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Police continue work at Opera House Square

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

A recent workshop on the operations at the Oshkosh Police Department highlighted the work the department is doing at the second police station near Opera House Square.

The HOME (Homeless Outreach and Mental Empowerment) Base opened last year as the department was noticing a need for more support in the area and was

directed by the Oshkosh Common Council to tackle the issue. The HOME Base is a collaboration with OPD and the county human services department.

“It truly is a partnership between both of them,” OPD Chief Dean Smith said. “The police department wouldn’t be able to work as effectively by themselves doing this. Nor would human services work as effectively by themselves if they didn’t have a police officer.”

OPD reported the area is a popular place for members of the homeless community to gather throughout the day. A point in time count conducted in August shows that 27 people, including 10 living in cars, were counted as homeless during the August point in time count.

The Herald obtained the video from the workshop through an open records

SEE HOME Base ON PAGE 8

INSIDE

Still unbeaten
Warriors run past Blazers
on Homecoming
Page 14

Kope Avenue
Residents say no thanks
to city-built road
Page 8



Submitted photo

Neighborhood concert

Janet Planet performed Friday during an Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods concert at Menominee Park. The event sponsored by four east-side neighborhood associations was open to the Oshkosh community. The sponsoring organizations included Menominee South Neighborhood Association, Menominee North Neighborhood Association, Millers Bay Neighborhood Association and River East Neighborhood Association.

The man who said yes to the Oshkosh Herald

By Grace Lim
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Dan Roherty helped build the Oshkosh Herald’s first 12-page issue from scratch nearly nine years ago.

Now the Herald needs the community to say yes to its future.

When Karen Schneider told people she planned to start a newspaper in Oshkosh, they thought she was crazy. Printers wouldn’t return her calls. People asked why anyone would start a newspaper when newspapers were dying. Then she met Dan Roherty.

Did he think she was crazy? “Not at all,” he said, with a smile.

Dan had spent more than 35 years in newspapers, most of them at The Post-Crescent. He had watched newsrooms shrink and eventually left Gannett as the company eliminated much of its staff. He spent a year at Oshkosh Defense editing massive proposals for military vehicle contracts and bounced around a few other things. He thought his newspaper days were over.

Then someone connected him with Karen. They met at Pappa’s Cafe in Neenah, where Karen laid out her idea for a free weekly newspaper focused intensely on Oshkosh. Where other people saw a crazy idea, Dan saw a void. He knew what had happened to local newsrooms because he had lived through it, and he knew how much local news was no longer being covered. Karen was proposing that they start from scratch and fill some of that void.

“It all lined up,” Dan said. He signed on Dec. 1, 2017. The first issue was scheduled to come out about six weeks later.

And here is what Dan had to work with: Karen, an office manager named Julie Vandenberg, and himself. There were no reporters. No sports editor. No staff photographer. No newsroom full of editors and designers like the ones Dan had worked with during his newspaper career.

Dan had spent decades putting newspapers together,

SEE Support journalism ON PAGE 9



Oshkosh Herald

Former Oshkosh Herald editor Dan Roherty, left, and current editor Chris Lusvardi hold a special edition of the Herald featuring the QR code for Winnebago Media Group’s Founding 5,000 campaign. Roherty helped build the Herald from its first 12-page issue in 2018. Lusvardi now leads the newsroom.

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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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An E-edition of the newspaper can be accessed at
www.oshkoshherald.com.

Walk to End Alzheimer’s inspires hope, raises funds

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh community came together in a wave of purple pride and determination for this year’s Walk to End Alzheimer’s.

Fueled by the energy and generosity of Walkers from across the area, the event Sept. 26 raised \$55,000. These funds will directly support families across the Oshkosh area with education, care and support services, advocacy efforts and the Alzheimer’s Association’s 24/7 Helpline (800-272-3900).

“This year’s Walk to End Alzheimer’s in Oshkosh was nothing short of extraordinary,” said Dave Grams, executive director of the Alzheimer’s Association Wisconsin Chapter. “To see hundreds of people come together, each with their own story and their own reason to walk, was incredibly moving. The joy, the energy, and the determination of this community give us strength and bring us closer to the day when we end Alzheimer’s for good. I am so grateful to every walker, volunteer, and supporter who made this celebration of hope and progress possible.”



Submitted photo

The annual Oshkosh Walk to End Alzheimer’s held Sept. 26 at Menominee Park supports local programs and global research in the fight to end the disease.

Community blood drive to be held at Elks Lodge

Oshkosh Herald

The Community Blood Center (CBC) is hosting a blood drive from noon to 5 p.m. Oct. 16 with the Elks Lodge of Oshkosh at 175 W. Fernau Ave.

There is no substitute for transfused blood, so when a patient is facing cancer treatment, surgical procedures or the uncertainty of a traumatic injury, it’s volun-

teer donors who help ensure the blood needed is available.

CBC provides blood, platelets and plasma to more than 40 hospitals.

This blood drive is open to the public. Healthy and eligible donors are encouraged to schedule a donation by contacting The Community Blood Center at communityblood.org or 800-280-4102.

Winnebago County alone, over 3,951 residents age 65 and older are living with dementia, with that number projected at over 4,170 by 2030.

The Alzheimer’s Association encourages continued support, as donations can still be made to the Walk to End Alzheimer’s through Dec. 31 at act.alz.org/oshkosh.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical Society

October 1, 1952

Stray Dogs Attack Chickens and Rabbits: Oshkosh police have received two cases where stray dogs have destroyed chickens and rabbits. Edward Jungwirth on Hubbard Street said he was awakened around 3 a.m. to the sound of a barking dog. He went to investigate and saw a large white dog jump over the fence of his rabbit warren. Damage was done as six rabbits were killed and five more badly injured. In a second case, Harry Miller, caretaker at the Elizabeth Batchelder Davis Children’s Home (Orphanage) at 229 W. Algoma Street reported six leghorn roosters killed by a dog early yesterday morning. The chicken yard is located at the rear of the children’s home.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, October 1, 1952

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Human Services Department budget adds four employees

By MaryBeth Matzek
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Winnebago County Human Services Department seeks to add a total of four positions as part of its 2027 budget plan.

The Human Services Department, which is the county’s largest department, operates five divisions: Administration, Behavioral Health, Child Welfare, Economic Support and Long-Term Support.

Under the proposed budget, Behavioral Health looks to add 1.5 psychotherapists to work at the jail, two full-time case managers positions to work at the jail and one full-time mental health crisis specialist position. Long Term Support looks to add a part-time Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) specialist position.

The 1.5 psychotherapists will replace contracted staff who work at the jail and will save the county money, said Renee Soroko, interim Human Services director.

Soroko also sought a full-time adult protection services position, but it was removed from the budget by the county executive’s office.

“There’s not enough money for us to do all the things we want,” she said.

Overall, regular pay in the budget proposal will rise 5.14% from \$22.7 million in 2026 to \$27.04 million in 2027. That includes the new positions as well as the cost-of-living wage increases for all employees.

Besides the addition of the new employees, the Human Services Department is taking multiple positions and using them differently to better meet residents’ needs, Soroko

said. For example, in Behavioral Health, the department will eliminate a full-time psychotherapist position and replace it with a full-time crisis center shift supervisor.

Another shift in the organizational chart is taking a mental health crisis specialist who works in the jail from the Sheriff’s Department’s budget and move it to the Human Services Department. There already is one specialist employed by the Human Services Department working at the jail. Both positions’ salaries are covered by grants.

“Why isn’t it staying in the jail’s budget? When the grant is no longer available, we’re going to be responsible for funding it,” said Supervisor Kristl Laux during the Human Services Board meeting where the department’s budget was reviewed.

Soroko said the department met with the Sheriff’s Department and the County Executive’s office to discuss what to do with the positions and it was decided that it made more sense to have them fall under Human Services. If the grant funds run out, she said they agreed to come back together to discuss how to pay for the positions.

Laux said she thinks the positions will eventually be lost.

“These will be gone as soon as we lose the grant funding,” she said.

According to budget figures, the department’s office expenses will decline 5.49% in 2027 from their totals in the 2026 revised budget. The department is not seeking any capital outlays for 2027.

The County Board will vote on the 2027 budget at its meetings during the last week of October.

Hopes and Dreams killed ...

October 5, 2024



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Photo by Michael Cooney

Pumpkin season

Chas Bilek of Sussex and Lindsay Mays, a UW-Oshkosh student, recently picked pumpkins at Early Bird Acres. Owner Lucy Trebiatowski said the family increased production to meet demand and expects to harvest more than 20,000 pumpkins. Most will be sold wholesale around Wisconsin, while visitors can pick their own or choose from pumpkins already harvested at the farm.

Silent auction helps fund scholarships

Oshkosh Herald

The Winnebago County Retired Educators' Association invites all retired school employees who live in and/or worked in Winnebago County to their next meeting on Oct. 15.

Registration for the meeting starts at 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Winneconne. The church is located at 35 S. Third Ave.

Following a short business meeting at 11:30 a.m., lunch will be served at noon. Soup and salad will be catered by Fin 'n'

Feather.

Members bringing auction items should try to arrive by 11 a.m. with their completed bidding sheet; extra forms will be available at check-in if needed. All proceeds will help in the funding of awarding scholarships to Winnebago County high school seniors. School supplies are still being collected for the Teachers' Closet.

Potential new members or visitors are always welcome. Anyone interested should email Lisa at rolson3430@aol.com no later than Monday for more information.

City officials reach out to senators for help funding training facility

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Public safety officials in Oshkosh have been trying for over a year to get funding for a joint fire and police facility.

As the price tag continues to rise, U.S. Senators have been asked for support and funds.

Oshkosh Police Department Chief of Police Dean Smith has reached out to Senator Ron Johnson's office for grant funds. Oshkosh Fire Department reached out to Senator Tammy Baldwin's office for suggestions for funding the joint fire/police training facility in Oshkosh.

Smith said the proposal has dropped from up to \$27 million to closer to \$17 million. These new numbers are budget numbers that are not linked to any bid.

"These are all concepts; it's just square footage blocks put together," Smith said.

"How the design actually looks? We really haven't gotten that far."

Going back to 2023 there was \$5.6 million earmarked in the budget for a fire department training facility. Then it rose to \$7 million before rising to \$10 million. The most recent proposals were offered earlier this month by FMG Architects, which ranged from \$21 million and \$27 million to build.

The city had previously planned this facility to be on North Sawyer Street in the former Armory building but that was deemed not sufficient and is located in a residential area. The city is currently looking at building on 24 acres of land the city already owns.

As the city continues budget talks, which will include capital improvements projects, the training facility is likely to be part of the discussion.

Navigation season for Oshkosh bridges winding down

Oshkosh Herald

The 2026 navigation season for the Oshkosh bridges will officially end at midnight on Oct. 15.

Boaters are asked to plan their final boating trips of the season accordingly.

From Oct. 15 through April 8, the Wis-

consin Street Bridge over the Fox River in Oshkosh will be secured in the closed position while maintenance work is underway. Approximately four feet of scaffolding will hang below the bridge during this time.

Boaters whose vessels can safely pass beneath the bridge without it opening may continue to do so.

Children's theater offers audition opportunities

Oshkosh Herald

Jolly Jester Theatre is holding auditions for School of Rock: The Musical.

Students in first through eighth grade can audition for the show from 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 17 and Oct. 18. They are asked to come prepared with a one-minute monologue and one-minute song.

Auditions will be at the Oshkosh Recreation Department Gym, 425 Division St.

Show dates are Feb. 26-28. Rehearsals begin at the end of October on Saturday afternoons in Oshkosh.

Register in advance with the Oshkosh Recreation Department in advance or at auditions. Program fees are under \$50.

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School mural brings students, community together

Read Elementary School students, families and community members will come together this month to create and celebrate “Somos Semillas,” a new large-scale public mural led by artist Neo Medina.

