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Volume 9, Issue 43



School district passes balanced budget

By Jonathan Richie
Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Area School District officials have passed a balanced budget after months of discussions about a $14 million deficit.

The Board of Education passed the 2026-27 budget last week. Since January, the district has cut 65.8 staff positions after the board learned the district was facing a multi-million dollar deficit.

Along with the staff positions, the district also made changes to the district healthcare system to save money. The district is also using money from Fund 73, which is an employee benefit trust fund, to help balance the budget.


Yerkey

The $87.9 million budget for this school year is an increase of $4.2 million when compared to the 2025-26 budget. The total tax levy for the school is $67.7 million with the rest coming from state and federal aid.

State aid is increasing by $4.3 million.

"Individuals will have to look at their tax bill, as there are other factors at play beyond just school taxes," said Brian Yerkey, assistant superintendent of operations. "We're hesitant to say whether your tax bill is going to go up or down just based on what the school piece provides, not knowing what other elements are in an individual's tax bill."

OASD executive director of business services Cindy Rettler and Yerkey gave an overview of the proposed budget, the first she has compiled since starting in the position in the spring.

See **OASD budget** on Page 4

Inside



Football playoffs
Knights, Warriors suffer postseason losses
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Changes will be coming to city's Sawdust District

By Jonathan Richie
Oshkosh Herald

In the next five years a lot of planned changes will be coming to the Sawdust District along with other recent changes as officials attempt to revitalize the area.

This effort includes housing units being added and a new DORA area with extended hours.

The Oshkosh Common Council in September approved extending the DORA (Downtown Outdoor Refreshment Area) to South Main Street and now have extended hours in the downtown DORA and in the Sawdust District. The idea was pitched by the newly formed Sawdust District Entertainment Collaborative (SDEC).

Last week the council voted to extend DORA hours for both the downtown DORA and the Sawdust District.

"I don't see where this is creating any problems," council member Paul Esslinger said. "I don't see a bunch of drunks stag-

See **Sawdust District** on Page 5



Photo by Michael Cooney

About 200 people attended candlelight vigil Friday in Opera House Square honoring Wendy Mendez and others separated from their families by immigration enforcement.

ICE detains, deports Oshkosh teacher

By Jonathan Richie
Oshkosh Herald

An Oshkosh teacher was detained by federal law enforcement and has been deported.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has confirmed that Wendy Mendez, a Spanish teacher at Vel Phillips Middle School, was deported to her home country of Costa Rica.

Mendez was named one of the top teachers in the Oshkosh Area School District. Mendez, then an interpreter at Vel Phillips, was named support staff employee of the year at the end of the 2024-25 school year.


Mendez

"However, given the public nature of this situation, we can confirm that Wendy Mendez, a Spanish teacher at Vel Phillips Middle School, is an employee in good standing who has been placed on an unpaid leave of absence due to unforeseen circumstances," OASD Superintendent Bryan Davis said in a statement last week. "At no point was this a school safety or performance-related issue. The district is working through the process of obtaining more details and will provide more information if we are able."

Mendez's husband, Richard Godfrey, confirmed in an interview with Wisconsin Public Radio that Mendez, a Costa Rica native, was transferred to six detention center facilities in eight days before landing in Costa Rice two weeks ago.

Godfrey said the couple is waiting for an immigration judge in Chicago to rule on a technical error and then finish the green card process following an already-approved I-130 petition.

"Who gave them a right to mistreat people like this? You never have a right," Godfrey said of federal immigration authorities. "We never acquire a right to mistreat people. If you have to process them through a system, process it.

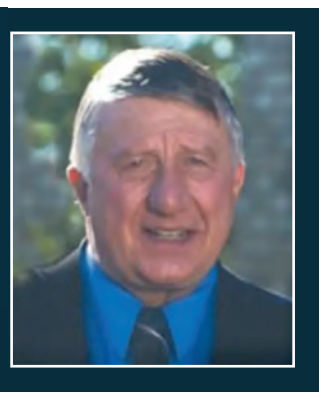
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Oshkosh Corp. eliminates 80 positions nationwide

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Corporation said last week changes in its Transport segment affected approximately 80 employees nationwide.

The company said the affected employees were notified Oct. 27. The number of employees represents less than 3% of the Transport segment workforce.

According to the company, the Transport segment reduced a number of office-based roles as part of a broader organizational realignment. The action is part of ongoing efforts to better align the organization's structure with current business needs and remain competitive in dynamic market environments.

This was a Transport-wide action covering both the Defense and Delivery sides of the business. The company said this reduction was limited entirely to salaried, office-based positions. No union-represented positions were affected.

It added this was a structural realignment to bring its cost structure and organizational layers in line with current business volume — it was not connected to any program or proposal effort.

Affected employees have been offered severance and outplacement support.

"We sized this action specifically to address our structural issues in one move," spokeswoman Alexandra Hittle said. "We are not anticipating further reductions at this time."

The company reported Thursday that Transport segment sales for third quarter of 2026 decreased $25.9 million, or 4.4%, to $562 million.

Overall, Oshkosh Corp. reported third quarter net income of $138.4 million compared to net income of $196.2 million for the third quarter of 2025.

"Our results reflected challenges arising from our transformation of fire truck production," said John Pfeifer, president and CEO of Oshkosh Corporation. "Improvements in throughput are taking longer than we previously expected, and we have identified the primary factors that affected production. We are taking focused actions to improve material flow and strengthen production scheduling, and we believe this is a near-term issue."

He added, "We remain focused on disciplined execution and continue to believe our strong market positions, differentiated products and investments in technology and manufacturing capabilities position Oshkosh well for success in the future."

Back in the Day

Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical Society

November 2, 1971

Passing of a Famous Local Sports Figure: Champ C. Seibold, Oshkosh native and athletic standout, died today at his home on Lake Street of an apparent heart attack at age 59. Famous for his athleticism, Seibold attended Oshkosh State College, Ripon College and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In 1933, he was signed to play professional football for the Green Bay Packers from 1933-42. In 1935, Seibold suffered an injury when at a bar in Rhinelander, a fight broke out (Seibold was only a bystander)



and was injured when a broken bottle thrown during the mele, struck him in the eye. The incident required stitches and the threat of losing his sight put everything, including his football career in peril. Seibold recovered and continued to play for Curly Lambeau and the Packers for seven more seasons. In July of 1937, Champ and his father Otto opened a bar named Champ's at 15 Commerce St. The bar did business in that location from 1937-1956.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, November 2, 1971

Stephenson makes announcement to join race for mayor

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Common Council member and former deputy mayor Joe Stephenson has announced his intention to run for mayor next year.

There are over 20 weeks until the spring general election and Stephenson has thrown his hat in the ring for the mayoral election in the spring.


Stephenson

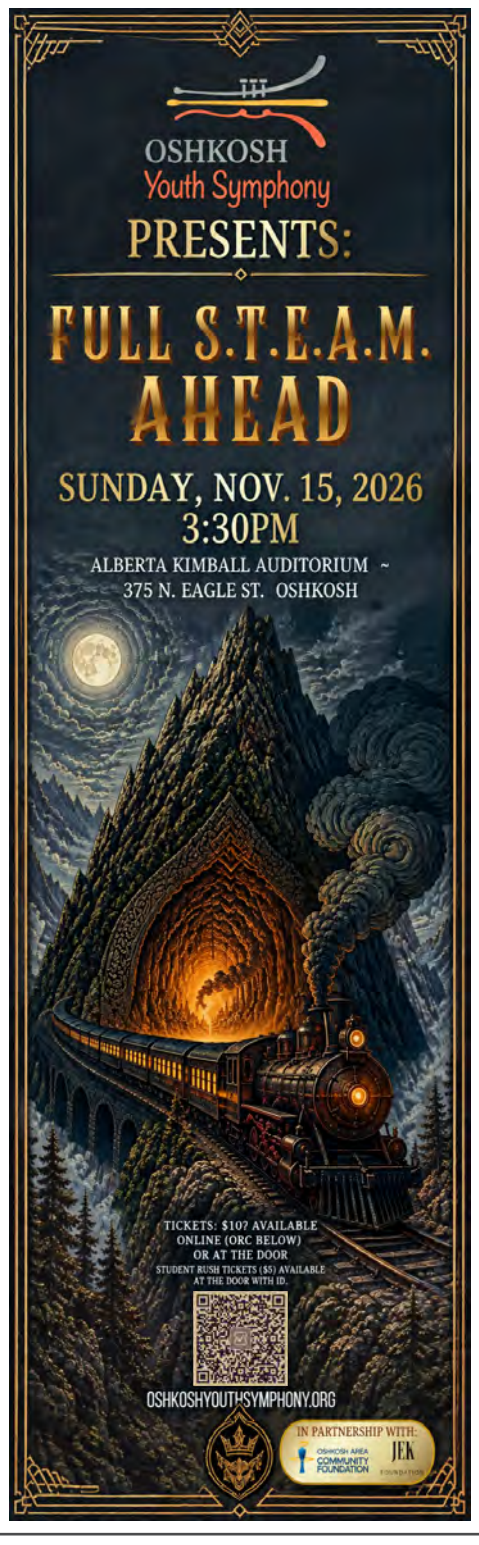
"I'm running for Mayor because I believe Oshkosh deserves leadership that is accessible, forward-thinking, and willing to put in the work," Stephenson said in an announcement on Facebook. "Leadership that respects our city's history while embracing new opportunities. Leadership that listens to residents, supports local businesses, and advocates for strong neighborhoods."

Mayor Matt Mugerauer declared in August he was not going to run for another term as Oshkosh mayor. He was elected in 2023 and in 2025 as mayor after serving on the council since 2018. The non-partisan mayoral seat is one of four seats up for election in April.

Stephenson is currently serving his second term on the Common Council. He was first elected in 2023 and reelected in 2025.

Candidates will be able to take official campaign paperwork out starting Dec. 1 and then will need to turn in materials by Jan. 5 to qualify to be on the ballot. If three candidates submit paperwork for the mayor's race, there will be primary election for the race in February.

Deputy Mayor Karl Buelow announced he was running for the mayor's seat in August.





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Remarkable to open coffee cart at Oshkosh Public Library

Oshkosh Herald

Patrons can grab a cup of coffee, pick up a treat and celebrate a new way to enjoy Oshkosh Public Library, thanks to a new partnership with Remarkable.

The library hosted a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Remarkable Coffee Cart on Oct. 27 in the library's Reading Room on the first floor.

Remarkable is a nonprofit organization that creates opportunities for individuals with diverse abilities through purposeful employment, engaging projects and enriching activities. Founded in 1962, the organization helps people build skills, contribute to their communities and make meaningful connections.

Through the coffee cart, Remarkable brings its mission into a familiar community space, giving library visitors another reason to pause and connect. The partnership grew from community feedback gathered during the library's 2025 strategic planning process.

