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Mayor hopefuls step forward

Cummings will face deputy mayor, newcomer in primary

By Tom Ekvall
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

There will be a primary race for mayor of Oshkosh in this year's election as Mayor Steve Cummings will face opposition from Deputy Mayor Lori Palmeri and Nathan Stiefvater, owner of the Barley and Hops Pub and Beer Garden downtown.

Cummings is seeking his third two-year term, pointing to positive changes in the community during his current term. The primary election will be held Feb. 19 with the general election April 2.

Palmeri is serving her second term on the Common Council and is also deputy



Cummings



Palmeri



Stiefvater

mayor, having been elected to the post in 2018.

Stiefvater said he wants to become more active in the community and be a positive force as a small business owner. He recognizes that as a newcomer he will be a "dark horse" in the contest but said he is not seeking any major changes.

Cummings said he would like to main-

tain the city's positive momentum and not go backward.

"I would like us to stay on a progressive pattern," he said, noting accomplishments in economic development, job creation and retention, and healthy neighborhoods. He said he would also like to see more

done to reduce property taxes for homeowners, working in conjunction with other mayors to get things done in Madison.

Palmeri said she is running so that people have a choice for the mayoral position, adding that she believes in making Osh-

SEE **Mayoral primary** ON PAGE 13



Photo by Michael Cooney

Winter travel

Erin and Cade Rego experience the joy of late-afternoon sledding at the Red Arrow Park hill while there was enough snow to create a fun run. The sledding hill is one of two in Oshkosh available to the public. The other is in Westhaven Circle Park.

Child deaths in city share common backdrop

Dysfunction indicators found to be high in regional studies

By Miles Maguire
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

When officers arrested a 34-year-old Oshkosh man Dec. 17 in connection with the death of a third young child in the city in less than two weeks, the police department issued a statement in an apparent attempt to calm concerns about this shocking string of tragedies.

"None of the recent deaths of children in Oshkosh are connected in any way," the police said in a press release.

"How do we do a better job of supporting parents, of supporting kids that have experienced these traumatic events, so that they don't carry them into adulthood?"

DOUG GIERYN, Winnebago County Health Department director

But child advocates and health officials know better.

The police may be right from a purely criminal perspective, but the social and economic predictors of childhood trauma in Oshkosh are readily apparent to those who are looking. Unfortunately, these predictors — especially low income and lack

of education — are also reflected in statistics on child abuse in the community.

According to the most recent state data, Winnebago County's Child Welfare Division received 1,366 reports of child abuse and neglect in calendar year 2016. This number translates into a rate of 38.8 reports per 1,000 children, compared with

a statewide rate of 33.1.

In the Fox Valley, defined in a recent study as communities in Winnebago, Outagamie and Calumet counties, Oshkosh stands out when it comes to child welfare indicators. Almost half of the children in the city live in single-parent households, 8.1 percent of all residents lack health insurance and more than one-fifth of the population earns only between \$10,000 and \$25,000 a year.

"Rates of certain preventable childhood injuries related to emergency department visits are higher in the Fox Valley than in

SEE **Child deaths** ON PAGE 11

Thanks for your support, consider making it official

Happy New Year! Welcome to Volume 2, Issue 1 of the Oshkosh Herald.

It's been an amazing year watching the Herald morph from an idea into a community news source just a short year later. We've learned so much as we launched a print newspaper against what were considered long odds.

As we develop our 2019 goals and review lessons learned from 2018, I will confirm that we hear you. We appreciate the feedback and suggestions on features you would like to see in the paper, and especially the inquiries on what you



923 S. Main St. Suite C
Oshkosh, WI 54902

General information/customer service: Julie Vandenberg
julie@oshkoshherald.com
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Website: www.oshkoshherald.com

News tips and story ideas
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Advertising
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Andrea Toms: 920-508-0030
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Publisher
Karen Schneider, 920-858-6407
karen@oshkoshherald.com

Editor
Dan Roherty, 920-508-0027
editor@oshkoshherald.com

Corrections
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Karen Schneider
Oshkosh Herald publisher

can do to support the Herald and local journalism. For this we have an exciting opportunity I'll share later.

We've worked on being transparent with our readers and advertisers in explaining how tariffs and increased printing costs affect us, yet we've increased distribution 12 percent from Volume 1, Issue 1 as we strive to meet our goal of delivering to all residents in the Oshkosh Area School District.

Over the holiday I was reading a thread in a Facebook group for our neighbors to the south where they were discussing a void in local news and this groundswell of ideas of how they could create a community newspaper together. The Herald was referred to as an example. This led the Oshkosh Herald team into discussions of how we can include our community in uplifting the Herald's mission of providing local news while we continue to implement features and increase our distribution to more community members.

The easy answer was to let readers who want to support us do so, and for doing so we're offering something of value in return above and beyond the newspaper.

Grothman offers border funding bill

U.S. Rep. Glenn Grothman introduced a plan to get President Donald Trump's proposed border wall built by letting citizens crowdsource the project.

The 6th District Republican offered the People's Border Wall Fund Act enabling Americans to "personally fund the construction of a wall on the Southern border."

With Democrats in charge of the House, the bill will unlikely gain traction.

Grothman's proposal "would create an account within the Department of Treasury that would allow public donations (to) be used for the design, construction and maintenance of a border wall," according to a news release.



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We're borrowing a page from the playbook of other community newspapers and we're excited to offer the Oshkosh Herald Subscriber Membership program.

If you receive the Herald in the mail you will continue to receive it. This program doesn't change that at all.

This membership opportunity is for those receiving the Herald in our delivery area. Members will receive email offers and incentives from our advertisers that are exclusive to Herald Members. We will also invite members to an annual gathering to meet and hear from our team on the year in review and what you can look forward to in the coming year.

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annual membership payment. For about a dollar a week you give us the ability to stay strong, grow and assure our place in the community.

Look for more information and how to join in our ad on Page 15 or at www.oshkosh.herald.com/store/membership.

