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INSIDE



Prep football
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Warriors stay unbeaten
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Fundraiser to feature
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No vote taken
on possible
county sales tax

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

After weeks of anticipation, an effort to create a county sales tax failed before a vote was even cast.

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors was set to vote on a resolution last week that aimed to create a 0.5% sales tax. Supporters of the sales tax said it would lessen the burden on property tax.

However, on Sept. 16 when Vice Chair-

SEE **Sales tax** ON PAGE 8

Project Life preparing students for workforce

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Oshkosh high school students with disabilities are learning life skills and job skills integral for being employed after graduation.

It was long believed that students and people with developmental disabilities could not hold jobs and this led to many individuals leaving high school with few options. However, programs like Project Life provide students with training they

will need to join the workforce after graduation.

Project Life, a national model with programs in 14 states, started in Oshkosh six years ago where Oshkosh high school juniors and seniors with disabilities are eligible to take part in the program. Currently the program has five students from Oshkosh West and five students from Oshkosh North. There are 12 student spots in the program.

Jessica Sims is the program director and

lead teacher for Project Life. She works with three job coaches at the YMCA on 20th Avenue.

Students spend half of their day in one of the multi-purpose rooms at the YMCA and half their day at their internship. The program has partnered with three local businesses, Buffalo Wild Wings, Goodwill, and the YMCA, that students earn experience as interns.

SEE **Project Life** ON PAGE 11



Oshkosh Herald

Over 200 volunteers per shift scooped white and brown rice into plastic bags and packed the bags into boxes for distribution while listening to live music performed by NEW Dueling Pianos as part of the Feed the Body, Feed the Soul event Thursday at Sunnyview Expo Center.

Volunteer effort provides needed supply of food

By Chris Lusvardi
OSHKOSH HERALD

A large group of volunteers was making a big impact Thursday to address the area's food insecurity needs during the eighth annual Feed the Body, Feed the Soul event at the Sunnyview Expo Center.

Around 1,200 volunteers spread through five shifts spent half the day packing 250,000 pounds of rice for Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. The goal was set to top last year's total of 200,000 pounds.

"We do this every day in the warehouse on a smaller scale," said Liz Wollenberg, chief systems and strategy officer at Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. "The community is showing what it takes to make a big impact with 1,200 volunteers."

With boxes filled with 21 pounds of rice each, Wollenberg said shipments could have an immediate impact by going out as

soon as the next day. According to Feeding America's most recent Map the Meal Gap report, 1-in-8 people in Eastern Wisconsin are currently experiencing food insecurity, including 1-in-6 children.

"Having this amount of food provided for a staple product from the food pantry means a lot," Wollenberg said. "It will last us for the next six months."

The volunteers worked in groups to assemble and fill the boxes and send them down a conveyor belt ready to be shipped back to the warehouse in Appleton and then distributed to those in need throughout the area.

While some volunteers were working up a sweat, the event was intended to be fun as participants could sing and dance along to NEW Dueling Pianos music throughout their shift. Oshkosh Corporation has partnered with Feeding America to lead the volunteer effort for the past

eight years.

This year's event was expected to surpass 1.5 million pounds of rice packed since it was established in 2017.

"The volunteers can feel what a big impact they're having with what they did," said Jodie Larsen, vice president of community engagement at Oshkosh Corporation. "People come year after year to help out."

Oshkosh Corporation has tried to model the event in other communities where it has locations. Planning is already underway for next year's event in Oshkosh, with Larsen saying that they're looking for more sponsors interested in getting involved.

"For some of them, it's about team building," Larsen said. "We're growing and learning we're better together. We can't do it alone so it's great to work together with other businesses in the community."

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Rasmussen’s Apple Acres facing uncertain future

By Michael J. Cooney
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

For generations, families have come to Rasmussen’s Apple Acres on Wisconsin Highway 21 west of Oshkosh to pick apples straight from the tree. With low-hanging branches, even toddlers can take part. But this fall could mark the final season for the family-run orchard.
Owner Tom Lurvey, 80, has been tending the orchard for nearly two decades. He inherited the business eight years ago but admits the numbers no longer add up.
“It doesn’t pay for itself,” Lurvey said. “Chemicals, upkeep on the equipment, insurance, property taxes — we’d have to clear \$20,000 a year, and we’re lucky if we make \$10,000. I’ve just been donating money back in to keep it going, and I’m running out of it.”

Lurvey jokes that maybe customers are avoiding him for his “dynamic personality,” but in truth, he has seen business slow despite what he says is a great crop this year.
Helping him in the rows of trees is his granddaughter, Skylar Hibbin, 15, who grew up at the orchard.
“I love coming here,” Hibbin said. “I like picking apples, spending time with him. It’s fun to drive around the orchard.”
Her favorite variety is Snow Sweet — “sweet but also crunchy, so you don’t get



Photo by Michael Cooney
Skylar Hibbin helps to pick apples at Rasmussen’s Apple Acres, which is owned by her grandfather, Tom Lurvey.

that a lot.”
While the orchard is primarily a pick-your-own operation, they also offer bagged apples ready for purchase.
Asked if she would want to take over the orchard someday, Hibbin didn’t hesitate.
“I would love to, but it’s a lot of money to put in,” she said. “Nothing lasts forever.”
For one final season, Lurvey says the orchard still offers what it always has: a place where families can share the simple joy of harvesting apples together.
First Congregational opens concert season Oct. 7
Oshkosh Herald
Singer Sean Lynch and pianist Marty Vajgrt on Oct. 7 will open the 25th year of First Tuesday at First Congregational, 137 Algoma Boulevard.
First Tuesday is a lunchtime offering for the Oshkosh community.
Area musicians perform from noon to 12:37 p.m.
Home-made lunch follows: four kinds of fresh baked bread; two soups; salad and desserts.
A donation of \$10 per person is suggested.

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Back in the Day

Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical Society

Sept. 23, 1988

County OK's New Fair Site: Winnebago County will be getting a new fairground. The county board voted 24-18 to develop a new fairground on 155 acres of county owned land north

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of Oshkosh at the county park. The present fairground on Murdock St. in Oshkosh will remain operable for the next two or three years while the new site is being developed. Sale of the present fairground site would offset the cost of developing a new site. The 27-acre fairground site on Murdock St. is appraised at \$1.1 million. The present site has served the community well since 1910 but the county board felt it was time for a change.
Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Sept. 23, 1988

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Rita and Jeff

City to take second look at problem drainage pipe

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Common Council has sent city staff back to the drawing board to find a solution to a drainage pipe problem. Oshkosh resident and homeowner Connor Miller went to the council meeting Sept. 9 to ask they not move forward with a proposed easement and instead search for another option. Miller said the easement will not allow him to have a fenced-in backyard among other hardships the easement may bring.

Miller lives on Summerset Way, where a drainage pipe installed in the late 1980s has become a contentious topic as residents are concerned about water runoff and declining property values due to the

proposed easement.

An easement is placed to allow city workers access to the land that the drainage pipe runs through. This would be a 20-foot-wide by 400-foot-long strip of land running from Summerset Way to the right of way east of Jackson Street.

Miller believes if the city would have moved forward with the easement that he and other residents in the neighborhood would seek “compensation” for the actions by the city, possibly meaning he would seek to sue the city.

Miller thinks the pipe has caused flooding resulting in additional water near the foundation, which he stated has caused a crack in the foundation of his home that was built about 30 years ago.

“This is going to be significant for us,” Miller said.

He added the easement would lead to his property losing significant value.

The 24-inch drainage pipe was installed in 1989 by a private company. It goes from Miller’s backyard and connects with the storm sewer beneath Jackson Street. The pipe takes storm water drainage from Jackson Street.

All seven members of the council sided with Miller, despite current development plans to build a day care center.

Council member Karl Buelow stated he understands that alternatives to the easement are more complicated and possibly more expensive but that they are better than placing an easement at this time.

Buelow said his vote against the easement was not a sign that he does not have faith in the city staff, but that they should be looking at other options, despite being more costly.

Mayor Matt Mugerauer said he was disappointed the council was not presented with alternatives including potential costs for the easement from city staff before the meeting.

“It’s my job, along with the six others that sit up here, to balance the needs of the few versus the needs of the many and the needs of business versus the needs of residential,” Mugerauer said. “To do that well, I need all the information that I can possibly gather.”

“I can’t make an informed decision tonight because I don’t have all the options available to me,” he said.

By deciding to delay the easement at the Sept. 9 meeting, the development of the Advocap Child Care incubator will be delayed. The \$2.4 million project is designed to create exponential growth in the number of child care options available in Oshkosh.

Child care facilities continue to close across Wisconsin and nationwide. In Oshkosh, the Christian Community Child Center on Jackson Street closed earlier this year. The incubator is set to be built in three phases next to the former Christian child care center.

The council gave the public works and community development departments a deadline of Nov. 11 to come up with alternatives for the easement.

Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods finds new home

Oshkosh Herald

Greater Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc. has purchased a home at 135 Church Ave. in the Middle Village Neighborhood Association to serve as the organization’s long-term office.

The home features a spacious lower level that provides room for staff, programming and events. The organization will also manage three, one-bedroom apartments, located on the second and third floors. The rentals will contribute to financial stability for the organization and provide three units to the City’s workforce housing market.

“Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods is committed to community development, neighborhood revitalization and access to quality housing,” Executive Director Liz Last said. “This new endeavor is a huge step toward our investment in Oshkosh

neighborhoods.”

“Owning a home in a Neighborhood Association has been a dream and long-term goal of the organization,” Board Chair Stephanie Brooks said. “We are pleased to see it come to fruition. This step takes the organization to the next level and puts our roots down in this amazing community,”

Greater Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc. (GO-HNI), also known as Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods, is a non-profit community development corporation dedicated to strengthening Oshkosh neighborhoods by engaging residents, encouraging reinvestment and elevating community pride. GO-HNI accomplishes this through the development and long-term support of the City of Oshkosh Neighborhood Associations.

To learn more, visit gohni.org or call 920-230-2717.

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Festival Foods sold to St. Louis-based chain

Oshkosh Herald

The sale of the parent company of Skogen's Festival Foods was announced last week.

St. Louis-based 1939 Group plans to purchase 100% of the shares of Festival Foods and Hometown Grocers, including the shares held by Mark Skogen, CEO of Festival Foods and Hometown Grocers. The sale includes the shares in the trust held by associates in their Employee Stock Ownership Plan.

The 1939 Group is owned by the family that owns Schnuck Markets, Inc., whose name honors the year the family's matriarch, Anna Donovan Schnuck, opened the first store in St. Louis.

Festival Foods and Hometown Grocers operate 51 stores throughout Wisconsin, including the Festival Foods at 2415 Westowne Ave. in Oshkosh. Upon the sale's closing, the 1939 Group said it is committed to maintaining the stores' existing banners, all of which are well-known and respected in the communities they serve.

"With this combination, we're welcom-

ing more than 8,000 associates to our family, unifying two family legacies and redefining what it means to be a regional grocer," said Todd Schnuck, chairman and CEO of Schnuck Markets, Inc.

Upon closing of the purchase, Todd Schnuck will become chairman and CEO of the newly-formed 1939 Group and will also lead a workforce of more than 19,000 as chairman and CEO for Schnuck Markets, Inc., Skogen's Festival Foods and Hometown Grocers. The combined group will have a footprint of 164 stores in Wisconsin, Missouri, Indiana and Illinois.

Upon completion of the purchase, Schnucks, Festival Foods and Hometown Grocers will maintain their existing corporate headquarters and operate as separate, sister companies with shared support by the 1939 Group. The 1939 Group and Schnucks are based in St. Louis and Festival Foods' and Hometown Grocers' offices are located in Onalaska and Green Bay.

The closing is anticipated to be completed later in October, subject to customary review and approval for these types of transactions.

Business news roundup

Kate Stel has joined **Oshkosh Area United Way** (OAUW) as its new donor engagement manager. In this role, Stel will focus on building strong relationships with donors and supporting long-term growth for United Way's work in the community. Most recently, Stel worked with the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, where she oversaw donor communications, guided stewardship practices and supported initiatives to strengthen community partnerships.

Hesperus Wealth Planning, in conjunc-

tion with Osaic Wealth, Inc. has opened its doors to the public. Wade H. Paffenroth, CFP founded the firm after advising at Fox Communities Credit Union and Old National/AnchorBank for the past decade and a half. Paffenroth founded the firm in order to "provide a more client focused, boutique experience, free from typical conflicts and constraints found at large institutions." The new firm is located at 1730 Algoma Boulevard, Suite B in Oshkosh. Paffenroth may be reached at 920-213-7723 or via e-mail at wade@hesperuswealth.com.

