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## District announces budget plan timeline

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Board of Education plans to meet in closed session Thursday to discuss plans for budget reductions.

Oshkosh Area School District (OASD) Superintendent Dr. Bryan Davis said last week that the special meeting follows the board's public discussion of the initial reduction plan on Dec. 10. The district used feedback from that meeting to refine its approach, and Davis said the special meeting this week will be used to process the revised recommendations.

The revisions include eliminating ad-

ministrative pay raises from the budget, meaning the district needs to cut \$5.5 million in the 2026-27 budget rather than \$6 million as originally announced. The budget reductions OASD has outlined include eliminating 70 positions.

Due to the specific personnel related discussions occurring at the special meeting, Davis said it will be

held in closed session, pursuant to Wisconsin law. No action will be taken during the meeting.

"As we work together to find the best path forward for our students and staff, I want to provide the upcoming schedule for January," Davis said. "Please note that individual conversations have already taken place with anyone who would be directly impacted by a revised position reduction."

Following the special meeting, Davis

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Davis

## INSIDE



### Double trouble

Schlies excels in gymnastics, diving

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### Keeping it clean

Farrey honored for work with watershed

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Photo by Michael Cooney

### Fresh start

Even with the wind chill below zero, groups of ice fisherman were at Asylum Bay and off Lighthouse Point Jan. 1 as the sun rose for the first time this year. The sun didn't stay out long as it quickly disappeared behind heavy cloud cover.

# UW-Oshkosh graduate honors late father's promise

By Grace Lim  
UW-OSHKOSH TODAY

When Anelise Hammonds stepped onto the commencement stage at the 2025 Midyear Commencement at UW-Oshkosh, she carried grief, gratitude and thoughts of a promise her father had made.

Years earlier, her father, Douglas "Doug" Hammonds, had made it clear he would be there the day she graduated from nursing school. He liked to joke that he would be waiting for her on the other side of the stage, yelling her name louder than anyone else.

But Doug Hammonds never got the chance.

Two years ago in late January 2023, he died suddenly of a pulmonary embolism at age 57, just as Hammonds was preparing to take the Test of Essential Academic Skills, or TEAS, a standardized exam required for admission into nursing programs. The test measures foundational skills in reading, math, science and English, and it can be a significant hurdle for aspiring nurses.

The day after her father passed away, Hammonds

sat for the exam.

It was the path he had encouraged, the future he believed in for her, and walking away was never an option. She does not remember much about that day, only that she showed up and kept going.

Somehow, she passed.

Two weeks later, she received her acceptance letter into the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh nursing program.

"He was so excited when I decided I was going to nursing school," Hammonds said. "He was involved in all the first steps of getting me into the program."

The journey that followed was long, demanding and emotional, but on commencement day, the family made sure Dad kept his promise.

### A family's plan

Hammonds had no idea what was waiting for her when she walked off the stage.



Photo from UW-Oshkosh Today

Anelise Hammonds (in cap and gown) celebrates her graduation from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh nursing program surrounded by family at Commencement, holding a cutout of her late father, Douglas "Doug" Hammonds, who died suddenly in 2023. The family gathered at the edge of the stage to honor his promise to be there when she walked across it.

SEE **UWO graduation** ON PAGE 7



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# Fourth grader top heart challenge fund raiser

Oshkosh Herald

It didn't take long for Oshkosh youngster Keison Jia to get excited about the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge program.

And four years later, the Valley Christian School fourth grader continues to flourish.

Keison, the son of Tim and Joan Paterson, has earned Kids Heart Challenge All-Star recognition as a top fund raiser for the 2024-25 school year. He raised just shy of \$1,200 for the program last year.

"He started out (in the program) being very excited about the keychains, but as we discussed why we raise money, his heart was much more focused on the children who he would be able to help," Joan Paterson said. "He personally calls friends and relatives, walks the neighborhood and makes social media videos to raise money. He has been the top student in our school for at least three years now. He diligently watches all (the) videos and makes us watch them, too. He loves helping others and is a great 'salesman.'"

For nearly 50 years, the American Heart Association has been working with educators in elementary, middle and high schools across the nation to help educate students about healthy living.

The Kids Heart Challenge is a service learning-based fundraising program that gives students the opportunity to feel good, while doing good. It's a way for students to better their life — all while changing someone else's. Students, families and staff also learn valuable life skills, including how to make smart food choices, the importance of avoiding vaping/tobacco and the lifesaving skill of Hands-Only CPR.

Kids Heart Challenge engages elementary school students and their families to learn how to keep their heart, body and brain healthy — while helping kids with special hearts live longer, healthier lives. It's a fun and meaningful way to teach life-



Submitted photo

Keison Jia, a student at Valley Christian School, is in his fourth year with the Kids Heart Challenge program and earned All-Star status as a top fund raiser for 2024-25.

long habits of health and helping others.

Funds raised through the KHC allows students to support community wellness and to be part of the solution by funding

research on a path to improving cardiovascular health for all.

For more information about the Kids Heart Challenge, visit [heart.org/getstarted](http://heart.org/getstarted).

## Oshkosh West presents musical Oklahoma

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh West Music Department will present four upcoming performances of the musical Oklahoma.

Performance times are 7 p.m. Jan. 22, Jan. 23 and Jan. 24 along with 2 p.m. Jan. 25 at the Alberta Kimball Auditorium, 375 N. Eagle St.

Tickets are on sale now at [oshkoshwestchoirs.com](http://oshkoshwestchoirs.com). All tickets are general admission.

## School budget

FROM PAGE 1

said an update will be shared Friday with all staff, families and the community. This message will detail the specific revised recommendations that will be brought to the board for public discussion on Jan. 14.

The revised recommendations will be

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presented for public discussion during the regular board meeting on Jan. 14. The monthly Board Listening Session will take place as scheduled at 5 p.m. before the meeting, which starts at 6 p.m.

"While the initial recommendations were presented in December, this work has been an ongoing, months-long effort that began in September," Davis said. "The time since our December 10 meeting has been dedicated to using the feedback and insight shared by students, staff, and community members to collaboratively refine our approach. Finalizing the plan in mid-January is a deliberate step to ensure our standard staffing process stays on schedule – providing any impacted staff members with the greatest amount of time, clarity, and flexibility to plan for their future."

Davis said the district plans to continue to provide regular updates as it proceeds through the budgeting process. An overview of the budget work and past updates are available on the district's website at [oshkosh.k12.wi.us](http://oshkosh.k12.wi.us).

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## Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical Society

### Jan. 8, 1908

**Funeral Crosses Ice:** The funeral cortege of Mrs. William Seymour, an Oshkosh resident, went across the lake this morning to Stockbridge on the ice, travelling on runners the entire distance of 16 miles from this city. The journey began at 254 Scott Street, the residence of Mrs. Seymour's daughter around 7:30 am and the funeral party arrived at Stockbridge in time for services at ten o'clock in the Catholic Church. Interment was at Stockbridge. This is the first funeral to cross Lake Winnebago in recent years, it is believed.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Jan. 30, 1908

# Ways to protect against the flu

By Karolina Stack, MD  
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Flu activity is climbing nationwide and early surges among children and young adults are mirroring trends now overwhelming the U.K.

The U.S. saw a 7% rise in flu activity in one week, with nearly 2 million illnesses, 19,000 hospitalizations and 730 deaths so far this season. In Wisconsin, flu activity is low but increasing.



Stack

The U.K. 's early, severe spike fueled by the new H3N2 "subclade K" variant has experts warning of one of the toughest flu seasons in decades.

With flu typically peaking in the US shortly after the holidays, now is the narrow window to build full immunity, especially prior to and amidst holiday gatherings.

Taking preventive measures helps protect individuals and communities from widespread illness.

## Prevent the spread of flu

- Doctors recommend everyone 6 months and older receive a flu vaccine annually, especially people at higher risk.
- If you have a rare complication to certain immunizations or if you are pregnant, speak with your primary care physician or OB-GYN to determine if the flu vaccine is appropriate for you.
- The CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important way to reduce your risk of catching the flu.
- Be mindful of touching your eyes,

nose and mouth with unwashed hands; this is how germs spread.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after use.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer after touching doorknobs or other high-touch surfaces, or soiled tissues.
- If you are sick, stay home to avoid spreading the virus to others. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

## Managing flu symptoms

- For mild, new symptoms: Visit a primary care doctor or pediatrician. Many primary care clinics offer same-day sick visits.
  - Urgent care: Recommended only when there is urgency, including symptoms that need prompt attention outside of regular office hours, such as a high fever or mild-to-moderate symptoms that develop suddenly and cannot wait for a primary care appointment.
  - Hospital ER: Severe symptoms in all ages or new symptoms of any severity in infants under 3 months.
- For more information, visit [healthcare.ascension.org](http://healthcare.ascension.org)

*Dr. Karolina Stack is a board-certified, experienced pediatrician at Ascension Wisconsin in Neenah and Oshkosh.*

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No tickets or pre-registration are required for Restaurant Week, but reservations are recommended.



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Photo by Michael Cooney

## New Year's countdown

A group of kids and their families celebrated New Year's Eve early with a balloon drop at noon Dec. 31 in Oshkosh Public Library. In addition to the balloon drop, activities included crown making, noise maker making and mural making along with a bubble dance party that featured balloons, confetti, bubbles and music.

## UWO will be hosting listening sessions about university's future

Oshkosh Herald

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh is inviting residents, community leaders, employers, educators, nonprofit partners and other stakeholders across Oshkosh and the greater Fox Valley to take part in two community-based strategic plan listening sessions this month.

The sessions are designed to gather perspectives from across the region as UW-Oshkosh develops its next strategic plan — a roadmap that will guide the university's academic, workforce, community and economic impact in the years ahead.

The sessions build on Phase I of the Oshkosh Infinite strategic planning process, which included fall 2025 internal listening sessions, surveys and shared governance forums involving students, fac-

ulty and staff. Insights and data gathered during that phase now provide a strong foundation as the university broadens the conversation to community and regional partners.

The first session from 4 to 6 p.m. Jan. 14 in the Becket's Restaurant Atrium, 2 Jackson St., will feature an hour-long facilitated discussion followed by a reception. The second session is scheduled from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Jan. 22 in the new Appleton Public Library, 200 N. Appleton St. in Appleton.

Participants will have the opportunity to share perspectives on how UW-Oshkosh can continue to support regional talent development, innovation, civic vitality and economic growth.

