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Passenger rail plan gains funding

New railroad stations would include Oshkosh

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The federal government has decided state officials should look into and study expanding passenger rail service from Milwaukee to Green Bay, which could in-

clude a stop in Oshkosh and a new train station in the city.

U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin recently announced five rail service corridors across Wisconsin will receive federal funding to plan and develop the corridors as part of a larger plan to increase rail service across the Midwest.

Each selected corridor will be granted \$500,000 for eligible activities related to

the initiation of a grantee's corridor development efforts, including development of a scope, schedule and cost estimate for preparing a service development plan.

The Milwaukee-to-Green Bay corridor would connect the existing Hiawatha service between Chicago and Milwaukee with an extension up to Green Bay

SEE **Passenger rail** ON PAGE 8

INSIDE



Readiness plan
City looks to expand electric vehicle options
Page 6

Phoenix hoops
Former Lourdes star finds home at UWGB
Page 21



Photo by Michael Cooney

Holiday production

Oshkosh Youth Symphony director Yukiko Grine prepares the orchestra ahead of last Saturday's holiday concert at the Alberta Kimball Auditorium. Grine, who teaches orchestra at North and West high schools and is department chair of the West Music Department, leads the musicians who are from Oshkosh, Omro, Neenah, Fond du Lac, Appleton and surrounding communities.

Oshkosh Corp. sparked surrounding business boom



Photo by MaryBeth Matzek

Starbucks, Teriyaki Madness and The Taqueria are some of the food and drink businesses that have opened locations in the updated Oshkosh Avenue corridor.

\$35M in development added to Lakeshore area

By MaryBeth Matzek
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

If you have not driven down Oshkosh Avenue just east of Interstate 41 for a while, you may not recognize it.

Since Oshkosh Corp. opened its new global headquarters in 2019 on the site of the former Lakeshore Municipal Golf Course, Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corp. (GO-EDC) estimates there has been more than \$35 million of new development on adjacent property. Of that \$35 million, an estimated \$10 million of new construction is currently in progress.

"The city of Oshkosh prepared well for the expected growth once Oshkosh Corp. decided to build its new headquarters there. It's a global company and not only has a lot of employees but also brings in a lot of visitors," said Tricia Rathemmel, GO-EDC executive director.

To spur development, the city created a tax incremental finance (TIF) district along Oshkosh Avenue adjacent to the district created for the development of the headquarters for the Fortune 500 manufacturer. Roads were put in, current roads were reconstructed and other infrastructure added.

"Oshkosh was looking to the future and Oshkosh Avenue is one of the main gate-

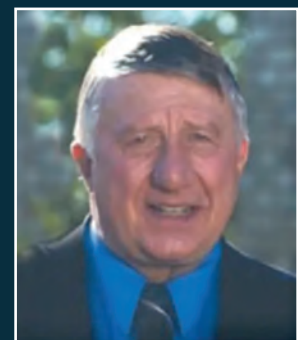
SEE **Oshkosh Avenue** ON PAGE 10

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Advertising deadline is noon Friday for the following Wednesday. The classified line ads deadline is 4 p.m. Friday for Wednesday.

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Corrections

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

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36 Broad St., Suite 300, Oshkosh.
An E-edition of the newspaper can be accessed at www.oshkoshherald.com.

New elementary school adopts blue jay mascot

Oshkosh Herald

The new Menominee Elementary School has adopted the blue jay as its mascot after the majority of staff and students from the three merging city schools voted for the bird to represent its school spirit.

The Oshkosh Area School District worked with the Menominee Indian Tribe to identify mascot options that would align with the tribe's history and culture. Students and staff from Merrill, Washington and Webster Stanley elementary schools had the opportunity to vote on three potential mascots: the blue jay, cardinal or robin. After collecting 327 responses, the blue jay was selected by an overwhelming 53%.

In Menominee traditions, blue jays are revered for their observation skills and for the belief they alert that change is coming. Blue jays are also seen as symbols of communication, curiosity and confidence.

"As Menominee Elementary brings together three school communities into one new unified learning environment, the blue jay reminds students and staff to

Christmas Day dinner offered at Father Carr's

Father Carr's Place 2B is presenting its annual Christmas Day Dinner program from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the St. Mother Teresa Center at 1062 N. Koeller St. and also delivering meals from 10:30 a.m. to noon that day.

Dinner will include baked ham, mashed potatoes, sweet corn and a dessert. For meals delivered, call 920-231-2378. No reservations are necessary.



observe and learn from one another, while welcoming the exciting change ahead," district officials stated.

"We appreciate the opportunity to work with the Menominee Indian Tribe and to have our future school community be part of this exciting process," said Beth Galeazzi, principal of Webster Stanley EL-

ementary School and the future Menominee Elementary School. "The blue jay embodies the spirit of curiosity that we hope to spark in students, and serves as a great reminder of our ability to embrace change and soar to new heights."

School and district leaders worked with Bray Architects to develop a comprehensive branding package that included incorporating the mascot and colors into a new logo. The school's colors of blue and white were inspired by the vibrant hues of a blue jay as well as the natural surroundings of the new school, including nearby Lake Winnebago.

In February, the Menominee Tribal Legislature approved the district's request to use the Menominee name. Menominee was the top vote-getter in a community-wide surveying process.

Back in the Day

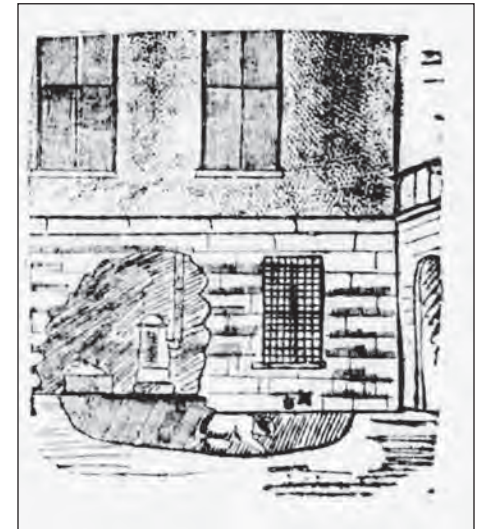


Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Dec. 10, 1900

Escape Attempt – Prisoners Tunnel Under Jail:

A startling discovery was made at the local courthouse, which brings home the fact that the old county jail is entirely inadequate for the needs of Winnebago County. A tunnel large enough to hold several men has been dug under the floor as a possible escape route. A large ash pan sitting next to the stove was moved and revealed a tunnel about ten feet long and several feet wide, high enough to allow a man to crouch on his hands and knees. A blanket and pillow found in the tunnel was used by the prisoners while working. At the end of the tunnel, a small hole, large enough to allow something the size of an arm to pass through was discovered. The transfer of the prisoners to the new jail last week,



Oshkosh Northwestern sketch

This sketch shows the point marked "X" where the stone was broken away at the end of the tunnel on the Otter Street side of the county jail.

foiled the plans of the escapees. For some time, it has been believed the old jail has been a very insecure place in which to confine law breakers.

Source: *Oshkosh Northwestern*, Dec. 10, 1900

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Oshkosh Herald Dec. 27 issue

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Classified Ad Deadline

Wed., 12/20 3pm

Obituary Deadline

Fri., 12/22 Noon

Oshkosh Herald
Bringing Oshkosh news home

Oshkosh Herald Jan. 3rd issue

Display Ad Deadline

Wed., 12/27 Noon

Classified Ad Deadline

Wed., 12/27 3pm

Obituary Deadline

Fri., 12/29 Noon

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Oshkosh Herald

Boathouse takes shape

Construction at the county sheriff's boathouse adjacent to the railroad lift bridge continued last week with metal frames being added to the dock. Winnebago County facilities director Mike Elder said building construction is set to be completed by mid-January.

Grants awarded to local organizations

Oshkosh Herald

The Otto Bremer Trust, a private charitable trust based in St. Paul, has awarded more than \$20 million in grants and program-related investments in October and November, including to two Oshkosh organizations totaling \$360,000.

Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services was granted \$300,000 toward a capital campaign to renovate a new facility to increase capacity to serve victims of do-

mestic violence.

Oshkosh Area Community Pantry was granted \$60,000 for general operations in its efforts to eliminate food insecurity in southern Winnebago County.

Created in 1944 by business and community leader Otto Bremer, the trust supports a better quality of life for residents of Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

The complete list of grants awarded can be found at ottobremer.org.

Homeowners pursuing mortgage refinancing

Oshkosh-Neenah area above national average

By Randall Davidson
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Mortgage refinancing is down substantially from the past few years. While historically low interest rates resulted in a refinancing boom in 2020 and 2021, the number fell back to pre-pandemic levels in 2022.

Higher interest rates mean that mortgage holders are not as able to refinance to get a lower rate. Refinancing continues, however, as some mortgages allow consumers to take advantage of home equity to get a cash payout.

With home sale values spiking during the pandemic, nearly 54% of all mortgage refinances in 2022 were of this so-called "cash out" type as homeowners chose to draw on their increased home equity.

The building industry resource group Construction Coverage has released a new report about the U.S. locations with the most mortgage refinances in 2022, and the Oshkosh-Neenah area has one of the highest rates of refinancing in the nation.

The region came in 23rd among all 384 metro areas surveyed and 14th among the 200 metro areas with a population under 350,000.

The report finds that in the Oshkosh-Neenah market there were 56.5

mortgage refinances per 1,000 households with a mortgage, compared with a rate of 49.9 for all of Wisconsin and 42.1 for the nation as a whole.

The median finance loan amount in the Oshkosh-Neenah area was \$125,000, less than Wisconsin's median of \$135,000 and below the national median of \$205,000. The report also says that 52.1% of the refinances in the Oshkosh-Neenah market were of the "cash out" variety.

The Oshkosh-Neenah market got high marks for its mortgage refinance approval rate. A total of 88.1% of refinancing applications were approved. That rate is tied for fifth best nationwide and tied for fourth among small metro areas.

The median approval rate for Wisconsin is 84.3%, third best in the country, while the national median was 78.2%. The top reasons for a refinancing application being rejected are the applicant's debt-to-income ratio or their credit history.

Some other Wisconsin metro areas had higher rates of refinancing and were ahead of Oshkosh-Neenah. Beloit-Janesville came in at No. 15, Green Bay was 17, Madison was 19 and Appleton came in at 20.

Overall, Wisconsin was seventh in mortgage refinances in 2022. The top state for refinances was Utah and the state with the fewest was Alaska.

The entire report is available at constructioncoverage.com.

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District looks at change in financial services

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Area School District is currently accepting proposals from financial institutions as a change in banking services could be coming next year for the district and its employees.

The executive director of business services explained at a recent Board of Education meeting that the district currently has one financial institute for all its money. Associated Bank has handled all the OASD banking services since 2008.

Drew Niehans told the Herald that the request for proposal (RFP) is in part because “the district is committed to competitively bidding financial services to ensure fiscal responsibility.”

Niehans was asked by the board about the size of the district and his opinion on one financial institute handling all its money. He told the board he had worked in a smaller school district using more than one financial institute.

The RFP for banking services would designate a new financial institution or multiple institutions to handle the accounts that cover the five business office checking accounts. These include the general account for all deposits, payroll account and the flexible benefit account, along with 13 school accounts included in the RFP but proposed as a separate group.

“One of the things I am anticipating is that we’re going to end up with multiple partners,” Niehans said. He added he wants to see the proposals but anticipates multiple partners.