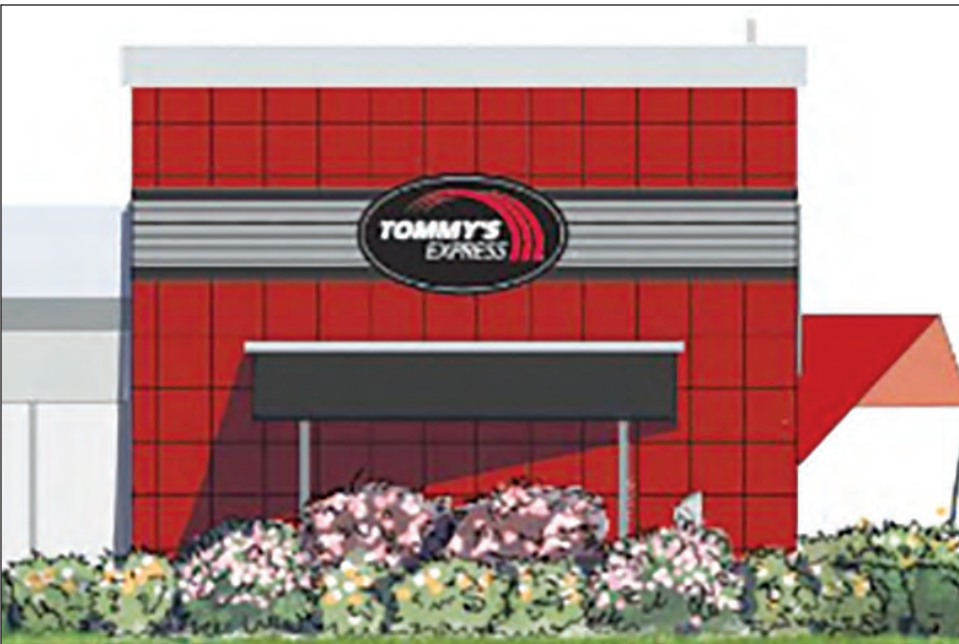


Photo from City of Oshkosh

The exterior of the proposed Tommy's Express Car Wash at 1700 S. Koeller St.

Plans again approved for drive-through car wash

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Plan Commission has approved plans to turn an old restaurant site into a drive-through car wash. The Oshkosh Common Council was expected to consider the plans on Tuesday evening.

The proposed site for the car wash, 1700 S. Koeller St., is where Applebee's used to be located. A drive-through window that city staff was not informed of meant the plans had to be sent back to the Plan Commission for approval.

The car wash will be a 130-foot-long tunnel with the building having a footprint of about 5,270 square feet. It will have 20 vacuum stations on the property east of the car wash building.

Tommy's Express is a nationwide chain with locations in Sheboygan, West Bend and Stevens Point.

There will be three lanes with two lanes designated for members and the third lane for cash and credit card transactions. All three lanes converge into one lane that goes through the car wash.

The two automated lanes for members will have license plate reader technology to allow members to have quicker access.

The Plan Commission had approved plans in April; however, a few changes needed to be made to the plans. These changes include getting rid of the entrance and exit onto South Koeller Street and have all cars enter and exit from Osborn Avenue.

The Site Implementation Plan also needed to be reviewed and revised by the Plan Commission because there is a drive-through window that city staff didn't

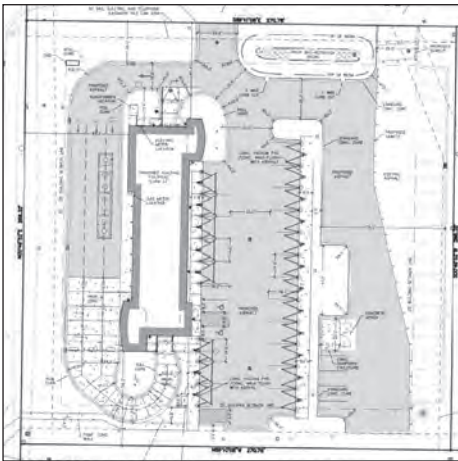


Photo from City of Oshkosh

A proposed drive-through car wash in Oshkosh has received approval from the Plan Commission. The site will close the South Koeller Street entrance and all vehicles will enter the car wash from the north on Osborn Avenue.

know existed.


The drive-through window is for customer transactions before entering the car wash. The applicant, Peter Schwabe, explained the window has to be on that side of the building. This goes against city zoning ordinance stating no drive-through window should be placed between the main building and the street right of way.

Schwabe will also be installing additional shrubbery to attempt to block the visibility of the drive-through for drivers on South Koeller Street.

The project is estimated to cost \$2.9 million to raze the current building and build the car wash.


The Plan Commission approved the plans by a 7-1 vote with chair Thomas Perry opposing the proposal.

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Photo from UW-Oshkosh

UWO staff helped to raise funding for the university during the Titan Day of Giving campaign.

UW-Oshkosh surpasses fundraising goal

Oshkosh Herald

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh surpassed its goal and raised a record-breaking \$198,389 as part of its Titan Day of Giving campaign. The fundraiser held Sept. 12 in celebration of the university's founding in 1871 rallied 463 donors to help surpass the goal

of \$150,000. Contributions raised through Titans Day of Giving fuel scholarships, enhance academic and co-curricular programs and provide resources that empower both students and faculty. University officials said matching gifts offered by partners amplified the impact, helping drive momentum that day.

While the campaign has concluded, UWO leaders emphasize that opportunities to support the university continue year-round. They said every contribution helps inspire students, empower faculty and strengthen the broader community. For more information on supporting UWO, visit uwosh.edu/foundation.

Fox Valley Technical College open house scheduled for Oct. 7

Oshkosh Herald

All Fox Valley Technical College campuses, including the Oshkosh Riverside Campus at 150 N. Campbell Road, will be holding fall open house events. The open house from 3 to 7 p.m. Oct. 7 will be an opportunity to tour classrooms and labs on the campus, speak with staff and explore programs. The college offers more than 200 programs. Prospective students who attend the open house can apply for free. For more information, go to bit.ly/3HGrGp0.

WIAA executive director to speak at luncheon

Oshkosh Herald

The Christian Values for Business Excellence in Leadership is holding an event in October. Stephanie Hauser, WIAA executive director, will be the speaker during a luncheon Oct. 14 at the Oshkosh Convention Center. The topic will be leading with grace in clumsy times. The event includes fellowship, networking and an inspirational message along with a buffet lunch. Registration and lunch will be from 11 to 11:45 a.m., followed by the program from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person, \$370 for a table of eight and \$460 for a table of 10. For more information, visit eilgroup.org.





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Fundraiser provides friendly competition for local bands

By George Halas
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The Battle of The Big Bands 2 will be held Friday at Becket’s Atrium in Oshkosh.

The “battle” will feature the Neenah-based Big Band Reunion and the Oshkosh-based Water City Jazz Orchestra for the benefit of Casa Esther.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and the music will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets will be \$25 at the door but can be purchased in advance for \$20 at secure.qgiv.com/event/bobb2025/. The event will also include a silent auction, a wine pull and a 50/50 raffle. In addition to tables and chairs for sitting and listening, there will be an area for dancing.

The fundraiser will serve as the season opener for both bands. Led by co-directors Ken Skitch and Marty Robinson, the Big Band Reunion will begin its 34th year at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Cranky Pat’s in Neenah. The Water City Jazz Orchestra under the direction of Kurt Shipe and Mike Malone begins its 11th season the same evening at 8 p.m. at Fletch’s Tap House in Oshkosh.

Both bands play every Monday night through the end of May and admission for both is free.

The format for the “competition” at Becket’s will have the bands playing “alternating tunes throughout the night,” according to Skitch.

“Each band will highlight a wide variety of big band music, both old and new,” he said. “The real winners will be the audience.”

“The audience can expect an evening of entertainment, dancing and very approachable music,” echoed Shipe. “At



Submitted photo

The Water City Jazz Orchestra will be playing Friday along with Big Band Reunion during the Battle of The Big Bands 2 at Becket’s Atrium in Oshkosh. The event is a fundraiser for Casa Esther.

the end of night, the bands will combine for some drum battles and some of the members of each band will switch places.”

“We’re all good friends, and we all admire each other,” Shipe added, although both he and Skitch mentioned that “there might be some friendly ribbing” throughout the evening.

Building on the success of last year’s inaugural Battle of The Big Bands, which “couldn’t have gone any better and was entertaining for everyone,” according to

Shipe, this year’s event will be different in that vocalist Janet Planet will sing with the BBR while vocalist Erin Krebs will perform with the WCJO.

“This year will be different,” Shipe said. “Erin sang with both bands last year, and she was phenomenal, but we’ve added Janet this year to make it even better. They are both world-class singers.”

The BBR’s set list will includes songs from Planet’s “Just Like A Woman” and “Venus Moon” big band albums as well as a special guest solo by Father Joe Mattern, who is an original BBR member as well as founder, president and spiritual advisor to Casa Esther.

Mattern founded Casa Esther in 2008 focused on helping the immigrant farm worker community in Omro.

“We now serve all of Winnebago County,” said executive director Sara Kosmicki.

“We now have three program areas. Our basic needs distribution program includes rental assistance, eviction and homelessness prevention, helping people get securely housed and we have the flexibility to help with utility bills and hotels for people in transition.

“We have a non-violence advocacy program aimed at college students to train the next generation of leaders in the power and use of non-violence,” she continued. “Our Gather in The Garden program works with local youth to help them learn to grow their own food as well as growing food to donate to local food pantries. We partner with the UW Extension, the Omro Public Library and the Boys & Girls Club.”

“We want to thank the organizers at Casa Esther for including us,” Shipe said. “They are the best, especially Father Joe.”

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Reacting to yet another act of political violence

I was about to finish a column related to improving government communication, but for the second time in three months, I am writing about political violence.

In my professional roles, I am involved with multiple organizations dedicated to preventing political violence and promoting civil dialogue. One of those organizations released a bi-partisan message condemning the latest act of political violence earlier this month at Utah Valley University. Shockingly (though perhaps I should not be shocked), some people responded with anger to the condemnation.

It is hard to understand how condemning a political assassination could upset people. But that small experience, as well as so much of the reaction to the Charlie Kirk murder, and much of the lack of reaction to the assassination of Minnesota State Rep. Melissa Hortman and other recent acts of political violence, are telling. We have so far to go in healing our national divides. Dehumanizing language, casual cruelty, misinformation and whataboutisms are dominating our collective



discourse and threatening democracy itself.

I keep asking myself, who wants this? Who wants a political climate where violence against an opponent is tolerated and even celebrated? Who wants a society where we constantly question each other’s motives? Who wants our children to see us celebrating someone’s murder? Who wants a society where mass shootings, and the lifelong trauma they cause, are a weekly if not daily occurrence? Who wants to live a life full of anger and hate?

I have to believe almost nobody wants any of this. Yet, the continued degradation of our political culture is leading us down a perilous path. Combatting the degradation is hard. The aforementioned condemnation of political violence likely

angered people who saw it as celebrating the views of someone who routinely attacked their very being. I get it. It is difficult to have empathy for someone who you think showed you none. But we all have a choice; let the momentum take us down into the mud or fight against gravity to get to the high road.

Further complicating matters, the circumstances of making the choice to take the high road are not the same for everyone. It is easy for me to advocate such a course when I have never been the victim of racism, never had my right to marry whom I love questioned, never faced extreme poverty, never faced religious discrimination, and never had anyone attack my right to exist.

But continuing the path of political degradation feeds the antecedents of political violence and does nothing to address the very real inequities and social ills in our society. The presence of anger, hate and violence in our politics hurts everyone.

Political violence in a democratic society is so chilling because it is an attack on all

of us. Yes, each act of political violence is a personal tragedy for those directly impacted, but it also chips away at the foundation of self-government. That foundation is laws, the right to free expression, and the right to participate in civic life without being silenced by violence.

Now is not a moment to focus on what one political leader or pundit said or did not say. Accusations of hypocrisy are pretty typical political fare but now is not a typical political moment. Political violence cannot be normalized. Doing so further threatens the already fragile foundation on which our democracy sits.

Returning to the questions I asked earlier, who wants this? How does a cycle of political violence and the reflexive ranking of tragedies against once another benefit society? Let’s turn against political violence rather than against one another. Let’s embrace empathy and connection rather than callousness and siloing. It is time for us to take the high road.

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

Attempted robbery of ATM case headed to trial

Oshkosh Herald

A group of 12 jurors will be asked to decide what happened at a gas station last year when a man attempted to rob a security guard servicing an ATM in Oshkosh.

Jaymin C. Blankinship has been in custody for over a year waiting for the case to be resolved. Blankinship, 23, is charged with attempted first-degree intentional homicide, attempted armed robbery and three counts of second-degree recklessly endangering safety.