More than 50 community volunteers and parents are participating in the project, working alongside students and school staff to bring the mural to life. A community celebration of the mural is planned for Monday and all are welcome to attend.

The mural will be painted on the back of the school this week, with students helping create a permanent piece of public art at their school. The project builds on Read Elementary’s 2024 mural residency with Medina, which engaged hundreds of students and more than 40 volunteers.

While the original mural was removed due to needed building repairs, this new installation fulfills the school’s commitment to permanently restore student public art to the building. The new project expands the student experience by intentionally connecting public art with literacy, storytelling, identity, resilience and belonging.

Taco Bell Foundation provides teen center support

Oshkosh Herald

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh has received a grant from the Taco Bell Foundation, continuing a partnership that fuels the club’s Teen Center and the mentorship, academic and career-readiness programming it provides to teens across Oshkosh.

The club’s teen program serves youth ages 13–18 year-round, providing consistent support during the school year and summer months at little to no cost to families.

This year, the program is projected to reach 225 teens through a combination of academic support and tutoring, mentoring, social-emotional learning, basic needs assistance and access to healthy meals and snacks — removing barriers so that financial hardship never stands between a teen and the support they need.

At the heart of the Teen Center’s offerings is BE GREAT: Graduate, a school-based mentoring program that places trained graduate and career specialists directly inside Oshkosh North and West High Schools and Vel Phillips Middle School.

These mentors work one-on-one with students to monitor grades, set weekly and semester goals, connect teens with tutors and teachers and guide them through the transition from middle school to high school and beyond. Over the past three years, 100% of students enrolled in BE GREAT: Graduate have earned their diplomas.

The Teen Center also gives Oshkosh teens hands-on exposure to life after high school. Through the program, teens build career and workforce-readiness skills and have benefitted from resume building, mock interviews, scholarship support, driver’s education, financial literacy education and up-close looks at their options through college and career tours and job-shadowing.

Leadership and youth voice are cultivated through Keystone Club, where teens design and lead their own community service projects, and through the club’s Youth of the Year program, which spotlights teens’ stories and achievements locally and nationally.

On-site mental health and wellness support rounds out the club’s commitment

“Somos semillas” means “We are seeds.” The message reflects the idea that children can grow into who they are meant to be when nurtured by a supportive community.

The mural will feature portraits of Read students and is intended to give children a visible reminder that they are an important part of their school and community.

The project also connects art and literacy. Through a partnership with Read More Oshkosh, students will explore how images, words, symbols and public art can tell stories, reinforcing the idea that every child has a story worth telling. Students will learn about murals such as public art, visual storytelling, cultural expression and community identity.

Medina, an Appleton-based professional artist and UW-Oshkosh graduate, previously led Read Elementary’s first mural project and has extensive experience creating collaborative, student-centered public art. He has also led the Paint the City project, a collaboration between the Appleton Area School District and Appleton Downtown, Inc.

The community is invited to celebrate



Submitted photo
Artist Neo Medina and students take a picture in 2024 during the first mural creation process.

the completed mural from 5 to 6 p.m. Monday in the backyard of Read Elementary School, 1120 Algoma Boulevard. The formal program will run from 5:30 to 6 p.m. For more details follow “Read Rocket Boosters” on Facebook.

The celebration will feature free food while supplies last, music and free community resources. The program and food will happen rain or shine. In the event of less-than-ideal weather, community members are still encouraged to come enjoy a meal, connect with neighbors and celebrate the project. Families are encouraged to bring picnic blankets and lawn chairs when weather permits.

Community members who would like to help support Read students this winter are also invited to bring donations of new winter hats and insulated, waterproof or water-resistant gloves and mittens in children’s sizes 6–12 and adult sizes small and medium.

Major funding support comes from the Community Arts Grant from the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and the Project SOAR Board, along with private and community support. The original project application envisioned the funding supporting the artist residency, supplies and a community celebration, among other project expenses.



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Kope Avenue residents reject proposed city-built road

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Kope Avenue will remain a privately owned gravel road after residents rejected a proposal to have the city build a concrete or asphalt road.

A number of Kope Avenue residents came to the Oshkosh Common Council earlier this year to see if anything could be done. In June, the council was given four options for what can be done with the road.

These options spanned from doing nothing to building a full concrete street that would no longer be private but a city street that would put the long-term responsibility on the city and would include substantial upfront costs, up to \$1.7 million.

The residents of the road pooled their resources together to get more gravel on the road in 2024 after the United States Postal Service Postmaster notified the property owners that service would cease that summer due to the poor road condition.

Residents are expecting a similar service interruption soon if the road condition does not improve.

The Oshkosh Sanitation Division has also reported having difficulty collecting garbage and recycling on Kope Avenue due to the poor condition of the road.

The city held a neighborhood meeting on Aug. 27 inside the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, which is directly across the street from Kope Avenue. Oshkosh's director of engineering and utilities James Rabe told the council that only a few residents attended the meeting.

"We had a very slim turnout that night,"

Rabe said. "There had only been one resident that showed up. He was on his phone texting feverishly and two of the other residents showed up."

The city eliminated special assessments for reconstruction of streets, but the city still has special assessments for new roads and roads with new utilities being installed.

During the discussion it was clear that the residents wanted something to get done, "but they don't want to pay special assessment amounts for asphalt or concrete," Rabe said.

Rabe said that the street is not actively being maintained by the road owners and has many potholes.

"As a result of our neighborhood meeting (the residents) circled back around to say, thanks but no thanks, we'll keep dealing with it on our own," Rabe said.

City documents show Kope Avenue residents were given two options for building a city road. The first was a concrete road at \$817.19 per linear foot and the second was an asphalt road costing \$233.47 per linear foot.

The city calculations showed the road would be just around 2,040 linear feet. The complete assessment for the concrete road was around \$1.7 million, and the asphalt option was \$476,200.

For example, the city would be responsible for 62 feet of the road. Under the asphalt option the city would pay \$14,685.14 and under the concrete option the city would pay over \$51,000.

There are 14 property owners, including the City of Oshkosh, on Kope Avenue and each owner would be billed for the special assessment based on how many



Oshkosh Herald

Kope Avenue will remain a privately owned gravel road after residents rejected a proposal to have the city build a concrete or asphalt road.

linear feet their property had related to Kope Avenue.

A workshop was held for council members to give an overview and history of Kope Avenue on June 16. City records show the first house was built on Kope Avenue in 1967. In 1971, the Wisconsin

HOME Base

FROM PAGE 1

request. It remains unclear why the city did not post the workshop to the City of Oshkosh YouTube channel where several other department workshops have been posted.

OPD Sergeant Brenden Bonnett heads the community impact team, which operates out of the HOME Base. The community impact team is made up of the community outreach team and the behavioral health team.

OPD reported nuisance calls in the Opera House Square area, which includes the sundial, have been going down since the issue was first brought to the department and the common council back in 2024.

These nuisance calls include disorderly conduct, battery, alcohol and drug complaints, noise complaints and open warrants.

In 2024, there were 62 calls for service between March and November. When broken down, that included 46 citizen-reported calls and 16 officer-initiated calls. The department used these months because there aren't many people in the area during the winter months, Bonnett said.

That figure had dropped in 2025 to 42, of which 28 were citizen-reported and 14 officer-initiated. However, so far this year through August there have been 57 calls with the vast majority being officer-initiated.

From March to August this year, there have been 16 citizen-reported calls at Opera House Square and 41 officer-initiated nuisance calls.

Bonnett said that shift is due to the teams and officers being more proactive in the community and not relying on citizen reports of issues.

Community Impact Team

The community impact team is a partnership with Winnebago County Social Services.

The county provides two co-responders to assist the outreach team and the behavioral health team. The behavioral health team also includes K9 Gema, a therapy dog, to help with the calls.

The city funds the OPD officers in the community impact team and the county funds one of the two co-responders.

"There is an investment by the county and the human services side as well,"

Department of Transportation approved the private street could connect with Jackson Street.

Then in 1973, Wisconsin Public Service installed gas and electric infrastructure for the road. In 1993, the north side of Kope Avenue was annexed in the city of Oshkosh from the town of Oshkosh.

The following year, 1994, city sanitary sewer and water main easements were granted and that infrastructure was installed.

Between 1999 and 2021, ownership of the road changed four times.

"At this point the information that we've gotten back from the property owners is they would rather we did not proceed with asphalt or concrete and let them continue to try and figure it out on their own with the gravel," Rabe said.

"That was the message I received from them while I was there too," said deputy mayor Karl Buelow, who attended the meeting at the sheriff's office.

The council directed city staff to not move forward with any improvements to Kope Avenue.

Smith said during the workshop.

Bonnett told the council the behavioral health responds to people in crisis, which could be related to mental health, and to connect resources with those at risk.

Bonnett reported that there's 10 people that make up about 26% of the behavioral health team calls.

The community outreach team primarily handles responses to homeless-related calls for service.

Bonnett shared one success story of a woman who was homeless for six years before the community outreach team got involved. She has schizophrenia and would stop taking her medication which would lead to mental health issues.

Co-responders reached out and engaged with the woman who did not want to seek shelter at the Day by Day Shelter or the Salvation Army based on the group's rules.

Bonnett said that during a cold streak this winter, the woman was allowed to stay in a local business during the night because she wouldn't go to the shelter. The woman was taken into protective custody and began taking her medications regularly. Her quality of life improved and is now living in an apartment as part of a program supporting adults with disabilities.

"Stories like that, a couple times a month, we're experiencing stuff like that," Bonnett said.

Bonnett also addressed some common misconceptions regarding the two teams within the community impact team. He said that unless someone is in immediate risk the person is often not taken to a hospital for their mental illness.

Bonnett added that not every interaction with a homeless results in the arrest of that person. The community outreach team is also not responsible for finding everyone a house.

"The housing market is what it is," Bonnett said.

The community outreach team works with the housing authority but that often takes years.

"However, the people we encounter who were homeless once upon a time, and then get housing based upon these lists, reported a couple years from when you get on the list until you finally actually get on housing," Bonnett said. "So if you have no income, we get you on a list today. It's going to be a couple years until you probably find a place."

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Dr. Grant Larie was named a 2026 recipient of Palmer College of Chiropractic's 10-Under-10 Award.

Local chiropractor earns prestigious international honor

Oshkosh Herald

A Fox Valley chiropractor earned recognition from Palmer College of Chiropractic on Sept. 18 as one of its distinguished young alumni from around the world.

Dr. Grant Larie, an Oshkosh native who now lives in Neenah and serves as clinic director at Chiropractic Health in Appleton, was named a 2026 recipient of Palmer College of Chiropractic's 10-Under-10 Award. The honor recognizes a select group of professionals for their accomplishments, leadership and contributions to the chiropractic profession during their first decade in practice.

The recognition comes exactly 10 years after Larie graduated from Palmer's main campus in Davenport, Iowa. He graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2016 and was the only member of his class recognized in all three of the college's hallmark areas of Academic Excellence, Clinical Excellence and Philosophy.

Following graduation, Larie returned to Northeast Wisconsin, where he has spent the past decade caring for patients throughout the Fox Valley. During that time, he has played a key role in growing Chiropractic Health into a four-location practice while building collaborative relationships with medical and other health care providers throughout the region.

Larrie has also remained connected to Palmer and the next generation of chiropractors through student mentorship, shadowing and preceptorship opportunities. Several students he has mentored have gone on to attend the institution.

“Ten years into practice, I’ve come to realize that the most meaningful measure of a career isn’t simply what you accomplish, but the people you impact along the way,” Larie said. “I’m incredibly grateful for the patients who have trusted me with their care, the colleagues and mentors who have helped me grow, and the students I’ve had the opportunity to encourage. To have Palmer recognize that body of work at this point in my career is incredibly meaningful. I’m extremely proud of what we’ve built, but I’m even more excited about what lies ahead.”

