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2026 Winnebago County Boat Launch Use Permits now available online!



Photo by Michael Cooney

Christmas wishes

Santa has been listening to the Christmas wishes of children in Oshkosh as he gets ready for the biggest night of the year. Darryl Eschete, director of Oshkosh Public Library, has played the role of Santa at various events starting in Iowa and continuing after moving to Oshkosh two years ago. He said having Santa at events is a chance to connect with families and kids in a way that feels special, and that it's something they're going to remember.

Gambling machines may return

Gas stations aiming to bring back money makers

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

A new trend is coming to Oshkosh as gas stations have begun applying for liquor licenses to serve beer at the station and bring back the gambling machines after the state began cracking down on gas stations with these machines this summer.

City staff during a workshop earlier this month provided an overview of the situation to the Oshkosh Common Council as the city has already received multiple applications from gas stations to build small rooms, usually less than 500 square-feet, for the sole purpose of having gambling machines.

Every single gambling machine in Oshkosh and in the state that is in a gas station, grocery store, restaurant or inside a bar or tavern is illegal.

In Wisconsin, video gambling machines are only legal in establishments regulated by the Office of Indian Gaming and Regulatory Compliance.

The OIGRC oversees casinos operated by the 11 federally recognized tribes in the state, like the Oneida Casino in Green Bay.

The difference in the legality of these machines between gas stations and bars lies in the penalties. Gas stations could face felony charges for having these ma-

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County's revolving loan fund gains approval from board

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The first step has been taken for Winnebago County's new housing program to get started in the new year. The revolving loan fund program is designed to spur more housing developments in the county.

At its Dec. 16 meeting, the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution that will allow the county to create a request for proposal to bring in a nonprofit organization to run the revolving loan fund program, which is designed to help developers and prospective homeowners.

The resolution passed 27-5 with one su-

pervisor abstaining from the vote.

Other communities in Wisconsin have used the revolving loan fund model and now Winnebago County has taken the first step to helping build more housing.

"I'm very excited about this," said Lu Scheer, the housing grant specialist for Winnebago County. She has been presenting the program to committees and the county board over the last couple of months and noted that other communities across the state have used ARPA funds for similar projects.

Those communities include Jefferson and Sheboygan counties, which have both used ARPA dollars to create housing opportunities.

The Winnebago County Industrial Development Board committed \$1 million to the program in June and the county board will move \$3.5 million from ARPA funds for the initial funding level of \$4.5 million.

The county funding can be used to help the developer with initial costs or help a family with a down payment on the house.

"We know people may be able to afford the payments for a house but don't have, let's say, \$50,000 for the down payment," Scheer said. "This program can help get them that down payment and get a family into a home."

As for the developers, Scheer said she believes there is a shift underway to build

more housing units in the county to bolster the local economy.

"They have a social obligation to the county to build here and we're seeing that," Scheer said.

The county plans to use part of the \$4.5 million to put out a bid for nonprofits to apply to run the program. The county will review those applications and look at three areas: the group's knowledge of revolving loan funds, knowledge of the loan process, and lastly – fundraising.

Scheer explained that \$4.5 million seems like a lot of money, but not necessarily in terms of construction. The non-

SEE **Loan fund** ON PAGE 8





36 Broad Street, Suite 300
Oshkosh, WI 54901

General information/customer service: Julie Vandenberg
julie@oshkoshherald.com
Phone: 920-385-4512
Website: www.oshkoshherald.com

News tips and story ideas:
submit@oshkoshherald.com

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Advertising deadline is noon Wednesday for the following Wednesday.
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Publisher

Karen Schneider, 920-858-6407
karen@oshkoshherald.com

Editor

Chris Lusvardi, 920-508-0027
editor@oshkoshherald.com

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Photo by Michael Cooney

Celebration of Lights

As Santa got ready for his Christmas Eve take off from the North Pole, the Oshkosh Celebration of Lights has been entertaining audiences throughout the holiday season. The display is set up for 2.4 miles scenic drive through the EAA Grounds showing a winter wonderland decorated with millions of sparkling lights put on by volunteers. The cost is \$20 per carload with \$5 off for donations of one or more sealed hygiene item or non-perishable in-date food items. The display is open from 5:30 to 9 p.m. daily through Dec. 31.

Ice skating season opens at Menominee Park

Oshkosh Herald
Ice skating on the Menominee Park Zoo Lagoon began over the weekend. Concessions and free skate rentals will be open from noon to 4 pm. Saturdays and Sundays, weather permitting. Skating is also available during regular zoo hours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, but skate rentals and concessions are available only on weekends. Oshkosh Recreation Department and Dr. Eric's Skate Club are partnering with the zoo to provide the skating opportunities.

County adds holiday string light recycling sites

Oshkosh Herald
Holiday string lights can be recycled at locations throughout Winnebago County until Jan. 31. Winnebago County Solid Waste said 16 collection locations are set up throughout

Cannizzo named to director post

Oshkosh Herald

Anna Cannizzo has been selected to serve as the new director of cultural and enrichment services for the City of Oshkosh.

In this role, Cannizzo will collaborate with the Oshkosh Public Library and oversee the Oshkosh Public Museum, Parks Services and Events, Senior Services, and Fund Development Services under the Cultural and Enrichment Services umbrella, which was created as part of the city's structural changes.



Cannizzo

"This appointment reflects our commitment to enhancing access to cultural and enrichment opportunities for all residents," City Manager Rebecca Grill said. "We are excited to see how Anna's vision and passion will drive community engagement and foster a vibrant, inclusive atmosphere across Oshkosh."

Cannizzo has served in various roles at the Oshkosh Public Museum for the last 11 years, initially serving as the curator of collections for six years, assistant director for four years with two appointments as interim director, and museum director since June 2024.

Packers award grants to support local organizations

Oshkosh Herald

The Green Bay Packers Foundation announced last week it has distributed \$1.5 million in annual grants to 395 civic and charitable groups throughout Wisconsin in its annual distribution of grants.

Wilson Jones, chairperson of the Foundation and former CEO of Oshkosh Corporation, made the announcement at the annual luncheon on Dec. 17 in the Lambeau Field Atrium.

Of the Foundation's contributions, 38 grants – aggregating \$149,450 – were awarded to Brown County organizations. Additional grants, totaling \$1,350,550, were made to 357 other groups around the state, including 17 in Winnebago County.

The Winnebago County groups receiving grants from the Packers include Beaming Inc., Boys and Girls Brigade Association, Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, Community for Hope, Friendship Place, Girls on the Run of Northeast Wisconsin, Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, Hope Clinic and Care Center, Journey Together Service Dog, Neenah Animal Shelter, Nova Counseling Services, Omro Area Community Center, Oshkosh Area Humane Society, Oshkosh Community YMCA, Solutions Recovery, Winneconne Area Community Foundation and Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development.

This year's grant cycle focused on organizations that will direct the funds toward the need areas of animal welfare, health and wellness, including drug, alcohol and domestic violence, civic and community initiatives and environmental causes.

To learn about where each organization will be focusing the grant dollars and for more information on the grant cycles, visit packers.com/foundation and navigate to Project/Program Focus Area.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical Society

Dec. 25, 1968

A Frigid Christmas: The weatherman had a gift for everyone on Christmas

Day in the form of frigid temperatures. The thermometer at the Buckstaff Observatory early in the day recorded subzero temperatures of 14 degrees. Although the sun tried its best to warm things up, it struggled to reach a high of only 5 degrees at the warmest point of the day. This was the coldest recorded temperature in Oshkosh since 1951.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Dec. 26, 1968

HOLIDAY EARLY AD DEADLINES

<p>Oshkosh Herald Dec. 24 issue Display Ad Deadline Wed., 12/17 Noon Classified Ad Deadline Wed., 12/17 3pm Obituary Deadline Fri., 12/19 Noon</p>	<p>Oshkosh Herald Dec. 31 issue Display Ad Deadline Tues., 12/23 Noon Classified Ad Deadline Tue., 12/23 3pm Obituary Deadline Fri., 12/26 Noon</p>
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Opening date set for downtown ThedaCare hospital

Oshkosh Herald

The opening date has been set for a hospital intended to provide residents on the east side of Oshkosh more convenient health care access.

According to Froedtert ThedaCare, the first patients will be welcomed on Jan. 19 to ThedaCare Medical Center-Oshkosh, 250 W. Sixth Ave. The opening of the new health campus marks the 20th hospital in the Froedtert ThedaCare system.

“With the opening of ThedaCare Medical Center-Oshkosh, we’re making it easier for patients and families in north-east and central Wisconsin to get the care they need, close to home,” said Lynn Detterman, president of the North Region of Froedtert ThedaCare. “This new campus strengthens the trusted relationships we’ve built in the region and ensures seamless access to specialized services through our connected system of care.”

The new hospital’s campus is located along the Fox River in downtown Oshkosh. Nearly 73% of Oshkosh residents live east of Interstate 41, while most of the current health care services are located west of the highway. Froedtert ThedaCare said that means many east side residents currently live more than 15 minutes away from a hospital or emergency room.

“In emergencies, every minute matters, and ThedaCare Medical Center-Oshkosh is here to provide immediate care when it’s needed most,” said Jenny Nikolai, vice president of ThedaCare Medical Centers-Fond du Lac and Oshkosh. “If a person requires a higher level of care, we’ll ensure a seamless transition within our integrated system to get them to the right place quickly.”

The organization broke ground on the



Photo from Froedtert ThedaCare

The new ThedaCare Medical Center-Oshkosh at 250 W. Sixth Ave. is scheduled to open next month after nearly two years of construction.

health campus in March 2024.

ThedaCare Medical Center-Oshkosh is designed to provide comprehensive care 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The health campus is approximately 114,000 sq. ft., with an estimated \$84 million investment in the Oshkosh community.

To adapt to the changing needs of the community, ThedaCare updated plans for the health campus and added a 28,000-square-foot third floor to the original design. More services may be added

over time based on community need.

“This new health campus is about more than just expanding services – it’s about being here for our neighbors,” said Detterman. “We’re proud to continue caring for the Oshkosh community and to deliver the high-quality, expert care they deserve.”