Court documents allege Blankinship attempted to take the security guard’s firearm. That was when three bystanders took Blankinship to the ground.

Blankinship has been in custody since last September and held at the Winnebago County Jail on a \$500,000 cash bond.

Earlier this year Blankinship entered an NGI plea or not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect. A competency report was completed in which a doctor formed the opinion that Blankinship is competent to stand trial and participate in his defense.

Winnebago County Circuit Court Branch 1 Judge Michael Rust ruled Blankinship as competent in May and the case proceeded.

Attempted first-degree intentional homicide has a maximum prison sentence of 40 years, followed by 20 years of extended supervision, while attempted armed



Blankinship

robbery could lead to 25 years in prison, and each of the reckless endangerment charges has a maximum prison sentence of five years.

If convicted on all counts, Blankinship could spend the next 80 years in prison.

According to the criminal complaint, on Sept. 6, 2024, Oshkosh police were dispatched to the Kwik Trip on the corner of 20th Avenue and Oregon Street. Officers learned on the scene that an armed guard was servicing an ATM at the gas station when he was allegedly attacked.

Blankinship was standing behind the guard while the guard was servicing the ATM when Blankinship allegedly attempted to grab the guard’s gun. However, the holster has a retention feature which locks the gun into the holster.

Bystanders waiting at the station then grabbed Blankinship and got him off the guard. Blankinship was then put in a choke hold and held at gun point by the security guard until police arrived.

The bystanders told police Blankinship’s behavior was not normal leading up to the attack. One of them told police he was “very fidgety” before the attack on the guard.

The bystanders are all classified as victims in the case and represent the three recklessly endangering safety charges.

A gas station employee told police that Blankinship had been living in his car in the parking lot. Earlier on Sept. 6 a note was put on Blankinship’s car stating he needed to leave or the car would be towed.

The five-day jury trial is scheduled to start on Oct. 20.

Lourdes Academy recognizes award winners

Oshkosh Herald

Lourdes Academy will hold an awards ceremony as part of its Welcome Home Weekend.

The event is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Oct. 2 at Lourdes Academy in the Bill Behring Commons.

The honorees include Joe Leschke for

the Athletic Hall of Fame, Hal and Monica Schulz for Distinguished Stewardship and Tom Hulsebosch for Outstanding Alumni. Hulsebosch is unable to attend the ceremony in person. An acceptance message will be shown during the ceremony.

To register for the event, visit 2SLAAwards.givesmart.com.

Business achievements

Lakeside Marina was recognized as one of the Top Ten Dealers in the nation at the 2025 Chaparral Boats Dealer Conference, an annual event celebrating excellence in customer service, sales and dealership performance across the country. In August, the Chaparral Dealer Conference in Key Largo, Fla. brought together marine dealerships from across the United States to recognize outstanding achievements in the industry.

Patrick Behling, apprentice electrician at **Shea Electric & Communications**, was recently honored as Apprentice of the Year through the Fox Valley Division of the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC) of WI NECA (National Electrical Contractors Association). The award is given to one individual from the IBEW 577 who has

placed top of their class through demonstrated exceptional knowledge through written and skills assessments. As part of this honor, Behling joined other Outstanding Apprentices from around the country in Ann Arbor, Mich., at Eastern Michigan University and Washtenaw Community College for a one-week education session sponsored by the JATC/NECA/IBEW.

Ryan Gravunder was awarded the 2025 Producer of the Year Award by **Erie Insurance Company** at their recent Annual Business Meeting held at Lambeau Field in August. Gravunder is a licensed producer with Insurance Services by Karen for the past two years and services the Oshkosh and Berlin area. The agency was also recognized as a Branch Elite Agency in Personal Lines, Commercial Lines and Life in 2024.



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Oshkosh Herald
 Work continued last week to make improvements at the Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh, which hosts events such as the Winnebago County Fair.

Renovations underway at Sunnyview Expo Center

Oshkosh Herald

Work that is expected to continue into next year on west campus improvements at the Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh is underway.

The project that started in late August includes a complete redesign of the parking lot to improve the flow of traffic and create better spaces for the over 600 events hosted each year. The previous lot had recurring drainage issues around the lot and the expo building that this project

will address.

The campus will also get a retention pond and added gravel overflow parking and space for campers. Lighting will also be improved throughout the parking lot.

The Sunnyview Expo Center hosts events including the county fair, horse shows, festivals and more. Parking is available in other areas for events while the construction takes place. The construction project is set to be completed by early summer 2026 in time for peak festival season.

County executive holding budget listening sessions

Oshkosh Herald

County Executive Gordon Hintz will be holding listening sessions to provide information about how the 2026 County Budget will work.

Hintz will provide an opportunity for residents to learn about county programs

and service. Residents will be able to share their thoughts on the future of the community.

The first round of sessions includes a meeting at 6 p.m. today at Wittman Regional Airport, 525 W. 20th Ave. Hintz will provide updates on his Facebook page.

Sales tax

FROM PAGE 1

man Chuck Farrey made the motion to bring the resolution he authored to the floor to discuss and for a vote, there was not a single county board supervisor willing to second the motion, and therefore the resolution failed.

There could still be an opportunity for a new resolution on a county sales tax to be brought to the county board in the future.

Farrey’s resolution noted the county has a growing structural deficit and that the proposed 2026 budget will add an additional \$3.3 million to the county’s deficit.

A number of residents spoke out against the sales tax at the meeting.

County Executive Gordon Hintz said he did not support the resolution in part because of the 30% revenue sharing with Winnebago County municipalities. No county in Wisconsin shares more than 10% of sales tax revenue with its municipalities.

Additionally, some supervisors did not support the resolution because it did not outline exactly what the revenue from the new tax would go to support.

County Supervisor Rachel Dowling of Menasha used her social media platform to rally opposition to the sales tax. She questioned the idea that the new tax would reduce property taxes and added that renters were unlikely to see any of those savings passed to them.

The proposed county sales tax of 0.5% was expected to earn between \$17 million and \$20 million annually. Between \$5.1 million and \$6 million of that would have been shared with municipalities.

This could have meant around \$2.3 million for Oshkosh, just under \$1 million for Neenah and almost \$88,000 for Winneconne.

The Oshkosh Common Council has requested the state allow the city to have a 0.5% sales tax. The council discussed the sales tax would put less pressure on the collection of property tax and was categorized as an extra tool in the city’s tool belt for providing services.

A sales tax could be added to non-essential purchases like TVs, tablets and other luxury items. Essential purchases such as groceries and medication will not be subject to a county or city sales tax.

Winnebago County remains one of two counties in Wisconsin that do not have a sales tax.

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Oshkosh Herald

Calendar of events

Wednesday, Sept. 24

Music on Main featuring The Professionals, 5:30 p.m., Opera House Square

Thursday, Sept. 25

Community Players Theater presents Rope by Patrick Hamilton, 2 and 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Friday, Sept. 26

Community Players Theater presents Rope by Patrick Hamilton, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

The Brain That Wouldn’t Die, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

UWO Volleyball Community Night, 7 p.m., Kolf Sports Center

Battle of the Big Bands 2, 7 p.m., Beckett’s Atrium

Saturday, Sept. 27

Downtown Oshkosh Farmers Market, 8 a.m.

Walk to End Alzheimer’s, 8:30 a.m., Rainbow Park

Oshkosh Earth Science Club Gem and Mineral Show, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Oshkosh Ukefest on the Fox River, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Seniors Center, 200 N. Campbell Road

Oktoberfest, noon, Oshkosh Masonic Center

NEW HMong Project Ntsuag Siab ealing Concert, 4 p.m., Culver Family Center, 625 Pearl Ave.

Lara Beitz Comedy Show, 7 p.m.,

Art Fest to feature Habitat ReStore items

Oshkosh Herald

Artists will shop the Oshkosh Habitat ReStore for items to turn into art during the upcoming ReStorative Art Fest.

The first-time event by Oshkosh Habitat ReStore and Jambalaya Arts Inc will be from noon to 6 p.m. Oct. 4 at 1640 S. Koeller St. Organizers said the event is open to all artists, hobbyists, engineers, tinkerers and crafters and could be a project for a parent and child to work on together.

The event will feature live art demonstrations by local artists who repurpose salvaged materials from the ReStore into creative, one-of-a-kind pieces, all created live in the ReStore parking lot. The Restorative Art Fest aims to inspire creativity while promoting sustainable practices through reuse and recycling.

Comedian performing at Time Community Theater

Oshkosh Herald

Comedian Lara Beitz is performing Saturday at the Time Community Theater. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. for the 7 p.m. show.

Originally from Milwaukee, Beitz has performed in the Los Angeles comedy scene and has become a favorite regular at Hollywood’s Comedy Store. Her stand-up has been featured on Showtime, Comedy Central and The Late Late Show with James Corden.

On Comedy Central’s Lights Out with David Spade, she was the first comedian ever to do stand-up. Following that per-

Lions club informational meeting slated

Oshkosh Herald

A group attempting to form a local Lions International club in Oshkosh is organizing an informational meeting.

The meeting will be held at 6:15 p.m.

Time Community Theater

Community Players Theater presents Rope by Patrick Hamilton, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Sunday, Sept. 28

Crafts and Critters Fall Craft Fair, 9 a.m., Menominee Park Zoo

Oshkosh Earth Science Club Gem and Mineral Show, 10 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center

Thursday, Oct. 2

Pups in the Garden Fundraiser, 3 p.m., Fifth Ward Brewing

Friday, Oct. 3

Remember...Hiwela and Camp Fire Memorabilia Open House, 10 a.m., Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church, 1174 Algoma Boulevard

Saturday, Oct. 4

Downtown Oshkosh Farmers Market, 8 a.m.

Remember...Hiwela and Camp Fire Memorabilia Open House, 10 a.m., Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church, 1174 Algoma Boulevard

ReStorative Art Fest, noon, Oshkosh Habitat ReStore, 1640 S. Koeller St.

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

Scream, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

Mariachi San Jose, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Tuesday, Oct. 7

First Tuesday at First Congregational featuring singer Sean Lynch and pianist Marty Vajgrt, noon, 137 Algoma Boulevard

Thursday, Oct. 9

UWO Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Lab Band “Basie Swings,” 7:30 p.m., Theatre Arts Center

“We’re excited to bring the community together around art, sustainability and education,” said Dan Traxler, director of resource development of Habitat for Humanity of Oshkosh. “This event highlights how repurposed materials can be transformed into something truly beautiful, just like the work we do in our mission of building homes, communities and hope.”

As part of the event, Habitat will be launching its Aluminum Recycling Drive and Electronics Recycling Initiative with cell phones, tablets and smartwatches accepted.

The free family-friendly event will include food trucks, a beer garden, live music and entertainment and a kid’s zone with an appearance by Pointer, the Wisconsin Herd mascot.

formance, she was made a regular panelist on the show.

She has toured with Joe Rogan, Marc Maron, Theo Von and Pete Holmes, and has been interviewed on The Joe Rogan Experience, WTF with Marc Maron and You Made it Weird with Pete Holmes. Her comedy special “STOPPABLE” is out now on AppleTV+ and Prime Video.

Beitz will be joined in Oshkosh by Adam Burke, Sonal Aggarwal and Ryan Mason.

The event is for guests age 18 and older. Tickets are on sale at foxvalleycomedy.com.

Thursday at Oshkosh Public Library, Room AB located downstairs. Any service-minded person is welcome to attend.

Lions International is the largest service organization in the world.

EAA Aviation Museum to display autonomous airplane

Oshkosh Herald

A fully autonomous eVTOL fixed-wing aircraft is now on display at the EAA Aviation Museum.

The aircraft known as Cora is Wisk's Gen 5 (serial number 7) that first was seen during a public demonstration flight at EAA AirVenture in 2023. Those attending the show could watch Cora fly without a pilot onboard over the two days it flew over Oshkosh.

During the demonstration, the aircraft could be seen flying full transitions from hovering to wing-borne flight. The aircraft is considered a pioneer in urban air mobility, as it was developed as a fully autonomous, electric-powered vertical takeoff and landing, fixed-wing air taxi.

Gen 5 was built to evaluate vertical propulsion systems, avionics and software. It helped solidify Wisk's proprietary boom design and configuration and was used to test airspace integration and autonomous flight in controlled airspace.

It will be displayed in the EAA museum's Innovations Gallery, with signage, video and QR codes with more information coming soon to enhance the exhibit. Other unique aircraft on display in



Photo by Dave Witty

The fully autonomous Wisk Gen 5 aircraft known as Cora that flew over EAA AirVenture in 2023 is now on display at the EAA Aviation Museum.

that area include the prototype Aerocar, Opener's Blackfly personal eVTOL air vehicle, and the same-mold reproductions of the Voyager and SpaceShipOne.

