 2025.

"I was one of the only guys who played both ways and was kind of honored to be someone the coaches could put on both sides of the ball," Ware said. "I like being on the field as much as possible."

"I always considered myself to be more



Oshkosh Herald

Joey Ware is a three-sport standout at Oshkosh West who plans to play football at UW-Whitewater next fall.

of a defensive player, but I liked tight end, too. We were a run-heavy offense and I was more of a blocking tight end, but I enjoyed driving guys downfield until I heard the whistle."

Ware's favorite NFL player is another persistent pass rusher who plays until the whistle: Green Bay Packers' sack master Micah Parsons.

"I've liked him since he was at Penn State," Ware said. "We wear the same

number (1) and he's such a good player. He takes out three offensive linemen on a lot of plays and opens things up for others. He seems like a good guy, too."

The versatile Ware will still have a few remaining months of prep athletics following basketball. He's a thrower in track and field, who tosses the shot put and discus.

"I joined track my sophomore year - as sort of a joke at first," said Ware. "The

Senior Spotlight



only reason I went out was because my friends were doing it. But the coaches thought I was pretty good and I was decent at it. I'm hoping to make it past regionals this year."

Ware is a bit surprised with his accomplishments as a three-sport athlete. He wasn't particularly interested in sports as a child and didn't start playing organized basketball and football until the eighth grade.

"I was really into video games," Ware said. "I played a lot of Madden and a lot of Fortnite. As soon as I got home from school I would turn the X-Box on and play until bedtime. I still play a little when I have time. I'm a big 2K (Games) guy."

So what motivated him to put aside the joystick and plunge into sports?

"I was always into sports video games and a lot of my friends played sports, so I just gave it a try," Ware said. "As I got older, opportunities in sports just opened up."

One of those opportunities will come next fall when Ware joins the University of Wisconsin Whitewater's top-notch football program. He chose the Warhawks over Division III offers from other WIAC schools including UW-Oshkosh.

"Honestly, there is nothing I didn't like about Whitewater," said Ware. "The coaches were welcoming and friendly and the facilities are probably the best in the state. It's just a really good program and I kind of wanted the away from home experience, the living in the dorms type of thing."

"I'm just very grateful. I've had people around me who have helped me stay motivated in sports: my friends, my coaches and my family."

Ware, a rock-solid student at West with a 3.3 grade-point average, plans to major in kinesiology with hopes of eventually becoming an athletic trainer.

"I would like to stay on the athletic side and just help people," Ware said. "I've had a few injuries over the years where I've worked with athletic trainers who have really helped me. I just think it would be a good fit for me."

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Depth, defense help carry Wildcats past Cardinals

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

It's a common concept for basketball teams to follow and for coaches to emphasize.

Play good defense and let that fuel the offense.

Oshkosh West girls basketball coach Keneisha Goss believes that will need to be one of the pursuits for this year's Wildcat squad and it was certainly on display in a 67-43 win over visiting Fond du Lac on Friday night.

"I think we really picked it up on the defensive end which led to a lot of easy baskets for us," Goss said. "We typically don't shoot well from the field as a team so the more we can get out and get layups, the more it is going to help us."

West forced a total of 25 turnovers in the game which led to a wealth of scoring chances in transition, especially in the first half when the Wildcats broke the game open.

After Mya Johnson's 3-pointer with 12:14 left in the first half boosted West to a 12-7 advantage, every field goal over the final nine minutes for the Wildcats came in the lane - with a handful of those being on transition layups.

That helped West close the first half with a 20-4 run that turned a three-point lead into a 32-13 advantage.

"(The defensive pressure) did give us the momentum. It gave everyone ener-

gy on the court," said sophomore Kinslee Nelson. "This is how we want to play and we just have to keep putting it into every other game."

Nelson scored a career-high 20 points in the game and helped fuel the Wildcats' first half surge.

The sophomore scored 10 of her 12 first-half points during the outburst that closed the half, notching a pair of layups off of steals as well as converting a couple of offensive rebounds to baskets.

"Kinslee wanted to crash the boards today which really helped out. She's super athletic so when she gets in there to offensive rebound, it definitely makes a huge difference," Goss said. "With her height and her athleticism, her being aggressive and seeing the floor well - even when she's not scoring she can distribute to girls who are wide open - it opens up the offense for us."

Nelson said she was conscious of getting some shots in the paint to fall in the first half was going to help her find the range from the perimeter.

"(Coach Goss) wants me to be more aggressive to the hoop first before I shoot and that's what I did tonight. First half I worked on my layups and then the second half I worked on my shot," said Nelson, who had seven rebounds and five steals to go along with her points. "It really helps. It gives me the confidence that my shot will go in."

After Fond du Lac pulled to within 12-9, Ava Strasser started the Wildcats' first-half closing run with a basket followed by a layup from Kamryn Stauffacher and then three straight baskets from Nelson.

Following a Cardinal basket, Samantha Panske's lay-in started off a run of 10 straight points as both Nelson and Johnson tallied four points to give West its largest lead of the first half at 32-11.

The Wildcats then opened the second half with a 10-0 run - started by Colleen Fitzpatrick's 3-pointer - with a Nelson layup capping the surge with a basket for a 42-13 lead.

"That was big for us. We have always struggled to start out halves. It was good to see them come out and be ready to go," Goss said. "A lot of it was going in at halftime with energy, the energy stayed up in there and they were ready to go."