Throughout the project, ThedaCare worked with partners including Miron Construction, HGA and Hplex Solutions.

Recruitment efforts continue for team members. Approximately 60 new jobs were created for caregivers and staff at the

campus. That number is expected to grow over time as more services are added at the facility.

To highlight the completion of the campus, ThedaCare will be holding a community open house in the new year. The open house will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Jan. 8. During the event, guests can take a tour, meet the care teams, enjoy light refreshments and enter for a chance to win various giveaways and prizes.

For more information, visit ThedaCare.org/Oshkosh.

happy holidays!



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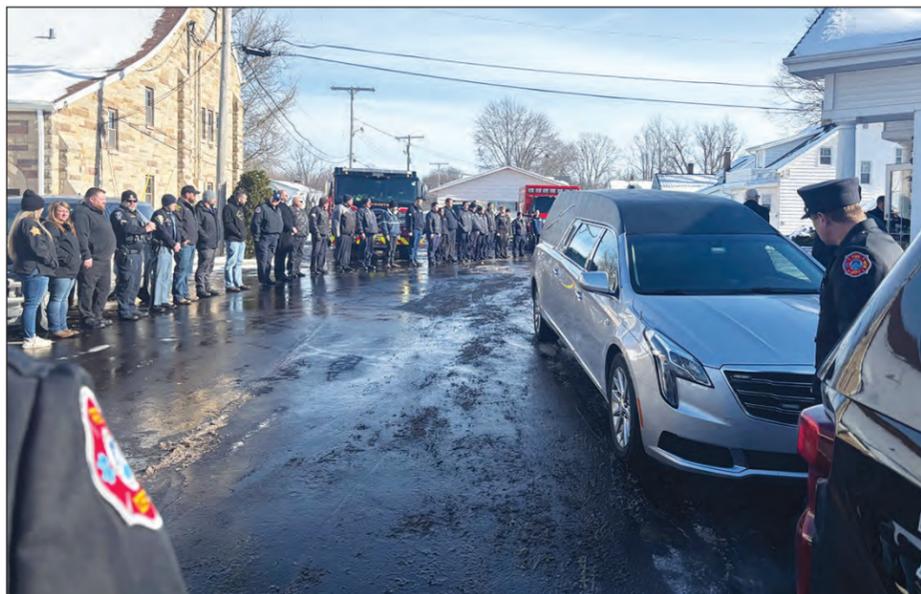


Photo from Oshkosh Fire Department

Showing support

Fire departments and other agencies from throughout Indiana joined a sea of blue escort to show support last week for Oshkosh Fire Department firefighter and paramedic Tom Diener, 26, who was killed Dec. 11 in a car crash near Plymouth, Ind. The funeral for Diener, who also was a lieutenant for the Town of Sheboygan Fire Department, was scheduled to be held Saturday in Sheboygan. The Oshkosh Fire Department thanked the agencies for "standing watch, honoring a brother, and caring for our community and his family alongside us."

District nixes administrator raises from budget plan

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Area School District will no longer be supporting over half a million dollars in raises for administrative positions in the district.

OASD has outlined budget reductions including eliminating 70 positions as part of around \$6 million in cuts. The proposed cuts include eliminating the driver's education program and 23 elective teachers.

Superintendent Bryan Davis announced earlier this month the district needed to reduce the 2026-27 budget by \$6 million.

Part of the plan included changes to scheduled raises for teachers, moving money back into the district's general

fund and the administrative raises.

However, last week district officials announced the \$600,000 that was being set aside to give the highest paid district employees raises has been removed from the proposal. This means the district only needs to cut \$5.5 million in next year's budget.

Board of Education members Tim Hess and Mike Ford both questioned why administrators were getting raises at this time along with teachers that spoke at the Dec. 10 school board meeting.

At the time, Ford said those raises were "dead on arrival" as far as he was concerned.

The OASD Board of Education will be holding a special meeting on Jan. 8 to discuss the proposed cuts and again at the regularly scheduled board meeting on Jan. 14.

NTSB report details of fatal plane crash

Oshkosh Herald

A preliminary report from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) states that a failed landing in dense fog last month led to a plane crash that killed two area business owners.

The deceased men were identified as 43-year-old Brett Gelbach and 41-year-old Eric Felix. Gelbach owned two businesses in Oshkosh, including Oshkosh Dock and Lift and Boondocks Pilings and Piers. Fe-

lix owned Felix Auto and Tire.

The report states that the plane was destroyed in the crash that occurred around 5:15 p.m. Nov. 24 near Monroe. According to the report, both the pilot and pilot-rated passenger sustained fatal injuries, although it did not specify which of the men was the pilot or passenger.

The plane had taken off at 4:41 p.m. from Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh. As the plane was approaching landing in Monroe, the pilot told air traffic control before the approach clearance that "if we can get in there it will be a full stop, if not we will go missed [approach] back to Oshkosh."

A witness at the airport reported that he heard the airplane increase engine power for a missed approach and he began searching for it in the fog. Shortly after the power up, he witnessed a bright orange glow and heard a loud explosion.

The airplane subsequently impacted mining equipment inside a gravel quarry about 0.5 nautical miles north of the airport, leaving a large debris field around the site.

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<p>\$3.99 Gelato Festival (7 flavors) Pint - (Reg. \$7.79)</p>	<p>\$4.99/lb. Bacon Cheddar Pasta Salad (Reg. \$9.99/lb.)</p>	<p>\$4.99 Mary's Organic Boneless, Skinless Chicken Thighs ~1 lb.</p>	<p>\$6.99 Truly Simple Grass-Fed Free-Range Beef (2 flavors) - 10 oz.</p>
<p>2/\$10 Raised Grain Doktoberfest 4-pack, 16 fl. oz. cans (Reg. \$11.99)</p>	<p>\$6.95 Recess Mocktails (4 Flavors) 4-pack, 12 fl. oz. cans - (Reg. \$11.99)</p>	<p>\$9.95 Leinenkugel Legacy Ale 12-pack, 12 fl. oz. cans</p>	<p>\$9.95 Flybird Wine Cocktails (5 flavors) - 750 ml. (Reg. \$13.99)</p>

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Photo from Oshkosh Public Library

Larry and Pam Lang present a donation to fund nearly 500 books for Oshkosh area children, distributed through the Salvation Army of Oshkosh as part of the Toys for Tots campaign.

Couple funds nearly 500 children's books

Oshkosh Herald

Hundreds of Oshkosh-area children will receive the gift of reading this holiday season thanks to a donation from Larry and Pam Lang. The couple's belief in the power of reading will help meet the growing need for reading materials in the Toys for Tots campaign.

After reading about a book drive organized by Oshkosh Public Library, Carmel Crisp and Altrusa of Oshkosh, the Langs were concerned that demand might exceed supply.

Library sets daily limits on Hoopla to maintain service

Oshkosh Herald

Beginning Jan. 1, Oshkosh Public Library will introduce daily limits on Hoopla checkouts to keep the popular streaming service available to as many library cardholders as possible.

Hoopla is a digital media platform offering instant access with no waiting to thousands of audiobooks, ebooks, movies, TV shows and music for streaming or downloading. It's free to use with an Oshkosh Public library card and has become one of the library's most in-demand resources.

To manage rising costs, the library has set a monthly spending cap of \$6,000 for Hoopla. Hoopla charges the library for

"We saw the article in the newspaper and thought, we can help," said Larry, a former finance professor at UW-Oshkosh.

Their donation enabled the library to purchase nearly 500 books for children of all ages. The books were delivered in time for the Salvation Army of Oshkosh to distribute to local families.

"Kids just need books," said Pam, who taught elementary school in Oshkosh for 36 years. "They need books for inspiration; to learn about the world."

every item borrowed under a pay-per-use model tied to publisher agreements. This structure allows instant access to content for patrons but makes budgeting a challenge as demand grows.

When the daily limit is reached, borrowing will stop until the next day. Users still have five checkouts per month, but daily borrowing depends on funds being available.

Patrons who encounter a daily limit message can explore other digital options, including Libby for ebooks and audiobooks or Kanopy for streaming films. Both services are free with a library card and have no daily spending limits.

Kniep receives national recognition

Oshkosh Herald

Christine Kniep of Oshkosh was inducted into the Hall of Fame for a national family and consumer sciences organization.

The NEAFCS (National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences), the association for Extension Family and Consumer Science professionals, recognized three inductees, including Kniep, for their commitment, dedication and effective leadership and involvement in NEAFCS at the state, regional or national level. They were inducted into the Hall of Fame at the 2025 NEAFCS Annual Session held earlier this year in Grand Rapids, Mich.



Kniep

Kniep, who formerly worked for the University of Wisconsin Extension, has been a pillar of leadership within NEAFCS for over four decades. Her journey began in 1984, and she has since held numerous roles. Kniep's leadership extended beyond these roles, as she actively participated in various committees.

Kniep's contributions to NEAFCS have shaped the organization's future. She played a role in guiding NEAFCS through strategic planning and development. Her leadership in the 75th and 85th Anniversary Committees showcased her dedication to preserving the rich history and legacy of NEAFCS.

Kniep's efforts in the National Office Selection Committee and the Restructuring Committee further demonstrate

her commitment to ensuring the organization's growth and sustainability. Her work as a copy editor for the NEAFCS Journal and her involvement in the Tenure/Promotion Review Committee highlight her dedication to maintaining high standards of professionalism within NEAFCS.

According to NEAFCS, "Kniep epitomizes the values and mission of NEAFCS through her tireless dedication and steadfast commitment. Her visionary leadership and ability to inspire others make her an ideal candidate for this recognition. Christine's exceptional contributions have been recognized through numerous awards, including the NEAFCS Distinguished Service Award, Continued Excellence Award, and Educator of the Year. Her impact on the association and its members at local, state, regional, and national levels has been profound."

Kniep has been a cornerstone of the Wisconsin affiliate, always mentoring and encouraging robust engagement for membership. Even in retirement, she "continues to contribute significantly, embodying the spirit and values of NEAFCS."

