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Photo by Michael Cooney

A new era has started as Witzke's reopened over the weekend at the corner of Oregon Street and 17th Avenue.

Historic bar reopens after renovations

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Two years ago the old building on the corner of Oregon Street and 17th Avenue was almost demolished, but it's back as a family-run business.

Witzke's, an Oshkosh icon with roots going back 150 years, celebrated its grand opening over the weekend with the Morth family as the new owners.

The bar was packed since the doors opened at 11 a.m. Thursday for drinks and food from the newly renovated kitchen including pizza, smash burgers, a soup of the day and Friday fish fry.

Chris and Linda Morth purchased the historic building two years ago and began the renovation process. The Morth's son, Brett, has experience in the industry and is managing the new era of Witzke's.

"All three days, it's been pretty nuts," Brett said Sunday before the bar opened. "The feedback has been really positive, and the community has been very welcoming. It's been great."

A steady group of customers visited throughout the weekend starting on Thursday and continuing through Sunday.

"We've run out of things, and we're figuring what people like," Brett said.

The most popular food items so far are the smash burgers and Chicago-style hot dogs, he said.

The renovations of the building included a new roof and new floor inside the bar. The Morth's also replaced all the gas lines and redid all the electrical work and plumbing lines at Witzke's.

The bar back is a staple at Witzke's with photos of it at the bar going back to the 1870s. Several old and historic photos are inside Witzke's and the Morth's were intentional with highlighting the history of

SEE **Bar reopens** ON PAGE 9

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Butz excels in two sports for Wildcats
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Miller resigns from OASD position
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Community members voice concerns over Flock cameras

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

As city leaders decide the fate of Flock cameras in Oshkosh, community members took time recently to hold a public discussion on the city's use of the controversial cameras that police say help solve crimes while others believe it creates a state of mass surveillance.

Flock Safety is a private company that leases automatic license plate readers (ALPR) to law enforcement agencies and businesses. The cameras run 24/7 and the data is stored in a national database and

over 500 law enforcement agencies have access to Oshkosh's data.

Residents that were interested in the use of Flock cameras on April 15 filled a meeting room in the basement of the Oshkosh Public Library.

The Oshkosh Common Council has been considering a vote on a \$163,500 two-year contract with Flock. The system has been in place since the council approved the first contract for 20 Flock cameras in Oshkosh in 2022.

Currently, 26 Flock cameras are being used throughout the city, primarily at ma-

ajor intersections and the bridges over the Fox River.

Last week's meeting was organized by community members, including Tanner Mann and others who spoke during the March 31 council meeting.

Mann, a software engineer, gave the community an insight on how the system works.

Flock Safety representatives that went to the March 31 council meeting said the only way federal agencies could access the data is from a warrant. Since OPD owns the data, Flock representatives said the

city would always be informed before data was handed over to a federal agency.

Christian MacLeod, Flock's senior public affairs manager, told the council that they would tell Oshkosh when a federal warrant was issued for the Flock data.

Mann explained that is accurate but also gave examples of where federal agencies like ICE would be able to access information.

In his example, Mann stated that an ICE agent could call one of the over 200

SEE **Flock cameras** ON PAGE 8

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Corrections

It is the policy of the Oshkosh Herald to correct all errors of fact. For correction information, call 920-385-4512.

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Choosing what we see - and do - in our community

Have you ever noticed how quickly a good day can get derailed by a social media post pointing out everything that's wrong with our community?

I had originally set out to write this column about that - about the ease of criticizing versus the effort of actually doing something. Last week, one of those posts called out litter around town. And honestly, it wasn't wrong. As the snow melts and spring rain settles in, everything winter left behind is now right there in plain sight.

But here's the thing - it also gives us an opportunity.

Then this past week, we saw something even bigger. Flooding impacted our neighboring communities, and once again, we were reminded of who we really are. People showed up. They filled sandbags, delivered food, checked on neighbors and helped clean up. Social media, for all its faults, became a tool to organize, inform and rally support.

That's the Oshkosh I know.

Female injured, suspect arrested after shooting

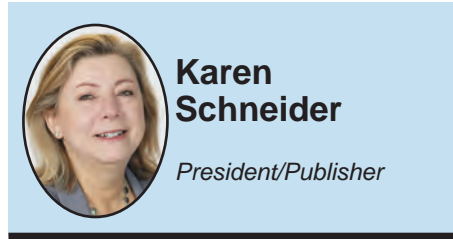
Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh police said a female sustained life-threatening injuries in a shooting Friday on the city's east side.

Officers responded to a weapons incident that occurred in the area of the 1000 block of Bong Court at approximately 11:20 p.m.

Upon arrival, police said they found a female with an apparent gunshot wound. The victim was transported to an area hospital, police said.

Police said a suspect was arrested as they continued to investigate the incident. Police did not identify either the victim or the suspect.



Karen Schneider

President/Publisher

Today is Earth Day - the 56th one - and it's a reminder that small actions matter. Not big, complicated plans. Not waiting for someone else to organize it.

Just action.

Step outside. Grab a bag. Pick up what's in front of you.

No committee. No permission. Just a few minutes of your time.

We've already seen what happens when people come together - how a thousand small acts can turn into something meaningful. So let's keep that going. Not just today, but tomorrow and the days after.

An uncoordinated community cleanup. Neighborhood by neighborhood.

Oshkosh Police Sergeant Aaron Achterberg told the Herald on Sunday the victim remains in serious but stable condition.

This is believed to be an isolated incident and police said they are not looking for any other suspects.

Palmeri sets office hours

State Rep. Lori Palmeri, D-Oshkosh, is holding office hours from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Friday at the Oshkosh Seniors Center.

The session is an opportunity for residents to advocate for issues, receive information and resources, and speak directly with Palmeri.

Street by street.

And while you're at it, share the good. Post what you're doing. Show the effort. Tag Discover Oshkosh. Let's fill our feeds with what's right about Oshkosh - not just what needs work.

Because the truth is, both exist. The difference is what we choose to focus on - and what we choose to do about it.

Store to hold Restring and Recycle event

Oshkosh Herald

Musicians in Oshkosh will have the opportunity to refresh their instruments and recycle used strings during a free Restring and Recycle event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday at Heid Music.

The event invites local musicians to bring in used strings from any brand, have their instruments restrung with D'Addario strings and recycle the old ones through Playback, an instrument string recycling program created by D'Addario and powered by TerraCycle.

For musicians, replacing worn strings is part of maintaining sound quality and performance, but it also creates a high amount of waste.

Industry estimates indicate that approximately 1.5 million pounds of musical instrument strings are discarded in the United States each year.

Correction

APRIL 15, Page 10: In the article "Dodge sentenced to five years in hit and run case" victim Ethan Luaders' name was misspelled.

NOTICE OF CITY OF OSHKOSH GRASS CUTTING REQUIREMENTS

Residents are reminded that blowing or placing grass clippings, leaves, or other debris onto the street is prohibited. Storm water runoff carries grass clippings and other debris on the street pavement surfaces into the storm sewer system. The City of Oshkosh's storm water runoff drains directly to local lakes, rivers, and streams. Storm water runoff is not treated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Debris carried by storm water runoff can cause inlets and storm sewers to plug and this can lead to flooding. Additionally, grass clippings and leaves contain nutrients that help feed algae blooms on adjoining waterways.

PER MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 25 / STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Section 25-26 Obstructions in Street prohibited

This code indicates that no person shall place or deposit any substance in any sidewalk or street without a permit. In addition, no person may obstruct or stop the flow of water in any ditch, sewer, gutter, or culvert along or across any street, lane, alley, public grounds, or sidewalk in the City.

PER MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 14 / STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

Section 14-30 Discharge Prohibitions

This code indicates that no person shall throw or discharge any pollutants to the municipal storm sewer system.

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

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Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Common Council is set to meet tonight to give direction to city staff regarding the purchase of the two properties in City Center.

Council to discuss City Center purchase

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

After seven months of closed door sessions, the city is almost ready to make an offer on City Center.

A special Oshkosh Common Council meeting is scheduled for this evening to direct staff to acquire the City Center properties at 101 Commerce Street and 201 Pearl Avenue.

The meeting will allow time for public comments, which will be followed by a presentation by the Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corporation (GO-EDC) and city staff. After the presentation the council will once again go into closed session to discuss the topic.

No dollar amount is listed on the resolu-

tion, and it does not specify what the city will do with the space. Officials have not said what the city is willing to pay for City Center.

“The purpose of the closed session is to discuss bargaining options, strategy, parameters & terms related to the potential redevelopment and/or acquisition of the City Center property,” the city website states.

At the special council meeting the group will also be discussing purchasing 114 High Avenue, Thompson Studio and 118 High Avenue, formerly Gunderson Cleaners, in preparation for an expansion project for The Grand Oshkosh.

The city has not stated a funding source for any of these purchases.

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Ethan Sean Luaders

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When you're done shining things up, scan here to discover a full calendar of great things to do, and make plans now.



Oshkosh neighborhood kicks off Arbor Day celebrations

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

With April being a time of celebrations, including Earth Day and Arbor Day, residents of one Oshkosh neighborhood planted trees last week to start the Arbor Day celebrations.

Arbor Day can be traced back to 1872 and the Nebraska Board of Agriculture. It is now celebrated all over the world and decisions over decades in Oshkosh have lead to national recognition.

Oshkosh has been celebrated as a Tree City for 45 straight years. The designation of a Tree City comes from the Arbor Day Foundation dating back to 1976 with the goal to “raise awareness of the value of community trees, set foundational standards for communities of all sizes and celebrate community improvement.”

River East residents joined Travis Derks, Oshkosh’s forester and landscape operations manager, Thursday at Williams Waters Plaza. The plaza has been a work in progress for over a decade with people like Kathy Webb working to complete the gazebo last year.

“We worked hard to get this built and now these trees will be adding to this space,” Webb said. “And it’s just the perfect weather for this after all the rain.”

The plaza sits on the southeast corner of the State Street and Washington Avenue intersection. It is directly across the street from one of Waters, a well-known architectural mind who built a number of distinctive buildings across the region, most notable projects – the Oshkosh Public Library. The Williams Waters gazebo replicates the dome on top of the library.

The group planted three trees on the



Oshkosh Herald

Members of the River East Neighborhood Association worked with city forester and landscape operations manager Travis Derks to plant three trees in the William Waters Plaza.

east side of the plaza. Derks explained the different types of trees were oak varieties – kindred spirit and beacon. Two kindred

spirits were planted with the beacon in the middle. The beacon could grow 40 to 45 feet and the kindred spirit could grow to

as tall as 35 feet. In the fall the trees will turn red and yellow to add more color to the area.

“We hope that people see these trees and think ‘that’s the kind of tree I’d like,’” Derks said.

Derks said the parks department has been working to get more variety and more suitable trees in Oshkosh.

“We don’t want an entire block of terrace trees to be maple and then another block to be all oak trees,” Derks said. “That variety is better for the entire urban canopy.”

The city is working with more neighborhood associations across Oshkosh to help plant trees in the neighborhoods.

Derks gave residents information on how to properly plant trees making sure the new trees aren’t planted too deep or too shallow and making sure not to make the soil too compact because of the importance of some air pockets to allow for root growth.

Arbor Day is recognized nationally on April 24. However, Mayor Matt Mugerauer issued a proclamation recognizing April 16 as Arbor Day in Oshkosh. More Arbor Day events are planned next week in the Tree City.

The proclamation states, “Trees are a renewable source that provide us with paper products, wood to build homes, fuel for fires and countless other uses.” It adds, “Trees also can combat climate change by reducing erosion of top soil. Trees also provide oxygen for us and a habitat for wildlife.”

“Trees – wherever they are planted are a source of joy and spiritual renewal,” Derks said.

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District engagement coordinator resigns as position changes

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Oshkosh schools may be searching for a new student and family engagement coordinator following a recent resignation.

The Oshkosh Area School District hired Anthony Miller Jr. in June 2023 as the district's first director of diversity, equity and inclusion after the position was created in March 2023. Miller earlier this month resigned his position four months after the Board of Education voted to downgrade the position from director to coordinator.



Miller

Miller's resignation was approved by the school board at the April 8 meeting.