Fans invited to run with the Herd during annual event on Oct. 26

Oshkosh Herald

The Wisconsin Herd will host the fourth annual Run with the Herd 5K and 1K Family Fun Run on Oct. 26.

The start and finish line will take place at Oshkosh Arena with a route that runs through downtown Oshkosh. The 5K competitive timed run will start at 8 a.m., with the 1K Family Fun Run to follow right after. All runners are invited to stay for a free Fan Fest at Oshkosh Arena with snacks, refreshments and activities.

All participants will receive one 2025 Wisconsin Herd home game ticket voucher, one exclusive race t-shirt, one commemorative medal and one race swag bag. The ticket voucher is good for one ticket to a Herd home game in November or December, based on availability. Ticket vouchers can be redeemed online or by calling 920-233-HERD. Additional tickets and upgrades will be available for purchase.

Sign up for \$35 before the registration price increases to \$40 on Oct. 1. Participants can register online at runsignup.com/Race/WI/Oshkosh/RunwiththeHerd5K1K.

Globetrotters return to Oshkosh New Year's Eve

Oshkosh Herald

The Harlem Globetrotters are making a stop in Oshkosh on the team's 100 Year Tour.

The team will be playing at Oshkosh Arena on Dec. 31. Tickets went on sale to the general public on Monday.

The Globetrotters said this centennial season is a once-in-a-century celebration of 100 years of jawdropping "No Way!" moves, 100 Years of "Wow!" moments, and 100 years of basketball thrills. From gravity-defying dunks to game-changing tricks, fans will feel the history, the joy and the fun that the Globetrotters deliver.

For more information, please call 920-233-HERD or email info@wisconsinherd.com.

NEW HMong hosts community mental wellness event

Oshkosh Herald

NEW HMong, a nonprofit organization committed to elevating and empowering the HMong community in Northeast Wisconsin, is hosting the first-ever Project Ntsuag Siab healing concert, an initiative created to demystify mental health and reduce death by suicide in the HMong community.

This day of healing through HMong art, music and culture takes place from 4 to 10 p.m. Saturday at Culver Family Center located at 625 Pearl Ave.

The name Ntsuag Siab, means "orphaned heart" in HMong and it reflects a deep, quiet struggle. In traditional HMong stories, orphans are seen as forgotten and hopeless.

Today, many HMong individuals may appear confident on the outside, but silently carry emotional pain. Ntsuag Siab symbolizes this hidden suffering, hearts feeling lost and alone, shaped by the challenge of navigating two worlds, conflicting expectations and unspoken generational trauma.

Through culturally grounded programming, Project Ntsuag Siab, fosters connection, strengthens cultural identity and inspires collective healing, offering hope where it's needed most. The Project Ntsuag Siab healing concert will showcase HMong artists sharing their talents through music, art and powerful messages of hope and resilience.

NEW HMong uses the uppercase H and M in "HMong" to honor both major dialects and their commitment to inclusivity.

To learn more about Project Ntsuag Siab visit newhmongwi.org/project-ntsuag-siab.

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Meteorologist to explain how satellites save lives

Oshkosh Herald

Meteorologist Steve Ackerman is coming to Oshkosh Public Library to explain the science behind how satellite technology is used for weather apps to show it's raining before the rain can be seen outside.

Ackermann, a leading voice in meteorology and co-host of Wisconsin Public Radio's The Weather Guys, will bring the forecast down to earth in a way that blends cutting-edge tech, real-world impact and a familiar touch of Wisconsin weather wisdom. His presentation will be from 6 to

7:30 p.m. Oct. 1 under the library's Dome. From tracking hurricanes to monitoring weather changes, satellites are saving lives, guiding emergency responses and helping scientists to study the planet.

As the former vice chancellor for research and graduate education at UW-Madison and an emeritus professor in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, Ackerman will reveal why what's orbiting above matters to everyone.

For more information, visit oshkoshlibrary.org or call 920-236-5205.

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Public library calendar

Some events require registration. Visit oshkoshlibrary.org to register or call 920-236-5203.

Oct. 1
 Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.
 Teen Advisory Board, 4:30 p.m.
 Saving Lives with Satellites, 6 p.m., adults

Oct. 2
 Baby and Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m.
 Teen Animanga Club, 4:30 p.m.
 Chess Club, 5 p.m., all ages

Oct. 3
 This Month in Library History, 9 a.m., Youtube
 Preteen Book Club, 4:30 p.m.
 Teen Book Club, 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 4
 Halloween Costume Swap, 9 a.m. to noon, all ages
 Read to a Dog, 10 a.m., ages 5-12
 Oshkosh Community Jam, 11 a.m., all ages
 Games at the Library: TTRPG, noon, all ages
 Haunted History Walk, 4 p.m., teens and adults

Oct. 5
 Green Bay Packers' 13 Championship Seasons, 2 p.m., all ages

Oct. 6
 Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m.
 Read to a Dog, 4 p.m., ages 5-12
 The U.S. Constitution: A 3-Part Course for Citizens, 6 p.m., preteens to adults

Oct. 7
 Storytime for Grownups at Planet Perk, 6 p.m.

Oct. 8
 Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.
 Haunted History Walk, 4 p.m., teens and adults

Oct. 9
 Baby and Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m.
 Second Thursday Book Group, 1:30 p.m., adults
 Adult Animanga Club, 4 p.m.
 Chess Club, 5 p.m., all ages

Oct. 10
 Elementary Book Club, 4:30 p.m.
 Young Adult Book Club, 4:30 p.m.
 Dia D Los Muertos Mask Making, 5 p.m., kids and families
 Oshkosh Reads Freely, 6 p.m., all ages

Oct. 11
 Estate Planning Q & A: Coffee and Conversation, 10 a.m., adults
 125 Years of Gaming, noon to 4 p.m., preteens to adults

Oct. 13
 Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m.
 Read to a Dog, 4 p.m., ages 5 – 12
 The U.S. Constitution: A 3-Part Course for Citizens, 6 p.m., preteens to adults

Oct. 14
 Tunes and Tots, 10 a.m., babies and toddlers
 Genealogy Club: Writing Your Family History, 1:30 p.m., adults
 Adult DIY, 6 p.m., adults
 Stitch Together, 6:30 p.m., adults

Oct. 15
 Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.
 Teen Advisory Board (TAB), 4:30 p.m.
 Learn How to Play Bridge, 5:30 p.m., adults
 Halloween: History, Folklore and Customs with Chad Lewis, 6 p.m.

Oct. 16
 Baby and Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m.
 Teen Animanga Club, 4:30 p.m.
 Chess Club, 5 p.m., all ages
 Not Your Classic Book Club, 6 p.m., adults

Oct. 17
 WonderSTEAM, 4:30 p.m., elementary and preteen

Oct. 18
 Read to a Dog, 10 a.m., ages 5 – 12
 Nibbles and Giggles, noon, babies, toddlers, preschoolers

Oct. 20
 Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m.
 Read to a Dog, 4 p.m., ages 5 - 12

Oct. 21
 Winnebago Free Legal Assistance Clinic, 4:30 p.m., adults

Oct. 22
 Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.
 Learn How to Play Bridge, 5:30 p.m., adults

Oct. 23
 Baby and Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m.
 Adult Animanga Club, 4 p.m.
 Chess Club, 5 p.m., all ages

Oct. 25
 Games at the Library: Spooky Games and Costume Contest, noon, all ages

Oct. 27
 Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m.
 Read to a Dog, 4 p.m.
 Murder Mystery Dinner Party, 6 p.m., teens

Oct. 28
 Tunes and Tots, 10 a.m., babies and toddlers
 Genealogy Club: Newspapers, 1:30 p.m., adults
 Banned Book Club, 6:30 p.m., adults

Oct. 29
 Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.
 Learn How to Play Bridge, 5:30 p.m., adults

Oct. 30
 Baby and Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m.
 Chess Club, 5 p.m., all ages

Library offers chance to learn Bridge

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Public Library is offering a six-part series for adults to learn Bridge, a classic card game that's winning over a new generation of players.

Led by local Bridge expert Gregg Underheim, the series begins Oct. 15 in the library's lower level meeting room. The session runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Additional sessions will be held Oct. 22 and 29, and Nov. 5, 12 and 19.

Whether somebody is a beginner or just curious, this is their chance to connect

and pick up a game that's equal parts social and strategic.

Organizers said the atmosphere is relaxing and welcoming, with plenty of room to learn and have fun.

Participants are welcome to attend one session, several or all six. Registration is required and space is limited to 16 participants.

Registration closes at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 15.

To register or learn more, visit oshkoshlibrary.org or call 920-236-5205.

Project Life

FROM PAGE 1

Students also intern at the Wildcat Cafe at Oshkosh West.

When they are in the classroom they are learning life skills, social skills and job skills essential for finding employment. For most of these students, Sims said college is not the correct path.

“One of the aspects of Project Life is that the classroom isn’t in the high school. Getting the kids out of the high school and into the community is a big part of the process,” Sims said. “We see a huge amount of maturity growth when the students aren’t at the high school and being in the community.”

She added, “A lot of these kids are not going to go to college and that academic rigor isn’t what they need. They need more of the job skills and life skills.”

The students still receive those reading and math skills but it is not at the same level as other students.

Project Life recently started microenterprise business that makes snuffle mats for dogs. The mats are made by weaving fleece fabric into a 12-inch by 12-inch rubber mat.

The American Kennel Club categorizes snuffle mats as beneficial for mental enrichment for dogs. The microenterprise is expanding from the mats to dog and cat toys.

Sims said the students are pet lovers and when a student asked about toys the decision was made to start making dog toys.

“This year we have a cat lover, and they asked if we could make cat toys,” Sims recalled. “So we’ll be making cat toys and dog toys.”

The mats are currently available online with orders available to pick up at either Oshkosh West or Oshkosh North. The mats come in a variety of different colors.

OASD’s Project Life is followed by Project Search which partners with Ascension Mercy Hospital as a collaborative partnership to get students working in the hospital for a few hours every week.

“These students get work experience with Project Search and at their internships, some of which are paid,” Sims said. “This leads to earning money and needing to learn money management skills which we also teach.”

When students graduate, Sims works with local employers at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

within the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development to get students placed at jobs.

Even though the program has been around for six years, Sims often has to talk to employers about the benefits of having a Project Life intern.

“These students want to work, they want to be able to contribute,” Sims said. “Once the interns start and we’ve built that trust the businesses appreciate the interns.”



To help support Project Life, go to oshkoshwi.infinitecampus.org.



Submitted photo

Senior Emily Zimmerman is in the process of making a snuffle mat as part of the microenterprise business set up by students in the Project Life program, which teaches students with disabilities life, social and job skills and sets them up for the competitive workforce. The mats are made by students weaving fleece fabric onto a plastic mat.

Sims added students who are in the program for two years see great results as they get an additional year of learning the skills necessary for the workplace before graduation.

“The goal of the program is to get these students competitive employment,” Sims said. “Ideally, they would get into Project

Search or find some type of employment after they graduate. That’s what we aim for.”

Project Life is looking for businesses to partner with for additional internship opportunities. Interested businesses can contact Sims at jessica.sims@oshkosh.k12.wi.us.

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Nature of Light exhibit provides local economic surge

Oshkosh Herald

More than 10,000 people visited The Nature of Light at the Paine Art Center and Gardens in August, surpassing attendance of 7,000 during the same time frame when it was presented three years ago.

The outdoor, nighttime immersive experience is expected to reignite similar local economic impact as its 2022 presentation, which was estimated to have a \$3 million impact on regional tourism spending by 50,000 visitors.

Aaron Sherer, executive director of the Paine, said the organization is thrilled to see The Nature of Light welcomed back with such excitement from visitors traveling near and far to experience it.

“While the first version of this show was awesome, this second version is truly phenomenal, with more than double the lights and many added dimensions,” Sherer said. “Returning guests are really noticing the difference, and everyone is saying they’re blown away by the whole experience.”

The Nature of Light is a collaboration between the Paine, artists HYBYCOZO, and lighting design firm Lightswitch. It features dozens of sculptures by HYBYCOZO along with hundreds of lights and lasers, each of which is individually programmed to create an all-encompassing,



Photo by Jim Koepnick

The second incarnation of The Nature of Light at the Paine Art Center and Gardens features twice the number of lights, more than a dozen new sculptures, the addition of lasers and two new environments.

immersive experience customized specifically to the Paine estate.

In 2022, success from The Nature of

Light reached beyond the gates of the Paine and into the community. Discover Oshkosh Executive Director Amy Al-

bright said the organization consistently heard feedback from restaurants, hotels and shops that the exhibition brought in visitors, particularly during the fall.

“People weren’t just coming for the exhibition — they were staying for dinner, booking overnight stays, and exploring other parts of Oshkosh,” Albright said. “The ripple effect was felt throughout the community.”