The need for local journalism is more important than ever. Oshkosh has become a bigger tourist destination and has kept its prominence as an education city. It has new developments in many sectors of the community. We aim to help lead the way and share what it can become while at the same time delivering regular and accurate community information.

We couldn't do any of this without you, our readers. Thank you for supporting local journalism, local news and local businesses.



Photo by Michael Cooney

Jagged lakescape

Ice shoves continue to arise along the Lake Winnebago shoreline, this one at Menominee Park last week, while a recent thaw continues to make lake ice conditions unstable.



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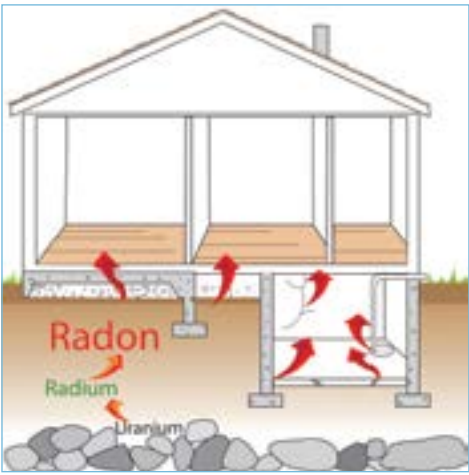
By Dan Roherty
OSHKOSH HERALD

Radon test results from 2006 to 2016 in Winnebago County point to bedrock depth and newer or remodeled homes as two factors in the higher-than-average levels found here, according to a report from the county's Health Department.

With January designated as Radon Action Month nationwide, the Health Department is encouraging testing for radon with an at-home kit that can be purchased from its office at 112 Otter Ave. for half of its normal \$10 price through the end of the month.

Radon is an odorless, invisible and radioactive gas that enters homes through cracks in the basement floor or from well water. Long-term exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking, and an estimated one in five homes has a radon problem.

In the 2,383 tests conducted during that 10-year period in Winnebago County, the average radon level was 6.0 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). Levels above 4.0 pCi/L



Radon gas usually enters homes through cracks in the basement floor or from water sources.

are considered dangerous for long-term health. Tests indicated a wide range from 0.4 to 70 pCi/L in the homes tested.

The closer bedrock is to the surface the more likely radon is coming into a home, and with newer structures or those remodeled with better windows, doors and insulation it can increase the amount of the gas trapped within.

Morgan Peterson, an environmental health specialist for Winnebago County, said newer homes may have less draft to mitigate the naturally occurring gas.

"Especially if they test those levels with a new build, they'll just put a mitigation system in right away," Peterson said.

She said the map compiled by the state Department of Health Services doesn't necessarily suggest one area being more prone to higher radon levels than another.

"It can be high in one house in the neighborhood, and then if you go right next door you can have low levels," Peterson said. "It's hard to generalize entire areas."

Radon measurements should be made for at least two days in the lowest lived-in level of a home with the windows closed, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A basement is considered lived in for testing purposes if occupied at least seven hours a week. Testing guidelines for real estate transactions and home sales can be different.

Test results above 4 pCi/L should

prompt a long-term test — at least 90 days and usually 6-12 months — to gauge a home's annual radon concentration. If the average of the two results is greater than 4 pCi/L, homeowners should consider a radon mitigation system that draws it from below the structure and vents it through a pipe outside.

The radon awareness effort is part of a regional information center based in Fond du Lac that also includes Sheboygan, Outagamie and Fond du Lac counties that provides resources for people to speak with certified radon specialists and mitigators. The county sold more than 100 of the kits last year and will offer them for \$5 through the end of the month in its Oshkosh office as well as in Neenah, Omro and Winneconne.

The map displaying the county's radon test results can be viewed at www.co.winnebago.wi.us on the Health Department page. Questions can be addressed to environmental health specialists at health@co.winnebago.wi.us

Builders association presents annual home show

Winnegamie Home Builders Association presents its annual Home & Outdoor Living Show with Answers to Energy at the Sunnyview Expo Center from Jan. 18 to 20.

One of the largest consumer home shows in the Fox Valley area, the Home & Outdoor Living Show will feature sus-

tainable living ideas with experts who will demonstrate how to save money, breathe easier and help the environment. There will be information about green building practices, solar, geothermal, outdoor wood burning furnaces and wind power and tips for existing homes to make them more sustainable.

Consumers get the opportunity to meet professionals who specialize in home products and services to fulfill their home improvement dreams. They come to be educated about home products and services, and they want to get to know exhibitors on a one-on-one basis.

Show hours are from 3 to 8 p.m. Jan.

18, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 19 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 20. The cost is \$5 at the door. Seminars will take place that Saturday and Sunday. Someone in attendance could win a \$25,000 prize.

For further information or questions, visit WHBA.NET or contact jodi@whba.net.

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The challenges of living with memory loss can make social engagements difficult. Yet the Alzheimer's Association knows that for individuals experiencing memory loss, social engagement is critical in maintaining and promoting brain health. The members of the Oshkosh Area Memory Cafés have learned firsthand just how beneficial these memory cafés are for individuals experiencing memory loss. Memory cafés are a comfortable social gathering that allows people experiencing memory loss to connect, socialize, and build new support networks. The cafés are supported by the Alzheimer's Association Greater Wisconsin Chapter. Cafés feature a variety of activities including music, snacks, crafts, and more. Jan Faust and her husband Marv attend both Oshkosh memory cafés each month. Marv suffers from memory loss and Jan has found the memory cafés to be an experience that benefits both Marv and herself. Jan says, "Doctors, nurses, any professional I speak to says that the one thing that will stave off deterioration is social engagement. And memory cafés are a safe place to do that- they're a place that has empathy. People understand what we're going through. And it's just fun. It's a huge effort to get here, but I will say- it's always worth it."