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FROM PAGE 1

but even that required some relearning. He had used Quark, the newspaper design software of an earlier era, for years. Now he had to learn InDesign so he could lay out the Herald's pages himself. He had started his career as a reporter but had spent decades primarily editing other people's work and putting newspapers together. Now he had to report stories, edit copy, write headlines, find photographs, design pages and somehow fill 12 pages with Oshkosh news.

And then that newspaper would be delivered free to thousands of Oshkosh households. But free to the reader did not mean free to produce.

The paper is free. The journalism isn't.

Someone still has to attend the meeting, make the phone calls, ask the questions, check the facts, take the photographs, write and edit the stories, design the pages, print the paper and get it into your mailbox. In those first six weeks, Dan was doing a remarkable number of those jobs himself.

Dan describes himself as “a fairly anxious guy,” so I asked whether he ever walked into that little office on South Main Street in Oshkosh during those six weeks and thought: What am I doing?

"I knew what we were doing," he said. If he could find enough news, photographs and stories to fill those pages, he knew he could make the rest work.

About six weeks after Dan started, they got the first 12-page Oshkosh Herald out the door. Then they had to do it again the next week. That may be the part of this story that matters most. Starting a newspaper makes a pretty good origin story.

Sustaining one is much harder.

Over time, Dan assembled a stable of freelance reporters and photographers who helped cover the community and fill the paper each week. The paper got bigger. The coverage grew. Something that people once thought Karen was crazy to start became something thousands of people simply expected to find in their mailboxes every week.

In those early days, readers sent notes to the Herald office, and the staff pinned them to a bulletin board. Dan remembers one in particular: “Thanks for trying.” It sounds almost like faint praise, but Dan didn’t hear it that way. “That’s perfect,” he remembers thinking, because the reader understood what they were trying to do.

The Herald couldn't cover everything. It didn't have the resources of the corporation-funded newsrooms Dan had known earlier in his career. But the people working there were trying to give Oshkosh something Dan believed the community needed: its own local news. They kept trying, week after week and year after year.

Dan retired in 2025 after nearly eight years with the Herald and almost 40 years of newspaper deadlines. Chris Lusvardi succeeded him as editor. When I asked Dan how he feels looking back, the man who spent much of our conversation deflecting attention away from himself finally allowed himself a little pride.

"I'm really proud that we were able to serve the Oshkosh area with something out of nothing," he said.

Nearly nine years after that first 12-page issue, the Herald still arrives every week. That reliability can make it easy to forget what it takes to put it there. Dan joked that there might be one way to remind people: “How about we don’t print for a month

and then we'll see what you think," he said, with a small laugh. Then he acknowledged the obvious. "But you can't do that."

No, you can't stop publishing for a month just to see whether people miss you. But you can ask people to think about what would be missing and who is going to pay for the work that makes sure the newspaper keeps showing up.

For nearly nine years, advertising revenue and the personal commitment of Karen and the people who work at the Herald have kept this newspaper going. Now Winnebago Media Group is a non-profit, and it is asking the community it serves to become part of its future. The goal is 5,000 members giving \$50 a year. Combined with current advertising revenue, that support can create a sustainable foundation for local journalism.

You'll still get the paper whether you become a member or not. That's the point. The paper is free. The journalism isn't.

Almost nine years ago, Karen asked Dan if he was willing to take a chance on a newspaper that didn't exist yet. He was in.

Now I'm asking you to help make sure it keeps showing up. Fifty dollars a year. Less than \$1 a week.

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Grace Lim is a journalist, educator, founder of Humans of Oshkosh and owner of Grace Lim Creative. She believes local journalism and community storytelling help people feel seen, informed and connected.



SUNDAY

OCTOBER 11, 2026



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Local marketing agency wins 12 awards

Oshkosh Herald

The Academy for the Interactive & Visual Arts, an invitation-only organization composed of professionals in media, communications, marketing and advertising, recognized Blue Door Consulting with 12 2026 Communicator Awards.

The Oshkosh-based agency’s work was chosen from a field of more than 3,000 entries submitted from around the world. “Helping our clients achieve their goals remains our top priority,” co-founder and consultant Heidi Strand said. “The Communicator Awards provide an opportunity to reflect on our work and gain perspective from industry professionals who understand the craft behind driving results.”

Now in its 32nd year, the Communicator Awards celebrates excellence in marketing and communications across a wide range of categories. Entries are evaluated by a jury of respected professionals from throughout the communications industry.

Oshkosh Garden Club celebrates 60 years

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Garden Club is holding its annual scholarship luncheon as it celebrates its 60th anniversary. The club, which was officially organized on April 20, 1966, has been offering scholarships for the past 26 years. This year’s scholarship luncheon will be held Nov. 14 at the Oshkosh Country Club. Cocktails will start at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch at noon.

To commemorate the event, naturalist Rob Zimmer will present a program on feeding birds in the winter. A basket raffle and silent auction will be available from businesses and donors. The luncheon includes soup, salad, and chicken buffet with dessert.

The program’s highest recognition, the Award of Excellence, honors work that represents the best in the field. The Award of Distinction recognizes projects that demonstrate exceptional creativity, effectiveness and innovation. In 2026, Blue Door Consulting earned three Awards of Excellence and nine Awards of Distinction. Blue Door Consulting entries for brand playbook and print content received Awards of Excellence. Brand playbook, social responsibility, logo, general B2B, virtual tours and corporate communication received Awards of Distinction. “As a team, we share these awards with our clients,” co-founder and consultant Brenda Haines said. “Their commitments to creativity, innovation and collaboration are key ingredients to producing work that resonates with customers and prospects as well as other marketing professionals. We’re truly grateful for their partnerships.”

Katherine Lynn graduated from Lourdes Academy and is presently at UW-Madison, where she is majoring in biochemistry hoping to eventually work to create environmentally sound skin-care within the cosmetics industry. Sawyer Sharratt from Oshkosh North High School is studying at UW-Platteville with a major in electrical engineering and a minor in agriculture to one day design tractors and farming equipment. They will each receive \$1,500 for this school year. Tickets for the luncheon are available at The Artful Gift on Waugoo Avenue, uBloom on Witzel Avenue, or members. Information can be found at oshkoshgardenclub.org/scholarship-luncheon.html.

Public library calendar

Through Friday, Oct. 9

Banned Book Scavenger Hunt in the community

Wednesday, Oct. 7

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.
Teen Advisory Board, 4:30–5:30 p.m.
Haunted Destinations with Ashley Mittag, 6–7:30 p.m., adults and teens

Thursday, Oct. 8

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.
Second Thursday Book Club, 1–3 p.m., adults
Adult AniManga, 4:30 p.m.
Chess Club, 5–7 p.m., adults and teens
Exploring Scottish Genealogy, 6–7:30 p.m., adults and teens

Friday, Oct. 9

Elementary Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades K–2
Young Adult Book Club, 4:30 p.m., grades 9–12
Oshkosh Reads Freely, 5:30–7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 10

Unplug and Play Games, noon – 2 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 11

Reading the Rainbow, 2-4 p.m., adults

Monday, Oct. 12

Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m.
Read to a Dog, 4–5 p.m., grades K–5
Accountabilibuddies Writing Group, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 13

Tunes and Tots, 10–11 a.m.
Craft in Company, noon – 1 p.m., adults
Teen Tuesday, 4:30–5:30 p.m.
Craft in Company, 5:30–6:30 p.m.
Adult DIY, 6–7 p.m.
Staying Real in an AI World, 6–7 p.m.
Deer Mother: The Tale of a Wild Mother Named Daisy, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 14

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.
“Did you finish the book?” Club: The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife, 10:30–11:30 a.m., adults

Thursday, Oct. 15

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.
Chess Club, 5–7 p.m.
Not Your Classic Book Club, 6–7 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 16

Watch on YouTube: Librarian Learns: A Walk Through Riverside Cemetery, 9 a.m.
Dia de los Muertos Community Puppet Project, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Spider Stories and Other Stuff, 2–3 p.m., kids and families
PreTeen Create and Chill: Perler bead

friendship bracelets, 4:30–5:30 p.m., grades 3 - 5

Saturday, Oct. 17

Oshkosh Area Writers Club, 10 a.m. - noon
Chemistry Under Construction, 1-3 p.m., grades K-5

Monday, Oct. 19

Preschool Storytime, 9:30–10:30 a.m.
Mini Job Fair, 1–3 p.m.
Read to a Dog, 4–5 p.m., grades K–5
Learn American Sign-Language (ASL) together, 5–6:30 p.m., adults

Tuesday, Oct. 20

Teen Tuesday, 4:30–5:30 p.m.
Winnebago Free Legal Assistance Clinic, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Rooted in Reading: Spooky Trees, 5–6 p.m., kids and families
AI in the Classroom: Keeping the Human Part Human, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 21

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.
Teen Advisory Board, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 22

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30–10:15 a.m.
Adult AniManga, 4:30–5:30 p.m.
Chess Club, 5–7 p.m., all ages

Friday, Oct. 23

Dia de los Muertos Community Puppet Project, 10 a.m. – noon, kids and families
The Librarians Documentary Film Showing: Documentaries After Dark, 6–9 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 24

Read to a Dog, 10-11 a.m., grades K–5
Adult DIY: melted crayon art, 11 a.m. – noon
Halloween Escape Room, noon – 2 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 26

Preschool Storytime, 9:30–10:30 a.m.
Read to a Dog, 4–5 p.m., grades K-5
Learn American Sign-Language (ASL) together, 5–6:30 p.m., adults and teens
Accountabilibuddies Writing Group, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 27

Tunes and Tots, 10–11 a.m.
Teen Tuesday, 4:30–5:30 p.m.
Banned Book Club, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 28

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.
Elementary Explorers, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 29

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.
Chess Club, 5–7 p.m.
Scary Storytime for Grownups, 6–7:30 p.m.

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Photo by Michael Cooney

Night market

Sawdust Nights, a free indoor-outdoor night market at Oshkosh Arena, launched Sept. 30 featuring local vendors, food trucks, beer and wine, and entertainment by Water City Jazz Orchestra, Fly Circus & Aerial Arts, Web Weavers Fire Arts and Joe the Camel. Presented by Fox Communities Credit Union and organized in partnership with the Oshkosh Saturday Farmers Market, the event supported market activities. Another Sawdust Night is being considered for May 2027.

Halloween-themed event features carnival activities

Oshkosh Herald

Families and community members of all ages are invited to put on their favorite costumes and head over for a frightfully good time at the third annual Southside Halloween Bash.

The community event will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 23 behind Leannah Hall at St. Jude the Apostle Church, 519 Knapp St.

The Southside Halloween Bash is a true community-driven collaboration brought to life through the combined efforts of St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Parish, the Sacred Heart Neighborhood Association and the Historic 6th Ward Neighborhood Association. Marking its third year in 2026, the event is also funded with the support of over a dozen area businesses.

Building on last year's event, which welcomed over 600 attendees and featured 24

volunteer trunk-or-treat stations handing out candy, organizers said this year is shaping up to be even bigger.

The free community celebration blends the excitement of a traditional trunk-or-treat with the fun of a classic Halloween carnival. The family-friendly event is free and open to everyone in the Oshkosh area.

Attendees can look forward to an evening featuring trunk-or-treat stations, carnival games, free food and refreshments, costume contests and free trick-or-treat bags.

Interactive Trunk-or-Treat Voting will add an extra layer of friendly competition. Every attendee will receive a special coin upon arrival. Guests can drop their coin into the collection cup at the trunk-or-treat station they enjoy the most. At the end of the night, the station with the highest number of coins will be awarded a special prize.

Event provides call to action on community issues

Oshkosh Herald

Fox Valley Take Back the Night is an annual event that provides attendees with the opportunity to become educated on and take a stand against sexual assault and domestic abuse in the community.

The event will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 14 at the UWO Culver Family Welcome

Center. Community members are invited to attend all or part of the free event.

