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## New ambulance service slated to start

By Anya Kelley  
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Southern Winnebago Emergency Medical Services (SWEMS) district is set to take over service of certain area municipalities on Monday, less than a year after the City of Oshkosh announced it would end services at the end of 2025.

In August 2023, Oshkosh announced it would be increasing the cost of EMS 93% over the next three years. After the announcement, a group of municipalities, now known as SWEMS, formed to give the smaller towns negotiating power. The municipalities covered by SWEMS include the Town and Village of Winne-

conne, Town and City of Omro, towns of Nekimi, Black Wolf, Utica, Poygan and Rushford.

“If we created a district, we would be a unified group that would give us some leveraging power when it came time

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Photo by Michael Cooney

## Holiday help

Volunteers helped to serve a holiday meal on Christmas Eve for guests at Day by Day Shelter. Executive Director Molly Yatso Butz said the shelter was full at its capacity of 50 people, as it is every night. The staff played games and watched movies with the guests, who received gifts that were donated by community members.

# Jefferson School celebrates long history of education

Oshkosh Herald

Jefferson School has been used to educate children for the past 140 years.

In that time, Cindy Bauer said the school has embraced families that have lived in the neighborhood for generations. At the same time, she said the school has always welcomed those new to the country.

“I am proud to have been a part of this Oshkosh tradition,” said Bauer, who has researched the school’s history. “My teaching career included 30 years at Jefferson and for the last 20 years I have subbed exclusively at Jefferson. I get a warm feeling when I can tell a child I taught their parents or grandparents.”

In September 2000, a new Jefferson School at 244 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. opened its doors for more generations of learners.

Richard Kempinger was the architect. He wanted the building to be new and also suit the neighborhood. The archway at the front entrance reflects the entrance to the old school.

The clock tower replaced the bell tower on the William Waters building. The front lobby is lined with cream bricks from the old building. The front lobby has a display case with memorabilia from the 140 years.

Third Ward School was located on the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and Minnesota. This frame building was erected in 1861 and cost \$2,500. The first heating system was a second hand boiler from a steamship.

The building was moved in 1885 to the corner of Oregon and 11<sup>th</sup> and became a store. Jefferson School is now celebrating 140 years of a school on the corner of Min-



Submitted photo

A new Jefferson School opened in September 2000 that reflects parts of the old building.

nesota and 11<sup>th</sup>. Bauer said many will remember the older version of the school.

“Who could forget the front staircase?” Bauer said. “The long banister was a temptation for many and a reward on the last day of sixth grade.”

Until the gym was added on the east end gym classes took place in a first-floor classroom. The playground was pavement across the front of the school and gravel behind the

SEE **Jefferson School** ON PAGE 16

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# Community invited to MLK Day celebration

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Area School District (OASD) is planning to host its second annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration.

The event from 8 to 10:45 a.m. Jan. 19 at Vel Phillips Middle School is intended to bring the community together to reflect on Dr. King's enduring call for justice and peace. This year's celebration is guided by Dr. King's powerful quote: "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."

A complimentary continental breakfast and community networking will be available from 8 to 9 a.m., followed by the program. The program highlights will include recognition of the Oshkosh Civility Project's Torchbearer honorees, presentation of the district's MLK Essay Contest winners, musical performances by OASD student choirs and a keynote address.

"Our first MLK Day celebration was inspiring, and we are excited to expand on that foundation this year," said Anthony Miller Jr., OASD Director of Communi-

ty Engagement and Equity. "This event is a vital opportunity for our students, staff and the wider community to gather, reflect on Dr. King's profound legacy, and commit to the ongoing work of creating a more just and equitable society here in Oshkosh."

The event is free and open to the public, though registration is required by Jan. 12. Attendees can RSVP through the online form at [forms.gle/QsoXwzVKnqD6Yaf58](https://forms.gle/QsoXwzVKnqD6Yaf58). More information is available online at [oshkosh.k12.wi.us/mlk-day](http://oshkosh.k12.wi.us/mlk-day).

## Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical Society

### Dec. 31, 1955

**A Great Year for Recreation in Oshkosh:** Summer playgrounds, parks and public beaches kept thousands occupied this summer. Ten playground centers had attendance of 49,311 over a 10-week period. South Park's playground had the greatest attendance with 10,737 with Dale second at 6,296. The city's three bathing beaches, Menominee Park (59,290), South Side (13,787) and West Side (21,145) drew 94,222 swimmers during the season. The pool at South Park School numbered 5,484 during the winter months and 958 boys and 974 girls attended swimming classes during the summer. The winter months saw 11 ice skating



Photo by J. Pistohl

It was a banner year for the Recreation Department in Oshkosh in 1955.

rinks available with a total attendance of 130,966. A total of 12,399 persons attended the youth dances held from September 1954 to August of this year. The dances were sponsored by the Rec Department.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Dec. 31, 1955

Happy New Year from the Winnebago County Historical Society ([www.winnebagoountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.winnebagoountyhistoricalsociety.org))

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## Oshkosh man dies in Highway 26 crash

Oshkosh Herald

A two-vehicle crash last week in Nekimi resulted in the death of an Oshkosh man.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office said that two vehicles collided at approximately 1 p.m. Dec. 22 on Wisconsin Highway 26 at Cottonwood Avenue.

The crash involved a 79-year-old man driving a passenger van and a 19-year-old man driving a pickup truck and trailer. Both men are from Oshkosh.

According to the sheriff's office, the 79-year-old man was pronounced deceased at the scene after life saving measures were performed. The pickup truck driver was not injured.

The sheriff's office did not identify either of the men involved in the incident.

The sheriff's office is investigating the crash. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the Town of Nekimi Fire Department, the City of Oshkosh Fire Department, Van Dyne Fire Department, Expert Automotive Services, the Winnebago County Highway Department and the Winnebago County Medical Examiner's Office.

## Oshkosh Chamber to recognize award winners during annual meeting

Oshkosh Chamber

The Oshkosh Chamber is holding its Annual Meeting on Jan. 15 to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year.

The 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Recognition Program will start off with a cocktail hour and live music at 5 p.m. at the Oshkosh Convention Center. Food will be available from several Oshkosh area restaurants.

The program beginning at 6:30 p.m. will recognize more than 13 award winners. Post-awards entertainment will follow at 7:30 p.m.

Corporate sponsorships and individual tickets are available. More information is available at [oshkoshchamber.com](http://oshkoshchamber.com).

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# Oshkosh Community Players present Weekend Comedy

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Community Players (OCP) will present Weekend Comedy by Jeanne & Sam Bobrick on Jan. 8-10 at The Grand Oshkosh.

The production is directed by Ambre Neuser-Gajewski and features a talented local cast.

Set in 1986 at a cabin in upstate New York, Weekend Comedy centers on two couples — one older and one younger — who are accidentally double-booked into the same cabin for a three-day Memorial Day weekend getaway.

Rather than leaving, the foursome decides to make the best of the situation and share the weekend together, leading to humorous, awkward and revealing moments as the characters navigate relationships, age and compromise.

The OCP production places a unique stamp on the script by fully embracing a farcical sitcom style, making the show more relatable to modern audiences. The performance opens as if it were a

live sitcom taping, with a welcome from the “director,” who references other sitcoms he has previously directed to kick-off the opening scene and ensuing hilarious romp.

The production showcases an ensemble cast to include Darby McCarthy, who portrays Peggy, a New York native who married her simple office-supply-selling husband at a young age and is excited to finally enjoy a vacation alone to rekindle some romance.

Zach Caldwell takes on the role of Frank, a stereotypically stubborn man struggling with aging — an insecurity amplified

when the younger couple arrives and disrupts the vacation.

Noah Matthew plays Tony, the confident young businessman who initially seems cocky but reveals emotional depth as the story unfolds, while Madeline Molchany brings high energy and warmth to the role of Jill, a young woman who spends much of the play observing the others, ultimately connecting with the older couple and embracing the weekend more than anyone else.

Weekend Comedy marks Neuser-Gajewski’s second time directing with Oshkosh Community

Players, following Drop Dead in 2022. Neuser-Gajewski has a background in theater technology, most recently working with Attic Theatre in Appleton.

“This is a great show to enjoy on a night out, especially after the holidays,” Neuser-Gajewski said. “Not only will audiences get to experience a performance at The Grand — one of the most beautiful theaters in our area — but this show is sure to bring lots of laughs.”

The show runs approximately one hour and 45 minutes and contains some drinking, a small amount of cursing and light romantic playfulness.

With its relatable characters and energetic farce-sitcom approach, Weekend Comedy promises to be a memorable winter production for audiences looking to escape the cold and enjoy an evening of laughter.

Order tickets from The Grand Oshkosh Box Office at 920-424-2350 or by visiting thegrandoshkosh.org.



Neuser-Gajewski



Molchany



McCarthy



Matthew

## Repair Cafe provides free repairs for items

Oshkosh Herald

Items can be brought to the Downtown YMCA to be repaired during an upcoming Repair Cafe event.

The Repair Cafe will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 10 during which time items including appliances, jewelry, electronics, furniture, computers, clothing, watches and torn clothing can be repaired for free at the YMCA, 324 Washington Ave. No small engines or bicycles will be worked on at this event.

Organizers said they won’t have replace-

ment parts, so participants are asked to bring a replacement part if needed for the fixers to try to repair the piece.

This is a free service to the community. Each person is limited to bringing three items.

No firearms or weapons will be accepted.

Organizers said the best time to come is around noon or 1 p.m. The welcome desk closes at 1:30 p.m.

Contact RepairCafeOshkosh@gmail.com with any questions.

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**DiscoverOshkosh.com**

# Former theater director pleads not guilty to theft

Oshkosh Herald

A former theater director who allegedly stole thousands of dollars from a local group has pled not guilty in the case.

Justin J. Drabek, 42, served as the Oshkosh Community Players (OCP) director and prosecutors have alleged he stole money from the group to maintain his lifestyle.

Court documents show he stole upwards of \$16,000 from the OCP during his tenure as director.

Drabek appeared via Zoom for his arraignment last week in front of Judge Michael Rust.

Drabek entered a not guilty plea for the sole count of theft in a business setting between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

If found guilty, Drabek could face three years in prison followed by up to three years of extended supervision.

Drabek could also be ordered to pay restitution to the OCP in the case.

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

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

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

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

the money.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A status hearing is scheduled for the case in February.

# Oshkosh man found guilty in fatal hit and run case

Oshkosh Herald

An Oshkosh man has been found guilty of hit and run resulting in death following a crash in October 2024.

Drake J. Dodge, 22, was able to avoid spending time in jail until he was found guilty at a plea hearing last week. However, he will now spend the next several months in jail for his role in the death of Ethan Luaders.

Dodge entered his plea of no contest to the sole count of hit and run resulting in death and was found guilty by Judge Michael Gibbs. Assistant district attorney

Anthony Prekop said the state was not asking for Dodge's bond to be revoked.

Gibbs disagreed and said due to the guilty conviction and the need to protect the public he was revoking Dodge's bond.