Carol Kossel and her husband Jim also attend both memory cafés each month. Jim suffers from memory loss and Carol says, "It just gets us out of the house. If I'm having a hard day, coming to these can change my attitude. They give me the chance to talk to other caregivers and more importantly to see Jim smile... and that doesn't happen as often anymore."

alzheimer's  association
Greater Wisconsin Chapter

City sets performance benchmarks for year

By Tom Ekvall
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The city of Oshkosh has set for itself key performance indicators that each department will be judged by that are linked to the city’s Strategic Plan and used to govern its operating budget.

The indicators were developed by a city committee in collaboration with input from each department and will eventually be posted on the city’s website so that the public can visualize what is accomplished during the year.

The committee formed in late 2017 was co-chaired by Police Chief Dean Smith and former Fire Chief Tim Franz, and included staff from various city departments.

Smith presented the key performance indicator plan at an earlier workshop with the Common Council, noting that the effort will serve as a guide for day-to-day initiatives for each department and help formulate strategies such as budget prioritization.

City Manager Mark Rohloff said the initiative will help the city better communicate with the public as to how things get done.

“It will improve our transparency and accountability,” Rohloff said in an interview. “It will highlight how we are achieving our actual performance goals” with regard to the city’s Strategic Plan.

Key performance indicators for each department include but are not limited to the following:



Rohloff

Police Department

- Number of citizen/community presentations given
- Percent of Uniform Crime Report Offense data increase or decrease compared with previous year
- Number of drug-related investigations by the Vice Narcotic Unit

Fire Department

- Increase the confinement of structure fires to the floor of origin by 5 percent year to year
- Participate in 90 percent of the requests for public education and outreach
- Provide an initial responding unit to emergencies that present an immediate threat to life or property in less than six minutes, 90 percent of the time

Administrative Services

- Percent turnover of city staff
- Percent of diversity within city staff
- Quarterly vacancy rate
- Average weekly users reached by Oshkosh Media’s Facebook page
- Percent of time GOV TV live government meetings are successfully televised on cable and online

- Average time to resolve reported maintenance issues within General Services managed buildings
- Annual cost savings derived from the city procurement function

City clerk and attorney

- Percent of annual license renewals completed by July
- Percent of phone/counter inquiries handled at initial contact with customer
- Number of nuisance abatement actions
- Prosecution data

Library

- Percent of people who are registered

library card holders

- Percent of people served who are active users
- Percent of service population who registered for a new library card

Museum

- Percent of website visits and social media followers
- Annual attendance continues to increase
- Number of people using virtual exhibitions and internet-based collections remain steady or expands

Public Works

Streets

- Percent of sanitary sewer system and storm sewer system inspected
- Time it takes to resolve 90 percent of reported sewer blockages
- Percent of potholes proactively repairs versus reactively repaired

Sanitation

- Tons of refuse and recycling materials collected
- Percent of collected materials land-filled versus recycled
- Percent of sanitation routes completed within normal working hours

General garage

- Percent of repairs that are scheduled versus not scheduled
- Percent of time fleet vehicles are available when needed

Water utility

- Percent of water distribution system samples that meet water quality requirements
- Time required to restore customer service for 90 percent of water main breaks and number of hours it takes to get water restored after break

Wastewater utility

- Time to recover to normal flows from wet weather peak flows
- Report number of major stormwater management projects completed per year

Engineering

- Percent of capital improvement projects bid and substantially completed within the year they were budgeted
- Percent of CIPs with no change in scope with change orders that are positive or negative
- Percent of street miles that are reconstructed and resurfaced annually

Community Development

- Number of neighborhood member volunteer hours
- Percent of proactive inspections and violations corrected
- Percent of building inspections completed within one business day of request
- Ratio of city TIF funds invested versus total private investments

Transportation

- Fixed route on time percentage
- Fixed route ridership

Finance

- Percent of invoices paid within 30 days
- Percent of debt capacity over/under goal established by Common Council (currently at 70 percent)
- Percent of operating budget over or under

Parks

- Number and amount of donations, grants, and sponsorships received
- Number of Park Department-sponsored events
- Number of participants at sponsored events
- Number of volunteers and volunteer hours and dollar value for the hours

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For full calendar of events, visit **MenomineeNationArena.com**.

Wild Ones Conference focuses on native plants

By Rob Zimmer
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Wild Ones-Fox Valley Chapter brings back the annual Toward Harmony with Nature conference Jan. 19 to the Oshkosh Convention Center.

The annual event provides excellent opportunities to learn about the wealth of native plants, wildflowers and grasses found in Wisconsin and the benefits of including them in our landscaping.

A full day of speakers cover a variety of native landscaping topics, as well as vendors specializing in native plants, garden art and wildlife.

Why native plants? Gardening with natives is one of the hottest trends in landscaping and gardening over the past several years. As the plight of monarch butterflies, hummingbirds, bumblebees and other pollinators becomes apparent, many gardeners are discovering the benefits of including native wildflowers, specifically to attract and feed these precious creatures.

Additionally, native plants, especially wildflowers and shrubs, provide food for songbirds during all four seasons of the year. Berry- and fruit-producing shrubs provide a rich source of nutrition for overwintering birds, while beautiful flowers in all colors of the rainbow, feed hummingbirds, as well as



Photo by Rob Zimmer

Native plant enthusiasts from around the Midwest will gather for the annual Toward Harmony with Nature conference Jan. 19 at the Oshkosh Convention Center.

providing seeds for birds during migration and over the winter season.

Besides benefiting wildlife, gardening with native plants provides a full year of beauty in the garden. Native plants are rich in texture, color, form and variety and there are native plants for every soil condition, light condition and habitat.

Speakers at this year's conference will provide informative programs on native

plant topics. Keynote speaker David Cor-dray will discuss the importance of restoring native landscapes on every scale, as well as how to share the values of ecological awareness.

After the keynote address conference participants will select from speaker presentations during each of three con-

current hourly sessions during the day. Breaks between each session allow plenty of time for browsing and shopping conference vendors.