She said that level of activity made it one of the most impactful events outside of the peak summer season. Albright said the exhibition is already lighting up business in Oshkosh for a second time, and the excitement is spreading.

“The Nature of Light has been such a success story for Oshkosh,” she said. “It highlights our city’s ability to host world-class cultural experiences while boosting our local economy. Beyond the numbers, it’s about pride — seeing Oshkosh shine as a destination for both art and innovation.”

Reservations are required for The Nature of Light, which is open daily through Oct. 26, sunset to 10:30 p.m. Two types of reservations are available at thepaine.org, Main Experience (outdoors only) and Ultimate Experience (indoors and outdoors). Admission price varies by reservation type, day and time.

Events continuing to provide local economic boost

By Chris Lusvardi
OSHKOSH HERALD

Oshkosh is well-known for the many events held in the area throughout the year.

A panel of organizers from several of Oshkosh’s largest events discussed during an Oshkosh Chamber Westside Association fall panel Sept. 16 at Oshkosh Arena the impact the gatherings have on the local economy.

“So many great events make Oshkosh a special place,” said Sean Fitzgerald, economic development director with the Oshkosh Chamber.

The Wisconsin Herd, which plays 24 home games each season at Oshkosh Arena, impacts the community in many different ways, team president Steve Brandes said.

“With 3,000 to 4,000 fans nightly, they’re spending money at retailers in the area when they come here,” Brandes said. “Without those 24 games, we don’t have 24 days of impact on the local economy. It has a huge impact. We have a lot of support from our fans and have to be able to continue receiving that support from the

community and our fan base.”

After challenges over the years with management of the arena, Brandes said the team is encouraged by the way the facility is currently being run under VenuWorks, which has managed Oshkosh Arena for over a year.

“It’s back to the level it should be,” Brandes said. “We have an awesome product to show off in an amazing arena. It’s a fun place and great time for all the events they have here.”

EAA AirVenture in July set a record attendance of 704,000, the fourth year in a row attendance has increased, said Dick Knapinski, EAA’s director of communications.

AirVenture has been estimated to have a \$257 million economic impact every year on Northeast Wisconsin, which Knapinski said is a lot of money to flow into the state.

“The world literally comes to Oshkosh each year,” Knapinski said. “What we do, no one else in the world does. AirVenture is here every year and top of mind for Oshkosh.”

Some of the events are looking to grow,

with XRoads music festival organizers saying they’ve taken steps to expand the event at Oshkosh Festival Grounds on South Washburn Street in the past two years.

The campground was expanded for this year’s festival in August and a second stage was added, said Jeff Borgen, principal with Oshkosh Festivals, the company that owns the site.

“We need to get the word out letting people know to come out,” Borgen said.

They’d like to be able to host even more events at the site, which had been vacant for several years prior to Borgen’s group deciding to buy and renovate the property.

“We knew it had a real potential to host a big outdoor music festival,” Borgen said. “We had a large vision for what we would like to do. We want to do more.”

They are already getting ready for next year’s festival, slated for Aug. 6-8 with what they say is a high number of pre-sale tickets sold.

The Battle on the BAGO ice fishing event will be in its 19th year when it takes place Feb. 20-21.

Started by the Oshkosh Southwest Ro-

tary, it has gone from hosting 300 anglers and raising \$10,000 in its first year in 2007 to 12,000 anglers and between \$450,000 and \$500,000 in normal net proceeds, board member Curt Stam said.

Money raised from the event is donated to fund efforts to get youth outdoors and involved in local conservation efforts.

Since its inception, Battle on Bago has generated net proceeds of nearly \$2.6 million.

“We like to call it the world’s largest ice fishing event,” Stam said. “It’s a spectacle. People come from 29 different states for a family fun event. It’s for the kids.”

With events attracting as many visitors as they do, Chamber president and CEO Rob Kleman said having assets such as the newly renovated Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center is beneficial to welcoming guests to the area.

“It’s really good for the community,” Kleman said Thursday during a ribbon cutting ceremony at the hotel. “It’s going to help us attract larger conferences, new visitors, repeat business to Oshkosh. It gives us a competitive advantage in the region. This facility really helps us do that.”

Mariachi San José

October 4 | 7:00 p.m.



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2/\$5
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5/\$10
5.67-11.05 oz Roma Original or Bellatoria Personal Ultra Pizza




4/\$10
8-11.5 oz Select Lean Cuisine Entrees




10/\$10
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2/\$5
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2/\$5
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2/\$3
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4/\$5

2-ltr Bottles 7UP, RC Cola or A&W Root Beer



4.99

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3/\$12

6 pk, 5 ltr Bottles 7UP or A&W



2/\$4

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2/\$5

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2.99

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Select 1.34 oz Airwick Scents



3.99

Select 32 oz Lysol Cleaners



89¢

4 oz Jars Beech-Nut 2nd Foods



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3.69
24 oz Select
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46-48 oz
Indian Summer Applesauce



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Nestle Toll House Morsels
12 oz Carnation Evaporated Milk...3.75



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5/\$4
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Food Club Chunk Light Tuna



5/\$5
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Grants could support UWO environmental research

By Grace Lim
UW-OSHKOSH TODAY

Thanks to a major grant from the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin (FCW), the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh will expand its reach as a statewide leader in freshwater research, workforce development and community outreach.

If funding is consistently approved by state leaders over the next several years, annual grants would generate \$1.44 million total through 2031 to fund UWO's "Comprehensive Freshwater Training, Recruitment, and Research Experience Program," offering a host of hands-on experiences for students while directly addressing Wisconsin's most pressing water challenges. The first UWO award is for \$243,000 in the current fiscal year.

The grant affirms UW-Oshkosh's place as a contributor to the state's water future, both in scientific innovation and in preparing the next generation of water science professionals.

"This investment in UW-Oshkosh affirms our role as a statewide leader in preparing the next generation of water scientists and innovators," Chancellor Manohar Singh said. "The Freshwater Collaborative's support ensures that our students — whether they are high school participants just discovering their passion or undergraduates conducting applied research in our communities — gain experiences that prepare them for careers of impact. This is not only a win for our students and our university, but also for Wisconsin, where the health of our waters is essential to public well-being, economic vitality, and the stewardship of one of our state's greatest natural resources."

Greg Kleinheinz, director of UWO's Environmental Research and Innovation Center (ERIC) and professor of environmental engineering technology, is proud of the work the students and faculty have done.

"This grant is really a testament to the success we've had over the last few years," Kleinheinz said. "We've built programs that are multidisciplinary, hands-on and impactful, and now we have the stability to keep growing them without wondering year to year if we'll be able to continue."

UWO's ERIC lab has long been a hub for certified water testing, collaborative research and student-led fieldwork, with lab locations and field sites in Oshkosh, Eagle River, Sturgeon Bay and Manitowoc. With a staff that works year-round and professional infrastructure already in place, the center is uniquely positioned to host and manage complex, community-facing water projects.

The FCW grant allows the university to deepen that work while expanding access to students from across the state. Among the core components funded by the grant: a high school freshwater STEM camp, paid summer internships, industry-partnered Water Technology Enterprise projects, collaborative research across UW campuses and expanded recruitment materials to connect more students to water-related majors.

"Our students aren't just learning in the classroom — they're engaging in experiential learning that best prepares them for meaningful careers in water science and environmental fields as they solve problems that threaten public health, the state's tourism industry and agriculture," said Ed



UW-Oshkosh Today photo

UWO student Allison Coldwaite receives instruction from professor Greg Kleinheinz as she conducts analysis of a Door County water sample. Coldwaite is a current employee of the Environmental Research and Innovation Center.

Martini, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "This grant strengthens the kind of research-intensive education that defines the UW-Oshkosh experience."

One of the most visible elements is the summer high school program.

"(Students) get to come here for three days, be on campus, and dive into all sorts of hands-on experiences related to freshwater," Kleinheinz said. "This year we had students from Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin."

He added that the program only costs families about \$25 per student, thanks to support from the collaborative.

"That's something we're really proud of, making these opportunities accessible and getting young people excited about water science," Kleinheinz said.

Beyond recruitment, the FCW grant supports deep, applied training for undergraduates. Each summer, ERIC hosts students from across the Universities of Wisconsin system, offering them paid positions. Students receive training in everything from sample collection and analysis to using Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS), and they leave with tangible experience for graduate programs or careers.

"The students are on the front line," Kleinheinz said. "They're doing hands-on, applied learning through community involvement. One day might be the usual routine, and the next, something new pops up — a water quality concern, a drainage issue, a new research request — and they have to adapt. That's real-world training."

The reach of UWO's water programs goes far beyond Oshkosh. In Vilas County, students work with over a dozen lake organizations on aquatic invasive species. In Door County, they assist with septic tracer studies, beach monitoring and marine debris surveys. In Fond du Lac, ERIC partners with a company tackling wastewater treatment challenges.

"Just the other day, the Sanitarian Department in Door County said, 'We think we have a failing septic system.' They don't have a lab, so they brought the samples to our lab in Sturgeon Bay. Our students did all the analysis," Kleinheinz said. "Boom! They had their results. That's the kind of infrastructure we've built, and it lets us be responsive."



Photo by Michael Cooney

USS Wisconsin model

Members of the USS Wisconsin Association brought their inflatable model to the Oshkosh Farmers Market on Saturday as part of a statewide effort to raise awareness and support for the submarine now under construction. Set up in the parking lot next to Wagner's Market, member Jess Davis said the display was designed to educate the public on the boat and its capabilities. The Navy held a keel-laying ceremony for the USS Wisconsin on Aug. 27 in Groton, Conn. Commissioning is planned for 2032.

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Knights outlast Hilltoppers to win Trailways tussle

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Lucas Neuens said that he and his Lourdes Academy teammates work on causing fumbles to generate turnovers every day on the practice field.

The work certainly paid off Friday night.

The Knights forced two second-half fumbles – both times thwarting potential scoring drives – as Lourdes Academy held off Cambria-Friesland, 24-14, in a matchup of two of the Trailways Conference co-leaders on Friday night on JJ Keller Field at Titan Stadium.

“Every day we do a turnover circuit where we try to punch the ball out or cause a fumble. It’s something we always work on,” Neuens said. “We really work on it and take pride in it.”

Knights’ head coach Kevin Wopat echoed the importance of working on causing fumbles.

“The kids take it seriously and they are seeing the importance of it and seeing the results of working at it,” Wopat said. “(Cambria-Friesland was) on the doorstep twice in the second half and didn’t score.”

A Mat Yaggie 25-yard field goal on the final play of the first half gave the Knights a 17-14 lead at intermission but the Hilltoppers – who scored on both first-half possessions – started the second half on offense and had moved into Lourdes Academy territory.

But on a third-down from the Knights’ 34-yard line, Jacob Bogardus knocked the ball loose as the Hilltoppers attempted a handoff and Neuens was able to pounce on the loose ball.

“Jacob got right through the line and



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Max Behnke (67) and Nolan Gibson (26) bring down a Cambria-Friesland runner as Brady Ridenour (21) provides backup in last Friday’s win.

blew it up. His hand got on the ball when he tried to hand it off and I saw it and I just got on it,” Neuens said. “It was a huge change of momentum.”

Two runs from Brady Ridenour and a pass to Neuens moved the ball to the Hilltopper 39-yard line.

The Knights then ran another flip pass from Brady Bauer to Neuens off of a jet motion and the junior receiver weaved his way through the Cambria-Friesland defense – breaking through a couple of

tackle attempts along the way – to get into the end zone to give the Knights a 10-point cushion.

“We knew if we could get a stop and get ahead two scores, we knew with how they play we would be in a good position,” Wopat said. “Playing with the lead and never trailing was big for us.”

The Hilltoppers answered with another drive on the ensuing possession and moved the ball inside the Knights’ 10-yard line at the start of the fourth quarter.

But on second-and-goal from the 1-yard line, the Hilltoppers fumbled the snap and Lourdes Academy’s Nolan Gibson came out of the pile of players with the ball to turn away Cambria-Friesland once again.

The Hilltoppers would get one more possession still trailing by 10 points, but Johnny Santiago picked off a Dayton McBride pass with just over two minutes remaining to seal the win and keep the Knights unbeaten.

The Hilltoppers did manage to rack up nearly 250 yards on the ground with their unique Wing-T attack but the Knights’ defense – which was led by Max Behnke’s 14.5 tackles – was able to keep Cambria-Friesland off the scoreboard in the second half.

“The turnovers were huge,” Ridenour said. “Defensively, you just have to do the same thing every play and try to outphysical them.”

Ridenour capped off Lourdes Academy’s opening drive with a 12-yard touchdown run, capping a 10-play, 76-yard march.