Dodge was driving his parents' Jeep after a night of bar hopping in Oshkosh on the night of Oct. 4, 2024, into the morning of Oct. 5. He dropped his friends off on Wright Street before heading to his parents' house. Just before 3 a.m., Dodge struck Luaders with his vehicle and proceeded to drive home.

Prekop said the plea deal outlines that

with Dodge's plea, the state will only be asking for a maximum 10 years imprisonment. This would mean five years of initial confinement in state prison followed by five years of extended supervision.

However, Gibbs could sentence Dodge to the maximum penalty of 15 years of initial confinement, followed by 10 years of extended supervision.

According to the criminal complaint, Oshkosh police were dispatched to New York Avenue and Algoma Boulevard after a 911 caller stated there was a man lying in the middle of the road just before 3 a.m.

Oct. 5. Luaders' shoes were found about 30 feet from his body.

At 11:20 a.m. that day, Dodge went to the Oshkosh Police Department with his parents to turn himself in for his involvement in the crash. He told police he had been out with friends the night before and had been to a couple of Oshkosh bars where he said he had two beers and four rum drinks.

His friends went to bed around 2:30 a.m. but Dodge decided to drive from his friend's house on Wright Street back home on Omro Road.

Dodge told police, "A dude came out" and "he was just there" and hit him with his parents' vehicle.

New evidence was admitted into the case last week that outlines the movements of Dodge through the four individuals that were with him that evening. The friends were all interviewed after Dodge was arrested.

The four admitted to being out drinking and the evidence they provided shows Dodge went to at least three bars that evening. He dropped off the group and then went back to his home in the 3400 block of Omro Road.

One of the men received a call from Dodge and court documents state, "(the defendant) indicated he thought he just hit somebody" during the phone call.

By taking the plea, Dodge avoids a four-day jury trial that was set to begin on Jan. 13. The state had put together a list of witnesses that included 15 Oshkosh police officers, the Fond du Lac County Medical Examiner and the Winnebago County Medical Examiner along with almost a dozen other witnesses.

With his \$20,000 cash bond revoked, Dodge will spend time in jail waiting for his sentencing hearing that is scheduled in April.

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**HERD *vs* BOOM**  
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# Auditions being held for Cinderella performances

Oshkosh Herald

Students in grade K-12 interested in performing on stage can audition for Cinderella presented by the Missoula Children's Theatre.

Auditions will be held at 4 p.m. Jan. 19 at The Grand Oshkosh, 100 High Ave.

No advance preparation is necessary with no cost to participate. Those auditioning are asked to arrive by 3:45 p.m. to allow time for registration. The group-style audition will last 90 to 120 minutes, and students must participate for the full duration.

Casting will be announced following

the audition. Many students who have been cast will also stay from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. for the start of rehearsal, depending on their role. A 15-minute break will take place in between.

Those auditioning must have a clear schedule for the entire week and be able to attend all rehearsals for their role. No exceptions. If the student is cast, they should be prepared to reschedule other activities during the week of the show.

Rehearsals will be from 4 to 8:15 p.m. Jan. 19 to Jan. 23 with performances at 3 and 7 p.m. Jan. 24.

## Local artists invited to join social media reflections

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Art Collective invites local artists to participate in the "Artist Reflections" social media campaign.

The OAC is launching the social initiative, which will run through early January. The campaign highlights artists' creative

journeys, recent work and reflections on the past year.

As 2025 comes to a close, artists are encouraged to share insights on their accomplishments, challenges and hopes for 2026. These reflections help the community gain a deeper understanding of the artists and their work.

Artists can participate by completing the Artist Reflections Form (found on Facebook and Instagram). Submissions will be featured on the OAC's Facebook and Instagram pages through early January.



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# SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS



Submitted photo

Cooper and Brody Scanlan were recognized during a ceremony earlier this month for their efforts to raise money for Clarity Care's Giving Tree program.

## Second graders spread spirit of generosity

Oshkosh Herald

Two local second graders recently worked together to make a difference for a local organization.

Cooper and Brody Scanlan took it upon themselves to go door-to-door in their neighborhood to raise funds for Clarity Care. The funds help individuals with varying abilities and limited resources.

Their efforts resulted in \$500 being donated to Clarity Care's Giving Tree program. Thanks to their kindness and determination, 39 gifts were purchased, helping to ensure 20 members had presents under the tree this holiday season.

In total, the Giving Tree program supported 107 members, with over 230 gifts purchased and over \$2,600 in items purchased.



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# Year in Review: New leaders shape future of community

Oshkosh Herald

In the past year, the Oshkosh area has welcomed several new leaders to top positions within the community.

Rebecca Grill started as city manager in February. She replaced Mark Rohloff, who retired after 16 years leading the city. Grill previously served 10 years as city administrator in West Allis. As the year wraps up, she has announced plans to restructure some of the city's departments as City Attorney Lynn Lorensen, parks director Ray Maurer and director of administrative services and assistant city manager John Fitzpatrick have announced plans to retire at the end of the year.

Anna Cannizzo earlier this month was selected to serve as the city's new director of cultural and enrichment services. 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.

After completing a search process, Tim Heiman was picked in April as the city's new fire chief. Heiman had previously served as the division chief of training for the Oshkosh Fire Department. Heiman replaced Mike Stanley, who led the department for six years before resigning in January.

Gordon Hintz was elected in April to serve a four-year term as Winnebago County executive. He is a former state legislator who represented the Oshkosh area in the Assembly from 2007 to 2023. Most recently, he worked as the director of a nonprofit labor-management partnership, before returning to local government.

Manohar Singh began in July as the new chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Singh had been interim president of Western Connecticut State University. He succeeded Andrew Leavitt, who had served as UWO's top leader since 2014.

The new leaders are among the top stories looking back at what has happened in 2025 as the year comes to a close.

## January

**Intersection reconstruction:** The city has been acquiring land to reconstruct one of the major headaches for Oshkosh drivers – the intersection of Oshkosh Avenue and North Sawyer Street. Since 2015 the city has been purchasing land in the area near the intersection to reconstruct the sometimes confusing and frustrating intersection. The city purchased seven properties in the area that were either purchased when they were up for sale or the property owner was contacted by the city about selling. The city needs the land to construct the intersection and will sell the land when the construction is done. The city has already done the redesigns for the intersections which will be a four-way intersection that will bring Rainbow Drive into the intersection.

**Popular attraction:** Concerns about staffing and rising costs led to plans to change how the long-running train at the Children's Amusement Center at Menominee Park is operated. After initially considering plans to discontinue operating the train, repairs were approved in the Parks Department budget to allow for the train to open for the summer. The Parks Department has proposed an on-land wheeled



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Oshkosh has a second city on Lake Winnebago after sturgeon spearing season started.

train to replace the tracked train next year. The Common Council is expected to consider the issue in January.

## February

**School remembrance:** Plans moved forward to dedicate a memorial space to the former Merrill School using bricks and other materials from the century-old building. The memorial was part of a plan to move forward with the Vel Phillips Middle School athletic facility. A track and field was constructed at Vel Phillips. A dedication ceremony for Merrill Memorial Corner was held in October as work on the lasting tribute to the school's significant place in the community's history was nearing completion.

**Sturgeon spearing:** Sturgeon spearing season went into its closing days on the Winnebago system with higher numbers than last year when warmer weather lim-

ited water access, but well below the pace of the three years before February 2024. As the second weekend of the Winnebago sturgeon spearing season came to a close, the total harvest was brought to 640, according to the state Department of Natural Resources. The biggest fish from Lake Winnebago was taken by Evan Muche (144.5-pound, 76.1-inch, F2 female).

## March

**Immigration fallout:** A Ukrainian family who rebuilt their lives in the Fox Valley under the Uniting for Ukraine program was thrown into crisis after a federal freeze on certain immigration benefits left them without valid work authorization. Tetiana and Ivan Chukhniai, who arrived legally in 2023 with their young son after fleeing the war in Kyiv, lost their jobs despite steady employment, tax compliance and commu-

SEE **Year in Review** ON PAGE 8

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- Tuesday, January 13 | 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. | Neenah
- Monday, January 19 | 10 a.m. | Oshkosh
- Tuesday, January 27 | 10 a.m. | Oshkosh

**Oshkosh Info Sessions:** Evergreen Worship & Performing Arts Center  
1130 North Westfield Street, Oshkosh, WI 54902

**Neenah Info Sessions:** DoubleTree by Hilton Neenah  
123 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah, WI 54956

Scan here to **RSVP** at [EvergreenFoxCrossing.com](https://www.EvergreenFoxCrossing.com) or call 920-450-2524

# Year in Review

FROM PAGE 7

nity ties. The pause on immigration processing left the family facing financial hardship and uncertainty about their future in the U.S.



Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Public Museum has opened its newly renovated second-floor space with separate exhibitions including one highlighting Winnebago County recreation activities.

**Historic storytelling:** The second floor of the Oshkosh Public Museum reopened after renovations to continue telling more of Oshkosh's story. The museum celebrated more than 100 years in the community with new exhibits, including "This is Winnebago," an homage to recreation in Winnebago County. The exhibit spotlights everything people do in this region, from deer hunting to sailing to sturgeon spearfishing.

## April

**School updates:** Voters in the Oshkosh Area School District approved \$197.8 million in spending to update facilities throughout the district. The referendum passed by 471 votes. It will help the dis-

trict build a new middle school, expand and renovate Carl Traeger, Franklin and Oakwood elementary schools, install air conditioning at Emmeline Cook, Lakeside and Read elementary schools, build a new auditorium at Oshkosh North High School and repurpose Perry Tipler Middle School for a prekindergarten center and recreation department. This was the second OASD referendum voters approved in five years.

**Rooftop view:** Mabel Murphy's in Oshkosh built Oshkosh's first rooftop bar. Owner Sean Felker said that he's wanted a rooftop bar in Oshkosh for almost 10 years. "We need a rooftop bar," Felker said. "The city needs it."

The rooftop bar opened in April in conjunction with the NFL Draft in Green Bay. It is now open year-round.

## May

**Literacy skills:** As students across Wisconsin and Oshkosh are struggling to learn literacy skills, one local group is focusing on developing reading outside of the classroom. Sam Coleman, the assistant superintendent of instruction at OASD, is working with students on the importance of literacy as part of SEPO's Building Literacy and Academic Confidence cohort for high school students. SEPO stands for sustainability, education and progress as one. Its founder and director, Mushe Subulwa, has put a focus on literacy, which he said has a great impact on individuals and the community. Since the high school cohort wrapped up, SEPO is already holding a similar cohort for middle school students.

**Young pitmaster:** Aiden Stollenwerk started his career as a pitmaster this year. Aiden's Butts and Other Cuts is the name of Stollenwerk's YouTube channel where he highlights his cooking experience. The



Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Seniors Center senior services manager Dan Braun for his selection as a finalist for the national 2025 SilverSneakers Instructor of the Year award.

10-year-old is known as Chef Aiden and at his young age has already participated in a barbecue competition in Green Bay.