During the first session, topics to choose from are shoreline restoration using native plants, native trees and shrubs that work together and the importance of prairies to endangered wildlife.

Second session presentations will focus on urban landscaping with native plants, restoring oak ecosystems and invasive species threats.

Topics for the final concurrent session are native plant restoration on difficult or steeply sloped sites, forest restoration and a look at one of Wisconsin's premiere natural areas, Goose Pond Sanctuary.

The conference runs from 8 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. and the keynote address commences at 9 a.m. Lunch will be held from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., allowing plenty of time for conference participants to browse the displays and products from an array of vendors. A silent auction will also be held throughout the day boasting a wide variety of native plants and wildlife products.

Register at www.towardharmonywithnature.org.

Find Rob Zimmer on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RobZimmerOutdoors. Listen to Outdoors with Rob Zimmer Fridays 4-5 p.m. and Saturdays 7-8 a.m. on WHBY and online at www.whby.com, now in Oshkosh at 106.3 FM.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history
by the Winnebago
County Historical
& Archaeological
Society

Jan. 7, 1960
New parking ramp nets \$1,037: The 213 metered stalls in the city's new High Avenue parking ramp grossed \$1,037.55 for the first month of operation. City officials declined to draw any conclusions from this first month as it was a short month. Parking costs 5 cents an hour, the top floor being reserved monthly parking proved disappointing with only 3 of the 68 stalls being rented. In comparison, on-street meter receipts totaled \$27,811.55 from the 770 meters during the first six months of the year. Accountants expect this amount to double by the end of the year. Councilmen have conjectured that rental space parking on the top floor may be too high in view of the general availability of metered stalls.

Source: Oshkosh Daily Northwestern, Jan. 7, 1960

Timber Mill Theatre presents musical revue

Timber Mill Theatre Company will set the mood for Valentine's Day with an elegant musical revue "Some Enchanted Evening: The Music of Rodgers and Hammerstein," Feb. 14-16 at The Howard.

The dinner theater production features iconic musical numbers penned by the team of Broadway's Golden Age, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. Highlighted musicals include "Carousel," "Oklahoma!" "The King and I" and "The Sound of Music" among others.

A cocktail hour starts at 5:30 p.m. with crafted drinks and specialty bottles of wine. Gourmet dinner at 6:30 features citrus salad, beef flat iron steak oscar, and dark chocolate mousse with port wine strawberries.

The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. with a 15-minute intermission.

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Four Phantoms returning to Grand

Four Broadway performers, each of whom has each portrayed the iconic Phantom of the Opera, will return to northeast Wisconsin to perform a celebration of Broadway and the Great American Songbook at The Grand Oshkosh.

After an appearance in April, the Four Phantoms will return to The Grand to premiere the 2019-2020 season for a three-day run during the third or fourth week-end of September.

Under the music supervision of two-time Grammy winning composer David Caddick, Brent Barrett, Franc D'Ambrosio, Marcus Lovett and Ciaran Sheehan will be joined by returning special guest Kaley Ann Voorhees, who upon her Broadway debut became the youngest actress to play the role of Christine Daae in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera" at age 20.

"We are thrilled to be returning to The Grand in 2019," said Lee Tofanelli, producer of The Four Phantoms in Concert. "The Phantoms remember fondly their previous visit to Oshkosh and the wonderful reception they received. We promise a special show in 2019 and look forward to seeing all of our old and new friends."



Photo from The Grand

The Four Phantoms and special guest Kaley Ann Voorhees recently announced their return to The Grand later this year. Shown with Voorhees are (from left) Ciaran Sheehan, Marcus Lovett, Brent Barrett and Franc D'Ambrosio.

The Four Phantoms continue to tour across the nation, including a recent sellout performance at Carnegie Hall. In May, cast member D'Ambrosio received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Cannes Film Festival for his performance as Anthony

Corleone in "The Godfather III." A Four Phantoms presale will be available to the general public Jan. 18. Presale availability will be based on donor level, with access granted to all donors starting Friday.

Academic success director named

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh has named Jessica McKenna as director of academic success. She will be responsible for academic programs for club members ages 7-12 as well as teens to provide an additional layer of support to the school district and parents on students' academic goals.

McKenna graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with a bachelor's degree in communications and public relations. She has worked as a campus activities coordinator, marketing coordinator at a credit union and as a special education aide for both elementary and high school. She started working for Boys & Girls Clubs in 2009 while in college.

During her time at the Boys & Girls Club of the Fox Valley in Appleton, McKenna worked as a youth development specialist. She then worked at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Green Bay serving as its academic coordinator.



McKenna

Boys & Girls Club sets summer registration

Summer registration opens Monday at the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh to fill 275 spots for children ages 7 to 12 and 80 spots for kids ages 5 to 6.

Club programs include Little Brewer's baseball, Lego League, Healthy Habits Cooking, Reader's Cafe, STEM, Girls Etiquette and Afternoon Tea, STRIDE Academy, Swimming with the Oshkosh YMCA and the Summer Reading Program with the Oshkosh Public Library.

The first day of summer at the club is June 10 and the last is Aug. 23 from 6:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. to accommodate families with early and late working hours.

Teens can come to the Teen Center from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to participate in activities, tournaments and programs, video games, computers, sports, music, cooking classes, daily challenges and games. Programs and the Friday field trip will correspond with the weekly theme.

All 7- to 12-year-olds are placed in a group and given a list of five field trips included with their summer fee. Three will

be to Camp Radford, the day camp in New London. Children ages 5 and 6 will take separate field trips.

Registration is open at the club's Radford Center at 501 E Parkway Ave. during regular hours and at the three after school care sites: Jacob Shapiro, Jefferson and Lakeside from 2:45 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Families registered are encouraged to attend an open house from 6 to 7:30 p.m. June 5 to tour facilities, learn about expectations, get to know teachers and staff, and learn about the programs offered and ask questions. Field trip information for 5- to 12-year-olds will be handed out.