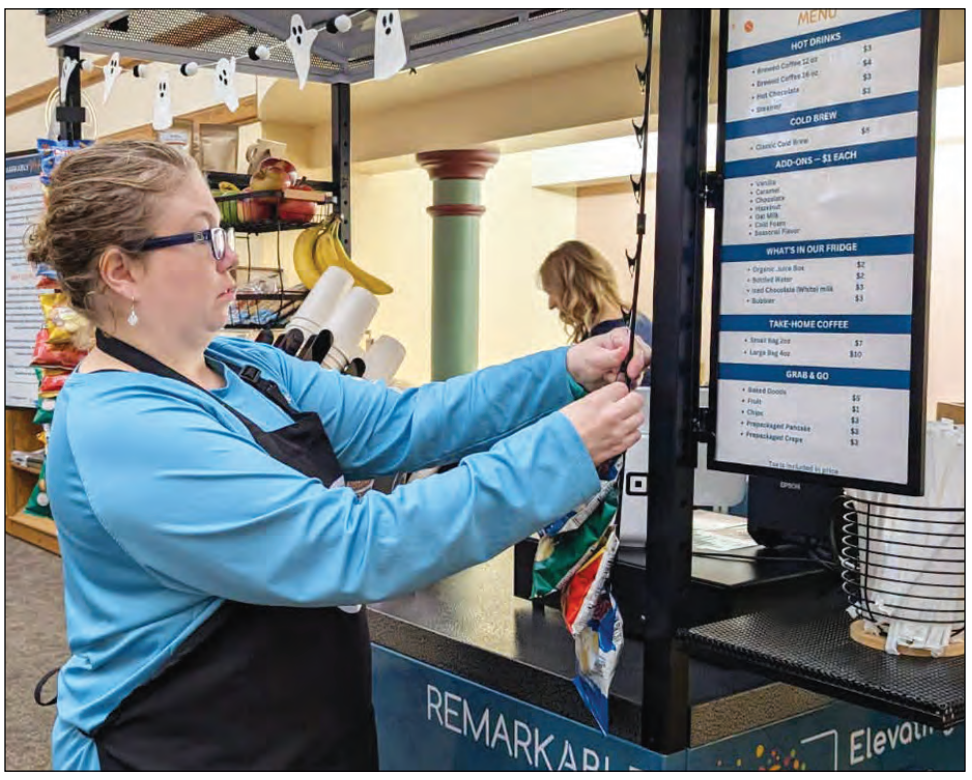
"We heard from our community that having coffee and snacks available at the library would make their experience here even better," Library Director Darryl Eschete said. "What makes this especially meaningful is that we found a way to respond through a local partnership with a well-known nonprofit organization."

The Remarkable Coffee Cart will serve customers from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The menu will include hot coffee, seasonal cold brews, hot chocolate, locally sourced baked goods, fruit and more. Menu prices will vary.

"At Remarkable, we believe everyone deserves the opportunity to contribute, connect and be recognized for their abilities. We're grateful to partner with Oshkosh Public Library to create a place where community members can enjoy a great cup of coffee while supporting meaningful employment and inclusion right here in our communit," Remarkable COO Jennifer Ven Rooy said.

For Eschete, the partnership shows how an idea shared by the community can become part of the library experience.

"This is the kind of partnership we are always looking to achieve," Eschete said. "It takes an idea we heard from the community and turns it into something that improves service. You can come to the library, find your next book, meet someone, get some work done and enjoy a freshly made beverage while you're here."



Submitted photo

The Remarkably Made coffee cart made its debut Oct. 27 at the Oshkosh Public Library. The new coffee cart is intended to help participants build job skills, gain hands-on experience, and grow in confidence by serving up more drinks, treats and smiles.

Thanksgiving dinner program to serve community

Oshkosh Herald

Father Carr's Place 2B is having its annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner program.

Dinner will include roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, vegetable and pumpkin pie for dessert. For meals to be delivered, call 920-231-2378.

Meals will be delivered on Thanksgiving Day between 10:30 a.m. and noon. Meals are delivered to all of Winnebago County only. Orders are now being taken.

For those who prefer to dine in the Saint Mother Teresa Center at Father Carr's on Thanksgiving Day, food will be served from noon to 1:30 p.m. No reservations are necessary; guest are invited to just come in. All are welcome.

Father Carr's is located at 1062 N. Koeller St.

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Mistake in public notice leads to open meeting law question

By Jonathan Richie
Oshkosh Herald

A mistake by the Oshkosh Area School District led to confusion and concern that the school board was violating open meeting laws.

OASD Board of Education member Tim Hess noted an issue with the public notice for the public hearing stating it was deficient in its content and its timing. State statute is clear that public notices must be published 15 days before the public hearing for unified school district.

"I get that people made a mistake; we made a mistake," Hess said.

Hess stated by moving forward with the vote all board members would be in violation of open meeting laws. Board president Mike Ford took responsibility for the mistake.

"You can fire me, you can fine me for open meeting violations," Ford said. "I'm not going to put this district in a position where I make a mistake, and we're not getting revenue into this district."

OASD assistant superintendent of operations Brian Yerkey also took responsibility for the error.

"As the person who oversees operations, that falls on me and my department," Yerkey said. "So I think it's important to apologize to the school board for putting you in a position that you shouldn't have to be in tonight."

The district has to get the tax levy to the municipal clerks by Nov. 1. There was a brief break in the meeting to get the district's attorney on the phone to get their legal advice.

Attorney Ron Stadler said the board members were not in violation of open meeting laws.

"A decision to not hold a budget hearing tonight is a critical mistake. I know it's not perfect," Stadler said. "It would have grave consequences to not hold that tonight so that we can pass the levy and have that to the clerk before Nov. 1."

Stadler added, "You're compliant with your open meeting law issues and there's no personal liability for a board member in holding a public hearing that is technically not compliant with the statute. It doesn't create individual liability for any of you."

Stadler stated in his 38 years in the field that he has never seen this type of incident before and there is no case law regarding this type of incident.

There will be a public budget hearing on Nov. 23 at 6 p.m. and at that hearing the school board can modify the budget if there is a two-thirds vote.

The school board did go forward with passing the 2026-27 budget later in the meeting.

Voucher program funds to be on 2027 tax bills

By Jonathan Richie
Oshkosh Herald

When tax bills arrive later this year, Oshkosh residents will see how much of their tax dollars are being diverted from public schools and going to private school as part of the private school voucher program.

The Oshkosh Common Council passed the resolution 6-1 to have the portion of local tax dollars that is redirected from public schools going to funding private school vouchers.

The only opposing vote during the Oct. 27 meeting came from council member Paul Esslinger.

Esslinger called the resolution a political stunt and not a move to be more transparent.

A letter from Oshkosh Area School District Superintendent Bryan Davis stated that the funds have grown drastically over the past 10 years. For the 2016-17 school year local taxpayers paid $405,778 and for 2026-27 that figure has jumped to $10.2 million.

In Oshkosh, Lourdes Academy and Valley Christian both participate in the voucher program, according to their respective websites. These are private and voucher schools.

Adding this information to the tax bill was something that was requested by council members earlier this year and the information will be on Oshkosh tax bills when they are mailed out to property owners later this year, City Manager Rebecca Grill said.

OASD Board of Education member Tim Hess came to the council meeting, as a citizen and not a board member, to give more explanation behind the figure that will be on the tax bills. Hess said he was frustrated that the school board did not vote on this topic.

Esslinger agreed with Hess on the topic and the two had a back and forth about the $10.2 million figure on the Oshkosh tax bills being misleading to taxpayers.

That number is not just city residents but all residents within the OASD boundary. Hess pointed out that the number city residents will pay is close to $7.3 million.

However, it is accurate based on the verbiage that is proposed for the tax bill which is, "Of the amount levied by OASD, $10,264,426.00 is for the purpose of private school vouchers."

Since 2023-24, taxpayers within the OASD boundary have paid $34.5 million into the private school voucher program.

OASD budget

from Page 1

OASD is just one aspect of a resident's tax bill. Other portions of the tax bill are Fox Valley Technical College, Winnebago County and the City of Oshkosh or the municipality where the taxpayer resides.

The mill rate for the seven municipalities that make up the OASD are different based on the local assessed value. In the City of Oshkosh, there is no change and the mill rate is staying at $7.99. In the towns of Black Wolf and Utica, the rate is going up four cents and 13 cents, respectively.

Rettler noted that the voucher program has increased $1.1 million for a total of $10.2 million of public tax money going to fund private school education. Board member Barb Herzog noted there is confusion about the voucher program.

The private schools get that public taxpayer money to cover the costs of the student going to the private institution, and it is taken directly from the public schools.

"There is some misunderstanding as I encounter people in the community thinking vouchers are free," Herzog said. "And they are free, I believe to the student and the family, but they are not free to the rest of us."

Board member Tim Hess said he could not support the budget because of a clerical error with posting the public hearing for the proposed budget. Hess was the only opposing vote.

"We are voting to tax people without having 'officially' given them the opportunity to comment," Hess said.

Residents were given the opportunity to comment, but the public notice did not meet state statute requirements for time between the notice being published and the meeting date.

Board members Beth Wyman, Jacob Wolf and Herzog stated it was not a good situation the board was in, but passing the budget was more important.

"We can't have this happen again and I don't like being put in this situation," Wolf said. "But we can't not have our teachers get paid, staff get paid…without this, if we don't pass it, what's going to happen then? We're going to lose staff, teachers. I'm not happy but I feel like this is our only option."

Success in schools

OASD Superintendent Bryan Davis highlighted that the facilities plan the district unveiled years ago is working.

Davis said the district is modernizing facilities by replacing old aging buildings. The reduction from 20 to 15 buildings matches with declining enrollment also, he said.

There is also annual saving of about $2.4 million directly linked to the consolidation of facilities.

There has also been improvement in proficiency. At Vel Phillips Middle School proficiency has gone up 5.3% in reading and up 6.4% in math.

"Real change happens when our staff truly believe that we can make a difference and that our leadership and our coaching focuses on that collective efficacy with our students and our staff," Vel Phillips principal Amanda Patza said.

There has also been growth at Carl Traeger Middle School. The school has seen progress year after year in math and reading and has had the same or higher growth than 89% of middle schools across the state in 2025-26.

"Ultimately, when my students feel safe and seen – physically, mentally and emotionally – just as they are, then they are able to act with integrity and engage with our learning to achieve the high bar of excellence that we have set for them," Traeger principal Alexandra Piester said.

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Oshkosh Seniors Center, South Building
200 N. Campbell Rd.



Sawdust District

from Page 1

gering around and getting hit by cars and whatever else that we're looking at."

The council approved extending DORA hours across the city to be open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. This is a change from the original hours, which were from 5 to 10 p.m. Wednesday to Friday and 1 to 10 p.m. on Saturdays.

Oshkosh Police Department Captain Andy Lecker said the department sees a lot of public intoxication around the city, but when it comes to DORA, there have not been a lot of issues.

"City staff reviewed any impacts of the existing DORA when the expansion was considered," Ahlana Saray of Oshkosh Communications and Engagement (OCE) said when asked about risk management assessment for potential liabilities or any assessment on extending DORA hours.

The Herald also asked OCE about adding crosswalks to the area if people will be walking around with open intoxicants.

"The area of South Main Street, especially near the arena, is well set-up for pedestrians," Transportation director Jim Collins said. "This was a well thought out, intentional design that was implemented prior to the opening of the arena. A signalized intersection was added at West 11th Avenue and South Main Street in conjunction with that project as well as a continental style crosswalk at West 12th Avenue and a wide sidewalk in front of the arena."

White Label Lofts

Anyone who has crossed the river and headed south on South Main Street has noticed the scaffolding that has gone up in the 900 block of South Main Street.

This will be the location of Oshkosh's newest affordable housing project, White Label Lofts, which will add 49 units in the city.