Strasser was the only other West player to reach double figures with 11, however, the Wildcats got plenty of offense.

A total of 12 different players scored in the game for West, who never had its lead drop below 20 points in the second half.

"It's a lot of fun seeing everybody having fun and smiling and playing their own game," Nelson said.

The Wildcats will hit the road on Friday to face Appleton North before returning home on Dec. 16 to host Appleton West.



Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh West's Kinslee Nelson led the Wildcats with 20 points in a win over Fond du Lac.



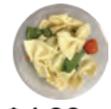
Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh West's Samantha Panske absorbs some contact as she drives to the basket against Fond du Lac last Friday night.

flash sale

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 \$5.99 Honolulu Cookies (4 flavors) 4 oz. - (Reg. \$7.99)	 \$5.99 My Cooking Italian Dinner Kits (Reg. \$9.99)	 \$5.99 Baked by Sticky Soft Baked Cookie Sandwiches 10-12 oz. - (Reg. \$9.99)	 \$7.99 Thousand Hills Grass-Fed Beef Patties 4 pack, 1.33 lbs. - (Reg. \$14.99)
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Prep sports roundup

HOCKEY

Kraft's hat trick lifts Ice Hawks to win

Brennon Kraft notched a hat trick and Chase Magadan finished with 26 saves as the Oshkosh Ice Hawks collected a 5-1 win over Rhinelander at the Oshkosh YMCA Ice Arena on Saturday.

Kraft's first tally – a short-handed goal – gave Oshkosh a 3-0 lead midway through the second period but Rhinelander scored just before the end of the period to narrow the gap. Kraft then scored twice in the third period to seal the win.

Dayton Briski added a goal and three assists in the win for the Ice Hawks, while Clay Poquette also scored in the game for Oshkosh, who overcame nine penalties, including one major penalty, to earn the win.

The Ice Hawks were coming off a hard-fought 4-1 loss to Waupun earlier in the week.

Maxtyn Hammermeister had the lone goal in the game for the Ice Hawks, scoring on the power play in the first period to even the score at 1. Briski assisted on the tally.

Waupun answered in the final minute of the first period to regain the lead and then tacked on single goals in the second and third periods.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Valley Christian scores pair of victories

After dropping its first two games of the season, Valley Christian rebounded

with two wins last week, including a 55-44 win over Central Wisconsin Christian in a Trailways East contest last Thursday.

Lizzie Fink hit three 3-pointers and finished with 21 points to lead the way for the Warriors. Mya Moran also had three 3-pointers and added 18 points, while also racking up eight steals in the win.

Anna Giannopoulos chipped in nine points, while Paige Boevers led the Warriors with 11 rebounds in the game.

The Warriors led just 24-23 at halftime but pulled away in the second half to earn the win.

Valley Christian also picked up a 56-39 win over Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah earlier in the week.

Moran finished with 19 points to lead three players in double figures for the Warriors. Boevers finished with 15 points and 13 rebounds, while Fink added eight points in the win.

Knights wallop Hornets in nonconference tilt

Aubrey Schettle scored 16 points to lead three players in double figures as Lourdes Academy easily downed Wautoma 63-12 last week.

Avianna Wihlm scored 11 points off the bench for the Knights, while Adhieu Liabwell finished with 10. Kylie Rietz and Naomi Liabwill each chipped in eight points.

Ellie Koch finished with nine rebounds, seven steals and six assists in the win for the Knights.

Lourdes Academy suffered its first loss of the year last Tuesday, falling to Westfield 55-37.

Spartans suffer pair of road losses

Oshkosh North dropped a pair of Fox Valley Association games on the road last week.

On Tuesday, the Spartans fell to Kaukauna 67-50, playing nearly even with the Ghosts in the second half.

Awut Alic paced the Spartans with 17 points, while also picking up a team-high nine rebounds. Brinna Paulson drained four 3-pointers and finished with 13 points, while Navi Lao-Facundo chipped in seven points and seven rebounds.

North then lost to Kimberly 57-43 on Thursday, again playing well in the second half but were unable to overcome a half-time deficit. The Spartans trailed 28-18 at intermission but were outscored by just four points in the second half.

Alic again led the way for the Spartans posting 25 points, six steals and four rebounds, while Paulson chipped in 15 points.

West drops FVA opener to Patriots

The Wildcats were held to just 17 points in each half and lost to Appleton East, 64-34, in a Fox Valley Association contest last week.

Kamryn Stauffer finished with eight points to lead the Wildcats.

Ava Strasser added five points and a team-high seven rebounds, but no other West player had more than three points in the game.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Spartans lose close battle in FVA opener

Oshkosh North dropped a hard-fought tussle with Kimblery, 62-61, in its Fox Valley Association opener at home on Friday.

Bryce Ott posted a double-double with

20 points and 10 rebounds for the Spartans, while Tylan Lister added 12 points and Owen Weber chipped in nine.

The Spartans led 27-25 at halftime.

The Spartans opened the season with an 84-59 win over Eau Claire Memorial in which four players reached double figures.

Ott paced North in the win with 21 points and nine rebounds, while Lister and Jackson Anderson each scored 15 points. Lister also chipped in five assists.

Brady Anderson also reached double figures with 13 points.

The Spartans finished 10-of-27 from 3-point range in the game, while the defense forced the Old Abes into 24 turnovers.