Preregistration and the first week's payment are required with sign-up. Yearly membership fees are \$25 for the first child, \$15 for the second child and \$10 for any additional children, not to exceed \$50 per family. Scholarships are available for annual fees and summer weekly fees. Breakfast, lunch and snack are included.

EAA Museum cited by CNN Travel site for aviation displays

The EAA Aviation Museum has been selected one of the 20 best aviation museums around the world by the CNN Travel website. The updated listing includes aircraft collections on display in 11 different countries.

The EAA museum opened in 1983 alongside Experimental Aircraft Association headquarters. The museum showcases more than 100 aircraft in the main museum and at its seasonal Pioneer Airport, a reproduction of a 1920s aerodrome that features actual flight experiences.

CNN Travel states the museum is "unique from other aviation museums in that large sections focus on homebuilt and experimental aircraft, as well as air racing

and competition flying." The feature also notes the World War II aircraft nose art collection on loan from the Commemorative Air Force currently on display, as well as the annual AirVenture fly-in convention.

"This wonderful recognition is a tribute to the EAA staff and volunteers who work very hard to create and deliver an experience unlike any other museum in the world," said Bob Campbell, museum director.

Among the newest exhibits is The Borman Collection, which houses many of the archives and memorabilia of Gemini 7 and Apollo 8 commander Frank Borman.

Development group names officers, directors

The Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corp. recently announced incoming officers and two new members to its board of directors for 2019.

Brad Baumann, managing principal of CLA, will serve as board chairman; Ken Arneson, president and chief executive of Evergreen Retirement Community, will serve as vice chair; and Stan Leedle, exec-

utive vice president of Choice Bank, will continue as treasurer. Tom Castle, chief operating officer of CastlePierce, is EDC's immediate past chair.

Greater Oshkosh EDC also approved two new board members: Casey Niemuth, chief executive and co-founder of Plain Old DevOps; and Chris Golem, president of Dynamic Drinkware.

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Child deaths

FROM PAGE 1

the state,” according to the authors of the study, a group called the Fox Valley Early Childhood Coalition. This category included falls and “blunt injuries” resulting from getting hit “by or against an object or person.”

The 2016 study went so far as to identify high-risk census tracts in the major population centers of the Fox Valley. Two of these tracts in Oshkosh, one north of the Fox River and one south, were the sites of recent infant deaths that have resulted in homicide charges against male residents of the homes where the children died.

On Dec. 14 a 27-year-old man who lived on West 8th Avenue was accused after his 7-week-old son had been pronounced dead Nov. 29 at Mercy Medical Center. According to the criminal complaint, the father of the child had been decorating the family Christmas tree when the infant began to fuss. Eventually, police said, the man told them that over the course of the evening he had shaken the boy “between five and six times, pulling him up, jerking his head, letting his head snap back.”

The family lives in a census tract where 15 percent of the adult population have no high school diploma, a factor that has “a significant impact on child health outcomes,” according to the Fox Valley study.

Another risk factor is low income, and at least 15 percent of households live below the federal poverty level in eight Oshkosh census tracts. One of these tracts takes in the 800 block of Grove Street, where on Dec. 9 police responded to a report of a “pulseless and nonbreathing 10-month-old child.”

The boy had been living there with his mother and a 34-year-old male tenant, who had warned the woman that she would need to move out. The man told police that he had been “frustrated and annoyed” by the woman and her son, according to the criminal complaint. The two “were making a lot of noise early in the kitchen after he had been drinking the

night before and had come home intoxicated,” the complaint said.

The man was charged Dec. 18 with first-degree reckless homicide. According to the criminal complaint, an autopsy showed that the baby suffered “such a severe injury to the head that his brain swelled to the point that it fractured the skull between the plates.”

The third child death, which involved a 3-year-old female, occurred on Sanders Street outside of one of these troubled census tracts. No criminal charges have been filed in this case and police are awaiting results from an autopsy report that may be weeks away.

The three deaths have left local officials wondering how to respond.

“This is a concern that we should all share,” said City Manager Mark Rohloff. “The string of them back to back to back is disturbing to everyone.”

He said the question is, “What can we do as a community? How do we address these complex social issues?”

Because of the way local government is structured, the city has limited capacity for dealing with such incidents. What’s mostly available are first responders — law enforcement and emergency medical services. But “that’s really not the issue,” Rohloff said. “The issue is how do you prevent these tragedies.”

It’s at the county level where local government has agencies charged with health and human service problems.

“We have resources to address these issues,” said Doug Gieryn, director of the Winnebago County Health Department. “We just have to find common ground and alignment and agreement” on how to proceed.

“With the two deaths that appear to be more intentional, it’s really a big reminder for us we need to pay more attention to mental health,” Gieryn said. “We need to reduce the stigma of people who are experiencing mental health issues. We need to encourage them to seek help the way they would for any other physical ailment.”

To get to the root causes of parental dysfunction, county health officials be-

lieve that it is important to look at what are called ACEs (adverse childhood experiences). “ACEs are potentially traumatic events occurring in childhood that have an enduring, negative impact on adult health and well-being,” according to the 2016 Fox Valley report.

These experiences can include various kinds of emotional or physical abuse as well as a family breakup due to death, divorce or imprisonment, the study said. Researchers have found that children who have four or more of such events in their lives face a greater risk of various physical and mental health conditions, ranging from hepatitis to depression, and a greater likelihood of engaging in behaviors such as missing work, attempting suicide and abusing alcohol.

Unfortunately, 17 percent of Winnebago County adults reported four or more ACEs, nearly twice the rate in Outagamie County and 20 percent higher than the statewide rate, according to a state survey cited in the report.

“How do we do a better job of supporting parents, of supporting kids that have experienced these traumatic events, so that they don’t carry them into adulthood?” Gieryn asked.

For newborns “a really great thing would be universal screening done at the hospital,” said Cindy Draws, a public health nurse supervisor for the county. If warning signs of stress were detected in the parents or the household, then a referral could be made for follow-up by service providers.