For more information, visit [uwosh.edu/strategicplan](http://uwosh.edu/strategicplan).

## Christmas tree collection weeks scheduled

Oshkosh Herald

According to the Oshkosh Sanitation Division, residential curbside Christmas tree collection will take place on the regularly scheduled garbage collection day this week and the week of Jan. 19-23.

The Sanitation Division said reminders include artificial or flocked trees will not be collected, and trees must be removed from plastic bags.

It asks that trees be placed on the terrace or driveway apron, no later than 6:30 a.m. on the scheduled garbage collection day. Remove all decorations, lights and

the tree stand. Trees must not be buried by snow.

Christmas wreaths, garland or swags that contain a metal frame and artificial trees should be placed in the garbage cart. Trees may also be dropped off at the city's Yard Waste Drop Off Site. Winter hours are currently in effect, which are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, closed on weekends and city holidays. A permit is required to use the city's Yard Waste Drop Off Site.

For more info, contact the Oshkosh Sanitation Division at 920-232-5383.

## Musician provides opportunity to play pipe organ

Oshkosh Herald

Pedals Pipes and Pizza is an upcoming introduction to the pipe organ.

Student and adult pianists of all ages are invited to learn about playing the pipe organ from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jan. 17 to First Congregational and Trinity Episcopal churches, 200 Algoma Boulevard, two blocks west of Main Street in downtown Oshkosh.

Organist Joanne Peterson will open with a short piece of music. The session ends with pizza at noon.

Admission and pizza are free. Registration is requested by Monday. More details will be provided after registration. To register, call or send an email to Joanne Peterson at 920-233-0385 or [thatcher@oshkoshpiano.com](mailto:thatcher@oshkoshpiano.com), Provide name, age, address and phone number.

flash sale

## Flash Sale

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# Award recipients recognized for promoting clean water

Oshkosh Herald

Winnebago County Supervisor Chuck Farrey was among the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA) watershed impact award recipients earlier this year.



Farrey

Farrey, a District 30 supervisor and chairman of the county board's Land Conservation Committee, received a Lifetime Impact Award.

For decades, FWWA said Farrey has been a champion for the Fox-Wolf Watershed. His leadership and dedication have supported conservation projects, protected water quality, and inspired collaboration.

Farrey's "lifelong commitment has created a legacy that will benefit our waters for generations," FWWA said.

"The number one thing you have to have that is essential to life is water. Clean

water," said Farrey, who has served in town and county government for 48 years. "The effect of the water and quality of the water in this region is really the dominant issue you need to address."

Farrey led efforts in 2023 to expand support for local conservation efforts, with the county board approving a \$3 million funding boost for local farmers.

"To get \$3 million approved for a little department like us to use, it speaks volumes," said Chad Casper, Winnebago County Land and Conservation Department director.

The conservation efforts include soil health initiatives and installing breakwalls, among a multitude of practices, Casper said.

"Without those conservation practices, as the population grows, it will get worse," said Farrey, adding that they don't want to get worse but to be able to "maintain what we have and improve upon it gradually."

Other award recipients included Barb Reiter) will speak about the Rights of Nature in Indian Country. Native nations are recognizing legal rights for ecosystems, grounded in traditional ecological knowledge and cultural value.

The afternoon will be highlighted by three breakout sessions by experts on a variety of topics, including tips for creating a native plant garden, butterflies, oak woodlands among other topics. Visit with vendors and exhibitors, pick up helpful resource materials and bid on silent auction items.

Complete details, fees and registration at [foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/thwn/](http://foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/thwn/). A virtual option is available.

Reed, a retired Oshkosh science teacher, who received an impact for her volunteer work on shoreline clean-up projects, and Fox Communities Credit Union, which received an Impact Award for its corporate stewardship. Among other things, the credit union adopted a boat launch in the Oshkosh area.

"I just really enjoy being out in nature

and seeing what Fox-Wolf has done," Reed said. "I have learned so much about how these native plants should be the appropriate ones and look how it helps the beauty of areas."

The Impact Awards recognize individuals, organizations and communities that embody the spirit of stewardship and collaboration.

## Food for Thought lunch features SEPO leader

Oshkosh Herald

The League of Women Voters of Winnebago County will hold a Food for Thought lunch on Jan. 14 in the Oshkosh Food Co-op Community Room at 155 Jackson St. starting at 11:30 a.m. with a program following at noon featuring Mashebe Mushe Subulwa, co-founder and board president of the non-profit SEPO (Sustainability, Education, and Progress as ONE).

Guided by anti-colonial and anti-racist principles and strategies, SEPO identifies local needs, harnesses community strengths, develops global partnerships and builds

more sustainable futures. SEPO encompasses REAL Oshkosh (racial equity, advocacy and leadership); building literacy and academic confidence with Black, Brown, African, Immigrant and Refugee kids in a classroom with leaders who look like them; refugee outreach and advocacy services.

The general public is welcome. The League asks for an RSVP to aid them with room set-up. To purchase a box lunch (soup, sandwich, cookie, chips and beverage), include that in an email response to [wclwvinfo@gmail.com](mailto:wclwvinfo@gmail.com).

Lunch is \$11 cash or check or shop at the Oshkosh Food Co-Op.

## Conference focuses on harmony with nature

Oshkosh Herald

Wild Ones Fox Valley Area is organizing a Toward Harmony with Nature Conference in Oshkosh.

The conference is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Jan. 24 in the UW-Oshkosh Culver Family Welcome Center.

Neil Diboll, owner of Prairie Nursery and natural landscaping expert, will deliver the morning keynote "Genetic Diversity and Plant Preservation." Diboll will provide an overview of strategies that different plants develop for reproduction and adaptation to their environments.

Special guest speaker Anahkwet (Guy



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



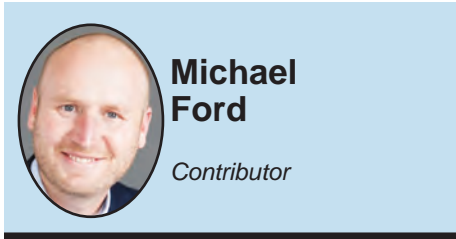
# Civility matters in local politics as election nears

I recently had an interesting conversation with someone new to the politics of Oshkosh. The individual expressed their surprise with how abrasive our local politics can be.

The conversation reminded me of something an Oshkosh official said to me about a dozen years ago: Oshkosh can be a tough place. My goodness is that true.

Red state and blue state narratives do not work here because we have true political diversity. We have an urban center, but things get rural very quickly as you travel further from downtown. We have tourism, a public university, evolving demographics and so much more. All of this is to say we have many competing interests in Oshkosh.

All of our competing interests create opportunities for conflict. Residents want different things out of their local governments, and that is OK. Conflicting interests and public disagreement are features, not bugs, of a healthy democracy. But not all conflict is equal, and the line



**Michael Ford**  
Contributor

between constructive conflict that leads to progress and destructive conflict that can tear a community apart is often hard to identify. Enter the power of civility.

I know civility is easy to dismiss as window dressing, as something people call for because they find conflict uncomfortable. Then there is the question of who gets to decide what civility means? If civility is defined by those that hold power under the status quo what is to stop them from using calls for civility as a heckler's veto? If I do not like what you are saying I can accuse you of incivility and thereby take away your right to voice your opinion.

While I understand some of the year's new program features seven speakers.

This all-city, all-parishes program is held in-person on Wednesday mornings from 5:20 to 6:50 a.m. at Father Carr's Place 2B, 1062 N. Koeller St. There is also the option of watching the week's video presentation online and attending a virtual (Zoom) small group session from 7 to 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday mornings.

Anyone interested can get more information and register through the Most Blessed Sacrament, St. Jude or St. Raphael Parish offices, at one of the sessions or call/text Bruce Dumann at 920-379-3200.

arguments voiced by skeptics of calls for civility, I think they are really skeptical of surface-level civility and not necessarily the genuine article. Surface-level civility is pretty easy to live. Be agreeable, let others speak, do not engage in name-calling, do not lose your temper... basically ignore those who disagree with you with a smile on your face. The real power of civility, in my experience, comes from a deeper commitment to civil dialogue.

For example, it is one thing to listen because you are polite; it is another thing to listen because you are open to being wrong and genuinely care what someone with an opposing view thinks and why they think it. It is one thing to let others speak; it is another thing to create space for others to speak when you know they disagree with you.

It is one thing to not lose your temper, but something more to enter a tense conversation with an openness to being wrong. Being civil in public conversation is good, being civil with a genuine humility and willingness to modify one's position based on what others say is where progress happens.

Civility is foremost on my mind as we

enter local campaign season and hear the usual calls for structural changes in local government, specific policies, the need to elect more (insert your preferred ideology here) candidates, etc. While structures, policies and ideology all matter, self-governing is at its core the ability of people to collectively work out a path forward that balances competing interests and values. In a formal governing body that might be seven elected officials working through policy. In a community level it is the less formal public discussion that occurs in-person and on social media about the direction of Oshkosh.

Navigating the many competing interests in our city is much more difficult when we dig in and dismiss each other's right to have a differing opinion. Civility is not a cure-all, but it is a tool for making Oshkosh welcoming for all our residents, regardless of their politics and values. My hope is this next year we can make our local politics a little less abrasive for the betterment of us all.

Michael R. Ford is an Oshkosh school board member and director of the Wisconsin Institute for Citizenship and Civil Dialogue.

## Men invited to join spiritual development program

Oshkosh Herald

The 11<sup>th</sup> year of the That Man Is You men's program in Oshkosh begins Jan. 21 with a focus on the development of men in the modern world.

The program combines Scripture, research and fun to help men become authentic leaders capable of transforming themselves, their families and greater society.

This year's title is "Becoming a Man after God's Own Heart" and builds on the success of the first 10 years of That Man Is You. Anyone can begin at year 11 without having first attended the previous years. This



Photo from Oshkosh Arena

## Unforgettable interaction

As part of the Harlem Globetrotters 100 Year Tour game Dec. 31 at Oshkosh Arena, Magic Pass ticket holders got an unforgettable interactive experience with the team. It was a chance for fans — young and young at heart — to step onto the court and show they've got game. From dribbling and passing to shooting hoops, everyone got in on the action before the Harlem Globetrotters went on to beat the Washington Generals 114-112. Local friends and family showed off their skills while snagging autographs, snapping photos and soaking in every moment.