Last year the district changed Miller's title to director of community engagement and equity, but the position and duties of the role did not change. Miller was still overseeing the district's equity work and served as the community and parent liaison on DEI issues.

In November, district officials announced an upcoming \$5.5 million structural deficit leading into the 2026-27 school year. The deficit, according to OASD Superintendent Bryan Davis, is due to state aid not keeping up with rising costs and declining enrollment.

The district plans to hire a new coordinator to start the next school year. The potential new hire will need to be approved by the board of education.

An initial proposal called for eliminating the position entirely. However, during a December board meeting, some students

spoke about representation and the positive view Miller and his role has brought to students.

Miller and OASD assistant superintendent Sam Coleman are the only two Black administrators within the district and were both hired in June 2023. Amaiya Thomas said these hires gave her hope as a Black student.

"This position has changed the lives of many Black and brown students in the school district and even the community," she said. "They've shown us that we can achieve anything, that our voices matter and our experiences are real."

The student comments also mentioned the fact that minority students struggle most with attaining proficiency in math and reading. One student noted there was a tie between community engagement, equity and academic achievement.

"Your Black and brown students are some of the lowest-scoring students in the district and our state overall," Micah Troedel told the school board in December. "Why are we choosing to cut the one position whose job is to focus on that? To me that sounds like it's no longer a priority and that we're shifting our focus back to other things."

Other speakers at the December meeting worried that minority student achievement may become an afterthought if the director of community engagement position was altered.

The district provided this rationale for changing the position: "Revised recommendation is to restructure this position to be a student-facing coordinator at the school-level focused on student engagement and post-secondary planning support; it will no longer be a Central Office Administrator with Executive Team responsibilities."

The district's equity work began in 2017 with the Integrated Comprehensive Systems (ICS) for equity. This included school principals and building leadership teams learning the history of marginalization, deficit to asset-based thinking, identity development, applying equity research along with other topics that was then shared with all staff members.

Davis has stated this is not an Oshkosh problem and that it's happening all over Wisconsin. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported in March that the Milwaukee Public School District (MPS) school board voted to cut about 260 jobs for the upcoming school year. MPS was facing a \$46 million deficit and the job cuts are set to save the district around \$30 million.

The Wisconsin Examiner reported that 56 operational referendum questions were on ballots across the state for the April 7 elec-

tion. These requests totaled over \$1 billion in requests.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jill Underly released a statement the day after the election. She stated the number of referendums in the spring is a clear signal the state is falling short of providing children in Wisconsin with a quality education.

"Years of chronic underfunding from the state, combined with rising costs, have pushed too many districts into an unsustainable cycle, forcing communities to repeatedly turn to voters just to meet simple, basic needs like keeping schools staffed and the lights on," Underly said. "This is unfair to students, educators and taxpayers alike, and it is placing an increasing strain on communities across our state."

Miller did not respond to a request for comment on his resignation. Miller's last day is Friday.

Vanden Hogen selected as city attorney

Oshkosh Herald

Amy Vanden Hogen has been selected as Oshkosh's new city attorney.

In her new role, Vanden Hogen will serve as the city's chief legal counsel, advising the common council, city manager, boards, commissions and departments on a wide range of municipal law matters.



Vanden Hogen

Vanden Hogen has spent more than eight years serving as assistant city attorney. In that role, she has advised city departments, boards, committees and council on municipal law is-

ssues involving enforcement, regulatory compliance, contract review and governance matters. She also has prosecuted thousands of municipal citations annually in circuit court and has led complex abatement litigation through trial and appeal.

Prior to joining the City of Oshkosh in 2017, Vanden Hogen practiced business litigation as an associate attorney with Caliber Law, S.C. and Young, Schuster & Maslowski, LLP in Oshkosh. Her legal experience has included litigation disputes involving breach of contract, trade secrets, construction, non-compete agreements, complex collections, foreclosure, and bankruptcy.

She is replacing City Attorney Lynn Lorensen, who retired at the end of 2025 after serving the city for 33 years.

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Community gala features former Packer

Oshkosh Herald

Community members from the Fox Valley and across Wisconsin are invited to gather for an evening of connection, competition and community impact at "Turf Club by Nova Counseling."

This is a first-year community-focused gala designed to bring communities together to play hard, laugh loud and invest in a healthier community. Nova Counseling is asking for assistance from attendees and donors at this event to raise funds for local substance abuse support.

Scheduled to start at 5 p.m. May 1 at Becket's restaurant, this event will bring together families, health care professionals and community members from Oshkosh, Appleton, Green Bay and the surrounding Wisconsin communities to raise awareness about addiction recovery and mental health while supporting counseling services that help individuals and families rebuild their lives.

Every dollar raised during the gala will stay local, directly supporting mental

health, recovery services and programs to strengthen individuals, families and community resilience throughout the area.

Built around the idea that recovery is a team sport, the event is designed to unite the community in a positive and engaging way while addressing the importance of mental health and addiction recovery. The evening will feature a variety of activities including games, a silent and live auction and opportunities for community members to connect. Nova Counseling Services offers on-site rehabilitation services for men struggling with substance use disorder including alcohol, marijuana, cannabis, kratom, heroin and more.

Former Green Bay Packer Tony Mandarich will attend the event as a special guest and keynote speaker.

Mandarich has been open about his own journey through addiction and recovery, and his presence at this event will highlight the importance of addressing these challenges openly and supporting those who are struggling.

UWO to hold inauguration for chancellor Friday

Oshkosh Herald

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh will celebrate the inauguration of Manohar Singh as the university's 12th Chancellor during a series of events bringing together students, alumni, faculty, staff and community leaders.

The inauguration ceremony is an opportunity for the university to formally

celebrate new leadership. Members of the campus and community are invited to participate in inauguration events and celebrations recognizing this milestone for the university.

Additional information about the inauguration events, including schedules and participation details, is available at uwosh.edu/chancellor/inauguration/. The inauguration ceremony will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the Kolf Sports Center.

UW-Oshkosh alumni, community partners and supporters are encouraged to join the Titan community in celebrating this historic occasion.



Submitted photo

Volunteers from Valley Christian School in Oshkosh were one of many groups who helped sort hygiene donations as part of this year's Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive.

Community effort delivers hygiene items for those in need

Oshkosh Herald

The 2026 Help for the Homeless (H4H) Hygiene Drive brought together businesses, schools, churches and community members across Oshkosh, Omro and Winneconne—resulting in more than \$49,000 in donated hygiene items to support local agencies serving individuals and families in need.

Led by The Family, the annual drive helps provide essential items like soap, shampoo and toothpaste — products that can be difficult for households to afford when budgets are tight.

This year, 138 collection boxes were placed throughout the community, with nearly 89 returned full of donations. Items collected through the drive are now being distributed through local partners, including ADVOCAP, Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, COTS, Day By Day Shelter, Father Carr's Place 2B, Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, Oshkosh Area School District, The Salvation Army, Tiny House Village, and Vida Medical Clinic.

In a new role this year, Oshkosh Area United Way served as the area leader for the drive, supporting participating agen-

cies, coordinating volunteers and hosting the final drop-off and sorting location.

Volunteers played a key role in keeping donations moving. Community members signed up through VolunteerOshkosh.org, the area's volunteer center hosted by Oshkosh Area United Way, to assist with picking up, transporting and sorting donations — helping reduce the workload for nonprofit staff and keeping the process on track, even during challenging weather conditions.

"In past years, the amount of coordination and hands-on work required for the Hygiene Drive has been significant for agencies," said Hannah Wainio of Winnebago County Public Health. "This year, having volunteers step in to help with logistics and sorting made a noticeable difference. It allowed us to stay focused on the people we serve while still being part of a successful community effort."

Access to basic hygiene items play an important role in supporting health, dignity and daily stability. By working together, community partners helped expand access to these essentials through the organizations already serving individuals and families across the region.

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John Nieman
Producer and Show Host from "The Place To Be Oshkosh" Oshkosh Media show

"There is no reward equal to that of doing the most good to the most people in the most need."

- Evangeline Booth



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Flock cameras

FROM PAGE 1

Wisconsin agencies such as the Brown County Sheriff's Office. The ICE agent could call the sheriff's office to ask about Oshkosh's Flock data and then a search in the system would just look like a Brown County search.

Mann explained this would allow ICE or any federal agency to access the information without a record existing that Oshkosh's data was shared.

OPD shares information with over 500 law enforcement agencies across the region with just over 200 Wisconsin agencies with access to the data. Oshkosh Police Chief Dean Smith said other agencies have access to this data because of the drug trafficking corridors that lead to Oshkosh from Minneapolis, Chicago and Michigan's upper peninsula.

Resident Jacob Klaameyer questioned if the Flock data is mishandled would Oshkosh taxpayers have to pay if the city is sued or if the responsibility would rest with Flock.

The Herald reached out to the city attorney's office through the communications and engagement division regarding these concerns and received a response from newly hired city attorney Amy Vanden Hogen.

"Any lawsuit involving the city would depend on the specific facts and circumstances of the case," Vanden Hogen said. "Municipalities can face a range of claims, and whether the city would have any financial responsibility in a particular matter would depend on the facts, the nature of the allegations and the parties involved. The city also maintains insurance coverage, which may provide coverage for liability and defense costs depending on the circumstances."

Some council members attended last week's community meeting, including Karl Buelow, who did not say which way he planned to vote Tuesday but said he has done more research on this topic than any other topic that has come before the council during his tenure.



Oshkosh Herald

Community members packed the meeting room inside the Oshkosh Public Library last week for a discussion on Flock cameras. The \$163,500 contract with Flock was set to be voted on Tuesday night by the Oshkosh Common Council.

Police use

Just a few hours before the community meeting was held, the Oshkosh Police Department used the Flock system to locate Antonio Brown, who police said was on the "Wisconsin's Most Wanted" list. Brown was arrested and wanted as a homicide suspect in Milwaukee.

OPD worked with the U.S. Marshals Service's Eastern Wisconsin Violent Offender Task Force to locate Brown around 2 p.m. April 15 on the north side of Oshkosh.

This is the second time this month OPD has assisted the Marshals in making arrests. In an earlier case the same task force was in the city looking for three individuals and the Flock cameras were used to locate the suspects at Walmart. The three were arrested with alleged links to a felony weapons incident.

Smith has stated the cameras are another tool for officers to use. He stated at the March 31 council meeting that the only OPD personnel that are allowed to access the Flock system to look up license plates are detectives and supervisors in the department.

The system was also used to locate a suspect in a hit and run crash last year in Oshkosh. Victor Langemak is facing charges of hit and run causing great bodily harm for

his role in the December crash when he allegedly struck a pedestrian while driving his truck.

The victim in the case suffered a broken femur, broken ribs, lacerated spleen and collapsed lung.

The Flock cameras were used to track pizza delivery driver Mark Radley and his movements on the night he struck and killed a man near the intersection of Ohio Street and West Third Avenue in January 2024.

Radley, 71, was charged and found guilty of hit and run resulting in death. He is currently serving a six-month jail sentence in the Winnebago County Jail and will remain on probation for the next 10 years.

Smith said the department has used the system to not only solve crime but also locate elderly individuals.

Misuse of system

OPD policy 204 outlines how the department can use the data and system. The policy states the "ALPR shall only be used for official and legitimate department

business."

News stories continue to shine light on other departments with officers misusing the camera system. Officers in Menasha and Milwaukee along with the Greenfield police chief are all facing criminal charges for their misuse of the system.

Smith told the council in March that if he finds out any of his officers are misusing the system, they will be terminated and could possibly face criminal charges.

In the Menasha, Milwaukee and Greenfield cases the allegations are similar with all suspects being male police officers allegedly using the Flock system to track romantic partners or former partners.

In the Milwaukee County case, the victim used havebeenflocked.com to find out that her license plate had been searched numerous times. Her ex-boyfriend's license plate was also searched by the former Milwaukee police officer.

The Oshkosh Common Council was set to vote on the renewal of the contract on Tuesday. It was set to be the first meeting for recently elected council members Jacob Amos, Paul Esslinger and Alec Lefeber.

Omro man charged in pub crawl shooting

Oshkosh Herald

A fight during pub crawl earlier this month led to one man being shot twice in the leg.

The suspect remains in custody and is facing a trio of felony weapon-related criminal charges.