Wildcats open FVA schedule with win

Joey Ware posted a double-double and Oshkosh West rode a strong start to a 65-60 win on the road at Fond du Lac on Friday night.

The Wildcats jumped out to an 11-6 lead in the opening minutes and led 32-20 at halftime en route to the win.

Ware finished with 21 points and 10 rebounds in the win to lead three players in double figures for the Wildcats.

Malakai Herlihy added 14 points and Henry Weis finished with 10.

Knights use strong second half to earn win

Lourdes Academy outscored Dodgehead by 11 points in the second half to claim a 64-54 win in a Trailways East contest on Friday.

The Knights trailed 33-32 at halftime, but held the Trojans to just 21 points in the second half.

Brady Bauer scored 16 points to lead the Knights, while Jackson Buttke scored 12 points and Harlan Kuehn finished with

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 19



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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 18

11. The Knights dropped a 50-37 contest to state-ranked Oakfield earlier in the week.

Lucas Neuens was the lone player in double figures for the Knights with 10 points. Buttke and Neuens each added six points, while Buttke also added six assists and four steals.

Bauer had a team-high eight rebounds in the game.

Warriors can't get past Crusaders

Valley Christian had a pair of players finish in double figures but fell to potent Central Wisconsin Christian, 89-48, in a Trailways East game last week.

Matthias Behling scored 15 points and Derek Wallace added 12 points to lead the way for the Warriors.

Xander Osinga added nine points and a team-high six rebounds.

The Warriors opened the season with a 65-25 victory over Hustisford earlier in the week.

Osinga posted a double-double in the win finishing with 23 points and 11 rebounds.

Behling added 16 points and Wallace finished with nine.

SWIMMING

Reeves wins diving event at Wildcat Invite

Oshkosh North/Lourdes Academy's River Reeves placed first in the diving competition at the Wildcats Invitational hosted by Oshkosh West on Saturday.

Reeves won the even by almost 200 points with teammate Everix Blessent taking second.

Carter Crowe had the best individual finish for the host Wildcats, taking second in the 50-yard freestyle. He also added a seventh place in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Caleb Bergin finished fourth in the 500-yard freestyle for West and then teamed with the Wildcats' Evan Booms to place fifth and sixth, respectively, in the 200-yard individual medley.

Booms also added a fifth place in the 100-yard freestyle.

The Wildcats' best relay finish came in the 200-yard medley relay where the team of Bergin, Crowe, Booms and Sam Roblee took third. The Wildcats were also sixth in the 400-yard freestyle relay and eighth in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

North/Lourdes' top finish in the pool came from Blake Ludwig, who placed 10th in the 200-yard individual medley.

WRESTLING

Schneider has perfect day for Wildcats

Preston Schneider finished 5-0 for Oshkosh West at the Spartan Duals hosted by Luxemburg-Casco on Saturday.

Schneider secured four of his wins by

pin, while also earning a 4-3 decision victory in West's dual against Luxemburg-Casco.

Colden Searles, Eskander Koko and Xavier Vang each added two wins on the day for the Wildcats.

Oshkosh West finished 1-4 on the day in duals, with its lone win coming in a 43-35 victory over Sheboygan Falls.

Searles opened the match with a pin with Liam Sullivan following with a decision win. Cole McWane and Koko then won by forfeit to stake the Wildcats to a 22-0 lead.

Henry Hughes added a pin and Leonardo Rigoni won by decision for the Wildcats before Blake Julie won by forfeit to give West a 37-24 lead. The Falcons won the next two matches to pull within 37-35 but Schneider closed the match with a pin for the final margin.

Bryant leads Oshkosh girls at Kimberly

Samantha Bryant finished second at 152 pounds to earn the top finish for the Oshkosh West/North co-op girls wrestling team at the Papermaker Invitational on Saturday.

Bryant pinned all three of her opponents in the preliminary rounds and then stopped Bay Port's Soraya Burks in 1:06 in the semifinal match. She lost to Dodge-land's Zoye Hiilby in the finals.

Other scoring wrestlers to finish in the top eight for Oshkosh were: Kaylee Beck, sixth at 107 pounds; Nha Vy Bengal, sixth at 114 pounds; Zoey Syms, sixth at 126 pounds; Keiana Weir, seventh at 185 pounds; and Sarah Mrazek, eighth at 138 pounds.

Wildcats collect dual meet win over Cardinals

Oshkosh West totaled seven pins and earned a 46-36 win over Fond du Lac in a Fox Valley Association dual meet last week.

Leonardo Rigoni (106), Xavier Vang (120), Braden Mariuccu (132), Preston Schneider (138), Colden Searles (145) and Ace Kuresa (190) also earned pins for the Wildcats, who won four of the first five matches and never trailed in the dual meet.

Eskander Koko added a major decision win at 165 pounds for the Wildcats, while Henry Hughes won by forfeit at 215 pounds to round out West's scoring.

Spartans fall to Papermakers in dual

Four Oshkosh North wrestlers posted wins, but the Spartans fell to Kimberly, 54-16, in the first Fox Valley Association dual meet of the season last week.

Jamond Thompson-Schreck highlighted the meet for the Spartans by pinning Blake Wall in 1:38 at 165 pounds.

Anthony Berger won by major decision at 144 pounds for North, while Christian Johnson (126) and Liam Torres (132) each won by decision in the meet.