The Knights had to overcome a second-and-26 situation after recovering a bad snap that lost 16 yards. Bauer connected with Harlan Kuehn for a gain of 21 yards before Bauer got the Hilltoppers to jump offsides before the snap for a first down.

On the next play, the Knights’ offensive line created a large hole on the left side and Ridenour scampered into the end zone.

“The offensive line did really well. When I was touched (on most plays), I

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Photo by Andy Ratchman
Lourdes Academy's Brady Ridenour runs through a huge hole to score a touchdown in last Friday's win over Cambria-Friesland.

Lourdes wins

FROM PAGE 8

was five yards down field already,” said Ridenour, who finished with 104 yards on 18 carries. “It made it a lot easier for me, for sure.”

Cambria-Friesland answered on its next possession to even the score but the Knights came right back to regain the lead.

After two runs by Ridenour gave Lourdes Academy a first down at the Hilltoppers 33-yard line, Neuens caught a bubble screen on the right side of the Knights’ alignment and burst through a hole created by blocks from Kuehn and Yaggie.

Once he darted through the hole, Neuens was gone, running untouched for a 67-yard score.

“Right away when you see it, it’s like ‘Oh my gosh.’ And then you look back and you see them not close to you it’s a great feeling,” said Neuens, who had five catches for 135 yards in the game. “Harlan and Mat made some really good blocks and from there I could just use my speed.”

The Knights, who are ranked eighth in Division 7, now sit alone atop the Trail-

Week 6 games

Trailways Conference

(records reflect Trailways games)

- Lourdes Academy (3-0) at Westfield (1-2)
- Camb./Friesland (2-1) at Parkview/ Albany (1-2)
- Palmyra-Eagle (2-1) at Randolph (1-2)
- Johnson Creek (2-1) at DodgeLand (0-3)

ways Conference with a perfect 3-0 mark. The last four wins for Lourdes Academy have come against teams who advanced to the WIAA playoffs last year and all beat the Knights last season.

The final four opponents for Lourdes Academy, starting on Friday with a road trip to Westfield, have combined for just four wins this season.

Wopat believes it was the Knights loss to Edgar in the playoffs last season that set the tone for the strong start.

“Competing with Edgar allowed them to believe and that carried over into this year. Then beating Reedsville was the big game for us. It was the mental hurdle of beating a team that had had our number for a while,” Wopat said. “We’ve gotten to right a lot of wrongs which has been a lot of fun. Winning is hard but it’s a lot of fun and it’s worth putting the time in to do it.”

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Senior Spotlight is brought to you by: **Nicolet NATIONAL BANK**

North’s Clark proves to be double trouble on gridiron

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Players who make a major impact on both sides of the ball have become the Bigfoots of high school football. They are formidable but rarely seen. Dalton Clark is one of them. He has made a Sasquatch-sized contribution to Oshkosh North’s surging program. Clark was one of a small group of players across the state to land first-team all-conference honors last season on both offense and defense.

In an age of specialization, Clark has been both a creator and an eraser for the Spartans. He’s a playmaker on offense who caught 56 passes for 1,092 yards (a 19.5 per-catch average) and 10 touchdowns in 2024. All were team highs.

He is also one of the Spartans’ catalysts on defense at free safety. Clark led North last season in tackles (91, 31 solo), forced fumbles (two) and fumbles recovered (two).

“Dalton is a hard-nosed kid who loves the game and will do anything he can to be on the field as much as he can,” said North coach Luke Ott. “He’s very coachable and a smart football player.”

Clark can run. He’s a track star who has been timed as low as 4.5 seconds in the 40-yard dash. But he’s more than just a speedster. He’s a football player with exceptional instincts.

“As a slot receiver, it seems like he’s always one step ahead of the defender either with his route running or when he’s got the ball in his hands,” said Ott. “Defensively, he’s a ballhawk. He has that sort of sixth sense of knowing where the quarterback is and where he’s going with the ball and where he needs to be.

“Dalton is always running downhill, whether it’s on offense or defense. It’s pretty awesome to have a kid like that.”

Clark, a team captain, prefers to play both ways and rarely gets fatigued.

“I really enjoy being out there all the time,” Clark said. “It’s fun being able to hit people on defense and catch some touchdowns on the other side. If I had to pick one, it would probably be receiver. You need good speed, but a lot of it is route running. That’s something I picked up right away and have gotten better at over the years.”

Adding to Clark’s uniqueness is the fact that he is a fourth-year varsity player who contributed to the North varsity his freshman year as the Spartans’ punter.

“It was a little nerve wracking playing on



Dalton Clark is a talented wide receiver and defensive back for the Spartans, earning all-conference recognition at both positions last season.

the varsity field as a freshman, but the senior class that year was great,” Clark said. “I got along really well with those guys and that made it easier.”

Clark played quarterback in his early years of organized tackle football at Read Elementary School and Merrill Middle

School. “Back then, we really didn’t have a quarterback,” Clark said. “We ran a lot of wildcat formations, so I didn’t do a lot of passing. Then Bryce Ott (North’s current starting quarterback) showed up in eighth grade, so I switched to receiver.”

Senior Spotlight



Clark has a family football background. His father, Jeff, was a quarterback at Oshkosh North who played a few years of college football. Jeff coached Dalton at the youth level for years and was his freshman football coach in 2022 when Dalton played all three levels of North football: freshman, junior varsity and varsity.

“My dad is a great teacher who knows a lot about the game,” Dalton said. “I try and work hard and a lot of that comes from my dad. He pushes me to work hard and not take shortcuts, because in the long run, shortcuts don’t help.”

Luke Ott says that Clark is one of the most diligent workers on his squad and a team leader. He’s not a rah-rah guy, but always gets his point across.

“Dalton just goes about his business and puts in the time and effort,” Ott said. “He’s a quiet kid. Sometimes I tell him he’s too quiet. But he leads with his actions more than his words. When Dalton gives a teammate a fist bump or a high five, his teammates know that it means something because he doesn’t do it all the time. That’s what makes him different, He’s an outstanding football player and teammate.”

Athletically, Clark is more than just a football player. He was a valuable member of North’s state-qualifying basketball team, playing in all 29 games and making 14 starts. Clark, who averaged 2.1 points and 2.4 rebounds per game, was a defensive specialist as a wing guard and made a solid contribution to the Spartans’ drive to Madison.

“Our playoff run was definitely one to remember,” Clark said. “It’s something I will never forget the rest of my life. It was really a fun time. We weren’t winning much during the regular season, then things got clicking in the tournament. It was really exciting. I pride myself in my defense and I think my football background helps, especially with the footwork and physical aspect of it.”

Clark also had a memorable state tournament experience in track and field. He went out for the track team for the first time in his athletic career and experienced major success in the sprint relays. Clark claimed two medals at the WIAA

SEE **Senior Spotlight** ON PAGE 24

Spartans pummel Redwings to keep perfect record intact

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

All football teams want to try to keep their opponents from generating early momentum and gaining confidence that a win is in their future.

Then there is what Oshkosh North did on Friday night.

The Spartans simply obliterated Sheboygan South from the start, scoring five first quarter touchdowns en route to a 42-12 thumping of the Redwings in a Fox River Classic Conference South matchup on JJ Keller Field at Titan Stadium.

“They were focused from the start,” head coach Luke Ott said. “I got on the bus for the drive over (to Titan Stadium) and told them it was all business. I don’t care what their

record is, it is all business. When they came out for warm-ups, we knew they were ready to go.”

Outside of Sheboygan South picking up a first down on their first possession, the Spartans never let the Redwings sniff a hint of success.

Oshkosh North’s defense allowed just two yards of total offense on the Redwings’ five possessions in the first half and forced Sheboygan South to punt five times. The Redwings had more plays that did not gain a yard or lost yards than produced positive yardage on their first five possessions.



Brockman



Rohr

“The preparation is the biggest key for us on defense,” said Andrew Brockman. “We watch a lot of film and we are able to replicate a lot of plays in practice so we are able to hone in and see what’s coming.”

One of the Redwings’ punts was returned for a touchdown by Max Rohr. Another resulted in a bad snap that gave the Spartans the ball at the South 6-yard line.

Offensively in the first quarter, North ran five plays from scrimmage and four resulted in touchdowns as the Knights led 35-0 with 39 seconds left in the opening period.

“No matter what the team’s record is, stay focused and we prepared for them like we are going to prepare (for any team),” Rohr said. “The coaches dog us on it all the time.”

Jamare Scott ran for 107 yards on five carries and found the end zone three times, starting with a 30-yard run on the Spartans’ first possession. Bryce Ott connected with Dalton Clark for a 32-yard gain on the first play of the drive and then Scott took a hand-off and swept around the left side untouched for the score.

The Spartans defense then registered a three-and-out, forcing a Redwings punt, which Rohr initially dropped at the North 45-yard line. But after scooping the ball up,

SEE **North football** ON PAGE 24

Homecoming victory keeps Valley Christian unbeaten

Oshkosh Herald

The celebration of Valley Christian’s 33-0 Homecoming victory over Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah was tempered on Friday.

Warriors sophomore Sam Gloudemans suffered a serious injury late in the third quarter of the game which resulted in the game being ended early.

According to Valley Christian head coach Ben Birr, the Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah coaches approached the Warriors staff while Gloudemans was being attended to and discussed the possibility of ending the game.

“Our guys wanted to keep playing but with the score of the game and the delay, we felt it was the best thing to do,” Birr said. “It was a tough decision.”

Birr said that Gloudemans suffered a neck injury and was taken to the hospital. He was released later that night.

Birr said that Gloudemans is doing well following the injury and even attended

the team’s film session on Saturday.

“The guys were surprised when he walked in,” Birr said. “They were certainly glad to see him.”

Before the game was ended, Valley Christian was putting on another dominant display.

Derek Wallace scored a touchdown on the Warriors’ first offensive snap, breaking multiple tackles to take the ball 75 yards for the score.

Wallace finished with 150 yards on 10 carries and finished the night with four touchdowns. He added two touchdown runs and also caught an 11-yard scoring pass from Mason Everts.

“The last couple of weeks, Derek has helped give us the starts we’ve needed and he did that on the first play on Friday,” Birr said.

Mathias Behling registered the remaining touchdown for the Warriors on a pass from Everts. Behling finished with seven catches for 72 yards.

The defense held strong for Valley

Christian, preventing the Resorters from getting anything going.

Wallace led the team with 7.5 tackles, while Gloudemans added seven. Ian Kramer chipped in six tackles for the Warriors.

Valley Christian also forced three turnovers in the game, with Behling and Gloudemans each collecting interceptions, while Wallace recovered a fumble.

Birr credited the team’s defensive coaches for putting together a strong game plan heading into the game.

“We are blessed to have the coaches we do and the guys are watching more film than before to get prepared,” Birr said. “We played well on defense.”

Valley Christian has now won five straight games dating back to last season and are off to their best start since resuming its program.

Although Birr liked the make up of his team entering the season, the Warriors have been playing even better than what the coach expected.

“As a coach, you always have high expectations but I think these guys are going a little bit above what we thought,” Birr said. “The guys have really answered the call.”

The Warriors will face their toughest test coming up this week, however, as they will travel to face perennial eight-player powerhouse Oakfield.

The Oaks are 4-1 this season and in second place behind the Warriors in the Southeast-8 Conference. Oakfield downed Valley Christian, 43-14, last season.

“They are definitely the team to beat in the conference,” Birr said. “Our guys are hungry. We are excited for the opportunity.”

The Warriors will travel to face Wayland Academy the following Saturday afternoon before wrapping up their regular season with a home game against Montello on Oct. 10.

Zachary Bellin contributed to this report.

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Estate Sale: Fri. Sept. 26, 9-5 & Sat., Sept. 27, 9-4. Antiques, collectibles, household, yard and garden. House, basement and garage are full. 2770 Havenwood Drive, Unit A.

ESTATE SALE Friday + Saturday September 26th and 27th 8 AM – 4 PM. Rain or shine. 2720 Harrison St Oshkosh.

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Legal Notices

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: Colton Ross Cavett

Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2025CV000877

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: First – Colton Middle – Ross Last – Cavett To: First – Colton Middle – Eric Last – Ashcroft Birth Certificate: First – Colton Middle – Ross Last – Cavett

IT IS ORDERED:

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin: Judge's Name: Hon. Michael S. Gibbs Place: Winnebago County Courthouse, 415 Jackson St. Room 240, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Date: 10-16-2025 Time: 2:45 PM If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4868 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

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

BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: September 11, 2025 /s/ Hon. Michael S. Gibbs Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 4 Runs: September 17, 2025,

WNAXLP

September 24, 2025 and October 1, 2025.

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY Small Claims Publication Summons And Notice Case No.25-CV-000792

PRESTIGE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC See attached for additional plaintiffs. Plaintiff(s) -VS- REBECCA SCHWARZ 2009 MOUNT VERNON ST OSHKOSH, WI 54901 See attached for additional defendants. Defendant(s).