Devon T. Price, 23, of Omro has been charged with first-degree recklessly endangering safety, first-degree reckless injury and concealing a stolen firearm. He is also facing one count of possession of a firearm while intoxicated.

Court documents allege Price was intoxicated when he fired multiple gunshots in a crowd during pub crawl on April 11. Price allegedly told police he got the gun from a man in Chicago and Price knew it was stolen.

Price faces 25 years in prison if convicted on all felony counts, followed by a maximum of 18 years of extended supervision.

The victim is a 17-year-old from Oshkosh. He was shot in the leg twice and was transported to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah for non-life threatening injuries.

A cash bond of \$100,000 was set by Court Commissioner Eric Heywood on April 15 during Price's initial appearance. Winnebago County jail records show Price remains in custody.

According to the criminal complaint, around 7 p.m. officers were dispatched to the intersection of John Avenue and McKinley Street for a report of gunshots.

While officers in the area went to the scene, a large group of people were fleeing the area. The victim was located with one wound to his upper left calf and his left ankle.

The victim was taken to the hospital and underwent surgery to remove a bullet from his ankle.

Police learned that the suspect allegedly went to North Scott Hall. A witness at the restaurant said Price, who used to work at North Scott Hall, came in and said he was punched in the eye and allegedly admitted to shooting someone.

The witness also told police Price appeared intoxicated and smelled of alcohol.

Another witness told an officer a white man was fighting with an unknown person, then the white man pulled a gun out and started firing.

A video of the incident allegedly shows a Black man punch Price in the face, Price then allegedly pulls out a handgun and shoots someone that is not the man that punched him.

Price was taken into custody following a traffic stop near West Irving Avenue and Jackson Street. The car was searched and no weapon was found.

Officers noted bruising beneath Price's right eye. When Price spoke to police, he stated he arrived at pub crawl around 2 p.m. that day and had been to numerous parties and was drinking throughout the day.

Price told police he brought a handgun to pub crawl for protection. He told police he was surrounded by people and got punched in the eye. He told police everything went black and he didn't remember shooting the gun.

An anonymous tip led police to search a sewer. In the sewer near Pleasant Avenue and Hudson Avenue police said they located dark clothing and a handgun with the serial number scratched off.

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State's education system faces funding challenge

Is education funding broken in Wisconsin? It is hard not to say yes when looking at recent headlines across the state.

The Oshkosh Area School District (OASD) just made significant budget cuts and will need to do more over the next couple years to address the district's structural deficit. Other districts, including Milwaukee, Port Washington-Saukville, Fond du Lac, Appleton, Menasha, Green Bay and many more are addressing structural deficits through measures such as cuts and operational referendums.

With some limited exceptions, right-sizing is a priority for districts across the state.

The core of the issue is enrollment. I always smile when someone posts on social media that public education would be fixed if money only followed the student. In fact, where a student attends school is the primary driver of where education dollars flow in Wisconsin.

In the public system each student generates revenue limit authority for a school district, which in plain speak, means a combination of state aid and property taxes (on average about \$12,500 per-pupil, though it varies by district). When a student uses a voucher to attend a private school, the school receives a voucher payment in four installments based on their enrollment in the school on the Fall and Spring headcount days.

Though there are other sources of funding, and the details of education finance get confusing quickly, the consistent theme is that enrollment drives funding to public (and private voucher) schools.

In Wisconsin, public school enrollment is going down. Between 2025 and 2026, Wisconsin districts experienced an average enrollment decline of 34.7 students (about a 2.2% decrease). About three-fourths (315 out of 421) of school districts saw enrollments decline from last year. In the last two years districts saw an average decline of 3.4%.

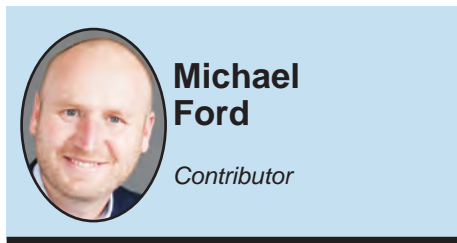
In Oshkosh, enrollment declined 2.1% over the last two years. But over the past 10 years, OASD enrollment declined over 10% (951 students). During that same period overall expenditures have increased, creating an unsustainable fiscal dynamic.

The causes of public school enrollment decline are varied. One factor is fewer students in general due to demographics shifts. Another factor is a loss of market-share due to families choosing other options via vouchers, public school open enrollment, homeschooling or choosing to live in other communities.

The impact of enrollment declines, however, are less varied. When student enrollment goes down, revenue goes down and decisions have to be made on the expense side. And as we are seeing in Oshkosh and other communities across the state, those decisions are painful, divisive and confusing.

What can we do better during this period of financial difficulty for K-12 education? State legislators and the Governor could reform school funding to prioritize predictability and transparency. Steps like tying annual revenue increases to inflation, removing voucher funding from local levies, honoring funding commitments for special education (or not making those commitments), and giving districts more autonomy in how they use targeted aid are all good steps.

Though unlikely, it is possible that state



Michael Ford
Contributor

support for school districts increases in a way that gives districts enough spending authority to avoid having to make cuts. But history suggests the state is not going to take many if any of these steps. A 2018 Blue Ribbon Commission to address the funding formula, for example, led nowhere.

As I tell my students, we cannot confront problems as we want them to exist, but rather, as they exist. The school districts that proactively address the fiscal realities they face openly, honestly, and collectively will be in the strongest position for long-term sustainability and academic growth. This means rejecting simple blame narratives that play well politically but fail to move a school district forward.

It means setting high expectations for communication, no matter how difficult the message might be. And most important, it requires seriousness. A school district cannot expect a fiscal reform to be taken seriously if those implementing it behave in an unserious manner.

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



Photo by Michael Cooney

Supporting veterans

The Blossoms & Bombshells Burlesque Show raised funds to support veterans Saturday at Oshkosh Arena. Everyone who attended and supported the show raised \$1,725 for Missions of Honor, which is dedicated to honoring veterans by flying them to Washington, D.C. and New York City through Old Glory Honor Flights, giving them the opportunity to visit the memorials built in their honor. The show featured a cast and crew of more than 40 people.

Bar reopens

FROM PAGE 1

the bar.

"We intentionally wanted to keep the history of the space and really bring it back to its glory days," Brett said.

Witzke's has been through a lot over the past 150 years. The story starts with German immigrant Henry Schmidt establishing the site as a salon. Patrons enjoyed the drinks and entertainment such as live music, boxing matches and Oktoberfest festivities.

August "Fuddy" Witzke purchased the

bar and renamed it to its current namesake in 1930. The bar was under Witzke ownership for two generations over 60 years. New owners purchased the bar in the 1990s.

Restorations were made in 2003 with a banquet hall being added to the property. However, 15 years later financial struggles hit the bar and in September 2019 after 146 years of operation a handwritten note announced Witzke's was closing.

Witzke's can be found on Facebook to follow along with live bands and karaoke nights coming to the bar and to find out what's next.

"The community is happy to have us, and we're happy to be here," Brett said.

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Altrusa Club names art show winners

Oshkosh Herald

Students from Valley Christian, Oshkosh North and Oshkosh West high schools were among the 50 artists who recently participated in the Altrusa Club of Oshkosh Art in the Garden Show and Sale.

The public was invited to vote for their favorite pieces of art. Winners in both adult and student categories received ribbons and cash awards.

Winners during the April 11 artists' reception were:

Roy Bartel Award: William Millonig for Backwater Wood Ducks

Landscape Solutions Award: Julie Semenas for #148 Prairie Gold

Chuck Behnke Memorial Award: Lauren Chriske for Blu Whispers

April 12 high school winners were:

Best of Show: #701 – Media – Ceramics, Maci O'Laughlin – Oshkosh West

Best of Photography: #806 – Media – Digital Photography, Ireland O'Marro – Oshkosh West

2D First Place: 901 – Media – Charcoal, Aubrey Salisbury – Oshkosh North

2D Second Place: #947 – Media – Oil

Painting, Lauren Ebben – Oshkosh West

3D Third Place: #1010 – Media - Colored Pencil, Ashlynn Anderson – Oshkosh North

3D First Place: #711 – Media Clay, Aaron Yoki – Oshkosh West

3D Second Place: 703 – Media – Ceramics, Lilly Schneider – Oshkosh North

3D Third Place: #731 – Media – Clay, Alexis Maldonado – Valley Christian

Adult winners were:

Altrusa Best of Show: #148 – Prairie Gold by Julie Semenas

Altrusa – Best of Category: Painting - #169 Jon and Lee by Jon Wos; Photography - #207 Paradise Valley by Jeff Pieterick; Jewelry - #400 Phantom of the Opera Pendant by Chris Jensen; 3D - #304 Blue & Red by Paul Dominguez; Non-Traditional - #502 Queen Anne's Monarch by Cheryl McCarthy.

Bev McCarthy Memorial: #152 Colors of Rainbows in the Sky by Becky Schoborg.

Award of Excellence: #138 – Irises by Sonja Oldenburg; #155 – Solitude by Susan Spanbauer; #134 – Elk Creek by William Millonig; #206 – Mountain Lamp 2 by Ryan Murphy; #214 – Fall Ivy on Birch Tree by David Schuhart; #133 – Driftless Overlook by John McGee; #109 – Rebekah by Lauren Chriske.

Award of Merit: #120 – I Don't Want a Pickle by Gary Gossens; #200 – Larger Than Life by Ingrid Christianson; #129 – The Boundary Stone by Tabbi Krause; #301 – All That Matters by Karen Crown; #503 – In the Grass by Jane Zwickey; #114 – Going Bananas by Ger De La Teja; #119 – Native Girl by Linda Gomach

Proceeds of the event will be returned to the community for literacy, non-profits, scholarships and other projects.

Calendar of events

Wednesday, April 22

The Asian-Latino Borderlands with Dr. Lucero Estrella, 4:30 p.m., WALC Learning Center, 111 N. Main St. Suite 202

Thursday, April 23

Pups on the Runway, 5 p.m., Becket's Atrium

Friday, April 24

UWO Chancellor Manohar Singh Inauguration, 11 a.m., Kolf Sports Center
Oshkosh West High School Drama presents Deadline, 7 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Christian Band PETRA Concert, 7 p.m., Calvary SonRise Church
Phantom of the Opera (1925), 7 p.m., The Time Community Theater

Saturday, April 25

Indie Bookstore Day, 10 a.m., Carmel Crisp Bookstore

Oshkosh West High School Drama presents Deadline, 2 and 7 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Fox Cities Roller Derby, 5 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Free Community Night, 5 p.m., Oshkosh Community YMCA – 20th Avenue
B2wins- Farewell to The Grand (For Now), 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Phantom of the Opera (2004), 7 p.m., The Time Community Theater

Sunday, April 26

Oshkosh West High School Drama presents Deadline, 2 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra: Be-

longing, 3 p.m., Fredric March Theatre, 1010 Algoma Boulevard

Monday, April 27

CommUnity Conference, 9 a.m., UWO Reeve Union Ballroom 227

Thursday, April 30

UW-Oshkosh Jazz Ensemble: "Plugged In – Jazz-Rock and Fusion," 7:30 p.m., Theatre Arts Center

Friday, May 1

Vintage Jewelry and Rummage Sale, 9 a.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 370 Bowen St.

OASD Education Foundation Fundraising Gala, 6 p.m., The Waters

The Man Who Saved the World "Turkish Star Wars," 7 p.m., The Time Community Theater

Saturday, May 2

Oshkosh Bird Fest, 6 a.m., Menominee Park

NAMI Oshkosh 5K, 9 a.m., Oshkosh North High School

Lakefly Book Fair, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

Let's Ride Expo, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Vintage Jewelry and Rummage Sale, 9 a.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 370 Bowen St

Oshkosh Violet Society's African Violet Show and Sale, 10 a.m., Parish Hall of St. Jude the Apostle Church, 531 Knapp St.

Celebrate America's 250th Year at Military History Day, 10 a.m., Military Veterans Museum and Education Center

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story, 7 p.m., The Time Community Theater

Sunday, May 3

Oshkosh Violet Society's African Violet Show and Sale, 11:30 a.m., Parish Hall of St. Jude the Apostle Church, 531 Knapp St.