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# UWO graduation

FROM PAGE 1

Her mother, Yvette Hammonds, a UW-Oshkosh alumna who earned her master's degree in business administration in 2005, had quietly asked event staff how close the family could stand near the stage exit. She wanted to be sure they would be there, exactly where her husband had always said he would stand.

As Yvette recounted the story, her voice caught, tears forming. Waiting just beyond the stage were Hammond's sisters and grandparents, who had traveled from Florida and Minnesota, and a large cut-out photo of her dad, laughing, mid-cheer, larger than life.

When Hammonds stepped down from the stage and saw them, the moment landed all at once.

"I was really emotional," she said. "I was already nervous walking across the stage, but when I saw that photo of my dad, it just comforted me. Even though he can't be here, he was there in spirit."

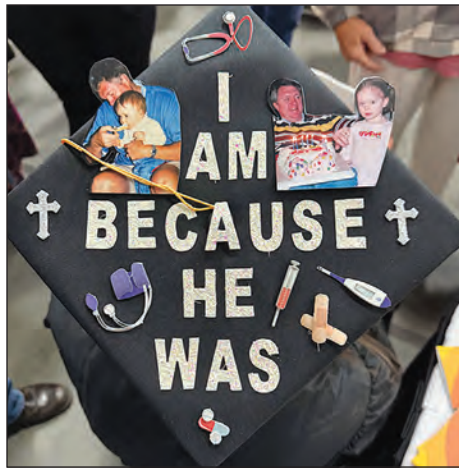
The family shouted her name, waved and celebrated exactly as her dad had promised he would.

That moment did not end at the edge of the stage. It stayed with her as she walked forward.

## I am because he was

Hammonds' graduation cap and stole told the story of this journey, too. Her cap featured two photos of her and her father, along with the words: I am because he was.

Her stole, carefully decorated with her photo of her dad feeding her as a mere tot, reflected the journey that brought her there, one shaped by grief, resilience and



Photos from UW-Oshkosh Today

At right: Anelise Hammonds shows off her cap and gown at the UW-Oshkosh Midyear Commencement Dec. 13.

Above: Hammonds' decorated graduation cap includes two photos of her and her late father and the words, "I am because he was," reflecting the promise and purpose that guided her through nursing school.

an unshakable sense of purpose.

The middle daughter of three, Hammonds grew up in Oshkosh in a family deeply connected to education and healthcare. Her oldest sister, Abigail Hammonds, is also a nurse. Her younger sister, Alaina Hammonds, is currently a senior at UW-Oshkosh majoring in advertising, continuing the family's strong connection to the university.

From the beginning, Doug Hammonds saw something in Anelise.

"He always said she needed to be a nurse because she has this huge, caring heart," Yvette Hammonds said.

Hammonds added, "And he always believed I could do it."

## Carrying him along

After graduation, Hammonds will move



to Milwaukee with her partner, Lucas Beres, as she begins the next chapter of her life and career. During her senior year, she worked and completed her clinical experience in the emergency department

at Aurora Green Bay. She plans to begin her nursing career in the emergency room or intensive care unit to gain critical care experience, with the long-term goal of advancing her education as a Doctor of Nursing Practice and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

If her dad had been at her commencement in person, Hammonds knows exactly how the day would have unfolded.

"He would have been crying," she said with a small laugh. "I never saw my dad cry. But he always said the one day I would see him cry would be the day I walked across the stage as a nurse."

Instead, she felt him in other ways, through the voices calling her name, through the images on her cap, through the family gathered exactly where he said they would be.

And even without him physically present, Hammonds says she felt her father everywhere.

"I would say to him, 'Thank you, thank you for always believing in me and pushing me, even when I didn't believe in myself,'" she said, blinking back tears. "He may not have been there physically, but he was there in every way that mattered."

# Calendar of events

## 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

Breakfast at Tiffany's, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

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., Os-

hosh Convention Center  
Winnebago Unit Marine Corps League Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner, 1 p.m., Winnebago Detachment Marine Corps League, 4715 Sherman Road  
The Bob's Burgers Movie, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

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

Wisconsin Herd vs. Noblesville Boom, 11:30 a.m., Oshkosh Arena

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

## Friday, Jan. 23

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

## Saturday, Jan. 24

Cold Water Classic Ice Fishing Tournament, 10 a.m., Asylum Bay

Cinderella presented by the Missoula Children's Theatre, 3 and 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

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

The Batman (2022), 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

Wisconsin Herd vs. Noblesville Boom, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

## Sunday, Jan. 25

Wisconsin Herd Card Show presented by Cardboard Legacy, 10 a.m., Oshkosh Arena

Oklahoma presented by Oshkosh West Choirs, 2 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

## Wednesday, Jan. 28

Winter Resource Fair, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Seniors Center

# Oshkosh man charged with striking pedestrian

Oshkosh Herald

The driver of a pickup truck who fled the scene and initially lied to police about his involvement in a December crash that left a woman badly injured has been arrested and charged in the case.

Victor C. Langemak, 32, is charged with a single count of hit and run resulting in great bodily harm. Oshkosh Police officers arrested Langemak a week after the Dec. 12 crash.

Langemak allegedly struck the woman on the east side of Oshkosh while he was making a left turn and she was using a crosswalk.

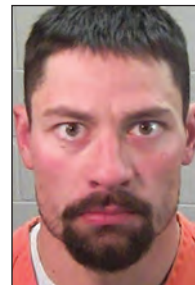
Medical staff informed authorities the woman suffered a broken femur, five broken ribs, a lacerated spleen and a lung contusion following the crash. An online fundraiser has raised over \$11,000 for the victim.

Online court records show Langemak remains in custody on a \$5,000 cash bond. His bond was set by Winnebago County Circuit Court Branch 1 Judge Michael Rust. Langemak was ordered to maintain absolute sobriety and is not to leave Wisconsin and is not allowed to drive any vehicle.

If convicted, Langemak faces a maximum prison sentence of 10 years followed by up to five years of extended supervision.

At a Dec. 29 hearing, Langemak filed a motion to have his bond reduced. His request was denied by Court Commissioner Kristen Navarrette.

According to the criminal complaint, OPD officers investigated a hit and run crash that happened around 3:25 p.m. Dec. 12 at Bowen Street and Merritt Avenue. Witness statements allege a woman was struck in the crosswalk at the intersection by a white truck.



Langemak

The pickup truck allegedly was making a left turn onto Bowen from Merritt. When the light turned green "a big jacked up white Chevrolet truck" and "completely ran over (the victim) and continued north on Bowen Street," one witness remarked.

Other witnesses stated the victim was struck by a big white truck. Police used camera footage from the area to identify the registered owner of the pickup truck as Langemak.

OPD detectives spoke with Langemak at his workplace for a construction company in Hobart four days after the crash. Langemak said on the day of the crash he was working at a farm in Green Lake or Berlin.

Detectives noted Langemak "spaced out" during the interview when asked about the timeline of the day of the crash and would often have a blank stare.

He told detectives that he fell asleep driving on his drive home from work and ended up in a field between Green Lake and Omro on Wisconsin Highway 91. OPD was able to confirm the Green Lake Sheriff's Office got a call for Langemak in a farm field, but it was in his car and had virtually no damage.

The white pickup truck was located in Adams County on County Road M outside Coloma. A search warrant was executed on the property and detectives noted "some metal damage to the front driver's side fender area" of the truck.

One of Langemak's co-workers told police he spoke with Langemak the night of the crash. Langemak told his co-worker he needed a place to store his truck.

Police reviewed surveillance camera footage across the city to track Langemak's movements leading up to the crash.

Officers went to speak with Langemak on Dec. 19. Langemak stated he would rather speak to the police with legal counsel. That is when Langemak was arrested and taken into custody.

## Annual spaghetti dinner to benefit veterans

Oshkosh Herald

The third annual Spaghetti Dinner presented by Winnebago Unit Marine Corps League Auxiliary will raise funds for veterans, veterans' families and veteran programs.

The meal includes all you can eat spaghetti, garlic bread, cookie and choice of coffee, bottled water or soda.

The dinner will be from 1 to 5 p.m. Jan. 17 at the Winnebago Detachment Marine Corps League, 4715 Sherman Road. The cost is \$10 per person, \$5 for children

5-12 and under 5 is free along with a special price of \$5 for veterans. Advanced tickets are not required.

Those who can't stay to eat can purchase a dinner to go.

Money raised from the dinner will be used to support veterans and their families as well as making donations within the community. In the past, the dinner has supported The Teachers Closet, Scholarships for local high school students, Toys for Tots and Day By Day Shelter.

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4.5-5.3 oz Chobani Yogurt

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2 lb Bag Yellow Onions or Bolthouse Cello Carrots

**1.29 lb**  
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**3.99**  
8.5 oz Stuffed Baby Portabella Mushrooms

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**6.99**  
8 pk, 12 oz Bottles Coke, Sprite or Diet Coke

**2/\$5**  
2-ltr Bottles Pepsi or Mtn Dew

**2/\$4**  
12 oz Can Poppi

**5/\$5**  
16 oz Bottle BODYARMOR

**4.99**  
6 pk, .5 ltr Bottles Snapple

**2/\$4**  
64 oz Old Orchard Healthy Balance or Cocktails

**2/\$5**  
6-8 pk or 128 oz Hawaiian Punch

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6 pk, .5 ltr Bottles Core

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	<b>2.79</b> 16 oz Daisy Cottage Cheese		<b>6.99</b> 64 oz Coffee mate Creamer
	<b>2.69</b> 16 oz Individually Wrapped Food Club American Singles		<b>4.29</b> 15 oz or 8 oz Spray Brummel & Brown or I Can't Believe It's Not Butter!
	<b>2.99</b> 8 oz Food Club Parmesan		<b>3.29</b> 15 oz Country Crock Spread

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	<b>3.99</b> 12 pk Crav'n Flavor Ice Cream Cups or Bars		<b>2.99</b> 7-9 oz Jimmy Dean Breakfast Bowls
	<b>2/\$7</b> 11 oz TASTIEZ Appetizers		<b>4.99</b> 24 ct Food Club Waffles or Pancakes
	<b>3.99</b> 12-16 oz Dole Frozen Fruit		<b>2/\$5</b> 6-8 ct Furlani Garlic Bread or Texas Toast
	<b>1.99</b> 10 oz Pictsweet Farms Steam'ables		<b>3.99</b> 4 ct Smucker's Uncrustables