**National recognition:** Dan Braun received national recognition for leading group exercise classes at the Oshkosh Senior Center with a smile. A group effort led to Braun, the senior services manager at the center, being named a finalist for the national 2025 SilverSneakers Instructor of the Year award. Braun has become known for bringing his unique sense of humor to the role. Braun hopes the center offers something that will meet the interests of different people throughout the community.

## June

**Satellite office:** The Oshkosh Police Department opened a new satellite location across from Opera House Square in an attempt to better monitor the downtown area. The office at 101 Algoma Boulevard provides a base for the department's Community Outreach Team. The idea of bringing an OPD presence to the downtown area was first raised after business owners expressed concerns about the homeless population in the area of Opera House Square. The downtown office is located two blocks from the city's main police station.

**Recreational access:** Winnebago County will now allow ATVs and UTVs on most county highways following a County Board vote. The updated rules permit operation at any time unless otherwise posted, require riders to be 16 or older with a valid license and insurance, and mandate head, tail and brake lights.

## July

**Campus changes:** Winnebago County

assumed ownership of the former UW Fox Cities campus as of July 1 after UW-Oshkosh stopped offering classes there. The county struck a deal to purchase Outagamie County's share of the campus for \$1 in exchange for Outagamie County receiving the Weis Earth Science Museum's collection for relocation to the History Museum at the Castle in Appleton. Winnebago County now manages the campus, operating it for public use, including keeping the Barlow Planetarium open. Plans for the future of the campus have remained undetermined as the county explores options for the child care center and other facilities, although Faith Technologies in December expressed interest in acquiring the campus as a training facility.

**Record attendance:** EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2025 set a new attendance record with approximately 704,000 visitors, surpassing the previous year's attendance of 686,000. The event featured over 10,000 aircraft, 2,543 showplanes and nearly 962 commercial exhibitors, making it the biggest aviation celebration yet. Plans are underway for EAA AirVenture 2026, scheduled to be held July 20-26.

**Veteran honored:** A 93-year-old veteran's dream came true when he received his high school diploma. Bernie Faust served in the Navy during the Korean War and now has an honorary veteran's degree from the Oshkosh West High School. Faust could not hold back his joy and excitement as he spoke about getting his diploma.

**Facility plan:** Winnebago County officials discussed a long-term facility plan over the summer that included one recommendation of a centralized \$350 million "mega building." The plan is a roadmap for the future of facilities owned by the county, facility director Mike Elder said. Former county executive Jon Doemel initiated the plan and the plan was completed under Hintz's tenure. The plan is intended to improve efficiencies, maximize use of county buildings and consider future staffing needs. The county has about 1,000 employees who work in more than 138 buildings.

## August

**Star power:** Former Oshkosh North High School basketball star Tyrese Haliburton, who currently is a member of the Indiana Pacers in the NBA, pledged a \$3 million donation over the next three years to the Oshkosh North athletic department for upgrades to the school's facilities. Haliburton returned to Oshkosh to host his second annual youth basketball camp and take part in a ceremony to name the fieldhouse at the high school to honor former head coach Frank Schade.

**Tradition returns:** After a 12-year hiatus, the Oshkosh Noon Kiwanis Club

SEE Year in Review ON PAGE 9



Oshkosh Herald

Tyrese Haliburton, sitting next to former coach Frank Schade, announced that he will be donating \$3 million to the Oshkosh North athletic department over the next three years as the fieldhouse at the high school was renamed in Schade's honor.

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| <p><b>\$3.95</b><br/>Niman Ranch Ground Pork<br/>16 oz. - (Reg. \$6.49)</p>                                  | <p><b>\$4.95/lb.</b><br/>Eggnog Mouse<br/>(Reg. \$9.99/lb.)</p>  | <p><b>\$5.95/lb.</b><br/>Seashell Crab Salad<br/>(Reg. \$10.99/lb.)</p>                          | <p><b>\$5.95/lb.</b><br/>Bang Bang Shrimp<br/>(Reg. \$10.99/lb.)</p>                       |
| <p><b>\$10.99</b><br/>Mary's Free-Range Non-GMO Chicken Breast - 3-pack</p>                                  | <p><b>\$6.95</b><br/>Sierra Nevada Peachy Little Thing Hazy IPA - 6-pack, 12 fl. oz. cans - (Reg. \$11.99)</p> | <p><b>\$6.95</b><br/>De Soi Mocktails (4 flavors) - 4-pack, 8 fl. oz. cans - (Reg. \$14.99)</p>  | <p><b>\$7.95</b><br/>San Antonio Fruit Wines (7 Flavors) - 750 ml. (Reg. \$11.99)</p>      |

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Sun. 9 AM - 7 PM

# Year in Review

FROM PAGE 8

brought back and organized the Children's Day Parade with the help of sponsors from throughout the community. The popular summertime event had previously been held from 1934 to 2013. During the event non-motorized floats marched down Ohio Street before the party started at South Park. The 2026 event is scheduled for Aug. 1.

## September

**Project Life:** The Project Life program gives Oshkosh high school students with disabilities an opportunity to learn life skills and job skills as they prepare for careers and jobs after school. Years ago these students would not receive this type of training as it was long believed that students with developmental disabilities could not hold jobs. Project Life is set to break that thinking. Students in the program hold internships at local businesses like the YMCA, Buffalo Wild Wings and Goodwill. The program runs a microenterprise business that makes snuffle mats for dogs. Project Life is for high school students and Project Search is designed for graduated students seeking employment, both are national models that OASD has adopted.

**Bridge closure:** Oshkosh's Main Street Bridge (US 45) closed for a \$6 million rehabilitation project on its electrical, mechanical and structural components, including replacing the steel grid deck. Detours are posted as the bridge is expected to remain closed to both drivers and pedestrians through April.

## October

**Concert comeback:** Broadway's Rock of Ages Band headlined the first concert



Oshkosh Herald

Discover Oshkosh Executive Director Amy Albright talks about the 1,000-foot-long mural that was installed at the Cummins plant on High Avenue that is the largest mural in Wisconsin to date.

at Oshkosh Arena in nearly two years. The arena has gone through a recent ownership transition. Due to bankruptcy filings by previous Oshkosh Arena ownership, there has not been a concert at the arena since country singer David Lee Murphy performed with his band in October 2023 as part of the XRoads 41 launch party. New management team VenuWorks of Oshkosh had been working since August 2024 to bring a concert to the venue.

**Artistic vision:** A 1,000-foot-long mural installed on the back wall of the Cummins plant on High Avenue is the largest mural in Wisconsin to date. The mural is part of a partnership with Discover Oshkosh, Cummins and the JEK Foundation

that is visible along the Oshkosh Riverwalk. The mural is one of several that have been created throughout the community, including one at the Kolf Sports Center at UWO and another at Menominee Park Zoo.

## November

**Providing assistance:** Local service agencies worked to keep up with demand as the federal government shutdown impacted payments for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). More than 17,000 Winnebago County residents rely on SNAP benefits each month. SNAP is known as FoodShare in Wisconsin. The Oshkosh Area Community Pantry was already facing funding

shortages in August when the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program expired and OACP lost \$70,000 in federal funding.

**City Center:** The Oshkosh Common Council has been discussing the potential purchase or lease of City Center. City Manager Rebecca Grill said there are so many options, meaning the council has had lots of things on the table to discuss. These options include buying all of City Center, buying some of it or leasing the space. No plans have been announced as to the property's future.

## December

**Budget cuts:** Oshkosh Area School District officials are considering how to address a projected \$5.5 million budget deficit. Administrators have proposed eliminating 70 positions as part of the budget reductions. The proposed cuts include eliminating the driver's education program and 23 elective teachers. The school board will further consider plans for the future of the district at meetings in January.

**Council changes:** The Oshkosh Common Council appointed Jacob Amos to serve on the council for the next three months to serve the remainder of Kris Larson's term on the council. Larson resigned in October. Amos works in the banking industry and serves on the city's long-range finance committee. He was one of 14 people that submitted applications to serve on the council. The term will end in April and with council members Jacob Floam and DJ Nichols announcing they are not seeking re-election, voters will be electing three council members with limited experience in local government.



Dan and his wife Jill from Appleton, WI

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Photo from Oshkosh Public Library

The new JobPod at Oshkosh Public Library connects job seekers to technology, training and support through community partnerships.

## Oshkosh Public Library launches JobPod

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Public Library is expanding its role as a community resource with the launch of JobPod, powered by Microsoft, a dedicated space that puts essential tools, training and expert guidance for job seekers right at their fingertips.

JobPod is available during regular library hours, with library staff available to help users get started and connect with career experts. Drop in anytime or reserve a session in advance through the library's website or by calling 920-236-5205.

Funded through a grant in partnership with the Fox Valley Workforce Development Board, JobPod is equipped with WiFi, a computer and career resources provided by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. As government agencies face increasing demands, libraries are stepping up as important centers

for employment support.

To celebrate the launch, the community is invited to a ribbon cutting ceremony at 8 a.m. Jan. 9 on the library's second floor. Coffee and light refreshments will be available.

"JobPod takes the Oshkosh Public Library's support for job seekers to a new level," Library Director Darryl Eschete said. "This vital partnership empowers people to take charge of their futures and move forward in their careers and lives with confidence."

JobPod was created in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Fox Valley Workforce Development Board, Nicolet Federated Library System and Brown County Libraries.

For more information, visit [oshkoshlibrary.org](http://oshkoshlibrary.org) or [jobpodwi.org](http://jobpodwi.org).

## Public library calendar

Some events require registration. Visit [oshkoshlibrary.org](http://oshkoshlibrary.org) to register or call 920-236-5203.

### Thurs., Jan. 1

Library closed

### Fri., Jan. 2

Preteen Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades 3-5

Teen Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades 6-8

### Sat., Jan. 3

Oshkosh Community Jam, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., all ages

Hack Club, 1-3 p.m., grades 9-12

### Mon., Jan. 5

Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m.

### Tues., Jan. 6

Teen Tuesday: DIY Handwarmers, 4-6 p.m.

Storytime for Grownups, 6 p.m., adults

### Wed., Jan. 7

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.

Teen Advisory Board, 4:30 p.m.

### Thurs., Jan. 8

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m.

Second Thursday Book Club, 1:30 p.m., adults

Teen Animanga Club, 4:30 p.m.

Chess Club, 5-7 p.m., all ages

### Fri., Jan. 9

JobPod Ribbon Cutting, 8 a.m., adults

Elementary Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades K-2

Young Adult Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades 9-12

### Sat., Jan. 10

Nibbles and Giggles, noon, babies to preschoolers

### Sun., Jan. 11

Movies with Friends, 1 p.m., all ages

### Mon., Jan. 12

Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m.

Let's Play Cribbage!, 5-7 p.m., all ages

### Tues., Jan. 13

Tunes and Tots, 10 a.m., babies and toddlers

Create Your Own Comics, 4-6 p.m., all

ages

Adult DIY: miniature snow globe, 6 p.m.