Her passion for home economics remains active, as she now (in addition to all her other contributions in retirement) serves as a seamstress for the Green Bay Packers. Kniep's mentorship and encouragement have "fostered a culture of active participation and growth within the Wisconsin affiliate, ensuring that NEAFCS remains a vibrant and dynamic organization."

The other inductees are Kathy Doughtage and Margaret Viebrock.

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Attempted ATM robbery case ends with prison sentence

Oshkosh Herald

An Oshkosh man will spend the next seven years in prison after trying to disarm an armed guard servicing an ATM last year at a gas station.

Jaymin C. Blankinship was facing up to 60 years of imprisonment for attempted homicide. He was charged with attempted homicide, attempted armed robbery and three counts of second-degree recklessly endangering safety.



Blankinship

Blankinship, 24, was sentenced last week on the three recklessly endangering safety charges after the two more serious counts were dismissed and read into the court record for sentencing purposes. Judge Michael Rust called Blankinship's actions "an extremely violent act" and that it could have been much more violent as Blankinship stated he was planning to murder everyone in the gas station and then rob it.

Blankinship has been in custody since last September after being arrested at the Kwik Trip on the corner of 20th Avenue and Oregon Street. For 466 days, he has lived in the Winnebago County Jail.

Rust sentenced Blankinship on the three reckless endangering counts – five years of initial confinement followed by five years of extended supervision on the first count and on the second count two years of initial confinement followed by two years of extended supervision. Those two sentences will run consecutively.

On the third count, Blankinship will serve two years of initial confinement followed by two years of extended supervision. That count will run concurrently with the other counts, meaning Blankinship will serve a total of seven years in state prison followed by seven years of extended supervision.

He initially pled not guilty by reason of mental disease. A competency report was completed in which a doctor formed the opinion that Blankinship is competent to stand trial and participate in his defense. Rust ruled, following a competency hearing, that Blankinship was able to take part in his defense and the case proceeded.

According to the criminal complaint, around 1 p.m. Sept. 6, 2024, Oshkosh police responded to reports of a robbery at a gas station.

Police spoke with the three individuals that helped detain Blankinship as well as the armed guard and manager of the gas

station.

The armed guard told police he had been servicing the two ATMs inside when Blankinship entered the station and gave the guard a "funny feeling."

When the guard shut the door to the ATM, Blankinship attacked him and attempted to get his gun. The complaint does not mention any weapon that Blankinship used during the altercation.

The guard's gun holster has a retention feature that locks it in the holster to prevent someone from grabbing the gun. As the guard struggled with Blankinship, bystanders helped to get him off the guard, who was then able to hold Blankinship at gunpoint until police arrived.

Two women bystanders kept Blankinship immobilized as the guard held Blankinship at gunpoint while he waited for police to arrive.

One of the victims told police Blankinship was shouting while detained that he would have shot everyone in the station if he got the gun.

Another victim told police Blankinship said, "You're lucky I didn't kill you; I should have just robbed the store."

The store manager told police that Blankinship had been living in a car in the service station parking lot for about a week and earlier that day they put a note on his car that it needed to be moved or it would be towed. Blankinship entered the store to complain about it and ripped up the note.

Assistant District Attorney Tracy Paider noted that bodycam footage from the

officers showed that while he was being arrested, he was saying things about murdering people.

Two of the victims in the case spoke during the hearing last week. The man who was servicing the ATM said his life has changed since the attack. Blankinship told the man during the attack he wanted to kill him.

"I didn't know if I was going to live or die," the man said. "Anything can happen and I don't want it to happen again."

The other victim is one of the bystanders that wrestled Blankinship to the ground.

"I, now, choose to forgive you," she said.

Blankinship's mother and grandmother both submitted letters supporting him. He did not give any statement during the hearing.

Paider stated due to the randomness of the violence in the case paired with what Blankinship said during the presentence investigation (PSI) that he "needs to be monitored for a very long time."

Paider mentioned there is no remorse in the PSI and no apology. She also noted a number of vague statements in the PSI that the state did not know how to interpret.

"I think this is going to change me, not in a good way, but in an institutional way," Blankinship stated to the PSI writer.

Rust took that into his sentencing decision as this was not an incident with a family member or a loved one where the issue can build up over time; this was a random act of violence that could have ended much worse if Blankinship was able to get the security guard's gun.

Area jobless rate decreases in September

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area (MSA) and Winnebago County saw their unemployment rate decrease to 2.5% in September from 3.0% in August, while increasing slightly from 2.4% in September 2024, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

The preliminary September unemployment rate decreased in all 13 metropolitan areas over the month. Unemployment decreased in one metropolitan area over the year: Fond du Lac. Rates increased in the remaining 12 metropolitan areas.

Jobless rates decreased in all of Wis-

consin's 35 largest cities over the month. Unemployment rates decreased in three cities over the year. Rates increased in 27 cities over the year and stayed the same in the five remaining cities.

Preliminary September 2025 jobless rates decreased in all 72 counties over the month. Unemployment rates decreased in 11 counties over the year. Rates increased in 44 counties over the year and stayed the same in the remaining 17 counties.

Estimates of unemployment and employment statistics are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The reporting of September numbers was delayed due to the federal government shutdown this fall.

New system launched to prevent notary fraud

Oshkosh Herald

The Winnebago County Register of Deeds office has introduced a new fraud prevention tool designed to protect notaries and the community from the growing threat of notary-related document fraud.

The Notary Fraud Alert (NFA) program is a free, easy-to-use service that allows notaries to monitor activity under their name and quickly detect signs of misuse.

"This new alert system empowers notaries with information so they can catch fraudulent activity early and in doing so, helps safeguard the entire community from property fraud and related scams," county registrar Susan Snyder said.

Once enrolled, notaries can choose to

receive daily, weekly or monthly alerts whenever a document is recorded in Winnebago County, or any they chose to sign-up for, that includes their name as the notary. Each alert includes the document number, type and parties involved, which Snyder said makes it easy to identify suspicious filings at a glance.

Notary fraud can occur when someone forges a signature, misuses a notary seal or records a document without the required presence or authorization. These actions can lead to property theft, financial loss and legal complications. With this alert system, Snyder said notaries are no longer in the dark — they are part of the frontline defense.

This service is offered at no cost. To sign up for Notary Fraud Alert or learn more, visit NotaryFraudAlert.com.

Anyone who suspects they are a victim of notary fraud, consider reaching out to law enforcement or legal counsel for further action.

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Gambling machines

FROM PAGE 1

chines because these establishments along with grocery stores have Class A liquor licenses which allow establishments to sell alcohol for off-premises consumption.

There is no limit on how many of these licenses the city can give out.

Mayor Matt Mugerauer pointed out for clarification – any establishment with this Class A license with a gambling machine is committing a felony. It is a Class I felony, which carries a maximum penalty of 18 months in prison, followed by up to two years of extended supervision and a potential \$10,000 fine for each machine.

Stations remove machines

Over the summer, gas stations began removing gambling machines after Department of Revenue (DOR) state agents went around asking about them.

Employees at the Oshkosh Qwik Trip Pantry located at 403 N. Sawyer St. and other stations told a similar story. State agents came in, asked about gambling machines, then warned the business that the holder of the license could face felony charges if the machines were not removed.

The DOR's Division of Alcohol Beverages (DAB) are increasing efforts to tackle this trend as municipalities across Wisconsin are seeing an effort to allow for gambling machines and avoid felony charges for breaking the law.

For bars, taverns and restaurants, a Class B Beer license is often the license secured to sell beer and fermented malt beverages on the premises. A Class B Liquor license allows for the sale of liquor and wine on the premises, and a Class B combination license allows the establishment to sell li-

quor, wine, and beer.

Bars, taverns and restaurants only face a fine for having these machines on the premises. There is a \$500 fine for each machine up to five machines. If there are more than five machines, the business owner could face a misdemeanor charge and a fine up to \$10,000.

Oshkosh Quik Pantry Pub has applied for a Class B Beer license that would allow them to sell beer and fermented malt beverages. The station would also bring in video gambling machines.

Applications

“The gambling machines are an extremely lucrative initiative,” assistant city manager John Fitzpatrick said. “Adding on to a convenience store and spending tens of thousands of dollars just to have an extra room where you can have gambling machines in there – is not out of the realm of possibility.”

Fitzpatrick noted that there are concerns about these new applications, but he wanted to ensure the council treats every application fairly.

In a memo to the council, Oshkosh city clerk Darla Salinas and city attorney Lynn Lorensen said the city has received two applications for these types of licenses.

One of the applications the city received, from Quik Pantry Pub, calls for partitioning off a portion of the gas station to allow for beer sales and to house the gambling machines. The other applicant has not provided a floor plan, “but notes that they will be located in a suite with several other existing businesses in the same building, have ‘very minimal alcohol beverages/malt beverage’ and have very little seating.

The DOR sent a statement to municipalities warning that applicants would be

using the Class B licenses to bring back illegal gambling machines.

“Beware of an alarming trend gaining in popularity around Wisconsin which seeks to mislead municipal officials into granting Class B licenses, with the sole aim of converting businesses into illegal video gambling locations,” the DOR statement said.

The Quik Pantry Pub plans to build a bar area of about 300 square feet with a total occupancy of 7 people and five gambling machines. This bar area will have access to the building's existing bathrooms.

Salinas said the application was filed on Nov. 10 and would be in front of council in “the near future.”

The city had one applicant withdraw a similar application earlier this year. It is planned for 305 N. Sawyer St. The plan was to have a bar area of 266 square feet with a maximum of 12 people allowed, including an operator who would work behind the bar.

This applicant also intended to have five video gambling machines in the establishment with access to existing restrooms.

“Nearly identical situation,” Salinas said.

Lorensen explained that state statute is “largely silent” on the process and standards for issuance or denial of new license applications. She said the city must provide due process and find cause to revoke, nonrenewal or suspend an alcohol beverage license.

Travis Borkenhagen, a special agent from the DAB, gave the council an update on gambling machines and these licenses Dec. 9 at a council workshop. He said gas stations are building rooms to hold illegal gambling machines because of how the law is written.