	<b>1.79</b> 14.5-15.25 oz Food Club Canned Fruit
	<b>2/\$1</b> 1.25 oz Food Club Taco or Fajita Seasoning
	<b>2/\$6</b> 46 oz Food Club Vegetable Juice

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	<b>6.99</b> 12 pk GoGo Squeez Applesauce		<b>2/\$7</b> 4.6-13 oz Keebler Cookies		<b>3.49</b> 4.4-5.3 oz Skinny Pop		<b>2/\$6</b> 24 oz Brownberry Bread
	<b>3/\$5</b> 32 oz Select Food Club Broth		<b>2.99</b> 9-16 oz Nabisco Premium Saltines or Oyster Crackers		<b>2/\$5</b> 7.5-10 oz Hormel or Dinty Moore Compleats		<b>1.99</b> 5 oz Chicken of the Sea Pink Salmon
	<b>2/\$4</b> Select Barilla 12-14.5 oz Gluten Free or Protein+ Pasta, 6.5 oz Pesto or 24 oz Pasta Sauce		<b>2/\$5</b> 16-24 oz Ragu Pasta Sauce		<b>4/\$5</b> 5 oz Food Club Croutons		<b>2.49</b> 14 oz Heinz Ketchup

	<b>2.99</b> 28-48 ct Simply Done Zipper Storage or Freezer Bags
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	<b>1.99</b> 12 ct Food Club Taco Shells

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	<b>2.49</b> SALE PRICE - .50 When You Buy 6 <b>1.99</b> FINAL COST		<b>2.49</b> SALE PRICE - .50 When You Buy 6 <b>1.99</b> FINAL COST		<b>1.49</b> SALE PRICE - .50 When You Buy 6 <b>99¢</b> FINAL COST
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	<b>3.99</b> 24 oz Country Hearth Split Top Bread
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# meat & seafood



**4.99 lb**  
Gerber Amish Farms  
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**3.49 lb**  
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**3.99**  
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# Schlies finds comfort zone in different disciplines

By Tim Froberg  
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Beams and boards are unusual places for athletes to find peace of mind.

They are comfort zones for Neva Schlies.

The Oshkosh West senior is a rare prep athlete: a four-time WIAA state meet qualifier with two trips apiece in both gymnastics and diving.

Gymnastics is Schlies' current focus and she's aiming for a third and final trip to the state meet. Schlies placed 15<sup>th</sup> in the all-around at the 2025 state meet with a score of 35.333. She finished eighth in the floor exercise (9.117), 15<sup>th</sup> in the balance beam (8.800) and 24<sup>th</sup> in the vault (8.500).

Schlies made her state gymnastics meet debut in 2024, tying for 18<sup>th</sup> in the floor exercise (8.8167) as a sophomore.

"The goal is to get back to state and ultimately place high," said Schlies. "But you never know. You have to get there first."

Getting there as an all-around performer requires tremendous skill, poise under pressure and the versatility to excel in multiple events. The balance beam is Schlies' favorite event, while the uneven parallel bars is the most challenging.

"The beam is a lot about balance and body control and just getting consistent," she said. "You have to put in a lot of work to be precise, but that's what I enjoy about it."

"The bars are different from any other event because it's pretty much all upper body which makes it a lot harder."

Neva isn't the only Schlies working diligently to keep the West/North co-op program at a high level. Her mother, Wendy Schlies, is the team's head coach.

"Neva has a heart for the gym and her team," said Wendy. "She sets goals and pushes to achieve them. Neva works hard and uses her tools to work through any frustrations or setbacks. She asks questions and strives to make herself better. She's a team leader who steps in when her teammates need a hand."

Having a parent for a coach can be a tricky, complicated situation, but Neva says it's never been a problem. Wendy was a talented gymnast in her prep and college days who competed for the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

"I really like working with her," Neva said. "She understands all the little things I need to do and how hard I need to work



Photo by Kathy Bechard

Oshkosh West senior Neva Schlies is a multi-time state qualifier in both gymnastics and as a diver in swimming.

to be successful. It's also huge to have your mom cheering you on.

"It's been a really cool experience. She's really good at breaking down all the different skills needed and she's kept me strong mentally. To me, gymnastics is more mental than physical."

Neva started gymnastics at the age of six. She has been training with a Madison-based club team, the Mad Town Twisters, for several years.

"It's a sport where you need a lot of re-

silience because things aren't going to always be perfect" she said. "When things aren't working, you have to be ready to get back up and try it again."

Neva needed that resilience to return from a major elbow injury suffered as an eighth grader. She was diagnosed with osteochondritis dissecans (OCD) in her left elbow – a situation where cartilage separates from the bone due to repetitive stress and causes pain, swelling and stiffness. Neva underwent surgery and it

## Senior Spotlight



took 2 ½ years before she was able to fully train again.

"Basically, they took out a bone in my elbow and replaced it," Neva said. "It was mentally challenging to get diagnosed with OCD. The doctors said I had a good chance of competing again, but you never know."

Neva's success as a diver has been a bit of a pleasant surprise considering that she didn't start the sport until her sophomore season. However, gymnasts and divers share common skills like agility, extraordinary balance and aerial awareness. Those traits helped Neva become an instant success on the diving board. She qualified for the WIAA Division 1 state swimming and diving meet the past two years, placing 13<sup>th</sup> as a junior and 21<sup>st</sup> in 2025.

"There is a lot of body awareness in diving – just like in gymnastics," said Neva. "The transition to diving was super smooth because I had that body awareness from gymnastics. I had never really thought about diving until someone told me, 'Hey, we have a diving team here and you're a gymnast. You should give it a try.' I did and it just kind of clicked."

Things have also clicked for Neva in the classroom. She's a high-honors student at West, carrying an impressive 3.78 grade point average. Neva plans to attend college next fall, but hasn't yet settled on a school. She's also unsure at this point whether she will compete in gymnastics or diving in college.

In the meantime, Neva is looking to wrap up her stellar high school gymnastics career with a final trip to the state meet. She's hoping to have plenty of company. The West-North co-op squad is looking to make a return trip to state after the team qualified last season and finished ninth in Division 1.

"There's a lot of variety, depth and different skill levels on this team," said Neva. "Just watching everyone grow and become better gymnasts is super exciting."

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# Prep sports roundup

## BOYS BASKETBALL

### Spartans split games at tournament

Oshkosh North picked up a win and a loss while participating in the Wisconsin Yearbook Tournament at Concordia University over the holiday break.

The Spartans picked up an 81-67 win over Dominican led by 22 points and seven rebounds from Bryce Ott. Jackson Anderson and Tylan Lister each scored 17 points, while Kallum Larson-Poeschl added 14 points off the bench.

Anderson and Lister also picked up six assists apiece in the game.

Oshkosh North then fell to highly-touted Slinger 70-54 in the second game of the tournament.

Ott was the only Spartan player in double figures with 13 points, while Lister, Owen Weber and Brady Anderson each finished with eight.

### West drops two at Stevens Point tourney

The Wildcats came up short in both games at the Stevens Point tournament over the holiday break.

West rallied in the second half against Sauk Prairie but dropped a 69-65 contest in the first game.

Joey Ware finished with 25 points and eight rebounds to lead the way for the Wildcats, while Malakai Herlihy added 15 and Billy Berg finished with 11.

The Wildcats also lost to Mount Horeb, 68-42, with Herlihy scoring nine points and Tyler Moderson tallying eight off the bench for the Wildcats.

The Wildcats also lost a nonconference game to Sheboygan South, 85-61, last Friday.

The Redwings scored the first 10 points of the game and never trailed, finishing the first half 19-4 run to take a 41-19 lead at intermission.

Ware posted a double-double for West, finishing with 25 points and 14 rebounds. He scored 19 points in the second half.

Herlihy added 10 points and Berg finished with nine in the loss for Wildcats.

### Knights can't keep pace with Wolves

Lourdes Academy came up short against a potent Winneconne squad, 88-52, over the holiday break.

Jackson Buttke led the Knights with 14 points five assists and four steals, while Henry Achterberg added 12 points off the bench for the Knights.

Harlan Kuehn finished with nine points and 12 rebounds in the loss.

### Valley Christian loses nonconference game

The Warriors came up short against Green Bay NEW Lutheran, 71-53, in the final game of 2025.

Matthias Behling led the way for the Warriors with 21 points, while Derek Wallace added 16 points.

Mason Everts also chopped in seven points and a team-high 11 rebounds for Valley Christian.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

### Wildcats win two games at Marshfield tourney

Oshkosh West picked up a pair of non-

conference wins over the holiday break winning both games at the Marshfield holiday tournament.

Colleen Fitzpatrick tallied a season-high 14 points to lead West in a 40-36 win over the host Tigers in the first game. Hailee Marchant also reached double figures for the Wildcats with 12 points.

The second game of the tournament saw West topple Wausau West 58-28 with Kamryn Stauffacher leading the charge as the lone Wildcat in double figures with 13 points.

Marchant added eight points while Fitzpatrick and Mya Johnson each had seven. Kinslee Nelson totaled eight rebounds in the win.

Last Saturday, the Wildcats fell to Divine Savior Holy Angels, 52-46.

Fitzpatrick and Samantha Panske each scored 10 points for the Wildcats, while Johnson finished with eight.

### Lourdes Academy falls at Winneconne

The Knights dropped a nonconference game to the Wolves, 73-30, on the road.

### Rough first half too much for Valley Christian

The Warriors were not able to keep pace with state-ranked Sheboygan Lutheran, falling to the Crusaders 65-31.

The Warriors, who were playing without second-leading scorer Lizzie Fink, trailed 43-12 at the end of the first half and could not rally in the second half.

Mya Moran was the lone player in double figures for the Warriors with 14 points. Paige Boevers was the next highest scorer with six.

## HOCKEY

### Ice Hawks saddled with loss

The Oshkosh Ice Hawks scored first against the Onalaska/La Crosse but it was the Hilltoppers that seized control after that in handing the Ice Hawks a 9-2 loss.

Dayton Briski opened the scoring for Oshkosh off an assist from Elijah Johnston less than five minutes into the game, but the Hilltoppers answered with five straight goals to take a 5-1 lead at the end of the first period.

Zach Zimpel also scored for Oshkosh with William Beck and Andy Toonen notching assists on the power play tally in the second period.