Some referrals are currently made but “hospital stays are very brief, and (staffers) often don’t know or pick up on those concerns,” Draws said. Even with universal screening, other issues would likely emerge, such as whether service agencies have the capacity to monitor situations or even whether new parents would be open to offers of assistance.

Both of the men charged with homicide have had multiple run-ins with the law, according to court records. One of them, according to the criminal complaint, had been smoking marijuana the day of the

child’s death.

Under those circumstances, it is questionable whether social service providers could even gain access to households where children are at risk.

“What we see is that those individuals who are most in need of assistance won’t let us in the door (or) don’t respond to our attempts to reach them,” Draws said.

While officials are aware of the limits in providing care to newborns and new parents, it’s not clear where the biggest problem is.

“Where is the gap?” Draws asked. “Is it in identifying those individuals or in the actual referral process, or is it that they are refusing that assistance?”

“Unfortunately there are no quick answers,” Gieryn said. But “we have a community that is rich with resources and that cares.”

He said something good can come from this cluster of child deaths depending on how the community responds. “Sometimes it’s a matter of finding the right people and finding the right pieces and trying to drive those new priorities to assure we are shining a light on areas where resources are needed or limited.”

Over the 10-year period ending in 2017, Winnebago County saw 177 child deaths, based on a review of death certificates, Draws said. This figure works out to an average of almost 18 per year. Last year the county’s Child Death Review Team looked into 11 fatalities.

“I do think Oshkosh and Winnebago County are good, safe family communities,” Gieryn said. “It’s very, very tragic and unfortunate that these events occurred.”

But he also believes this recent cluster of child deaths “is an opportunity to raise some awareness about the needs for services” across a range of dimensions, including education, jobs, housing and transportation, that contribute to health and well-being.

“Those are very complex issues that require a lot of partners to come together,” he said.

Miles Maguire is editor of the Oshkosh Examiner news blog.

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Prep sports roundup

BOYS BASKETBALL

Spartans falter against Appleton North

Leading by eight at halftime, the Oshkosh North boys basketball team scored only 15 points in the second half as they dropped a 49-45 Fox Valley Association contest against Appleton North on Thursday night.

The Spartans (6-5, 3-4 FVA) got 17 points from Matt Hickey while Josh Dilling chipped in 14.

Tuesday’s results against Oshkosh West weren’t available before publication.

Hortonville easily tops West in conference game

The Oshkosh West boys basketball team dropped a 68-50 contest against Hortonville on Saturday in a Fox Valley Association matchup.

No other results were available.

Tuesday’s results against Oshkosh North weren’t available before publication.

Lourdes improves to 9-1 with win over Omro

The Lourdes boys basketball team improved to 9-1 on the season with a 70-58 victory Thursday over Omro.

Lourdes (9-1, 5-0 Trailways-East) got 24 points from Henry Noone (11 of 16 shooting) as well as eight rebounds while Hayden Jones and Preston Ruedinger each chipped in 15 points. Ruedinger added seven rebounds and seven assists in the win.

Jack McKellips had eight assists to go along with six points for the Knights, who led 34-28 at the half.

Valley Christian turnovers lead to loss to Deerfield

The Valley Christian boys basketball team led 24-23 at the half but was outscored by 24 points in the second half in a 68-45 Trailways-East loss Friday night.

Yianni Giannopoulos led the Warriors with 10 points as eight players scored. Isaiah Wade added eight points and had 12 rebounds while David Curtis and Luke O’Brien chipped in seven points.

The Warriors turned the ball over 37 times in the loss.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

West can’t keep up with Hortonville on the road

The Oshkosh West girls basketball team trailed by 20 at the half and never recovered as it lost a 64-26 Fox Valley Association contest against Hortonville on the road Friday night.

Callista Rochon-Baker led the Wildcats (3-8, 1-6 FVA) with 12 points while Ki-ersten McNulty and Ella Tigert added five points.

Macy McGlone led Hortonville with 14 points.

Tuesday’s results against Oshkosh North wasn’t available before publication.

Buzzer beater gives Appleton North victory

The Appleton North girls basketball team got a layup from Lili Van Handel with 0.8 seconds left to give the Lightning a 59-57 win over the Spartans in a Fox Valley Association game Friday night.

Ashley Wissink led the Spartans (6-5, 2-5 FVA) with 17 points, six rebounds and five steals while Brook Ellestad added 16.

Brie Gauthier added 10 points while Elle Lieder had six points, six rebounds, six assists and eight steals.

Oshkosh North led 28-23 at halftime.

Results from Tuesday’s game against Oshkosh West weren’t available before publication.

Lourdes struggles in second half in loss

The Lourdes girls basketball team had a 32-30 lead at the half, but was outscored 29 to 12 in the second half as it lost a 59-44 game against St. Mary Catholic last Wednesday.

No other results were available.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Warbirds improve to 11-2 in Madison game

The fifth-ranked Fond du Lac/Beaver Dam/Oshkosh girls hockey team improved to 11-2 on the season after picking up a 5-2 win over Middleton on Saturday in a game played in Madison.

Oshkosh’s Hattie Verstegen had two assists as teammates Alyssa Heim and Dayna Jones each scored two goals in the win.

The game was 1-1 after the first period but the Warbirds (4-0 in conference) scored two goals in the next two periods to pull away.

The Warbirds also picked up a win last Wednesday, beating Eastern Shores 4-0 as Heim scored all four goals.

BOYS HOCKEY

Oshkosh loses close game against Pacelli

The Oshkosh Ice Hawks never led in a 3-2 loss against Stevens Point Pacelli in a game played at home Saturday.

Scoring goals for the Ice Hawks were Logan Uecker and Jacob Sprister, getting them in the first and third periods. Oshkosh’s Conner Klett was busy in goal, recording 26 saves.

Oshkosh was outshot 29 to 14 in the loss.