“It’s a big process for a district our size to shift banks,” Niehans said. He told the board

in November that he expects mistakes to happen during the transition due to the size and the amounts within the various services.

The last time the district accepted RFP’s regarding banking services was in 2016. Niehans said since then “interest rates have been negligible. However, with the recent market changes, this process will enable the district to ensure that our funds are able to generate as much additional revenue as possible.”

Niehans said the district makes transactions of about \$160 million during the fiscal year but usually does not carry more than \$25 million in any account. When the referendum funds are included, Niehans said there’s about \$250 million the district is managing.

The timeline for when funds could be transferred and financial institutions switched is not as simple as transferring money from account to account. Niehans said if the board votes to transfer some or all the the banking services a timeline would be set up by the district and new banking partner or partners.

The RFP documents shows a timeline with implementation of a potential new banking partner by April.

“Our decision to award a contract will be based upon many factors including, but not limited to, service, cost, financial strength and innovation. The district is also seeking a partner that aligns with the district vision and mission as well as our core values of integrity, excellence, responsive improvement, collaborative culture, engagement, safe learning and working environment. No single factor will determine the final decision to award,” the RFP states.

The district employs about 1,450 staff members with an annual payroll of about \$77 million and an operating budget of \$165 million.

At a board meeting in September, Stephanie Carlin asked the administration about banking as it relates to the board’s role. She wanted to know about the RFP process and the advantages and disadvantages of switching banks.

This recommendation from Carlin came after newly appointed assistant superintendent of instruction Samuel Coleman report-

ed being denied services at the Associated Bank on 20th Avenue. Carlin said the board was first made aware of the situation with Coleman, who is Black, in July and received several updates over several months.

“What happened to Dr. Coleman at Associated Bank is inexcusable and I just want to go on record as saying that is in fact the reason I suggested that we switch banks,” Carlin said.

The deadline for submitting RFPs to the district is Jan. 12 and a recommendation will go to the board in February.

UW Oshkosh swears in new police chief

UW Oshkosh Today

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Police Chief Chris Tarmann spoke of the calling he and fellow officers have to serve their communities during his official swearing in Thursday as the university’s law enforcement leader.

“As members of the UWO police department, we are entrusted with a unique privilege – the opportunity to make a profound impact on the lives of those we serve,” Tarmann said at an oath of office ceremony before family, friends and employees at Culver Family Welcome Center on the UWO campus.

“Every moment we spend in our roles carries significance. From the simplest interactions to the most complex situation, each encounter provides us with the chance to make a difference. It is through the unwavering commitment to excellence in these moments that you get to build your legacy.”

Tarmann was hired as a UWO police

officer in 2008 and was promoted to lieutenant in 2011. He was appointed acting police chief in June 2022 as Chief Kurt Leibold was named to another leadership role on campus.

After graduating from the criminal justice program at Fox Valley Technical College in 2005, Tarmann worked at several agencies before coming to UWO. He completed his bachelor’s degree in human services at UWO in 2014 and graduated in 2021 from the Wisconsin Command College, an in-residence, six-week accredited leadership and development training program.

Tarmann said there are significant stresses and risks but also great rewards with a policing career.

“The role of a police officer is one of the highest honors one can hold in our society,” he said. “It is a role that requires us to be the guardians of peace, protectors of justice and beacons of hope for those who may not have anyone left to give them hope.”

NOTICE OF CITY OF OSHKOSH SNOW SHOVELING REQUIREMENTS

Residents are reminded of the following snow removal regulations:

PER SECTION 25-68 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE –

Property owners are required to clear sidewalks abutting their property of snow and/or ice within 24 hours after the end of precipitation or accumulation. These requirements include all handicap ramps/crosswalk accesses which are adjacent to their property.

When ice cannot be removed, the sidewalk and handicap ramps/crosswalk accesses shall be kept sprinkled with material(s) to accelerate melting and prevent slipping. The ice must be removed as soon as possible.

Depositing snow from private property onto any public right-of-way, public property, or fire hydrant is also prohibited.

PER SECTION 25-69 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE –

Failure to clear the sidewalk or handicap ramps/crosswalk accesses will result in the City completing the work and invoicing the property owner for the snow or ice removal.

THE MINIMUM CHARGE FOR THE COST OF SNOW REMOVAL IS \$173.

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

THIS FORFEITURE IS \$232 FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE.

Violators can be reported to the Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works at (920) 236-5065.

CITY OF OSHKOSH PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION NOTICE

The preferred method is to mail tax payments to City of Oshkosh, TAX COLLECTION, P.O. Box 1130, Oshkosh WI 54903-1130.

Additional options available for tax payments are as follows:

1. City Hall Dropbox, 215 Church Ave
2. Online at www.OshkoshBillPay.com
3. In Person at Community 1st Credit Union **Lobby Only**
 - a. 1492 South Park Avenue
 - b. 2424 Westowne Avenue
 - c. 2772 Oregon Street
4. In Person at Associated Bank **Lobby Only**
 - a. 10 W. Murdock Ave
 - b. 1765 W 20th Ave
5. In Person at City Hall, 215 Church Ave

HOURS OF OPERATIONS

Hours of Operation		Community 1st Credit Union LOBBY ONLY	Associated Bank LOBBY ONLY	City Hall
Normal Hours of Operations	Monday & Friday	8:30am – 5:00pm	9:00am – 5:00pm	8:00am – 4:30pm
	Tuesday-Thursday	8:30am – 5:00pm	9:00am – 4:00pm	8:00am – 4:30pm
	Saturday	8:30am – 12:00pm	9:00am – 12:00pm	CLOSED
HOLIDAY Hours of Operations				
	December 23	8:30am – 12:00pm	9:00am – 12:00pm	CLOSED
Christmas Eve	December 24	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Christmas Day	December 25	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Christmas Observation	December 26	8:30am – 5:00pm	9:00am – 4:00pm	CLOSED
New Year’s Eve	December 31	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
New Year’s Day	January 1	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
New Year’s Day After	January 2	8:30am – 5:00pm	9:00am – 4:00pm	8:00am – 4:30pm
Martin Luther King Jr Day	January 15	CLOSED	CLOSED	8:00am – 4:30pm

In order to be credited with a 2023 tax payment, the payment must be **received**, paid in person at any location, or placed in the drop box located by the main entrance to City Hall by December 31, 2023.

Russ Van Gompel
Director of Finance

Publish Date: December 13, 2023

County reviews feedback on outdoor space use

Oshkosh Herald

Winnebago County received public feedback on what its outdoor recreation priorities should be for the next five years, with improvement requests including more soccer fields, pickleball courts and an indoor athletic complex, along with added restroom facilities, off-road trails and water access.

A public survey went out this summer to gather information from current and potential park and open space users to share their visions for the future of outdoor recreation spaces throughout the county. A separate survey focused on Winnebago County Community Park.

The comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (CORP) survey was taken by 548 people, the majority being Oshkosh residents, while 291 took the Community Park survey.

Those responding to a CORP survey question about preferred locations for more biking trails suggested better Oshkosh-to-Neenah routes, a route that includes Sunnyview Expo Center, better connections between existing trail systems and safer ways to cross Interstate 41.

Most respondents said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the condition of county parks and facilities while

agreeing that additional funds be allocated to new parks, park maintenance and trails/sidewalks.

CORPs provide an overall survey of existing outdoor recreation facilities, as well as future recommendations for specific areas. County parks, natural areas, trails and boat landings are evaluated for overall variety, accessibility, safety and programming that can be used to make recommendations for improvement and variety. The CORP also provides eligibility for participation in federal and state grant programs.

Those responding to the Community Park survey said they mostly use either the pathways and trails, 36-hole disc golf course, playground equipment, dog park, picnic shelters or soccer fields among other sporting options. Most were satisfied with the condition of

those offerings.

Asked about potential park improvements, some suggested a kitchen in the pavilion, more and better-surfaced pickleball and tennis courts, a public swimming area and updates to shelter structures.

Go to co.winnebago.wi.us/parks under the CORP link to see the full survey results. An updated master plan for the Community Park is being developed with the overall input.

Stakeholder group meetings were held in September for specific user groups, including soccer and rugby sports clubs, snowmobile clubs, trail groups and other local organizations.

A second public meeting was held Thursday at the James P. Coughlin Center where the Parks Department reviewed the survey findings.

Business news roundup

Reff, Baivier, Lim, Muza & Dunham has announced that attorney **Todd A. Slagter** has joined the law firm. Slagter has more than 23 years of legal experience, both as an attorney in private practice and as in-house counsel for a local financial institution, and practices primarily in the areas of estate planning, probate, real estate and corporate/business transactions. Slagter is taking over the practice of Russell Reff, who is retiring, but will remain affiliated with the law firm. The firm's name is now Reff, Baivier, Lim, Muza & Slagter S.C. and still located at 217 Ceape Ave. in Oshkosh.

Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh was one of eight Aurora medical facilities in Wisconsin recognized by U.S. News & World Report in its annual list of best hospitals for maternity care. The list classifies

the hospital as "high performing," the highest level of achievement. To be recognized as high performing, hospitals must excel in multiple quality metrics, including C-section rates, newborn complication rates, breast milk feeding rates and early elective delivery rates. In total, 15 Advocate Health hospitals were named to the list.

The annual **Wisconsin Governor's Business Plan Contest** is accepting entries online for the 2024 competition through Jan. 31. The Wisconsin Technology Council produces the contest to encourage entrepreneurs statewide in the startup stages of tech-based businesses. The contest's major sponsors include the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. For initial entries, contestants will submit a 250-word idea abstract online at govsbizplancontest.com.

UW Oshkosh commencement set Saturday

About 700 University of Wisconsin Oshkosh students will receive their diplomas at Saturday's midyear commencement set for 10 a.m. at Kolf Sports Center.

Associate, bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees will be awarded at the 59th midyear ceremony for graduates in the fall and summer semesters. The ceremony will be livestreamed for those who are not able to attend.

Student speaker will be Ene "Priscilla" Idoko, a native of Abuja, Nigeria, who is graduating with a bachelor's degree in business administration. Idoko majored in economics and has a minor in African American studies.

During her time at UWO, she served

as president of the African American Studies Club, vice president of the Economics Student Association and was a member of the Black Student Union, International Students Association and Divine Voices of the Valley Gospel Choir.

Faculty speaker will be William Morrison, assistant professor in the finance department within the College of Business, who teaches classes for both undergraduate and graduate level programs and is the director of the Student Managed Endowment Fund, known as SMEF. The SMEF program allows students to select investments and oversee a portfolio of more than \$1 million.

flash sale

Flash Sale

DEALS FOR ALL OPEN TO

 \$2.49/12 oz. Garrett Valley Beef Franks	 \$2.99/12 oz. Bilinski's Organic Lemon Herb Chicken Sausage	 2/\$6/~1 lb. Mary's Free Range Chicken Breast
 \$4.99/10.66 oz. 2-Pack Thousand Hills Ground Beef Patties	 \$3.99/16 oz. Cafe Spice Cauliflower & Potato and Vegetable Korma	 \$17.99-\$24.99 750 ml Wente Wines Reg. \$20.99 - \$27.99

Offers valid 12/14-12/17/2023, while supplies last. Must be 21+ to purchase alcohol.

Holiday Food Pre-order

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Pre-order by Thurs., 12/21 at oshkoshfoodcoop.com/holiday



Brunch/Lunch with Santa + His Mystery Guest
 Sat., Dec. 16 • 11 AM or 12:30 PM • Tickets: \$15
 Tickets: www.oshkoshfoodcoop.com/santa



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 Sat. 8 AM - 8 PM
 Sun. 10 AM - 6 PM



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- Kim K.