Borkenhagen said the trend is spread-

ing across the state and the workshop last week was meant to be proactive as the city has started seeing interest in these licenses. He said one way this is being done is added suite numbers to the new room – a gas station at 123 W. Main St. would have a separate room at 123 W. Main St. Suite 100.

He gave one example of a small room that was granted a license as a restaurant to serve drinks and skirt the felony charge with five video gambling machines. They were able to get a restaurant license because they had a microwave and were serving frozen single-serve pizzas.

Borkenhagen has been approached by Tavern League members who have expressed concerns. He added there are 10 DOR special agents across the state and upwards of 17,000 licensed establishments across the state.

“As a municipality, you have the ability to approve or not approve those licenses,” he said.

Borkenhagen said the city could outlaw or ban video gambling machines. Then the Oshkosh Police Department would be responsible to go into these establishments for enforcement.

Council members discussed what steps can be taken next, including not having establishments with two licenses and using more scrutiny when looking at licenses as right now most are put on the consent agenda with little or no discussion.

“We can already tell, these are going to be coming,” Salinas said. “This is a trend. The decision that we make is going to lay precedent for how we move forward.”

The workshop concluded with the council looking for more information on the licenses and how other municipalities are handling the situation.

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Date: January 8, 2026 4-7 p.m.
Location: ThedaCare Medical Center-Oshkosh, 250 W. 6th Ave.



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

Thursday, Dec. 25

Christmas Day Dinner, noon, Father Carr's Place 2B, 1062 N. Koeller St.

Saturday, Dec. 27

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

Sunday, Dec. 28

UW-Oshkosh BSN Winter Classic, 1 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

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

Monday, Dec. 29

Live Animal Presentation with J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue, 10 a.m., Oshkosh Public Library

UW-Oshkosh BSN Winter Classic, 1 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

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

Wednesday, Dec. 31

Happy Noon Year, 11 a.m., Oshkosh Public Library

Harlem Globetrotters, 2 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

New Year's Eve Community Night at the YMCA, 5:30 p.m., 20th Avenue YMCA

Friday, Jan. 2

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

Saturday, Jan. 3

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

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

Monday, Jan. 5

Wisconsin Herd vs. College Park Skyhawks, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Thursday, Jan. 8

Weekend Comedy by Jeanne Bobrick and Sam Bobrick presented by Oshkosh Community Players, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh



Photo by Michael Cooney

Madrigal performance

For more than half a century, Lourdes Academy has transformed an ordinary December afternoon into something extraordinary. "The Twelve Days of Christmas: A Madrigal Matinee," performed Dec. 14 by Lourdes Academy students, is one of the school's longest-running traditions, with roots that stretch back at least to the mid-1970s. Held in the school's lunchroom — temporarily transformed into a medieval-style dining hall — the matinee blended music, theater and a shared meal. This year's ensemble included 12 singers, two trumpet players and a small woodwind group modeled after medieval recorder ensembles — about 20 student performers in total.

YMCA hosts New Year's Eve family night

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Community YMCA is hosting a New Year's Eve Family Night at the 20th Avenue YMCA.

The event from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 31 is free for Oshkosh YMCA members. The cost is \$10 per household for non-members and other YMCA members.

Activities include a bounce house, ice skating, swimming, basketball and more. A special balloon drop will take place at 8 p.m. in the main gym. Hats and horns will be given to all kids.

Pre-register to save time and skip the line. Information is available at tinyurl.com/2jt7nk55.

Families can ring in new year at library

Oshkosh Herald

For families who want to celebrate the new year during the daytime, Oshkosh Public Library is hosting a Noon Year's Eve event.

The traditional event will be from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dec. 31 at the library, 106 Washington Ave. Visitors can enjoy crafts, refreshments and music.

A balloon drop will take place at noon.

Registration coming up for adult learning program

Oshkosh Herald

Membership registration and catalog pick-up for the spring semester of an adult learning program will begin next week.

The member-directed Learning in Retirement (LIR) program offers presentations, tours, interest groups and activities designed for lifelong learners ranging in age from 50 to over 90.

Learning in Retirement members enjoy unlimited access to a diverse selection of learning opportunities without homework, tests or grades. Programs include expert-led learning sessions, member-led interest

groups, tours of local businesses and cultural sites, and theater and music performances.

Prospective and returning members are invited to stop by Evergreen, 1130 N. Westfield St., from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Jan. 6 to pick up the spring course catalog and register for membership. To participate in any LIR program, individuals must have an active membership.

Registration and membership forms are available online.

For more information, visit EvergreenOshkosh.com/learning-in-retirement/ or call 920-237-2121.

Loan fund

FROM PAGE 1

profit selected will be asked to go out and raise additional funds from employers and other groups in the area that want to donate to the cause of building more houses.

A portion of the \$4.5 million — \$250,000 — will be set aside for administrative costs that Scheer says the county will recuperate over time.

During the meeting, Hintz and supervisors discussed the possibility of community donations matching the funds to make the pot of money as large as \$9 million.

Hintz and Scheer mentioned the reluctance people often have when giving money to the government and they noted the potential tax advantages available to the donors if they give money to the nonprofit chosen to be in charge of the program.

"If you have a company that is unlikely to give money to a government entity, they can get it as a write-off by giving it to a nonprofit," Hintz said.

If a nonprofit is selected from the RFP process an advisory board will be set up that some supervisors will sit on. The county board will still have the authority to review the applications for loans.

Former county executive Jon Doemel spoke in favor of the program at last week's meeting. He said he trusts the IDB with the funds and the county board should, too.

"Let them weigh it out," he said. "They will figure out things just fine."

He compared the lack of detail in the resolution to not knowing who built the Van Dyke break wall in Winneconne.

"I trust that they did the job," Doemel said.

However, this would be an ongoing pro-

gram handling \$4.5 million compared to the break wall project, which was a one-time expense of \$861,000. Doemel was executive when a Spirit Fund was created with ARPA funds.

Scheer's office started looking into the topic under Doemel and has been able to move forward with Hintz in office.

Some supervisors were concerned that the resolution did not have enough specifics for them to support, such as no definition of affordable housing or specifics of the application process.

Scheer said that was not included on purpose as the housing landscape continues to shift. She said the RFP will help define those parameters.

County officials are continuing to use a 2023 housing study done by Forward Analytics for estimating housing needs in the area. The county, under Doemel, extrapolated Winnebago County numbers from the study that stated Wisconsin was in need of 200,000 new housing units by 2030.

County officials used a formula that shows 3% of the state's population lives in Winnebago County and estimated in 10 years that number would be closer to 3.5%. That is where the figure came from that the county used in the resolution of needing 10,000 new housing units in the next 10 years.

Before the resolution passed, the board discussed and voted down a number of amendments. The failed amendments included whether to add language about tax incremental financing districts to the resolution.

Scheer said that if the program doesn't work, the county will not spend all of the \$4.5 million and will still be able to use that funding for other ARPA/Spirit Fund related purposes.



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12.99 lb
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22.99 lb
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Warm Water Frozen Lobster Tails

2.99
 3 lb
Seedless Navel Oranges, Mini Watermelon or Jumbo Cantaloupe

9.99
 16-20 ct, 16 oz
Whole Cooked Shrimp
 16-20 ct, 16oz Whole Raw EZ-Peel Shrimp...8.99

2/\$3
 California Celery or 1 lb Bolthouse Farms Baby Cut Carrots

79¢ ea
 Hass
Avocados

4/\$12
 6 pk, .5 ltr Bottles
Pepsi, Mtn Dew, 7UP, A&W or Dr Pepper

4/\$7
 6-8 oz
Food Club Shredded or Chunk Cheese

2/\$4
 6-8 oz
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5/\$4
 10-15.5 oz Select
Food Club Canned Beans, Vegetables or Tomatoes

3.99
 11.81-19.41 oz
Bellatoria Ultra Thin Pizza

2.99
 9-10.75 oz Doritos, Ruffles, or 9-14.4 oz Tostitos

3.99
 12-17.3 oz Select
Kellogg's Cereal

3.49
 46 oz
Tropicana Orange Juice

2.99
 48 oz
Dean's Ice Cream Novelties

19.49
 24 pk, 12 oz Cans or Bottles
Miller Lite or Coors Light

10.99
 750 ml Bottle
Korbel Champagne

2/\$3
 8 ct
Piggly Wiggly Hamburger or Hot Dog Buns

2.99 When you redeem 2000 pig points
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 Regular Sale Price 3.99

4.99 When you redeem 2000 pig points
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 Regular Sale Price 5.99

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Offer expires 1/1/26 PLU 27208



\$1.99

128 oz each
 Limit one with separate \$25.00 purchase
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Offer expires 1/1/26 PLU 27209



\$8.99

16-20 ct, 16 oz each
 Limit one with separate \$25.00 purchase
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Cave and Cove Wine



\$3.99

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2 count

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2/\$6
5 oz Fresh Express
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or Spinach

1.99
8 oz
Whole White
Mushrooms

1.69^{lb}
Washington State
Gala
Apples

99¢^{lb}
Sweet Onions,
Sweet Potatoes,
or Baking Potatoes

2/\$6
16 oz Little Potato Co.
Oven Ready
Potatoes

1.99^{lb}
Garden Fresh
Green
Beans

17.99
Midnight
Celebration
Bouquet

14.99
6 inch
Blooming
Assortment

2.99
14-18 oz
Wing Hing
Eggroll or
Won Ton Wraps

3.99
16 oz
Jaffa
Pico De Gallo,
Salsa, or Guacamole

beverage center

2/\$11
6 pk, 12 oz Cans
Bubbl'r

3/\$5
28 oz
Gatorade

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MULTIPLES OF 3
OR 2.49 EA

5/\$5
1-ltr Bottle
Faygo
Tonic or
Club Soda

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Pepsi
or Mtn Dew

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Polar
Seltzer

6.99
8 pk, 20 oz Bottles
Powerade

3/\$6
12 oz
Celsius
or 16 oz
ROCKSTAR

2/\$8
24 pk, 8 oz Bottles or
24-28 pk, .5 ltr Bottles
Pure Life
Water

2.99
128 oz
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BUY TWO GET ONE FREE
64 oz Bottles
Juicy Juice