Onalaska/La Crosse outshot Oshkosh 50-8 in the game.

## GIRLS WRESTLING

### Weir leads Oshkosh wrestlers at holiday invite

Keiana Weir finished 3-2 and notched three pins to finish in sixth place in the 235-pound weight class to lead the Oshkosh co-op squad at the Sheboygan South holiday invite.

Kaylee Beck (107) and Marissa Bustillos (114) added seventh places, while Kira Gensmer (100) and Angelea Schmiedel (145) each finished in eighth place. Lauren Klinger (120) and Braelyn Johnson (152) were each ninth.

Oshkosh also competed at the Shiocton Girls Clausen Classic last Saturday and it was Bustillos leading the way with a second-place finish at 114 pounds.

Bustillos pinned her first three opponents to reach the title match, but was beaten by Brown Deer's Elaine Hay, who has just one loss of the year, in the finals.

Zoey Syms was seventh at 126 pounds for Oshkosh, while Gensmer (100), Elizabeth Draxler (152) and Weir (185) were each eighth.

## BOYS WRESTLING

### Schneider leads area wrestlers at On The Water

Oshkosh West's Preston Schneider earned a fourth-place finish and was one of two Oshkosh wrestlers to place at the annual On The Water Classic held at UW Oshkosh last week.

Schneider won his first two matches by major decision and pin to reach the quarterfinals, where he posted a 7-3 win over Oregon's Evan Fahey. He fell in the semifinals to eventual champion William Christopher of New London but bounced back with a pin in the consolation semifinals but dropped in the third-place match.

He finished 4-2 in the tournament.

Oshkosh North's Jamond Thompson-Schreck finished 3-3 at the two-day tournament and placed eighth at 165 pounds. Thompson-Schreck collected a pin and two technical falls for his win total.

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# Ice Hawks' offense erupts in win over Chequamegon co-op

By Steve Clark  
OSHKOSH HERALD

Oshkosh's offense certainly came to play.

The Ice Hawks erupted for a season-high 11 goals – with eight different players finding the net – in an 11-9 win over Chequamegon/Phillips/Butternut on Saturday afternoon at the 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue YMCA Ice Arena.

“It’s a lot of fun,” senior forward Brennon Kraft said of the offensive output. “When you walk in the locker room, everybody is so hyped because everybody is scoring.”

The 11-goal output was the most for the Ice Hawks since the team scored 11 against Shawano/Bonduel in the second game of the 2021-22 season. The team also scored 10 goals in a win over Stevens Point Pacelli in the 2023-24 season.

Through the first eight games of this season, Oshkosh had totaled 16 goals.

“Offensively we were awesome. It was great to see the offense turn it up tonight,” first-year head coach Clint Zumer said. “We got up on our toes early and really did a great job of forechecking. We made a bunch of nice plays, nice passes and then fortunate guys were able to put it in the back of the net.”

Three different players finished with two goals in the game, while a total of 12 players notched at least one point in the contest – tallying either a goal or an assist.

Yet, despite the offensive output, it was the Chequamegon co-op that scored first – getting on the scoreboard less than three minutes into the game.

That advantage, though, lasted less than a minute as Mio Semmerow scored 48 seconds later to even the score and Elijah

Johnston gave the Ice Hawks the lead just before the five-minute mark of the opening period.

Kraft would tally his first goal of the night to make it 3-1, while Toonen scored his first two goals of the season over the final 12 minutes of the first period to stake the Ice Hawks to a 5-3 advantage.

“I was just digging deep and hoping for the best,” Toonen said. “We haven’t gotten going like that this year so when we got going and got in the goalie’s head it felt really nice.”

Oshkosh’s offense cooled off in the second period, though, as Orlando Wetzel’s tally midway through the period was the Ice Hawks’ only goal in the first 14 minutes of the stanza.

That allowed Chequamegon to climb back in the lead and it took a 7-6 lead after the sixth goal of the game from Kellen Krainig.

But Oshkosh responded by scoring twice in a 43-second span late in the period – the first by Grant Magnuson on the power play and an unassisted tally from Zander Crook – that sent the Ice Hawks into the third period leading 8-7.

Maxtyn Hammermeister opened the scoring in the third period for the Ice Hawks on the power play but Chequamegon answered less than two minutes later to pull back within a goal.

But with less than a minute left to play, Kraft smacked home his second goal of the night to give the Ice Hawks a two-goal cushion, while Hammermeister added a



**Kraft**



**Toonen**

late goal for the final margin.

“It was a tough battle in front of the net and I just kept slapping at it. It eventually went over the goalie’s shoulder and in,” Kraft said. “It was energetic. We needed it.”

It was the goal to finish the game.”

While the offense put the game out of reach in the third period, Oshkosh goalkeeper Chase Magadanz gave the team that chance.

Magadanz finished game with just 12 saves, but made seven in the third period – including a couple of tough stops through traffic – to keep the Ice Hawks in front the entire stanza.

“We told him he was fine and to lock it in and that he was going to be big for us in the third and he played like that,” Zumer said. “It was good to see us play with the lead and keep the lead today. We have been struggling the last couple of games with that and tonight we changed

our tune.”

Kraft said that the entire team cranked up the defense in the third period to help Magadanz.

“I think we all locked it down in the third period but Chase, especially,” Kraft said. “He came up huge and made some good stops.”

Hammermeister and Toonen each finished with three points in the game, adding an assist to their two-goal efforts. William Beck, Frank Ulrich and Dayton Briski each finished with two assists in the game.

The Ice Hawks are now 3-6 on the season, surpassing their win total from last year, and were slated to hit the road for their next four games – including Badgerland Conference matchups against Fond du Lac and the Fox Cities Stars.

The team is hoping that the offensive effort in Saturday’s win will carry over to those road trips.

“Hopefully we can keep the same intensity going into our next game,” Toonen said. “And we can bring another one home.”

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# Obituaries

## Lola Ann Gonia

Lola Ann Gonia, age 87, was born on February 18, 1938, in Cambria, Wisconsin, the daughter of the late Albert and Alice (Durrant) Kuphal. She was united in marriage to Elmer E. Gonia on November 21, 1970. Lola was a devoted member of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and lived a life rooted in service, generosity, and love.

Lola was deeply involved in her community. She was a proud member of the V.F.W.A. #1908, where she served as past



president and treasurer, and a longtime member of the M.O.C.A. #22, serving as past president, secretary, and treasurer. She was also a member of the Novelty Salt and Pepper Shaker Club, founding the Wisconsin Chapter and serving as its first president and treasurer. Over the years, many also knew her through groups such as the Red Hats and other local organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Lola worked as a cook and dishwasher in restaurants along Main Street, serving countless people with the same care and warmth she showed everyone in her life. Her final place of employment was the Tudor House.

Above all else, Lola loved people. She had a heart that was always open and a

desire to help others, even if it sometimes meant bustling around the kitchen or insisting on lending a hand. She never let anyone leave without a hug, a kiss, and the reassurance that they were loved. And everyone knew it—because she lived it. Everything Lola did was done with love. That love is her true legacy, and it will never fade.

Lola is survived by two stepsons, Greg (Rani) Schroeder and Jeff (Theresa) Gonia; one stepdaughter, Tina Gonia; 15 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Elmer Gonia, in 2000; two sisters, Mildred (Bob) Kluwin and Marjorie (Earl) Stafford; one brother, Edward (Marion) Kuphal; two nieces,

Lyneda Kluwin and Shirley Hoft; and one nephew, Thomas Kluwin.

A time of visitation will be held on Monday, January 12, 2026, at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes East, 402 Waugoo Avenue, from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM, and again on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 808 North Main Street, from 10:00 AM until the time of service at 11:00 AM. Burial will take place at Lake View Memorial Park.

Rest in peace, dear Lola Gonia. May you find eternal peace in the arms of the angels. Your love lives on in all who were blessed to know you.



## Betty A. Taugher

Betty A. Taugher passed away on 12/26/2025, peacefully, with her children at her side, at Aurora Hospital, after a brief stay. She was born in Cambria, WI on 01/03/1933 to Lawrence A. and Grace Lorena Blackbourn. She grew up in Berlin, WI, along with brothers, Robert and Ronald, who preceded her in death.

In 1952, she married Brian Daire Taugher, and together, they raised 5 children. First, living in La Crosse and Iowa in Brian's college years, and then in Oshkosh, where they established a successful physical therapy practice. Betty managed the office with focused determination and genuine compassion for both patients and staff.

In later years, they enjoyed many adventures around the United States and were accomplished world travelers. They also loved quiet sunsets at their Silver Lake house. Her widowed years were spent

independently in the house she loved reading, corresponding with her many acquaintances, playing cribbage or taking "backroad" excursions with her friend Bill, and watching the animals around her cherished 300 year old oak trees.

She is survived by her children, Ann (Mark) Davis, Michael (Sherie) Taugher, Jim (Lynette) Taugher, Judy (Jim) Hacker and Sheila Taugher; grandchildren, Meghan, Tess, Ben and Abby; great-grandchildren, Ester, Morrison, Alphonso, Daire and Margot.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date.

"Don't cry for me now I have died,  
For I'm still here by your side,  
My body's gone, but my soul is here,  
Please don't shed another tear."  
(author unknown)



## Karen Louise Hartman

Karen Hartman passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, December 31st, at



the age of 73, from complications with surgery. She was born in Oshkosh on May 5, 1952, to Harvey and Diane Hartman. She graduated from Oshkosh West in 1970 and had her first son, Kirk.

She moved to Wild Rose, married in 1986, and had two more children, Casey and Esther. Karen worked hard her whole life. She worked as a respiratory therapist, semi driver, and cared for people in their homes, to name a few. She survived cancer and so many obstacles in her life, but kept on going. Karen found joy in the little things like going out in the pedal boat with her dog Wilson, playing cards with friends, or trying new foods. She was an avid reader and would often lose track of time with a good book. Karen liked watching Packer games and DWTS. Most of all, she loved her secluded home on a small lake in the woods, surrounded by

nature. Throughout her life, Karen had so many amazing friends and kept in touch with many over social media.