Programs to be highlighted during UWO event

Oshkosh Herald

Various topics will be highlighted during a Showcase of the School of Public Affairs and Global Engagement (PAGE) at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

The free, one night only event will be April 29 at Sage Hall, 835 High Ave. Free parking will be available in Lot 7.

Student club tables, informational materials and free food will be set up from 6 to 6:30 p.m. in the Sage Hall Lobby. A

welcome address from the school director Gospel Choir performance will follow from 6:30 to 6:45 p.m. in Sage Hall 1214.

Instructors from PAGE disciplines will be in Sage Hall classrooms from 6:45 to 8 p.m. giving 10-minute mini-lectures. Every 15 minutes, attendees can change classrooms and hear from another professor.

A full schedule of presenters and topics is available at uwosh.edu/page/page-showcase.

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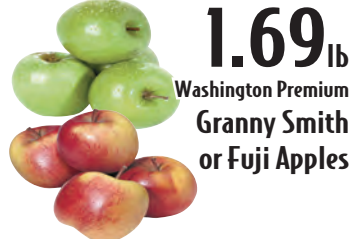
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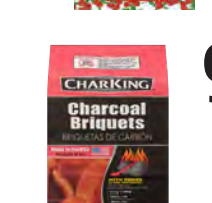
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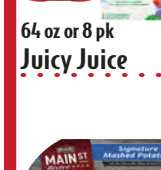
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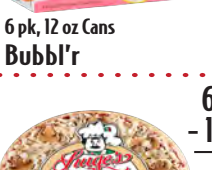
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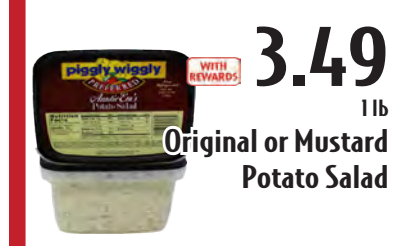
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Oshkosh West's Butz plans to stay busy at St. Norbert

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Elaina Butz knew she wanted to play college ball.

What she didn't know was which sport to choose.

The busy Oshkosh West athlete was torn between playing soccer or volleyball at the next level.

She followed her heart and went with a surprising choice.

She's going to play both.

Butz has made a verbal commitment to play Division 3 sports at St. Norbert College and plans to follow a different route than most college athletes. She will compete for both the SNC women's volleyball and soccer teams.

What makes her choice unusual is that volleyball and soccer are played during the same fall semester. It is believed that Butz will become the first women athlete at St. Norbert to play two sports in the same overlapping season.

"I was looking at some colleges for soccer and volleyball individually and I couldn't figure out which one I wanted to play," Butz said. "I finally started talking to St. Norbert for volleyball and they told me, 'Well, if you can't pick one, you can always play soccer here, too.'

"I asked them, 'Do you mean both?' When they said yes, I was like, 'Oh my gosh. That's my dream.' That's all I want to do - play both because I really didn't want to give one up yet."

What made Butz's decision so difficult is that she's an elite performer in both sports. Butz was a first-team all-Fox Valley Association selection in soccer as a junior and received all-FVA honorable mention in volleyball as a senior. She is also an all-star in the classroom, carrying a 3.9 grade point average.

"I'm going to have a lot going on at St. Norbert," admitted Butz. "School will be my top priority followed by my health. I need to make sure that I'm not putting my body at risk. Sports and friends come after that.

"I'm excited. I'll be motivated to work as hard as I can and get better at everything I do there. I want to play on teams that are successful and can help them do that by being at my best. That's the mindset I'll have."

But that's all for next fall. Butz's current focus is leading the way for a strong Wildcats' soccer team that is coming off a solid season in which West went 10-6-3



Photo by Nicole Beck

Oshkosh West senior Elaina Butz is a two-sport standout for the Wildcats and plans to play both volleyball and soccer at St. Norbert College next year.

overall and a fourth-place 6-1-2 in the rugged FVA. Butz is a stellar center defender and a third-year starter who landed second-team all-FVA honors as a sophomore.

"Elaina is a tremendous multi-sport athlete," said West soccer coach Abe Nelson. "Her success in volleyball and soccer is a testament to her work ethic and effort. She's constantly on the move, working hard on and off the field."

Butz's physical skills pair nicely with her impressive leadership ability. She is a team captain who leads with her game knowledge, effort and words.

"She's been a tremendous leader for our program the last three years and a great captain as well," Nelson said. "She shows the girls how the game should be played through her play on the field and encourages them in tough times.

"We'll miss her greatly next year. We'll miss her on the field with her play and off the field with her tremendous leadership, positive attitude and humor."

Defenders are often the glue to quality soccer teams. They don't score many goals, but are a goalkeeper's best friend by stopping attacks and minimizing scoring

Senior Spotlight



opportunities for opponents. They also support offensive plays.

"I'm very defensive-minded," said Butz. "I prefer to stay back and do more of the dirty work. I'd rather do that than score goals. I'd rather get a nice pass and be a person who assisted on a goal rather than score it."

Butz teams with junior Mykayla Werner to give West two exceptional center defenders.

"Maintaining ball control is a big part of my role," said Butz. "I also use my speed to not let people get past me. Mykayla and I have two different styles of play and we work off one another really well. We use those skills together to basically move the ball forward and connect with others on our team so we can get the ball upfield."

Butz doesn't see herself as strictly a soccer or volleyball player. That's why she was initially reluctant to abandon one of the sports.

"I really can't pick one over the other," Butz said. "They're very, very even."

Butz is a libero in volleyball and a fourth-year varsity player who recorded more than 1,300 career digs. She was a team captain and also played club volleyball for Spiketown USA based in Neenah.

"When I was younger, I was considered average in height, so I played on the front row a bit," she said. "But now I'm shorter than most players and that led me to changing to libero. I really like it. I've always been defensive-minded. My focus is to not let anything hit the floor. I enjoy working and communicating with my teammates in a good and respectful way."

Butz had a special bond on the court with senior teammates Sydnee Nelson, who will play Division I volleyball at Belmont University, and setter MaKaelyn Clark.

"They're my two best friends and we've played varsity volleyball together since we were freshmen," Butz said. "The three of us played positions that connected with each other and that impacted the way I played. We just had this great support system for

SEE **Senior Spotlight** ON PAGE 18

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Upcoming wrestling events support community groups

By Matthew Hoyman
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

A longtime wrestling duo with deep roots in Oshkosh will step into the ring one last time to give back to the community that helped shaped them.

Dylan Postl, a former decade-long WWE superstar known as Hornswoggle, will host his final tag team with Nick Colucci at 6 p.m. Friday for a local charity event at Oshkosh West High School.

"I'm the godfather of his son," Postl said. "His kids are like my kids. My son looks up to him so much, not only in wrestling but in life. It's just one of those things where I'm really lucky to have a best friend for 30 years and still be closer than ever."



Postl

Postl and Colucci have worked together in wrestling for decades, even becoming business partners starting back in 2013 when they launched All-Star Championship Wrestling (ACW); however, Colucci is planning on closing his professional wrestling side of his career, while maintaining his business endeavors.

"The emotions are definitely there," Colucci said. "It's a weird mix for me. Like the feeling of fulfillment or accomplishment

but still sad in a way."

This will allow Colucci to be even more hands-on at the ACW shows because he no longer has to worry about wrestling. The ACW started as a small show with 125 fans, quickly thriving into an organization with 250-300 attendees per show. It has brought in crowds of more than 2,000 at larger venues and runs more than a dozen events each year.

The ACW has two separate classes, a beginner class and a mid-range class, where wrestlers train twice a week, ranging in age.

Postl's favorite part is when the students on graduation day sit down and talk about the biggest takeaway from training.

"Their answers are the most rewarding things that come from it," Postl said. "It's not (about) being able to put on shows with the talent that we coach (or) that we teach."

Most of the ACW shows feature students who graduate from the training program.

"Now our shows, while we still have local talent, outside of our training school, our shows are 95% students from our training school," Postl said.

The company was built on the bond of



Colucci

Postl and Colucci's friendship.

"Our paths differ pretty drastically throughout our careers, but that's a huge part of our success as partners," Colucci said. "We look at things from different angles to make the best product."

The charity event at Oshkosh West is special because Postl and Colucci both have teenagers that attend the school.

The two other charity events the ACW have done to raise money for the school's athletic department raised more than \$10,000.

"I think it's important to give back to the community in any way we can," Colucci said. "My son is a senior at West this year, so it's cool that we get to have a show while he's still there."

The event also holds personal significance for Postl, a 2004 graduate of Oshkosh West, where eight current roster members also attended, and two former teachers are still on staff.

"The city of Oshkosh holds a really special place in my heart," Postl said. "I've lived here my whole life. I've been all around the world with WWE, but no place has ever felt like home, and (Oshkosh) West is a big part of that. I just have so many memories at that school. And now my son is going there."

The devotion from the fans makes it easier for the wrestlers to want to give back to the city.

"We've had such awesome support from our fans and from the community," Postl said. "It all goes back to the athletic department."

The organization is also hosting the largest Wisconsin wrestling event, WaterCity Wrestling Con, to be held at the Oshkosh

Convention Center on May 16 with doors opening at 4 p.m., followed by a greet and meet, and showtime starting at 6:30 p.m.

"This year, we have the most stacked lineup we've ever had," Postl said. "There will be 10 matchups with WWE Hall of Famers and living legends in attendance, like "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan, Mark Henry, Mickie James, Chavo Guerrero, Tyson Kidd, Mustafa Ali, Eddie Kingston, etc."

Postl said wrestlers have spent their mornings walking downtown Oshkosh and enjoying what the city has to offer before matches.

"They always say how much they love this city," Postl said. "How cool is it for me to be able to bring these guests who have been all around the world, major markets, small towns, and how much they just love the feeling of small-town Oshkosh?"

Colucci's final match will come against Kingston in a highly anticipated showdown.

"I want to make sure I give the fans what they want to see," Colucci said. "At the end of the day, I don't get to live my dream for 23 years without the fans, so it was important to me to deliver on my side by having the match they want."

Postl and Colucci's ACW wrestling business has helped spread wrestling locally in the Fox Valley; that's no different with the charity at Oshkosh West on Friday and WaterCity Wrestling Con on May 16.

"I describe pro wrestling like ice cream — not everyone likes every kind, but there's something for everyone," Postl said.

For more information, go to acwwisconsin.com.

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Prep sports roundup

GIRLS TRACK

West racks up win to take FVA quad

The Wildcats racked up a plethora of first-place finishes to place first in the team standings at a rain-shortened Fox Valley Association quadrangular last week.

West totaled 90 points at the meet to finish easily ahead of Fond du Lac, which had 70.5 points. Oshkosh North was third with 32 points followed by Appleton West with 23.5 points.

Camille Phillips and Kerrigan Kimball led the way for the Wildcats with each picking up a first and a second place at the meet. Phillips won the 300-meter hurdles while taking second in the 100-meter hurdles, with Kimball placing first in the shot put and taking second in the discus.

Also winning events for West were Kylie Triebold in the 100 meters, Abigail Tercha in the 800 meters, Sydnee Nelson in the 100-meter hurdles, Nora Pakula in the discus, Emma Liebergen in the long jump and Kayana Turner in the triple jump.

Adding second places were Coraline Strebelski in the 800 meters and Hailey Gibbs in the high jump.

West also took first in a pair of relays. Samantha Panske, Liebergen, Turner and Nelson teamed up to win the 400-meter relay, while the quartet of Natalie Okrah, Ava Dymond, Cora Wright and Triebold took first in the 800-meter relay. West was also second in the 3,200-meter relay.

North had a pair of individual winners at the meet as Adri Clark took first in the 1,600 meters and Alai Awak was first in the high jump. Allison Cummings in the 400 meters and Awak in the triple jump were each second.

BOYS TRACK

West edges North for second at FVA quad

The Wildcats finished two points ahead of the Spartans to earn second place behind Fond du Lac at a weather-shortened Fox Valley Association quadrangular at Appleton West last week.

Three West individuals picked up first-place finishes at the meet as Brandon DeVoe won the 400 meters, Carter Crowe took first in the 1,600 meters and Colden Searles tied for first in the pole vault. West also won the 3,200-meter relay with the team of Andrew Toonen, Juan Collins, Dominic Moore and Garrett Lawatsch.