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Lourdes Academy's Brady Bauer drives to the basket in the first half in the Knights' loss to Oakfield last week.

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Titans capture Division III national volleyball title

Oshkosh Herald

The UW-Oshkosh volleyball team reigns over all of Division III.

The Titans captured the first national title in program history on Saturday evening with a sweep of the University of La Verne in the NCAA Division III National Championship match at the Shirk Center in Bloomington, Ill.



Ellmann

UW-Oshkosh never trailed in winning the first set en route to the 25-17, 25-22, 25-21 win that capped a perfect run through the NCAA tournament for the Titans.

UW-Oshkosh won all 18 sets it played in the NCAA tournament, marking the first time since 2004 that feat has been accomplished.

“They didn’t drop a set, but they did face a lot of challenges throughout the tournament,” said head coach Jon Ellmann, who formerly coached at Lourdes Academy. “Just so proud of them and proud of how they just accepted the challenges with what they saw and were able to respond.”

The team was welcomed back to the university on Sunday evening by about 100 people at the Kolf Center.

Each member of the squad was introduced and the moment was punctuated by a short speech from UW-Oshkosh Chancellor Manohar Singh.

Before the short program, the team was able to check off the final box on the white board in their practice gym that read “National Champions.” The loud cheer when the mark was made could be heard throughout both of the small gyms on the first floor of the Kolf Center.

“To get off the bus and again see so much love and support sitting in our gym here when we get back, it’s really special,” Ellmann said. “We have been overwhelmed in support.”



Photo by Kodiak Creative

The UW-Oshkosh women's volleyball team celebrates after its win over Trinity University in the NCAA Division III national semifinal at the Shirk Center in Bloomington, Ill., last week.

It was the Titans second appearance in the national championship match, having finished second in 2004.

UW-Oshkosh now has 13 finishes in the top 10 at the NCAA Tournament with the Titans having finished fifth in each of the past two years.

Ellmann said that having competed at the championship level the past two seasons did help this year's group, however,

every year is a different team which faces different challenges.

“Part of the difference is the experience,” Ellmann said. “They have been there before.”

Samantha Perlberg, who was named the Most Outstanding Player of the national tournament, finished with 16 kills to lead the Titans in the championship match. Grace Juergens added 10, while Izzy Coon and Jaclyn Dutkiewicz finished with 17 and 13, assists, respectively.

Perlberg and Dutkiewicz each had 13 digs to lead the team, while Callie Panasuk had 10.

With UW-Oshkosh leading 2-0 entering the third set, the two teams exchanged points early on before La Verne took a 12-9 lead by scoring four out of five points.

The Leopards added another point to their lead after an exchange of sideouts and were up 16-12 in the final set.

That's when the Titans mounted their charge.

After a La Verne service error cut the deficit to three, Juergens rattled off a string of five straight serves to earn the Titans the lead.

Juergens had one ace in the stretch, that also included two Leopard hitting errors, while Perlberg and Maren Motz added kills as the Titans took an 18-16 lead.

Motz and Perlberg each added kills in a three-point run that gave the Titans a 21-

17 lead, while another kill from Perlberg got UW-Oshkosh to match point.

After the Leopards scored two points, Juergens put the final touches on a title with a kill.

Perlberg, Coon, Panasuk and Lauren Grier were each named to the all-tournament team for the Titans.

UW-Oshkosh's road to the national title started on its home court when it rallied from two sets down to beat fifth-ranked UW-Eau Claire in the championship match of the WIAC Tournament.

The Titans then knocked off unranked Greenville University at home in the first round of the NCAA Tournament before racking up wins over five ranked foes to win the national title.

UW-Oshkosh closed out the regional tournament with wins over No. 25 Gustavus Adolphus and No. 21 Washington University in St. Louis to advance to national Elite Eight hosted by Illinois Wesleyan University.

The Titans topped No. 19 Calvin University in the national quarterfinals before posting a semifinal win over No. 11 Trinity University in the semifinals last Thursday to advance to Saturday's championship match.

The Titans become the third WIAC team to win a national volleyball title joining UW-Eau Claire (2021) and UW-Whitewater (2005 and 2002).



Photo by Kodiak Creative

Samantha Perlberg racked up 16 kills in the championship match and was named the Most Outstanding Player of the NCAA Division III volleyball tournament.

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Obituaries

LaDean Lena Niebauer

September 9, 1937 – December 4, 2025
 LaDean L. Niebauer, age 88 of Oshkosh, passed away on Thursday, December 4, 2025 surrounded by her loving family. She was born on September 9, 1937 to the late Alfred Tesch and Lena (Gollnick) Tesch, and their marriage was blessed with four children. She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church.



Throughout her 64-year marriage to Harold, they travelled to many places such as Myrtle Beach, Alaska, Hawaii, Washington D.C., Boston, and enjoyed trying their luck playing slots in different casinos across Wisconsin and Michigan throughout the decades. LaDean also worked at Miles Kimball seasonally for many years.

Some of LaDean's most fond memories were collecting a variety of different types

of miniature glass shoes, playing cards with her ladies and family, enjoyed watching birds at her feeders, and loved spending Christmas with her family, especially her grandchildren.