A 2021 housing study showed that Oshkosh is in need of all types of housing from low income housing to luxury homes because there are just not enough homes in the city.

The study stated that Oshkosh needs 1,700 new housing units by 2030 to keep up with population growth. Since 2020, there have been over 1,800 housing units built, under construction or approved by council. These are primarily multi-family residential buildings like Mill on Main and the Red Earth Development off Lake Butte des Morts.

The building at 923 S. Main St. where Titan Properties used to have their offices will be torn down, and a three-story residential building will be going up in its place.

Todd Hutchinson, the developer on the project, has been pitching the project for years to the city. The developer group has applied for state grant funding and wasn't able to obtain the grant funding until this year.

In April, the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) awarded the project just over $1 million.

Oshkosh council members noted the grants and tax incentives are offered to developers because they cannot build in the city without that financial assistance.

"It is our opinion that without the TIF assistance this project would not be able to proceed," said Todd Taves, senior municipal advisor for Ehlers.

Hutchinson said the rents will range from $475 to $1,700 for one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments.

"This development would not happen, we would not have affordable housing unless we put a TIF in to help a little bit on the development end of things," council member Joe Stephenson said. "I just want to point out that affordable projects are hard to get done and the city often has to step in; WHEDA, the state sometimes has to step in."

The Mill on Main apartment complex opened earlier this year after first receiving council approval in 2022. The multi-phase project began with 115 apartments and when complete, it will add around 300 apartments across three buildings.

That project is expected to be completed in the next few years.

Friends of Oshkosh Public Library relaunch after five years of inactivity

A familiar advocate for Oshkosh Public Library is making a comeback.

Following more than five years of inactivity, the Friends of Oshkosh Public Library have reorganized and are preparing to support the library's future.

The newly re-established nonprofit organization will support Oshkosh Public Library through fundraising, advocacy, volunteerism and community engagement.

While the library is primarily publicly funded, Friends organizations help provide many of the extras that enrich library services, including special programs, equipment, collections and events.

"I'm excited to see the Friends of Oshkosh Public Library return," said Liz Neuman, president of the Friends Board. "Our library is an important community resource, and the Friends offer another meaningful way for people to invest in its future and help expand its impact."

On June 18, the organization completed its incorporation as a Wisconsin nonprofit and is now building its board of directors and laying the groundwork for membership.

Attorneys from Renning, Lewis & Lacy, S.C. provided legal guidance throughout the incorporation process.

Community members interested in supporting the organization's work and growth are encouraged to get involved.

Over the coming months, the Friends will announce membership and volunteer opportunities, fundraising activities and projects that will directly benefit the library and patrons.

Community members interested in joining the Friends or learning more can contact Darryl Eschete, director of Oshkosh Public Library, at eschete@oshkoshlibrary.org, and inquiries will be forwarded to the Friends of Oshkosh Public Library.

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Local holiday tradition celebrates 20th anniversary

By Hope Hahn
Herald Contributor



Photo from Dreamlit Studios

The Paine Art Center and Gardens has been creating a holiday Nutcracker presentation for guests for the past 20 years.

For over 20 years, the Paine Art Center and Gardens has created a holiday Nutcracker presentation.

When the exhibit first started in 2007, an illustrator was hired to design pages of the book that visitors would see as they were walking through the exhibits.

The center's Curator of Horticultural Designs was also the person who was put in charge of the Nutcracker decor. She started looking around at other museums to see what they were doing for inspiration. Once they were able to see what other people were doing, slowly they started to bring in tours.

"The Paine is excited to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Nutcracker in the Castle," said Noell Dickmann, marketing manager at the Paine. "We are excited to keep the presentation going with everyone who walks through the doors."

This year, the event will take place from Nov. 20 through Jan. 4. Tickets are available through the website, thepaine.org. Prices may vary by tour; however, the first week of opening from Nov. 20-25 are kids free days, during which time kids get in free for self-guided tours.

This year, for the 20th anniversary, The Paine is doing something special. They are going to have a 40-foot Christmas tree that visitors can walk through. The tree is expected to have 10,000 ornaments on it.

"It is just something fun and new for people to celebrate the 20th anniversary," Dickmann said.

Last year, The Paine made a production of how the 20th anniversary is made.

"It is really great that a three-year presentation turned into a wonderful tradition," Dickmann said. "The community loves it, the staff loves it and we are just happy that it has continued all this time."

Nutcracker in the Castle at the Paine is an exciting event filled with sounds and surprises, so Dickmann encourages those who haven't already seen the performance to get their tickets. The decorations, dancing and Christmas trees will get anyone into the Christmas spirit, she said.

Visitors come from all over the United States to see the performance.

Nutcracker in the Castle transforms the historic mansion into magical scenes from the Nutcracker fairy tale.

The event draws in local cake artists, designers, live dancers and community members. It is an event that many people look forward to around Christmas time.

"The live dancers, who perform in the show, are from Neenah," Dickmann said. "They are already rehearsing and putting the show together. People come to the show and tell us about their family traditions with the Nutcracker, they say, my parents brought me here and now I am bringing my kids here."

Visitors can expect to walk through more than 20 decorated rooms with each one telling a different story. But, before they even see the final product, it takes a three-week period to turn the mansion into the Christmas scenes visitors know and love. The setting features over 70 Christmas trees, following the journey of Clara and the Nutcracker Prince from the Stahlbaum family's party to the Land of Sweets.

The second-floor Gothic Gallery displays a large collection of antique European and authentic German nutcrackers from renowned workshops like Steinbach and Ulbricht, alongside themed displays.

The event also includes Cookies and Cocoa with the Sugar Plum fairies, a cupcake cafe and self-guided and group tours.



Photo from Weston Imaging

This year's Nutcracker in the Castle event will run from Nov. 20 through Jan. 4.

The self-guided tours take visitors through the decorated rooms and give them a look at all of the Christmas trees in the Paine mansion.

To learn more about the Candlelight tours or the Cupcake Cafe, visit thepaine.org/event/nutcracker-in-the-castle.

Registration underway for race benefiting United Way

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Area United Way invites runners and walkers of all ages to the 24th Annual Race for the Light 5K Fun Run/Walk, presented by Amcor.

The event at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 5 takes participants on a one-of-a-kind 5K course through Oshkosh's Celebration of Lights at the EAA grounds. Whether running for a personal best, walking with family or simply enjoying the holiday atmosphere, participants can experience the magic of the lights while supporting their community.

Proceeds support Oshkosh Area United Way's work to expand opportunities in Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellness, and Enabling Resources throughout southern Winnebago County.

Participants must register by Nov. 12 to guarantee an official Race for the Light T-shirt. The first 100 registrants will also receive a flashing LED bracelet, donated by 4imprint. Registration is $35 per participant, and the final registration deadline is Dec. 4.

Participants are encouraged to dress in their favorite holiday attire, gather friends and family, and make Race for the Light part of their holiday traditions.

To register or learn more, visit oshkoshunitedway.org/race.

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County board approves $253 million budget for 2027

By MaryBeth Matzek
Oshkosh Herald

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors approved the 2027 county budget that increases spending but lowers the average property tax rate.

The spending for the year is an estimated $253 million while the average property tax rate fell to $3.24 per $1,000 of equalized value. The total of the 2026 adopted budget was $238.9 million.

The county board spent nearly 11 hours between Oct. 26 and Oct. 27 going through the budget, its amendments and capital improvement plan. County Executive Gordon Hintz said the budget prioritized the county's core services, employee retention and attraction and facility upgrades.

"Putting together the budget is a long process," he said. "We started in April. It's not a perfect budget, but we were able to move the needle in several areas and accomplish some things."

Employee retention was an important goal for the county so employees will receive a 3.4% cost-of-living adjustment increase and an achievable 2% merit pay increase.

The budget adds 11 full-time and two part-time positions, including four new employees for the sheriff's department who will work in the jail. Additional jail personnel are needed now that all the jail pods are open due to an increase in inmates.

The county is also adding a public information officer, who will work out of the county executive's office and lead communications for the county. Several supervisors noted the importance of having a position like that in place, pointing out how important communications were during the spring floods and the July tornado.

"I think we really saw this past year how essential communications are and reaching people where they are, which for a lot of people is on social media," said Supervisor Casen Frassetto. "When I was canvassing at UW-Oshkosh to get signatures to run, so many people didn't know what the county board did. I see this person also helping with sharing the story about what we do as a county."

While Supervisor Conley Hanson thought a public information officer was a good idea, he did not like the timing.

"My constituents are really having a tough time and are tightening their belts, and they see us loosening our belts in the county and spending more," he said. "I can see supporting this when interest rates and diesel and food prices come down."

Supervisor Bob Poeschl said the public information officer would help communicate with residents about different county services and the role it plays in their lives.

"We can make connections within the community," he said. "This will also improve communications within the county."

Supervisor George Bureau said he was against the county creating any new jobs because it was not sustainable.

"We add these positions now and it just adds to the overhead while we are not adding revenue," he said. "I worry about affordability and want to be able to explain to my constituents who are struggling because their taxes and everything else is going up why we are adding these positions."

The budget includes multiple capital improvement purchases and projects with the two largest being the expansion of the county highway building so it can better handle larger vehicles and the construction of a new Solid Waste transfer station and resource recovery site. Since both projects will not begin until the latter half of the year, Hintz opted not to borrow funds until they are needed. He said the move saves Winnebago County since it will not need to pay interest on money it is not using.

Construction on the transfer station and county highway building will continue into 2027.

In the area of core services, the county board remained committed to supporting helping to end homelessness in the county by voting down a budget amendment that would have removed $125,000 from the Health & Human Services Department's Emergency Rent Assistance Program. During the discussion, it emerged that only $30,000 of the funding came from the levy with the remainder coming from grants.

"Removing $125,000 from rental assistance is sending the wrong message to the unhoused in our community," Poeschl said. "For us to pull the money and hope our partners can fill the gap is just wrong."

Hanson, who authored the amendment, said the county could work more with Leaven and churches to provide rent support to those in need rather than paying for it out of tax dollars.

Supervisor Kate Powers said other funding sources were struggling and removing the county's funding was the wrong move.

"It's time for us to stand up and take care of our citizens," she said.

The county board also voted to create two new $2,100 scholarships for Winnebago County high school students for a budget addition of $4,200.

County Supervisor Gabert passes away

Oshkosh Herald

Winnebago County Supervisor Maribeth Gabert passed away last month.

Gabert represented District 12 for 18 years. As the county board was beginning its budget deliberations Oct. 26, it held 18 seconds of silence in her honor, one second for each year of service.


Gabert

Gabert was first elected to the county board in 2008. During her time on the board, she served on the Aviation Committee from 2008-2026, serving as its chair from 2018-2026. She also served on several other committees, including the Park View Health Center Committee (2009-2026), the Planning and Zoning Committee (2013-2026), the Committee on Committees (2015-2026) and the Legislative Committee (2018-2026).

In addition to her service on the county board, Gabert served as treasurer for the Town of Oshkosh from 1976 to 2016.

To fill the vacant District 12 seat, County Board Chair Frank Frassetto will seek applications from eligible residents. He will then interview applicants and select a candidate to complete Gabert's term. The county board will need to approve the appointment.

Gabert, who won a two-year term in April at age 76, is the third sitting county board supervisor to pass away this year. District 3 Supervisor Walt Ulbricht passed away in March and former Board Chair and District 33 Supervisor Tom Egan passed away in July.