Collins in the 800 meters and Liam Oterson in the high jump each took second.

The Spartans had a pair of 1-2 finishes to highlight their performance. Jamare Scott and Evan Auler took first and second, respectively, in the 100 meters, while Jose Diaz was first and Tremaine Chapman was second in the 110-meter hurdles.

Andrew Oehler picked up a first place in the discus and was second in the shot put, while Jay Weber earned a win in the 800 meters and Cooper Snell was second



Photo by Doug Sasse

Oshkosh North's Griffin Resop makes a sliding catch in right field against Winneconne last week.

in the 400 meters.

North's 400-meter relay team of Tyler Farnsworth, Dalton Clark, Auler and Scott also earned a first place.

BASEBALL

Spartans collect win over Patriots

Oshkosh North allowed three runs in the top of the first inning, but came back to score a 5-3 win over Appleton East on Thursday.

The Spartans took the lead with a pair of runs in the fourth inning.

Landon Rufer had a pair of hits in the game, while Jackson Anderson reached base three times with a hit and two walks. Braydan Frank and Ty Karpowitz each drove in two runs in the game.

Anderson struck out 10 in five innings to earn the win, while Keegan Kinzfohl pitched two scoreless innings of relief to get the save.

The Spartans dropped an 11-1 decision to Neenah earlier in the week with Anderson tallying the lone hit and scoring the only run in the game for the Spartans. Frank picked up the RBI for North.

The Spartans also defeated Winneconne, 3-1, in a rain-shortened game on Monday.

Lourdes Academy rolls at triangular

The Knights racked up 26 runs in two games and cruised to a pair of victories at the Gillett Triangular on Saturday.

Lourdes Academy took advantage of 11 walks to roll up an 11-5 win over Gillett/Suring in the first game.

Michael Santiago and Reagan Needham had the only two hits in the game for the Knights, with Parker Sluslarski scoring a team-high three runs.

Eli Halla struck out six in five innings and allowed only three earned runs to notch the win. He gave up just one hit but

walked five.

The Knights then beat Menominee Nation 15-2 in the second game, with Ryder Mullen finishing 2-for-2 with a pair of RBIs and Needham and Halla each scoring three runs in the game.

Sluslarski allowed just two hits and one earned run, while striking out nine in the five-inning game.

Earlier in the week, Lourdes Academy knocked off Hustisford/Dodgeland, 9-4.

Michael Santiago went 3-for-4. While Sluslarski, Mullen and Nolan Gibson each finished with two hits in the game.

Sluslarski fanned eight in 5 1/3 innings to get the win, while Halla pitched 1 2/3 innings, striking out two to close out the game.

SOFTBALL

Wildcats split twinbill with Beavers

Oshkosh West split a pair of games against Beaver Dam in a chilly Saturday, topping the Beavers 6-5, while also suffering a 6-3 loss.

Avarie Tritt went 3-for-3 with two RBIs and Izzy Kramer hit a two-run home run in the win for West. Colleen Fitzpatrick and Alexia Monroe each chipped in a pair of hits for the Wildcats, who built a 6-2 lead and then held on for the win.

Kramer struck out five and scattered 10 hits to earn the win.

In the loss, Beaver Dam used a four-run fifth inning to take the lead for good against the Wildcats, who led 3-2 going into the inning.

Lia Lipinski hit a solo home run to highlight the offense for the Wildcats, who managed just five hits in the game. Kramer and Elizabeth Neubauer had RBIs in the game.

The Wildcats also dropped a 6-3 decision to Neenah on Thursday. West took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning but the Rockets tallied three runs in the second and two in the third to take a 5-2 advantage.

Fitzpatrick had two of West's three hits in the game, while Monroe and Lipinski each had an RBI.

West started the week with a 22-0 thumping of Appleton West as the Wildcats pounded out 18 hits and started the game with a 12-run first inning.

SEE Prep roundup ON PAGE 18

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Valley/Lourdes co-op tennis team returns strong lineup

Oshkosh Herald

With a wealth of returning players from last year's squad, the Valley Christian/Lourdes Academy tennis team will be able to make some noise on the area courts this season.

Tennis PREVIEW

The three flights that reached sectionals last year are all returning, including No. 1 singles player Danny Kunde, who narrowly missed out on a chance to advance to the state tournament.

Kunde, who will be a four-year varsity performer this season, lost a close three-set match at the No. 1 singles flight at

sectionals a year ago, falling just short of advancing to the WIAA Division 2 state tournament a year ago.

This season, Kunde will be looking to make that next step to become the first state qualifier from the co-op program as he once again will land at No. 1 singles.

The Warriors will also get their No. 1 doubles team back from last year after Dawson Miller and Sam Vilski earned a spot in the sectional round but lost a close two-set match.

Brady Day also returns after making it to sectionals at the No. 3 singles flight and is expected to move to the No. 2 flight.

Also returning from last season are Sebjo Maldonado and Briana Mueller, who both

played on doubles teams a season ago.

The Warriors finished second at the sub-sectional last season and were fifth – one point out of fourth at the sectional meet.

Oshkosh North

The Spartans will have a whole new look this season after graduating eight of the 10 varsity players from a year ago.

The two returning players from a year ago will be seniors Kallum Larson-Poeschl and Quasi Alqawasmi. Larson-Poeschl advanced to sectionals last year at No. 3 singles and will make the big jump to playing at the top flight this year, while Alqawasmi was a member of the No. 2 doubles team.

Head coach Joe Sagen is expecting senior Luka Kovacec to step in at No. 2 singles this year with junior Caden Ames rounding out the singles lineup at the No. 4 flight.

Junior Max Freidrich and sophomore Max Collins along with freshmen Austin and Otto Pinnow are expected to be in the mix at the top of the doubles lineup for the

Spartans.

"We will have growing pains along the way," commented said. "We have some JV players from last year, along with some freshmen with some playing experience that will contribute this year."

Oshkosh West

Five of the six players who played doubles for the Wildcats last year were underclassmen last season and could return, highlighted by Kole Stauffacher who played on the state qualifying No. 1 doubles team.

According to the WIAA website, Reid Potter and Gavin Steiner were both juniors at the No. 2 flight a year ago and Jacob Lemke was a junior and Isaiah Wilson was a freshman at the No. 3 pairing.

All three doubles flights qualified for sectionals last season.

Three of the four singles flights at sub-sectionals last year for the Wildcats were seniors.

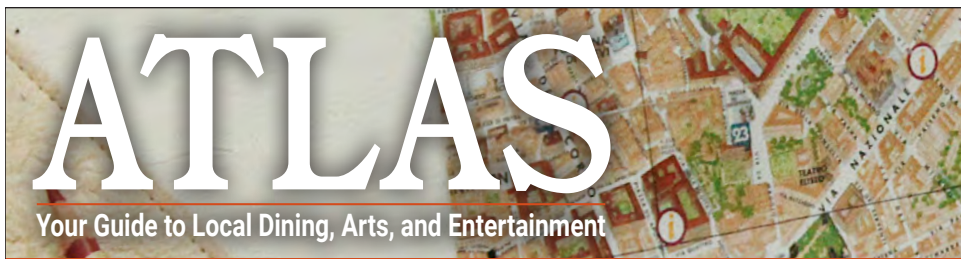
No information on this year's West team was made available.



Oshkosh Herald

Special moments

This weekend the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh hosted hundreds of athletes for the Spring Games of Special Olympics Wisconsin. On Saturday night the Bi-County Thundercats played the Syble Hopp Kangaroos at the Kolf Sports Center. There was 3 v. 3 basketball, 5 v. 5 basketball, basketball skills competition and swimming. Steph Schneider of Menomonee Falls said, "Everyone should experience the joy of Special Olympics for themselves at least once."



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Senior Spotlight

FROM PAGE 15

one another."

Butz brings many of the same intangibles – a high IQ, impeccable work ethic and sense of humor – to the pitch and the court.

"I try and push everyone around me and that in turn allows me to push myself," she said. "That's what I like about being a captain. You can not only help others, but help yourself become a better player."

Butz has been inspired in recent years by the accomplishments of her older sister, Sydney Butz: a senior at Indiana University who was an accomplished twirler for the Hoosiers' marching band. Sydney, an Oshkosh West alumna, brought the featured twirler program back to the college's "Marching Hundred" band following a 30-year absence and performed for Indiana during pregame and halftime festivities at the Hoosiers' football performances at the Rose Bowl and the College Football National Championship Game.

Sydney was also a member of Indiana's

top-flight dance team.

"She has always been my main inspiration," said Elaina. "She made history at Indiana and now I'm hoping to make some history on my own."

Elaina will have a strong support system at St. Norbert. Her parents, Jeff and Molly, have been regulars at Elaina's games and SNC is just a 45-minute drive from Oshkosh.

It's a good bet that Elaina won't let her hectic sports schedule interfere with her academic pursuits. She's a member of the National Honor Society and plans to pursue a business major geared toward non-profit management.

Butz is entering the final months of her distinguished prep athletic career and can't believe the finish line is so close. She's hoping to help build the West program and set it up for success in future years.

"We're looking to win some games and be really competitive in a very good soccer conference," Butz said. "But regardless of what happens, I'm just hoping we can create a good structure for West soccer players so they will be able to build off what we do this year."

Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 17

Fitzpatrick led the offensive barrage by going 4-for-4 with two triples, a home run and five RBIs. Tritt added three hits and drove in a pair of runs, while Skylin Quella, Sam Frank and Monroe each had two hits. Quella drove in four runs in the game, while Frank and Kramer each had three.

Kramer and Monroe combined on a one-hitter totaling eight strikeouts in the game.

Knights notch two shutouts at triangular

Lourdes Academy picked up a pair of wins at the Gillett Triangular beating Suring/Gillett and Menominee Nation by a combined 24-0.

In the 10-0 win over Gillett/Suring, Eliana Reichenberger allowed just two hits and struck out three in five innings to get the win. She also had a pair of hits – both doubles – and drove in three runs. Aubrey Schettle had a pair of hits in the game.

In the second game, the Knights toppled Menominee Nation 14-0 with Zella Tidemanson tossing a two-hitter with 10 strikeouts.

The Knights totaled just five hits in the

game, but drew 10 walks and had seven batters reach after being hit by pitches. Reichenberger finished with four RBIs in the game, while Sarah Hafemeister had three.

Earlier in the week, Lourdes Academy toppled Wayland Academy, 10-0, as Reichenberger fanned 11 in tossing the five-inning one-hitter.

Tidemanson, Maggie Kilde and Alejandra Feuerhelm each had two hits in the game, including a home run from Feuerhelm. Tidemanson scored a team-high three runs in the game.

Rounding out the week for the Knights was a 14-2 loss to powerhouse Oakfield. Hafemeister had the lone RBI in the game for Lourdes Academy, which finished with just four hits.

GOLF

Oshkosh North earns FVA victory

Wesley Loewe earned medalist honors and Oshkosh North collected a 166-172 win over Appleton East at Reid Municipal Golf Course last Thursday.

Loewe fired a low round of 38 to take the honors, finishing one shot ahead of teammate Owen Weber.

Clay Poquette added a 42 for the Spartans, while Brady Anderson and Jack Anderson each shot 45s.

Obituaries

Mary Esther Lee

Mary Esther Lee was born on January 28, 1934, in Omro. She grew up on a



working dairy farm. She loved helping her father milk the cows and even showed calves at the county fair. She was close to all three of her siblings but especially close to her younger sister, Elaine. They made a lot of mischief together.



She and Eldon Lee were high school sweethearts. She waited for him for several years while he was stationed in Germany as an army soldier.

They married on November 26, 1955, and were married for 60 years. They welcomed three children: Alan, Gail, and Steve. Mary worked many jobs. Her passion was bookkeeping, as she had a meticulous eye for detail. She also nourished many people over the years as a cook and at family gatherings. She loved bowling and playing cards (especially Sheephead) and making lifelong friends along the way.

Over the years, she and Eldon enjoyed hosting friends and family at Pine River, their Creekside getaway; camper stays in Door County; and many trips around the US and even to London. She was a deacon and longtime member of First Presbyterian Church. She was a devoted mother-in-

law and grandmother to her four grandchildren, supporting their passions and attending numerous recitals and games. After making the Courtyard Assisted Living her home in 2021, she became beloved to all the staff and was called "Grandma" by all. She passed on April 3, 2026.