LaDean is lovingly survived by her sons: Brian (Brenda) Niebauer and Patrick Niebauer; grandchildren: Brian Jr. (Alyssa), Christopher (Lizzie), and Dustin (special friend: Alexis Davis) Niebauer, Andrea (Luke) Bushman, Olivia (fiancé: Jared Geiser), and Owen (special friend: Molly Gloude-mans) Fischer; great-grandchildren: Raeley Niebauer and Atlas Niebauer, and Kahra and Gracie Bushman; sisters and brother and in-laws: Lois Meshak, Caroline Schudlach, David (Mary) Tesch, Joyce Tesch, Louella Owen. She is further survived by many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, LaDean was preceded by the death of her husband Harold Niebauer Jr; children: Robert and Karen Niebauer; sister: Lorraine (Laverne) Strandlie; brothers: Floyd Tesch, Wayne Tesch, Wilbur (Ramona) Tesch;

mother-and-father-in-law: Harold Sr and Elsie Niebauer; sisters-and-brother-in-law: Betty Tesch, Bernetta (Jim) Calkins, and Nancy (Gerald) Schettle, Austin Owen, Duane Schudlach, John Meshak.

A funeral service for LaDean will be held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, December 11, 2025 at Zion Lutheran Church, 400 N Sawyer St. with Rev. Jeffrey Knoll officiating. Visitation will be held at the church at 9:00 AM until the time of the service. Lunch will be held immediately following the service. Interment will be held at Lake

View Memorial Park immediately following the lunch.

LaDean's family would like to extend their deep appreciation to her niece Yvonne Wustrack for all the great care she gave LaDean over the years. As well as the staff at Oakwood Manor and Aurora Hospice. The compassionate care provided to LaDean, and family will never be forgotten.



Claire Mae Schultz

Claire Mae Schultz, age 96, passed away peacefully on November 30, 2025, at The Courtyard at Oshkosh Memory Care Center. Claire was born on May 28, 1929, to Louis Kocian and Dorothy (Hussin) Kocian in Green Bay, Wisconsin. She was a 1951 graduate of St. Mary's School



of Nursing in Green Bay. It was during this time that she was introduced to the love of her life, James A. Schultz.

Claire took great pride in her nursing career and the fact that she served as a surgical scrub nurse. She also served on the very first blood mobile in the state of Wisconsin.

Jim and Claire were married on June 20, 1953, at the Church of Annunciation in Green Bay, Wisconsin. And off they went, moving from Wisconsin to Georgia to Michigan to Connecticut, back to Wisconsin, and then to Minnesota. They lovingly raised four children during that time, and they opened their home to underprivileged students of the ABC (A Better Chance) program. They were also strong supporters of Father Marty Carr and Os-

hosh's Place 2B. Their home was always a welcoming spot for all their friends and children's friends.

Claire was an accomplished pianist who entertained her family with beautiful music on a regular basis and took a part-time job at Richard's School of the Dance in the 1970's, which she loved.

Claire is survived by her children; Lori, Michael (Terry), Catherine (Michael Cluff), and Patrick (Sandra). She is also survived by 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren, and a very special companion – Grace Brown all of whom she adored.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Roger (Capuchin brother John Kocian); and her loving husband, Jim. We can only imagine their thrill of being reunited once again.

A special thanks goes out to the care teams at the Courtyard at Oshkosh, Heartland Hospice, and Senior Stride Home Care. Your love, patience and kindness will not be forgotten.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held for Claire at Queen of Apostles Church in Sussex, Wisconsin on a date yet to be determined.



Larry Norman Schmick

Larry Norman Schmick, age 88, passed away with his family by his side on November 30, 2025, in Oshkosh, WI. He was born to parents, George Schmick Jr. and Carol (Buchanan) Schmick on December 6, 1936, in Oshkosh, WI.



After graduating from Omro High School, he enlisted in the Marine Reserves during the Korean War era. On January 4, 1958, he married the love of his life, Janet Marie Marx. Together, they made an inseparable team and raised three children.

Larry excelled at many things, like becoming a pilot, farming the land, building two of the family homes with his bare hands and went on to be a body shop owner. He loved to tinker with machines and motorcycles, paint, create things with wood and made hundreds of cross-stitch memorials. He made wooden pocket crosses and gave them away to anyone he came across to brighten their day and remind them that you had a friend in him. His faith was strong, and his heart was full of love and kindness.

He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and friend and he will be deeply missed.

Larry is survived by his wife, Janet

Schmick; children, Leonard (Teresa) Schmick, Tod (Debbie) Schmick and Larry G. (Tracie) Schmick; grandchildren, Jennifer (Arien) Fredenhagen, Ken (Cara) Schmick, Amber Schmick, Christy (Chad) Neumaier, Becky (Jason) Springborn, Brandon (Katie) Stahmann, Kellie (Anthony) Schwochert and Kayla (John Paul) Darling; fourteen great-grandchildren; brother, Wayne (Viola) Schmick; sisters, Jenece Drissen and Linda Pethke; many cousins, nieces, nephews, in-laws and friends. Preceding him in death were his great-granddaughter, Mesa; parents, George Schmick Jr. and Carol (Buchanan) Schmick; as well as several other family members.

Visitation will be held on Friday, December 12, 2025, at Plymouth Church, 1325 Georgia St., Oshkosh, WI, 54902, from 10:00am to 11:00am and service from 11:00am to 12:00pm. His final resting place will be at Lake View Memorial Cemetery, Oshkosh, WI.

The family would like to thank Compassus Hospice and Dr. Heinzen, as well as all the friends and neighbors (especially Mary Neustifter), for all of the support and care they gave Larry and the family along the way. You were truly a blessing during this difficult time.