2/\$5
8 pk
Mott's, Yoo-Hoo
or Hawaiian Punch

2.79
64 oz
Food Club
Cranberry
Cocktails

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2/\$5
22-48 ct
Simply Done
Plates or Bowls

8.99
100.5-105 oz
Arm & Hammer
Detergent

5.99
3 pk, 372 ct
Puffs
Facial Tissue

1.49
48 ct
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Cutlery

4.99
5.1-6 oz Toothpaste
or 1 ct Toothbrush

7.99
22 oz
Olay
Bodywash

4.49
16-23 oz Select
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Liquid
Cleaners

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Deli Bagels
8 oz Food Club
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2/\$5
4 pk
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64oz
Silk
Almond Milk

1.99
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3.99
16-16.5 oz or 12-24 ct
Nestle
Cookies

2.49
8 oz
Food Club
Cheese Cubes

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1 lb Quarters
Blue
Bonnet

frozen

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or Pound Cake

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or 13.35-25.56 oz
Orv's Pizza

1.49
8 oz
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Whipped
Topping

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16-19 oz
Louisa Toasted
or Original Ravioli

6.99
Gallon
Piggly Wiggly
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9.25-14 oz Select
Healthy Choice
Steamer or
Banquet Mega Bowls

9.99
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Stuffed Nachos

3/\$4
7 oz
Banquet
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24 oz Family Size
Food Club
Frozen Vegetables

4.49
24-28 oz
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Idaho Potatoes



4.99
21 oz
Crav'n Flavor
Skillet Dinners



1.99
12 oz Select
Old Orchard
Juice Concentrate

2/\$4

8 pk
Food Club
Hot Cocoa

4.29

12 ct
Food Club
Coffee, Cocoa or
Cappuccino Cups

2/\$4

2.75-7 oz
Life Savers
or Skittles
Gummies

7.99

18-25 ct
Tippy Toes
Training
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2/\$7
6-8 ct Select
Artisan Hearth
Buns

1.99
Lewis
12 oz 1/2 Loaf
or 4 pk Buns

6.99
10 ct
Green Mountain
or McCafe

11.99
23.1-28.4 oz Select
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2/\$5
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Pickles

2.99
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7-11 oz Select
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3.99
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Rinaldi
Pasta Sauce

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2.5 oz Pouches or 3.75-5 oz Cans
Chicken of the Sea
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or Sardines

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8 oz
Hoffman House
Shrimp & Seafood
or Tartar Sauce

2/\$4
32 oz Select
College Inn
Broth

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6-8 pk Select
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Nutri-Grain or
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Boyardee

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County director of human services planning to retire

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

After 18 years of serving as Winnebago County director of human services, Bill Topel is set to retire in January.

Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz announced the impending retirement of Topel at the Dec. 16 county board meeting.

Before starting work in Winnebago County, Topel worked as a therapist and clinical psychologist before switching to management. Topel served as director of health and human services in Marinette County and quickly had to pick up on how to manage programs and people.

In 2007, former County Executive Mark Harris hired Topel, who said Harris "took a chance" when hiring him because he came from a smaller county.

"When I got here, we were delivering the services the federal government said we needed to deliver," Topel said. "Over time the community was able to identify

gaps and the department worked on filling those gaps."

These programs include the Homeless, Eviction, and Loss Prevention (HELP) program and the Connect program.



Topel

HELP is a preventive program that assists people facing eviction and immediate housing concerns.

Connect is a diversion program for people facing drug or alcohol charges in Winnebago County.

Individuals can choose treatment through the program to avoid prosecution.

These programs line up with Topel's goal for human services to have more local services available for residents, so they don't have to travel to another county for help.

"We're keeping children and families in

their homes instead of sending them away for treatment or services," Topel said.

The department has also gotten bigger under Topel's leadership in the last 18 years. When Topel joined the department there were 265 employees.

Today there are around 400 full and part-time employees working for the department.

"We've been frugal with taxpayer dollars while being able to have more services

available locally," Topel said.

Hintz said deputy director Renee Soroko will serve as interim director starting in January. The county will post the position, and Hintz hopes to have the position filled in early 2026.

"I'm very honored to have been chosen and to have served in this role," Topel said. "There's a great team here offering an array of local services. Winnebago County is set for years to come."

Local college graduates

The following individuals from Oshkosh are among the more than 1,300 prospective candidates for degrees attending University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee commencement exercises Dec. 21 in Milwaukee.

Caleb Castro, College of Engineering and Applied Science, bachelor of science in engineering

Jacob Collins, College of Letters and Science, bachelor of arts

Braden Cooper, College of Letters and Science, bachelor of arts

Ashley Manske, School of Nursing, doctor of philosophy

Katelyn Moodie, College of Letters and Science, bachelor of science

Sophia Norenberg, College of Letters and Science, master of science

Julia Schneider, Sheldon B. Lubar College of Business, bachelor of business administration

Sitota Troedel, Sheldon B. Lubar College of Business, bachelor of business administration



Photo from UW-Oshkosh

Chilly commencement day

About 500 Titans crossed the stage Dec. 13 as the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh marked its 61st midyear commencement on a frigid December morning. Kolf Sports Center was packed with families and friends celebrating students earning associate, bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees completed during the summer and fall terms. The newest graduates now add their names to a UW-Oshkosh alumni community of more than 110,000.

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Prep sports roundup

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wildcats cruise to victory over Terrors

Oshkosh West held Appleton West to just two points in the first half and rolled to a 71-17 win over the Terrors last Tuesday in a Fox Valley Association tussle.

The Wildcats led 38-2 at intermission and coasted to the win in the second half.

Thirteen players scored in the game for the Wildcats with Kamryn Stauffacher leading the way with 13 points. Maddie Bellin was the next highest scorer with seven points.

Kinslee Nelson grabbed 12 rebounds in the win.

The Wildcats then suffered a 64-41 loss to Neenah on Thursday, despite a season-high 12 points from Hailee Marchant.

Nelson added six points and Stauffacher finished with six points and a team-high eight rebounds in the win.

Spartans tripped up by Neenah

Brinna Paulson knocked down seven 3-pointers and finished with a season-high 21 points but Oshkosh North couldn't hold off Neenah in an 81-54 loss on the road last Tuesday.

Awut Alic added 16 points in the game for the Spartans, who rebounded from an early 12-point deficit against the Rockets.

Paulson hit three 3-pointers and Raegan Batten added another in a 21-9 run that tied the game at 23 with 4:21 left in the first half.

Neenah scored the final nine points of the first half to take a 43-29 lead at intermission and then opened the second half with a 13-0 run to break the game open.

Knights drop home contest to Omro

Lourdes Academy was held to just 33 percent shooting and made just one 3-pointer in dropping a nonconference

game against Omro, 53-41, last week.

Adhieu Liabwill was the lone player in double figures for the Knights, finishing with 15 points while also grabbing 10 rebounds. Naomi Liabwill chipped in eight points.

The Knights bounced back with a 74-35 win at Wayland Academy last Thursday.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Wildcats take down Terrors

Malakai Herlihy had his second straight 20-point game as Oshkosh West toppled Appleton West, 80-56, last week.

Herlihy hit four 3-pointers and finished with 23 points to lead three players in double figures for the Wildcats. Joey Ware added 17 points and Evan Danahy chipped in 13 points off the bench in the win.

The Wildcats went 12-of-25 from 3-point range, while the Terrors finished just 4-of-16 from behind the arc.

Oshkosh North falls to Neenah

Bryce Ott finished with 20 points and six rebounds but the Spartans came up short in a Fox Valley Association loss to Neenah, 51-47.

Brady Anderson added eight points, while Owen Weber and Tylan Lister each had seven points in the loss.

Rough first half stings Lourdes Academy

The Knights were held to just 13 points in the first half and faced a 23-point deficit at intermission in falling to Horicon, 65-45, last week.

Lourdes Academy outscored Horicon, 32-27, in the second half.

Jackson Buttke scored 22 points to lead the Knights, while Harlan Kuehn finished with 12 points and seven rebounds. Brady Bauer chipped in six points.



Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh North's Awut Alic blocks the shot of Neenah's Farrah Danforth in a Fox Valley Association game last week.

HOCKEY

Kraft nets game winner in overtime

Brennon Kraft scored about three minutes into overtime to lift the Oshkosh Ice Hawks to a 3-2 win over Appleton United last week.

Kraft's game winner came off an assist from Grant Magnuson.

Maxtyn Hammermeister and Dayton Briski also scored in the game for Oshkosh, which led 1-0 after the first period and took a 2-1 lead midway through the third period before the United tied the game to force overtime.

William Beck and Jaxson Schmid also added assists for the Ice Hawks.

Chase Magadanz made 13 saves for Oshkosh, which outshot the United 29-15.

SWIMMING

Oshkosh West edges Neenah in dual meet

The Wildcats held off the Rockets' late charge to claim an 86-84 win in a Fox Valley Association dual meet last week.

Neenah won the final event – the 400-yard freestyle relay – but Oshkosh West finished second and third in the race to

preserve the win.

Caleb Bergin won two individual events to lead the way for the Wildcats, placing first in both the 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard butterfly. Bergin was also a part of West's winning 200-yard freestyle relay team, joining Carter Crowe, Sam Roblee and Evan Booms.

Crowe and Booms finished first and second, respectively, in the 50-yard freestyle with Booms also collecting a win in the 100-yard freestyle.

Crowe in the 100-yard breaststroke and Dominic Moore in the 500-yard freestyle also added second places for West. The Wildcats were also second in the 200-yard medley relay.

WRESTLING

Oshkosh West drops dual meet to Neenah

The Rockets scored points in the first eight weight classes and handed the Wildcats a 69-10 loss in a Fox Valley Association dual meet last week.

Freshman Blake Julian and sophomore Preston Schneider each won by technical fall for the Wildcats.