Stitch Together, 6:30 p.m., adults

### Wed., Jan. 14

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.

"Did you finish the book?" Club, 10:30 a.m., adults

### Thurs., Jan. 15

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m.

Adult Animanga Club, 4 p.m.

Chess Club, 5-7 p.m., all ages

### Fri., Jan. 16

Preteen Create & Chill: beaded snowflake, 4:30 p.m., grades 3-5

### Sat., Jan. 17

Wizarding: Wizard Hat and Wand-Making, 1 p.m., grades K-5

Hack Club, 1 p.m., teens

### Mon., Jan. 19

Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m.

DIY Costume Making, 3-5 p.m., kids and teens

Let's Play Cribbage!, 5:15 p.m., all ages

### Tues., Jan. 20

Snowman Stretch & Flight Lab Experiment, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., kids and teens

Winnebago Free Legal Assistance Clinic, 4:30 p.m., adults

### Wed., Jan. 21

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.

Teen Advisory Board, 4:30 p.m.

### Thurs., Jan. 22

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m.

Teen Animanga Club, 4:30 p.m.

Chess Club, 5-7 p.m., all ages

Not Your Classic Book Club, 6 p.m., adults

### Sat., Jan. 24

Wizarding: Create House Ties and Begon Potions Training, 1 p.m., grades K-5

### Mon., Jan. 26

Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m.

### Tues., Jan. 27

Tunes and Tots, 10 a.m., babies and toddlers

Banned Book Club, 6:30 p.m., adults

### Wed., Jan. 28

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.

Elementary Explorers, 4:30 p.m., grades K-5

### Thurs., Jan. 29

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m.

Chess Club, 5 p.m., all ages

### Sat., Jan. 31

Wizarding: Potions, 1 p.m., grades K-5



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5 ct. Shullsburg  
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**2.99**

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**2.99 lb**

Boneless/Skinless Chicken Breasts

**2/\$5**

24 oz Bag Ruby Sensation or Honeygold Baby Potatoes

**1.77 lb**

Honeycrisp Apples

**2/\$4**

5.5-8 oz Crystal Farms Shredded or Chunk Cheese

**2/\$5**

6-7 oz Crystal Farms Sliced Cheese

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1 lb Old World Creamery Butter

**4/\$10**

6.49-9.25 oz Select Smart Ones Entrees

**2.99**

5-40 ct Select Eggo Waffles

**3.99**

48-54 oz Select Kemps Ice Cream or Sherbet

**5.99**

4-10 ct Jimmy Dean Breakfast Sandwiches

**3.99**

11-15 oz Select Marie Callender's Pot Pies or Entrees

**4.99**

13-33 oz Palermo's Rising Crust, Primo Thin or Ragu Pizza

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Creamer

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128 oz  
Arizona  
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**79¢**  
3-3.5 oz  
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# Calendar of events

## Ongoing

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

## 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., 20<sup>th</sup> 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

## Friday, Jan. 9

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

## Saturday, Jan. 10

Winnegamie Dog Club Show, 7 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Weekend Comedy by Jeanne Bobrick and Sam Bobrick presented by Oshkosh Community Players, 2 and 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

## Sunday, Jan. 11

Winnegamie Dog Club Show, 7 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Oshkosh Youth Doubles Bowling Tournament, 10 a.m., Revs, 275 N. Washburn St.

## Wednesday, Jan. 14

Wisconsin Herd vs. Maine Celtics, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

## Thursday, Jan. 15

Oshkosh Chamber Annual Meeting, 5 p.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

EAA Speaker Series: The Beech Starship featuring Tom Carr, 7 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum

## Friday, Jan. 16

Wisconsin Herd vs. Maine Celtics, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Girls Night: The Musical, 8 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

## Saturday, Jan. 17

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

Winnebago Unit Marine Corps League Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner, 1 p.m., Winnebago Detachment Marine Corps League, 4715 Sherman Road

Wisconsin Herd vs. Westchester Knicks, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Jim Witter's Piano Men 2- The Sequel, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

## Monday, Jan. 19

Wisconsin Herd vs. Westchester Knicks, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

## Thursday, Jan. 22

Oklahoma presented by Oshkosh West Choirs, 7 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium



Photo by Michael Cooney

## Special delivery

Volunteers at Father Carr's Place 2B helped to prepare, pack and deliver meals and gifts to individuals and families throughout Winnebago County on Christmas Day. More than 1,200 Christmas dinners were prepared for the program, with food served inside the St. Mother Teresa Center and delivered across the county. The Christmas menu included baked ham, mashed potatoes, sweet corn, and dessert.

## EAA speaker series sets first presentation of the year

Oshkosh Herald

The first Speaker Series presentation of 2026 will take place Jan. 15 at the EAA Aviation Museum.

Tom Carr, an experienced test pilot, will

provide a behind-the-scenes look at the test program of the Beech Starship. The event begins at 7 p.m. and is free for EAA members and \$5 for nonmembers.

Learn more at [EAA.org/SpeakerSeries](http://EAA.org/SpeakerSeries).

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7 P.M.



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# Ambulances

FROM PAGE 1

to renegotiate the contract with Oshkosh," said Dana Woods, SWEMS assistant secretary and founding member.

After multiple failed negotiation attempts with the city, the group decided to hear from Lifestar EMS and Gold Cross about the cost and requirements to have its own ambulance service. At the time, Oshkosh officials said they would be increasing the price of service to \$37 per capita after charging \$3.60 per capita in the years prior.

Oshkosh city leaders earlier this year began floating the idea that Oshkosh Fire/EMS would only cover the contiguous communities of Black Wolf, Algoma and Nekimi, further complicating the district dynamic as representatives from Black Wolf and Nekimi sat on the SWEMS board.

In June, the Oshkosh Common Council officially decided it would cut all EMS services to the municipalities not directly contiguous to it at the end of 2025. The original contract was up for renegotiation in 2026, meaning it was cutting service a year early. Though services were offered to Black Wolf and Nekimi, those towns elected to stay with the SWEMS district.

"Hearing that they weren't going to serve us beyond the contract wasn't a surprise," Woods said. "Hearing that they were actually going to terminate the contract a year early was, but it made us thankful that we had gotten to work on it because if we had waited until June to try to



Submitted photo

Lifestar will be starting ambulance service for the Southern Winnebago Emergency Medical Services district on Monday.

start this whole effort, we [would be] six months behind the eight ball at this point."

SWEMS selected Lifestar as its provider in August and began planning facilities for two ambulances. The new cost of care is \$39.91 per capita. Woods said now that everything is said and done, the relationship with Oshkosh is cordial. Oshkosh Fire /EMS has signed a contract to be a mutual aid partner, covering calls to the Town and Village of Winneconne and the Town and City of Omro when both SWEMS units are in use.

"To quote something that Chairman (Brian) Noe, who I work with in the Town of Omro, has said many times, 'We started out being told for many months that there

was no other way, but we went out and found options,'" Woods said. "Not only have we found a way to provide paramedic level service at a per capita cost, but the ambulances are no longer all being deployed from within the city limits anymore either, which should improve response times, too."

One unit will be stationed in the City of Omro with the purpose of serving Winneconne, Omro, Poygan and Rushford. The other unit will be stationed in Nekimi and used to serve Black Wolf, Nekimi and Utica. Mutual aid agreements have been signed with Oshkosh Fire, North Fond du Lac EMS, Berlin EMS, Gold Cross and Waushara County EMS.

Heather Krueger, the acting interim supervisor for SWEMS, has onboarded the first set of employees, and both crews will be ready to operate on the turnover deadline.

"I think this situation is a good example of how local leaders must be willing to take on tough challenges they might not have anticipated ever having to deal with when they were first elected or appointed," Woods said. "There were some major frustrations along the way, and times when I questioned whether my time and effort would be better spent focusing on coming up with a solution to serve just the town I work for rather than several communities that had trouble seeing eye-to-eye at times. But I'm extremely proud of those who ultimately ended up serving on the newly created ambulance board and the work they've accomplished in such a short time since they all came together. The residents in those communities should be proud of those board members, too."



Submitted photo

Third Ward School was located on the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Minnesota Street.

# Jefferson School

FROM PAGE 1

building.

"In the winter Jefferson had the best ice rink in town because of the gravel," Bauer said. "There were many fond memories, not to mention the many teachers, principals and custodians that made sure students had a good experience at Jefferson School."

When Jefferson School (Eleventh Street Grammar School) opened in 1885, there were 405 students in grades 1-8. The school was designed by William Waters, and it was the first school in Oshkosh with indoor toilets.

During the daytime the children attended and in the evenings their parents came to learn English.

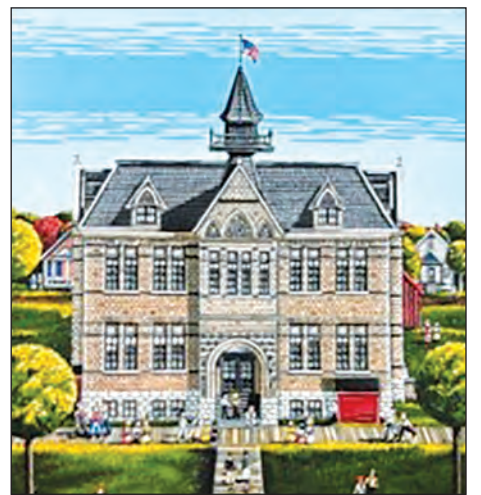
In 1891 the custodian, John Hagene, moved his family of four children into the basement. This made it much easier to tend the furnaces.

In 1906 an addition was added on the west side of the building. In 1911 the school was renamed Jefferson with the donation of the Thomas Jefferson bust.



Painting by Ray Pable

Jefferson School has been educating the youth of Oshkosh since 1885.



Painting from Dan Radig's collection

Eleventh Street Grammar School opened in 1885 and was renamed Jefferson School in 1911.

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# First set of performers announced for EAA AirVenture 2026

Oshkosh Herald

Performers have started to be announced for next year's EAA AirVenture, with the announcement that aircraft restorations from Austria's The Flying Bulls collection will be making an appearance during the week.

The Flying Bulls performers will be making their only public U.S. air show appearance in 2026 when they arrive at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh for the 73rd edition of the EAA's fly-in convention, July 20-26 at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh.

The Flying Bulls, based in Salzburg, Austria, made the announcement on Dec. 10 during the International Council of Air Shows convention in Las Vegas, Nev. The restored airplanes showcased will be a Douglas DC-6B and a Lockheed P-38 Lightning, each of which have fascinating stories behind their discovery and restoration.

The P-38 is the only flying example of the model in Europe and an example of the twin-tail fighter aircraft developed by Lockheed during WWII. It was shipped from America to Europe and is currently housed at The Flying Bulls' Hangar-7 in Salzburg.

The DC-6B was built in 1958 and was first owned by the Yugoslavian airline JAT. The country's head of state, Marshall Josef Tito, sold the airplane to Zambia leader Kenneth Launda as a luxury personal transport in the 1970s. The airplane was abandoned in the Zambian capital's Lusaka Airport but was rescued by the Flying Bulls in 2000, after which a three-year restoration brought it back to glory.