She is survived by her children: Kirk Hartman (Kim Koch Hartman), Casey Kettlewell (Kiquanna), and Esther Ebenhoe (Jacob). Blessed with and loved her five grandchildren: Kermit Kettlewell, Zofia and Tilia Koch, and Lucia and Marcello Ebenhoe; her mother Diane; and siblings Julie Dyer, Linda Hartman (Kurt Metko), Harvey Hartman, and Jeff Hartman (Shari). She is further survived by her special friend Chuck Otto and her beloved pets: Wilson, Harvey, and Bianca.

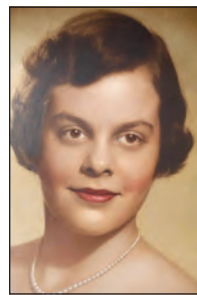
She was preceded in death by her father, Harvey Hartman; grandparents Otilia and George Hartman, and Esther and Earl Granberg; and many others she loved that passed before her. She especially missed her Gramma Esther and cousin Cherie Hartman.

Karen, you lived life unapologetically, loved fiercely, had a heart of gold and a laugh that filled the room. You will be missed beyond measure and loved until we meet again. Rest in Peace.

A celebration of life for family and close friends will be held at a later date.

## Pauline Gauger

Pauline Gauger, age 90, of Oshkosh, WI passed away peacefully with her family by



her side at Evergreen Retirement Community in Oshkosh, WI. She was born on July 7, 1935 the daughter of Harold and Mary Nielsen. Pauline married Larry Gauger on July 17, 1954 at Sacred Heart Church in Oshkosh, WI. Larry preceded her in death on January 21, 2016.



Pauline retired from Winnebago Mental Health Institute in 1999. She volunteered for many years at St. Vincent

DePaul and was always graciously trying to give clothing and other things to anyone who would accept them. She was an excellent seamstress and knitter. She made her four daughters the same red dress for Christmas one year. She also made many Barbie doll outfits and knitted belts and mittens. Her greatest enjoyment in life was spending time with her family; especially her great grandchildren. Pauline was an avid gardener. She loved being outside caring for her beautiful flowers. She enjoyed telling so many stories of her past. She often talked about wanting to write a book about her life. She loved

counted cross-stitch and has created many heirlooms. She loved attending sporting events her son, grandchildren and great grandchildren participated in.

Pauline is survived by one son: Gary (Lisa) of Kokomo, IN; four daughters: Laura (Rod) Gruse, Paula Wing, (Dennis Gollhier) of Oshkosh, WI; Patty (Steve) Ackley, of Janesville, WI; Lynn Andrews, of Berlin, WI; eleven grandchildren, Cory (Kristin) Ruhl, Jaimie (Ben) Mueller, Jason and Amanda Wing, Kevin and Ryan Ackley, Nate and Garrett Andrews, triplets; Brittany (Jordan) Gipe, Mitchell and Tylor Gauger; nine great grandchildren; Brayden, Parker and Peyton Ruhl, Nora, Devan, Isaiah and Mariah Mueller, Jackson and Blakelyn Gipe; one brother, Ralph and (Dolly) Nielsen; sisters, Joyce Ceelen, Mary Jane and (Dennis) Shebasta, Sue and (Bob) Samer. She is preceded in death by her brother Harold.

We will always be grateful for the compassionate caring staff at Evergreen Retirement Community and Davita Dialysis Center.

A mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Pauline on Thursday January 8, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Jude Parish (St. Vincent Catholic Church) 1225 Oregon St.. Father Eric, Pauline's nephew will celebrate the mass. A time of visitation will be at the church on Thursday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of mass.



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# Obituaries

## David W. Cameron

David W. Cameron age 94, passed away on the morning of January 4, 2026 at



Aurora Medical Center with his family nearby. He was born to the late Gordon and Mabel (Wilber) Cameron on September 30, 1931 in Oshkosh. He married Carol Below on September 12, 1953, and they recently celebrated 72 years of marriage.

David graduated from Oshkosh High School and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1953 from Northwestern University. He enjoyed a long career at Kimberly-Clark Neenah-Lakeview, beginning in 1954 and retiring in 1984 as Manager of Engineering Services.

David was an avid bicyclist. His love of biking began while still working in Neenah, driving to work Monday and riding back home on one way trips back and forth. He got especially good at biking to outrun Carol's to-do list...regularly riding up to 20+ miles, including regular trips to Pickett Co-Op for ice cream, averaging 350 miles per month, 12 months a year, riding in the hottest part of the day. He especially enjoyed the 500 mile GRABAAWR ride with his daughters Anne and Julie. After an accident, he moved to a three-wheel

bike and continued to frequent the corridors of Evergreen, getting mail, grabbing groceries and going to dinner.

He enjoyed solitaire, classical music, golf, traveling and spending time with his wife Carol and family, and escaping Wisconsin winters for Florida in retirement. He and Carol frequently traveled the world with lifelong friends, a group of other couples they met at Newcomers and became founding members of the social club Edgewater.

David was a builder. He spent many weekends at the family cottage on Maiden Lake, which he built by hand with his family after purchasing land. He contributed to the design and build of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, built numerous additions to the longtime family home, and designed a Kimberly-Clark Plant. He was also a regular woodworker, coming up with crafty solutions using zip ties, duct tape, and wood filler at both his family home and eventually the Evergreen Woodshop.

He rarely missed an opportunity to attend his children's or grandchildren's events, including sports, recitals, graduations, dances or anything they did. He crisscrossed the country if necessary to make a sports game and coached neighborhood boys in football. He was extremely generous with his time, talent and treasure, particularly with support to St. Paul's, Evergreen Retirement Community, and various other charitable organiza-

tions.

David is survived by his loving wife, Carol; John Cameron and Gail (Bradley) Cameron of Oshkosh, Wisconsin; Julie Cameron and Don Kruse of Fort Worth, Texas; Anne (Cameron) Gassere and Paul Gassere of Oshkosh, Wisconsin; and daughter-in-law Tracy (Crum) Cameron of Carmel, New York; grandchildren Taylor Cameron; Kellyn Cameron and Daniel Atkins; Spencer Gassere and Katherine Gassere.

In addition to his parents and in-laws, David was preceded in death by his broth-

er, Gordon Cameron Jr, son Bruce Cameron, and grandson Cameron Gassere.

A memorial service for David will be held at Evergreen Retirement Community (1130 N Westfield St) Performing Arts Center on Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 3PM. A time of visitation will be held from 12:30PM until the time of service. A burial will take place in Spring.

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established.

**KONRAD-BEHLMAN**  
FUNERAL HOMES

## Caryn Marie O'Marro

Caryn Marie O'Marro, age 74, of Laona, passed away peacefully at her home on December 24, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.



Caryn was born on July 7, 1951, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, to Alois and Helen (Paulik) Schunk. She graduated from Oshkosh High School in

1969. On March 12, 1971, she was united in marriage to David O'Marro, who survives. Together they shared many years of love and companionship and were blessed with one son, Shawn. One of Caryn's favorite memories was visiting Ireland with her son Shawn & Brandy & mother-in-law Mary. She truly loved sitting and looking over the Cliffs of Moher where she found great peace.

Later in life, Caryn and David moved to Laona following retirement, embracing the quiet country life she dearly loved. Caryn worked as a seamstress and was known for her creativity and artistic talent. A true hippie at heart, she had a deep love for The Beatles and blues music, en-

joyed attending live music concerts, and found joy in sewing and making clothing for her family. Above all, Caryn treasured time spent with her family, especially having her grandchildren close by. She was very proud of her grandchildren and all they are becoming, she took immense pride in seeing her granddaughter Ireland walk barefoot across Abbey Road in London.

Caryn is survived by her husband, David O'Marro; her son, Shawn (Brandy) O'Marro; her grandchildren, Colin and Ireland; her siblings, Terry (Glen) Harold, Tom Schunk, Allan (Thea) Schunk, and Paul (Maureen) Schunk; her sister-in-law, Leann O'Marro (Nicholas) Little; along with many extended family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Alois and Helen Schunk; a brother, Joseph Schunk, in infancy; and a sister-in-law, Joyce Schunk.

A visitation will be held on January 2, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the funeral service at 11:00 a.m. at Weber-Hill & Packard Funeral Home in Crandon. Father Kennedy Gaspar will officiate. Caryn will be laid to rest at Crandon Lakeside Cemetery at a later date.

## Cornel M. Krueger

Cornel "Corny" M. Krueger, age 79, of Menomonee Falls, WI, passed away peacefully at his home on January 1, 2026.



He was born on September 18, 1946, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, to the late Melvin Krueger and Mary (Davis) Krueger. He graduated from Oshkosh High School,

served in the United States Navy, and worked for many years as a machine operator at Bemis in Oshkosh.

Corny was united in marriage with his loving wife, Pamela (Armbricht) Krueger, for 48 years, until her passing in August 2025. Together, they shared a life rooted in family, commitment, and love.

He was the proud father of four children, including the late Andrew Krueger, Angela (Michael) Anderson of Hubertus, both of whom he shared with his wife, Pam, as well as Bonnie (Jason) Miller of Oshkosh, and Randy (Gretchen) Krueger of Walnut Creek, CA. He is further survived by his grandchildren, extended family members,

and many friends.

A lifelong Wisconsin sports fan, Corny faithfully followed the Green Bay Packers, Milwaukee Brewers, and Wisconsin Badgers. Known for his fondness for Diet Pepsi, doughnuts, chocolate, and other sweets. Packer touchdowns were often celebrated with a family tradition of "Touchdown Oreos." He enjoyed collecting sports trading cards and participating in fantasy sports leagues. He appreciated music and enjoyed attending concerts. Above all, he loved spending time with family and friends.

Corny will be remembered for his humor, independence, and the enduring love he held for his family.

A celebration of life for Corny will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Dr., Oshkosh, WI 54904, on Saturday, January 10th at 12:00 pm. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 10:00 am until the time of the service.

Inurnment will take place at Peace Lutheran Cemetery in the spring of 2026.

**KONRAD-BEHLMAN**  
FUNERAL HOMES

## Francis Charles Faust

Francis Charles Faust was blessed with 90 years of life & his family will be forever grateful for spending his last moments together with him, a testament of the importance of family instilled in all his children.



Francis was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin on January 20, 1935

to Francis J. Faust and Florence Stein. He was Catholic by faith and attended St. Peter's school, in Oshkosh. After graduation from high school, Francis attended General Motors Business Institute in Flint Michigan. Francis then enlisted in the US Navy where he was stationed in San Diego, California. It was there, in St. Joseph's Cathedral on December 22, 1956 in which he married Belvia M Troxell. They recently celebrated 69 years together.