Julian topped Landon Tennesen 16-0 in the 126-pound bout, while Schneider toppled Jaxon Ennis, 21-3, at 138 pounds.

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

West's Bergin passes time paddling and peddling

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Caleb Bergin has a way of making time fly - whether he's in a pool or on a bike.

The Oshkosh West athlete is one of the area's top distance swimmers and an accomplished BMX racer during the summer months.

He can propel his body through water and pedal around a tricky BMX course.

Swimming is Bergin's current focus and he's looking to break through this winter and become a first-time WIAA state meet qualifier.

Bergin placed fourth in the 200-yard freestyle (1:48.21) and fifth in the 500-yard freestyle (4:59.99) at the 2024 sectionals, finishing just outside the cutoff for state qualifiers in both events.

"Making state is the goal, but I want to make sure I better my times," Bergin said. "I'm fine with the distance events, but I'll do any event they put me in."

The 500-yard freestyle is one of the most grueling events in swimming, but Bergin enjoys it. His personal record in the event is a swift 4:55 which he set in club competition.

"Usually, the shorter events are taken by the newer swimmers, but there's a lot of aspects I really like about the distances like the 500 free," Bergin said. "There isn't that one moment that's going to make or break you. You can make up for mistakes throughout the race."

"The 500 (freestyle) is more about pace than the 200, which is more of a sprint. When I do the 200, I kind of hate it. But afterwards, it's just a totally different feeling."

Bergin doesn't coast on his natural talent. "Caleb is a quality swimmer because of how hard he works," said West swimming and diving coach Kelly Van Sistine. "Often times, he completes workouts set by himself because he's a distance swimmer and nobody on our team can keep up with him."

"That shows how self-motivated he is. He works hard even when no one is looking. I've always appreciated that about him."

In addition to high school competition, Bergin has competed with the OSHY (club) swim team for years. His sister, Kathryn, was a former West swimmer and a major reason why Bergin began making regular visits to the pool at the age of six.

"My mom put both of us on the OSHY



club team after we passed a swim test at the Omro pool," said Bergin. "I can't say that I was really good at it, but it was something I really enjoyed. With my sister doing it, sibling rivalry is always a thing. I always wanted to be faster than her. So that pushed me and I got better."

Bergin is a versatile athlete, but many people don't know about the other sport he excels in. He's a highly competitive BMX racer who competes at the Winnebago County Fairgrounds and across the region.

"It's a lot different than swimming," said Bergin. "It's more physical and I like that aspect. It's just different. You need confidence in your bike skills and in your equipment because sometimes you find yourself flying through the air."

Bergin owns two BMX bikes: a Speedco cruiser with 24-inch wheels and another with standard 20-inch wheels. He races in cruiser and expert classes.

Bergin has been competing in BMX for close to 10 years.

"My parents were friends with another family (the Haemmerle family) and their kid (Diesel) was doing it, so they brought me out to try it one day and I got really hooked on it," said Bergin. "I just found a lot of joy in it and I've made countless relationships through BMX."

Bergin did experience a major injury through BMX: a broken collarbone suffered in the eighth grade.

"I was pretty young then, so I bounced back pretty quick," Bergin said. "It never became a problem."

Bergin will use his swimming skills and the mental toughness he's gained through BMX in his next venture. He will enter the U.S. Navy this summer and train to be an air rescue swimmer.

"I really wanted to serve my country," he said. "I'll be one of those people jumping out of helicopters. The way I see it, I've been swimming for a long time and I'm pretty good at it. And then you combine that with the adrenaline rush you get from BMX - that should help me adjust to it. Plus, being a kid from Oshkosh, Wiscon-



Submitted photo

Oshkosh West senior Caleb Bergin is both an accomplished swimmer for the Wildcats and a talented BMX rider.

sin, I've always loved EAA. Helicopters and planes always intrigued me."

Bergin is still very interested in college. In fact, one of the reasons why he enrolled in the Navy was to get much of his future schooling paid for. Bergin is a solid student, who carries a 3.5 grade point average. He's interested in either business or engineering as a future major.

"I didn't really want to be attend college right after high school. I wanted to wait so I could get through college mostly debt-

free," Bergin said. "So I signed on for six years, including some time in Pensacola, Florida which will be a nice change of pace from Wisconsin. But I'm definitely planning on college."

Until then, Bergin is looking to close his high school swimming career in style by qualifying for the state meet.

"That's the goal, but I really want to see what this team can do," he said. "It's a lot smaller team than we've had in past years, but we have some talented guys."



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Fall sports all-conference roundup

FOOTBALL

Plenty of Spartans honored by FRCC

A host of Oshkosh North players were recognized by the Fox River Classic Conference on the FRCC South Division all-conference teams.

Senior quarterback Bryce Ott, senior wide receiver Dalton Clark and senior outside linebacker Andrew Oehler each received special recognition from the league.

Ott was named the Co-Offensive Back of the Year, while Clark was named the Receiver of the Year in the conference. Oehler shared the Linebacker of the Year honors on defense.

Ott threw for 2,252 yards and 31 touchdowns with just five interceptions on the season. He completed better than 62 percent of his passes this season, while also rushing for 233 yards and three scores.

Clark was North's top receiver hauling in 71 passes for 1,192 yards and 13 touchdowns, despite drawing the attention of the defenses he faced. He also averaged 7.1 yards on 16 carries as a runner.

Oehler finished second on the team with 91 tackles on the year, while leading the team with 13 tackles-for-loss. He also led the team with 5.5 sacks, forced two fumbles, had two fumble recoveries and intercepted three passes.

Ott and Clark were both unanimous choices on the first-team offense and were joined on the squad by senior running back Jamare Scott and sophomore offensive lineman Lucas Davis. Scott finished the year with 901 yards rushing, 432 yards receiving and 20 total touchdowns.

The remaining fall sports all-conference teams will be listed in next week's edition.

In addition to Oehler, who was a unanimous first-team choice, senior Max Rohr at defensive back and sophomore Eli Ott at inside linebacker also earned first-team nods. Rohr shared the team lead with five interceptions, while Eli Ott ranked third on the team with 87 tackles.

Second-team honors on offense went to junior offensive lineman Mason Geiger, while senior defensive end Cole Meiselwitz and senior defensive back Tyler Farnsworth were also named to the second team.

Senior outside linebacker Andrew Brockman and junior inside linebacker Manny Tlatelpa were honorable mention selections.

Senior Mason Krings was named to the second-team at punter and was honorable mention at kicker.

Reed leads all-FVA selections for West

Senior kicker Elliott Reed was the lone Oshkosh West player to earn first-team honors on the all-Fox Valley Association lists.

Reed, one of two kickers named on the first team, hit all 10 of his extra points this season and was 6-of-10 on field goal tries with a long of 47 yards.

The Wildcats had three players named to the second team in senior defensive lineman Joey Ware, sophomore cornerback Billy Berg and junior return specialist Owen Heim.

Heim also earned honorable mention honors at wide receiver and was joined by

senior offensive lineman Camden Martin, junior inside linebacker Melvin Byes and junior safeties Cade Heiman and Ethan Bowman.

Bauer, Gomez top Knights' all-Trailways picks

Junior quarterback Brady Bauer and senior lineman Tristan Gomez each garnered special recognition from the Trailways Conference after helping lead the Knights to the conference title.

Bauer was named the Offensive Player of the Year in the conference, while Gomez shared Offensive Lineman of the Year honors.

Bauer, who took over at quarterback for last year's Offensive Player of the Year in the conference, Wade Lindahl, ran for 1,197 yards and 23 touchdowns this season, while completing nearly 71 percent of his passes for 1,620 yards and 15 touchdowns with just three interceptions.

Gomez anchored an offensive line that allowed Knights' ball carriers to average 6.2 yards per carry this season. He was a second team all-Trailways selection last season.

Both Bauer and Gomez were unanimous first-team selections on offense with senior Brady Ridenour also earning unanimous first-team honors as an offensive flex player. Ridenour rushed for 695 yards and nine touchdowns this season.

Joining that trio on first team was junior receiver Lucas Neuens, who led the Knights with 62 receptions for 853 yards and nine touchdowns. He also had a rushing touchdown this season and averaged 23.8 yards per carry.

Bauer was also a unanimous first-team selection on defense at outside linebacker after finishing the year with 61 tackles, 5.5 sacks, two forced fumbles and an interception.

Five other Knights earned first-team defense honors in junior inside linebacker Max Behnke, junior defensive end Harlan Kuehn, senior defensive lineman Jacob Bogardus and senior defensive flex player Ryder Mullen, while Neuens was also selected at defensive back.

Behnke led the Knights with 106 tackles on the year, while Kuehn finished with team-highs in sacks (7.5) and tackles-for-loss. Bogardus racked up 63 tackles and three fumble recoveries, while Mullen led the team with six interceptions. Neuens

added four picks, including one he returned for a touchdown.

Senior Mat Yaggie rounded out the first-team selections for the Knights at both punter and kicker, where he was a unanimous first-team choice. Yaggie was 52-of-55 on extra-point kicks and 8-of-10 on field goals, whole averaging 32.9 yards per punt.

Kuehn at tight end and Behnke on the offensive line earned second-team offense honors, while Ridenour at inside linebacker, senior defensive back Johnny Santiago and junior defensive back Michael Santiago were on the honorable mention list.

Senior Henry Geck was named to the conference's all-Sportsmanship Team.

Wallace, Behling headline Warrior honorees

Seniors Derek Wallace and Matthias Behling led the way for Valley Christian on the all-conference teams this season.

Wallace was a first-team selection at running back, linebacker and kicker, while earning second-team honors at punter. Behling was first-team at both wide receiver and defensive back.

Wallace finished as the team's leading rusher with 861 yards and 16 touchdowns on the season, while also catching eight passes for 114 yards and two scores. On defense he totaled 51 tackles and a fumble recovery, while finishing the year 32-of-39 on PAT kicks, while also blasting nine touchbacks.

Behling, who shifted to wide receiver for his senior season, was the top pass catcher for the Warriors with 38 receptions for 530 yards and six touchdowns. He also had 11 carries for 111 yards and three touchdowns. Behling also finished with a team-high eight interceptions and a fumble recovery on the year.