BOYS SWIMMING

West swimmers seventh in Sheboygan relays

The Oshkosh West boys swimming team finished seventh out of nine teams in the Sheboygan North Raider Relays on Saturday, finishing with 26 points.

Recording top three finishes for the Wildcats included the 200 free relay, which consisted of Cameron Kumbier, Aaron Draxier, Sam Blaskowski and Andrew Groth (second with a time of 1:37.50) and the 750 free relay, which consists of the same foursome (third with a time of 7:39.28).

Sheboygan North won its home meet with 74 points while Green Bay United (73) and Manitowoc Lincoln (49) followed.

GYMNASTICS

Golden leads Oshkosh in Wisconsin Rapids

The Oshkosh gymnastics team finished sixth out of seven teams Saturday in the Wisconsin Rapids Invitational.

Kaitlyn Golden led the way for Oshkosh as she finished 14th in all-around (27.35), 15th on floor (8) and 16th on balance beam (7.20).

Kylie Alger was 24th on vault (7.75) while Jillian Schwake was 25th on the uneven bars (4.975).

Marshfield won the invite with 133.025

points while Ashland was second with 130.575.

WRESTLING

West team wins Port Washington Invite

The Oshkosh West wrestling team captured the Port Washington Invitational on Saturday, finishing with 173.5 points, edging Kimberly who was second with 145 points.

Capturing first-place finishes for the Wildcats included Alec Hunter (106-pounds) who was 3-0, and Avery Martell (285) who was 2-0.

Finishing second was Logan Grotta (132) who was 2-1, Connor Collins (160) who finished 2-1, Edgar Heredia (170) who finished 2-1, and Kevin Loos (195), who finished 2-1.

Henry Foust (145) and Blake Framke (182) were both third while JR Brown (106) and Justin Oppermann (220) were fourth. Max Carlin added a fifth-place finish at 113 pounds.

West easily wins dual over Fond du Lac

The Wildcats picked up a dominating 51-18 Fox Valley Association dual Thursday against the Cardinals.

Picking up wins were Drew Best at 132 pounds (forfeit), Logan Grotta at 138 pounds (forfeit), Connor Collins at 152 pounds (4-2 decision), Dawson Ramage at 160 pounds (forfeit), Edgar Heredia at 170 pounds (forfeit), Blake Framke at 182 pounds (9-4 decision), Justin Oppermann at 220 pounds (forfeit), Avery Martell at 285 pounds (pin), Wilton Brown at 106 pounds (forfeit) and Alec Hunter at 113 pounds (14-7 decision).

Lourdes competes in Milwaukee invite

The Lourdes wrestling team competed in the Milwaukee Lutheran Red Knight Invitational on Saturday but a complete team score was unavailable.

Camron Kelly had the best day for the Knights, finishing 4-1 on the day, good for fifth place at 138 pounds.

Tim Kaull (182), Alex Parkin (145) and Nicholas Parkin (170) each finished 2-2 for Lourdes.

Compiled by Alex Wolf
Herald contributor

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Photo by Emil Vajgrt

On the Water Classic

Oshkosh North wrestler Cade Schmitz controls an opponent in the annual Oshkosh On the Water Classic held the last weekend in December at the Kolf Center, where he was the lone local wrestler to have a podium finish. Schmitz, at 126 pounds, finished 6-2 (including a bye) on the day, but lost his third-place match on a 6-3 decision to Mishicot’s Kolton Tesarik. Picking up multiple wins for North were Dylan Besaw (120 pounds) who went 3-2, Travon Lee (145) who went 3-2, Landon Spanbauer (152) who went 2-2, Jeremiah Chmielewski (170) who went 2-2 and A.J. Besaw who also went 2-2. For Lourdes, Camron Kelly (132) and Alex Parkin (138) each went 2-2. Oshkosh West did not participate in the meet.

Herd opponents take 3-point advantage

By Ti Windisch
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The Wisconsin Herd is 1-7 over its last eight games after a triple overtime win Dec. 8, with porous three-point defense and losing the rebounding battle being common threads both in that stretch and all season long.

The Herd ranked 26th of 27 NBA G League teams in opponent three-point attempts allowed this season after Sunday’s loss against the Lakeland Magic, as the opposition has jacked 37.3 three-pointers per game. Wisconsin was also second-worst in opponent three-point percentage, as the Herd has allowed an opposing three-point percentage of 37.1.

Wisconsin’s defense often collapses in to prevent drives to the rim, which can lead to opposing wing players getting good looks from the corners. Matters have been made more difficult by the Herd getting outrebounded on a regular basis. Wisconsin is 20th in the G League with 44 per game, but the Herd allow a league-worst 52.7 opposing rebounds per game, with 12.7 of those being offensive rebounds.

Herd head coach Jordan Brady said after the team’s loss to the Grand Rapids Drive that players ending up out of position defensively can lead both to open shots and bad rebound positioning.

“A lot of times you give up offensive rebounds when you’re in nontraditional rotations,” Brady said. “So just being more disciplined defensively, not giving up the middle on drives, more discipline in our pick-and-roll coverage so we don’t have to get out of our rotations that we’re used to being in — I think could be a big thing in helping on the defensive glass.”

Subpar three-point defense and rebounding combine to make winning games difficult for Wisconsin. Poor rebounding teams need to be especially effi-

cient to make up for the extra possessions they allow their opponents, and the additional possessions the Herd allows often end up in open three-pointers.

It’s difficult to win games that way, especially considering Wisconsin is second-worst in the G League with a team three-point percentage of 30.1. The difference in three-point shooting for Wisconsin and its opponents, coupled with the Herd giving up extra possessions on the glass, has led to Wisconsin’s 3-19 record.

Those factors have spoiled some tremendous performances from individual players like Christian Wood, who is in

the top three of all G League players with 27.7 points and 13 rebounds per game. Most recently, Trevon Duval posted a career-high 25 points in Wisconsin’s loss to the Lakeland Magic on Sunday.