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Obituaries

Michael James Metcher

Michael James Metcher, a proud veteran and aviation enthusiast was born on Friday, October 19th, 1956. He passed away unexpectedly at St. Elizabeth's Hospital on Tuesday, November 25th, 2025.

Michael honorably served his country as an Aviation Structural Mechanic in both the United States Air Force and the United States Navy. Following his military service in Washington he continued his work in aviation, working for Boeing. Michael eventually brought his family back to his home state of Wisconsin, where he served in the Navy Reserve while contributing his expertise at K-C Aviation and Basler Turbo Conversions before retiring at Curwood Bemis. He took immense pride in his work, viewing it as a vital way to provide for his family. His commitment was evident in his exceptional reliability; he never missed a day of work and was frequently rewarded for his dedication and attendance.

To anyone who knew him, Michael's dry, witty sense of humor is something that will be remembered and missed most.

He had a lifelong passion for motorcycles, especially Harley-Davidson and Triumph. He cherished the time he spent going on trips with his sister Tina and brother-in-law Mark.

He was a beloved member of the community and looked forward to his daily routine as a member of the Oshkosh YMCA where he enjoyed strength training, swimming and chatting with the other members.

He cultivated a deep and lasting love for history, which was particularly focused on World War II knowledge. His greatest passion, however, was airplanes. Growing up, his children learned to look up whenever a plane passed overhead; Michael would instantly identify it and often share a story about working on a similar model, ensuring his son and daughter were educated in the mechanics and history of flight.

Michael was a loving father. He taught his son, Nikolas, how to play baseball and was his unwavering supporter throughout all his sports endeavors. He always made sure to tell his children that he was proud of them, and that he loved them.

Later in life, Michael discovered the profound joy of being a grandfather. It truly brought him happiness. He lovingly taught his grandson, Jack, how to ride a bicycle and their shared bike rides to South Park became cherished memories. He had a special nickname for his granddaughter, June-bug, and loved spoiling her with Barbie dolls.

Michael's legacy is one of dedication—to his country, his work, and, above all, his family. His sharp wit, his passion for history, and his unconditional love will be deeply missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Michael is survived by his children Erin Metcher, Nikolas Metcher and David Gendron, who he reconnected with later in life.

His grandchildren Jack Kohl and Juni-

per Metcher. His siblings Linda (Mike) Sommers, Nikki (Tom) Renard-Blixt, Tina (Mark) Ottone, and Phil (Julie) Metcher. He's also survived by friends, cousins, nieces and nephews, and is fondly remembered by his former wife and good friend Debbie Gendron.

He is preceded in death by his parents Jack and Elaine Metcher of Appleton WI.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, December 12, 2025 at 11:00 am at

Sacred Heart Church in Appleton (222 E Fremont St, Appleton). Visitation will be held at the church on Friday from 9:30 am until the time of Mass.



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Gerald Scherr

Gerald "Jerry" Scherr, 87, passed away on November 30, 2025. He was born in Iron River, Michigan on January 17, 1938, to parents, Dorothy and Orville.

Jerry enjoyed working on old cars, restoring old tractors, woodworking and carving, and loved being in the outdoors and spending time in nature. He shared many of these interests and hobbies with his grandson, Bill. Jerry worked for the City of Oshkosh Street Department for 30 years. He also enjoyed spending time with friends and family and made fast friends with the neighbors, especially longtime friend, Steve Folske.



He is survived by the love of his life for 47 years, Alice Winkel; children, Laura Scherr, Linda (Jerry) Tritt, Cindy Scherr and Bonnie Wojahn; Alice's children, Joe Winkel and Sheila (Michael) Pulice; and many other friends and family.

Preceding him in death are his parents; brothers, Jack and Keith Vienola; step-father, Tom Vienola; and great-grandson, Delton Weber.

Per his wishes, no formal services will be held.

The family would like to extend special thanks to Moments Hospice for the help and care they provided these last weeks at home and Madison Tank for all of her help and support.



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Obituaries

Mary Beth Koelbl

Mary Beth "Peachy" Koelbl, age 86, of Oshkosh, WI, passed away at her home, surrounded by family on December 1, 2025.



Peachy was born on September 27, 1939, in Baraboo, WI, the daughter of the late Wilbur and Marjorie (Faber) Siewert. She married the love of her life, Gary on

February 7, 1959, in Oshkosh. Peachy and Gary were married for 66 wonderful years filled with love and devotion. She was proud of her children and grandchildren; she guided them with wisdom and grace. They enjoyed countless vacations, celebrations, and time spent with family and friends. Peachy was a light in the lives of those who knew her. She exuded a kindness, warmth, and compassion for everyone she met. She enjoyed and accomplished many things, Peachy was an artist, seamstress, fabulous cook, and her gardens were the envy of many. She also belonged to church groups, painted with friends, and even took tap dancing lessons!

She spent many years as "Miss Peachy" at Jack and Jill Prep School. Peachy's first job was a teacher's aid at this school. The owners retired and gifted the school to Peachy because they knew it would be in good hands and she would continue their vision.

Every child was fortunate to receive the warm attention that "Miss Peachy" was

famous for. Several parents who attended Jack and Jill had children that also attended Jack and Jill. She created a personalized tote for every child to begin their year, but her signature talent was the intricate life size, hand cut silhouettes of each student. These silhouettes were given as Christmas presents to the parents every year. Many of these gifts are still hung in homes to this day.