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- Pat R.



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City looks ahead on electric vehicle growth

EV station expansion studied for city, state

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

While state officials are working on a plan to set up corridors for more electric vehicle charging stations, Oshkosh is working with a consulting firm to set up the city with options and ideas for more stations.

The Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Plan is being developed by SRF consulting with the city and East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) co-sponsoring the effort.

The plan is being established as more EVs will be on the road in the future. Today there are fewer than 400 registered in Winnebago County and just over 17,000 EVs registered across Wisconsin, compared with almost 190,000 total vehicles registered in Winnebago County and more than 6.6 million vehicles registered statewide.

The SRF team is focusing on documenting EVs on the road now and the potential for growth. Then they will identify the best places for public charging stations.

Bill Troe of SRF led the conversation last week at the Oshkosh Public Library. His team is studying the Oshkosh Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), an area that includes the city along with the towns of Algoma, Black Wolf, Nekimi, Oshkosh and Vinland.

In his presentation, Troe noted that some municipalities are switching city fleet vehicles to EVs.

"But Oshkosh isn't quite there yet, so

we're not incorporating that into our plan," he said.

This was the first informational meeting surrounding Oshkosh readiness for EVs. Troe explained there are nine charging stations in the Oshkosh MPO, which leads to a limited amount of opportunities for EV owners to charge their vehicles when not at home.

The next meeting will focus on potential locations for public charging stations and be held in the spring. Troe said the team is looking at land use maps to help guide them on where to suggest placing public charging stations.

"We're looking at charging locations near multifamily residences, high-traffic areas and near retail locations," Troe said.

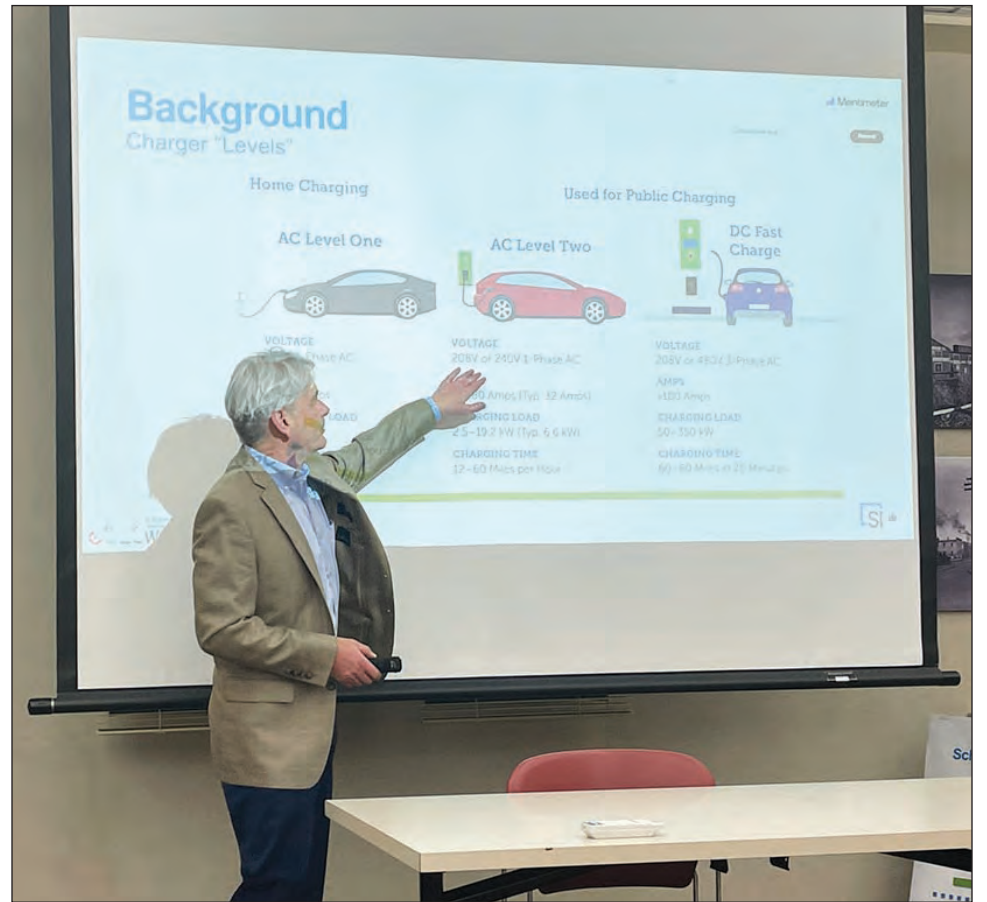
There are three types of charging stations in the market for EVs. The first is AC (alternating current) level one, which is mainly for at-home charging as it is the slowest charger using about 120 volts of electricity.

The next step up is AC level two, which also uses alternating current to charge vehicles. The third type is the DC (direct current) fast charge, where there is a constant stream of electricity and is more expensive than alternating current.

The readiness team is focusing on where to place AC level two and DC fast charging stations. Troe said DC stations can charge an EV up to 80% in about 30 minutes.

Oshkosh director of transportation Jim Collins said the first meeting included good discussion about EVs while still being in the initial stages of the plan's development.

There was a community survey that received more than 550 responses and Troe



Oshkosh Herald

Bill Troe of SRF explains the different types of charging stations that range from using 120 volts for home charging to up to 480 volts of electricity for fast charging.

highlighted a few of them:

- More than 70% of respondents said they drive their own vehicle to get around Oshkosh.
- 85% of respondents said they have never owned an EV, with about 50% unlikely to buy an EV in the next three years.
- 43% said they would be more likely to buy an EV if they knew the battery would provide enough power for their daily drives.

Range anxiety is a worry for most potential EV customers, according to Troe.

"Drivers want to know they can drive where they need to go without worrying about not having enough battery to make it," Troe said.

Troe said part of the plan is to look at low-income areas. He explained that although not many people in these areas may be able to afford EVs there may be enough traffic in the area for a charging station to benefit residents in a different way.

"It could be an opportunity to reduce greenhouse gases in these areas," Troe said.

Wisconsin has set up several alternative fuel corridors (AFC) that connect major interstates and highways across the state. Interstate 41 is the AFC in Winnebago County. Federal guidelines lay out a plan for AFCs stating that charging stations need to be installed every 50 miles on the AFC and must be within a mile of the AFC road.

State plans break the state into groups A through H, with most of Winnebago County in group E and northern Winnebago County and southern Outagamie County in group F, meaning there could be a charging station in Oshkosh as well as one in Neenah.

Troe and Collins said the city readiness plan is separate from the AFC plan for charging stations but would be coordinating with the state plan for better coverage in Oshkosh.

A third meeting over the summer will go over recommendations, with a final plan hopefully finished by October.

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Oshkosh man faces gun charges while weapon missing

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

An Oshkosh man is being held on \$100,000 cash bond with court documents alleging he was in possession of a firearm and pointed it at a victim. However, during the investigation the police never recovered the reported weapon.

Ronald A. Davis, 33, has been charged with possession of a firearm by a felon. If convicted, he faces a maximum of five years of prison followed up to five years of extended supervision. He has also been charged with misdemeanor pointing a firearm at another person, obstructing an officer and battery.

All charges have repeater modification added to the charge stemming from a conviction of substantial battery-intend bodily harm in a 2021 Outagamie County case.

Court documents in the Winnebago County case allege Davis was in an argument Nov. 25 with a woman inside a vehicle. He allegedly hit the woman multiple times and fled the scene without her near Jackson

Street and West Murdoch Avenue. Davis was allegedly seen later holding what looked like a gun, which was never recovered by law enforcement.

During the preliminary hearing Thursday, Oshkosh police detective Chee Vang testified that officers allegedly saw a man, later identified by Vang as Davis, come out of a home on Frederick Street holding what appeared to be a gun.

Vang said Davis walked out of the house and waved what looked like a gun and allegedly said to a group of officers, "You wanna play?"

He said that there was a spent casing found and live ammunition in the home with a large quantity of ammunition in a safe in Davis' bedroom.

During the investigation, Davis' girlfriend showed Vang several photos of him holding a gun. Vang said there is an extended magazine in the gun in the photos that matches the magazine found at the crime scene.

Officers reported hearing a single gunshot fired.

The 2024 PSAP Grant Program state grant was authorized with funds allocated to the state Department of Military Affairs from the Wisconsin Police and Fire Protection Fund.

The OEC also awarded 28 grant projects totaling \$1,458,838 to local county land information offices, including \$65,204 for Winnebago County.

Funding will be used for various projects related to geographic information systems (GIS) data creation, preparation, and remediation activities necessary for enabling NG9-1-1.

and one of the victims speculated that Davis did not shoot a firearm but was actually being shot at inside the home.

Schwartz asked Vang whether anyone could verify it was a real gun or possibly an airsoft gun. Vang responded he did not believe it was a facsimile but a real firearm.

Vang said there was a vehicle driven by the woman that left the scene during the incident and later pulled over and searched with no gun found.

Court Commissioner Eric Heywood said during the hearing it was plausible that the firearm was in the vehicle and someone was able to dispose of it before police made the

traffic stop because officers did not have constant surveillance of the vehicle. Heywood found there was probable cause that a felony occurred.

Schwartz said he was entering pleas of not guilty on behalf of Davis and requested a speedy trial. The case will be transferred from the court commissioner to Branch 6 in Winnebago County with Judge Daniel Bissett.

Assistant district attorney Anthony Prekop, who is prosecuting the case, argued that bond should remain at \$100,000 and Heywood denied a motion to reduce it. A hearing was scheduled for this Tuesday (Dec. 12).

Tree seedlings offered ahead of Arbor Day

The state Department of Natural Resources is offering free tree seedlings to every fourth-grade student in Wisconsin as part of its annual Arbor Day tree planting program.

Fourth-grade principals, teachers and those who homeschool can now place seedling orders and coordinate delivery by completing the 2024 Arbor Day application by March 15 at dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/treeplanting.

Arbor Day is April 26 and dedicated to increasing the number of trees across the country to help improve the environment. The DNR provides interactive education to students around the importance of trees within the environment and provides about 50,000 free tree seedlings to fourth-graders.

Seedlings come protected to keep backpacks clean and shipments include educational information on how to best plant and care for seedlings and trees.

Call center, land information funding awarded

Oshkosh Herald

The state Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) announced 19 grant projects last week totaling \$5,611,235 in state funding to local public safety answering points (PSAPs) across Wisconsin, including \$25,692 for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

PSAP funding will be used for projects related to equipment upgrades, advanced training necessary for Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) implementation and PSAP consolidation. A PSAP is a type of call center where public telephone calls for first responders are received and han-

UWO direct admission offers simplified application

UW Oshkosh Today

Direct admission to the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh for qualifying students offers a smoother admissions process that takes the worry out of getting accepted.

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hkosh Early College Credit Program.

Most students will be eligible to enroll as a first-year student at the Oshkosh campus. Some students will be admitted directly to the Fox Cities campus first, if they desire, to take advantage of smaller class sizes and additional support opportunities. Students who begin at the Fox Cities campus will be eligible to transition to the Oshkosh campus after completing a minimum of 12 credits.