A resource fair will be from 5 to 6 p.m., program and call to action from 6 to 7 p.m. and march from 7 to 8 p.m.

The event is presented by Reach Counseling and Reach Counseling and UW-Oshkosh Student Health Services.

Church concert will feature food, original music

Oshkosh Herald

The 12:34 concert this month at Algoma Boulevard ABUMC will feature performer Dandy Freleng.

The concert Oct. 18 features free food with a potluck starting at 11:30 a.m. and music starting at 12:34 p.m.

The concerts are organized to recognize there are pockets of food scarcity in Os-

hkosh, as well as a lack of spaces for live, original music outside of the bar scene. 12:34 creates an opportunity for community members to connect through music and share a meal with their neighbors.

Original, local music in a family-friendly, listening room environment. The 12:34 name comes from the concert start time, 12:34 pm.

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Calendar of events

Wednesday, Oct. 7

Shadows of Oshkosh: A Haunted Walking Tour, 5 p.m., Morgan House, 234 Church Ave.

Thursday, Oct. 8

I'm with the Banned: A Banned Books Week Event, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

Friday, Oct. 9

The State of Science in 1776, 2 p.m., Halsey 107, UW-Oshkosh

52nd Street – Music of Billy Joel, 7 p.m., The Grand at UW-Oshkosh

Sawdust City Fright Fest Friday Double Feature, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

Saturday, Oct. 10

Oshkosh Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Downtown Oshkosh

Boos and Brews Seltzer and Cider Stroll, 1 p.m., Downtown Oshkosh

Winnebago County Historical Society Pints of the Past, 6 p.m., Morgan House, 234 Church Ave.

Fox Valley Comedy Nite, 7 p.m., Can Can Boutique and Bar

Mariachi San Jose, 7 p.m., The Grand at UW-Oshkosh

Sunday, Oct. 11

Oshkosh Harvest Craft and Vendor Show, 10 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

Tuesday, Oct. 13

Shadows of Oshkosh: A Haunted

Walking Tour, 5 p.m., Morgan House, 234 Church Ave.

Wednesday, Oct. 14

Take Back the Night, 5 p.m., UWO Culver Family Welcome Center

Thursday, Oct. 15

UWO Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Lab Band, 7 p.m., UWO Music Hall

Friday, Oct. 16

Community Blood Drive, noon, Elks Lodge, 175 W. Fernau Ave.

Brews in the Zoo, 5 p.m., Menominee Park Zoo

Kevin Farley: Growing Up Farley, 7 p.m., The Grand at UW-Oshkosh

Saturday, Oct. 17

Oshkosh Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Downtown Oshkosh

Holiday Craft Sale, 9:30 a.m., Oshkosh Town Hall, 230 County Road Y

Scale Venture, 10 a.m., EAA Aviation Museum

Zooloween Boo, 11 a.m., Menominee Park Zoo

Spooky Skate Night, 5 p.m., Oshkosh 20th Avenue YMCA

Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra presents Pictures, 7 p.m., UWO Music Hall, 1001 Elmwood Ave.

EAA Speaker Series: Meagan Flannigan, Flying the F-14 Tomcat, 7 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum

Sunday, Oct. 18

Run with the Herd 5K and 1K, 8 a.m., Oshkosh Arena

12:34 Concert, 11:30 a.m., Algoma Boulevard ABUMC

UWO Choirs, 3 p.m., UWO Music Hall

Friday, Oct. 23

Jason Salmon Comedy Tour, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

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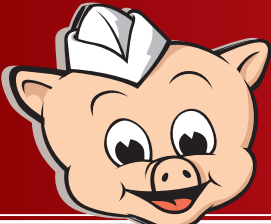
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Gloudemans, Warriors run over Blazers to stay unbeaten

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Sam Gloudemans ran to the left, ran to the right and ran up the middle against Green Bay NEW Lutheran last Friday night.

And everywhere he headed, he seemingly had a huge hole to scamper through. “The line was making the best blocks I have ever seen,” the Valley Christian junior running back said. “I know I can trust my line with everything I do. I just have to make sure I know where I am going.”

Gloudemans cranked out 247 yards and five touchdowns on just 13 carries – a whopping 19-yard per carry average – as the Warriors totaled 373 yards on the ground total in a 55-26 dismantling of the Blazers on Valley Christian’s Homecoming at Neenah Middle School.

The victory keeps the fourth-ranked Warriors perfect on the season, raising their record to 7-0 heading into next week’s regular-season finale at Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah.

And if Valley Christian’s offensive line can have a repeat performance of Friday night, the Warriors will likely complete the first undefeated regular season since football returned to the school.

“That’s what our offense is based on. We want to be able to pound the ball and set the tone for the game up front and our offensive line was doing their assignments all game,” Valley Christian head coach Ben Birr said. “Our guys kept coming back and saying there were holes everywhere and that the offensive line was just balling out.”

The Warriors offensive line is a veteran



Valley Christian’s Sam Gloudemans runs through a gaping hole during the first half of Friday night’s Homecoming win over Green Bay NEW Lutheran last Friday at Neenah Middle School.

group led by seniors Jeron Bjarnarson, Ben Curtis and Eusebio Maldonado. Senior tight end Xander Osinga also figures into the blocking schemes up front. “I’ve been playing with those guys on the front line since sixth and seventh

grade,” Bjarnarson said. “It’s awesome that you build this brotherhood with the guys next to you and you can trust them to hit their block. When it starts rolling, we just get into a zone and we know we can pound the ball.”

For the game, Valley Christian averaged better than 14 yards per carry with Ian Kramer adding 67 yards and two touchdowns on five carries and Noah Ekholm chipping in 23 yards on a pair of rushes. But it was Gloudemans who highlighted the rushing attack scoring on the Warriors’ first four possessions and totaling 243 yards and all five scores before halftime.

“When I see my running back fight and fight to get more yards, it just fires us up. You just get so much energy to just hit the guy across from you on the next play,” Bjarnarson said. “He runs his heart out. He makes us look good.”

Bjarnarson ended the Blazers’ first possession with an interception and Valley Christian marched 63 yards on eight plays on its opening drive, with Gloudemans bouncing around the left end for a 16-yard touchdown.

Gloudemans added scoring runs of 42 and 54 yards on the next two Warrior possessions – scoring drives that took a

combined five plays – but a Blazers’ touchdown pass early in the second quarter narrowed Valley Christian’s lead to just 20-12.

On the first play from scrimmage on the ensuing drive, Gloudemans had his longest run of the night bursting up the middle and sprinting 57 yards untouched for the score.

“It’s pretty easy for me just to run straight,” Gloudemans said. “They have been putting in the hard work and it really showed tonight.”

Valley Christian’s defense ended the next two Blazers drivers with a Gloudemans interception and an Osinga fumble recovery and cashed each into points with Kramer scoring on a 13-yard run and Gloudemans adding a 15-yarder that sent the Warriors into halftime with a 42-12 lead.

Valley Christian immediately extended the lead in the second half as Mason Everts connected with Osinga on a 65-yard touchdown pass on the first play from scrimmage after intermission.

Kramer then capped the scoring later in the quarter on a 19-yard touchdown run.

“We know playoff time we are going to need them to have that type of game. The teams that go far in the playoffs are

SEE **Warriors win** ON PAGE 17



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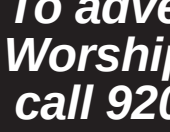


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Moran sets pace in multiple sports at Valley Christian

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Put a basketball in Mya Moran’s hands and it usually ends up at the bottom of a net. Put her on a cross country course and the game often becomes follow the leader with countless runners chasing Moran.

The talented Valley Christian senior is a highly productive three-sport athlete who is one of the top runners and basketball players in the Oshkosh area.

Cross country is her current focus. She is the No. 1 runner on the Warriors’ girls’ cross country team and aiming for her third trip to the WIAA state meet. Moran placed 36th among Division 3 runners at the 2025 WIAA state cross country meet with a time of 20:23.0. after taking 34th as a freshman with a clocking of 20:27.2.

Moran is off and running towards a return trip to Wisconsin Rapids. She finished fourth individually in the 5,000-meter run recently at the multi-team Winneconne Invitational with an impressive time of 19:52.90.

“Mya is an amazing runner and a phenomenal basketball player, too,” said Valley Christian coach Angela Menet. “She is a lead-by-example type of person. She is a dedicated athlete who works hard during and outside of practice.

“She loves to run. It doesn’t matter if its hills or speed work, she is ready to tackle it.”

Moran has always been a fast starter. She is working toward finding her pace on the course and finishing with more of a burst.

“I’m just trying to become a more consistent runner,” she said. “One thing I’ve learned about running a 5K is that it’s as much a mental task as a physical task. You need confidence in yourself and a good mindset. I’ve also learned how important things like nutrition and sleep are.”

Moran’s 2026 cross country goals are to compete for a final time at the WIAA state meet and to possibly break the 19-minute mark in the girls’ 5,000.

“State has been such a cool experience that I’d like to be able to do one last time,” Moran said. “I really want to run in college and the school I want to run for has a recruiting standard of around 18:45. So I have a lot of work to do.”

Moran has been running since a very young age. Her father, Doug, is an avid runner who has competed in marathons, triathlons and iron man competitions.

“I was probably four or five when I started running around the neighborhood with my dad,” Moran said. “My first race

Senior Spotlight



was the “Sam I Am” in Appleton and I just fell in love with running right away. I felt so accomplished and loved how proud my mom (Amy) and dad were of me.

“My dad didn’t start running until he had gotten out of the Marine Corps and he always told me that he wished he had started when he was younger. So I started running when I was a little kid and kept running. We did the Door County triathlon together over the summer where I did the sprint and he did Olympic triathlon. That was a lot of fun.”

The cardio work keeps Moran in excellent shape for basketball. The 5-foot-10 forward was the Trailways East Player of the Year and a first-team all-conference member as a junior after averaging a prolific 23.6 points per game. She drained 47 3-pointers and averaged 5.7 rebounds along with 1.6 assists.

“I’ve always loved basketball,” Moran said. “I’m a very competitive person and I really push myself in basketball. I really like the team aspect of basketball. We had really, really good team chemistry last season and that makes everything so much more fun.”

Moran also runs track in the spring, competing in the 800, 1,600, 3,200 and distance relays.

An exceptional student with a perfect 4.0 grade point average, Moran plans to attend Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio and hopes to run cross country and track. Basketball is also a possibility. She is interested in studying exercise science.

“My sister (Maddy) went there and she thought it was an amazing college with a very good Christian background,” Moran said. “That’s something I’d like to be a part of. My goal is to run in college, but if that doesn’t happen, I think I’d still really enjoy going to Cedarville as a student.”

Until then, Moran is channeling her energies into her final year of what has been an outstanding athletic and academic career at Valley Christian.

“It’s gone by so fast,” she said. “I mean, it just seems like yesterday that I was a freshman. But the past four years have been amazing. I’ve really enjoy being a part of this athletic program.”



Photo by Jayda Niemi

Valley Christian senior Mya Moran is looking to make her third trip to the WIAA state cross country meet later this fall.