Council pushes back City Center decision

By Jonathan Richie
Oshkosh Herald

For over a year, city officials have been meeting behind closed doors while sharing little information to the public about the potential purchase of City Center.

The public will have to wait two more weeks for a decision to be made.

Despite no plans for the site and limited public support, the Oshkosh Common Council continues to discuss purchasing 17 acres of riverfront property known as City Center.

The council has approved an initial purchase offer of $12.5 million to buy the property. If the city purchases the site, city staff has stated that the plan would be to contract with a third party to act as landlord. The city would not redevelop the site at all until after the Jackson/Oregon Street bridge project is completed.

The city has earmarked $23.5 million in the capital improvement plan to purchase and develop City Center over the next couple of years.

"At our last council meeting we had a closed session, we came out of that, and I had indicated pretty clearly that you could expect us to be taking some sort of action in public this evening. I need to eat those words just a little," Mayor Matt Mugerauer said after the council's Oct. 27 meeting. "We find it prudent to give staff just a little more time to continue very important discussions."

The city is still in a due diligence phase as the site examination continues. An analysis of the soil and the structure is ongoing.

After it was initially stated that there was outside funding available to purchase City Center, city staff has had to walk back those statements. The 2027 budget confirmed the city manager's office is planning on using general obligation debt to purchase City Center, meaning taxpayers will be responsible for this purchase with many unknowns.

Mugerauer said the public can expect some sort of decision from the council on Nov. 17.

"We will have final direction on the City Center topic that evening," Mugerauer said.





Commission responds to Woldt's request in misconduct case

Oshkosh Herald

The Wisconsin Judicial Commission has responded to Winnebago County Judge Scott Woldt's filing, which stated the complaint filed against him was too vague to be able to adequately respond to.

Woldt's attorney argued that they were unable to respond because the complaint only included initials of people involved in the case.



Woldt

Wisconsin Judicial Commission executive director Jeremiah Van Hecke filed his response in October stating "the complaint is neither vague, nor ambiguous as alleged in Judge Woldt's Motion for a More Definitive Statement and the brief that accompanied it."

Van Hecke's motion explains that Woldt had previously been provided the full names of the involved parties on three separate occasions before the complaint was filed in August.

"Specifically, Judge Woldt was notified in writing of all three matters described in the complaint," a footnote in the complaint states.

Van Hecke said Woldt was told the names of the individuals on Nov. 17, 2023, in a Notification of Investigation letter, in a notice of a formal proceeding on Nov. 15, 2024 and in the second notification of formal proceedings on Jan. 16, 2026.

The complaint also states that Woldt discussed the alleged misconduct violations for almost three and a half hours on Dec. 13, 2024, in front of the Wisconsin Judicial Commission during a formal appearance as part of the commission's investigation.

In a Sept. 21 filing, Woldt's attorney argues there is not enough information in the complaint for Woldt to respond to the allegations.

"Judge Woldt must be able to determine what specific conduct is alleged to constitute each alleged violation so that he may accurately admit, deny or otherwise respond," Woldt's attorney Terry E. Johnson said. "However, the complaint does not provide the necessary clarity and specificity for Judge Woldt to do that."

Johnson writes that central participants in the complaint are only identified by their initials. The defense also cited a legal standard in Wisconsin Statute 802.06(5) that addresses when a complaint is too vague the defense cannot be required to respond.

"The Commission has commended a disciplinary proceeding seeking findings that Judge Woldt willfully violating multiple provisions of the Wisconsin Code of Judicial Conduct," Johnson said. "Judge Woldt is entitled to know with reasonable certainty who is involved, what conduct is alleged to constitute misconduct, and which specific conduct forms the basis for each charged violation before he is required to frame a responsive pleading."

A three-judge panel, led by Wisconsin Court of Appeals Judge Jennifer E. Nashold, will decide if Woldt will be punished for allegations outlined in the complaint filed earlier this month.

Van Hecke filed the complaint on Aug. 3 outlining multiple allegations about Woldt engaging in judicial misconduct.

The complaint outlines an incident during an interview on LifeTV in Oshkosh when Woldt said, "I deal with society's garbage." Woldt went on to agree with the interviewer that his job was that of a sanitation engineer.

The interview was broadcast before the 2023 election. Woldt was running for reelection against attorney Lakiesha Haase. Another allegation revolves around Woldt confronting area attorneys about their support of Haase during the campaign.

On April 25, 2023, Woldt attended a "happy hour" at an Oshkosh bar and restaurant. Woldt allegedly told one attorney they were not to talk to him after supporting Haase.

Woldt allegedly told another attorney, "This election personally cost me $28,000; write out a check and we are all good."

Woldt told a third attorney, after he won reelection that he was disappointed they didn't support his reelection.

The complaint continues in a June 2023 incident Woldt asked an expert witness, a Filipino psychiatrist, if they could understand English and if they had any hearing issues.

The witness said no and Woldt allegedly responded, "From now on, when you come into a court of law and the bailiff says all rise, you better get off your butt. Do you understand me?"

Van Hecke concluded that Woldt violated a number of Supreme Court rules.

Woldt was issued a seven-day unpaid suspension for judicial misconduct by the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 2021, linked to incidents of misconduct between 2009 and 2016.

The incidents included Woldt calling a 13-year-old sexual assault survivor a "so-called victim," while referring to her assailant as a "very smart man" with a low probability of re-offending and also chastising a domestic violence victim for requesting that her assailant be issued a fine and telling her not to contact police.

Woldt held up a handgun as a prop during a 2015 sentencing hearing for a developmentally disabled man. He also displayed his handgun when a group of high school students visited the courthouse.

The Supreme Court wrote in 2021 that a number of recent incidents showed an "aggravating pattern of misconduct" requiring an unpaid suspension "to impress upon Judge Woldt the seriousness of his misconduct and the need for him to change how he treats the jurors, lawyers, litigants, witnesses, victims and staff with whom he interacts."

Driver killed in single vehicle crash Monday morning

Oshkosh Herald

One person is dead after a truck left the road early Monday and crashed into an Oshkosh home.

The Oshkosh Police Department said on Monday morning that in the early hours of the day a single vehicle crash resulted in the death of the driver.

A OPD press release states the incident occurred just after 2 a.m. A truck left the road near the intersection of Merritt Avenue and Grand Street and struck a house.

The Oshkosh Fire Department arrived on the scene and used a winch from the ladder truck to remove the truck from the house. The driver, who has not been identified, died from their injuries on the scene.

No other injuries were reported from anyone inside the house.

OPD is still investigating the incident.

Area unemployment rate drops during September

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area (MSA) and Winnebago County saw their unemployment rate drop to 2.7% in September from 3.3% in August but up from 2.6% a year ago, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

Preliminary September 2026 unemployment rates decreased in all 13 metropolitan areas over the month. Rates increased in all 13 metropolitan areas over the year.

Preliminary September 2026 unemployment rates decreased in all 72 counties over the month.

Preliminary September 2026 unemployment rates decreased in 34 of Wisconsin's largest cities over the month. Unemployment rates decreased in one city over the year: Sheboygan. Rates increased in 29 cities over the year and stayed the same in the remaining five cities.

Preliminary September 2026 unemployment rates decreased in all 72 counties over the month.

Former inmate accused of grooming child

Oshkosh Herald

A former Oshkosh Correctional Institute (OSCI) inmate will be in court next week as he faces charges linked to inappropriate communications with a teenager earlier this year.

Kenson D. Mueller, 25, is facing one count of soliciting a child for prostitution, grooming a child for sexual activity and exposing a child to harmful descriptions.

If convicted on all counts, he faces 21.5 years in state prison, followed by up to 17 years of extended supervision.

Court documents filed in Winnebago County allege that Mueller knowingly contacted a 16-year-old girl via phone calls and text messages as an inmate at OSCI.

The Wisconsin DOJ website states Mueller was released from OSCI on extended supervision on Sept. 15. He was convicted in 2025 for battery or threat to judge, prosecutor, or law enforcement officer and misdemeanor resisting or obstructing an officer.

According to the complaint, in June a treatment specialist at OSCI was monitoring inmate chat logs and alleged communications between Mueller and the teenage victim. The employee believed the victim was using her mother's account to communicate with Mueller.

The victim spoke with an Oshkosh police officer about the incident. She had communicated with Mueller and his cellmate. That man was serving at OSCI after being convicted of sexual assault of a child in 2024 in Racine County. He is not facing charges linked to this incident and was transferred to Waupun Correctional Institute.

Mueller allegedly spoke with the victim and her friend about sex on multiple occasions.

Officers learned the victim was able to speak with Mueller through her mother's account to communicate with a former OSCI inmate.

An officer contacted Mueller's probation agent who indicated a warrant would be issued upon Mueller's release from prison.

Mueller is expected to be in court for his initial appearance on Monday.





Teacher deported

from Page 1

Have dignity."

Winnebago County Sheriff John Matz said his department was not involved in the detention of Mendez. He said the only way the sheriff's office would have been involved is if Mendez would have been arrested and that information relayed to ICE.

Matz said that he does not know of ICE operations within the county and stated an agreement the department has with ICE is beneficial. He reiterated that the 287(g) Warrant Service Office is the only involvement the department has with ICE.

"I believe that agreement has kept ICE agents out of the community and has meant we don't have agents conducting raids," Matz said. "There's no active ICE enforcement in the county."

In 2025, there were over 5,000 bookings into the Winnebago County Jail; 155 were reported to ICE as not U.S. citizens and holds were placed on 17 of those individuals.

Molly Smiltneek, who serves on the OASD Board of Education and is an immigration attorney, went to social media to share her opinion on the current situation.

"This is not normal. This is not a personnel issue. This is not a political issue. This is a human issue," Smiltneek said. "I know there are a lot of people, kids and adults, in our community who are hurting, sad and trying to make sense of the sudden disappearance of an important person in their lives."

She added, "I want to clearly state that our district is a better place because of the diverse voices and experiences of both students and staff that walk our halls. We are not better because one of us is gone."

"And there is a mother, a teacher, a leader, a role-model, neighbor, a human being, an employee of the year who was torn away from all she built and valued," Smiltneek said.

Mendez was also involved with the Winnebago Area Literacy Council.

"We are deeply saddened by her absence in our community, and we want to take this opportunity to celebrate Wendy, her perseverance, and the incredible contributions she has made to Oshkosh," WALC executive director Chu May Paing said.

Mendez started working with the WALC years ago to build a job readiness skills program through the group's Road to Work Program. She completed that program and got a job at OASD as a Spanish translator and in 2025 became a Spanish teacher at Vel Phillips.

"Wendy's impact didn't stop with her own achievements," Paing said. "She became a vital connector, encouraging and referring many friends and neighbors to WALC so they too could build their skills and pursue their goals."

The community responded with a vigil for Mendez on Friday evening in Opera House Square. There have also been ongoing protests outside Vel Phillips Middle School from 5 to 6 p.m.

For Oshkosh resident Kathy Webb, the evening's shared stories and expressions of support left room for optimism amid the sadness.

"It moved me to tears, but it also gave me hope that we can overcome this," Webb said.

Federal powers

"On August 10, 2020, Mendez legally entered the United States on a temporary basis, but in violation of our laws, failed to depart by February 9, 2021," ICE said in a statement. "On February 18, 2026, she was placed into removal proceedings, and on September 9, was ordered removed by an immigration judge for failing to show up for her removal proceedings.