Wisconsin is back in action this Wednesday as the Herd will attempt to block out the Northern Arizona Suns at home.

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Women’s minor league basketball coming to arena

The Menominee Nation Arena is going to own and operate a minor league women’s basketball team in the coming future, announced via Facebook.

There aren’t many details about it yet, and other information will come soon, but the Facebook page introduced a poll to choose the new team’s name – including the Wisco Glo, Fox Valley Vixens, Oshkosh Fighting Sturgeon, Wisconsin Hops and Oshkosh Bandanas.

The season would run from May to August and would not be linked to any WNBA team.

Mayoral primary

FROM PAGE 1

kosh an inclusive, welcoming and progressive community for future generations.

“I have demonstrated the ability to look at issues from both sides,” Palmeri said, adding her accomplishments in the field of neighborhood revitalization and affordable housing. There is always room for improvement, she said.

Council member Debra Allison-Aasby took out nomination papers for mayor but did not turn them in, instead filing to seek re-election to her position.

The council has five candidates for three open positions so there will be no February primary. Seeking re-election are all three incumbents — Allison-Aasby, Tom Pech Jr. and Jake Krause — as well as Robert Poeschl and Robert Wilcox.

Poeschl is a current member of the Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education, while Wilcox is a local landlord who has run for the position in the past.

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DECEMBER 19TH-JANUARY 31ST

Boots lifts UW-Oshkosh past Stout for 11 straight

The sixth-ranked UW-Oshkosh men's basketball team had a big night from Ben Boots as it extended its win streak to 11 games in an exciting 77-75 win over UW-Stout in a Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference game played Saturday.

Boots, who scored a season-high 31 points, scored the final seven points as the game came down to the wire.

The Titans (12-1) trailed 69-60 with



Boots

under seven minutes left in the game and then 75-70 with 1:57 left before Boots took matters in his own hands.

Boots converted on all three free throws after getting fouled to make it 75-70

and after a miss by Stout, Boots drilled a huge 3-pointer with 30 seconds left to give UWO a 76-75 lead. UW-Stout then missed a pair of free throws before Boots made a free throw with seconds left to give the Titans a lead.

UW-Stout missed what would have been a game-winning three as time expired.

Boots shot 10 of 17 from the field while going 6 of 12 from the 3-point line. Con-

nor Duax added 15 points and eight rebounds while Jack Flynn had 12 points and eight rebounds. Adam Fravert had a team-high 10 rebounds.

Stout's John Keefe matched his WIAC-leading scoring average by tallying a team-best 22 points to go along with four assists and two steals.

The Titans play at 12th-ranked UW-Stevens Point this Wednesday.

Titans women handle UW-Stout in statement win

The nationally ranked University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh women's basketball team picked up a dominating 81-54 win over UW-Stout on Saturday in a battle of one-loss teams.

It wasn't even close from the get-go as

Titans marched out to a 43-23 halftime lead on their way to shooting 64.4 percent from the field (29-of-45) – good for fourth best percentage in program history.

The Titans (12-1, 2-0 WIAC) defense has been dominating as of late, holding

teams to their lowest scoring output of the season in 10 of the last 13 games. UW-Stout shot 36 percent from the field and the Titans outrebounded the Blue Devils 38 to 21. UW-Stout was 2 of 20 from 3-point range.

The Titans were balanced offensively as 11 different players scored. Melanie Schneider and Isabella Samuels led the way with 10 points while Nikki Arneson and Karsyn Rueth added nine. Six others scored at least six points.

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Obituaries

Glen D. Adkins

Glen D. Adkins, age 87, of Oshkosh, died Saturday morning, January 5, 2019, at his home in the loving presence of his family. He was born on October 29, 1931, near White Lake, Wisconsin, the son of Norman and Vergie (Fultz) Adkins. Glen attended schools in White Lake, Kentucky, Wausau, and Michigan before moving to Antigo. He



enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1948 and was stationed in Trieste, Italy, before being discharged in 1952. On June 12, 1954, Glen married Joan Belott at the First Baptist Church in Antigo. The couple resided in Marion, Wisconsin, where Glen was employed at Marion Body Works. He returned to Antigo and was employed at the Antigo Daily Journal until 1963 when they moved to Oshkosh. Glen found employment at the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern and was a loyal employee until his retirement in 1993. After retirement, Glen enjoyed his winters spent in Arizona. wo favorite pastimes were playing cards and listening to country music. Survivors include his wife of 64 years,

Joan Adkins; his children, Pattie Adkins, Bill (fiancée, Pamela Farrell) Adkins, Debbie (Wayne) Folske, Sheri (Mick) Becker, Rick (Pam) Adkins, and Cathy Schneider; his grandchildren, Angela (Joe) Jarvis, Adam (Kelly) Schuh, Mandi Adkins, Marissa Adkins, Jason Bartow, Chris (Kim) Folske, Ryan Lichtwald, Brooke (Marty) Koeppel Ashley Neisen, Emily Neisen, Carson Becker, and Riley Schneider; a step-granddaughter, Heidi (Darrell) Wendt; 11 great-grandchildren and 3 step-great-grandchildren; his sister-in-law, Marilyn Belott; many nieces and nephews; special people in his life, Jeff and Karen Schneider, Brenda and Andy Haag, and Doug Dommer, along with many other friends and relatives.

Preceding Glen in death are his parents; four brothers, Ardith, Estle, Allie, and Charlie Adkins; a sister-in-law, Mary Adkins; his mother-in-law, Leona Belott; and his brother-in-law, Jim Belott. A time of visiting and sharing of memories was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in Seefeld Funeral Chapels, 1025 Oregon Street. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, at 11:30 a.m., in the funeral chapel with Pastor Deborah Bartelt officiating. Interment will be in Ellenwood Cemetery following the services. A special thank you to Cindi of Aurora at Home Hospice for her care of Glen during his illness. Online condolences to the family may be given at www.seefeldfuneral.com.

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