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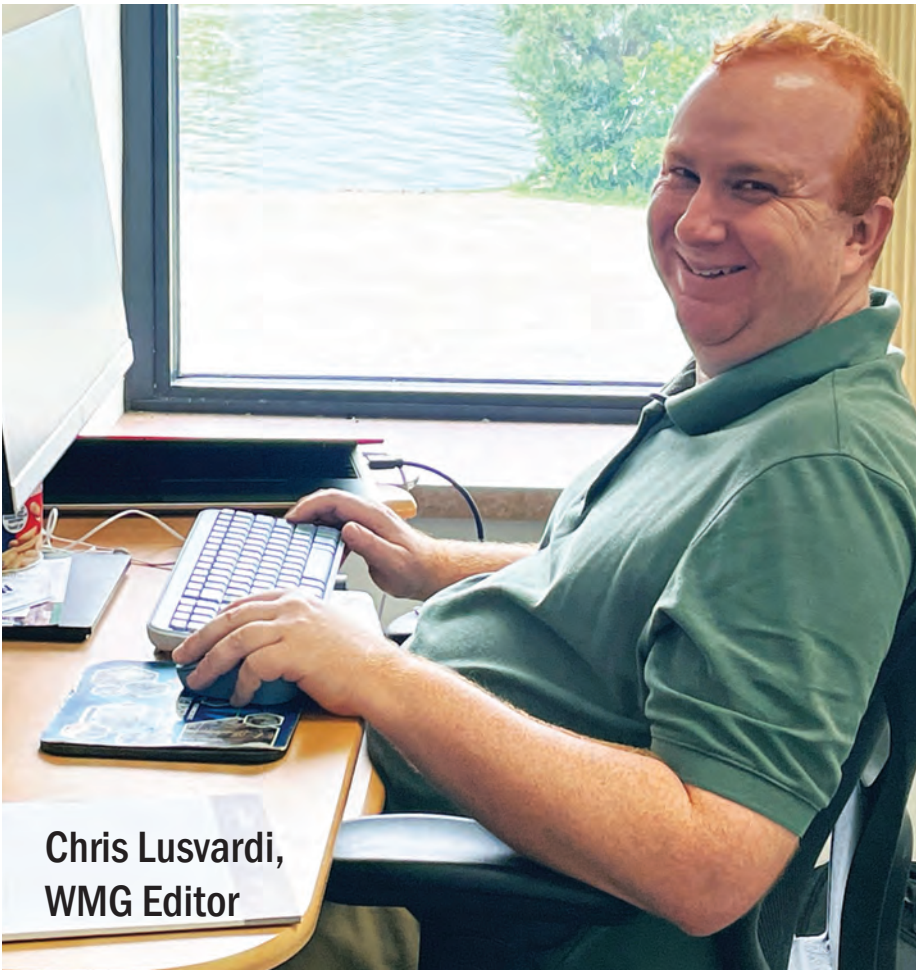
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The Power of Local



Wildcats shut out Patriots for Homecoming victory

By Zachary Bellin
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The defense of the Oshkosh West football team found themselves in the right spot quite often against Appleton East last Friday night.

The Wildcats forced five turnovers and kept the Patriots off the scoreboard to earn the program's first shutout since 2023 in a 24-0 Homecoming win at Meronk Field.

"They're very well coached at every position," Oshkosh West head coach Nate Wara said of his defense. "They play like it, and it seems like they have fun doing it. They're great kids and they've been able to adapt to the system."

The last time an Oshkosh West defense held an opponent scoreless was when the Wildcats topped rival Oshkosh North, 41-0, in Week 8 of the 2023 season.

It was also the second straight win for the Wildcats marking the first time West

has posted back-to-back wins since the first two weeks of the 2023 campaign.

On Appleton East's third offensive snap of the game, Patriots quarterback Ryder Waters dropped back and was intercepted. Quarterback Carter Kufel, who returned from injury, took over on the following drive and led the team down to the 11-yard line using his legs and a 29-yard completion. Colden Searles then hit a 28-yard field goal to give the Wildcats a 3-0 with about three minutes left in the first quarter.

One minute and three Appleton East yards gained later, the Wildcats defense forced yet another interception, as Cade Heiman won a jump ball against a Patriot receiver.

After picking up one first down, running back Owen Heim ran for eight yards on first down, then Kufel reset the downs with a three-yard carry. Kufel then found

wide receiver Adam Weibel for a 10-yard touchdown with nine minutes left in the second quarter.

The next East offensive drive amounted to a turnover on downs, which the Wildcats capitalized on again.

This time it was Heim breaking off a 40-yard touchdown run to help West take a 17-0 lead into halftime.

"I was just thinking about getting to the end zone," Heim said. "I was running as fast as I could, so I couldn't really think clearly. Just focused on the end zone."

Appleton East fumbled on their first offensive snap of the second half and West recovered on the Patriots 20-yard line. Kufel ran for three yards then Heim carried it the rest of the way to give the Wildcats a 24-0 lead.

Neither team would score again but East would threaten late in the fourth quarter. On two straight drives the Patri-

ots got into scoring range but both drives ended with interceptions in the end zone by West. Heiman got the first pick with Ethan Bowman collecting the second interception.

Wara said the offense's ability to stay on the field was a big part of both sides of the ball's performance in the win.

"It's huge for our offense. It helps our defense get that rest that they need to make adjustments if they need it. Kind of makes everything cohesive" Wara said.

The crowd packed the stands of Oshkosh West's football field for homecoming and their final home game of the year, and Heim said the crowd was awesome.

"The crowds there for us every single home game," Heim said. "Ever since we started having games here, the crowd has been crazy and we love the atmosphere. We play so much better here, everyone knows it."

Warriors win

FROM PAGE 14

the ones that can establish the run game and control the line of scrimmage," Birr said. "It is going to be a big factor in what we can do so it's exciting to see how they played tonight."

The Blazers put up a pair of scores in the fourth quarter to narrow the final margin and finished with nearly 400 yards passing in the game.

That's the most the Warriors have allowed this season – although a good chunk of it came after the game had been decided – but Birr was pleased with the way the Warriors played against the potent passing attack.

"It was good to finally see a team that did this because we haven't really faced teams who could spread it out and throw it. It as good for our defense to experience that," Birr said. "We were OK giving up stuff underneath. We knew they weren't going to be able to do that all the way down the field. We just didn't want to give up any of the big home run plays."

Gloudemans, who also plays safety for the Warriors, said that facing the Blazers' offense was a good learning experience.

"We have not seen a team that throws it this much and not as good as they did," Gloudemans said. "We are going to have a lot of coverage practice this week, that's for sure."

The better the defense can play, it will certainly help the Warriors when the post-season rolls around.

But it's also nice to be able to rely on what the team does best – and that's run



Oshkosh Herald

Valley Christian's Ben Curtis chases down Blazers' quarterback Hayden Schultz during the first half on Friday.

the ball.

"We are going to need to be very physical up front when we get into the playoffs and start playing these other teams," Bjarnarson said. "But I know the guys up front, the guys next to me, we can pound the ball against good teams."

And as good as the Warriors have looked, Gloudemans doesn't believe this team has played its best game yet.

"We give all glory to God for what we do and we would not be able to be here without Him, that's for sure but we haven't reached 100 percent of what we can be yet," Gloudemans said. "We're going to keep climbing up that ladder and reach it soon. All of the mistakes we have been making, we're going to resolve those in practice with our coaches and come out next week and show Elkhart (Lake-Glenbeulah) how we play."

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Prep roundup

FOOTBALL

State-ranked Knights roll past Demons

Lourdes Academy racked up more than 300 yards on the ground and rolled to a 42-6 win over Deerfield in a Trailways Conference road game last Friday night.

Brady Bauer had another big game for the seventh-ranked Knights. The senior quarterback ran for 104 yards and three touchdowns on only six carries, while finishing 17-of-20 through the air for 160 yards and two touchdowns.

Bauer threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to Michael Santiago, who finished with nine catches for 108 yards, and a 3-yard scoring strike to Elwin West Jr.

Maximus Behnke led the way with 117 yards and a touchdown on 14 carries for the Knights, who averaged 10.3 yards per carry in the game and led 28-0 at halftime.

David Agosto led the Knights' defense with seven tackles and a forced fumble, while Behnke and Ian Simmons each had six tackles in the game.

Lourdes Academy will play its final home game of the regular season on Friday against Parkview/Albany.

Spartans top Redwings for Homecoming win

Oshkosh North bounced back from last week's loss by thumping Sheboygan South, 41-13, in its annual Homecoming game.

The Spartans are now 3-2 in the Fox River Classic Conference South and 3-4 overall.

No other information was available from the game.

GOLF

Spartans' Leib cards spot in sectional field

Oshkosh North senior Sammie Leib shot a 97 at Rolling Meadows in a WIAA Division 1 golf regional last week to advance to this week's sectional tournament.

It's the second year in a row that the Spartans have qualified a golfer into the field for the sectional tournament. The event was played on Monday at the Washington County Golf Course in Hartford but results were not available for this edition.

Leib was one of two Oshkosh North golfers to compete in the tournament with Ashling Lynch posting a round of 106.

Oshkosh West finished eighth among the eight complete teams at the meet with a score of 422, just one shot behind Plymouth and eight in back of both West Bend West and Manitowoc Lincoln.

Lauren Klinger and Alexis Peruzzi each fired rounds of 103 to pace the Wildcats, while Keeley Tomasn added a 106. Mia Drexler rounded out the West scoring golfers with a 110.

Knights compete at WIAA regional meet

Lourdes Academy's first-year varsity girls golf team had its season come to a close last week at the WIAA Division 2 regional meet held at Quit Qui Oc Golf Course.

The Knights finished ninth among the nine schools but were just one shot behind Kewaskum and six behind St. Mary

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 19



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Oshkosh North defender Cayden Schmid works for control of the ball in last week's win over Kaukauna.

Spartans shut out Ghosts

By Zachary Bellin
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

After scoring just two goals over a five-game stretch, the Oshkosh North soccer team offense erupted for a second straight game, rolling past Kaukauna, 4-0, last week to secure the Spartans second shut-out win of the season.

Oshkosh North head coach Said Warsame said that communication and trust was key to the performance.

"Most of the goals that we have conceded (in previous games) was because of miscommunication among the players, and the defense especially," Warsame said. "I feel like this game was perfect."

North threatened for a majority of the first 10 minutes of the game, by keeping the ball on the offensive half which kept Kaukauna's goalkeeper Ty Tripp and the defense on their toes.

The Spartans broke through with a goal by senior forward Bol Abir and senior forward Asumani Wacwa didn't let the clock run much before he tacked on their second goal in the 33rd minute.

The Spartans had five corners in the first half and were called for offsides multiple times as they relentlessly went after the Kaukauna goal and forced many clearances by Ghost defenders.

Out of halftime, the Spartan freshman forward Mfaiji M'Munga wasted only two minutes before he forced the Kaukauna defense to retreat as he broke through and his shot went wide. Abir then had a shot saved by Tripp minutes later.

Shortly after North's sixth corner of the game, junior forward Justin Lual found himself with the perfect opportunity to score the team's third goal of the game.

"I'd seen the moment the ball dropped in front of me and took my chance with it and shot it," Lual said. "I went and celebrated with the crowd because I haven't scored for the last few games, so it was a special moment for me."

Lual wasn't alone in the case of not scoring, as the Spartans had only scored two goals in the five games before Sept. 29. Since then, the offense has scored six goals in two games.

"We've just played as a team and trusted each other more," Lual said. "Nobody's played selfish, we've played for each other."

Warsame reiterated that there's been more playing as a team, adding that there's been more communication and passing.

"We all connect the dots," Warsame said. "Start from the back, transition into the middle and that always makes the final third easier. If the defense and midfield can control the game and communicate, it will be easy for the wingers and the strikers to connect."

Junior Ghoulam Ali Rezai, scored the Spartans final goal in the 75th minute.



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Warriors win

FROM PAGE 14

Catholic after posting a team score of 445. Reagan Buttke led the Knights with a round of 104. She finished three shots out of the final individual sectional qualifying spot.

Millie Swanson was the next Lourdes Academy finisher with a 112, followed by Stella Marschall with a 113 and Marlie Kieckhafer with a 116.

TENNIS

Oshkosh West duo takes fourth at FVA meet

The Wildcats’ No. 1 doubles team of seniors Megan Johnson and Madelyn Marino finished in fourth place in their bracket to earn the top finish for area competitors at the Fox Valley Association meet held last week.

Jorgenson and Marino, who were seeded fifth in the bracket, knocked off fourth-seeded Nora Dondlinger and Megan Nelson of Hortonville, 6-1, 6-4 in the quarterfinals as they earned their podium finish.