"Being in detention is a choice," ICE said in the statement. "We encourage all illegal aliens to take control of their departure with the CBP Home App. The United States is offering illegal aliens $3,000 and a free flight to self-deport now. We encourage every person here illegally to take advantage of this offer and reserve the chance to come back to the U.S. the right legal way to live the American dream. If not, you will be arrested and deported without a chance to return."

The Migration Policy Institution completed an analysis that states about 980,000 people between January 2025 and July 2026 were deported by the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees ICE operations.

ICE has reported that on average it costs $17,121 to arrest, detain and deport a person, which would mean the federal deportations have cost around $16 billion.

However, Penn Wharton Budget Model has reported a much larger number with each deportation costing between $30,591 and $109,880 for an average of about $70,000.

Using those numbers, the federal government may have spent over $60 billion to arrest, detain and deport individuals.

The Herald reached out to Senator Tammy Baldwin's office, Senator Ron Johnson's office and Rep. Glenn Grothman's office. No one in any of those offices would speak about Mendez or her case on the record.



Fleet Farm holds grand reopening event

Oshkosh Herald

The Fleet Farm store in Oshkosh will celebrate its grand reopening Thursday by unveiling a $3.5 million transformation.

The company said the renovations make the store at 177 N. Washburn St. a model for Fleet Farm's next generation of stores.

The morning opens at 6:30 a.m. with a flag raising ceremony and log cutting, Fleet Farm's version of a ribbon cutting, led by Fleet Farm President Nick Widi and joined by American Legion, Post 70 and Connie Carmical with the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce. The public is welcome.

The remodeled store features a new layout designed to make the store easier to navigate, with new lighting and signage throughout, inside and out.

Following the log cutting, Fleet Farm will present a semi-truck loaded with more than 2,600 pairs of steel-toe work shoes, valued at $132,000 and donated by SureWerx Footwear, to Community Clothes Closet and Habitat for Humanity Greater Fox Cities.

Fleet Farm will also recognize Ashley Furniture's donation of more than 200 new mattresses, valued at $175,000, to Habitat for Humanity Greater Fox Cities and Fox Cares Foundation. The mattresses are designated for families whose homes are being repaired through Habitat's Rock the Block program, which is working to repair 100 tornado-damaged homes in 100 days.

Business news roundup

Ascension is expanding access to medications and pharmacy services for the community with the opening of a pharmacy located at the Ascension Koeller Street Clinic, as well as with the opening of a second pharmacy at Mercy Hospital. Hospital officials said this addition of pharmacies comes at a critical time for the Oshkosh community, which has seen local pharmacies close, reflecting a broader trend affecting communities across the country. Both pharmacies will offer full retail services to the public, including prescription fulfillment, over-the-counter medications and pharmacist consultations.

Assurance Title Services has moved into a building at 821 Witzel Ave., which is next door to its previous location, where it had been since 2009. The company held a ribbon cutting and open house last week to showcase the transformed office space. Recent improvements include updated landscaping, fresh paint, new flooring, upgraded lighting and technology, a new ADA accessible ramp, an updated back entrance and fresh asphalt in the parking lot. New furniture and signage were also added as part of the project.

Verve, a Credit Union has announced the promotion of Kyle Elsner-Engebos to the role of Vice President of Experience + Growth. In his expanded leadership role, Elsner-Engebos will work with leaders and teams across Verve to enhance member experience, mentor and develop team members and advance strategic credit union priorities. Elsner-Engebos joined Verve in 2016.

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15-18 ct.
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5 lb. bag,
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4.5-5.3 oz



5/$10
Smart Ones Entrees
6.49-9.25 oz
Select



2/$4
Food Club Sliced Cheese
6-8 oz



5/$10
Roma Pizza
10.52-11.5 oz or
Bellatoria Personal Pizza
5.67-7.8 oz



2/$4
Sargento Shredded Cheese
5-8 oz



7.99
Dunkin' Coffee
11-12 oz or
10 ct Cups
WHEN YOU BUY MULTIPLES OF 2 OR 9.99 EA



2.49
Food Club All-Purpose Flour
5 lb Bag or
Granulated Sugar
4 lb Bag



1.99
Food Club Powdered or Brown Sugar
2 lb or
Peanut Butter
16 oz



5/$4
Food Club Canned Vegetables, Variety Beans or Tomatoes
10-15.25 oz Select



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Creamette Pasta
12-16 oz Select or
Chicken of the Sea Chunk Light Tuna
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Calendar of events

Thursday, Nov. 5

Celebrating Oshkosh Neighborhood Heroes, 5 p.m., Venue 404, 404 N. Main St.

Friday, Nov. 6

Northeast Wisconsin Gameapalooza Board Game Convention, 9 a.m., Culver Family Welcome Center

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

Saturday, Nov. 7

Northeast Wisconsin Gameapalooza Board Game Convention, 9 a.m., Culver Family Welcome Center

Meet Author Sierra Burchby, 11 a.m., Caramel Crisp Bookstore

Mihm Movie Marathon, 2 p.m., Time Community Theater

Oshkosh Sings, 3 p.m., Oshkosh North High School

Winnebagoland Barbershop Chorus presents Malt Shop Melodies, 3 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, 808 N. Main St.

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

Feel Like the First Time - Foreigner, 7 p.m., The Grand at UW-Oshkosh

Oshkosh Area Community Band Fall Concert, 7 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Sunday, Nov. 8

Oshkosh North Communities Program Autumn Craft Fair, 9 a.m., Frank Schade Fieldhouse

Northeast Wisconsin Gameapalooza Board Game Convention, 9 a.m., Culver Family Welcome Center

Tuesday, Nov. 10

Veterans Day Ceremony, 8:45 a.m., Oshkosh North High School

Wednesday, Nov. 11

Veterans Day Breakfast, 8 a.m., Military Veterans Museum

Thursday, Nov. 12

Hope Rising: Celebrating 25 Years of HOPE, 5:30 p.m., Culver Family Welcome Center

Panorama Arts Collective presents "The Bench: A Play in Four Seasons," 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

Friday, Nov. 13

Fall Festival, 5:30 p.m., Valley Christian School

Oshkosh West One Act Play "As If, Cassandra," 6 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Friday the 13th Part 8 (Jason Takes Manhattan), 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

Saturday, Nov. 14

Craft Fair and Vendor Fair, 9 a.m., Vel Phillips Middle School Festival of Trees, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Public Library

Festival of Trees, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Public Library

Oshkosh Indoor Farmers Market, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Arena

The Man Behind the Camera: A Photographer's Perspective, 11 a.m., Oshkosh Public Museum

Oshkosh Garden Club Scholarship Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Oshkosh Country Club

Panorama Arts Collective presents "The Bench: A Play in Four Seasons," 2 and 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

Cranksgiving Benefit Ride, 3:15 p.m., Becket's

Lourdes Academy Gala, 5 p.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

Oshkosh West One Act Play "As If, Cassandra," 6 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium

Metallica with Dokken Tribute Show, 7 p.m., The Grand at UW-Oshkosh

Sunday, Nov. 15

Festival of Trees, 1 p.m., Oshkosh Public Library

Panorama Arts Collective presents "The Bench: A Play in Four Seasons," 2 p.m., Time Community Theater

Tuesday, Nov. 17

Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh Youth of the Year Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center

Wisconsin Herd vs. Windy City Bulls, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena



Submitted photo

Showing style

Emcees Tricia Morris and Ryan Rasmussen hosted the Oshkosh Area Women's Association 40th Annual Benefit Style Show on Oct. 27 at the Oshkosh Convention Center. This year's event theme was "40 Seasons of Style" and showcased fashion from a lineup of nine local boutiques.

Church service, speaker to recognize veterans

Oshkosh Herald

WE Community Church will recognize the service of veterans to the nation.

An upcoming worship service is open to all veterans and the public to attend. This will occur at 9:30 a.m. Sunday. WE Community is located at 2644 Wisconsin Highway 116 in Waukau.

American Legion Post 234 will post and retire the colors. Josh Ramseyer will sing the service branch songs accompanied by his wife, Kristin Ramseyer, on the piano. Scripture readings will be shared by Jeff O' Dell, chaplain AMVETS Post 7 and Cyril Griesbach, chaplain Post 1908 VFW. There will be a "Salute to Veterans" PowerPoint, produced by Jodi Kallas, president of the Omro-ALA 234.

Delivering the message will be Steve Conto, a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer, having served 22 years of active-duty service. His message is titled, "The Final Bridge - God's Mission."

Since 2002, Conto has been traveling throughout Wisconsin and the US finding the exact burial location of those heroes who were killed in action during the Vietnam War from Wisconsin. He has authored the book "Stories From The Final Bridge" about his journey to find them. His efforts and research have been preserved as an official burial reference by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

Following the church service, a free potluck breakfast will be served to all.

Community invited to Veterans Day ceremony

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh North High School invites veterans, families and community members to come together for a special Veterans Day Ceremony.

The Nov. 10 event will begin with a welcome reception at 8:45 a.m. The ceremony will be from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Frank Schade Fieldhouse. A luncheon for veterans and guests will follow from 11 a.m. to noon.

Organizers said this is a meaningful opportunity to recognize the courage, service and sacrifices of veterans and show appreciation for all they have given.

To RSVP, email communitiesonhs@gmail.com.

Community gathering returns with focus on gratitude

Oshkosh Herald

After a few years' hiatus, the Oshkosh Festival of Gratitude returns this fall on Nov. 24.

A potluck meal will begin at 5 p.m., hosted by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, 300 N. Eagle St.

Area faith communities will be sharing performance art, music, poetry and inspirational pieces to celebrate gratitude from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Alberta Kimball Auditorium at Oshkosh West High School, 375 N. Eagle St.

A free-will offering will be accepted to help defray rental expenses, with any excess to be donated to the Oshkosh Area Food Pantry.



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Warriors' Moran, Wildcats' Moore lead state finishers

Oshkosh Herald

Six area runners competed at the WIAA State Cross Country meet on Saturday at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

The highest finisher among the area runners was Valley Christian senior Mya Moran, who placed 16th in the Division 3 girls race with a time of 19-minutes, 36.2-seconds.

It was the best finish for Moran in her three state trips. She placed 34th as a freshman and 36th as a junior last season, and this year's time was nearly 50 seconds faster than what she ran last season.

Moran was outside of the top-20 after the first mile but picked up five positions before the two-mile mark. She grabbed another spot over the final mile and was only about two seconds shy of making it into the top 15.



D. Moore

Moran's finish is the best for a Valley Christian girls runner since Leah Patterson placed 10th in 2022.

Joining Moran in the Division 3 girls race was Lourdes Academy senior Annie Moore, who finished 37th overall with a time of 20:28.7.

It was Moore's second appearance at the state cross country meet having run as a freshman on the Lourdes Academy team that finished seventh. Moore placed 79th as a freshman and her time this year was nearly a minute faster than as a freshman.

Moore was in the top 40 the entire race and maintained her position without too much fluctuation at the one- and two-mile marks.

Moore's teammate, Henry Spanbauer, capped his career for the Knights with a 40th-place finish in the Division 3 boys race. He finished with a time of 17:22.1.

It was Spanbauer's third appearance at the state meet having qualified as an individual as a sophomore and then was the leader of the Lourdes Academy team trip last season. He finished 66th overall in his first trip and was 31st last year, where he finished about two seconds ahead of this year's pace.