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Passenger rail

FROM PAGE 1

through Fond du Lac, Oshkosh and Appleton. All four cities would need new passenger stations, according to Amtrak's vision of the Green Bay-Milwaukee-Chicago plan.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development program, also known as the Corridor ID program, is funding the new route studies in Wisconsin with \$500,000 each for a total of \$2.5 million.

Other routes receiving funding are Milwaukee to Chicago, Milwaukee to Madison to Eau Claire, Eau Claire to St. Paul, Minn., and Chicago via La Crosse to St. Paul.

"Passenger rail helps people get to work and school safely, boosts tourism and recreation, and grows our local economies, and I am proud to deliver funding to help expand it in Wisconsin," Baldwin said. "I voted for the Bipartisan Infrastructure



Baldwin

Law to move our economy forward and get Wisconsinites where they need to go efficiently and safely, and I am excited to see these plans for passenger rail move forward."

Amtrak currently operates a bus line between Green Bay and Milwaukee. When speaking about that route for rail service, Baldwin said, "(it) will extend the popular Hiawatha Service along one of the most densely populated

transportation corridors in the state and will build upon successful intercity bus service that currently operates two round trips per day between Milwaukee and Green Bay."

Paul Rueff, municipal and legislative liaison for NEW Rails, a passenger train advocacy group in Northeast Wisconsin, said the funding approval partially stems from former Oshkosh Mayor Lori Palmeri joining the mayors of Appleton, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, Kaukauna, Menasha and Neenah in signing a letter last December asking the Federal Railroad Administration to be a part of the Corridor ID program.

"These funds will help plan for the trains coming through the Fox Valley," Rueff said, adding there are tracks that Amtrak can use that already link Green Bay and Milwaukee.

The state Department of Transportation will use the federal funds to study where train stops will be placed, how frequently the trains will be in service and a time schedule.

Laura Wiegert, executive vice president of marketing and events for the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce, said adding rail

service to Green Bay through the Fox Cities will help grow the local economy.

"With this new Green Bay route, the Fox Cities (and Oshkosh) could be a stop along the corridor and connect us to other hubs around the state. Being on this new travel route not only provides a convenient, economical and environmentally friendly alternative to driving, it offers another tool in our toolchest for attracting and retaining talent, connecting businesses, promoting tourism and adding resiliency to our transportation system," Wiegert said.

Rueff said this is the first phase of the project that will continue for all of 2024. There will be a public comment period hosted by the DOT when people can have their voice heard on the expanding rail service plan.

The second phase would be about funding when the DOT will submit the final submissions to the Federal Railroad Administration.

This will include potential sites for the new train stations in Green Bay, Appleton, Oshkosh and Fond du Lac.

"Now is the time to do this for the region and the state," Rueff said.

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Man charged with attempted apartment arson

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

An Oshkosh man is accused of attempted arson of his girlfriend's apartment. When officers arrived on the scene they found lighter fluid on the floor and some furniture, according to court documents filed in Winnebago County.

Steven M. Streich, 41, has been charged with attempted arson of a building and battery or threat to a judge, prosecutor or law enforcement officer – both felony counts have repeater modifiers that could lead to a harsher sentence if convicted.

He faces up to 25 years in prison followed by up to 15 years of extended supervision if convicted on the attempted arson charge. The other felony count could lead to three years in prison followed by up to three years of extended supervision.

Streich is also charged with disorderly conduct and criminal damage to property, misdemeanor counts that have repeater modifiers.

According to the criminal complaint, at 8:20 p.m. Nov. 22 an Oshkosh police officer was dispatched to a home on the 2100 block of Evans Street. When the officer arrived he made contact with a woman, who with the officer are identified as victims in the complaint.

The woman told the officer her boyfriend had covered her entire apartment in lighter fluid. The officer could smell it as soon as they entered. There appeared to be lighter fluid on the couch, coffee table

and floor in multiple rooms.

At that point Streich walked into the apartment. The officer said they needed to speak with him and then he allegedly held up a fist as if to punch someone. At that point the officer drew a taser and pointed it at Streich.

Streich was taken into custody without additional incident. He told the officer he and his girlfriend had been drinking and then arguing.

The victim told officers Streich went into the bathroom and ripped the toilet seat off. After that she left the apartment and went into a friend's apartment downstairs. While there she debated calling 911 as she could hear things being thrown around in her apartment.

She told the officer Streich had allegedly done this before. Streich eventually left the apartment after allegedly threatening to kill his girlfriend. That's when she locked him out and officers could see boot marks on the door where he attempted to kick it open.

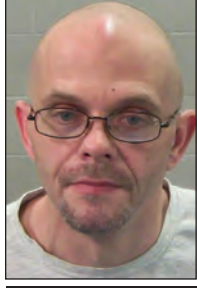
The victim told police she allegedly saw Streich take a handful of muscle re-

laxer pills and was in the hallway where the lighter fluid is kept. He continued to threaten her until police arrived.

Streich was convicted of disorderly conduct in Marathon County, with part of his conditions to maintain absolute sobriety. He was given a preliminary breath test with a result of 0.17.

The complaint alleges Streich was verbally aggressive with officers as they escorted him out of the apartment. He also allegedly made remarks to jail staff about the arson attempt, including, "If I could get away with it, I'd of done it."

Streich is due back in court Monday for his arraignment.



Streich

Volunteer needs

Ascension Mercy Hospital is looking for volunteers to sew ice pack covers to be given to surgical patients. Volunteers follow a pattern to sew covers and can do this project at home. For more information, contact Ascension Mercy Hospital Volunteer Services at 920-223-0225 or MHVolun@ascension.org, and apply at ascension.org/ascensionmercyvolunteer.

Aurora At Home Hospice is seeking veterans to visit, listen and share stories with hospice veterans in the facility or their home. Training is required. Contact Jayne at 920-252-5146 or Jayne.Syrjama-ki@Aurora.org.

The **Community Blood Center** needs cafe attendants to serve refreshments, supervise post-donation recovery process and partake in friendly conversation with donors. Volunteer for a minimum of a monthly three-hour shift at donor centers in Oshkosh, Little Chute or Appleton. Contact Karen Kuramitsu at kkuramitsu@communityblood.org.

Evergreen Retirement Community needs volunteers to file and paint resident's fingernails on a weekly basis. No cutting or trimming required. Contact Pam at volunteercoordinator@evergreenoshkosh.com.

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Oshkosh Avenue

FROM PAGE 1

ways into the city and to have all of this development there is a great way to pull people into the city," Rathermel said. "The development is pretty significant — new businesses and new jobs. People driving into the area see the traffic and the businesses they want to see. It's been a significant impact on Oshkosh as a whole."

Kelly Nieforth, community development director for Oshkosh, said the presence of Oshkosh Corp.'s headquarters shows the city is a desirable place to do business.

"The headquarters are highly visible to drivers on U.S. 41, which is great for the community," she said. "The growth on the west side has been tremendous. The commercial businesses going in there not only serve employees and visitors to Oshkosh Corp. but also area residents."

Seeing the variety of businesses shows the area is a successful place to be, which spurs further development, according to Nieforth.

One project currently under construction is a Tru by Hilton hotel, which is being built between Starbucks and Popeyes. The four-story, 90-room hotel is a simplified version of the Hilton brand. American Construction Services broke ground on the project in October.

Tru joins TownePlace Suites by Marriott as the area's second hotel. TownePlace Suites is an extended-stay hotel that offers larger rooms equipped with kitchens and amenities, such as a laundry facility, to make longer-term stays more comfortable. The 103-room hotel opened in 2022.

"It's great having additional hotel rooms in Oshkosh. We get people staying who are going to Packers games," said Rather-



Photo by MaryBeth Matzek

Under construction on Oshkosh Avenue is a four-story, 90-room Tru by Hilton hotel that will join the existing TownePlace Suites by Marriott in that neighborhood.

mel, adding it is expected people attending the 2025 NFL Draft in Green Bay will stay in Oshkosh hotels.

Another project under construction along Oshkosh Avenue is Mr. Brews Signature Pub, a sit-down restaurant known

for its custom burgers and craft beer selections. Mr. Brews began in Weston near Wausau in 2013 and has grown into a franchise with 14 locations in Wisconsin, Kentucky, Kansas, Arizona and Florida. The owner of Mr. Brews Taphouse in Dar-

boy/Appleton will also own the Oshkosh restaurant.

"It's exciting they are expanding into the Oshkosh market and that this location was selected," Rathermel said. "Most people come into the area and see it's a successful place (with the businesses they are looking for) whether they are Oshkosh Corp. employees, their visitors, area visitors and people just coming off U.S. 41 to get gas or something to eat."

Some of the businesses in the 18 acres of newly developed commercial corridor include Casey's General Store, Starbucks, Fox Communities Credit Union, Bank First and Class A office space housing CLA and First Weber.

"There's a great mix of brands in the area that are both local and national," Rathermel said. "We have also had newer brands, such as Teriyaki Madness, which made Oshkosh their entry point into Wisconsin. We have a few parcels left for development and I am excited to see what all will come in."

Beyond new businesses, Nieforth said investment into the area around Oshkosh Corp. includes a new park and the completion of the city's extensive Riverwalk. As part of its purchase agreement, the company donated \$600,000 to the city so a trail adjacent to the building could be completed and connect the I-41 bridge and the Oshkosh Avenue bridge, creating a complete loop.

A new four-season pavilion has also been built in the adjacent Lakeshore Park.

"It's amazing and right on the water. The completion of the Riverwalk benefits the entire community and is a good addition to all of the commercial development," said Nieforth, adding the city is looking to get funds from the state Department of Natural Resources to have trails added to the park.





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New biology classes sprout from faculty expertise

By Natalie Johnson
UW OSHKOSH TODAY

Biology majors at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh clamored to sign up for rejuvenated spring semester courses built on faculty expertise and designed to teach students the latest skills for success in their professional careers or grad school studies.

“We are working to revise and refresh our courses and majors,” said Courtney Kurtz, professor and cochair of UW Oshkosh’s biology department. “Some course titles and descriptions were confusing. Some long-forgotten courses were resurrected to teach students valuable skills, and some new courses are being offered to benefit the students.”

The biology department, previously recognized with the UW Board of Regents’ Teaching Excellence Award, serves hundreds of undergraduate students across four majors: biology, environmental health, microbiology and radiologic science. The UWO graduate program offers master’s degrees in biology and microbiology.

In her final semester before graduating in May, senior biology major Emma Smith, of Kenosha, is looking forward to taking UWO molecular biologist Jessica Lucas’ revamped Biology 372: Cancer Biology class.

“We’ll be learning from current research about all the different types of mechanisms behind cancer and what’s going on in the field,” Smith said.

As the second leading cause of death globally, the complex disease of cancer is an important topic for students to explore.

“Cancer Biology is an upper division



UW Oshkosh photo

Biology classes offered this spring at UW Oshkosh have been revised to offer students more skills training.

class, and we’ll be going right into the scientific literature and reading first-hand about the science happening today,” Lucas said. “Biology is always changing, so our classes have to change, too.”

Smith is interested in gaining a better understanding of how cancer develops, especially since she has personally experienced the impact of the disease on her family.

“From taking previous classes from her, I know Dr. Lucas’s approach to making it safe to talk about hard things,” said Smith, who is planning to take some time off after commencement before heading to graduate school.

Lucas said having conversations about

sensitive topics is especially good practice in learning how to manage emotions for students planning careers in healthcare.

Biology 305 or Biology of Mammals will be offered for the first time in spring 2024 by UWO’s Morgan Churchill, a vertebrate paleontologist with a passion for studying whales.