Mary Lee was preceded in death by her loving spouse, Eldon; her parents, Ira and Esther Challoner; siblings, Robert (Sandi) Challoner and Elaine Challoner and brother-in-law, Rex Stone (Ruth).

Mary is survived by her children, Alan Lee (Theresa), Gail Trenholm (Danny) and Steve Lee (Chrissy), four grandchildren, Emily and Maddy Trenholm, Mason (Vic) and Conner Lee; sister Ruth Stone and sister-in-law Sandi Challoner and many nieces and nephews.

We'd like to thank all the caregivers at the Courtyard of Oshkosh and the hospice team from Moments Hospice. We appreciated their dedication, compassion, and gentle care for our mother. We appreciated the love, attention, and dignity you provided to mom.

A Celebration of Life for family and friends will held be on April 27th at First Presbyterian Church located 110 Church Ave., Oshkosh starting with the Visitation from 10:00 - 12:00. Church Service at 12:00 followed by lunch at the lower level of the church.

Interment will follow the lunch at the Omro Cemetery located at 1600 Waukau Rd., Omro.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

(Robert) Convery; daughter-in-law, Connie Wilber; grandchildren, Brooke (Daniel) DeRoo, Keegan Wilber (Holly Carlson), Lacie (Cody) Marhefke; great grandchildren, Peighton, Jennsen, Logan, Maverick, Leeanna, Jameson, Briggs and Mason; sister, Shirley Potratz; sister-in-law, Beverly Wilber; brother-in-law, Lee Schuhart, as well as many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Darlene was preceded in death by her husband, Roger; son, James; as well as her siblings, Howard, Betty, and Sharon.

A funeral service for Darlene will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church of Nekimi, 491 Old Oregon Rd. Oshkosh, WI 54902 on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. Visitation will be held at the church from 11:00 a.m. until the time of the service. Interment will take place at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Eden Vista-Oshkosh and Preceptor Home Health & Hospice for their kindness, compassion and dedicated care.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

James Leo Wolf

James "Jim" Leo Wolf, age 79, of Winneconne, followed the angels home to Heaven on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.



He was born on December 15, 1946, the son of the late Leo and June (Kaufman) Wolf. He was united in marriage to Marilyn (Helm) Mugerauer on April 16, 2005.

A dedicated patriot, Jim served honorably in the United States Army, joining the ranks of the 32nd Infantry Brigade, where he ultimately rose to the rank of Command Sergeant Major during his 33 years of exemplary service. His unwavering commitment to his fellow soldiers exemplified his character—a true soldier's soldier who loved his country deeply.

During his military career, Jim devoted over 36 years of his life to the City of Oshkosh, retiring as the Superintendent of Water Distribution. His work ethic was remarkable and inspired those around him, especially his sons, who admired his dedication and tenacity.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Jim found great joy in the outdoors. Fishing and hunting were passions he cultivated over the years, along with countless cherished moments spent at his beloved cottage in Wallace, MI, where he nurtured family bonds and made lasting memories

for over 60 years. An accomplished woodworker, he shared his talents with his sons during many pinewood derbies and home improvement projects, leaving a legacy of craftsmanship, patience, and love.

Jim is survived by his loving wife, Marilyn Wolf; sons, Thomas, Michael (Tammy), and Justin (Amy) Wolf, Renee (Bruce) Hoffman, Kay Luepke, Scott (Michelle) Mugerauer; grandchildren, Leo, Clayton, Everett, Ross, Leah, Hayley, Garrett, and Sierra; sister, Jean Blanchard; brother-in-law, Thomas (Kathy) Helm.

In addition to his parents, Jim was preceded in death by his infant son, Jonathon; sister, Sarah Wolf; brothers-in-law, Marvin Blanchard, Herbert (Eleanor) Helm.

A memorial service for Jim will be held at St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, 8 S 4th St. Winneconne, WI 54986, officiated by Rev. Ben Berger, on Friday, April 24, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Visitation will be held at the church from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service. Inurnment will take place at Riverside Cemetery, Oshkosh.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established.



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Loretta Jean Dolske

Loretta Jean Dolske, age 97, passed away on the morning of Saturday, April 18, 2026. She was born in Omro, Wisconsin on May 31, 1928, to the late Albert and Daisy (Reed) Will and was the last of 12 children. She grew up in Omro and graduated from Omro High School in 1946.



Loretta married for the first time to Eddie Fromholtz, with whom she had one son, Steven. After Eddie passed away, she married Vernon Gilles who adopted Steve like his own son. After Vernon passed away, Loretta married Donald Dolske who passed away in 1981. She lived in the Ripon area for all of her married life until 1997 when she sold her house and moved back to Omro, later relocating to Oshkosh. She loved to crochet & knit as well as playing cribbage & sheephead and going out to dinner with her friends from Ripon.

Loretta is survived by her son, Steve (Tammy) Gilles; two grandsons, Peter

(Ember) & Inert (Katie) Gilles, two twin granddaughters—both born on her birthday, Katie (Ben) Galewski, and Kayla (Jake) Pence; nine great-grandchildren, Abby, Bristol, Alyse, Cooper, Sophie, Waverly, Chloe, Ava, Everett, and baby Galewski on the way. She is further survived by her many nieces & nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husbands, she was preceded in death by her recent life partner and soulmate, Kenneth "Kenny" Zabel; as well as all 12 siblings, Burton, Charles (Mona), Roy (Pauline), Alva (Richard) Jacobson, Anna (Roy) Bucholz, Agnes, Gordon (Rosalie; Mary Ann), Dorothy (William) Hoffman, Lucille, Emily (LaVern) Fondel; & Albert (Arlyle) Jr.

A Mass for Loretta will be held at St Mary's Catholic Church- Omro (730 Madison Ave) on Friday, April 24, 2026, at 11AM. A time of visitation will be held from 9AM until the time of service. A burial will be at St Patrick's Cemetery in Ripon.

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Darlene Ann Wilber

Darlene Ann Wilber, age 82, a deeply kind and selfless soul, passed away at Eden



Vista in Oshkosh on the morning of Sunday, April 19, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of quiet generosity, unwavering love, and a life devoted to others. She was born to the late Clarence and Edna (Hackbarth)

Spiering on September 6, 1943, in Oshkosh and married her husband, Roger Wilber on July 17, 1965 at St John's Lutheran Church, Nekimi.

Darlene made every holiday special with hours spent cooking and baking in the kitchen, with cheesecake becoming a family favorite. Her creative abilities were found in her joy of gardening, crafting, and sewing her children's and grandchildren's holiday clothing.

In addition to her devotion at home, she dedicated over 40 years as a secretary for the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh until her retirement on July 6, 2004.

Darlene is survived by her daughter Lisa

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Obituaries

Emily Potratz

April 13, 2018 - April 8, 2026

Emily was born to the luckiest parents on earth, Ann and Michael, on April 13, 2018, during a historic blizzard, a fact that made her immensely proud. From the moment she arrived, she was braver, more beautiful, and more deeply loved than she could ever know.

Emily was born with a rare combination of heart complications, but to those who loved her, her heart was her most flawless feature. Through the miracle of modern science, and to her family's great joy, she was able to live life with no limitations despite her unique start. She entered each day with an unlimited supply of kindness, enthusiasm, hugs, and strong opinions. Most importantly, she gave love so effortlessly that people couldn't help but notice.

Emily was an innate collector and connector. On ordinary errands around town with her Nana or Grandma, she talked her way into bringing home little treasures just as easily as she talked her way into people's hearts. Every experience she had shaped her. Every animal she ever met became her favorite. Every stuffy she ever held became her most prized possession. Her best friends and cousins were her greatest treasures of all, though, and she'd have spent every minute of every day with them if she could have.

Emily loved to learn, and she approached every challenge with the same curiosity and startling confidence. She tackled learning to read and multiply with the same excitement she brought to learning to swim and ride a bike. She found adventure around every corner, whether it was the thrill of a roller coaster she was barely tall enough to ride or the high of an unexpected grocery store sample in

the next aisle. To Emily, every day held possibility, just like every rock she collected held the promise of a gem if only you looked closely enough.

She was also passionately artistic and tremendously silly. Her drawings and crafts were as creative and joyful as she was. She sang almost as much as she talked, and she shut down the dance floor at every wedding she ever attended. Her sense of humor was truly one of a kind. She loved a good joke, especially pranks, and took genuine pleasure in making people belly laugh. Her joy was constant and unmistakable, and the world already feels poorer without it.

Emily's ability to make strangers feel like her oldest friends in a matter of moments meant she had so many honorary cousins, grandmas, aunts, and uncles that her imagined family tree was more like a forest. Thank you all for loving her as if she were your own. Your love made her world larger, safer, and fuller than we could have ever hoped for.

To Emily's sadness, she outlived her great grandma, Arleen Potratz, and her grandpa, Ted Bowen. To our unending sadness, she is survived by her parents, Ann and Michael Potratz;

Papa Calvin Potratz and Nana Theresa Potratz; Grandma Karen Bowen; Uncle Ed and Auntie Kari Bowen; Uncle Dan and Aunt Amanda Potratz; cousins Elsie, Lily, and Teddy Bowen, and Hank and Frank Potratz; godmother Auntie Jess (Dan) DeBraul; her fish Angel Bubbles Potratz; and too many other incredible extended family members to name. She was fiercely loved by all of them, and she loved them back just as completely.

We extend our deepest love and gratitude to Emily's Emmeline Cook school family, who are mourning alongside us. We are as sad for your loss as you are for ours. Emmeline Cook is a truly special place, and we are so proud to have been part of that community with her. Once a

cougar, always a cougar.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 25 at First Congregational Church, 137 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh. Visitation will be starting at 1:00 p.m. and a service will take place at 3:00 p.m. Children who knew Emily or have been impacted by her loss are encouraged to attend the visitation to honor Emily in child-friendly ways, and to stay for the service for as long as they feel comfortable.

To know Emily was to love her, and to love her was our greatest honor. We are

Russell Aaron Rennert

Russell Aaron Rennert, born December 20, 1947, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, to Murle and Lorraine Rennert, passed away peacefully on April 13, 2026, in Oshkosh after a courageous battle with cancer.

Russell's life was marked by resilience and determination. He helped his family during his youth and later found meaningful employment through programs like DVR and Advocap. Over the years, he worked at various places, forging lasting friendships along the way through many big box stores, The Hawthorne, St Vincent DePaul and Goodwill. A familiar sight around town, Russell was an avid cyclist who took pride in his meticulously maintained bikes and safety. Thank you to Oshkosh Cyclerly who were sure to keep an eye on his bikes. Though he retired his cycling adventures due to safety concerns, his love for independence remained a defining part of his spirit.

A man of many passions, Russell was a devoted fan of Elvis Presley, often participating in local impersonation contests along with his brother. Cherishing memories of his trip to Las Vegas to visit one of Elvis's iconic venues and first flight. He truly enjoyed an Elvis concert he had attended in Milwaukee with three of his siblings. He also had loved vintage and muscle cars, WWE wrestling, trains, model train setups, and the Green Bay Packers. Always eager to discuss games and player trades with anyone eager to chat. Bowling and playing Pool were other favorite pastimes in his younger years.

Russell is preceded in death by his parents; grandparents; siblings Roger, James, and Gloria, and her husband Ben Stache; sister-in-law Helen; nephews Jameson Rennert and Michael Villers; and his beloved cats Titania, Lightning, Tiger, and Blackie.

He is survived by his brother Bruce; nephews Timothy and Chris Rennert, Jeff, Patrick, and Mark Villers; Eric James Ren-

ert and Randy Rennert (Laura), Eric L Rennert (Kelly). Niece and Goddaughter Victoria Krystek (Craig) and niece Molly Rennert; sister-in-law Kate Alderson Rennert; as well as numerous great and great-great nieces and nephews. His cherished cat Hobbs, now lives with a loving family member.