Spanbauer was 33rd at the one-mile mark on Saturday but slipped back five places by the two-mile mark. He finished only three seconds out of making the top 35 – out of 152 runners.

"Annie and Henry had a great run at State," Lourdes Academy head coach Tim Moore said in a text to the Oshkosh Herald. "The experience and privilege of competing at the state meet is a blessing that both of them ended their high school careers at. Our Lourdes community is proud of both of them."



Photo by Doug Sasse

Valley Christian's Mya Moran (218) leads a group of runners during the Division 3 girls race at the WIAA State Cross Country Meet on Saturday in Wisconsin Rapids. Moran finished 16th overall in the race.

Both Oshkosh West and Oshkosh North were represented in the Division 1 races with Oshkosh West's Dominic Moore and Oshkosh North's Jay Weber running for the boys.

Moore, making his second trip to the state meet, finished 25th in the race with a time of 16:16.0 – about six seconds shy of placing in the top 20. Moore finished 85th as a sophomore last year and shaved nearly 45 seconds off of his time from a year ago.

"Racing at Rapids last year helped him tremendously," West head coach Stephanie Polak commented in an e-mail to the Oshkosh Herald. "Knowing the course helped him break the race into manageable parts and put together an amazing performance. It was so great to see the smile on his face as he crossed the finish line.

"Finishing in the top 25 at the state meet is a wonderful accomplishment and just so great. He earned it through the work he put in all season."

Moore's finish was best for an Oshkosh West runner in a full-field state meet in more than 25 years.

The last Wildcat runner to earn a top-25 finish at Wisconsin Rapids was Matt Lenahan, who was the 1997 individual winner in Division 1. Phil Keskinen also finished 16th that year. The closest a West runner had been to the top 25 since then was John Streblow placing 28th in 1999.



Photo by Doug Sasse

Lourdes Academy's Hennry Spanbauer (238) keeps pace with a pack of runners during the Division 3 boys race at the WIAA State Cross Country Meet in Wisconsin Rapids on Saturday.

John Thill placed eighth in the spring 2021 state meet for West. That year, because of COVID, state meets were held in both fall and spring and neither meet included a full statewide field.

Moore also becomes the first West runner to make it to back-to-back state meets since Jake Rost achieved the feat in 2013 and 2014. Rost finished 47th in both races.

Weber, also a junior, became the first Oshkosh North boys runner to make a full-field state meet since Jack Scherer made the last of his three straight state trips in 2019. Zach Tjugum qualified in the COVID altered state meet in the 2020-21 school year.

Weber finished 62nd on Saturday in an up-and-down day in his first state trip. He was 73rd after the opening mile but had moved up into the top 50 at the two-mile mark.

He finished with a time of 16:38.5, which was only about six seconds of being in the top 50 finishers.

The Oshkosh North girls were also represented at state for the second straight state meet as senior Adri Clark finished 67th among 184 runners after a strong second mile.

Clark was in 86th place at the one-mile mark but had moved up 21 spots over the second mile and held close to that spot over the final mile. She finished with a time of 19:34 and was only about two seconds away from finishing in the top 60.





Valley Christian's postseason run ends in quarterfinals

By Steve Clark
Oshkosh Herald



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Valley Christian's Jay Parrish breaks free up the sideline on a kickoff return during Saturday's WIAA 8-Player football quarterfinal game against Owen-Withee at Neenah Middle School.

Valley Christian had been dominant in the first quarter of games this season.

The Warriors never trailed after the opening stanza in any of their 10 games so far this season and had outscored opponents by a combined margin of 157-20 in the first 12 minutes.

So when Valley Christian had just 18 yards of total offense, two turnovers and were trailing Owen-Withee 12-0 after the first quarter of Saturday's WIAA 8-Player state quarterfinal, there was an odd feeling drifting around the Warriors bench.

"We didn't come out the way you want, obviously, and we could feel that, that something was just a bit off," Valley Christian head coach Ben Birr said. "We didn't feel like we were playing our full game."

The Warriors weathered the rough start and were able to outscore the Blackhawks by three points over the final three quarters, yet could never make up for the rough start in a 32-23 loss that ended the program's breakthrough season.

"Once we responded and kind of woke up, our effort was everything we wanted," Birr said. "The guys showed their character through all of it. They showed they deserved to be here."

Valley Christian ends the season with a 10-1 overall record, while reaching the 8-Player quarterfinals for the first time in program history.

Yet, the Warriors were hoping for a longer playoff run and seemed to put the rough start behind them and trailed just 12-9 at halftime.

Valley Christian then scored on its first two possessions of the second half, putting together drives of 57 and 80 yards to find the end zone. Both drives were capped by dives into the end zone by quarterback Mason Everts.

Jay Parrish's 52-yard kickoff return to open the second half gave the Warriors the momentum for the first scoring drive, while a leaping catch in traffic by Xander Osinga for a 32-yard gain on a third-down play highlighted the second Valley Christian march.

But with each score, Owen Withee – the 2024 8-Player State champion – had an immediate answer.

Clay Mueller busted a 71-yard touchdown run on the Blackhawks' third play from scrimmage after the first Warrior score and then broke free for a 75-yard kickoff return for a touchdown to answer Valley Christian again.

"Normally we don't give up the big plays. It hasn't been the norm all year," Birr said. "It was a second half where the momentum was back and forth and in the end, they had it."

Valley Christian marched into Owen-Withee territory on the ensuing possession but turned the ball over on downs before it could narrow the three-point deficit.

The Blackhawks answered with a scoring drive to take a 32-23 lead midway through the fourth quarter, reaching the end zone on a fourth down pass to Mueller – one of just three completed passes Owen-Withee had on the day.

The Warriors answered right back and marched to the Blackhawks 17-yard line, but Everts was picked off on a first-down pass with about five minutes left to end the threat and Owen-Withee was able to run the rest of the clock out.

"We are going to look back and there are going to be three or four big plays that we are going to want back, but in a battle like this that happens," Birr said. "It just stings that we are not on the right side of this one."



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Valley Christian's Xander Osinga (88) leaps to make a contested catch against Owen-Withee on Saturday.

Everts had one of his most productive games of the season for the Warriors, finishing 12-of-17 for 196 yards, while com-

See **Warrior football** on Page 16

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Knights can't overcome rough start in loss to Hilbert

By Steve Clark
Oshkosh Herald

Lourdes Academy head coach Kevin Wopat could feel the aftershocks of the Knights first offensive play from scrimmage on Friday night in the moments after it happened.

Quarterback Brady Bauer fumbled after being hit on a first-down carry, giving the ball to Hilbert less than 15 seconds into their WIAA Division 7 Level 2 playoff game.

Wopat said that the start of the game impacted some of the younger players and that the Knights were never able to get things going offensively.

"I think that really impacted some of our younger guys," Wopat said. "We just were never able to get things going tonight."

The Wolves scored on the possession after the fumble and on all three of their first-half drives as they handed the Knights a season-ending 35-6 postseason loss on JJ Keller Field at Titan Stadium.

Lourdes Academy, which was making its 11th straight playoff appearance, ends the season with a 9-2 mark.

The fumble on the first drive was one of two turnovers the Knights had on its first two possessions, while the third march ended with a fourth-down incompletion. Yet, despite the rough start, the Knights had a chance to gain some momentum heading into intermission.

Trailing 21-0, the Knights put together a long drive in the closing minutes of the second quarter and earned a first down at the Wolves' 9-yard line with nine seconds left in the half. Hilbert's defense, though, pressured Bauer on a pair of pass plays and Lourdes Academy had two incompletions to end the half without any points.

It was just the second time this season the Knights were scoreless in the first half. It also happened in a 15-13 loss to Rio/Fall River during the regular season.

The Knights were able to force a turnover on the Wolves' first drive of the second half when Elwin West Jr. pounced on a fumble at the Hilbert 44-yard line.

Bauer was intercepted on the first play of the ensuing drive but Lourdes Academy got the ball right back when West recovered his second fumble of the quarter and returned it to the 22-yard line.

The Knights, however, gained only one yard on four plays to turn the ball back over to the Wolves and Hilbert marched the 79 yards in just eight plays to extend the lead to 28-0.

Hilbert added to its lead on the third play of the fourth quarter to push the lead to 35-0 before the Knights got on the scoreboard late in the period on a 25-yard touchdown pass from Bauer to West.

Bauer, who suffered an injury at practice during the lead-up to the game, finished 13-of-27 for 130 yards and the two interceptions. He was also the team's leading rusher with just 34 yards on 11 carries.

The Wolves held the Knights to a season-low 45 yards rushing in the game.

Maximus Behnke led the defense with nine tackles, while Harlan Kuehn and Michael Santiago each finished with six tackles and a forced fumble in the game.



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Lourdes Academy's Maximus Behnke looks for running room against Hilbert on Friday night in a WIAA Division 7 Level 2 playoff game.



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Lourdes Academy's Elwin West Jr. (1) hits a Hilbert ball carrier to cause a fumble in Friday night's WIAA Division 7 Level 2 playoff loss.

Titans falter in second half in loss to Warhawks

Oshkosh Herald

UW-Oshkosh couldn't keep up with fourth-ranked UW-Whitewater in the second half as the Warhawks pulled away for a 48-19 win over the Titans at Perkins Stadium on Saturday night.

The Titans, who have dropped five straight games, led 13-10 late in the second quarter and were tied at halftime but Whitewater got its offense cranked up in the second half and outscored UW-Oshkosh 35-6.

Demir Ashiru finished 20-34 for 199 yards and a touchdowns, while also rushing for a team-high 118 yards and a score. Boden Fosch was the team's leading receiver with four catches for 43 yards.

Winslow Cooper also kicked a pair of field goals for the Titans.

UW-Oshkosh had a chance to regain the lead at the start of the third quarter with the first possession of the half but never crossed midfield before punting.

The Warhawks took over at the 25-yard line and got a 75-yard touchdown run from Tommy Novotny to break the tie and put Whitewater ahead for good.

The Titans punted on its next possession which Whitewater followed with a touchdown before an Ashiru to Nick Hermansen touchdown pass for the Titans got Oshkosh as close as 27-18.

But Whitewater needed just five plays to extend the lead with another touchdown – making it three scores in a seven-minute span for the Warhawks – and then sealed the win by keeping Oshkosh scoreless in the fourth quarter.

UW-Oshkosh will try to end its losing streak and pick up its first conference win when it travels to UW-Stevens Point. The Pointers are also winless in WIAC play.



Yonke leads West at conference meet

Oshkosh Herald

Rose Yonke finished in the top three in a pair of events to lead Oshkosh West at the Fox Valley Association meet held in Fond du Lac on Saturday.

Yonke led three Wildcat swimmers in the top 10 in the 50-yard freestyle with a second-place finish. Molly Dudzinski finished in fifth place and Avery Booms tied for eighth place.

Yonke also picked up a third place in the 100-yard freestyle for West.

Dudzinski grabbed a second top-five finish for the Wildcats by placing fifth in the 100-yard butterfly, while Yonke, Dudzinski, Booms and Rylee Coppernoll took third in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Booms and Coppernoll were seventh and 10th, respectively, in the 100-yard backstroke for the Wildcats, while Coppernoll also finished ninth in the 200-yard freestyle.

Sydney Pufahl added an eighth place in diving for West.