In early years Francis enjoyed the hobby of racing homing pigeons. He belonged to a local club and made many friends. Francis enjoyed being outdoors, hunting & fishing and made many memories up north at a place he referred to as the "hacienda" which became a favorite place for Lynn and Mike. He loved to garden and was specially fond of Marigolds. He spent much time in his greenhouse starting plants from seed with his daughter, Julie, who believed he could never have too many Marigolds.

Francis spent most of his career as a marketing representative with Wisconsin Public Service, retiring at the age of 62. Other positions throughout his working years helped Francis develop many skills to become self-sufficient and built rental units with his brother, Jerry, and cousin, Richard "Dick" Mertz. He passed his skills and knowledge on to his son, Steve, who would go on to own Steve Faust Custom Homes.

Francis is survived by his wife, Belvia, his brother, Jerry Faust (Judith), his

children Julie Faust, Lynn Williamson (Michael), and Peter Faust. His grandchildren Brian Gibson (Shannon), Alycia Harbin (Joshua), Brett Sonnenschein (Carly), Cassie Williamson, Sarah Williamson, Steven Faust Jr (Stephanie), Brandon Faust, Camille Faust, Kaleb Faust, Jared Faust (Michelle), and Gabriella Faust. Great grandchildren Haleigh Gibson, Nolan Gibson, Wyatt, Chase, & Jovie Harbin, Jonah & Jayla Sonnenschein, Orion Faust, Harper Faust, one great-great granddaughter Hazel along with many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Barbara Kerrigan, his sons, Steven Faust Sr & John Faust, sister-in-law, Peggy Faust, and grandson Matthew Francis Gibson. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Jude Parish, Sacred Heart Church on Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 11 am. Father Thomas Long will be the celebrant. Visitation will be held on Saturday at the church from 10-11 am, Mass at 11 am.

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## Nancy Sue Straveler

Nancy Sue (Otto) Straveler, age 85, peacefully passed away on Christmas Eve after having dinner with her family. In keeping with her wishes, services will be private. She will be remembered for her love and generosity, love for dogs and her kind and sweet personality.



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# Obituaries

## Glenn Harlan Miller

Glenn Harlan Miller, age 85, of Oshkosh, WI, passed away the morning of Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> during a brief stay at Aurora Hospital. He was born on June 8, 1940, to the late George and Violet Miller in Barron, WI. Glenn left life on the farm to pursue his education. A semester before graduating from UW-Eau Claire in 1962, Glenn was hired by the Oshkosh Area School District and began his teaching career as an English teacher. He went on to earn a masters degree in counseling from UW-Oshkosh and was ultimately the Head Guidance Counselor at Oshkosh West High School. He was also an active member of the UW Oshkosh Alumni Association. On August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1965, Glenn married Jane Hoare and they were blessed with two children, Anne and Sarah. Jane preceded Glenn in death, passing in 1970.

In the late 80's Glenn met Margaret Thornton and after his retirement in 1998 they were married in 1999. Glenn was a loving stepdad to Mary and Meg. This marriage of nearly twenty-six years was the backdrop for many adventures, from halibut fishing in Alaska, to weekends at Washington Island, fishing for red snapper in the Gulf, and cruises in Alaska, the

Panama Canal, the Caribbean, and South America. Glenn and Margaret's home was well-known for the elaborate and carefully tended gardens. The gardens and yard were always home to squirrels, chipmunks (although they were often relocated), deer, and of course, the real rulers of the house, standard poodles.

Glenn was a wonderful grandfather to Jesse and Logan Nehring and delighted in their growing up into fine young men.

A kind and genuine soul, Glenn was the type of man that was steadfast in his loyalty to his family, friends, and loved ones. His patience is legendary. His presence will be greatly missed by all those who loved him.

Glenn is survived by his wife Margaret, daughters Anne Miller and Sarah Miller (Paul Nehring), grandsons Jesse and Logan Nehring, and stepdaughters, Mary and Meg Thornton. He was preceded in death by brother Roger and, sister-in-law, Betty Miller.

A memorial service will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church, 2580 W 9<sup>th</sup> Ave, Oshkosh, WI, on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. Visitation begins at 10:00 am and the service at 11:00 am.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Calvary Lutheran Church or a charity of your choice.

**KONRAD-BEHLMAN FUNERAL HOMES**

## Bonnie Lee Marousek

Bonnie Lee (Bauman) Marousek, age 89, passed away on December 22, 2025 at

Evergreen Retirement Community in Oshkosh. A celebration of her life will take place in the chapel of Evergreen Manor on Friday morning, January 9, 2026 with visitation from 10-11 a.m. and a short service following.

The eldest of four children, Bonnie was born on October 4, 1936 to Wanda Josephine (Payne) and Albert Bernard Bauman on their family farm in Markesan, Wisconsin. She graduated from Markesan High School and then from the University of Wisconsin-Stout with a bachelor's degree in dietetics. She had often said that if Stout had offered a degree in Interior Design, that would have been her first choice. It was while washing peas at the Fall River Canning Company one summer that she and Howard Marousek met and began dating, eventually marrying on August 27, 1960. Their marriage produced three daughters - Lori (Jim) Jacobson, Alisa (Michael) Zessin, and Colette (Paul) Leslie.

While raising her daughters, Bonnie was asked by the Fox Valley Technical Institute to teach Foods and Nutrition classes, along with Child Development courses. She continued doing so until retiring. In 1980 she and Howard purchased their

home at 1304 Algoma Boulevard in Oshkosh, becoming the fourth owners of the William Waters design. Possessing a definite gift for the Victorian style, she and Howard worked seemingly non-stop for decades, restoring the home back to its original era.

Naturally, her love of restoration and preservation led her to develop friendships with like-minded historians. In 1986 Jeanne Crane, Betty MacNichol and Bonnie devoted themselves to The Grand Opera House, investing thousands of hours researching, petitioning, planning, purchasing and executing its historical revival. In 1996, Bonnie spearheaded the saving and restoration of Read Elementary School in Oshkosh, making it a valuable learning institution for years to come.

Bonnie is survived by her three daughters and their husbands, her five grandchildren, Jonathan (Sarah) Jacobson, Jordan Jacobson, Austin (Angel Kadrlík) Tremel, Crystal (Tyler) Finnell, and Jessica (Samuel Smits) Tremel. She is further survived by her brother Barry (Ann) Bauman, sisters-in-law Karen Marousek Hardy and Sherry Bauman, along with many treasured nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Howard, her son-in-law Kurt Tremel, her brothers Bernard Kent Bauman and Kalton Bauman, her sister-in-law Eileen Bauman, her brother-in-law Kenneth Marousek, her nephew Sten Marousek, as well as Howard's parents and her own parents.

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# Obituaries

## Celeste Hathaway

September 25, 1952 – December 22, 2025



As an honest, selfless, and caring matriarch, thoughtful friend, and passionate volunteer and leader, Celeste Hathaway sparkled in life and brought joy to many in her short 73 years.

Celeste was born on September 25, 1952 in Ames, Iowa to Roger Hathaway and Denese (Bredall) Hathaway. She lived in Milwaukee and Neenah, Wisconsin, then Kankakee, Illinois and returned to Neenah in 1969 for her senior year of high school. She was a member of the Quill and Scroll Honor Society, played guitar, and she modeled for a local bridal shop. Celeste attended University of Oshkosh studying Business and Psychology for two years before she married Dr. Richard Habighorst from 1972 to 2006. She became a legendary homemaker and business manager at Habighorst Chiropractic.

Her love for volunteering began at age 14 when she became a candy striper in a small hospital in Kankakee, Illinois and continued through high school. Then at Theda Clark Hospital in Neenah she served as a "Pink Lady" for four years before joining the Board of Directors and

then became President of the Theda Clark Auxiliary, where she drove record membership. She continued volunteering for several organizations, including Altrusa of Oshkosh, and worked with the Oshkosh Police Department to support their K9 program, neighborhood watch, and National Night Out events.

Nicknamed "Diamond Lil", Celeste was a driver for the Habighorst Chiropractic mini grand-prix go-kart races in Menasha, Wisconsin in the early 1990s. Her claim to fame: she rhinestone studded the kart and made sure the team had stylish and studied duds and won the Hot Dog award but never led the team to a race victory.

Celeste brought her talents to several businesses over the years, including becoming a master hair stylist, a dispatcher for Winnebago County, and then as a new accounts representative at North Shore Bank in Menasha.

She was a gifted hostess and planned several community celebrations and private events with artistic flair, and she was an active member of the Republican Party.

Celeste loved all animals, especially her dogs. She enjoyed working with cats, dogs, horses, an even llamas as an animal chiropractor assistant with a certification from the Wisconsin Chiropractic Association.

Celeste passed away on December 22, 2025 after a short battle with aggressive lung cancer; she beat a different lung cancer 8 years ago.

## Ina S. Werner

Ina S. Werner, 89, of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully on December 27, 2025, at



Aurora Medical Center. Born on April 19, 1936, in Lithuania to John and Ann Kanasauskas, Ina's journey took her from a refugee in Denmark during WWII to making her home in

North America, first in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, and later Chicago, Illinois.

Ina's incredible life was marked by her determination and accomplishments. She graduated from DePaul University with a Bachelor of Science in marketing and married her love, Edward Werner, in 1960. As they started their life together, they moved to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, where Ed pursued a degree in engineering while Ina worked at a government services lab, contributing to groundbreaking projects, including the gyroscope for the moon mission. Their life in Oshkosh, Wisconsin followed, where Ed worked at Kimberly-Clark and Ina held a position with Associated Bank.

A lover of all things outdoors and cultural, Ina and Ed enjoyed sailing and participating in regattas, making wonderful memories on Lake Winnebago. Whether she was golfing, tending to her garden, reading a good book, or soaking up the beauty of ballet and opera, Ina embraced life to the fullest. She also cherished traveling and creating lasting memories with family and friends.

Ina is survived by her children, John (Stephanie) Werner and Darija Verhagen; grandchildren, Olivia and Zachary Werner and Devon, Patrick and Robert Jr. Verhagen; sister, Vida Jesewitz; nephews, Todd and Mike Jesewitz and their families.

In addition to her parents, Ina was preceded in death by her husband, Edward Werner; son-in-law, Robert Verhagen; grandson, Clayton Werner.