Peachy is survived by her loving husband, Gary Koelbl; daughters, Jean (Matt) Koelbl and Katherine (Jeanne) Dahlke; son, Andrew (Rachel) Koelbl; grandchildren, Emma, David, Michael, Ben, Charles, and Breanna (Parker); great-grandchildren, Devin and Dylan; sister, Kathy (Ron) Champeny; and her special neighbor and friend, Alyssa. She is preceded in death by her parents; and sister, Ellen (James) Hewitt.

Our family would like to thank Compassus Hospice, and Senior Stride for their relentless attention to our mother's care. We would also like to give many thanks to Grace, Tanya, and Linda for unparalleled devotion and care given to assure Peachy lacked for nothing while battling Alzheimer's.

A funeral service for Peachy will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2025, starting at 1:00 p.m. at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Drive. Visitation will begin at 11:00 a.m. until the start of the service. Burial will take place at Lake View Memorial Park at a later date.

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Classifieds

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

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Garage/Estate Sales

Estate Sale: Friday and Saturday Only. December 12-13, 9-4pm. 2356 Wisconsin Street, Oshkosh. Small appliances, dishes, furniture, books, clothes, collectibles, Native American decor, holiday décor.

Miscellaneous

BUYING BASEBALL CARDS. 1950's 1960's 1970's No 80's or Junk Wax. No Memorabilia. Cardboard Legacy, 923 Oregon St Oshkosh (920) 744-9297

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Miscellaneous

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 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 21st 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

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

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) Department of Administration/Division of Facilities Development University of Wisconsin System Administration (UWSA) Polk Learning Commons Addition and Renovation Project (Project ID: 22E1L)

Oshkosh, WI

The Department of Administration (DOA), Division of Facilities Development (DFD), on behalf of the University of Wisconsin System Administration (UWSA), announces the availability of a Draft "Environmental Impact Assessment" (EIA) for the newly proposed Polk Learning Commons Addition and Renovation Project.

This project will complete pre-planning, programming, design, and a comprehensive renewal and renovation of Polk Library. The work would be completed

all at once or in two phases. The first phase would include the renovation of the south building. The second phase would include demolishing the north building, which would be replaced with a smaller addition attached to the south wing. The entire structure would be re-clad providing the campus with a modern aesthetic.

Although there have been minor, targeted upgrades in the past, this 60 plus year-old facility has reached a point where significant renovation cannot be deferred much longer. Heating and ventilation systems and equipment are not functioning properly and cannot be repaired in a way that would provide adequate air exchanges per current code requirements or maintain temperatures and humidity levels. Due to time and wear, pipe walls have eroded to the point where leaks are sprouting in various locations throughout the facility. Lighting systems are old and inefficient. Most of the restrooms have narrow entrances and fixtures that do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Linoleum flooring located on the second and third floors has worn out to the point of exposing the asbestos underlayment to foot traffic. Furniture is old, worn and in various stages of disrepair. Exterior granite elements are cracked, broken or missing. A clean, safe, comfortable, accessible, modern library is an essential attribute of the college educational experience

Provided there are no substantive comments which warrant further evaluation, the DOA/DFD intends to issue a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONS) 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 UWSA policy. Interested persons may review the Draft EIA report at the Oshkosh Public Library or Polk Library. Oshkosh Public Library is located at 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh, WI 54901 and has library hours of 9:00 am – 8:00 pm Monday – Thursday and 9:00 am – 6:00 pm Friday. Polk Library is located at 793 Elmwood Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901 has library hours of Monday - Friday from 8:00am - 4:30pm. The Draft EIA can also be accessed electronically at the following link: sehinc.com/online/wisdoa-dfd or by emailing a request to dfortney@sehinc.com. Written comments on the Draft EIA can be submitted via email to dfortney@sehinc.com, or mailed to SEH, Attn: Darren Fortney, 6808 Odana Road, Suite 200, Madison, WI 53719 during the review period from December 10 to December 24, 2025. A virtual public meeting will be held on December 17, 2025 from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm with a short presentation at 5:30 pm. The presentation can be viewed virtually by utilizing the following Teams link found at sehinc.com/online/wisdoa-dfd (no registration is required). You may also email dfortney@sehinc.com prior to the public meeting to receive this meeting link electronically.

Runs: December 10, 2025

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Thrifty & Fritter Budgeting for the Holidays

Fritter, we're **NOT** going to go **totally** crazy during holiday shopping. We need to...

Oh, Thrifty! Just **LOOK** at all the **sparkly lights** and **decorations!**

Wahoooo!!! I'm gonna get **THIS** and **THAT** and **THOSE** and **THESE** and...

Fritter, you **really** need a **BUDGET!**

Okay, but can **you** carry the budget? My arms are **full!**

A **budget** is a plan that helps you to spend **only** the amount of money you can **afford**.

Shopping On A Budget

Look at the things Jodi would like to buy for her family. She has \$50 budgeted for her holiday shopping. Make a list of the things she could buy on her budget.