West’s other two doubles teams each finished sixth with Natalie Backus and Kinsey Koepsell competing at the No. 2 flight and Auden Bongers and Aubree Marino making up the No. 3 pairing.

The top singles finishers for the Wildcats were Collyns Laskey at the No. 3 flight and Elia Larson at the No. 4 flight. Both players finished seventh.

Oshkosh North’s top finisher on the day was the No. 3 doubles pairing of Ajak Awak and Elanor Paulsen, which finished in fifth place in their bracket.

On the singles side, Madrona Larson-Poeschl at the No. 1 flight and Madison Ventura at the No. 4 flight each took sixth.

West finished in sixth place at the tournament with eight points, while North tied for seventh with Hortonville with seven points.

Knights split pair of dual meets

Lourdes Academy won three of the four singles matches to help pull out a 4-3 win over New London last week.

All four wins came in straight sets for the Knights. Sasha Quandt won 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1 singles and Maya Hawi lost only two games in earning the No. 2 singles win. Nadia Hesse at No. 3 singles and the No. 3 doubles pairing of Kayla Wihlm and Grace Dillenberg also earned wins for the Knights.

Lourdes Academy dropped a close 4-3 decision to Menasha last Wednesday with Quandt, Hawi and Hesse each picking up a win in their singles matches.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

West faces tough foes at Neenah Tournament

Oshkosh West ran into some top competition and went 0-4 at the Neenah Invitational on Saturday.

Both of the Wildcats’ losses in pool play came to state-ranked teams in Fox Valley Lutheran and Mosinee. West then lost a close three-set match to Stevens Point before ending the tournament with a loss to Middleton.

Emma Liebergen paced the Wildcats with 24 kills, 31 digs and five aces, while Kinslee Nelson chipped in 14 kills and 26 digs. Kamryn Stauffacher also finished with 14 digs.

Olivia Xiong led the team with seven aces while also picking up 24 digs, while



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Lourdes Academy’s Nadia Hesse prepares to serve during a meet against New London last week.

Lucy Jolin and Adalyn Her finished with 25 and 21 kills, respectively.

Addison Benesh led the team with four blocks while Noelle Prickett added three.

Last Thursday, the Wildcats fell to powerhouse Kimberly 25-14, 25-15, 25-16.

Liebergen finished with 11 kills with Nelson adding five kills and a team-high nine digs.

Brooklyn Rowe led the team with 11 assists, while Benesh finished with a team best 2.5 blocks.

Knights rally for win over Dodgeland

Lourdes Academy rallied from a 2-0 deficit to collect a 21-25, 22-25, 25-17, 25-22, 25-11 win over Dodgeland in a Trailways East matchup last week.

Naomi Liabwill led the way for the Knights with 19 kills with Kennadie Fronek adding 14, Sarah Hafemeister and Eliana Brandes finished with eight and six kills, respectively.

Lourdes Academy finished with 13 aces in the match with Adi Saucedo leading the way with four.

Grace Martin racked up 37 assists in the match to pace the Knights, while Fronek finished with 24 digs to lead the team, followed by Katelyn Potratz with 15, Ellie Koch with 13 and Saucedo with 10.

The Knights then finished 1-3 at the Rio Invite on Saturday, collecting a win over Rio while falling to North Fond du Lac, Abundant Life and Wisconsin Heights.

Valley Christian charges past Oakfield

The Warriors picked up a 28-26 win in the third set to keep the match alive and followed it with set wins of 25-20 and 15-11 to collect the Trailways East win over Oakfield in five sets last week.

Laila Gostas-Sims had another big night for the Warriors, posting 21 kills, 22 digs and three aces in the win. Brielle Birr and

Ella Urban each finished with nine kills for Valley Christian.

Mady Busch and Lydia Hardy each had four aces to lead the team, while Hardy also finished with 40 assists in the win.

Jael Pickler and Ellie Demler chipped in 15 and 10 digs, respectively, in the match.

Oshkosh North picks up win at tourney

The Spartans won at least one match at a tournament on Saturday, sweeping a pair of sets from Reedsville.

North lost to Appleton North in a Fox Valley Association match last Thursday and also dropped a nonconference match to Menasha earlier in the week.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Spartans edge Redwings in four sets

Oshkosh North/West co-op squad worked overtime to avoid a fifth set collecting a 25-14, 25-22, 24-26, 28-26 win over Sheboygan South last week.

Arthur King finished with 17 kills to lead the team, with Irtisam Umar chipping in nine.

Frannek Olszewski led the defense with five blocks with Abel Lo racking up 30 digs in the win.

Calvin Vang finished with 26 assists in the win with Isaac Vang adding 12.

North/West also lost to Appleton North in three sets last Tuesday with King finishing with three kills and eight digs for the Spartans.

SOCCER

Lourdes/Valley notches three wins last week

The Knights picked up a pair of one-goal wins last week, blanking Omro 4-0, beating North Fond du Lac United 3-2 before edging Mayville, 5-4.

Four different players scored in the win over Omro with Emmett Getz, Matthew Loker, Thatcher Bratton-Wesner and Jackson Buttke scoring the goals.

Against North Fond du Lac, Elijah Troiber scored twice and Loker added a goal, while Loker and Troiber each had two goals against Mayville with Landon Marschall adding the final tally.

Oshkosh West suffers pair of losses

The Wildcats dropped a pair of matches in Fox Valley Association action last week.

West dropped a 6-1 decision to Hortonville last Tuesday and were then edged 2-1 by Appleton East on Thursday.

Spartans net win over Terrors

Oshkosh North posted a 2-1 win over Appleton West in a Fox Valley Association match last week.

CROSS COUNTRY

North’s Weber claims title at Fond du Lac Invite

Oshkosh North’s Jay Weber finished more than 12 seconds ahead of the field to take first at the Fond du Lac Invitational last Thursday.

Weber was one of two Spartan runners in the top 10 as Oshkosh North finished fifth in the final team standings. Mason Gumz added a ninth-place finish for the Spartans.

Rounding out the scoring runners for the Spartans were Reid Anderson in 27th place, Campbell Harrison in 54th place and Clay Poquette in 56th place.

Adri Clark finished sixth in the girls race to lead the Spartans, who did not field a complete team at the meet.

Chloe Niemczyk added a 22nd place, while Allison Cummings was 53rd.

West girls take fifth at Nightfall Classic

Abby Tercha and Coraline Strebelinski each finished in the top five as the Oshkosh West girls took fifth place at the Nightfall Classic held last Friday at Tusculumbia Golf Course in Green Lake.

Tercha came in fourth place about seven seconds ahead of Strebelinski to lead the Wildcats, who finished one point behind Monona Grove in fifth place among the 16 Division 1 teams at the meet.

Haddie Wara added an 11th place finish for the Wildcats, while the other scoring runners for West were Ellie Trebatiatoski in 54th place and Mila Crowe in 69th.

Dominic Moore led the West boys by placing fifth overall, followed by Will Schiek and Arjen Karns in 29th and 30th places, respectively. Krypten Turner added a 94th place and Garrett Lawatsch came in 110th place for the Wildcats, who finished 10th in the team standings.

Moran leads Warriors at Waupaca Invite

Mya Moran finished in fourth place and was one of four runners in the girls field to finish under 20 minutes at the Waupaca Invitational last Thursday.

Merian Getz was the next Warrior runner to finish in 50th place with the rest of the scoring runners consisting of Dede Miller in 56th place, Zara Ekholm in 65th place and Vashti Ernst in 66th place.

The Valley Christian boys were led by Simon Menet in 26th place, followed by Zachary Werner in 34th place and Jack O’Brien in 37th place.

Joshua Sandahl in 47th place and Andrew Sandahl in 50th place also scored for the Warriors.

West alum Cram playing key role on Eagles' defense

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Two years ago, Carver Cram stood on the UW-La Crosse sideline on JJ Keller Field at Titan Stadium and watched a last second, game-winning field goal attempt by the Eagles miss the mark.

So as UW-La Crosse lined up for a potential go-ahead two-point conversion in the final minute against UW-Oshkosh in the same venue on Saturday afternoon, the Oshkosh West alum found a familiar spot.

This time, the view was a little bit better though.

"I stood in the exact same spot for the two-point conversion where I stood when we missed the field goal to lose the game," Cram said following the Eagles 32-31 win over the Titans on Saturday. "Playing all my high school games here and now to experience a win like that with my family and friends here is just awesome."

"Calling the two-point play is so ballsy, but that's what UW-La Crosse football is."

Cram is in his final season with the Eagles and took his usual spot as a starting safety against the Titans on Saturday.

He finished with four solo tackles and a tackle-for-loss – a crucial three-yard loss on a running play to help force a punt that led to the Eagles game-winning drive – to help the 19th-ranked Eagles pull out the win in the WIAC opener.

Through four games he currently ranks sixth on the Eagles defense in tackles while he is tied for the team lead in pass break ups.

Cram, who was greeted by a large contingent of friends and family after the game, has enjoyed his career playing for the Eagles.



Cram

"I wouldn't do anything differently," said Cram, who was a second-team all-Fox Valley Association selection as a senior for the Wildcats. "It's been awesome. I love La Crosse football. The culture is so good here."

Cram said that when he arrived at La Crosse, the Eagles were coming off one of the best seasons in school history and he was immediately mixed in with a wealth of talented players.

That helped him develop into one of the leaders of this year's squad and a key member of the Eagles' defense.

"I think learning from those guys was an awesome opportunity," Cram said. "Taking on that leadership role is a huge part of being a senior and I've tried to carry that on."

After playing in three games as a freshman, Cram appeared in all 12 games during his sophomore season and finished with 19 tackles and an interception. He was limited to just seven games as a junior.

Now, in his senior season, he just wants to keep playing as long as possible.

"I'm not thinking about (the end). Right now, I'm thinking about next week and getting through the conference season and winning it," Cram said. "I'm going to be sad not to play football next year."

Cram, who is pursuing a degree in Exercise Sports Science with the hopes of being a physical therapist, said that he is thankful for his time at Oshkosh West because it helped prepare him for the rigors of the WIAC slate.

"The FVA is one of the best conferences in the state, same with the WIAC it's one of the best conferences in the country. Every week is a big game and you can't let up," Cram said. "Knowing that each week you have an opponent like Oshkosh or Whitewater or Platteville, we know it's going to be a battle every time."



Photo by Jim Koepnick

UW-Oshkosh quarterback Demir Ashiru (0) rushed for 209 yards and a pair of touchdowns in the Titans' 32-31 loss to UW-La Crosse on JJ Keller Field at Titan Stadium on Saturday.

Titans drop heartbreaker to Eagles

Oshkosh Herald

The UW-Oshkosh football team rallied from an early 17-point deficit to take the lead in the second half but couldn't finish off the victory in a gut-wrenching 32-31 loss to UW-La Crosse on Saturday afternoon on JJ Keller Field at Titan Stadium.

The 19th-ranked Eagles scored a touchdown with 24 seconds left and then converted a two-point conversion to regain the lead and send the Titans to the loss in the WIAC opener for both teams.

UW-Oshkosh quarterback Demir Ashiru had a huge game in the loss, rushing for 209 yards and two touchdowns, while also completing 16-of-28 pass attempts for 228 yards and two touchdowns. He totaled 437 yards of the Titans' 477 yards of offense in the game.

Ashiru's 6-yard touchdown pass to Sam Peterson with 6:03 left in the third quarter capped a run of 28 straight points for the Titans and gave UW-Oshkosh a 28-17 lead.

The Eagles narrowed the gap just before the end of the third quarter before a 23-yard field goal from Axel Vera Trejo two minutes into the fourth quarter pushed the Titans' advantage to 31-24.