"The moment has arrived - we are crossing the Atlantic and we're coming to Oshkosh," said Eskil Ambal, CEO of The Flying Bulls. "Our ride across the Atlantic is in a DC-6, just as she was meant to do. But we couldn't let her go alone. You never, ever, ever leave your



Photos from The Flying Bulls

Above: The beauty and elegance of The Flying Bulls' DC-6B is shown as it flies over the mountain valleys near its Austrian base.

At right: The Flying Bulls' Lockheed P-38 Lightning races over the ground near its base in Austria.



wingman. So the P-38 is coming with her."

The Flying Bulls collection consists of more than 40 aircraft ranging from World War II fighters to modern helicopters. It was founded by Tyrolean Airlines pilot Sigi Angerer in the 1980s and found support from Red Bull founder Dietrich Mateschitz to create The Flying Bulls in 1999. Since then, the combination of technical excellence and stunning looks has made stars out of The Flying Bulls.

The Flying Bulls aircraft coming to Oshkosh will be featured on the event's showcase Boeing Plaza and will also appear in the EAA AirVenture afternoon air shows.

## KNOX *New Year's Day* FURNITURE GALLERY OF NEENAH **Warehouse Sale**

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## Fall sports all-conference roundup

### SOCCER

#### Richardson garners top honors in Flyway

Lourdes Academy/Valley Christian senior Kaleb Richardson was named the Player of the Year in the Flyway Conference and led a host of Knights on the all-league squads.

Richardson, who attends Valley Christian, was the top goal-scorer for the Lourdes/Valley squad finishing the season with 15 goals. He also picked up eight assists on the season.

Richardson was one of four Knights to be named to the all-Flyway first team.

Fellow senior Isaac Rucinski was also chosen at an attacking position. Rucinski led the Knights in assists (11) and points (39), while totaling 14 goals. Senior defenders Quin Ruark and Brett Maki also earned first-team honors after anchoring a defense that allowed just five goals the entire season and posted 14 shutouts. Ruark also had a pair of goals on the season.

Junior Matt Loker and sophomore Elijah Troiber, both attacking players, were each named to the second team and were joined on the honorable mention list by junior Jackson Buttke, junior Micah Humiston and sophomore Josiah Franz.

#### West, North each land player on FVA first team

Oshkosh West senior Brayden Kufel and Oshkosh North junior Cooper Snell were each named to the 15-member all-league first team in the Fox Valley Association.

Kufel and Snell were among the seven midfielders named to the first team. Both players earned all-conference recognition for the first time.

Spartans' senior midfielder Gerome Mtabi and Wildcats' junior defender Carson Choinski were each named to the second team. Mtabi played in the mid-

field, while Choinski was a defender.

Earning honorable mention honors in the league were senior goalkeeper Espoire Amisi and sophomore defender Wapole Misembo of Oshkosh North.

### GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

#### Warriors' Moran named Runner of the Year

Valley Christian junior Mya Moran was named the Runner of the Year in the Trailways Conference after winning the individual title at the league meet in October.

Moran earned first-team honors for the second time in her career, also being named to the first team as a freshman. She earned honorable mention honors last season.

Also earning first-team honors in the Trailways Conference were four runners from Lourdes Academy.

Junior Annie Moore along with sophomores Khloe Bunton, Ana Schneidewend and Evelyn Heinzen each landed on the first team as a result of their finishes at the conference meet.

Garnering second-team honors for the Knights were junior Allison Stromske and freshman Ella Laib, while Valley Christian senior McKenzie Murphy also landed on the second team.

Earning honorable mention honors for the Knights was junior Tessia Mroczkowski.

Laib and Murphy were also named to the all-Sportsmanship Team in the conference.

#### West's Tercha leads area's all-FVA runners

Oshkosh West junior Abby Tercha was the lone area runner to earn a spot on the all-FVA first-team.

Tercha, who earned all-FVA recognition for the first time, placed ninth at the conference meet to land a spot on the 10-member first team.

The Wildcats also had junior Haylie Hullar earn honorable mention recognition along with Oshkosh North senior Tianna Hayes. Hayes qualified for the state cross country meet.

### BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

#### Knights' Spanbauer races to top honor

Junior Henry Spanbauer of Lourdes Academy was named Runner of the Year in the conference after winning the title at the conference meet this past fall.

Spanbauer was a second-team honoree in his first two seasons with the Knights.

Valley Christian senior Jonah Menet joined Spanbauer on the first team while fellow Lourdes Academy runner Mason Piechowski, a sophomore, also landed on the first team.

Valley Christian had three runners on second team in junior Jack O'Brien and sophomores Silas Johnson and Simon Menet, while Lourdes Academy had junior Zach Foster earn a second-team nod.

Earning honorable mention honors were sophomore Zachary Werner of Valley Christian and Lourdes Academy freshman Kody Neitzel.

Jonah Menet of Valley Christian and Connor Salm of Lourdes Academy were named to the conference's all-Sportsmanship Team.

#### Wildcats' Crowe, Moore earn first team spots

Oshkosh West senior Carter Crowe, the runner-up at the Fox Valley Association Meet this fall, earned one of two spots on the all-conference first team for the Wildcats.

Crowe was joined by sophomore Dominic Moore on the first team, which consisted of the top 10 finishers at the FVA meet in October.

Oshkosh North sophomore Jay Weber narrowly missed a spot on the first team by placing 11<sup>th</sup> and led the second-team honorees.

The Wildcats also had junior Arjen Karns recognized on the all-conference teams landing on the honorable mention list.

### SWIMMING

#### Dietschweiler extends reign on all-FVA teams

Oshkosh West junior Kiersten Diet-

schweiler was named to the all-FVA first team in two events for the third straight year.

Dietschweiler grabbed top honors in the 200-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle to highlight West's honorees. Dietschweiler was first team in both events last year for West, while last year she earned the recognition while swimming with the Oshkosh North/Lourdes Academy.

Dietschweiler was one three swimmers to earn first-team honors in multiple individual events.

Senior diver Neva Schlies earned a spot on the second team along with the foursome of Dietschweiler, senior Hailey Knutson, sophomore Molly Dudzinski and freshman Avery Booms who netted the honor in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

The same foursome was also honorable mention all-FVA in the 200-yard freestyle relay, while senior Layla Leinen earned honorable mention honors in the 100-yard breaststroke.

North/Lourdes' lone all-FVA representative was senior Mya Sonnleitner who earned honorable mention honors in the 100-yard breaststroke.

### GOLF

#### Spartans' Leib lands all-FVA recognition

Oshkosh North junior Sammie Leib was the only area representative on the all-FVA golf teams.

Leib earned honorable mention honors after accumulating 38.5 points during the conference season.

Leib is the first Spartan golfer to earn all-FVA recognition since 2020.

### TENNIS

#### Spartan tandem earns all-FVA nod

The senior tandem of Liv Borowitz and Rica Hanson landed on the all-FVA honorable mention list at No. 1 doubles and was the lone area flight to garner recognition.

Borowitz and Hanson were one of two No. 1 doubles teams to earn honorable mention honors and one of four pairings to be recognized by the conference.

Borowitz also earned honorable mention honors last season at No. 1 doubles with partner Emma Niemczyk.

The football and volleyball all-conference teams were listed in the Dec. 24 edition of the Oshkosh Herald.

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## Prep sports roundup

### BOYS BASKETBALL

#### Ott's career-high fuels Spartan win

Bryce Ott tallied a career-high 30 points to lead Oshkosh North to an 82-44 win over Fond du Lac in a Fox Valley Association contest last week.

Ott finished 11-of-17 from the field in the game and also picked up six rebounds.

Owen Weber added 20 points and seven rebounds for the Spartans, who improved to 4-2 on the season. Weber and Ott combined to hit 18-of-22 from the free-throw line in the game.

The Spartans also picked up a 79-57 win over Appleton East, holding the Patriots to just 38 percent shooting from the field in the win.

Ott led the way with 19 points and seven rebounds, while Jackson Anderson finished with 13 points. Weber added 10 points and Kallum Larson-Poeschl chipped in nine points off the bench.

#### Rough first half sinks West in loss

Oshkosh West managed only 13 points in the first half and couldn't rally past Neenah in a 55-37 loss on the road.

The Wildcats trailed 29-13 at halftime.

Malakai Herlihy finished with 11 points with Joey Ware adding nine points and 11 rebounds. Brayden Kufel chipped in eight points.

#### Knights notch win at Holy Buckets tourney

Lourdes Academy won the second game of the Holy Buckets Tournament

held last week at The Castle, beating St. Mary's Springs, 66-52.

Individual scorers were not available for Lourdes Academy.

The Knights opened the tournament by losing to St. Mary Catholic, 80-56, despite 22 points from Lucas Neuens.

The Zephyrs broke the game open with a 16-3 run early in the game and never relinquished the lead.

Harlan Kuehn added 13 points and Jackson Buttke finished with 12.

The Knights also picked up a 66-39 win over Valley Christian last Friday, the second time in a week the two teams had played.

Lourdes Academy led by 10 points at halftime but outscored the Warriors 34-17 in second half to pull away for the win.

Neuens tallied a career-high 33 points, knocking down six 3-pointers in the game. He was the lone player in double figures for the Knights. Buttke added eight points, while Kuehn and Parker Slusarski each had seven.

Individual scorers were not available for Valley Christian.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

#### Balanced offense leads Wildcats to win

Oshkosh West had three players finish in double figures to fuel a 61-53 win over Oak Creek at Kettle Moraine High School.

Mya Johnson led the Wildcats with 13 points off the bench, including a 3-of-3 night from 3-point range.

Kinslee Nelson added 12 points and five assists while Kamryn Stauffacher added 11 points and eight rebounds in the win.

The Wildcats followed that up with a 53-38 win over Kaukauna just before Christmas. Individual scorers were not available from the game.

#### Spartans drop close game to Fondy

Oshkosh North had three players finish in double figures but dropped a 45-44 decision to Fond du Lac last week.

Awut Alic finished with 15 points and nine rebounds and went 7-of-8 from the free-throw line in the game.

Brinna Paulson added 12 points and Alai Awak chipped in 10 points and seven rebounds for the Spartans.

The Spartans also suffered a 69-48 loss to Appleton East.

Oshkosh North played nearly even with the Patriots in the second half but couldn't overcome an 18-point deficit at halftime.

Alic finished with 21 points to lead the Spartans. Navi Lao-Facundo finished with eight points and seven rebounds.

### BOYS WRESTLING

#### North takes 11<sup>th</sup> at Shawano Invite

The Spartans were led by a pair of third-place finishes as they finished 11<sup>th</sup> among 25 schools at the Shawano Holiday Classic.

Anthony Berger (144) and Jamond Thompson-Schreck (165) each finished third in their respective weight classes.

Berger finished 5-1 with four of his wins coming by technical fall. He beat Greg Schmidt of Brillion 15-0 in the third-place match. Thompson-Schreck also finished 5-1, notching two pins and two technical

falls among his victories.