Our family would love to thank Russell's neighbors, who had over the many years held him in a special place and kept an eye out for him. For the wonderful caregivers of Edenbrook of Oshkosh, and his Hospice team: Moments Hospice Care through Ascension. Mary, Marissa, Kerry, Hannah, Priscilla and others on his Hospice team who took time to talk with him, getting to know him and Bruce (his brother on hospice as well) and care for Russell with every loving smile, words and assistance. Not only did they care for him, they cared for his family as well. Making sure we were all ok and keeping us up to date as Russell prepared for his journey home.

Russell's wishes were to not send flowers or plants but to please gift or donate to the Oshkosh Humane Society. He always cared for his cats as if his own children. He knew the need for help for the kitties who needed families.

Russell would like his family and friends to attend in his favorite teams colors of Green/Gold or Packer gear. He wants everyone to celebrate and not cry, enjoy the Elvis music as he always has. As one of Russell's favorite entertainers would say "We'll meet you again, may God bless you, Adios." ~Elvis

Funeral services will be held at Fiss & Bills - Poklasny Funeral Home - Westhaven Chapel in Oshkosh on April 25, 2026. Visitation will take place from 11:00 am-12:00 pm, followed by the funeral service. Burial will be at a later date.

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the Wisconsin Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, and became woman's athletic director in 1971. She was also associate professor of physical education, and head coach of women's badminton, volleyball, track and field, softball, and field hockey. As UWO women's director, teams earned 4 national titles and 18 WWIAC titles.

An avid Brewer and Packer fan, Helen also loved raising and showing her Dachshunds. She was active in the American Kennel Club as well as the Oshkosh Kennel Club. She is survived by her sister Dorothy Ball, her niece Jennifer Wagar and nephew Barent Ball.

A celebration of life will be held on May 1st from 5:00 - 7:00 PM at the Campus Center for Diversity And Inclusion, 717 W. Irving Ave. Oshkosh (Entrance on Elmwood Ave.)

Walter Tesch

After 87 years of grace, our Lord, in His mercy, called our brother, Walter Tesch, to his eternal Home in heaven on Wednesday, April 8. He passed away peacefully in his sleep after waiting 13 years.

Walter was born on Friday, July 22, 1938, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin to Edwin and Alice (Lipke) Tesch. He was brought into the family of God on Sunday, August 21, 1938, through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oshkosh. Alex Tesch and Getrude Lipke served as his sponsors.

On Friday, July 27, 1956, he married the love of his life, the former Marlene Ratzburg, in Iron Mountain, Michigan. They were married for 57 years when God

called Marlene Home to His side.

Walter served in the National Guard. He worked as a draftsman and then as an architect, working long hours to provide for his family of seven. He owned and operated his own architectural firm, Tesch, Tesch & Associates.

He was a faithful member of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church.

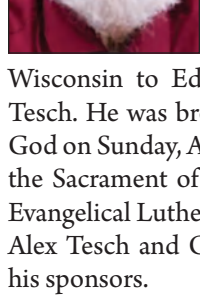
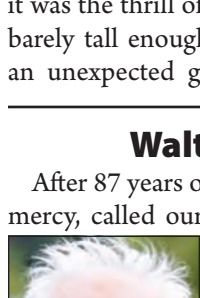
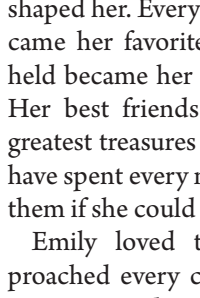
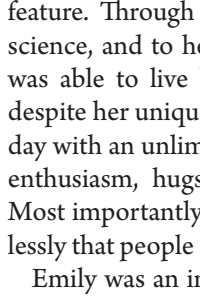
Walter is survived by his children: Richard (Kathy) Tesch of Green Bay, Ellen Paulin of Fond du Lac, Alison (Richard) Tobianski of Colfax, Rev. Jon (Barbara) Tesch of Onalaska, Walter (Barbara) Tesch of New Berlin; nineteen grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren; his brother, Edward (Patricia) Tesch, and sister, Barbara (Robert) Heath; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Walter was preceded in death by his parents, Edwin and Alice, his wife, Marlene, and his grandson, Aaron.

Memorial services will be held on Friday, April 24 at 11:00AM at Faith Ev. Lutheran Church, 1745 Ohio Street, Oshkosh, WI 54902. Rev. Paul Lidtke will officiate. Visitation will be held at the church on Friday from 9am until the time of service. Committal will be at Peace Lutheran Cemetery in Oshkosh.

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Obituaries

Donald R. Stindt

Donald R. Stindt, age 90, passed away at his home on April 13, 2026 with his daughters and a granddaughter at his side. He was born in Omro, Wisconsin on August 17, 1935 the son of Viola Draeger. Don married his one true love, Donna Phillip at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on October 15, 1955. They were married for 63 years until Donna preceded him in death. Don was proud of his service in the United States Marine Corp. He served in the Korean war from August 10, 1953 until August 9, 1955 when he was honorably discharged. He worked for the Oshkosh School District as a distribution supervisor for over 30 years until he retired in 1996.



Don enjoyed many activities during his 90 years on this earth. He was an avid reader, enjoyed taking long walks, liked "tinkering" on cars, enjoyed watching the Green Bay Packer games every Sunday, loved to travel to visit family and friend and especially enjoyed his many trips with Donna to Las Vegas to gamble and see shows. Even later in life he would say that he wanted to "go for a ride" which was his way of letting his daughters know he wanted to go to a nearby casino for a little gambling. Ever since his children were little, he made sure the family took an annual week of vacation to Sturgeon Bay, WI to stay at the "JB Resort". It was important to him that we spent time together as a family. So many memories were made on those annual trips. Even now, the tradition continues for his daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He went to Door County with all/some of his family every year starting in 1963 through

Eugene Daniel Stampfli Karen Mae Stampfli

Eugene Daniel Stampfli, 90, passed away Thursday, March 12, 2026 and his wife, Karen Mae (Briggs) Stampfli, 87, passed away on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026 at Park View Health Center in Oshkosh. Gene was born June 6, 1935 to the late Herman and Edith (Kundert) Stampfli in Janesville, WI. Karen was born May 22, 1938 to the late Francis and Helen Briggs in Monroe, WI. They were married on August 4, 1956 in Monroe. They had two children, Deb Stampfli (Port Washington) and Bill (Ronni) Stampfli (Oshkosh).



be closer to family. They were proud of their Swiss heritage and took many trips to Switzerland. They also enjoyed polka music, bus trips, and endless hours spent with their grandchildren.

Gene and Karen are survived by their children, Deb and Bill (Ronni) Stampfli; 6 granddaughters, Brittany (Dustin) Lobner, Kelsey (Joe) Klohn, Ashley (Luke) Straveler, Ronessa Stampfli, Kayla (Ryan) Gauld and Erika Stampfli; 14 great-grandchildren; Gene's brothers Tony and Fred and sisters, Kathleen and Phyllis.

In addition to their parents, Gene was preceded in death by his brothers, Victor, Herman, and Daniel.

Per Gene and Karen's wishes, cremation has taken place and there will be no services held. Eugene and Karen will be buried together at the Greenwood Cemetery in Brodhead, WI.

The family would like to thank all the staff at Parkview Health Center for their exceptional care, with a very heartfelt thank you to the staff on Lakeside One.

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dren, and 1 great grandchild on the way. He will be deeply missed, forever loved, and remembered whenever a red cardinal appears, our family gathers around a table, or the Packers take the field. Visitation at 9:30am followed by mass at 11am on Saturday, May 2, 2026 at St. Raphael's The Archangel Catholic Church in Oshkosh. For further details visit www.fissbillspoklasnyfuneralhome.com

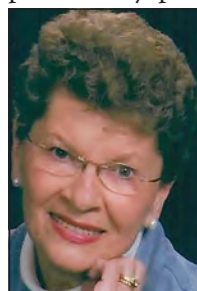
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2025. Don's greatest gifts to those who knew him were his kindness, thoughtfulness, his ability to listen and offer advice when asked, his sense of humor and his undying loyalty and love for those who were blessed to be part of his life. The most important thing to him was his family. His wife, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends were his greatest treasure and his greatest joy in life. He was a Christian man who often said, "If you make God the catalyst of your life, all else will work out."

Don is survived by and his memory will be cherished by his daughters, Sherry (Paul) Schultz, Deb (Jeff) Teetzen, Tracy (Jim) Marin and Susan Stindt; 9 grandchildren, Bryan (Christine) Schultz, Adam Schultz, Breanne (Tom) Hawkins, Donovan (Kaitlin) Stindt, Erin Stindt, Evan Stindt, Kayla (Ghoji) Blackburn, Gabe (Taylor) Marin and Sam Stindt; a brother in law, Mike (Kim) Phillip; a nephew who was like a brother to Don, Dick (Donna) Wara and 11 great-grandchildren;

Shirley June (Bennett) Jacques

Shirley June (Bennett) Jacques, age 90, passed away peacefully at her home on April 12, 2026, with her loving family by her side.



She was a devoted wife, full-time mother, and homemaker whose greatest joy was caring for her family.

Shirley was a talented seamstress who loved sewing, making cards, scrapbooking, and crafting. She especially enjoyed coloring and drawing, always finding joy in creative expression.

Some of her favorite places to shop were Hobby Lobby and Archiver's, where she found inspiration for the many beautiful projects she lovingly created. She had a gift for writing beautiful poems and songs, each one reflecting the moments, memories, and emotions of her life. Through her words, she shared her heart, preserving the joys, struggles, and experiences that shaped her journey. Shirley also loved to dance and roller skate, bringing fun and warmth to those around her.

More than anything, Shirley loved her family. She was caring, supportive, quiet, and kind—a loving presence whose gentle ways made a lasting impact on everyone fortunate enough to know her.

She was a woman of faith and attended First Baptist Temple in Oshkosh and later Plymouth Church.

Shirley was previously married to Robert G. Bennett, her husband of 55 years, who preceded her in death. She is sur-

other relatives and friends. Don was preceded in death by his wife Donna Stindt, a son, Mark Stindt, mother, Viola Reidi and sister Betty Wara.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Don on Monday, April 20, 2026 at 11 am in St. Jude Parish, (Sacred Heart site) the corner of Knapp and 6th Streets in Oshkosh. A time of visitation was held at the church from 10 am until the time of Mass. Burial with full military honors was in Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery.

Thank you to St. Croix Hospice for their care of Don. A special thank you to Dakota, the on call nurse for the love and compassion shown to Don and his family at a very difficult time.

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vived by her husband, Robert L. Jacques and sister Janice M. Schabo.

She is also survived by her children: Rance G. Bennett (Kathy), Mitchel J. Bennett, Kevin C. Bennett, Kim M. Thomson (John), Robin L. Begrow, and Barbara J. Schatz (Christian); her grandchildren Jenny, Courtney, Brooke, Dustin, Libby, Shasta, Tyler, Zachary, Rachael, and Barrett; and 14 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Robert G. Bennett; her mother, Olga M. Ehr Gott; her father, Ernest E. Ehr Gott; her grandparents, Ole and Amelia Skaugstad, and Caroline Ehr Gott; her brothers, James E. Ehr Gott, Richard E. Ehr Gott and Harvey R. Ehr Gott; her sister, Nancy C. Krueger; her daughter-in-law, Joy Alyce Bennett; and grandson Travis Schatz.

A funeral service for Shirley will be held on Friday, April 24, 2026, with visitation from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., followed by the funeral service at 12:00 p.m. at Plymouth Church 1325 Georgia St. Oshkosh, WI 54902. A luncheon will follow. The family is accepting flowers.

Shirley's love, kindness, and devotion to her family will be deeply missed but forever remembered by those whose lives she touched.

IN LOVING MEMORY from her children and family with grateful hearts for the love and memories she gave us.

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Arnold Dulak

Arnold "Arnie" Dulak, age 88, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by the legacy he built - a large and ever-growing family who brought him his greatest joy. He was a devoted and loving husband to Janice for nearly 67 years, a proud father to 6 children, 11 grandchild-



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Obituaries

Edwin Lee Downing

On February 12, 2026, Edwin Lee Downing, age 88, passed peacefully from his earthly life, surrounded by his loving family, to be welcomed home by his Lord. Edwin's Life will be remembered and celebrated on Saturday, May 2, at Resurrection Presbyterian Church, 1205 Congress Ave, Oshkosh. Visitation will

be held at 10:00 am, service at 11:00 am, followed by a luncheon reception for more visitation time and the sharing of memories of Ed with one another. A full obituary may be found at Konrad-Behlman.com



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Obituaries

Dick Behm

Dick Behm passed away early the morning of March 6 following an honorable battle with dementia. He never once complained but accepted the diagnosis, as he understood this was part of God's plan.