UW-La Crosse responded with a drive to the Titans' 16-yard line on the next possession but an errant throw by the Eagles' Kyle Haas on a screen pass landed in the hands of the Titans' Dayshawn Henry.

The Titans drove to midfield on the ensuing possession but were forced to punt and nearly pinned the Eagles at the 1-yard line. However, the punt was ruled as a touchback and UW-La Crosse started its final possession at the 20-yard line with just under three minutes to play.

The Eagles converted a third-and-1 in



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Dayshawn Henry (3) puts pressure on UW-La Crosse quarterback Kyle Haas on Saturday. The Oshkosh North alum finished with two quarterback hits and an interception in the game.

Titans' territory to extend the drive and then converted a third-and-10 with a 14-yard pass with 44 seconds remaining. Two plays later, Haas dumped the ball off to running back Braedon Ott, who scampered into the end zone.

After a lengthy delay because of an injury, the Eagles elected to go for the two-point conversion and scored on a Keaton Arendt run to take the lead.

The Titans got the ball back with 15 seconds left but never got into scoring territory and Ashiru's final pass fell incomplete as time expired.

UW-Oshkosh, which dropped to 2-2 overall on the season, will be on the road next week at defending national champion UW-River Falls. The Falcons fell to UW-Whitewater last Saturday.

The Titans will next be home on Saturday, Oct. 24 for Homecoming against UW-Platteville.



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Obituaries

Victoria Berenz

Victoria “Vicky” (Van Mun) Berenz, 59, of Pickett, Wisconsin, passed away on October 3, 2026, following a brief illness with cancer.



Vicky was born May 18, 1967, the youngest daughter of Michael and Joan (Thomas) Van Mun. She graduated from Marinette Senior High School in 1985 and later earned a degree in Accounting.

In August 1995, Vicky married Anthony “Tony” Berenz, beginning a 31-year marriage and a life together centered on family, faith, friendships, and adventure. Together they raised their daughters in a home filled with love, laughter, and their beloved dogs.

Family was at the heart of Vicky’s life, and nothing made her prouder than the family she and Tony created. She was a loving wife and devoted mom. A sports lover herself, Vicky cheered her daughters on in all their sports and activities. She supported them in whatever they chose to pursue. She encouraged their dreams and took tremendous pride in the kind, strong women they have become.

Vicky’s faith was an important part of who she was and how she lived. She was a strong, compassionate, generous, fun-loving, and deeply caring wife, mom, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend.

She was very accomplished in her career as well. Vicky spent 30 years with Badger Mining Corporation, where she rose to

serve as Chief Financial Officer and Advisory Team Member. She was a caring, capable, and thoughtful leader who earned the trust and respect of those who worked alongside her. Her family is deeply grateful for the extraordinary grace, friendship, and support her Badger Mining colleagues extended to Vicky and her family during her illness.

Vicky believed life was meant to be experienced. She loved travel and adventure, but the destination mattered far less than the people beside her. She treasured time with family and friends. Vicky lived fully and loved generously. She will be profoundly missed and forever loved.

Vicky is survived by her husband; her daughters, Brooklyn Berenz of San Jose, California, and Maggie Berenz of Pickett, Wisconsin; her sisters, Kathy (Dan) Brennan of Little Chute, Wisconsin, Mary Pacell (John Fazzio) of Medford, New Jersey, and Lisa (Paul) Reinhard of Omro, Wisconsin; her mother-in-law, Marlene Berenz of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; her sister-in-law, Julie (Lambert) Binversie of St Cloud, Wisconsin; her brother-in-law, Joe Berenz of Oshkosh, Wisconsin; and many beloved nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and her family’s black Lab, Sully.

Vicky was preceded in death by her parents, grandparents, and father-in-law, Richard “Dick” Berenz.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, October 9, 2026 at St. Raphael’s church in Oshkosh with visitation from 11:00 – 1:30 and a funeral mass at 2:00.



When he wasn’t out driving or playing cards, you could find him watching the wildlife from his window, enjoying the birds, deer, and turkeys that passed by.

Ron is survived by his wife, Kim Zehner; children, Terry (Terry Anderson) Zehner, Brenda (Dave) Anderson, Dawn Zehner, Chadwick (Brandy) Zehner, Amanda (Nathan) Lee; grandchildren, Steve, Brandon, Trent, Dylan, Jakob, Samantha, Chloe and Clark; 11 great-grandchildren. He is further survived by many plowing and trucking friends sprinkled across the United States.

In addition to his parents, Ron was preceded in death by his son, Randy Zehner.

A memorial service for Ron will be held at Lord of the Lakes, 6090 Harbour S Dr, Winneconne, WI 54986 on Friday, October 9, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. and officiated by Rev. Kevin Heffernan. Visitation will take place at the church from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service. A private family burial will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in Winchester.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to Lord of the Lakes.



Joan Louise Schettle

Joan Louise (Rothenbach) Schettle of Omro passed away on September 24, 2026, due to a stroke.



Born on January 10, 1943, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, she graduated from Oshkosh High School in 1961.

She married Stephen Schettle on June 1, 1963, who survives her. Joan was a homemaker at which she excelled and everyone who know Joan loved her and for good reason.

Since the age of 37, her life was often filled with pain, as she dealt with crippling rheumatoid arthritis. Over the years she also struggled with multiple heart issues, including bypass surgery, lactose intolerance, GERD, and uncontrollable tremors that made eating a challenge. Despite these difficulties, she remained cheerful and uncomplaining.

Her condition worsened in May after a hip fracture left her quite housebound, and bowel issues revealed diverticulosis, which limited her diet to bland foods. Joan faced pain almost every day. However, when someone asked how she was, she would simply say, “good” or “fine.” I’d hear that and look at her and think, “liar,” and yet I cannot recall Joan lying once in our 63 years of marriage. She just did not want to focus on her problems but wanted to help you with yours.

She possessed the rarest of human attributes: the ability to listen to others in a way that they knew she cared about them. She loved deeply.

Joan became a born-again Christian in 1980. Her primary focus in life was drawing closer to Jesus through her countless hours of prayer and Bible reading. She was a true example of Christlikeness by the way she cared about others more than herself. As her husband, I was the main beneficiary of her smoothing out my rough edges. I will be eternally grateful for my Joan! Joan’s faith lived the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:17, “For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.” (All of our troubles.) She will always be a shining example of cheerfully enduring life’s struggles to all who knew her.

There will be a celebration of life on October 17th, 2026, at Mill City Church, 3250 W. 9th Ave., Oshkosh, WI. Visitation is at 10:00 AM, service at 12:00 PM, followed by a meal.

Joan and Steve have three sons: Jim Schettle of Omro and Michael (Tracy) Schettle of Greenville and John (Jane) Schettle of Winneconne. Grandchildren Warren Schettle, Olivia (Austin) Bowman, Joseph Schettle, Nathan Schettle and Seth Schettle. Great Grandchildren Dominic Schettle, Logan Schettle, Thaddeus Bowman and Augustus Bowman.

David J. Christensen

David J. Christensen, age 79, of Oshkosh, WI, passed away on October 2, 2026, at Park View Health Center, with his family by his side.

David was born on June 9, 1947, in Oshkosh, son of the late Jens Peter Christensen and Betty Mae Brink. He graduated from Oshkosh Highschool. His class was the first to attend all 4 years.

David went on to join the United States Air Force where he was stationed in Bitburg, Germany. He loaded bombs on F-4 Phantoms during the Vietnam War. David retired on May 29, 1969, and signed up for college. He changed his major several times before he decided on his Masters degree in Economics. After graduation he started working for Oshkosh Truck as a database manager until his retirement in 2009. David married Evelyn Payne on December 22, 1973, in Oshkosh, WI.

David loved playing pool and playing in tournaments. He was one of the best players at the Magnet! David enjoyed traveling with his family, especially their

trips around Europe. He was a collector of many things, such as coins, books, cards, trains, records, and beer cans. David loved his beer, cats, music, and corvettes.

David is survived by his wife, Evelyn Christensen; daughter, Lori (Aaron) Bruss; son, David Thomas Christensen; granddaughters, Hannah and Megan Bruss. He is preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

A funeral service for Dave will take place on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Dr. Oshkosh beginning at 12:00pm. Visitation will begin at 10:00am and continue until the start of the service. Entombment and military honors will follow at Lake View Memorial Park, Oshkosh.

Because of David’s love for cats, please consider making a donation to the Oshkosh Area Humane Society in lieu of flowers.



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Obituaries

Alice Micheli

Alice Micheli, age 91, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, surrounded by family. Known for her enduring kindness, her deep faith, her active lifestyle and apple bars. Among her many passions she was an avid bowler for 70 years. The sport brought her immense joy, kept her young at heart and blessed her with a community of wonderful friends.

Alice was born in Wild Rose, WI on November 26, 1934, to the late Roman and Hattie (Sarnowski) Korleski. She was a graduate of Wild Rose High School

Alice married Hilbert J. Strey with whom she shared 42 wonderful years and together they raised 5 children (Mike, Mark, Sue, John & David).

She worked at the Wild Rose Hospital as an aide and then ward-clerk for 20+ years. Alice is preceded in death by her

first husband who died in 1994.

In 1998 Alice found love again and married Joseph Micheli on October 17, 1998, with whom she spent her final, happiest years traveling, golfing, bowling, baking and spending time with her family and friends.

The world lost a little bit of its brightness. A life well-lived came to a quiet close, leaving a permanent mark on the hearts of anyone who knew her.

Alice is survived by her beloved husband, Joseph Micheli; her children, Michael (Cynthia) Strey, Mark (Susan) Strey, Susan (William) Golden, John (Diane) Strey and David (Lisa) Strey. She also leaves behind 9 cherished grandchildren who brought immense joy to her life, Tom Strey, Kyle Strey, Wesley Strey, Kristi Streeter, Cody Thompson, Rachael Strey, Grace Strey, Alexandra Strey & Ryan Strey and ten Great Grand-

children: Priya Strey, Owen Strey, Avery Strey, Evan Strey, Edwin Strey, Elliott Strey, Quenton Strey, Landon Streeter, Aidan Streeter, Walter Thompson and Estelle Thompson.

Alice will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her and whose life she affected.

A Funeral Mass for Alice will be held at St. Raphael's Catholic Church (830 S Westhaven Dr, Oshkosh, WI 54904) Officiated by Fr. Tom Long on October 17, 2026, at 11:00am. A time of visitation will take place from 9:30 until 11:00am.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Father Carr's Place 2B, St Raphael's Catholic Church and Patterson Memorial Library in Wild Rose.

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Marie June Paskvan

Marie "Mumssie" June Paskvan, age 94, passed away on September 26, 2026, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. She was born on February 15, 1932, to parents, Frank Fred and Anna (Reimann) Gunther, in Illinois. Celebration of Life will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, with visitation at 2:00pm, service at 3:00pm with sweet treats to follow, at the River Valley East Campus, 1331 High Ave., Oshkosh, WI, 54901. Please see the Fox Cities Funeral and Cremation Oshkosh Website for the full obituary.



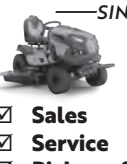
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Obituaries

Royce Roman Galica
Royce Roman Galica, aged 74, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully at his home on September 22, 2026. He was born in Oshkosh on October 13, 1951, to Roman and Lorraine (Clapp) Galica.