Sa'meir Nash added a fourth place at 113 pounds, while Andrew Brockman was sixth at 175 pounds for the Spartans.

#### Schneider leads Wildcat wrestlers

Preston Schneider was the lone Oshkosh West wrestler to finish in the top five at the Fond du Lac Invitational.

Schneider finished 3-1 to take third at 138 pounds for the Wildcats, registering a technical fall and two major decisions on the day. Schneider's lone loss came to eventual champion William Christopher of New London in a close decision.

Xavier Vang was the next best finisher for the Wildcats, taking 10<sup>th</sup> at 120 pounds, while Blake Julian was 11<sup>th</sup> at 126 pounds.

### GIRLS WRESTLING

#### Bustillos, Weir lead West/North squad

Marissa Bustillos and Keiana Weir each grabbed second places to lead the Oshkosh West/North co-op squad at the Shawano Holiday Classic.

West/North finished fifth among the 25 girls teams at the event.

Bustillos took second at 114 pounds, pinning the first two opponents she faced. She lost in the title match to undefeated Brinley Miller of Brillion.

Weir also notched pins in her first two bouts at 185 pounds but was upended in the final match against Allyson Blasel of Abbotsford.

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 20



## PHILLIPS TAX & ACCOUNTING, INC.

Phillips Tax & Accounting, Inc. is pleased to announce a transition in ownership effective January 1, 2026. Karen T. Oram, CPA, will assume full ownership of the firm, which will operate under the new name Northern Star Tax & Accounting, Inc.

### A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

The Jayna Phillips team has been a trusted and reputable source for accounting and tax services in the Oshkosh community for over 47 years. December, 1978, Jayna and her father, Ramon Harnitz formed Ray Harnitz Accounting Ltd. In 1987, Jayna became an Enrolled Agent through the Internal Revenue Service and established Phillips Tax & Accounting Inc. operating in tandem with Ray until his semi-retirement and merger in 2000.

Her commitment to honesty, integrity and excellence along with outstanding client service has always been the bedrock of the firm and a testament to the company's longevity. Jayna and team remain with the company and look forward to this new chapter

### NEW LEADERSHIP, CONTINUED EXCELLENCE

Karen T. Oram brings a strong foundation of expertise and community commitment to her new role. A graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago with honors, she earned her Bachelor of Science in Accounting before obtaining her CPA certification in 2016. Oram joined Phillips Tax & Accounting as an employee in September 2010 and then a shareholder in January 2024 and has been instrumental in the firm's continued growth and technological advancement.

Since relocating to Oshkosh in 2010, Oram has demonstrated a strong commitment to the community, serving on several non-profit boards also including membership in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

### ABOUT NORTHERN STAR TAX & ACCOUNTING, INC.

Northern Star Tax & Accounting, Inc. (formerly Phillips Tax & Accounting, Inc.) provides comprehensive accounting and tax services including individual and business tax preparation, bookkeeping, QuickBooks consulting, tax planning, and accounting advisory services. The firm is located at 1508 Oregon Street, Oshkosh, WI 54902.

The firm's mission remains unchanged: to provide timely, accurate, confidential, and ethical services while educating clients to make better financial decisions. Operating under the tagline "Guided by Ethics. Committed to Excellence," Northern Star Tax & Accounting will continue the tradition of collaborative service, working alongside bankers, brokers, attorneys, and other professionals to ensure comprehensive client support.



## NORTHERN STAR

Tax & Accounting

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Northern Star Tax & Accounting, Inc.  
1508 Oregon Street  
Oshkosh, WI54902

Phone:  
(920)231-1227

Email:  
mail@northernstartax.com

Website:  
www.northernstartax.com



Submitted photo

## Spartan signing

Oshkosh North senior Bryce Ott recently signed his National Letter of Intent to continue his basketball career at NCAA Division II Minnesota State University in Mankato. Ott committed to the Mavericks following the football season after receiving multiple offers in both football and basketball. He is a three-sport athlete for the Spartans who is a two-time honorable mention all-Fox Valley Association selection in basketball, while carrying a 3.8 grade point average. Ott is flanked by parents Luke and Carisa.

## Ray steps down after three years as head football coach at Oshkosh West

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh West head coach Joey Ray has stepped down after three years leading the program, he announced on X, formerly known as Twitter, last week.

Ray was 7-20 in his three seasons leading the Wildcats, including 4-17 in the Fox Valley Association. He was the fifth head coach of the program since Ken Levine retired following the 2019 season.

The Wildcats were 1-8 this past season, with the team's lone win coming over Ap-



Ray

pleton East. Oshkosh West beat the Patriots all three years under Ray.

Ray, who was a physical education teacher at West, announced in his Twitter post that he will be taking advantage of a career opportunity outside of teaching and coaching. Ray's two children have been born since coming to West and he's hoping the new path will allow him to better provide for and spend time with his family.

"My wife and our two children are the center of my world and this decision ultimately comes down to putting them first," Ray wrote in his post on X. "This was not an easy choice. I am incredibly grateful for my time at Oshkosh West."

## Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 19

Nha Vy Bengal (114) and Zoey Syms (126) each placed fifth, while Samantha Bryant (152) was sixth on the day for West/North.

### HOCKEY

#### Ice Hawks can't hold early lead in loss

The Oshkosh Ice Hawks scored the first goal against South Central but were unable to hold off the Navigators in a 6-1 loss at the 20th Avenue YMCA Ice Arena.

Brennon Kraft scored less than fourth minutes into the game to stake the Ice Hawks to the lead, but South Central scored twice over the final seven minutes of the first period to take the lead for good.

Andy Toonen assisted on the goal for the Ice Hawks.

Chase Magadzanz finished with 24 saves for Oshkosh.






Photo by Andy Ratchman

The Ice Hawks' Brennon Kraft skates up the ice with the puck in a recent game against South Central.

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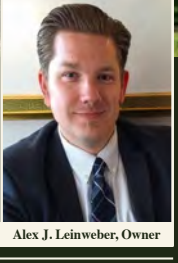
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# Obituaries

## Alfred Henry Sedlachek

Alfred Henry Sedlachek passed away at his home, Sunday, December 21, 2025, after having spent a delightful day, December 17, playing cards with his brothers and Ben Kossel. He was born in Marshfield, WI, on April 21, 1942, twin son of Edward and Marcella Sedlachek of Rudolph, WI. Living in Berlin, WI, he attended elementary school at St. Michael's until grade three when his family moved to Oshkosh. He then attended St. Vincent's Catholic School and graduated from Oshkosh High School in 1960. Al married Mary Ellen Thoma, a high school classmate on July 10, 1965, at Sacred Heart Church.

Always industrious, Al delivered newspapers on the southside of Oshkosh and rode to the Oshkosh Country Club on his bicycle to caddie. In high school he began to work part time for his father at Eddie's Sport Shop on Main Street. When his fa-



ther began Eddie's Evergreen Marina, Al continued to operate the sport shop until it was sold. After graduating from various service schools, he worked at the Marina. From 1969 - 1971, he was the sales manager for the marine division in Wisconsin and the upper peninsula of Michigan, for Arctic Distributors in Neenah. From 1971 - 1977 he became self-employed at The Hitching Post in Omro, where he sold recreational vehicles and lawn and garden equipment. Then from 1977 - 1982, he attended the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh to study marketing. While studying, he also worked part-time at the Honda House and SNC Manufacturing. In 1983 he attended Fox Valley Technical School for computer science and commodities. By the end of 1983, he purchased Eddie's Evergreen Marina and ran the business until he retired in 2000.

During the late 60's and early 70's, Al raced snowmobiles every winter in northern Wisconsin and Michigan. He was awarded many trophies including a first place in cross country at Eagle River in 1967. In addition to snowmobiling, he enjoyed trap shooting,

hunting, fishing, skiing, golf, and rebuilding small engines. He was adept at building and fixing many things.

Over the years he belonged to Butte des Morts and Winnebago Conservation Clubs, Ducks Unlimited, Otter Street Fishing Club, Walleyes for Tomorrow, White Tails Unlimited, and the board of directors at Oshkosh Gun Club. After retiring, he volunteered for the DNR for the Lake Winnebago Sauger Rehabilitation Project from 2001 - 2005. He also participated in the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh Fishing Has No Boundaries for several years. EAA Air Venture found him cooking breakfast at the Sacred Heart food booth each year. He was on the board of directors at St. Raphael Church, and the church council at St. Josaphat's. St. Jude's Catholic Church has seen him ushering and distributing communion.

Al and Mary Ellen recently were pleasantly surprised with a 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration at St. Vincent's hosted by their three daughters. Together in retirement they have enjoyed visiting children in Michigan and Texas, traveling to

Ireland, Switzerland, Canada, and south and western United States.

He is survived by his dearest friend and spouse, Mary Ellen, and three daughters, Kelly Norris, Ft. Worth, TX, Helene Nimmer (Michael), and Sara, Oshkosh; grandchildren, Connor Norris, Gavin Nimmer, and Norah Nimmer; five siblings, twin brother, Francis (Karen), Marvin (Susan), Richard (JoAnne), Susan, and Kathryn. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Janet, grandson John, and niece Amanda.

The family is most grateful to Fr. Louis Golamari for his kindness and compassion, Deacon Brad for his concern and helpfulness, and Al's dear friends, Dave Bauer and Richard Eiden.

Funeral services were held Monday, December 29, at St. Vincent Church, Oregon St. Visitation from 9:00 am. until services at noon. Committal services were held December 30, 10:00 a.m., at Calvary Cemetery.



## Barbara Ann Patrie

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Barbara Ann Patrie (Bottkol), who left us peacefully on December 17, 2025, at the age of 84. She was born to August and Lorraine (Dittmer) Ruedinger on April 15, 1941. Barb was a vibrant and loving soul who touched the lives of everyone she met.

Barb graduated from Oshkosh High School in 1959 and continued her education at Edgewood University. Barb married John "Ed" Edward Bottkol at St. Peter's Catholic Church on August 4, 1962. Together, they welcomed their daughter, Lisa, into the world. Their journey together was a beautiful one, lasting until Ed's passing in 1975.

In 1980, Barb married Willard "Bill" Carl Patrie in Illinois, and brought even more joy with the arrival of her two children, Vicki and Kris. They were together until Bill's passing in 1997. Barb had a passion for playing piano, even playing mass at St. Peter's in her younger years. Her love for reading and playing card games was only rivaled by her enjoy-



ment of family get-togethers, where stories, memories and laughter were shared around the table.

Barb is survived by her daughters, Lisa Cornell (Jeff) and Vicki Preisler (Joe), along with her son, Kris Patrie, and her treasured grandchildren, Madeline Foord, Arielle Preisler, and Blaine Preisler. She also leaves behind her siblings Nancy Muraski and Leroy (Pat) Ruedinger, as well as stepchildren and numerous step-grandchildren, all of whom she cherished.

Barb is preceded in death by her two loving husbands and her parents, along with her brothers, Roger (Claudia) Ruedinger and Larry Ruedinger, and brother-in-law, Dick Muraski.