Two other Warriors earned first-team honors in junior tight end Xavier Osinga and sophomore defensive back Sam Gloudeans. Osinga finished with seven catches for 93 yards on the season, while Gloudeans led the team in tackles with 82 and had four interceptions.

Gloudeans was also a second-team selection at running back and was joined on the second team by junior Mason Everts at quarterback, junior Ben Curtis at both offensive and defensive line, junior inside linebacker Ian Kramer and junior defen-

SEE **All-conference** ON PAGE 17

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All-conference

FROM PAGE 16

sive end Liam Clayton.

Rounding out the honorees for Valley Christian were honorable mention selections Osinga at defensive end, junior Cole Highfill at defensive back, senior offensive lineman Ryan Koller and junior offensive lineman Seblo Maldonado.

Senior Carter Belville was named to the all-conference Sportsmanship Team.

VOLLEYBALL

West's Nelson earns top honors in FVA

Oshkosh West senior Sydnee Nelson capped her outstanding volleyball career by earning Player of the Year honors in the Fox Valley Association.

Nelson was a three-time first-team all-FVA selection and was a unanimous

choice on the top team the past two seasons, including this year. She was an honorable mention selection as a freshman.

Nelson, who will play at Belmont University next year, led the Wildcats this season with 407 kills. She also finished with 185 digs, 38 aces and 23 total blocks.

Nelson was one of two Wildcats to earn first-team honors as she was joined by senior setter MaKaelyn Clark on the eight-member squad.

Clark, who was an honorable mention all-FVA selection last year, led West in assists with 769, while ranking second in aces (47) and digs (91). She also totaled 66 kills on the season.

Earning second-team honors for the Wildcats was sophomore outside hitter Emma Liebergen, while senior libero Elaina Butz was named on the honorable mention list.

Oshkosh North did not have any players recognized.

Giannopoulos named POY in Trailways East

Valley Christian senior Anna Giannopoulos was named the Player of the Year in the Trailways East and was one of a handful of Warriors to garner all-conference recognition.

Giannopoulos, who was a unanimous first-team selection for the second straight season, led the conference champion Warriors with 323 kills on the season, while also pacing the team in digs with 347. She ranked second on the squad in aces with 53.

Joining Giannopoulos on the first team from Valley Christian was senior middle hitter Lizzie Fink, who ranked second on the team with 283 kills, while topping the Warriors with 33 total blocks. She also contributed 33 aces. Fink was a second-team all-conference selection last season.

Lourdes Academy was also represented on the first team by senior outside hitter Anika Leitch. Leitch finished with 342

kills on the season – nearly double the next highest player for the Knights – while also leading the team with 85 aces and ranking second on the team with 254 digs.

Leitch was an honorable mention selection last season.

The Knights landed a pair of players on the second team in senior Elizabeth Guerrero and junior Celia Ralofsky, while Valley Christian freshman Laila Gostas-Sims also earned a spot on the seven-member second team.

Gostas-Sims was the only freshman to be recognized on the first and second teams.

Valley Christian sophomore Lydia Hardy and freshman Brielle Birr along with Lourdes Academy freshman Naomi Liabwill received honorable mention recognition.

Lourdes Academy senior Aubrey Schettle and Valley Christian senior Raven Meyer were named to the all-conference Sportsmanship Team.

Obituaries

Rose M. Kromm

Rose M. Kromm, age 88, of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully, surrounded by



family on Tuesday, December 16, 2025. She was born on March 14, 1937, in Wauwatosa, daughter of the late Marie Langlitz.

On June 29, 1957, Rose married Floyd P. Kromm, in Oshkosh, at Zion Lutheran Church, and together they built a life filled with laughter and family and enjoyed 67 years of marriage together.

She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, who eagerly attended as many sporting events, musicals, and recitals as she could. She was so proud of everything that her children and grandchildren accomplished. Rose was primarily a homemaker, a woman with a kind heart, living life day-to-day,

and spending time with her family was her greatest joy. She did enjoy a few part-time jobs, mostly with Miles Kimball during the holiday season for over 25 years.

Our family enjoys, to this day, the Christmas ornaments and decorations she would gift us with through her time at Miles Kimball.

In retirement, Rose helped raise her two grandchildren and was always available for whatever was needed. Along with her husband, she enjoyed the simple pleasures in life, taking things one day at a time, spending time with family, spoiling her fur-baby, doing painting-by-numbers, watching the Green Bay Packers, and going to rummage sales.

Rose is survived by her children, Debbie (Tod) Schmick and Bob (Lauren) Kromm; sisters, Shirley Zumstein and Barb (Mark) Hannan; brothers, Ron (special friend Joy) Knoblauch and Don (Dorell) Knoblauch; and sister-in-law, Jean (Leon) Klatt; grandchildren, Brandon (Kati), Matthew (Cassidy), Erin, Christy (Chad) and Becky (Jason); along

with seven great-grandchildren, Gage, Ella, Marin, Alayna, Logan, Olivia and Brielle. She is further survived by many nieces and nephews, as well as her beloved feline companion, Molly.

Along with her parents, Rose was preceded in death by her husband, Floyd; brother-in-law, Henry Kromm, Jr.; and sisters-in-law Wilma Wilson and Lois Kromm.

Visitation will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 26 at Lake View Memorial Chapel, 2786 Algoma Blvd., Oshkosh, WI, until the time of service at 11:00 am with Rev. Jeffrey Knoll officiating, with interment to follow. Any monetary do-

nations will be put toward a local charity/memorial in her honor, yet to be determined.

We would like to give special thanks to her kind friend and neighbor, Tom Wiesheipl, who helped her with everyday needs, and whatever was needed, while she remained in the family home.

The family is also grateful to the staff at Ascension-Mercy and Compassus Hospice for their wonderful care. A special thank you as well to Pastor Knoll for his care, concern, and visiting her during this time.



Karen Sue Anderson Ruby

Karen Sue Anderson Ruby. Born June 10, 1965. Died December 14, 2025.



After a heroic battle with ovarian cancer, Karen died on December 14, 2025, and passed into heaven.

She has been a 30+ year resident of Oshkosh, WI and has worked for many years in the mortgaging processing de-

partment with the U.S. Bank of Oshkosh. She has been active in the local VFW post, serving as Treasurer and in civic activities.

She is survived by her three children – Ariel Ruby and his wife Amanda, Adrian Ruby and Carmen Ruby; and her husband, Stephen Ruby. Also, brother, Alan Anderson, Sacramento, CA; and parents, Glenn and Anita Anderson, Sugar Grove, IL.

She will be missed greatly...



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Obituaries

Paul Andrew Drexler

Paul Andrew Drexler, age 72, went to heaven on Wednesday, December 17, 2025 after an unexpected and massive heart attack.



Paul was born Pi Yung Ho in Jechon, South Korea on February 5, 1953 to an unknown American GI and a Korean woman. He lived with the Pi Sun Dae family until his adoption through the Green Bay Diocese in 1964.

Frank and Betty (White) Drexler welcomed Paul into their family in Oshkosh where he attended school at Sacred Heart and Oshkosh West, graduating in 1972. Paul worked in several area restaurants in his younger days, but eventually became a welder. He worked at JI Case in Winneconne for 10 years, and at Oshkosh Corporation for 30 years until his retirement in 2014.

Paul loved life and often wondered how he was so fortunate to be in the US and have this wonderful life. He made the most of it: he loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing both summer and winter, skiing, boating, bowling, and playing pool. His first love (besides Connie) was golf. After retirement, Paul had his dream job working for the past 10 years at FarVu Golf

Course. In the past couple of years, he discovered Pickleball and it was becoming his winter passion.

Paul was adventurous and loved to travel. He returned twice to his native Korea, the second time with his daughter Heidi. They miraculously were able to track down the "brother" he had grown up with and had a heartfelt reunion. When Heidi moved from Alaska to Reno, NV, the two of them drove the entire Alaskan Highway from Fairbanks to Seattle together—a memorable and harrowing trip that included a close encounter with a bear. The 5-day rafting trip down the Snake River in Idaho with Heidi and Bill was also an adventure, as was hunting in the mountains of Nevada and Arizona. He and Connie traveled together to Alaska twice, Nevada, Arizona and Montana, Mexico and a Caribbean Cruise, and to China. They also vacationed in Las Vegas, San Diego, North Carolina, Iowa, Bayfield, Door County and took many trips to Florida.

Paul will be unbearably missed by his wife Connie, sons Joshua (Carrie) Drexler and Mickie (Sarah) Schneider, daughters Heidi (William) Kloth and Toni Schneider. He adored his grandchildren; Brynn, Mia and Nora Drexler and Weston and Roman Kloth. His loss will be deeply felt by his Drexler Sibs: Margaret (Jerry) Beck, Irene (Randy) Walter, Roseann (Terry), Marie (Scott) Metz, Michael P.

Drexler, Kevin (Kathy) Drexler and Joe Drexler. Paul will be missed by his many nieces and nephews and tons of friends and co-workers.

Visitation will be held for Paul on Tuesday, December 30 at Fiss and Bills Poklasny Home on Westhaven Drive in Oshkosh from noon to 2:00 pm with a service at 2:00 led by Father Louis Golarini. After interment at Riverside Cemetery, a Celebration of Paul's Life will be held at Local 578 Union Hall, 2920 Oregon St. Oshkosh.

The family sends their deepest appreciation to the First Responders and ER staff at Aurora Medical Center Oshkosh, and the Cardio Vascular ICU staff at St. Luke's Hospital in Milwaukee, in addition to the Pickleball "family" at the Oshkosh Rec Department, specifically Jesse Anderson for his quick response.

FISS & BILLS - POKLASNY
FUNERAL HOMES
& CREMATORY

Janet Oline Schettl

Janet Oline Schettl (Challoner) passed away on December 9, 2025, at Bethel Home in Oshkosh, Wi. Services took place on Friday, December 19, 2025 followed by burial at Omro Cemetery.