Biology 316 (formerly Developmental Biology) and Biology 372 (formerly Medical and Environmental Applications of Cell Biology and Genetics) will be offered in spring 2024 as Development and Stem Cells and Cancer Biology, respectively. The updates benefit pre-health students in the biomedical science major as well as general biology majors.

Biology 326 (formerly Introductory Limnology) will be offered in fall 2024 as Lakes, Rivers and Wetlands. This course will benefit biology and environmental studies majors.

Biology 390 (formerly Biotechnology Laboratory) is being resurrected in spring 2024 as Applied Molecular Biology Technique. This lab-only course will focus on marketable skills like pipetting for students interested in pursuing graduate school or a career in research and development technology.

Biology 420 (Medical Human Physiology) is a new course to be offered in spring 2025 for biomedical science majors. Previously, they had to take Animal



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EAA speaker series announced

The schedule is set for 2024's EAA Aviation Adventure Speaker Series, as the first six speakers have been confirmed. The presentations take place on select Thursdays throughout the spring and summer at 7 p.m. at the EAA Aviation Museum.

The schedule includes:
Jan. 18: Archaeology and MIA Recovery Missions: Innovations and Challenges: Dr. Brett Hoffman will review the history of the University of Wisconsin MIA Recovery and Identification Project, including the breakthroughs and difficulties along the way.
Feb. 15: The Magic of Air Show Flying: Air show pilot Matt Younkin will detail what it is like to perform in front of crowds across the country.
March 21: Flying the A-1 Skyraider: Vietnam War veteran John Larrison will

discuss conducting some of the first A-1 Skyraider missions over Vietnam.
April 18: Tomcats Over the Gulf: Herman C. Cook III will recount his experience flying one of two American F-14 Tomcats that engaged two Libyan MiG-23s over the Gulf of Sidra on Jan. 4, 1989.
May 16: Coast Guard Helicopter Rescue: Tom Cooper will explain what life is like for a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter pilot, including personal stories of flying lifesaving missions.
June 20: Bazooka Charlie: Researching One Hero's Adventure of Taking a Cub to War: Jim Busha takes a deep dive into the story of Maj. Charles Carpenter, who made headlines during World War II when he affixed six bazookas to his Piper L-4 airplane in order to attack German tanks.

City property tax bills being mailed this week

The city of Oshkosh is mailing real estate and personal property tax bills this week. The city encourages residents to mail in their tax payments or use the drop box outside the main doors of City Hall.

Residents are also encouraged to use the online payment option at OshkoshBill-Pay.com. Payments also can be made in person with cash or check at City Hall.



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Calendar of events

- Old Oregon Road Wisconsin Herd vs. Grand Rapids Gold, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena
 "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," 2 p.m., Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main St.
- Monday, Dec. 18**
 Water City Jazz Orchestra, 8 p.m., Fletch's Local Tap House, 566 N. Main St.
- Wednesday, Dec. 20**
 Bingo, 7 p.m., American Legion Hall, 1332 Spruce St.
- Friday, Dec. 22**
 Marine Corps League bingo, 5:30 p.m., 4715 Sherman Road
 Traveling Suitcase, 7 p.m., New Moon Cafe, 401 N. Main St.
- Saturday, Dec. 23**
 Night Before Christmas Carol, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh
 A Very Vintage Christmas with Sundae & Mr. Goessl, 8 p.m., Becket's, 2 Jackson St.
 Ask Your Mother, 8 p.m., Revs Bar Bowl & Grill, 275 N. Washburn St.
- Wednesday, Dec. 27**
 Holiday Tours at Historic Morgan House, 5 p.m., 234 Church Ave.

Jazz vocalist to perform at The Howard

Wisconsin native Tierney Sutton, a nine-time Grammy-nominated jazz vocalist, will be performing Jan. 17 in Oshkosh at The Howard.

Tierney grew up in Milwaukee, graduated from Nicolet High School in Glendale, received a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., and attended Berklee College of Music in Boston. She juggles a busy touring and production schedule splitting her time between homes in Los Angeles and Paris.

In 2016, Tierney was approached by Clint Eastwood for an original score to his box-office hit "Sully," which was created by Tierney's pianist, Christian Jacob, The Tierney Sutton Band, and Eastwood.

Concert tickets and more information is at JazzCoterie.com.

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Spartans hold on to take down rival Wildcats

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

It was like watching a big brother fend off his younger sibling in an old-fashioned King of the Hill battle last Friday night in the season's first meeting between rivals Oshkosh North and Oshkosh West.

The Wildcats kept charging up that hill intent on seizing the high perch, only to be turned away on each and every try. No matter what West tried, the Spartans always had the answer.

"It means a lot," Oshkosh North's Xzavion Mitchell said after the Spartans' 55-50 win at Oshkosh West. "We played in front of a big crowd our first game, but it wasn't like this. Playing in front of our home city is great and this was a big win."

After trailing by as many as 11 points in the first half, the Wildcats trimmed the gap to three by halftime and got as close as two points midway through the second half.

But West could never get even or overtake the Spartans.

"A couple of timely shots, who knows? Maybe a turnover here or there," Oshkosh West head coach Dan Weisse said. "What kept us in the game was our tenacity and toughness. Tonight, we didn't play perfect basketball for two halves, but we played hard for two halves and gave ourselves a chance to win the game against a very good team."

North just simply came up with the big shots – and more importantly for Spartans' head coach Brad Weber the big defensive stops – when it needed to.

"What I enjoyed most is down the stretch is that we did it on defense. That's who we have to be and who we haven't been in the past. When our back was up against the wall, we answered on defense," Weber said. "We will be better offensively – a lot of that credit goes to Oshkosh West – but when it mattered, we hit the defense and that we can build on."

The Wildcats used an 8-2 run over the span of about three minutes to get as close



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Oshkosh North's Xzavion Mitchell can't quite block the shot of Oshkosh West's Dylan Taylor on a drive to the basket in the first half Friday.

as 41-39 with 9:54 left to play.

But North's Stevie Clark answered with a basket on the next possession and Jackson Anderson followed with a 3-pointer for the Spartans to push the lead back to seven.

West narrowed the margin to a one-possession game once more when Joey Ware's putback basket sliced North's lead to 53-50 with 1:34 to play but could get no closer.

Mitchell's driving layup immediately pushed the lead back to five and the Wildcats closed the game with three empty

possessions.

"This team can take a lot of adversity. In pressure-packed moments, we thrive and that's when we are at our best as a team," Mitchell said. "We didn't take care of the ball the way we wanted to but in certain

situations we knew what we had to do."

West's hopes were kept alive by some struggles at the free-throw line by the Spartans. North missed its final seven free-throw attempts of the game and finished

SEE **Boys hoops** ON PAGE 24

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Spartans pull out close win over Ships

Ava Hanson finished with 19 points as Oshkosh North knocked off Manitowoc Lincoln, 47-45, in a nonconference game Tuesday.

Awut Alic added 15 points in the win for North, while Olivia Borowitz and Nyedang Awak led the team with 11 and eight rebounds, respectively.

The game was tied at 18 at the half.

Valley Christian picks up pair of wins

The Warriors won a pair of games last week, beating Dodgeand, 53-36, on Friday after knocking off Hustisford, 81-31, Tuesday.

Against the Trojans, Anna Y. Giannopoulos finished with 19 points and 12 rebounds to lead the way for the Warriors. Mya Moran added 13 points and 14 rebounds, while Lizzie Fink finished with 10 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists.

Valley Christian led just 20-19 at halftime before outscoring Dodgeand 33-17 in the second half.

The Warriors had four players in double figures in the win over Hustisford.

Anna Y. Giannopoulos scored 21 points in the win with Moran and Fink each adding 15 points. Anna E. Giannopoulos added 10 points.

Knights cruise to win over Big Red

Lourdes Academy had three players reach double figures and had eight players

score overall as it picked up a 75-37 win over Wayland Academy last week.

Hailee Bauer led the way for the Knights with 23 points, while Delaney Ruedinger and Ella Slusarski each finished with 14 points. Ruedinger also led the team with 13 rebounds.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Lourdes Academy rallies for overtime win

JJ McKellips hit a late 3-pointer to send the game into overtime and Quin Ruark's free throw with 6.7 seconds in the extra period secured Lourdes Academy's 74-70 nonconference win over Wautoma on Thursday.

The Knights trailed 35-24 at halftime but came storming back in the second half to collect the win.

McKellips finished with 22 points to lead four players in double figures for the Knights. Calvin Tollard added 20 points, while Mitchell Wing and Jok Machiros scored 13 and 11 points, respectively.

Tollard also finished with 12 rebounds and five assists in the win.

Earlier in the week, the Knights toppled Wayland Academy, 69-46.

McKellips finished with 16 points, while Wing added 15 points.

Warriors have strong second half in loss

Valley Christian played nearly even with Hustisford in the second half but came up short in a 68-55 loss Thursday.

The Warriors trailed 32-23 at inter-

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 25



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West girls pull away in second half against North



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Oshkosh West's Brenna Gehri (4) and Oshkosh North's Ava Hanson battle for a rebound last Friday.

Oshkosh Herald

A strong second half helped Oshkosh West down rival Oshkosh North, 60-44, on Friday night at Oshkosh West.

The Spartans rallied from an early deficit to tie the game late in the first half, but the Wildcats edged out to a four-point halftime lead and then outscored North 37-25 after intermission to collect the win.

"It always feels good to get a win against the rival," Oshkosh West head coach Kenisha Phillips said. "This game, no matter how good either of the teams are, it's always difficult. They always come with their best game against us. We seem to let them hit us a few times before we react to it."

Oshkosh North head coach Rick Leib credited his team's defense in leading the first-half charge.

The Spartans were able to force West into some turnovers with their aggressive defense and that translated onto the other end for North.

"We are one of the top teams in deflections and steals and offensive rebounds and that's a credit to the girls. When you get a few tips and get something on that end, something positive is going to happen," Leib said. "I think, as a team, we just didn't buckle and I'm super proud of that."

West seized the momentum after halftime, though, and were able to slowly expand its lead.

Led by senior Paige Seckar, the Wildcats were able to get things rolling on the offensive end.

"Paige in the second half, with some of those cuts and some of those easy layups,"

Phillips said. "We weren't getting those in the first half."

Seckar led the Wildcats with 15 points, while Maddie Rasmussen added 11. Morgan Toman and Grace Lenz chipped in nine and eight points, respectively.

Ava Hanson and Awut Alic each had 16 points to lead the Spartans, but no other North player scored more than five points in the game.

"Ava and Awut, things go through them offensively," Leib said. "We are a young, inexperienced team and we will get better. But I like how fearless we were tonight. We are on the rise."

It was the second straight win for the Wildcats and third in their last four games as the Wildcats continue to gain confidence after a difficult early-season non-conference schedule.

"Our aggressive defense (was the key). We got up and got a lot of steals," Phillips said. "Any win we can get on our record that, the girls see that and I think it motivates them."

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Knights take advantage of Warriors' cold shooting

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Lourdes Academy senior Calvin Tollard admitted he was a bit surprised by the scoreboard at Valley Christian High School as he walked into the locker room at halftime.

The Knights, coming off a huge win two days earlier against Wautoma, spent the first 18 minutes against the Warriors operating at less than peak efficiency on the offensive end. That's why heading into intermission with a 19-point lead caused a bit of an odd feeling.