INCOME	
Allowance	\$15
Shovel Snow	\$20
Run Errands for Elves	\$15
TOTAL:	

EXPENSES	
Carrot Sticks	\$10
Flying Lessons	\$12
Reindeer Games Entry Fee	\$10
TOTAL:	

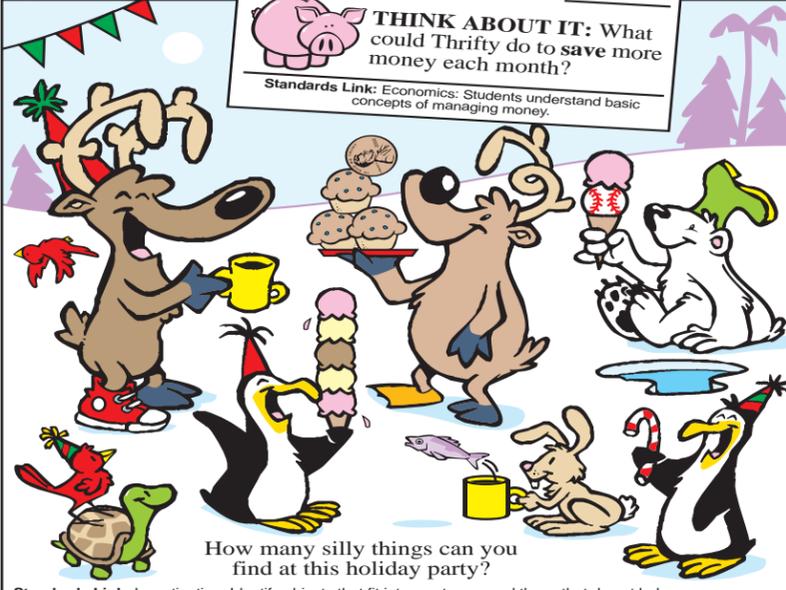


Standards Link: Number Sense: Solve real-world problems involving computations with dollars and cents.

How much money does Thrifty have left over each month?

THINK ABOUT IT: What could Thrifty do to **save** more money each month?

Standards Link: Economics: Students understand basic concepts of managing money.



How many silly things can you find at this holiday party?

Standards Link: Investigation: Identify objects that fit into a category and those that do not belong.

Extra! Extra!

Holiday Party Time!

Thrifty and Fritter are planning a holiday bash for family and friends. They have budgeted \$500 for the party.

They will need food, decorations and gifts. These are called **goods**.

They also need entertainment and perhaps folks to help set up and clean up. These are called **services**.

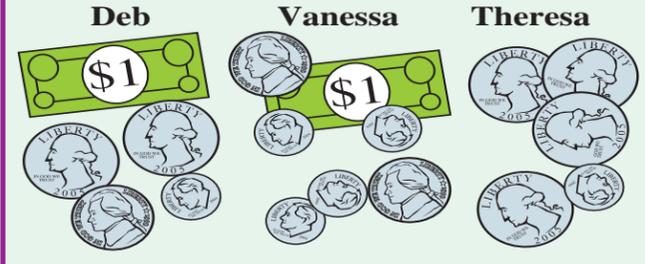
Look through today's newspaper and help Thrifty and Fritter find what they need. *Stay within their \$500 budget!*

GOODS:	SERVICES:
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Standards Link: Economics: Understand the differences between goods and services.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Who bought what? An ice cream cone costs \$1.50. A comic book is \$1.65. A deck of cards is \$1.10. Count each person's money to see what they bought.

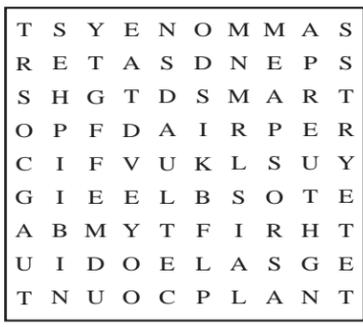


Standards Link: Mathematical Reasoning: Problem solving using money.

Double Double Word Search

- THRIFTY
- SPARKLY
- SMART
- BUDGET
- HOLIDAY
- SAVE
- PARTY
- COMIC
- SALE
- MONEY
- SPEND
- GIFTS
- COUNT
- TIME
- PLAN

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: Count Your Cash!

Fritter wants to buy each of the items below. Look at each item and its price. Figure out how he would pay for it. The first one is done for you.

Item: Pack of Cards

Price: \$2.50

To pay for it, I would use:

of dollar bills: 2

of pennies: _____

of nickels: 1

of dimes: 2

of quarters: 1

Item: Crayons

Price: \$3.59

To pay for it, I would use:

of dollar bills: _____

of pennies: _____

of nickels: _____

of dimes: _____

of quarters: _____

Item: Soccer Ball

Price: \$7.57

To pay for it, I would use:

of dollar bills: _____

of pennies: _____

of nickels: _____

of dimes: _____

of quarters: _____

Item: Scarf

Price: \$3.90

To pay for it, I would use:

of dollar bills: _____

of pennies: _____

of nickels: _____

of dimes: _____

of quarters: _____

Standards Link: Measurement: Students understand how different coins can be combined to equal the same amount.

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Write On!

A penny saved is a penny ...

How would you finish this sentence?

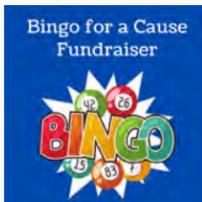


DO GOOD. HAVE LUNCH. REPEAT.

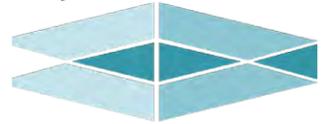
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