If you need help in this matter because of a disability, please call:

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT:

You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following Small Claims court: OUTAGAMIE County Courthouse Telephone Number of Clerk of Court: 920-832-5131 Courtroom/Room Number: B Address: 320 S Walnut St, Courtroom B-2nd FL City: APPLETON State: WI Zip: 54911

Within forty (40) days of receiving this summons, you must respond with a written answer, as that term used in chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the complaint. The court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is: 901 N. 9TH STREET, ROOM

104, MILWAUKEE, WI 53233 and to Shindler & Joyce, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 1990 E. Algonquin Road, Suite 180, Schaumburg, IL 60173. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within forty (40) days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property. at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a complaint in that county.

Date Filed 09-04-2025 Signature of Plaintiff/Attorney MICHAEL R JOYCE /S/ Plaintiff's/Attorney's Telephone Number: (847) 537-1000 Attorney's State Bar Number: 1098691 Law Firm and Address: Shindler & Joyce 1990 E. Algonquin Rd., Suite 180 Schaumburg, IL 60173 Runs September 17, 2025, September 24, 2025 and October 1, 2025

WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, WINNEBAGO COUNTY Case No. 25CV782 Code No. 30301

Capital Credit Union Plaintiff, v. Janei Rice Defendant.

PUBLICATION SUMMONS- THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

To each person named above as a Defendant:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The

Complaint, which is attached, states the nature and basis for the legal action.

Within 40 days after September 24, 2025, of receiving this Summons, you must respond with a written Answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the Complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an Answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The Answer must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is Clerk of Circuit Court, Winnebago County Courthouse, 415 Jackson St, PO Box 280, Oshkosh, WI 54903-2808, and to Plaintiff's attorney, whose mailing address is PO Box 1473, Wausau, Wisconsin 54402-1473. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper Answer within 40 days after September 24, 2025, the Court may grant Judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A Judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated this 16th day of September 2025. Bates Legal Group, LLC, Attorney for Plaintiff By: /s/ Attorney Justin J. Bates Justin J. Bates State Bar No. 1066128 PO Box 1473 Wausau, WI 54402-1473 (715) 843-5599

Runs: September 24, 2025, October 1, 2025 and October 8, 2025

WNAXLP

Prep sports roundup

FOOTBALL

Wildcats put big scare into Neenah

Oshkosh West held the lead over ninth-ranked Neenah into the fourth quarter before the Rockets rallied for 14 points to sting the Wildcats, 28-24, in a Fox Valley Association contest at the Oshkosh West field.

Drew Abitz ran for a score and threw for another while the Wildcats also got some key plays on special teams.

Owen Heim returned the opening kick-off for a touchdown to get West off to a strong start, while Elliott Reed booted a 27-yard field goal in the first half as the Wildcats grabbed a 17-7 lead at intermission.

Abitz connected with Heim for a 69-yard touchdown in the second and then scored on a 2-yard run in the third quarter as West led 24-14 entering the final stanza.

Neenah, which shares the lead in the FVA with Kimberly, however scored 14 points over the final 12 minutes to rally for the win.

Wyatt Marten finished with 72 yards on 16 carries for the Wildcats, while Abitz added 56 yards on the ground and was 7-of-10 for 121 yards passing. Both Heim and Micah Finley had three catches in the game.

Cade Heiman had seven tackles to lead the West defense, while Joey Ware had six.



Oshkosh West quarterback Drew Abitz looks to make a pass during the first half against Neenah last Friday.

SOCCKER

Knights collect shutout win over Zephyrs

Matthew Loker and Kaleb Richardson each finished with a pair of goals as Lourdes Academy/Valley Christian posted a 4-0 win over St. Mary Catholic on

Saturday.

Loker and Hudson Depue added assists in the match.

The Knights are now 7-0 on the season.

Earlier in the week, Isaak Rucinski finished with two goals in a 2-0 win over Amherst.

Loker and Jackson Buttke earned assists in the match, while Micah Humiston made

Spartans finish 2-0 at Kaukauna Tournament

Oshkosh North knocked off Whitnall and Seymour to finish 2-0 at the Kaukauna Tournament on Saturday as the Spartans stretched their win streak to four matches.

Alex Asende scored a pair of goals and Daudi Makechi and Cooper Snell each added one in the 4-2 win over Whitnall. Snell also had two assists, while Gerome Mtabi had one.

Asende had a hat trick against Seymour as the Spartans erupted for an 8-0 win.

Al Rezai added a pair of goals, while Kiza Lukoko, Mtabi and Bol Abir each had one. Mtabi added two assists in the win, while Asende, Rezail and John Patrick each had one.

Earlier in the week, the Spartans picked up a 4-0 win over Pulaski with Asende, Mtabi, Snell and Msewa Sumaili scoring in the win, while Spartans also collected a 2-1 win over Fond du Lac in a Fox Valley Association match.

Brayden Kufel led the Wildcats with

Oshkosh West collects easy win

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 25

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Strong second half carries Titans to triumph

UWO Sports Information

In a game that endured a pair of extend- ed lightning delays that pushed the offi- cial game length to five-and-a-half hours, UW-Oshkosh football scored 24 unan- swered points to defeat NCAA Division II Roosevelt University (Ill.) in its home opener on Saturday.

The Titans (2-1), ranked 19th in the nation by D3football.com and 21st by the American Football Coaches Associ- ation, tied the game midway through the third quarter with a 43-yard pass from Quentin Keene to Londyn Little and tal- lied 17 more points in the last 24 minutes while the Lakers (1-2) were held off the board, helped by three interceptions by the Oshkosh defense.

UW-Oshkosh registered a season high 478 offensive yards including 237 on the ground and 241 through the air. The Ti- tans averaged 6.5 yards per play, 5.6 yards per rush, and 12.7 yards per completion. Among their five touchdowns, three came on the ground and two came in the air. Oshkosh had 24 first downs in the con- test, scored in three of its five red zone chances, and intercepted three passes. The three interceptions are the most the Titans had in a single game since record- ing five in the 2019 regular season finale against UW-Whitewater.

Quentin Keene completed 18 of his 31 passing attempts for 222 yards and two touchdowns After his 43-yard touch- down, he added a 21-yard pass to Little in the fourth quarter. He also rushed four times for 10 yards and a touchdown.

Of UW-Oshkosh's 237 rushing yards, 143 came from Ben Vallafskey. He aver- aged 8.3 yards per carry and scored his



UW-Oshkosh defenders Kyle Dietzen (8) and Eli Curry (6) bring down a Roosevelt Universi- ty ball carrier during Saturday's win.

first touchdown in black and gold with a 44-yard carry.

Little paced Oshkosh's receiving corps with two touchdowns on six catches for 99 yards, followed by Jon Mathieu's four catches for 45 yards and AJ Korth's two catches for 41 yards.

Kyle Dietzen recorded a career high

12 tackles for the second week in a row, notched four solo tackles, an 18-yard sack, and forced a fumble. Kenny Satori broke the double-digit tackle barrier for the first time in his career with 10 (four solo), reg- istered a tackle-for-loss, and hurried the Lakers' quarterback twice.

UW-Oshkosh started slowly in the

first quarter, posting a three-and-out and stalling just past the 50-yard line in its first two drives while Roosevelt scored its first touchdown in eight plays. The Ti- tans stopped the Lakers on their second possession, capped off by a 4-yard tackle- for-loss by Ben Wellhoefer. UW-Oshkosh reached the Lakers' nine but couldn't cap- italize when Axel Vera Trejo missed the field goal.

Dietzen sacked Lakers quarterback Zach Zella in the first play of the second quarter, dropping him at the 2-yard line where he fumbled the ball and Curtis Ja- skulke jumped on it to give the Titans pos- session. Keene flaired right, crossing the goal line and tying the game at 7-7.

UW-Oshkosh got the ball back after a Lakers punt and marched down the field in 11 plays, including a 15-yard catch by Mathieu, a 24-yard reception by Korth, and a 14-yard rush by Vallafskey. Kellan Mella took the snap and pushed through the line to hand the Titans' their first lead of the game.

The Lakers scored again in the fol- lowing drive and went up, 21-14, just before halftime with another score. The first lightning delay occurred at halftime, which extended the break.

Coming out of the long break, Roos- evelt got tied up around the 48-yard line and punted to Jackson Brush, who sig- naled a fair catch at the 5-yard line. It took Oshkosh six plays to tie the game again at 21-21 after the second delay, capped off by Keene's 43-yard pass to a wide open Little with 9:05 left in the third quarter.

UW-Oshkosh regained control of the

SEE **UWO football** ON PAGE 26

Titans volleyball team eyes setting attendance record on Community Night

Oshkosh Herald

The UW-Oshkosh volleyball team will be hosting its Community Night on Fri- day when the third-ranked Titans face UW-Stevens Point at the Kolf Fieldhouse.

The match is set to begin at 7 p.m.

The Titans will be attempting to break the NCAA Division III attendance record at the match. The record is 3,517, which was set in 2012 when Calvin University hosted St. Thomas.

Last season on Community Night, the Titans drew more than 2,000 fans against UW-Whitewater. The first community night was held in 2023 when UW-Os- hkosh drew 2,725 people for a match against the Pointers.

Attendance is free to attend the match and there will be a kids carnival at the east end of the fieldhouse from 5 to 7 p.m.

The kids carnival will include a bounce house and slide, balloon creations, face painting, an obstacle course and football inflatables.

There will also be a UW-Oshkosh vol-

leyball apparel sale with discounted prices on T-shirts, long sleeves and sweatshirts.

"Our hope is to fill the stands with our families that came to the carnival, our campus and Oshkosh community, as well as families and youth athletes from across the state that either play club and/or have come to our camps throughout the previ- ous summers," commented UW-Oshkosh head coach Jon Ellmann.



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Oshkosh Herald

Bocce ball team again wins gold

John Dake and his bocce ball team – Amy, Connie and Jacob – brought home gold medals Sept. 6 at Special Olympics Fall Games in Wisconsin Dells. This is a three-peat for Dake, whose team also won gold at the last two year’s fall games. Dake serves as managerial assistant extraordinaire in the Hooper building where the Herald office is located.

North football

FROM PAGE 20

he sprinted across the field before making a left turn through a wide gap and dashed up the field for the score.

“I saw an area toward the sideline and went for it. I saw it clear and I knew it was open the whole way,” Rohr said. “It means a lot to make big plays on special teams. We practice special teams every practice and we know what we need to do. We just have to execute.”

Bryce Ott threw a 60-yard touchdown pass to his younger brother Eli Ott on the first play of the Spartans’ next possession, while also adding a six-yard touchdown run for North’s final touchdown of the first quarter.

Scott added a 24-yard touchdown run in the period, while also finding the end zone on a seven-yard run on North’s first possession of the second quarter to give the Spartans a 42-0 lead.

Scott’s third scoring run came after a Rohr interception as the Spartans continued to make things difficult South’s offense.

“We’re out there to keep the standard going,” Brockman said. “We are trying to build something here so whether we are playing the best team in the conference or the worst team, we are trying to do the same thing every week.”

North’s reserves played from the middle of the second quarter on as Luke Ott took advantage of the opportunity to get some of the younger players on his roster varsity experience.

“Every kid that came got in the game today and that’s really good,” Luke Ott said. “You can’t create game-like situations in practice or even a scrimmage. There is nothing like it

Week 6 games

FRCC South

(records reflect conference games)

GB East (1-2) at Oshkosh North (3-0)
Menasha (2-1) at GB Notre Dame (3-0)
Sheb. South (1-2) at Sheb. North (2-1)
Manitowoc Lincoln (0-3) at GB West (0-3)

so it’s valuable.”

Although that meant that the starters for North had a very short night of work.

“With it being my last year, too, it’s tough because I really want to be out there but I enjoy coaching up the younger kids,” Brockman said. “Our position groups are really close so to be able to see them make the plays they do, it’s really nice.”

North will host Green Bay East on the field at the high school on Friday and will play three of their final four games at home.

The Spartans cap the regular season with a matchup against Green Bay Notre Dame, the two teams who are currently sharing the top spot in the league.

That game may be on the Spartans’ schedule, but it’s not on the player’s minds.

“We can’t get too ahead of ourselves. It feels good to win but when Sunday comes we are 0-0 again,” Brockman said. “Our confidence is growing but we still have to stay humble.”

That approach has gotten the Spartans to this point so there is no reason to change now.

“It feels great but we do have to keep taking steps forward. We have to stay locked in and keep doing what we’re doing,” Rohr said. “We gain confidence with each win. We need to keep doing what we need to do every game and we just have to keep doing that.”