"We were taking good shots, good looks but they weren't falling," Tollard said. "When our shots aren't falling, we have to lock in on defense. And we did pretty good."

A strong effort on the defensive end by the Knights combined with a rough shooting by Valley Christian helped Lourdes Academy win the Trailways tussle, 61-11, Saturday afternoon.

Lourdes head coach Brett Baehman was proud of the team's effort in the win

because in a similar situation last season, the Knights struggled in a lopsided loss to Abundant Life.

"Last year, on a Saturday afternoon, we just didn't have the energy," Baehman said. "They were up for it. They didn't care who they were playing, they were going to play hard."

The Knights were also down two starters for the game, which meant Baehman had to juggle the lineup a bit.

The new faces certainly came through. Brady Ridenour scored 14 points, while Braden Studinski added 10 as he took on a bigger role in the office. Those two combined with Tollard's 13 points to put three players in double figures for the Knights.

"Maybe a little (I felt I had to step up today)," Tollard said. "But I know our back-ups are going to be there and they are going to do everything they can. We know those guys were going to get in there and do a good job."

Tollard also grabbed a game-high 10 rebounds to finish with a double-double.

"Calvin was just all over today and it was great to see. He took a big step," Baehman said. "Coming into this game we knew we were a little banged up and so Brady, Brayden even the younger guys had to play well for us. We knew someone else was going to have to step up for us and the good thing for us was that all of them stepped up."

Valley Christian actually scored the first points of the game to take its only lead before baskets by Jok Machiros and JJ McKelips around a free throw by Tollard gave the Knights a lead it would never relinquish.

Lourdes Academy held Valley Christian



Oshkosh Herald
Lourdes Academy's Calvin Tollard drives the baseline against Valley Christian's Dennis Thur on Saturday.



Oshkosh Herald
Valley Christian's Joshua Johnson puts up a shot against Lourdes Academy on Saturday.

to just four goals and eight points in the first half and then blanked the Warriors for the first 14-plus minutes of the second half.

"We tried to slow the tempo down against them," said Valley Christian head coach Louis Giannopoulos said. "We did a good job defensively. We were a little hesitant in shooting the ball in some instances and I think that's what made a difference. Definitely believe it got in our minds. It definitely affected them and we went flat from not making any shots."

The output was especially disappointing for Giannopoulos because his team

was coming off one of its best games a couple of nights before.

"We came off a really good game against Hustisford," said Giannopoulos, who had five different players score two points to lead the scoring. "I thought our energy was good and we shot the ball the best we have all season and I thought it would carry over into Saturday but unfortunately it didn't."

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Ruedinger fitting in well with UWGB Phoenix

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay was at the top of Preston Ruedinger's wish list when it came to choosing a college basketball program.

Wishes can come true, but they often take time. In Ruedinger's case, it took a few years to achieve his goal and he's made a delayed yet positive impact on the Phoenix.

Ruedinger is home, but not just for the holidays. The former Lourdes Academy star is playing Division 1 hoops at his preferred school – the same one that ignored him when he was coming out of high school in 2020-21 – and a sleeping giant of a program that is practically in his own back yard.

The wait to compete for the Phoenix has been worth it and Ruedinger is capitalizing

on a long-awaited opportunity. Ruedinger, a sophomore transfer from Valparaiso where he played his first two seasons, is UWGB's starting point guard and has played solid ball in his initial season in the Horizon League.

Ruedinger entered last weekend play averaging 7.0 points, 3.2 rebounds, 1.7 assists and 1.2 steals, while shooting 42.1 percent from the floor. Ruedinger had started all six of the games he's played in and was averaging 25.7 minutes per game.

Ruedinger's contributions involve far more than numbers. He has given the Phoenix toughness, energy and leadership at the critical point guard slot, playing with

poise, passion and purpose. He's made such a strong impression on the team's new head coach, Sundance Wicks, that Wicks called Ruedinger the team's "spirit animal" in a recent story in the Green Bay Press Gazette.

"I think it's been a pretty good fit," Ruedinger said. "Sunny's system and style of play kind of reminds me of the Missouri Valley Conference. We call it gritty – trying to get gritty Green Bay wins."

"We like low-possession games and we're really good on the defensive end. He (Wicks) always says that defense is a constant and offense is a variable. A shot may come or it might not come, but defense is always."

Always is a good word to describe Ruedinger's desire to play at UWGB. When former UWGB coach Will Ryan showed little interest in Ruedinger com-

ing out of Lourdes, Ruedinger took his talents to Indiana where he accepted a non-scholarship offer from Valparaiso. Ruedinger put together a strong freshman year at Valpo, starting 13 of the 19 games he played in and averaging 3.3 points, 1.7 assists and 1.5 rebounds. He was named to the MVC's All-Freshman Team.

Ruedinger was limited to nine games (six starts) his sophomore year due to a shoulder injury that required surgery. He averaged 2.1 points, 2.3 rebounds and 1.0 assists. However, when head coach Matt Lottich was fired after an 11-21 season, Ruedinger entered the NCAA transfer portal and jumped at the opportunity to join the UWGB program he had aimed for all along.

"He's where he's always wanted to be,"



Ruedinger

SEE Ruedinger ON PAGE 22

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Ruedinger

FROM PAGE 21

said Preston's father, Dennis, his high school coach at Lourdes. "He's wanted to play at Green Bay for a long time. This place is special to him. He understands the history and tradition of the program."

Lottich's dismissal factored into Ruedinger's decision to leave Valpo. The opportunity to play ball in front of friends and family at a venue that is an hour's drive from Oshkosh was an even greater pull. Ruedinger's parents, Dennis and Kellie, are regulars at Phoenix home games along with his sister Delaney when she's not playing girls basketball games for the Knights.

"I'm absolutely very happy I made the move," Preston said. "It's really cool to be close to home. Not only do I get to see my family at games, but some of the members of the community I grew up with. It's really nice to go out and eat with my family after games. I probably see them once a week, so it's almost like I'm at home."

The Phoenix's decision to hire the ef-

fervescent Wicks was another reason why Ruedinger returned to Wisconsin. He was quickly sold on Wicks' skills as a coach and blown away by his energy and enthusiasm.

"Every day he brings a lot of energy and that really helps," Ruedinger said. "He's the same guy that you see talking on TV. Sunny is one of a kind, but in a good way. He has a really good vision of what this program is going to turn into the next couple years. I really trust him as our leader."

Wicks has already been able to jumpstart a wheezing UWGB program that is trying to recapture its winning ways. The Phoenix was once a perennial powerhouse with multiple NCAA tournament appearances and conference titles. Those rock-solid teams were led by elite players like Tony Bennett, Jeff Nordgaard and Keifer Sykes, and coached by legends such as Dick Bennett.

However, the Phoenix has struggled in recent years. Wicks took over a subpar team that went an ugly 8-54 over the past two years and seems to be changing the culture. UWGB is suddenly showing promise and has already won more games than it did during the entire 2022-23 season.

"It's an exciting time to be at Green Bay right now," Ruedinger said. "We're on the rise."

Even though he's thrilled to be back home, the 2023-24 season has presented challenges for the 6-foot-2 Ruedinger. His shoulder has held up fine, but he missed UWGB's first two games with an ankle sprain. He returned to the lineup for the next three games, then missed a contest against St. Thomas after being hit with COVID-19. He admits his conditioning isn't quite where it needs to be.

"It was tough hurting my ankle so early in the season and then I was very sick," Ruedinger said. "I'm getting there. The ankle is good and my shoulder is feeling great. I'm starting to get back into my rhythm."

A prolific scorer at Lourdes, Ruedinger has adjusted to a different role with the Phoenix that involves less shooting and scoring – and more passing and leadership.

He can fill the hoop with the best of them. A deadly perimeter shooter who can score off the dribble, Ruedinger is 12th on Wisconsin's all-time prep scoring list with 2,349 career points. He averaged 25.8 points along with 6.9 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 2.5 steals his senior year while driving Lourdes to its first WIAA state championship. Ruedinger was an Associated Press First Team All-State selection in 2020-2021 after receiving third-team all-state honors his junior year.

"I'd say that number one, I'm a leader," Ruedinger said when asked about his current role. "This is my third year in college and I'm just doing whatever it takes to win. Whatever that role is, I'm willing to do it. The coaches believe in me and know I can score. I'm getting a decent amount of shot attempts and that will go up as I get more comfortable. To me, winning is

more important than anything."

And Ruedinger knows a lot about winning ballgames.

"I think Preston is definitely a good fit here," Dennis said. "The thing that sets Preston apart from other players is that he affects winning in so many different ways, whether it's scoring, defense, rebounding or leadership. All those things impact the game."

"Preston understands what you need to do to be able to compete at a high level and be able to win. He's all about winning and will do whatever it takes to do that."

"The key for him is to be able to do it at a place that is special to him. Once he met coach Wicks, it made his decision easy. He (Wicks) is someone you can rally around and that team has great chemistry."

Ruedinger is majoring in business at UWGB. Dennis is a contractor who owns RH Design Build in Oshkosh, and Preston is considering joining the family business in the future.

But Division 1 hoops is his current focus and Ruedinger seems to enjoy every second of his delayed career with the Phoenix.

"We have great coaches and this is a great team," he said. "I think we can do some crazy things this year."

Ruedinger also did some crazy things on the court for Lourdes. He was an integral part of a Knights team that rallied from a 20-point deficit to win the 2020-21 WIAA Division 4 state title on Nathan Slagter's buzzer-beating shot, which came on an assist by Ruedinger.

"That will always be really special to me – not only winning a state championship but playing for my dad," Ruedinger said. "We've always had a special relationship and I loved playing for him."

"Hopefully, we can do something special here, too."

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West standout grew up in basketball environment

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Family legacies can be difficult to live up to.

Take the Secker name. It's linked to basketball brilliance that goes back to Frank Secker's net-shredding days as an all-state point guard at Oshkosh North.

Oshkosh West standout Paige Secker is the latest family member making her mark on the game.

The 6-foot-1, do-it-all senior is among the top girls' basketball players in the Oshkosh area. She was a first-team all-Fox Valley Association selection as a junior after averaging 11.5 points, 6.4 rebounds, 2.2 assists, 1.8 steals and 1.2 blocks. She swished 19 3-pointers and was a member of the FVA's All Defensive Team for the second consecutive year.

Paige Secker, who is Frank's daughter, has continued to build on her rock-solid four-year varsity basketball career. She entered weekend play, averaging 11.2 points, 6.2 steals, 3.0 assists, 1.0 steals and 1.8 blocks with four 3-pointers. Secker plays primarily on the wing, but has the size to score inside and make plays defensively with her length.

"What makes Paige a great basketball player is her versatility," said West coach Kenisha Phillips. "She can play both inside or outside on both sides of the floor, making her a matchup nightmare for most teams.

"She's also a great team player. It has never been about her. It's always been about what's best for the team."

Paige hails from one of Oshkosh's most prominent basketball families. Frank was a two-time selection as Player of the Year in the FVA and was the state's Player of the Year as a senior in 1991-92. He went on to play four years of college basketball at Vanderbilt, averaging 10.5 points and 3.5 assists in 126 career games.

Paige's brother, Reed, was a stellar point guard at North and currently plays college hoops at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Oshkosh West senior Paige Secker comes from a basketball family and is currently leading the Oshkosh West girls in scoring and rebounding after earning first-team all-FVA honors last season.

Senior spotlight

family. It's really fun to continue that."