He was born to Albert and Ann Behm in the fall of 1945, the third of four children.

He graduated from Oshkosh West High School in 1963. Throughout his life, he was always with his brothers—from playing as little kids to being a member of the band Terry and the Pirates with his two brothers, Terry and Mike, and friends Bob Loos and Tom Wood, to playing cribbage and doing Bible study in his later years.

Following high school, in 1965, he began his 44-year career at Mercury Marine in Fond du Lac, WI. He married Vicki Schoonover on March 25, 1967. They lived in Poygan, WI, and had four children: Richard, Rebecca, Rob, and Greg. He served in the Wisconsin National Guard and raised his family as a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Omro. He was extremely dedicated—especially to God, his children, and his family. While he enjoyed cars, racing, sports, fishing, volleyball, and playing cribbage, none of it mattered unless it was with his family.

Dick especially loved his grandchildren and often travelled to spend time at each of his children's homes to help with the grands. He helped with home projects, built gardens, pruned trees, and was always playing with the kids. He was famous for his "under ducks" and tickles. To all others, he was known for his big hugs,

huge smile, and saying, "God bless you."

The only thing Dad Behm would want you to remember him by is his faith in Jesus Christ. He would want you to be happy for him—that he is no longer in this earthly battle, but free in the loving arms of his Creator and King.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents, Albert H. and Anna M. Behm; his father-in-law, Bill Schoonover; his mother-in-law, Hazel Schoonover; his sisters-in-law, Betty Schoonover and Jodie Schoonover; his brother-in-law, Jim Schoonover; his nephew, Mark Kratz; and his niece, Kris (Kratz) Heidger.

He is survived by his wife, Vicki; his siblings, Terry (Pat), Mike (Karen), and Cheryl (Dale) Bratz; his children, Richard (Carol), Rebecca (Jeff) Nelson, Robert (Katie), and Greg (Gina); his grandchildren, Mollie (Taylor) Camp, Emma (Noah) Duncan, Victoria, Cynthia, Jacob, Hannah, Jack, Luke, Sarah, Kelly, Hazel, and Carmel; and his great-grandchildren, Micah, Moses, and Grace.

We would also like to thank the amazing people at the Courtyard and Gabriel's Villa who cared for Dad during his final years. Not only did they care for him physically, but they loved him well and treated him like family. What a gift that was to our family when we couldn't be there to care for him. We will never forget you.

Services will be held April 30 at Grace Lutheran Church, located at 913 Nebraska Street in Oshkosh, WI, with a visitation starting at 10 AM and the memorial service at 11 AM. Following the memorial, there will be an opportunity to share stories and celebrate Dad's victory.

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Dennis M. Smith

Dennis M. Smith age 76 died peacefully on Saturday April 11, 2026 surrounded by close family and friends. Dennis was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin on June 24, 1949 to William A. Smith "Bud" and Joan Smith. Dennis was educated in the Oshkosh School System and was a single man his entire life. He had been a member of the Oshkosh YMCA since the age of seven. Dennis proudly served the Oshkosh YMCA, the Elgin, Illinois YMCA, Lattoff YMCA in Chicago Metro, and ended his career with the YMCA in Fond du Lac Wisconsin. He held a host of different positions within the YMCA organization but was most proud of his Oshkosh tenure where he was the Youth Director.

After the YMCA, Dennis semi-retired to take care of both his mother Joan and his father Bud. He also continued to work part time at East Bay in Wisconsin for over seven years. Dennis was active in the Winnebago County Historical Society, The Oshkosh Memorabilia Club and Big Brothers Big Sisters Organizations. He

will be sorely missed by his sister-in-law Kathleen Smith, many nieces and nephews and grand nieces and nephews; special friends Jared Renderman, Charley Ray, Heidi Lake, Nate and Missy Krause, Melissa and Aubrey Rickaby and Richard (Jane) Christl. Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Michael Lee Smith and his grandparents.

Funeral services will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday April 18, 2026 at the Kessler Fahrenkrug Funeral Home 304 S. Commercial St., Neenah with Pastor Vicky Knotts officiating. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 1:30 p.m. until the time of services. Dennis will be laid to rest next to his beloved mother and father in a private ceremony at Lakeview Memorial Park in Oshkosh. Dennis requests that a memorial in his honor be given to the local Oshkosh area YMCA. For online condolences, please visit: www.kesslerfh.com.

The family would like to give a special thank you to Oakwood Manor and staff for all the great care Dennis was given.

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Legal Notice

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO RECONSTRUCT PORTIONS OF CROSS ROAD

The Town of Winneconne is accepting cost estimates to reconstruct portions of Cross Road between County Rd. G and Breezewood Ln., totaling approximately 1 mile. Please provide a detailed description of the work that will be done and submit the proposal by April 24, 2026. For inquiries, contact Town of Winneconne Superintendent of Highways Russ Volp at 920-718-0725.

Send your proposal to:
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UW Oshkosh - Polk Library
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Legal Notices

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: Keilani Raquel Mateo By (Petitioner) Ana Alicia Mateo Bustos Notice of Name Change Hearing Case No. 26CV329

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

From:
First – Keilani
Middle – Raquel
Last – Mateo
To:
First – Keilani
Middle – Rachel
Last – Hernandez Mateo
Birth Certifying:
First – Keilani
Middle – Raquel
Last – Mateo

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: May 13, 2026 Time: 8:45 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 SIGNED: March 30, 2026 Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch II Runs: April 8, 2026, April 15, 2026 and April 22, 2026

WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY

Notice Setting Time to Hear Application and Deadline for Filing Claims (Informal Administration) Case No. 26PR98

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Charles V. Andreas

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 05/24/1933 and date of death 03/04/2026 was domiciled in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 7329 Sunburst Lane, Neenah, WI 54956.
3. The application will be heard at the Winnebago County Courthouse, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Room Join Zoom Meeting <https://wicourts.zoom.us/j/88686786577> Meeting ID: 886 8678 6577.

One tap mobile • +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), before Sara Henke, Probate Registrar, on May 19, 2026 at 11:05 a.m.

You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is July 21, 2026.

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

6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or address are unknown. If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call (920) 236-4833 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

DATE SIGNED: April 15, 2026 Electronically signed by Sara Henke, Register in Probate, Probate Registrar Form completed by: Attorney Nathan P. Olson OLSON LEGAL GROUP, LLC Address 146 Algoma Blvd - Ste A, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Telephone 920-230-7020 Bar Number 1059348

Runs: April 22, 2026, April 29, 2026 and May 6, 2026.

WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN WINNEBAGO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT Case No. 26CV229 Code No. 30301

Capital Credit Union Plaintiff,

v. Janei Rice XYZ Unknown Defendant Defendants.

PUBLICATION SUMMONS STATE OF WISCONSIN

To each person named above as a Defendant: | You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. Within 40 days after April 22, 2026, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is Clerk of Courts, Winnebago County Courthouse, 415 Jackson St, PO Box 280, Oshkosh, WI 54903-2808, and to Justin J. Bates, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is PO Box 1473, Wausau, WI 54402. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not demand a copy of the complaint within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated: April 14, 2026 Bates Legal Group, LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff By: /s/ Justin J. Bates Justin J. Bates State Bar No. 1066128 P.O. Box 1473 Wausau, WI 54402-1473 (715) 843-5599

Runs: April 22, 2026, April 29, 2026 and May 6, 2026.

WNAXLP

Kid Scoop®

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



RENNING LEWIS & LACY

Proof It!

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? There is one big error in the banana facts below. Can you find it? Hint: Think locations.

Let's Go Bananas!

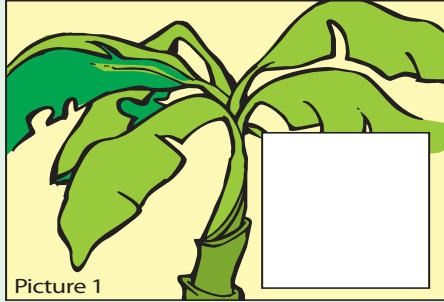
Nutritious and delicious, bananas are one of the best-loved foods on earth by people of all ages. Let's learn more about this tasty treat!



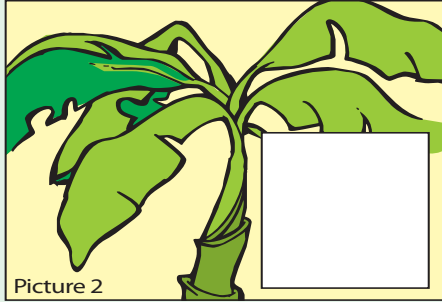
Bananas do not grow on trees!

There is no such thing as a banana tree. Banana plants are actually very tall herbs. There is no woody trunk. The stem is formed from tightly wrapped leaves. New leaves grow out of old leaves. Some banana plants grow amazingly fast. One plant spurts up 20.5 centimeters or about 8 inches every day. If you watch very carefully, you can see this plant grow!

Standards Link: Life Science: Plants have structures that serve different functions in growth, survival and reproduction.



Picture 1



Picture 2

Which way will the bananas grow?

When a banana plant is ready to fruit, it shoots out a long stalk from which the fruit will grow. Which way do you think the bananas will grow? Draw what you think on Picture 1. Then use the code to find out how bananas grow. Draw this on Picture 2.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Did you know?

Bananas are one of the fruits that contain all the major vitamins: A, B1, B2, B6 and C.

You've Got to Hand It to Bananas

Bananas grow in clusters called hands. There can be 15-30 bananas on each hand. Each banana is called a finger. The word *banana* is Arabic for finger.



Monkey Match Game

All but one of these banana-loving monkeys has a match. Which one?

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

- A** $38 - 17 + 6 =$
- B** $156 + 27 + 144 =$
- C** $18 + 18 + 14 =$
- D** $75 + 42 + 33 =$

Complete the math problems at left. Then match the answer with each of these banana facts.

It is said that Alexander the Great discovered bananas in his conquest of India in the year **B** B.C.

The average American eats about **A** pounds of bananas every year.

A banana plant produces from **C** to **D** bananas at a time.

How many bananas can you find on this page?

Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Compute sums and differences.

Extra! Extra! Banana Scavenger Hunt

Peel back the pages of this newspaper to find:

- 4 adjectives that describe a banana
- 5 verbs that tell what you can do with a banana
- a number with as many digits as there are letters in the word "banana"

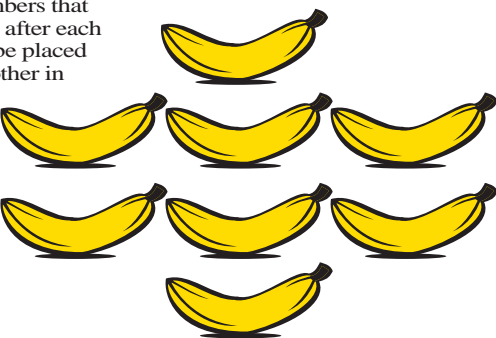
Standards Link: Grammar: Identify adjectives and verbs in writing; Math/Number Sense: identify numbers to 100,000.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Baffling Bananas

Number the bananas 1 to 8. But wait! Numbers that come before or after each other may not be placed next to one another in any direction.

Hint: Cut out eight slips of paper, number them 1 to 8, and try arranging the numbers different ways.



Standards Link: Math Reasoning: Solve problems using a variety of strategies.

Double Double Word Search

- BANANAS
- CLUSTERS
- TREAT
- MONKEY
- WAIT
- HERB
- VITAMINS
- ALEXANDER
- TRUNK
- FINGER
- PEEL
- ARABIC
- HUNT
- FRUIT
- ROW

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

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

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

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Write On!

Favorite Way to Eat a Banana

Chocolate covered? Sliced on a peanut butter sandwich? Or, just plain? Describe with at least five details.

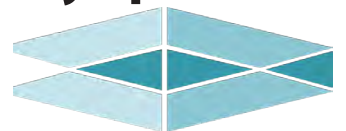
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