In celebration of Barb's beautiful life, we invite friends and family to join us for a visitation at Konrad-Behlman-West on April 17, 2026, at 1:30 PM, followed by a joyful memorial service at 3:00 PM. Let's gather together to share stories, laughter, and cherished memories just as Barb would have wanted.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in her honor. Barb's spirit will live on in our hearts, and we look forward to celebrating her life together.



## Robert Wayne Bearwald

Robert Wayne Bearwald, age 89 of Oshkosh, passed away at Park View Health Center on December 24, 2025. Robert was born in Oshkosh on September 23, 1936 to the late Clarence and Clara (Giese) Bearwald. He found his greatest joy on February 7, 1959, when he married the love of his life, Mary Young, together creating a beautiful legacy with four beloved children.

Robert proudly served in the United States Army and dedicated more than 30 years of his life as a talented machinist at Mercury Marine before retiring in 2000. His passions included fishing, taking care of the birds in his neighborhood, and enjoying countless rounds of bowling.

Robert is lovingly survived by his wife, Mary Bearwald; children, Rob (Lisa) Bearwald, Beth Bearwald, Vicki (Dave) Goyke and Andy Bearwald; grandchild-



dren Kaelea Bearwald and Brett (Kelly) Tovar; great-grandchild, Owen Tovar; brother, Dave (Eunice) Bearwald.

In addition to his parents, Robert was preceded in death by his siblings, Orland Bearwald and Betty Hinz.

A funeral service for Robert will be held at Lake View Memorial Park, 2786 Algoma Blvd. on Friday, January 2, 2026 at 11 am, officiated by Pastor Dave Goyke. Visitation will be held in the chapel from 10:00 am until the time of the service. Burial with Military Honors will take place immediately after the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages memorial contributions made in Robert's name to the Park View Health Center Therapeutic Wellness Department, 725 Butler Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54901. The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the wonderful staff at Park View Health Center, especially Missy, Carolyn, and Kaylie, for their compassionate care.



## Peggy Herzig

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Peggy Herzig, age 67, who went to be with the Lord on December 22, 2025, surrounded by those who loved her. Peggy was an amazing wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She was one of the most kind, caring, and loving people anyone could ever know, and her loss leaves an immeasurable emptiness in the hearts of all who loved her.

Peggy was born on March 20, 1958, in Boulder, Colorado. She devoted her life to serving others through her work in health care and caregiving. She loved line dancing, bingo, and crocheting, and treasured every moment spent with her grandchildren.

Peggy is survived by her loving husband, Jim Herzig; her children, Tabatha and her husband Donald, Stacy and her



husband Chris, and sons Sean and Jason; and her stepchildren, Jim Jr. and his wife Lynda, Julie and her husband Dave, and Jeffrey and his wife Jamie. She is also survived by her sisters, Dorothy and Laurie, and her brother, Tommy.

She leaves behind her grandchildren, Andrew, Mason, Kayden, Hunter, Justine, Charlie, Aiden, Chayce, Peyton, Jesse, Kate, Cooper, Kendall, Zack, and Ally, whom she loved dearly.

Peggy is also survived by her best friend, Linda, with whom she shared a special bond. She was preceded in death by her parents, Yvonne and Ted Melvin, and her brother, Doug.

A funeral will be held on January 2, 2026, at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home, located at 402 Waugoo Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54901. Visitation will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by a service at 1:00 p.m.

Her words, "I love and miss you bunches and bunches," will live in our hearts forever.



## Christine M. Berger

Christine "Chris" M. Berger, passed away on Christmas Day, 2025. She was born to the late Anthony and Elaine (Schmidt) Neubauer on June 2, 1951 in Oshkosh.

A service for Christine will be held on Friday, January 2, 2026 at 11 AM at St.

Vincent's church Oregon Street. A time of visitation will be held from 9 AM until the time of service. A full obituary can be found at Konrad-Behlman funeral homes website



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# Obituaries

## Alvin T. Hammer

“One of a kind... the world lost its best man...” That is how Alvin T. Hammer is remembered after his mother and sister welcomed him into heaven on Saturday, December 13th. He was born April 6, 1974, son of Francis Hammer and the late Cheryl (Blanck) Hammer. Following his graduation from Brillion High School, Alvin earned an electric degree with honors, then an accounting degree with honors, at Northwestern Technical College - Green Bay, and even continued his education with classes at Marian University in Fond du Lac.

The love of Alvin's life was Lisa A. Reichenberger. They met purely by chance when she became involved in square dancing. The pair stayed in touch and spent some time together away from the square dancing events. Eventually they formed a true love connection based on honest conversations and bonding over similar life experiences.

Alvin had a passion for genealogy which was apparent through his support and memberships in the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society, Winnebago Genealogical Society, Milwaukee County Genealogical Society Inc., Marshfield Area Genealogy Group, Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society, Germanic Genealogy Society, Fond du Lac County Genealogical Society, Bay Area Genealogical Society, Sacramento German Genealogy Society, and the Manitowoc County Genealogical Society.

Alvin's love for the arts extended through his membership in the N.E.W. Friends of Music, Inc., memberships at The Paine Art Center and Gardens, The Newberry Library of Chicago, and a season ticket holder of the Green Bay Community Theater. His love of history showed through his memberships in the Wisconsin Historical Society, Calumet County Historical Society, Malone Area Heritage Museum, Nicolet County Historical Society, Wisconsin Historical Foundation, German Interest Group-Wisconsin, and the Minnesota Historical Society.

Alvin loved square dancing, serving as secretary with the Green Bay Squares and the Fox Valley Squares (FVS), and was currently the FVS club treasurer. He also created and was the administrator of an email service to notify square dancers of upcoming events. In his free time, Alvin enjoyed watching major/minor league baseball and women's basketball. He was a member of the Bay Beach Friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary and the Green Bay Botanical Gardens, but closest to his heart was the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay Phoenix Women's Basketball Team, as a season ticket holder for many years and sponsored their annual golf outing. Each year he supported the Salvation Army including sponsoring meals every Thanksgiving.

Alvin was a soft-spoken man, preferring to observe and listen rather than chime in.

He was a kind, compassionate man with a good sense of humor. The world will not be the same without him because he affected so many people's lives, whether it was through his work as the accountant for the family's Orange Blossom Jewelers, or more recently as a United States Postal Service Clerk at the Hilbert office.

Alvin is survived by the love of his life, Lisa A. Reichenberger; his father: Francis Hammer; aunts and uncles: Irene Mayer, Mary Kay Stokes, John Hammer, Kevin (Kay) Blanck, Barb Blanck; and many cousins.

Alvin was preceded in death by his mother, Cheryl; sister: Christine Hammer; grandparents: Hazel and Robert Blanck and Arthur and Bernetta Ham-

mer; uncles: Chuck (Nancy) Blanck, Bob Blanck, Jr., and Dale Blanck.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, January 3, 2026, at Holy Family Catholic Church (1100 W. Ryan St.) in Brillion. Friends may call from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm on Friday, January 2, 2026, at the Wieting Family Funeral Home (411 W. Main St.) in Chilton, and from 10:00 am until 10:45 am on Saturday, January 3, at Holy Family Catholic Church. Alvin will be laid to rest at Riverside Cemetery (1901 Algoma Blvd.) in Oshkosh on Saturday, January 3, at 1:30 pm.



## Jean A. Mingus

Jean A. Mingus, 91 of Oshkosh passed away Monday, December 8, 2025, at home surrounded by family.



Jean was born May 17, 1934, in Oshkosh, the daughter of the late Clarence and May Ruddy. On October 6th, 1956, she married Jack P. Mingus at St. Mary's Church by Bishop Grelinger. Jack preceded her death on July 15, 2014. She was a member of St. Raphael's Catholic Church. Jean was employed for many years as a laborer and retired from Schneider Electric.

Jean is survived by her children: Steve (Ann) Mingus, Gayle Burns, Dan (Linda)

Mingus, Marge Seibel, and Paul (Kristi) Mingus. Grandchildren: Kelly (Dave) Mingus, Jenny (Chris) Staysniak, Callie (Scott) Hartel, Sarah (Matt) Schmunk, Rachel Burns, Nick Burns, Tyler (Hayden) Matz, Courtney (Nick) Parmley, Caytlen Mingus (Zach Mateyka), Kati (Eric) Probst, Ben Seibel and Andy Seibel, Christopher and Brynne Mingus. Jean is also survived by 17 great grandchildren and her beloved dog Barley.

A memorial mass of Christian burial will be celebrated Friday, January 2, 2026, at 11:00 am at St. Raphael's Catholic Church, 830 S Westhaven Drive. Family and friends may call at the church Friday, January 2, 2026, from 10 am until the time of service.



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# Obituaries

## Leslie M. Day

Leslie M. (Kiehl) Day, age 77, of Winneconne, passed away peacefully on September 30, 2025, at Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh. She was born on May 4, 1948, in Sheboygan, to Robert and Ardell (Kolberg) Kiehl. On December 27, 1969, Leslie married Robert K. Day, in Sheboygan, and together they built a life filled with love, laughter, and family.

A loving wife, mother, and grandmother, Leslie was a pillar of support for her family. Throughout her life she was active in her children's activities, leading Sunday school classes, coaching sports, and volunteering. She never missed a game or concert. This passion and commitment continued with her grandchildren and she eagerly attended sporting events, recitals, plays, and musicals. She was so proud of everything that her children and grandchildren accomplished. Leslie also loved

hosting and attending extended family celebrations.

Leslie was an instructor at Fox Valley Technical College, teaching accounting and business for over 25 years. She loved to develop curriculum and was committed to helping students be successful. She was passionate about the teacher's union and enjoyed negotiating on behalf of the instructors.

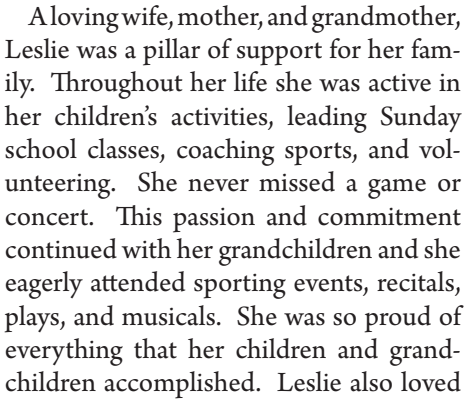
Leslie was a woman with a kind heart and a creative spirit. A longtime member of Living Water Lutheran Church, she found joy in both her faith and the friendships she made there. She was proud to serve her community as an election poll worker and loved volunteering at the Winneconne Thrift & Gift. She had a lifelong passion for needlework, knitting, sewing, and quilting, sharing her creations with family and friends who will cherish them always, and with hospitals to comfort newborn babies.

Leslie is survived by her husband, Robert (Bob); her daughter Jennifer (Chris) White; her son Jason (Stacy) Day; and three grandchildren, Ethan, Brandon, and

Trystan. She is also survived by her brothers, Kevin (Lori) Kiehl and Nathan Kiehl, and her sister-in-law, Dianne Kiehl. She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Robert "Bobby" Kiehl and Eric Kiehl.