Paige and Reed support one another by attending each other's games. The two grew up playing plenty of one-on-one in the family driveway.

"We still do that and it gets a little chippy," said Paige with a laugh. "We're very competitive with one another."

Paige doesn't tune her father out when he offers basketball advice. She tries to soak in as much basketball knowledge as she can.

"My dad knows a ton about basketball," Paige said. "He knows all the aspects of the game, so I listen when he tells me what I need to do. I know he just wants to help me. He and my mom (Jodi) are very supportive."

In addition to being the Wildcats go-to player, Secker is a team captain for the second consecutive year.

"I feel like I play a big role and there's pressure that comes with it, but I think I'm cut out for it," Secker said. "I just try to contribute both offensively and defensively. I'm comfortable being a captain."

Secker will be playing college basketball next year but won't have to leave the city. She's committed to UW Oshkosh, giving the school a second Secker in the basketball program. In staying local with the Division 3 Titans, Secker turned down a Division 1 scholarship from New Jersey Tech along with Division 2 offers from UW-Parkside, Winona State, McKendree (Illinois), Truman State (Missouri), Roosevelt (Chicago) and Purdue Northwest (Indiana).

"It was always my dream growing up to get a basketball scholarship and go to college for free," Secker said. "I knew I could do it, but just wanted to keep my college options open and explore them. It came down to fit and where I felt comfortable.

"I know coach (Brad) Fischer and know that he's going to make me a better player. It would have been nice to finish college debt-

SEE **Senior spotlight** ON PAGE 24

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Senior spotlight

FROM PAGE 23

free, but that's the sacrifice I was willing to make for this team. They win games and always have a chance at the national tournament.

"I can see myself succeeding very well here. Plus, Reed is here, too, and my parents can go to games. That added a ton to it. I'm super excited about playing ball here. I'm not one who really likes to travel a lot. Staying close to home and being near my family was a big factor."

Seckar is an all-star off the court, too. She's a high-honors student at West who has been on the honor roll every semester and carries a 3.9 grade-point average.

"I've always just tried to challenge myself in the classroom and on the court," she said. "It keeps me busy, but I enjoy it."

Athletically, Seckar isn't just a basketball player. She's been a major contributor for the West volleyball team as a middle blocker.

"I'm definitely happy I played both sports," Seckar said. "There's never been much pressure on me in volleyball because

it wasn't the sport that I planned to play in college. It's super fun and it really helped my hand-to-eye coordination and my jump for basketball."

Seckar is a huge part of a solid West team coming off a good season (16-9 overall, 11-7 FVA, tied for third) and has enough talent to make some noise this winter. West is led by a strong senior class that also consists of key players like Brenna Gehri, Grace Lenz, Julia Lorr, Laina Hammen and Charlee Martin.

Seckar played seven games with the West varsity as a freshman before putting together a breakout sophomore year that saw her average 13.3 points, 6.6 rebounds, 2.1 assists, 2.0 steals and 1.9 blocks. She was a second-team all-FVA choice.

"Winning the regional is something we haven't been able to do since I've been here and we're looking to get to sectionals and see what happens," she said.

"I really like our team. Most of us have been playing together since the third grade. We've grown up with one another and this is our last ride. There is such a tight bond on this team. It really feels like family. So when times get tough, we'll come together and figure it out together."



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Oshkosh North's Iban Jennings (3) tries to drive around Oshkosh West's Collin Carns on Friday night.

Boys hoops

FROM PAGE 17

just 3-of-13 from the charity stripe overall.

Weber said he wasn't overly concerned about the rough night from the foul line and believes it's something his young team can learn from.

"These guys can shoot. I'm not worried about it," Weber said. "We need games like this. This is part of our maturation. We have a lot of young guys and these are big experiences for our young guys."

Mitchell finished with 23 points and grabbed a game-high seven rebounds to lead the Spartans.

He was coming off a 30-point effort in the Spartans' opener and Weisse knew he would be difficult for the Wildcats to handle.

"Mitchell is a bear. He is a talented kid and he's a lot to handle," Weisse said. "You just have to be aware of where he is at all times. If he's shooting the ball he's dangerous or if he's rebounding, he's dangerous."

Clark added 14 points and five assists for North, while Carter Strange finished with seven as West's defense had a strong showing overall.

The Wildcats held the Spartans to just three 3-pointers in the game and forced 18 turnovers.

"Absolutely, I thought we played well on defense," West senior Dylan Taylor said. "We work in practice on that a lot. Playing with high intensity, getting after the ball,

getting 50-50 balls – those are the ones that matter the most."

Taylor was the lone player in double figures for the Wildcats, finishing with 27 points, including three 3-pointers.

He scored the Wildcats first nine points of the game and then tallied 16 points in the second half to keep West in the game.

"I told him after the game, as an opposing coach it's a bit maddening to watch what he does but as a basketball enthusiast it's fun watching him play," Weber said. "He is quick and he makes great reads. He was putting pressure on our defense all night long."

Taylor said that as one of the seniors he knew he would have to step up his game against the Spartans.

"I'm a leader for them and I feel like once I get going everybody else gets going," Taylor said. "We just need some other guys to step it up and get some energy and get some buckets."

Ware was the next highest scorer for the Wildcats with eight points off the bench.

"I'm really pleased with how hard our guys played for the full 36 minutes and didn't give in when things got a little tough," Weisse said. "This was great basketball. I love how both teams played extremely hard. We came out on the short end tonight which is disappointing, but we earned the right to be disappointed because we played hard."

The two teams play again Saturday, Jan. 20, at Oshkosh North.

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 18

mission but were outscored by only four points in the second half.

Brady Patterson hit three 3-pointers and finished with 17 points to lead the Warriors, while Joshua Johnson had nine points and Dennis Thur finished with seven.

WRESTLING

Schroeder claims title to lead Wildcats

Edwyn Schroeder went 5-0 to capture the 144-pound title at the Battle on the Bay to help Oshkosh West finish fifth overall on Saturday.

Schroeder pinned his first two opponents before posting an 8-3 win over Shavano's Drake Herm. He then beat Trevor Finger of Bay Port 8-1 in the semifinals. In the title bout, Schroeder dominated Mukwonago's Adam Whittier, winning a 16-1 technical fall.

Schroeder was the only Wildcat wrestler to advance to the finals. West had four other wrestlers grab top-five finishes.

Nelson Fournier went 3-1 with a pin to take third at 215 pounds, while Ryland Schneider (157), Jaiden Fronczak (165) and Garth Martell (285) all finished fourth.

Luxemburg-Casco won the team title by more than 80 points over runner-up Bay Port. Mukwonago was third, followed by Homestead and Oshkosh West.

The Wildcats entered the tournament coming off a resounding 63-15 dual meet win over Fond du Lac as West scored points in 10 of the first 11 weight classes.

Martell started the night with a pin at heavyweight followed by Josh Booth earning a forfeit at 106 pounds. After Fond du Lac posted a win at 113 pounds, West won the next eight weight classes, with Damarion Williams (138), Schroeder (150), Schneier (157) and Fronczak (165) posting pins in that stretch.

Xavier Vang (120) added a decision win, while Benediction Kakola (126), Wyatt Folke (132) and Will Dailey (144) each won by forfeit.

Fournier (215) capped the night with a pin in the final match.

Carpenter captures title at Brillion invite

Lourdes Academy/Valley Christian's Mason Carpenter breezed to the 138-pound title at the Brillion Invite on Saturday.

The senior pinned his first three opponents at the tournament – all in the first period – and then scored a pair of technical fall wins to finish 5-0 on the day. He beat Peshtigo's Brendan Conn 18-2 in the title match.

Hunter Stelzer added a third-place finish for the Knights, posting a 4-1 mark in the heavyweight bracket. All four wins for Stelzer came by first-period pins, including wins in 16 and 17 seconds.

Remington Force also finished third for the Knights, posting a 2-2 record at 215 pounds. Both of the junior's wins came by pin.

BOYS HOCKEY

Ice Hawks put together big week

The Oshkosh Ice Hawks won three games last week capped by a 10-0 trouncing of Stevens Point Pacelli on Saturday.

Isaiah Koeppen registered a hat trick to pace the offense, while Leo Ulrich and Alex Back each scored two goals. Reid Polak, Braden Vossekuil and Matthew Sheppard also scored in the win. Evan Neitzel had a pair of assists in the win.

Gage Bauer made 26 saves to earn the shutout.

On Thursday, Oshkosh scored three goals in the third period to pull out a 5-3 win over Marshfield.

Beck had a pair of goals in the win, while Polak, Zander Crook and Owen Moran also scored for the Ice Hawks. Neitzel also had a pair of assists in the win, while Bauer totaled 21 saves.

The Ice Hawks also topped Appleton United, 4-2, rallying from an early 2-0 deficit for the win.

Koeppen tallied a pair of goals in the win, while Polak and Nolan Thurn also scored. Bauer had 33 saves in goal.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Binder scores in back-to-back games for Warbirds

Kristi Binder of Oshkosh West tallied one of the four goals as the Fond du Lac

Warbirds co-op hockey team skated to a 4-4 tie with the Lakeshore Lightning on Saturday.

Binder scored in the second period as the Warbirds headed to the third period trailing 3-2.

She also scored the team's lone goal in a 6-1 loss to the Bay Area Ice Bears on Friday.

SWIMMING

Oshkosh West wins two races at Terror Relays

The Wildcats finished sixth overall at the 12-team Terror Relays on Saturday afternoon.

West posted wins in two events at the meet. The foursome of Dane Dodge, Isaac Palomaki, Carter Crowe and Caleb Bergin took first in the 100-yard freestyle relay. The group also won the 400-yard medley relay and took second in the 500-yard crescendo relay.

West also posted a pair of fifth-place finishes and a sixth place on the day.

Appleton West won the meet followed by Neenah and Appleton North.

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Obituaries

Margaret L. Schettl

Margaret L. Schettl was born September 11th, 1931 to parents Alvin and Doris (Schram) Schuhart at home. She was baptized and confirmed at Martin Luther Church. She met the love of her life Ed and married in 1955. They were married for 57 years.



Margaret sang in the choir and taught Sunday School for several years. She graduated from Oshkosh High School where she played the saxophone and clarinet in both jazz band and Marching Bands. She worked in retail and left the business as a meat cutter for Dick's Meat market and later Armstrongs Meat Market in 1978 when her and Ed built a home on Lake Winneconne in Winneconne.

Margaret planted many flower beds, shrubs, and wherever she could find a spot, under Ed's scrutiny. She had many mallards who came for breakfast every morning and a mother duck would nest in their barrel on the dock. When the ducklings grew up, they would come every morning for breakfast too. She loved to fish, but not to clean them. Only half was left when she got done! She loved her birds and deer that she fed on her back patio daily. She

said they kept her company.

Margaret was a self-taught organ player, crocheter, and loved to bowl. Best friends, Bob and Bev always had a plan for what they would do next. She had great get-togethers with Vic, Barb, Al, and Rita, their faithful friends. Elissa and Anna had a blast with one another while their future husbands were in the service. They had the best watchful neighbors you could ask for and truly wonderful families, who could ask for more. All in all - a great life!

Margaret is survived by her brothers, James (Elissa) Schuhart, and Jerald Schuhart; sister-in-law, Mary Schuhart; niece, Kristina (Mike) Madison and Nephew, Joe (Shelby) Schuhart as well as many more nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Margaret is preceded in death by her husband, Edwin Schettl; brothers, Alton (Carol) Schuhart, Thomas Schuhart; and sister, Sandra (Dennis) McHugh.