In honor of Ina's wishes, there will not be any formal services. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the dedicated staff at Aurora Medical Center for the exceptional care they provided to Ina during her final days.

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## William A. Ritschke

William "Bill" A. Ritschke, age 65 passed away on Thursday, December 25, 2025



unexpectedly, but peacefully in his sleep at Rose Mary Manor in Mattoon, WI. He was born in Oshkosh on June 7, 1960 to the late Duane and Shirley (Stroud) Ritschke.

Throughout his life, Bill found joy in the simple treasures of nostalgia. He especially cherished listening to recordings of his grandpa Victor and Uncle Dick as they reminisced about the good old days.

Bill is survived by his brothers, Wayne (Suzanne) Ritschke and Ralph Ritschke; half-brother, Kevin Ritschke; special uncle, Richard Ritschke.

In addition to his parents, was preceded in death by his brother, John Ritschke. Bill will also be warmly greeted in Heaven by his cherished Grandpa Victor, whose open arms will surely welcome him.

There will be no formal services held at this time.

His family takes comfort knowing that Bill spent his last Christmas Eve surrounded by the caring staff and residents of Rose Mary Manor, sharing laughter over pizza and enjoying the festive sounds of Christmas music. Over the last several years at Rose Mary Manor, Bill flourished in a loving environment, a testament to the exceptional care he received, for which his family is immensely grateful.

**KONRAD-BEHLMAN**  
FUNERAL HOMES

She is survived by her son Jonathon and Laura Habighorst and their son Ben, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, daughter Jodi (Habighorst) and James Bernicky and their children Gavin and Genavive Bernicky, Naperville, Illinois, brother Craig and Dawn Hathaway and their two children Paige Hathaway and Mason and Becca Hathaway, Colleyville, Texas, aunt and uncle Dana (Shroyer) and Gary Jansen, Mason City, Iowa, and her Westland Terrier Archie.

Celeste is preceded in death by son Travis John Habighorst, her parents, her grandparents Shirley (Lincoln) and Glen Hathaway, step-grandfather Harold Shroyer, and Dewey and Myrtle Bredall, her uncle and aunt Otto and Patsy Lehmann, her great grandparents Addison

and Anna Lincoln, and her great-aunt and uncle Lenis and Raymond Willson.

The family would like to thank her friends, family members, and the staff at ThedaCare Hospice and Senior Stride for their care and concern as she faced hospice head-on for the past few months.

Celeste will be cremated and laid to rest in a private ceremony with immediate family this summer. In lieu of flowers or cards, kindly donate to the Oshkosh Humane Society or another animal rescue organization of your choice. Celeste's friends and family are asked not to mourn, but to shine on by celebrating and spreading kindness with their families and friends.

**KONRAD-BEHLMAN**  
FUNERAL HOMES

# Classifieds

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

Call 920.385.4512 to place your ad

## For Sale

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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## Miscellaneous

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

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Reimer Jewelers has a Full-Service Watchmaker on Staff. 11 Waugoo Avenue, Oshkosh.

## Legal Notices

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

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

First - Erik Middle - James Last - Meyer To: First - Erika Middle - Jean Last - Meyer

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

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

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4828 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

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

BY THE COURT: DATE FILED: December 17, 2025 Runs: December 24, 2025, December 31, 2025 and January 7, 2026.

WNAXLP

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

WNAXLP

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

WNAXLP

Abandoned storage unit B6 at 1461 planeview dr Oshkosh 54904 sale online at bid13.com or here jan 9, 2026 call Pete 920-312-4928

Runs: January 7, 2026

WNAXLP

# Kid Scoop

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

Here's a Greek fable by a man named Aesop about a race between a tortoise and a hare. It may surprise you who wins!

## THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE



The hare ran so fast some of the words flew out of the story. Can you find where each word belongs?

- BLINKED
- CROSSED
- SNOOZING
- SLOWEST
- EASY
- SPRANG
- MORNING
- WIN
- FASTEST
- TIRED

There once was a hare who always bragged that he was the \_\_\_\_\_ animal in the forest.

"Not even the wind is as fast as me!" the hare would boast.

The tortoise got \_\_\_\_\_ of such bragging.

"We all have heard you talk and talk about how fast you are, but we have never seen you \_\_\_\_\_ I'll race you," said tortoise.



The hare laughed and laughed. "There's no way you can beat me! I am the fastest and you are the \_\_\_\_\_!"

The hare and the tortoise agreed to race the next \_\_\_\_\_ They would race to a big tree down the road and around a bend. Many other animals came out to \_\_\_\_\_

**GO!** The hare zipped off the starting line in a blur, leaving the tortoise in a puff of dust. The tortoise coughed, \_\_\_\_\_ her eyes, and took the first of her slow, steady steps.



The hare was soon way ahead, far down the road. The tortoise could hardly see the hare in the distance, but she wasn't worried.

As the hare rounded the bend in the road, he laughed and thought, "This is too \_\_\_\_\_! I'm going to rest. That tortoise is so slow that I'll get up in time and still beat her to the finish line!"



The hare laid down on the warm, soft grass and fell asleep! Later, when the tortoise walked right by the \_\_\_\_\_ hare, he didn't

wake up. The tortoise didn't stop. She just kept walking her slow and steady pace.

When the tortoise was nearly to the finish line, the hare woke up. Yawning and rubbing his eyes, he was shocked to see the tortoise \_\_\_\_\_ line.



The hare \_\_\_\_\_ to his feet and ran as fast as he could to try catching up to her to \_\_\_\_\_ the race.

**B**ut by then it was much too late. The slow little tortoise \_\_\_\_\_ the finish line first. All of the forest animals cheered loudly for her!



### About Aesop

Aesop was a storyteller. He lived about 2,500 years ago in ancient Greece. His favorite story to tell was a fable. A fable is a very short story with a moral, or a lesson to teach.

Aesop's fable *The Fox and the Grapes* tells about a fox who tries and tries to reach grapes on a high branch. Embarrassed by being unable to jump high enough to reach them, the fox walks off angrily, saying loudly that the grapes are sour and not worth the effort anyway.

Use the code to discover the moral of Aesop's fable *The Tortoise and the Hare*.

▲ = A	▲ = O	■ = and
● = C	■ = R	■ = D
▲ = E	▲ = S	■ = the
■ = I	▲ = T	■ = .
■ = L	▲ = W	
▲ = N	▲ = Y	

Extra! Extra!

### Strike a Pose

Look at a photo in the newspaper. Can you make the pose of the person in the photo? How long can you hold the pose?

Standards Link: Value physical activity for enjoyment and health.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### There's Lots of Hares in There!

How many hares can you find in two minutes? Have a friend try. Who found the most?



### Double Double Word Search

- TORTOISE
- BRAGGED
- FASTEST
- LAUGHED
- SLOWEST
- ASLEEP
- BOAST
- AESOP
- MORAL
- FABLE
- HARE
- BEND
- BEAT
- RACE
- WINS

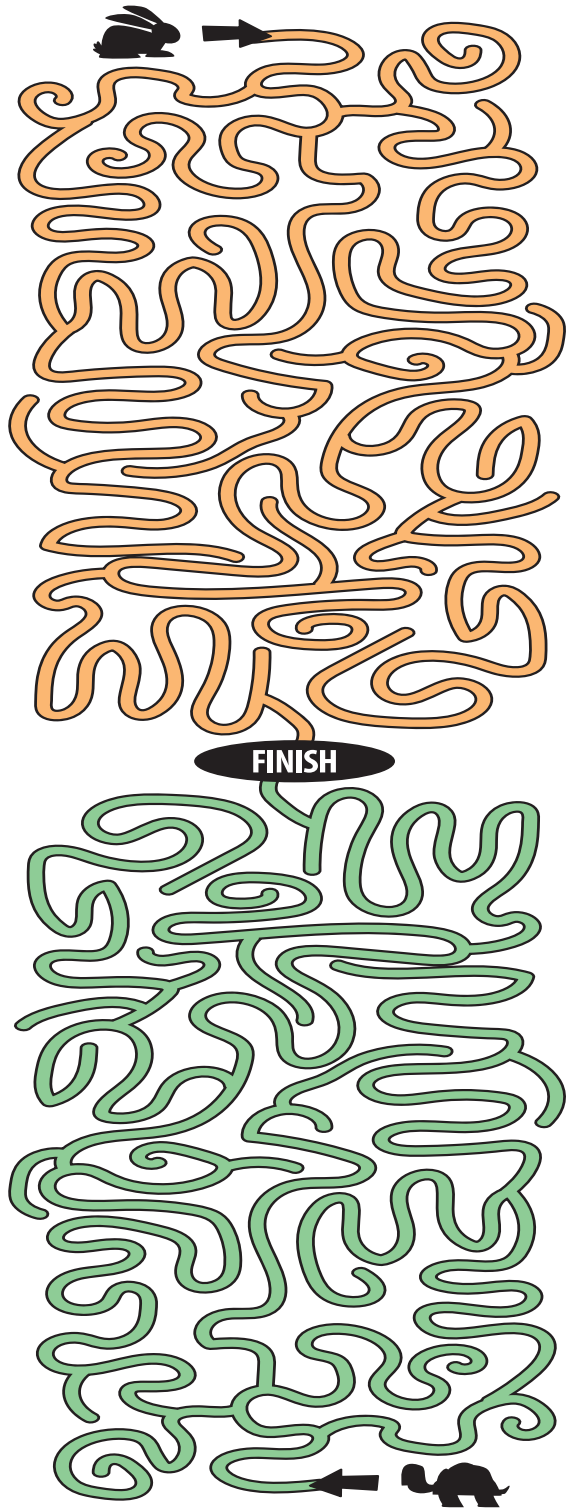
Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

A	D	E	G	G	A	R	B	E	D
S	S	O	P	H	B	E	A	T	E
P	L	F	S	L	A	R	O	M	H
F	O	A	E	C	A	R	T	P	G
A	W	S	A	B	T	L	E	E	U
B	E	T	E	O	E	E	S	W	A
L	S	E	I	A	L	N	W	I	L
E	T	S	E	S	R	E	D	N	M
O	E	T	A	T	R	A	L	S	S

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

### Kid Scoop Together: Ready, Set, GO!

One person is the hare and the other is the tortoise. Race against a family member to reach the finish line first.



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**Write On!**

## Tortoise or Hare

Are you more like a tortoise or a hare? Why?

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