A memorial service to celebrate Leslie's life

will be held on January 10, 2026, at Mueller Funeral Home located at 904 E. Main Street, Winneconne. Visitation will be from 9-11am, with service following at 11am.



## Mary Ann Figel

Mary Ann Figel, 92, of Mayville and formerly Brownsville passed away on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at Prairie Ridge Assisted Living in Mayville.

Mary was born on June 6, 1933, in Oshkosh, WI to Leo and Mary (Jakubiak) Langkau. On June 7, 1952, she was united in marriage to her loving husband, Thomas Figel, in Oshkosh WI. She spent her working years at Maysteel in Mayville.

Mary Ann is survived by her children: Gloria Figel, Steven (Judy) Figel, Susan (Donald "Ike") Keller, Gail Knight, and

John Figel; grandchildren: Lee Figel, Adam Figel, Sunshine (Matt) Mikulak, Clint (Sammy) Keller, Casey Keller, Jordan Figel, Riley Knight, Korin Figel, and Kelsey Figel; great grandchildren: Lauren, Alyssa, Luella, Oliver, Alistair, Treyton, and Tyanna; other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband Tom; her parents; 4 brothers; and 3 sisters, Tom's parents, his 2 brothers, and his 1 sister.

Per Mary Ann's wishes, a private family service will be held at a later date.

Koepsell Funeral Home in Mayville is caring for the family. www.koepsellfh.com

# Classifieds

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

## Call 920.385.4512 to place your ad

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Brewmania 26 boxes, Signs, Displays, Rare Figures & Decanters. Worth \$2,300 for \$900 All. Rare Oshkosh Beer Tavern Sign. Lighted, Framed. \$400. Vintage 60's Whiskey Barrels Chairs/Great Condition. All three \$750. Guy Miller 920-410-9865

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### STATE OF WISCONSIN, Legal Notices

**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.**

**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.**

**STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY Case No. 25PR321**

### Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Paula L. Riley

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informational administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 10/14/1940 and date of death 04/27/2025, was domiciled in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 6354 County Road A, Oshkosh, WI 54902.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is March 31, 2026.
5. A claim may be filed at the Winnebago County Courthouse, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Room 242.

DATE SIGNED: December 19, 2025

Form completed by: Attorney Nathan P. Olson Address OLSON LEGAL GROUP, LLC 21 W. New York Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Telephone 920-230-7020 Bar Number 1059348

**Runs: December 31, 2025, January 7, 2026 and January 14, 2026**

### STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY Case No. 25PR325

**Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Scott A. Starks

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

6. An application for informational administration was filed.
7. The decedent, with date of birth 12/11/1964 and date of death 12/05/2025, was domiciled in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1726 Ohio Street, Oshkosh, WI 54902.
8. All interested persons waived notice.
9. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is March 31, 2026.
10. A claim may be filed at the Winnebago County Courthouse, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Room 242.

DATE SIGNED: December 23, 2025

Form completed by: Attorney Nathan P. Olson Address OLSON LEGAL GROUP, LLC 21 W. New York Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Telephone 920-230-7020 Bar Number 1059348

**Runs: December 31, 2025, January 7, 2026 and January 14, 2026**

### STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY Case No. 25PR321

# Everyone deserves to have their story told.

Sharing someone's life story in a newspaper obituary is one of the most important ways we find meaning in their passing.

Publish your loved one's obituary in our community newspapers and it will be included in the online obituary network, www.Legacy.com, at no charge for you to share with loved ones near and far.

To place an obituary submit through Your Funeral Director Or obits@oshkoshherald.com, obits@neenahnews.com or customerservice@winneconnenews.com or call 920-385-4512



# Kid Scoop

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

## Bowl Games

At this time of year, newspapers and TV trumpet the excitement of college football teams competing in bowl games!

In 1923, when the Tournament of Roses annual football game in Pasadena, Calif., moved into a new, bowl-shaped stadium,

the game became known as the Rose Bowl. The term "bowl" has been used to describe championship games ever since.

### Back to Back to Back ...

One team earned a spot to play in 36 bowl games in 36 years, the longest consecutive bowl game record. Fill in the missing vowels to reveal this team.

FL \_ R \_ D \_  
 ST \_ T \_

How many footballs can you find on this page?

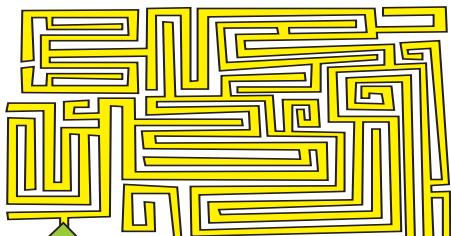
### Go Team

College football fans are known for their intense team loyalty. How many differences can you find?



**Most Wins** Which college team has won the most Rose Bowl games? Cross out the word FOOTBALL each time it appears below. The remaining letters reveal the answer.

FOOTBALLUFOOTBALLNIFOOTBALLVEFOOTBALL  
 FOOTBALLRSIFOOTBALLTYOFOOTBALLFFOOTBALL  
 SOUFOOTBALLTFOOTBALLHFOOTBALLFOOTBALL  
 NFOOTBALLCALFOOTBALLHFOOTBALLLOFOOTBALL  
 RFOOTBALLNIFOOTBALLA



Which team has played in the most bowl games? The maze leads to the answer.

### Map It!

Today, more than 30 college bowl games are played across the United States in December and January. Below are just some of them. Draw a line from each of the bowl games listed below to the state in which that game is played.

**Famous Idaho Potato Bowl** Boise, ID  
**Quick Lane Bowl** Detroit, MI  
**Pinstripe Bowl** Bronx, NY  
**Military Bowl** Annapolis, MD  
**Music City Bowl** Nashville, TN  
**Peach Bowl** Atlanta, GA  
**Gator Bowl** Jacksonville, FL  
**Rose Bowl** Pasadena, CA  
**Fiesta Bowl** Glendale, AZ  
**Cotton Bowl** Arlington, TX  
**Sugar Bowl** New Orleans, LA

Standards Links: Geography: Use map skills to find the location of places.

### Football Finder

Look through the newspaper to find these football-related words:

- DEFENSE
- GAME
- HELMET
- PENALTY
- GOAL
- FIELD
- WIN
- STADIUM

Standards Links: Spelling: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

Find the two identical tickets.

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

### Double Double Word Search

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

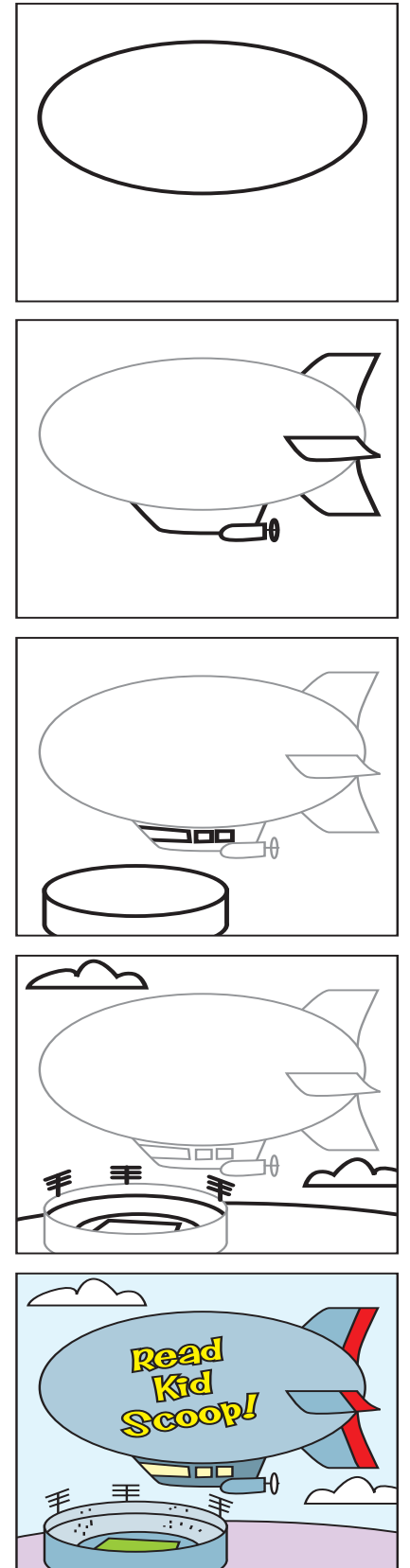
- FOOTBALL
- COLLEGE
- JANUARY
- STADIUM
- HELMET
- GAMES
- ROSES
- FIELD
- BOWL
- FANS
- TEAM
- GOAL
- NAME
- WIN

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | X | J | A | N | U | A | R | Y | F |
| T | E | M | L | E | H | O | T | O | M |
| C | I | T | L | S | S | E | O | F | U |
| B | I | A | N | E | A | T | N | I | I |
| N | O | A | S | M | B | I | A | E | D |
| G | F | W | G | A | W | F | M | L | A |
| O | O | T | L | G | B | A | E | D | T |
| C | O | L | L | E | G | E | L | L | S |
| T | N | E | M | A | N | R | U | O | T |

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

### Let's Draw It!

Blimps fly over football stadiums with onboard cameras providing spectacular overhead views of the crowd below. Follow these simple steps to draw a blimp of your own!



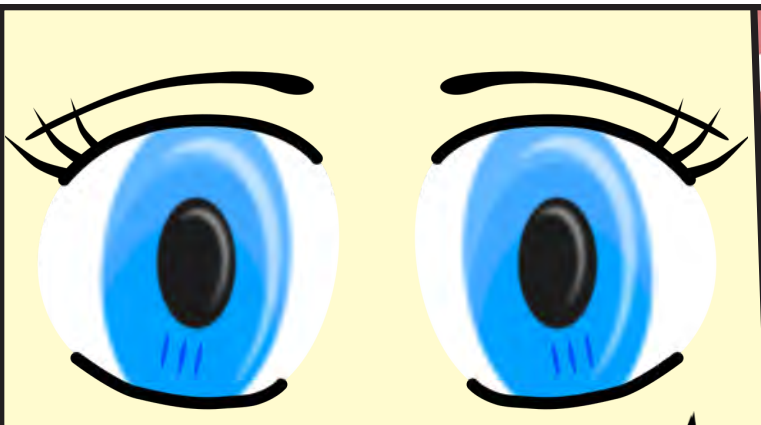
Go to [kidscoop.com/how-to-draw/](http://kidscoop.com/how-to-draw/) to learn how to draw a football player, a cheerleader and a crazy football fan, too!

Standards Links: Visual Arts: Know how different media and processes communicate ideas.

### Write On!

## Fitness Favorite

What is your favorite way to exercise? Why?



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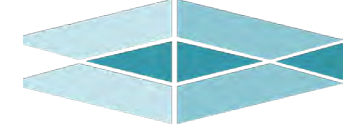
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