Dorothy L. Proehl

Dorothy L. Proehl, age 78, passed away on December 15, 2025, at Cherry Meadows in Appleton, Wisconsin, surrounded by the love of her family.



Born on April 29, 1947, in West Bend, Wisconsin, Dorothy was the daughter of the late Earl Little and Dorothy Little (Rymer). She devoted her career to administrative work and built a warm home with her husband, Marshall Proehl, where family always came first. A wonderful mother and grandmother, she lived for her family and turned everyday moments into memories.

A master seamstress, she crafted everything from curtains and clothing to costumes—and her handmade mittens remain a cherished testament to her love and skill.

Dorothy is survived by her daughter, Jodi (Phillip) Plagge; her son, Erik (Laura Koehn) Proehl; grandchildren, Chance (Aly) Proehl and Analeis Plagge; and great-grandchild, Ruth Proehl; along with extended family and dear friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband, Marshall; and many more dear loved ones who went before her.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials may be directed to Wounded Warrior Project.



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Obituaries

Caleb Asher Cook

December 8th, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce we lost our little baby boy, Caleb Asher, on Monday, December 8th. Caleb had a rare chromosomal disorder, Edward's syndrome (Trisomy 18), and he was born stillborn. Our time with him was short, and he is deeply loved and missed.

Although we are heartbroken over the loss of our baby boy, we find joy this Christmas in celebrating the birth of another baby boy - Jesus. As Luke 2:10-11 says, *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."*

In 2 Samuel 12:23, as King David mourns the loss of his son, he says, *"...I will go to him, but he will not return to me."* This is our hope and assurance during this time of mourning. Because God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, Jesus, and whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life, we have a living hope. We know Caleb is with our loving Savior Jesus, completely healed, and because of Jesus, we will go to him someday.

The loss of our son is at times unbearable, but a day is coming when God will dwell with us and He will wipe away every tear and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain. Until then, we rest in a peace that surpasses all under-



standing, a peace this world cannot offer. This peace is found in the gift of salvation and eternal life that God has given us through Jesus.

Isaiah 40:11 - He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Job 1:21 - The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

John 16:33 - "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Merry CHRISTmas,
Matt and Bethany

Judith A. Kallman Walsh

Judith A. (Eiden) Kallman Walsh, age 74, of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully on December 17, 2025, at The Courtyard of Oshkosh, surrounded by her loving family. Born on August 29, 1951, to the late Frank and Gloria (Hill) Eiden, Judy lived a life rich in love and dedication.

Judy's journey began in raising two wonderful children with her first husband, Joel Kallman. She later found companionship with her husband, Michael Walsh, who preceded her in death. Throughout her life, Judy was known for her unwavering spirit, working at The Radford Company for many years, where she ascended to the role of Director of Human Resources, a position that was a testament to her dedication and expertise.

A faithful member of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Judy cherished her faith and community. An avid runner, she epitomized an active lifestyle, reminding all those around her of the importance of health and perseverance. Her passion for antiquing showcased her eye for beauty and history, which she adored sharing with her family and friends.

Above all, Judy's heart belonged to her family. She adored her children, Lukas and Annah, as well as their partners Stacy Deshasier and Christian Fruhwirth, and cherished every moment spent with her grandchildren—Austyn, Madelynn, Charlie, and Harper—and her great-grandchildren, Caysen, Eve, and Elowyn; sisters, Susan (Ken) Sawitski and Mary (Mark Stadler) Eiden; former husband, Joel Kallman.

To honor Judy's life, a memorial service will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Eastside, 402 Waugoo Ave., Oshkosh, WI, on Monday, December 29, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Rev. Chadwick Graham will officiate the service. Family and friends are invited to gather for visitation at the funeral home from 11:00 a.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in her memory, allowing her spirit to live on in the hearts of those she touched. The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the staff of The Courtyard and Preceptor Hospice for the exceptional care provided during Judith's final days. May her legacy of love, strength, and joy continue to inspire all who knew her.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

Fort Myers, FL. Marlene enjoyed golfing, bowling, and spending time with friends. Grandchildren were the joy of Marlene's life. She was so proud of them and their accomplishments. Marlene was also very proud of her career with the US Postal Service, retiring as the Postmaster of Buttes des Morts.

The family is grateful to the staff at Oakwood Manor and Generations Hospice for their wonderful care. Please consider donations to Alzheimer's Association or your favorite charity in Marlene's memory.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

Marlene Dega

Marlene Dega passed away peacefully on 12/06/25 at the age of 93. She was born on September 8, 1932 to Rudolph and Sylvia Tester Hoger and grew up in Winneconne, Wisconsin. Marlene moved to Oshkosh after graduation from high school where she met and married Robert Dega. Together they raised three children, Vicki, Laurie, and James.

Marlene and Bob loved spending summers on their houseboat and winters in



Jeffrey H. Walter

Jeffrey H. "Wally" Walter, age 73, of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully at his home on Wednesday, December 17, 2025. He was born on June 8, 1952 in Oshkosh a son of the late Harry J. and Ruth C. (Schertz) Walter. Wally proudly served his country in the US Army. He had worked for 25 years at the Square D Company until it closed and then worked for and retired from Aurora Medical Center until retirement. Hobbies he enjoyed over the years were that of hunting and fishing and camping with his family.

He is survived by and his memory will be cherished by two sons, Jeremy Walter and Jarmen (Tracy) Walter, both of Oshkosh; a daughter, Janyne (Matthew) Erickson also of Oshkosh; a brother, Harry Walter of Madison; four sisters, Carol Horejs and Mary (John) Tyler, both of Oshkosh, Beverly Schink of Kaukauna and Cathy (Chuck) Hinze of Watertown; nine grandchildren, Alexis Vogelien, Logan Walter, Nolan Walter, Avah Walter, Jackson Walter, Jarmen Walter, Gabriel Walter,

Lucas Erickson and Natalee Erickson. He is further survived by a great grandson, Briggs Walter, other relatives and many dear friends. He was preceded in death by a brother and sister-in-law, David (Judy) Kiesow; brother-in-laws, David Horejs and Steven Schink; a brother, Gary Walter and a daughter in law, Jessica Walter.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Wally on Wednesday, December 31, 2025 at 11 am in St. Raphael Catholic Church, 830 S. Westhaven Drive in Oshkosh with the Rev. Tom Long as celebrant. Full military honors will follow the mass. A time of visitation will be held at the church on Wednesday from 10 am until the time of mass. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery Oshkosh.



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Legal Notices

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: Julie Ann Sonnenschein By (Petitioner) Julie Ann Sonnenschein

Notice of Name Change Hearing Case No. 2025CV001158

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From:
First - Julie
Middle - Ann
Last - Sonnenschein
To:
First - Julie
Middle - Ann
Last - Faust

Birth Certificate:
First - Julie
Middle - Ann
Last - Faust

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin: Judge's Name: Hon. Michael D. Rust
Place: Winnebago County Courthouse, Room 410, 415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901
Date: January 14, 2026
Time: 2:30 p.m.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4811 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.
NOTICE TO NEWSPAPER AND PETITIONER: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the following newspaper Herald.
BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: December 4, 2025 /s/ Hon. Michael D. Rust Winnebago County Circuit

Court Judge, Branch 1 Runs: December 17, 2025, December 24, 2025 and December 31, 2025.

WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: Erik James Meyer Notice of Name Change Hearing Case No. 25CV1202

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From:
First - Erik
Middle - James
Last - Meyer
To:
First - Erika
Middle - Jean
Last - Meyer

Birth Certificate:
First - Erik
Middle - James
Last - Meyer

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin: Judge's Name: Scott C. Woldt
Place: Winnebago County Courthouse, 415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901
Date: 1/22/26
Time: 8:30 AM

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4828 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.
NOTICE TO NEWSPAPER AND PETITIONER: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the following newspaper Oshkosh Herald.
BY THE COURT: DATE FILED: December 17, 2025 Runs: December 24, 2025, December 31, 2025 and January 7, 2026.

WNAXLP

Kid Scoop

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The grid below is filled with pictures of symbols of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. Match each group of symbols on the right with the same four symbols, in the exact same position, on the large grid below.

Standards Link: Visual Arts: Know how symbols are used to communicate meaning.

Find the differences between these ice-skating elves.

Now find the differences between each elf and his own reflection!

Standards Link: Investigation: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Festive Flower

A flower from Mexico has become a traditional holiday decoration in the United States. In Mexico it is called the "Flower of the Holy Night." Write the letter that comes BEFORE each of the letters below to find out what it is called north of the Mexican border.

Q P J O T F U U J B

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Oh, Deer!

Can you find the reindeer drawing Ellen Elf created? Her drawing has all of these features:

- round nose
- 7 bells
- full moon
- curvy horns
- big smile
- short tail

Standards Link: Visual Arts: Know how symbols are used to communicate meaning.

Maximum Baggage

Santa wants the elves to fill his bag as full as possible. But one silly elf has tinkered with the order sheets, scrambling the digits in the numbers. Help the elves by rearranging the digits in each number to make it as large as possible.

Standards Link: Number Sense: Know place value to the 1,000th place.

Kid Scoop Together: Funny Filler

Have a friend give you each type of word to fill in the blanks. Then read the story aloud!

My family celebrates the holidays in a rather unusual way.

We always decorate a _____ with lots of _____.

Then we go from door to door, singing songs about _____.

Sometimes, the neighbors will _____ along with us.

My mom will wrap several _____ and place them under a _____.

My sister and I bake some tasty _____ and sprinkle _____ on them.

The day ends with everyone opening their _____.

Then we _____ upstairs to bed, thinking back on what a _____ day we had and looking forward to New Year's Eve, when our celebration gets *really* _____!

Standards Link: Grammar: Understand and use nouns, adjectives and verbs correctly.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Which ornament would you get by putting the broken pieces together?

Standards Link: Mathematical Reasoning: Use a variety of strategies to solve problems.

Double Double Word Search

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

FESTIVE BAGGAGE

FULL

ELF

MEXICO

DIGITS

NOSE

SANTA

NIGHT

SYMBOL

CURVY

KWANZAA

GRID

MOON

MANY

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

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