A service for Margaret will be held at Martin Luther Church (1526 Algoma Blvd) on Friday, December 15, 2023, at 12PM. A time of visitation will be held from 11AM until the time of service. A burial will take place at Lake View Memorial Park following the service.

The family wishes to express their deepest thanks for the kind compassionate care to Heartland Hospice, Omro Care Center and for the years of care from all the staff at Aurora Wound Care in Oshkosh.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

Lorraine M. Fischer

Lorraine M. (Szep) Fischer, age 95, of Oshkosh, otherwise known as "Mumma" to her late husband Clarence, gained her heavenly wings on December 6, 2023.



Lorraine was born on September 19, 1928 in Oshkosh and married Clarence Fischer on May 10, 1947 in St. Josaphat Catholic Church. She was very proud of the fact that she and her Clarence were married just over 75 years. Lorraine had six children and numerous grand, great-grand and great-great-grandchildren.

Lorraine loved life and she and Clarence traveled the world in their retirement and greatly enjoyed their "happy hours" every day at 4 pm (although as the years passed that got pushed up to 3:30 or earlier). Lorraine enjoyed in no particular order, bowling, cribbage, boating, snowmobiling, family gatherings and just plain having a good time. Lorraine was very proud of the home she picked out of a newspaper ad which was located on Lake Winnebago.

She and Clarence spent many a summer day out fishing or relaxing in the screen house.

Lorraine was preceded in death by her husband, Clarence; a son Gerry; her daughter, Karen; a grandson, Brian Delfosse and two special mutts, Sugar and Spice.

Left to cherish her memory are her daughters, Cheryl Fischer, Susan (Jim) Delfosse, Ellen Fowler and her special son, Joseph. Joe insured that his Mom could live out her years in her home on the lake by taking care of her and the home.

Private family services were held and burial was next to her beloved husband Clarence in Calvary Catholic Cemetery. Lorraine will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her.

The family would like to thank Heartland Hospice of Fond du Lac for providing such tender, loving care to Lorraine during her last days here on earth. They were such a blessing to Lorraine and the family. Many thanks also to her neighbors (you know who you are) especially for stopping by and sharing and visiting.

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Tom Hansen

Tom lived 25,995 days. Not nearly enough.



He loved his family and numerous friends. He leaves behind many sad people, especially sad are his wife Ginger, his children: Eric, Robin (Tom) and Seth, his grandchildren: Andrew, Isabella, Maxwell and Noah, his sisters:

Barb and Chris (Tom), Nieces: Jenny, Shelli (Chad) and Macie, his nephew Jeff and mother-in-law Esther.

He was preceded in death by Jimi Hendrix, John Lennon and his parents.

Tom loved to cook. He would tell you that he was a "pretty good" cook but everyone would agree that was an understatement. Besides good food, Tom valued a great cup of coffee. His thermos of coffee

was with him at every gig.

Music was Tom's lifelong passion. He was a phenomenal drummer with an award-worthy shuffle beat. Tom's quick wit, unique fashion, and musical talents left an indelible mark. A guitarist, accordionist, and occasional songwriter, his masterpiece "Carey's Lament" almost became an international hit. Tom's legacy as the best drummer ever, his diverse music interests, and the void he leaves in the music community will be deeply missed. He passed doing what he loved leaving behind a vast musical family.

Tom embodied what he always wished for, peace and harmony.

His final exit was only as he could imagine, playing a loud last note to a life well lived.

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Obituaries

James D. Holland

James Dale Holland, 86, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully with family by his side after a short battle with cancer on Sunday, December 3, 2023. Jim, third child of the late Lyle and Evelyn Holland, was born in Ripon, Wisconsin, on February 4, 1937. From childhood, he exhibited a mind for mechanics. After school, he apprenticed with Jack Schneider at Leon's to later become known as the Custard King.

He graduated from Oshkosh High School in 1956, and married his high school sweetheart, Mary Ellen Wesenberg, in 1957. Together they worked at Wisconsin Bell telephone company, she as an operator and he as a lineman. After 30 years of service, he retired at the age of 55. Not one to idle in retirement, he went from mowing lawns to becoming the manager of Planeview Travel Plaza. Later, he found enjoyment in his second retirement by hunting and fishing.

During the Cuban Missile Crisis, he and his lifelong friend Dick Miller were members of the Wisconsin 32nd Infantry Division as national guardsmen. With his take-charge attitude, he had a life of community service as president of the Wisconsin Bell Credit Union, and state and

local chapters of the Telephone Pioneers of America. His proud accomplishments were chairing EAA program sales, being a member of the torch team of the 1984 Olympic Games, supporting Operation Teddy Bear, and traveling as a jolly ambassador to China and Japan dressed as Santa Claus and Mary, his wife, as his elf.

Jim described himself as, "a plain and simple guy who liked to do things right." In his earlier years, he ran and maintained an ice rink at Murdock and Burdick where he sharpened his ice skating skills and would amuse family and friends. His love of the Packers led to a job as the head of field security for several decades. His wife Mary accompanied him in the stands. His love of hunting led him to buying land in Adams County. When his hunting days ended, his greatest pleasure was to give rides on his golf cart with his grandchildren and as many as five dogs. Of all his travels around the world, his greatest joy was taking family to various locations to hear the ocean waves. As life settled down, daily coffee visits with the gang at Hardees was a great joy.

He was preceded in death by his siblings Lili Mae Ziemer, Lloyd Holland, and Thomas Holland. He is survived by his wife Mary and his three children, Roxanne (Scott) O'Mary, Troy Holland, and Allison Kienast; his four grandchildren Thomas (Allison) Pistohl, Justin (Stephanie) Pistohl, Ashley (Craig) Cance, and

Dakota Kienast, and his six great-grandchildren, Trace and Alexander Pistohl, Jayne Pistohl, and Cameron, Cora, and Calvin Cance. He is further survived by his sister-in-law, Carla (Bruce) Berrell and brother-in-law, Terrel (Anne) Wesenberg, his nieces Linda Kelly, Mary Paull, Tammy Ponzer, and Tracy Bantleon, his nephews Steve and Scott Holland, and numerous family and friends.

The family would like to thank the

hospice team and staff at Aurora Medical Center for their outstanding care and moral support. In keeping with Jim's wishes, a celebration of life with close friends and family will be held. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made to Oshkosh Area Humane Society.

Fox Cities
Funeral & Cremation Services

Yvonne Fritz

Yvonne Fritz, age 91, passed away on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at The Residence in Oshkosh. She was born on July 25, 1932, to the late Eloys Laatsch and Margaret (Jagodinski) Timmerman.

Yvonne graduated from Oshkosh High School and was a lifelong member of First English Lutheran Church.

Yvonne retired from Oshkosh West High School in 2001. She loved being a paraprofessional for the Special Education Department. She formed lifelong friendships and considered the students in her class "her kids." She kept in touch with many of her students up until her passing.

After retirement she enjoyed traveling and lunches with her friends. She enjoyed spoiling and spending time with her Grandkids. She loved taking them out to eat, to movies and shopping, especially for shoes. They have many fond memories with Grandma Bonnie.

Yvonne is survived by her children: Di-

ane (Steve) Borski, James (Tami) Fritz, John (Carmen) Fritz Laurie (Dale) Mishleau, Linda (Tim) Wiensch, Lisa Drew; grandchildren: Kristina (Jim) Cartwright, Melissa (David) Morris, Megan Abler, Andrew Fritz, Madelyn Fritz, Kassanda Fritz, Corinn Fritz, Sara (Shaun) Hileski, Alexander Grant, Emma Drew, Sophie Drew, Carter Drew; great-grandchildren: Bennett and Isabelle Cartwright, Bentley Morris, Gavin and Elijah Hileski; brother, Donald (Dolly) Laatsch; and sisters-in-law, Berta Laatsch and Sally Helm. In addition to her parents, Yvonne was preceded in death by her infant son, Robert Fritz; daughter, Kathy Carlson; granddaughter, Alana Grant; former spouse, Herman Fritz; brother, Eugene Laatsch; and sons-in-law: Mario Roberts and David Carlson.

A funeral service for Yvonne was held at 12:00 pm on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at First English Lutheran Church, 1013 Minnesota St, Oshkosh. Visitation took place on Saturday at the church from 10:30 am until the time of service. She will be entombed at Lake View Memorial Park.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES



Mavis M. Durant

Mavis "Bunny" M. Durant, age 83, passed away with her husband by her side on December 3, 2023, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. She was born on November 10, 1940, to parents, Hazen and Grace (Reinhart) Adams, in Wisconsin.

After high school, she went to work as a bookkeeper for a local flower shop. She also shared her creativity and crafting by making occasional arrangements.

Mavis married the love of her life, Dennis Durant on May 25, 1959, in Neenah, Wisconsin. They were able to spend 64 wonderful years together. They often could be found singing karaoke, dancing the East Coast Swing, or County Western Line Dancing together.

She is survived by her husband, Den-

nis Durant; three children, Dee (Nickie) Durant, Kay (Glen) Griese, and Darren Durant; grandchildren, Bridgett Feathers, Dustin Durant, Sara (significant other Troy N.) Vadnais, Samantha Vadnais, Stephanie (Cory) DeGross, Bobby Durant and Joey Durant; twelve great-grandchildren, and many other family and friends.

Preceding her in death are her parents; grandson, Benjamin Griese; great-granddaughter, Avolon; and brother, Delroy Adams.

A private Celebration of Life has been held. In lieu of flowers, the family has established a memorial in her honor.

The family would like to extend a very special thank you to the staff on the ICU floor of Mercy Medical Center, Ascension, Oshkosh for their kindness during such a difficult time.

Fox Cities
Funeral & Cremation Services



James M. Ward

James "Jim" M. Ward, 76, passed away in Oshkosh, WI on December 9, 2023. He was born in Wauwatosa, WI to parents, Marvin and Mabel (Kolgen) Ward on March 6, 1947.

Jim proudly served his nation's Air Force from April 1966 until April 1969. On November 9, 1985, he married Julie Newton and together they shared 38 years of marriage. He enjoyed taking care of his yard and enjoyed animals. He will be remembered for his humor.

He is survived by his wife, Julie Ward; brothers-in-law, Ken (Lynn) Newton and

David (Kelly) Newton; sisters-in-law, Mary Kay (Mark) Zuge, Jeanne Fredrick and Kristine (Paul) Nitz; and the beloved family cat, Charlie. He is further survived by many nieces, nephews, and other family and friends.

Preceding him in death, his parents, Marvin and Mabel; and Julie's parents, Robert and Mary Newton.

A private service has been held.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Ascension Mercy and the staff of PCU2.

Fox Cities
Funeral & Cremation Services

Thomas Richard Howe

Thomas Richard Howe Sr. age 79, passed away on December 6, 2023. Tom was born on September 29 1944. Son of George and Genevieve Howe. On June 8, 1968 he married Donna Quint. Tom is survived by his daughters Paula Howe, Brenda Howe, Tina (Dave) Cooper. His grandchildren Scott Howe, Kristi (Justin) Root, Tristan Howe, Alaysia Lien.

Great grandchildren Eleanor, Brooklyn & Michael. He is preceded in death by wife Donna, son Thomas Jr. and his parents. Visitation Monday, December 18, 2023 from 11 am to 1 pm, prayer service at 1 pm at Lake View Memorial Park 2786 Algoma Blvd. Oshkosh.

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