Oshkosh North/Lourdes Academy got a pair of top-10 finishes from Teya Zinth to lead its efforts.

Zinth was seventh in the 50-yard freestyle and eighth in the 100-yard freestyle at the meet, while teammate Sutton Braasch took ninth in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Appleton North captured the team title with Neenah taking second and Appleton West/Kimberly coming in third. West was fifth in the final team standings, while North/Lourdes was seventh.

Both Oshkosh teams will compete in the WIAA Division 1 sectional meet this week at Neenah.



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Valley Christian's Mason Everts looks for running room during Saturday's playoff game against Owen-Withee.

Warrior football

from Page 14

pleting passes to five different receivers. He was also the team's second-leading rusher with 41 yards on nine carries and the two touchdowns.

Valley Christian had relied on its run game on offense for much of the season – running back Sam Gloudemans finished 84 yards on 19 carries on Saturday – but with a stout run defense for the Blackhawks, the Warriors turned to Everts and the passing game with confidence.

"We feel like we could do a lot of passing if we needed to but we don't like to have to do that. We knew with their style and with some mismatches, we were going to have to stretch them out with the passing game and that definitely brought us back into it," Birr said. "(Mason) can sling it. He puts such good touch on it and he can use his legs. He's such an awesome quarterback."

Despite the advantage in the passing game, the Warriors couldn't overcome the three turnovers and big plays allowed against the Blackhawks.

"Those mistakes are tough because you are going against a really good team on the other side," Birr said. "We know that if that was us, if they made the mistakes, it would have been hard for them to overcome. It was good to see the guys kept fighting and the unity of the team stayed together.

"Going into the game, we told the guys that we were going to enjoy this no matter what. It was a great season for us."

Owen-Withee is slated to play Gilman in one of the 8-Player semifinals this weekend. The other semifinal will pit Belmont against Wabeno/Laona with the winners to play for the state title in Wisconsin Rapids on Nov. 14.

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Obituaries

Joseph Norman Weber



Joseph Norman Weber, 53, of Oshkosh WI, died peacefully at Aurora Medical Center on October 26, 2026 after a short illness.

He was born on January 14, 1973 to Michael and Nancy (Exferd) Weber in Oconto Falls, WI.

He attended Lena schools until 1989 when the family moved to Oshkosh. He graduated from Oshkosh West High in 1991. He was active in sports such as football, flag football and softball. He loved to travel to different states and hunt for antiques and Simpson's collectables. He was also into collecting toy cars and spending time with his grandchildren and was big into donating to various organizations.

He his survived by his daughter, Ashley Weber, grandchildren, Logan, Olivia and Autumn, mother Nancy, sisters Courtney Hubert, Kimberly, brother Dave, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and a special little boy by the name of Malekai and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his son Andrew (AJ) Weber, his father, Michael Weber and both set of grandparents.

Special thanks to the nurses and doctors at Aurora Health Care Oshkosh for the wonderful care he was given during his stays in the ER, ICU and on regular floors. Also, thanks to Hospice for the comfort they provided on his last few days.

Service will be held at Fiss and Bills-Poklasny funeral home at 865 South Westhaven Dr with visitation starting at 10am followed by the service at 12pm. Luncheon will be provided following the service, catered by LaSure's. A private burial will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Toys for Tots or Coats for Kids programs.

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Irene C. Zweck



Irene "Mom" C. Zweck, age 84, passed away with family by her side on October 26, 2026, in Oshkosh, WI. She was born on March 3, 1942, to parents, Adrian and Mable (Graper) Brown, in Wisconsin.

Irene grew up in a very large family, being one of 9 children. She learned early on that she loved to care for others and that family and friends were her whole world.

She married the love of her life, Delmer Eugene Zweck Sr., and they started their own family, and she went into healthcare and ultimately became a dietary aid. Irene recently retired from Evergreen Manor, in Oshkosh.

In her free time, she enjoyed completing puzzles, listening to polka and country music, working in her garden and was always having a beautiful bird to tend to.

She is survived by her sons, Joseph, Johnny, Charles, Delmar Jr. and their significant others; daughters, Clara, Sandy, Dorothy, Judy and their significant others; stepdaughters, Debbie, Brenda and Gisele and their significant others; as well as over 20 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren; siblings, Henry, Rick, Betty, Kathy, Edna, Dorothy and Ruthie; along with many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Preceding her in death was her husband, Delmer Zweck Sr.; her parents; and her sister, Cindy.

A private gathering has taken place. Her final resting place will be at Lake View Memorial Cemetery, in Oshkosh, WI.

The family would like to thank all of the medical staff at Aurora Hospital and Aurora Hospice, especially Tyler, that helped Mom transition and helped the family during this difficult time.

Fox Cities Funeral & Cremation Services
3026 Jackson St
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Gustav Daniel Houle



Gustav "Gus" Daniel Houle, 45, was born on June 5, 1981, in Neenah, Wisconsin. Gus was a father, son, brother, and friend who leaves behind a lifetime of memories and a place in the hearts of those who loved him.

If there was one thing everyone should know about Gus, it was how much he loved his boys. His sons, Lincoln and Finn, were his world. Being their dad was the most important part of his life, and the love he had for them was bigger than words could ever express. They were his greatest pride and joy, and they will forever carry his love with them.

Gus proudly served his country as an Army Ranger, a chapter of his life that speaks to his courage, strength, and dedication. After his military service, he continued finding ways to make a difference in the lives of others. He worked as a Peer Support Specialist with the Department of Veterans Affairs, helping fellow veterans by sharing his experiences and offering understanding, support, and friendship.

When he wasn't working, he enjoyed being outdoors, spending time with family and friends, and making memories along the way. Whether on the golf course, out fishing, bow hunting or simply spending time with the people closest to him, Gus had a way of making those moments matter.

Gus was preceded in death by many grandparents, aunts, and uncles. He leaves behind his two beloved sons, Lincoln and Finn (their mother, Kim Ames); his father, Kevin Houle (Rhonda); his mother, Cynthia Houle; and his brothers, Sam Houle (Jenny Oaks), Ben Houle, and Thomas Houle (Cameo). He also leaves behind extended family and many friends whose lives are better for having known him.

Though saying goodbye is never easy, we hope to remember Gus for the love he had for his family, his service to his country, how he selflessly helped people, and all the memories made along the way.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate and remember Gus at Fiss & Bills-Poklasny Funeral Home located at 865 S. Westhaven Dr. Oshkosh WI on Friday November 6, 2026. Visitation will be from 4-6pm, with a short service to follow.

Afterwards, family and friends are invited to gather at Greene's on Westhaven to share stories, memories, and a little time together remembering Gus.

Above all else, Gus was a dad who loved his boys. That love doesn't end here. It will live on in Lincoln and Finn.

FISS & BILLS - POKLASNY
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SCAN ME
Scan the QR Code to RSVP
Reserve your seat for November 12 or 13 at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home.
402 Waugoo Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901

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

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

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

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Obituaries

Beverly J. Schmidt

Beverly (Bev) J. Schmidt of Oshkosh, passed away unexpectedly October 22, 2026 at the age of 94. Bev was a wonderful wife and mother. She loved ballroom dancing with her husband Don and together they brought home several trophies. She was one of Jehovah's Witnesses, and her faith remained steadfast through the years. She loved animals of all kinds and was a "fur mom" to 5 dogs over her lifetime.

Beverly was preceded in death by her son Michael A. Schmidt, her sister Carol Boettcher, and her parents Harry and Beryl Zick. She is survived by her husband, Donald E. Schmidt; her son Wayne T. Schmidt (Deborah); her brother-in-law Richard Schmidt; her granddaughter Jassmine (Zach) Duey; nephews Clint (Lynn) Boettcher; and Mark (Mary) Boettcher, along with their children Alex and Samantha.

Per her request, there will be no service.

Fiss & Bills – Poklasny Funeral Homes
865 S Westhaven Dr.
Oshkosh, WI 54904
(920)-235-1170

FISS & BILLS - POKLASNY
FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY

John A. Olson

John A. Olson, age 87 of Oshkosh, passed away at Bethel Home on October 23, 2026. He was born on June 7, 1939 to the late Nils and Anna (Johnson) Olson. John was married to Mary Jane Gerdman in 1962 and together raised three sons.

Per John's wishes, cremation will take place and no formal service will be held.

For a full obituary, please visit: www.konrad-behlman.com.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN FUNERAL HOMES

Michelle L. Ballard

Michelle L. Ballard, age 60 of Oshkosh, passed away at her residence on October 20, 2026. She was born in Oshkosh, WI on January 17, 1966, the daughter of Karen Whitty and Gregory Klinger.



Michelle had a special gift for sewing, a passion she honed while living in Indiana, and she brought her skills back to Oshkosh, where she proudly owned her own seamstress shop. Friends and family will remember her not only for her talent but also for her love of cooking, her joy in grilling during summer, and her cherished bond with her dog.

Michelle is survived by her children, Emily (Conner) Ballard Dumas, Ted Ballard and Alexander Ballard, as well as six grandchildren.

Michelle was preceded in death by her parents, and sister, Amy Cline.

A memorial service for Michelle will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 6, 2026, at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Eastside, 402 Waugoo Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54901. Visitation will take place from 3:00 p.m. until the time of the service.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN FUNERAL HOMES

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Obituaries

Matthew Simonson



Matthew (Matt) Simonson, age 64, entered the arms of his Lord and Savior on October 28, 2026, following a courageous and long battle with a chronic illness. Throughout his health struggles, his unwavering faith in Christ remained his anchor, inspiring everyone around him. Born on September 14, 1962, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, he was the son of the late James and Shirley Simonson. He married Cheryl Soper on December 28, 1985, and together they raised their children in Oshkosh.

Faith, family, and hard work were the foundation of Matt's life. He began his career at Noffke Lumber, where he worked with dedication before turning his passion for craftsmanship into his own construction business. Throughout the community, he was known as a man of integrity who built everything to last.

Matt found joy in life's simple pleasures like taking his grandkids for "pennies candy" at the local BP, cheering on the Green Bay Packers through thick and thin, and playing golf in pursuit of the perfect swing. He also cherished Wednesdays spent playing cribbage and trading stories with close friends.

Among Matt's most treasured memories was the time he spent in Tanzania, Africa, visiting and staying with his beloved cousins and their family. The landscape, the culture, and the deep family bonds made during that journey held a special, enduring place in his heart.

To know Matt was to laugh. Blessed with a sharp, quick-witted sense of humor, he possessed the rare gift of remembering every single joke he ever heard, always ready to brighten someone's day with a punchline. Above all, his heart belonged to his family and his friends. He loved them fiercely, and his legacy of faith, laughter, and loyalty will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Matt was preceded in death by his parents, James and Shirley Simonson. He leaves behind his wife, Cheryl; his sons, John (Brittany) and Michael (Gustavo); and his cherished grandchildren, Jordy, Cobie, and Camilo. He is also survived by his sister Ingrid (Jeff) Jorgenson, his sister Sonja Simonson, as well as multiple cousins, nieces, nephews, and a large community of dear friends.

Matt's family thanks God for the gift of friends and family who have walked alongside them, offering comfort and peace when it was needed most. They are especially grateful to Moments Hospice, Ingrid and Jeff Jorgenson, Pastor Asher O'Callaghan, and their faith community at All Saints Lutheran Church for their love, prayers, and steadfast support.