Royce was a lifelong Oshkosh resident, known for his lighthearted humor and wonderfully kind spirit. A natural jokester, he loved making people laugh and had a way of bringing humor and fun into the lives of those around him. He was affectionately known by the nicknames “Sheik” and “Jesus,” reflecting the unique personality and character that made him memorable to so many. Royce had a lifelong love of the outdoors, with fishing holding a special place in his heart. He enjoyed trolling the waters of Lake Winnebago for perch and wall-eye and could easily befriend others who shared his passion. For Royce, time spent fishing or hunting was also about enjoying the peace and solitude of being outdoors. Music was another important part of

Royce’s life. A talented drummer, he shared his love of music by performing at weddings and other events with The Casuals, a well-known polka band, and along with his close friends Denny and Howie formed Liberty, an oldies and classic-rock band. His music brought enjoyment to many people throughout the community and remains an important part of the memories carried by those who knew him. Royce proudly served in the U.S. Army as a military policeman and was stationed in Hawaii during the Vietnam War. After returning home, he worked as a skilled spray painter and later retired from Mercury Marine in Fond du Lac. He is survived by his sister, Tracy (Galica) Spanbauer; his sons, Josh Galica and Jeremy Galica; and his grandchildren, Riley, Koen, Evan, Ivy, and Olive. He is also survived by other close family members and friends, including Lindsay and Kyle Galica (children of Garret), and Whitney Johnson and Jared Spanbauer (children of Tracy). Royce was preceded in death by his parents, Roman and Lorraine Galica; his brother, Garret Galica; and his beloved dogs, Haiti and Tina, who will be buried alongside

their devoted owner. Royce will be remembered for his humor, kindness, and friendliness, but most of all for the memories he created with the people who loved him. His stories, laughter, music, and unmistakable personality will live on in the hearts of his family and friends. Visitation and funeral services will be held at Fiss & Bills-Poklasny Funeral Home, 865 S. Westhaven Drive, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, from 10 a.m. until time of service at 12noon. Full military honors will follow the service and will be accorded by the United Veterans Honor Guard of Oshkosh, a group that Royce always wanted to become a member of but his health was not allowing him to. The family would like to thank Brelynn Bille of the Winnebago County Department of Human Services, the staff of the Winnebago County Veterans Office, and the many others who provided Royce with love, support, and care. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered by those who loved him dearly.



Kim Paul Nowatske
Kim Paul Nowatske, age 75, of Mukwonago Wisconsin passed away September 8, 2026. He was born on May 11, 1951 to Walter and Dorian Nowatske. Brother of Judy (John) Cooley, Dori (Mike) Russell and Lory (Ron) Bowman. Father to Lindsey (Kris) Achterberg and Cortney (Phil) Fonzen. Grandfather to Henry and Greta Achterberg, Royce and Charleigh Fonzen. He had a unique sense of humor and will truly be missed. A Celebration of Life will take place next summer.

If you wish to digitally receive the full obituary, send condolences, share any memories you have of Kim or to make a memorial donation in honor of Kim, please send an email to: kknowatske@outlook.com

To advertise in the Oshkosh Herald, call 920-385-4512.

Classifieds

Call 920.385.4512 to place your ad
Private party ads deadline is 4 p.m. Friday. \$15 for first 20 words

For Sale

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Garage/Estate Sales

224 N. 7th Avenue, Winneconne. Friday & Saturday, October 9th & 10th. Large Selection from A to Z!

Miscellaneous

PEACE LUTHERAN CEMETERY fall clean-up is Saturday, October 17. Please remove summer decorations from gravesites by Thursday, October 15. Decorations left on gravesites will be removed during clean-up. Decorations may be placed on gravesites beginning Sunday, October 18.

Wanted: local wood duck decoys. Carved by Oshkosh area carvers, also duck hunting wood ammo boxes (920-235-4717)

Real Estate/Rentals

Must see home 1564 Plummer St., Oshkosh renovated 2019, custom woodwork, doors, kitchen, dry basement, spacious double garage. Beckman Properties 920-428-9669.

Legal Notice

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
WINNEBAGO COUNTY
NOTICE SETTING TIME TO
HEAR APPLICATION AND
DEADLINE FOR FILING**

**CLAIMS
(INFORMAL ADMINISTRATION)
CASE NO. 26PR240

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
Kathleen M. Slattery**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

- An application for informal administration was filed.
 - The decedent, with date of birth 07/18/1943 and date of death 08/01/2026 was domiciled in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 823 Leeward Ct., Oshkosh, WI 54901.
 - The application will be heard at the Winnebago County Courthouse, 415 Jackson St., 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 October 27, 2026 at 11:15 a.m.. You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.
 - The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is December 22, 2026.
 - A claim may be filed at the Winnebago County Courthouse, 415 Jackson St., Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Room 242.
 - 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: September 14,

2026
Electronically signed by Sara Henke, Register in Probate, Probate Registrar
Form completed by: Attorney Philip J. Miller
Address
Husch Blackwell LLP
511 N. Broadway, Suite 1100, Milwaukee, WI 53202-5502
Telephone Number (414) 978-5422
Bar Number 1000612

Runs: September 23, 2026, September 30, 2026 and October 7, 2026.

WNAXLP
**STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT
WINNEBAGO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE
NAME CHANGE OF:
Lucille Margalene Strauss
By (Petitioner) Lucille Margalene Strauss**

**Notice of Name Change
Hearing
Case No. 2026CV000929**

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From:
First – Lucille
Middle – Margalene
Last – Strauss
To:
First – Lucille
Middle – Margalene
Last – Strauss-Mockerheide
Birth Certificate:
First – Lucille
Middle – Margalene
Last – Strauss

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin:
Judge's Name: Michael S. Gibbs
Place: 415 Jackson Street, Room 211, Oshkosh, WI 54901
Date: October 21, 2026
Time: 3:30 p.m.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4868 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide trans-

portation.
**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: September 17, 2026
Winnebago County Circuit
Court Judge, Branch 4**

Runs: September 23, 2026, September 30, 2026 and October 7, 2026.

WNAXLP
**STATE OF WISCONSIN
WINNEBAGO COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT
Case No. 2026-CV-734
Case Code: 30301
Money Judgement**

SUMMONS

TENET COMPANY
Plaintiff,
-vs-
SOPER PROFOAMIT LLC
And
SCOTT SOPER
Defendant.

The State of Wisconsin, To each person named above as the Defendant:

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The complaint, which is also served on you, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within 40 days after October 7, 2026, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is: Winnebago County Courthouse 415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901 and to Rinehart, Scaffidi & Rinehart LLC, plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is: 1001 West Glen Oaks Ln. Suite 111, Mequon, WI 53092. You may have an attorney to

help or represent you.

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

Dated this 28th day of September 2026.
RINEHART, SCAFFIDI & RINEHART LLC
Electronically Signed By: William A. Rinehart II
State Bar No. 1055477
1001 West Glen Oaks Lane
Suite 111
Mequon, WI 53092
Phone: (262) 302-4060

Runs: October 7, 2026, October 14, 2026 and October 21, 2026.

WNAXLP
**Before The
State of Wisconsin
DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND
APPEALS
Case No: DOT-26-0119**

In the Matter of Claims Against the Irrevocable Letter of Credit of Lorens Auto Body and Sales,

PUBLIC NOTICE OF TIME TO FILE DEALER BOND CLAIMS

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH CLAIMS AGAINST THE MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER BOND OF LORENS AUTO BODY AND SALES.

- Lorens Auto Body and Sales is licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation as a motor vehicle dealer. The Dealer's facilities are located at 3000 Oregon Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.
- The Dealer has had a irrevocable letter of credit in force with Oshkosh Community Credit Union #5098, since July 31, 2025.
- A claim has been filed against the irrevocable letter of

- credit of the Dealer. The Claimant alleges that she suffered damages because of one or more acts of Dealer which provide grounds for revocation or suspension of Dealer's license to operate a motor vehicle dealership under Wis. Stat. § 218.0116(1)(a) to (gr), (im) to (k), (m), or (n) to (p).
- Other persons who have a claim for money damages for an actual loss because of an act of the Dealer during the period covered by the irrevocable letter of credit may make a claim against the irrevocable letter of credit on the Department of Transportation form number MV 2542, in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code ch. TRANS 140.
 - Copies of the claim form, MV 2542, are available by contacting:
 - Tristan Kloss
DMV/Dealer Section
P.O. Box 7909
Madison, WI 53707-7909

Claims may be submitted to Tristan Kloss at the address shown above. The deadline for the submission of claims is 60 days from publication of this notice, or by December 7, 2026 at 4:30 pm. Claims not received on or before that date and time will be considered late and will receive lower priority under Wis. Admin. Code TRANS 140.27.

7. A public hearing will be held on all timely but disputed claims, if necessary at 1:30 pm on January 29, 2027, in the Hill Farms State Office Building, 4822 Madison Yards Way, Room S148, Madison, Wisconsin.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin on September 21, 2026
STATE OF WISCONSIN
DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS
4822 Madison Yards Way, Fifth Floor
Madison, Wisconsin 53705
Telephone:(608) 266-7709
FAX: (608) 264-9885
By:Jennifer Martin
Administrative Law Judge

Runs: October 7, 2026.

WNAXLP



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OCTOBER IS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

LET’S BUILD A “GO BAG”

If you had to leave home quickly in an emergency, what would you need?

A **go bag** is a backpack filled with a few things you might need if that happens. Making one now means you’ll be ready to grab it and go in an emergency.

Ready, Set, Go!

Keep your go bag somewhere easy to reach. Take a look at the items on this page that you can put in your go bag. Is there anything else you might need or want in an emergency?

- flashlight
- extra batteries
- notepad
- pencil
- whistle – to attract help if needed



If there is a fire, get outside first. Don't stop to get your go bag!

• toothpaste
• toothbrush
• wet wipes
• hand sanitizer or soap
• small first aid kit

• two pairs of socks
• underwear
• hat
• t-shirt
• light jacket
• sweatpants

• bottled water
• fruit snacks
• granola bars

• small blanket
• deck of cards
• a favorite stuffed toy

Important Information

Have an adult help you fill out this emergency contact card. Cut it out, seal it in a ziplock bag to keep it dry and place it inside your go bag.

MY EMERGENCY CONTACT CARD

My name: _____

Home address: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Phone: _____

Another trusted adult: _____ Phone: _____

Out-of-area contact: _____ Phone: _____

Family meeting place: _____

In case of emergency dial 9-1-1



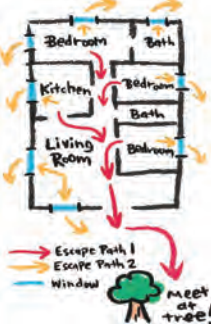
Kid Scoop Together

Fire Safety 1, 2, 3

Here are three important fire safety rules to remember for you and your family.

1 ALWAYS KNOW TWO WAYS OUT

You should know two ways out of every room. And you need to know where your family will meet outside. Practice this escape plan with your family.



2 HEAR THE ALARM? GET OUT!



When a smoke alarm sounds, leave right away. Go outside and never go back inside until a firefighter tells you it is safe.

3 FIRE IS NOT FOR KIDS TO FIGHT!



Kids should never try to put out a fire. Get outside, tell an adult and call 911 from a safe place. Have a place for your family to meet away from your home.

Choose a place outside your home to meet in an emergency.

Where will your family meet? Write it here and put it on your refrigerator door.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

In an emergency, we will meet at:

Extra! Extra! Supply Search

Look through the newspaper to find three items that would be helpful following an emergency. Ask a family member to do the same. Would these be good things for your go bag?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

How often should you test your home's smoke alarm?

Circle every other letter to reveal the answer.

A J T X L N E W A V S H
T J O S N M C P E Q A X
M N O M N C T Y H L

A T L

Double Double Word Search

ALARM
BAG
CARDS
CONTACT
DIAL
DRY
EMERGENCY
FAMILY
FIRE
GO
HAT
KIT
MEET
OUTSIDE
SOCKS
WATER

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards and diagonally. Then look for them in this week's *Kid Scoop* stories and activities.

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

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

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kidscoop.com/activity-pages/

Write On! Feeling Safe

Write about who and what makes you feel safe.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write descriptively using supporting details.



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HAVE LUNCH.
REPEAT.**

Oshkosh Noon Kiwanis meets Tuesdays at noon at The Bar Oshkosh

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or visit oshkoshnoonkiwanisclub.org to learn more.



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