A memorial service for Matt will be held on Monday, November 16, 2026, at All Saints Lutheran Church, 1072 Honey Creek Road, Oshkosh, WI beginning at 11:00 am. Visitation will start at 9:30 am and will continue until the time of the service. A luncheon will follow the service at church; all are welcome.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to All Saints Lutheran Church using the QR code specifically designated for Matt's memorial or Habitat for Humanity of Oshkosh Give Page.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN FUNERAL HOMES

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Call 920.385.4512 to place your ad

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

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

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

Real Estate/Rental

3 bed, 2 bath ranch home for sale in Town of Algoma. 4070 Meadow View Ln., Oshkosh, WI 54904. 1,632 sq. ft. 2.5-car garage. Screened porch. FSBO. (920) 267-2808 See Facebook Marketplace listing http://www.facebook.com/share/1CpJnrfjcB/

Legal Notices

**STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT
WINNEBAGO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF:
Courtney Elizabeth Maron
By (Petitioner) Courtney Elizabeth Maron
Notice of Name Change
Hearing
Case No. 26CV1013**

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From:
First – Courtney
Middle – Elizabeth
Last – Maron
To:
First – Courtney
Middle – Elizabeth
Last – Dowling
Birth Certificate:
First – Courtney
Middle – Elizabeth
Last – Dowling

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin:
Judge's Name: Hon. John A. Jorgensen
Place: Winnebago County Courthouse, 415 Jackson St, Oshkosh WI 54901, Courtroom #320
Date: November 30, 2026
Time: 11:15 am

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4866 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

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

**BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: October 13, 2026
Winnebago County Circuit Branch 5
Runs: October 21, 2026, October 28, 2026 and November 4, 2026**

WNAXLP

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
WINNEBAGO COUNTY
Case No. 25 CV 653**

In Re the Matter of:
NICOLET NATIONAL BANK,
Plaintiff,
vs
SCOTT J. SOPER et al
Defendants.
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Pursuant to an Amended Order for Default Judgement, Judgement on the Pleadings and Judgement of Foreclosure in the above-entitled action filed on October 7, 2026, I shall expose for sale and sell the following described property (or so much of it that is sufficient to pay the amount due upon said Judgement, plus interest and costs) at public auction, at the following date, time, and place:
Date: January 19, 2027
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Winnebago County Courthouse Lobby, 415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901

Property: Lot 2 of Certified Survey Map No. 7673 recorded in Volume 1 of Certified Survey Maps on Page 7673 as Document No. 1830007 of the Winnebago County Registry; said Certified Survey Map being all of Lot 1 and Lot 2 of Certified Map 4761, being part of Government Lot 2 of Section 1, Township 18 North, Range 15 East, Town of Omro, Winnebago County, Wisconsin.

Tax Key No. 016-008906

Address: 4515 Sand Pit Road, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901

Amount of Judgement: $743,349.94 plus interest, fees and costs

TERMS OF SALE Cash or certified check (10% down payment at sale, balance due within 10 days of court approval). Property will be sold "As Is" and subject to real estate taxes. A third-party purchaser is responsible for payment of the Transfer Fee (Purchase Price x .003)

Dated this 15th day of October, 2026.
/s/ John Matz
Sheriff for Winnebago County
OLSON LEGAL GROUP LLC
21 W. New York Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 54901
(920) 230-7020 Phone
(920) 230-7021 Fax

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Runs: October 21, 2026, October 28, 2026 and November 4, 2026.

WNAXLP

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
WINNEBAGO COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(INFORMAL ADMINISTRATION)
CASE NO. 26PR270**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Robert A. Wipijewski
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth May 12, 1971 and date of death July 11, 2026 was domiciled in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 325 Grant Street, Winneconne, WI 54986.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is January 19, 2027.
5. A claim may be filed at the Winnebago County Courthouse, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Room 242

DATE SIGNED: October 7, 2026
Electronically signed by Sara Henke, Register in Probate, Probate Registrar
Form completed by: Samantha J. Emro, Esq.
Address
Emro Law, LLC
3501 E. Evergreen Dr., Suite B
Appleton, WI 54913
Telephone (920) 750-5758
Bar Number 1123918

Runs: October 21, 2026, October 28, 2026 and November 4, 2026.

WNAXLP

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
WINNEBAGO COUNTY
Case No. 25 CV 122
In Re the Matter of:**

RIPPLE CREDIT UNION
f/k/a HEALTH CARE CREDIT UNION,
Plaintiff,
vs
EDDIE REIERSON et al
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
Pursuant to an Order for Default Judgement, Judgement on the Pleadings and Judgement of Foreclosure in the above-entitled action filed on September 8, 2006, I shall expose for sale and sell the following described property (or so much of it that is sufficient to pay the amount due upon said Judgement, plus interest and costs) at public auction, at the following date, time, and place:
Date: December 15, 2026
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Winnebago County Courthouse Lobby, 415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901

Property: Lot One Hundred Twenty-nine (129) in E.M. CRANE'S ADDITION to Algoma Park Plat, in the Twelfth Ward, City of Oshkosh, Winnebago County, Wisconsin
Tax Key No. 912-1298
Address: 2028 Plymouth Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901
Amount of Judgement: $142,596.70 plus interest, fees and costs

TERMS OF SALE
Cash or certified check (10% down payment at sale, balance due within 10 days of court approval). Property will be sold "As Is" and subject to real estate taxes. A third-party purchaser is responsible for payment of the Transfer Fee (Purchase Price x .003)

Dated this 22nd day of September, 2026.
/s/ John Matz
Sheriff for Winnebago County
OLSON LEGAL GROUP LLC
21 W. New York Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 54901
(920) 230-7020 Phone
(920) 230-7021 Fax

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Runs: October 21, 2026, October 28, 2026 and November 4, 2026.

WNAXLP

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
WINNEBAGO COUNTY
Case No. 2026CV000896**

MARK WORTHINGTON BELLAMY, and WRS PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC,
Plaintiffs,
v.
DYLAN A. DIERSEN, and WISCONSIN RENTAL SOLUTIONS LLC,
Defendants.

SUMMONS
THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
To each person named above as a Defendant:
You are hereby notified that the Plaintiffs named above have filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The complaint states the nature and basis of the legal action.
Within forty (40) days after October 28, 2026, you must respond with a written answer to the complaint as provided in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The Court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes.

The answer must be filed with the Winnebago County Circuit Court, whose address is:
Clerk of Circuit Court
Winnebago County Courthouse
415 Jackson Street
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901

You must also send or deliver a copy of your answer to the Plaintiffs at the address stated below.
You may have an attorney help or represent you.
If you do not provide a proper answer within the required time, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint.
A judgement may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated this 15th day of October, 2026.
/s/ Mark Bellamy
Mark Bellamy, Plaintiff, Pro se
2945 Island View Drive NE
Salem, OR 97303
503-999-9090
mark.classact@gmail.com

Runs: October 28, 2026, November 4, 2026 and November 11, 2026

WNAXLP

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Free Fun!

How many fall leaves can you count on this page? Have a friend try. Who found the most leaves?

Do you hear people around you worrying about money? You can help by finding ways to have fun without spending any money. There are lots of **FREE** things you can do each and every day!

Try some of the fun activities on this page—some might be more fun than playing with expensive toys and games!



Make a Sock Puppet!

Turn a sock into a puppet. Sew on buttons for eyes. Use markers to make a mouth. Thread string or yarn through the sock to make hair.

Have your puppet read one of your favorite books aloud!







Grow a Little Garden

Next time you eat a carrot, cut off the top and use it to start a plant. Use several carrot tops and you can start a garden.

1. Cut the carrot tops off so they are about one inch long. It works best if there is a little bit of growth at the end of the carrot.
2. Eat the rest of the carrots!
3. Plant the carrot tops in a container filled with dirt. Be sure a little of each orange top peeks above the dirt. Keep the soil moist, but not soggy. Be sure your container has a hole for drainage. Place the container by a sunny window.
4. Watch your carrot plants grow! When you plant carrots this way, your plants won't make new carrots. But they will have pretty leaves to decorate your home.

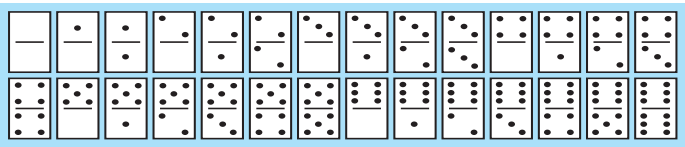
Number the pictures in order.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Make Your Own Dominoes

Start by taking a walk around your neighborhood. Collect 28 flat light gray stones that are about the same size. Use a black marker or paint to draw dots and lines so that the stones look like the set of dominoes at right.





Put on some music and DANCE, DANCE, DANCE!

Look carefully: Can you find the two identical dancers?





Go to the Library

Imagine a room with all kinds of **free books** that you can take home! That's a library! Visit your local library and check out fun books to read. Ask the librarian to help you find books that interest you.

Reading Riddle

Gabriella loves nothing more than listening to the rain at night as it patters against the window panes. She has never read this book. And she will never finish it. Use the code to find out why!

A=14	E=11	R=4
B=2	G=9	S=10
C=7	I=6	T=17
D=19	L=13	U=15

	E				S	E		
2	11	7	14	15	10	11		
						E		
9	14	2	4	6	11	13	13	14
	S							
6	10		14		7	14	17	

Extra! Extra!

Fun Search

Look through your local newspaper for information about festivals, museum exhibits and other free fun. Share what you find with your family and see if you can attend together.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop® Puzzler

Making a collage of fall leaves is a fun, free project.

How many differences can you find between these two pictures?



Double Double Word Search

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

BOOKS
CARROT
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DRAW
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FUN
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R	Y	K	H	C	N	I	D	S	L
N	N	T	B	N	U	F	O	W	K
P	N	R	O	X	D	G	N	A	P
U	U	Z	A	R	G	K	O	R	A
P	S	P	R	Y	R	D	M	D	T
P	Q	L	I	B	R	A	R	Y	T
E	C	N	A	D	Y	G	C	V	E
T	P	P	B	O	O	K	S	Z	R
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Kid Scoop FIT&FUN™

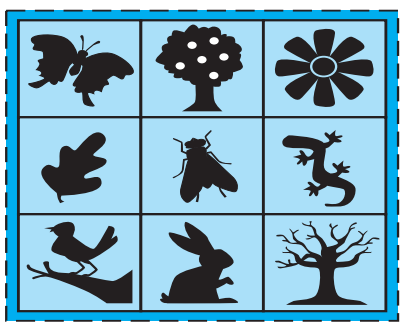
Nature Walk Bingo

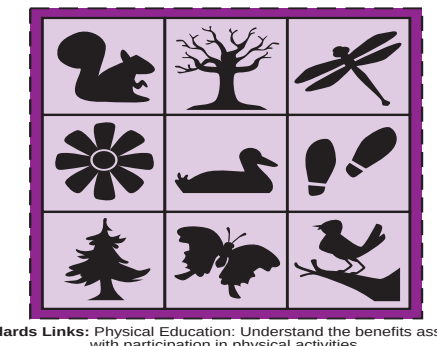
Go for a nature walk with some friends. Each of you select one of the bingo cards below. When you see one of the things shown on the card, cross out that space. The first person to black out their card wins!











Standards Links: Physical Education: Understand the benefits associated with participation in physical activities.

Write On!

Spending Time

Write about the people you enjoy spending time with.

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