Senior Spotlight

FROM PAGE 20

state track meet in La Crosse with a second-place finish in the Division 1 400-meter relay and a fourth-place showing in the 800 relay.

“I started the year in baseball and didn’t come out for track until the middle of the season,” Clark said. “I just felt like track would benefit me more in the long run. I’m definitely glad I did it.

“To be honest, we were all pretty bummed in the 4x100 because we felt we didn’t run our best race. We felt like we could have beaten that first-place team. It wasn’t our best race, but at the end of the day, we were pretty excited about what we accomplished.

Clark plans to play college football next fall. He has received interest from some Division 3 programs, but is hoping to get some

Division 2 offers by the end of the football season. Clark is a top student at North, carrying an impressive 3.87 grade point average.

“College football is the goal,” said Clark. “Most of the schools are looking at me as a receiver and that’s what I would like to play. Not only can I catch the ball and run good routes, but I feel I can block, too.”

Until then, Clark is focused on making plays on both sides of the ball during what has been an outstanding North season. The Spartans will enter Friday’s Fox River Classic Conference-South game against Green Bay East with a perfect 5-0 record and are hoping to make a deep playoff run.

“I think we can be FRCC champions and hopefully make a run in the playoffs,” said Clark. “What I really like about these guys is their work ethic. They just work and work and they do it for one another. They don’t quit on each other. Whether things go our way or don’t go our way, they just keep working.”

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 22

a pair of goals while also finding the net were Kaiden Kaufman, Mason Callahan, Cain Gelhar, Brady Ott and Cole Jennings.

Jacob Allen finished with seven saves in goal for West.

The Wildcats dropped a 1-0 decision to Kaukauna in a Fox Valley Association match last week.

GOLF

Leib leads Spartans against Lightning

Sammie Leib had the low round of the day for Oshkosh North, who dropped a 204-234 decision to Appleton North in a Fox Valley Association dual meet last week.

Leib finished with a round of 46, which was just five shots off the medalist round of the meet.

Earlier in the week the Spartans posted a win over Fond du Lac, 214-221.

O'Loughlin had the low round of the meet for the Spartans with a 49 followed by Nelly Harrison with a 52. Leib with a 55 and Standke with a 58 also scored for the Spartans.

Willow Standke and Ashling Lynch added rounds of 60 and 61, respectively, while Maci O'Loughlin finished with a score of 68 to complete North's scoring lineup.

Wildcats can't slow down Neenah

Oshkosh West couldn't keep pace with Neenah as the Wildcats dropped a 198-226 match at Ridgeway Country Club on Tuesday.

Lauren Klinger and Valerie Mantina led the way for the Wildcats with rounds of 52 and 53, respectively. Samreen Chahal added a 55, while Hailey Gibbs and Keeley Toman each shot rounds of 66 on the day.

TENNIS

Spartans post pair of wins against Terrors

Oshkosh North earned a couple of doubles victories but lost to Appleton West in a Fox Valley Association dual meet last week.

Liv Borowitz and Rica Hanson posted a win at No. 1 doubles for the Spartans, while Lilli Ames and Olivia Baer added a win at the No. 2 doubles flight.

The Spartans also fell to Kimberly and Appleton North last week, 7-0.

VOLLEYBALL

Wildcats win marathon match with Rockets

Oshkosh West extended the fourth set



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Oshkosh North's Brinna Paulson bumps a pass forward during the Spartans match against Neenah last week.

before evening the match and then needed extra points to win the fifth set to take the match in a 23-25, 25-16, 20-25, 27-25, 17-15 win over Neenah in a Fox Valley Association match last Thursday night.

Sydnee Nelson spearheaded the Wildcats' attack racking up 24 kills in the match, with Emma Liebergen adding seven and Kayana Turner and MaKaelyn Clark each finishing with six. Clark also led the team with 38 assists.

The Wildcats turned in a strong performance at the service line with 14 aces in the match. Elaina Butz with five aces and Liebergen with four led the way.

Three players finished with double-dig-it digs in the match for West, led by Butz with 16. Clark with 12 and Rilyn Polakowski with 11 also reached double figures, while Nelson finished with nine.

Olivia Warren led the team with four blocks, while Nelson and Noelle Prickett each had three.

Warriors post pair of wins at quad

Valley Christian won two of the three matches at a quadrangular last week, posting wins over Wayland Academy and St. Ambrose Academy, while falling in two close sets to Abundant Life.

Lizzie Fink had nine kills to lead the win over Wayland Academy, while Anna Giannopoulos finished with six. Lydia Hardy had 20 assists in the match.

Hardy, Emma Malczewski and Brynn Weinaug each finished with three aces in

the match, while Giannopoulos led the team with six digs.

In the win over St. Ambrose, Fink and Laila Gostas-Sims each had eight kills, while Giannopoulos added seven.

Hardy had 21 assists and a team-high eight digs in the match.

North falls in pair of FVA matches

The Spartans stunned Neenah in the first set but couldn't keep the momentum as they fell to the Rockets in four sets, 25-27, 25-19, 25-15, 25-17.

Oshkosh North also lost to Appleton East last week, 25-17, 25-13, 25-16.

Knights rack up bevy of wins

Lourdes Academy went 2-1 at a home quadrangular on Thursday and then finished 4-1 at the Suring Invitational.

The Knights swept both matches from Weyauwega-Fremont and Oakfield at the quad, while falling to Shiocton.

Annika Leitch finished the three matches with 21 kills and 18 digs for the Knights, while Celia Ralofsky paced the team with 52 assists. Elizabeth Guerrero totaled a team-best 29 digs on the day.

The Knights then posted wins over Phelps, Three Lakes, Wausaukee and Elcho before falling to host Suring in three sets in the title match at the invite.

CROSS COUNTRY

Moran leads Warrior runners at Ripon

Mya Moran finished second to lead Valley Christian at the Ripon Invitational on Saturday.

McKenzie Murphy was the next Warrior finisher in 24th place, while Merian Getz (53rd), Madaline Weiss (54th) and Evangeline Bratton Wesner (60th) rounded out the scoring runners for Valley Christian.

Jonah Benet finished ninth and Jack O'Brien came in 12th to lead the Valley Christian boys at the meet. Simon Menet added a 23rd place finish, followed by Zachary Werner in 27th place and Silas Johnson in 30th place.

Valley Christian finished fourth in the boys standings and took ninth in the girls race.

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Obituaries

John M. Clark

John M. Clark, age 94, passed away peacefully on September 17, 2025.



John was born on December 24, 1930, to the late Charles and Agnes (O’Krueg) Clark, in Oshkosh, WI. He was the youngest of nine children.

John worked for Kimberly Clark, Anderson Bros., and started his own company, John M. Clark and Son Construction Co. In 1968. He was a very talented mason by trade. He married Ruth Gruetzmacher on May 28, 1951. They were married for 72 years.

John and Ruth cherished being outdoors and going up to the cottage. They loved picking wild blackberries, going to Waube Lodge to get lunch, and making homemade syrup in the backyard. John was passionate about the outdoors and nature. He was a hard worker and always kept busy. After retirement, John fixed lawn mower engines, snowblower engines, and bicycles. His friends would bring him things for him to fix, and he’d happily accept the challenge.

Those left to cherish John’s memory are

his daughter, Renee (Terry) Reinke; son, Robert (Marcy) Clark; grandchildren, Heidi (Brian Ledwell) Reinke, Bryan (Kim Schaele) Reinke, Jamie (Jamie Helf) Clark, and April (Dave) Rodriguez; great-grandchildren, Griffin Reinke, Alexis Reinke, Piper Reinke, (Isabella Messenger) Bella and Sophia Rodriguez; great-great granddaughter, Deajah McIntosh; and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Ruth; brothers, Russell, Orville, Leslie, Charles Jr. (Whitey), Raymond (Curly); sisters, Mary (Dolly), Reany, and Elaine Wilson; daughters, Debra, Roxeanne, Heidi, and Rachel; grandson, Adam R. Clark.

A memorial service for John will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Drive, Oshkosh, at 1:00 pm on Saturday, September 27, 2025. Visitation will begin at 12:00 pm and continue until the start of the service. Inurnment will take place at Peace Lutheran Cemetery at a later date.

His family would like to thank all of the staff at Elijah’s Place, his home for nearly three years.

A memorial is being established in lieu of flowers.



Robert Carl Bloedow Sr.

Robert Carl Bloedow Sr., 93, of Pickett, WI, passed away peacefully on September



21, 2025. Born on August 10, 1932, in the town of Black Wolf, WI, Bob was the cherished son of Ervin and Regina (Abraham) Bloedow. He proudly served his country during the Korean War in the United States Navy from 1949 to 1953, aboard the USS Coral Sea and USS Lake Champlain.



On September 10, 1955, Robert married the love of his life, Barbara Davis, and

together they celebrated an incredible 70 years of marriage filled with love, laughter, and countless adventures. Bob dedicated over 30 years of his life to the Soo Line Railroad, where he worked as a railroad switchman.

Bob’s heart was big and open, and he loved spending summers at Post Lake with his family, creating memories that will last a lifetime. He was an avid outdoorsman and conservationist who found joy in every season, whether it was hunting, observing wildlife, or simply enjoying beautiful days outside. His riding lawn mower was a beloved fixture, whether he was cutting grass or just making the trek to collect the mail.

A devoted family man, Bob was known

for his down-to-earth nature and strong faith as an active member of his church. He cherished time spent up north with Barbara, especially for their anniversaries, and never needed an excuse to travel with her.

Bob is survived by his loving wife Barbara; daughter, Julie (Harold) Gumz; grandchildren, Eric (Maria) Gumz, Amanda (Justin) Sobojsinski, Sarah (Matt) Proctor, Michael Bloedow; 10 great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Leanne Bloedow; brother-in-law, Arthur Crook; as well as many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Bob was preceded in death by his son, Robert Bloedow Jr.; siblings; Irene (Jerome) Will, Laura (Raymond) Knack, Melvin “Shorty” (Lillian) Bloedow; Clarence “Don” (Gloria) Bloedow, Ruby Crook, Donald “Joe” (Ida) Bloedow and his infant brother, Elmer.

A service for Bob will be held at Living Water on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 1PM. A time of visitation will be held from 12:30PM until the time of service. A burial will be held at St Johns Cemetery in Black Wolf.

Bob’s family would like to thank the social workers, Amy and Shereen from the Veterans Administration for the time they took to work with his family

“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.” 1 John 4:16

“Cast your burden on the lord and he will sustain you. He will never let the righteous be shaken.” Psalm 55:22



UWO football

FROM PAGE 21

ball after a three-and-out for the Lakers that included a pair of incomplete passes when Mathieu caught the punt at Roosevelt’s 48. Once they reached the 22-yard line, Keene tried to connect with Hunter Gibson in the end zone in three consecutive plays before Vera Trejo was brought onto the field to connect on a 39-yard field goal.

Both teams punted on their next possessions and Oshkosh came up empty in their next drive when another field goal

missed the uprights. Johnny Spallasso intercepted Zella’s first pass attempt of the fourth quarter and Chad Gerig intercepted Zella again in the next drive before Vallafskey increased the edge to 31-21 on his 44-yard carry.

Zella completed a 28-yard pass and Cam Davis rushed five yards, crossing the 50-yard line again, but Oshkosh’s defense had him locked in and Kellen Wright grabbed the ball out of the air for the third interception, returning the ball to the Titans’ 39. Vallafskey and Doug Burson rushed for a combined 26 yards to start UW-Oshkosh’s last drive before the third lightning delay forced the game to a halt yet again.

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All decorations at the Catholic Cemeteries must be removed by September 30 for fall cleanup.

Items may be returned or replaced after November 7th. If you feel that something may be lost in the cleanup process, please remove it.

Thank you.

Catholic Cemeteries of Oshkosh, Inc.

Jane E. Zuern

Jane E. Zuern, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, has



passed away at the age of 96. Jane left us on September 21, 2025, at Eden Meadows, where she spent her last days surrounded by love. Born on November 2, 1928, in Porterfield, WI to Victor and Hedwig

(Wickman) Bach, Jane lived a life filled with family, faith, and creativity.

Jane married her true love, Frank Zuern, on August 26, 1950, at Porterfield Lutheran Church, and together they raised three wonderful daughters. First English Lutheran Church was her second home for over 65 years, where her faith flourished.

A talented homemaker, Jane had a knack for sewing and was a skilled quilter, producing beautiful works well into her 90s. Her cookies were legendary—she baked vibrant boxes full of treats that supported many church fundraisers. Nature held a special place in her heart, with bluebirds and hummingbirds being her particular favorites, and she cherished her time spent up north.

Jane leaves behind her loving daughters, Julie (John) Kita and Laurie (Dean) Jensen; son-in-law, Steve Seidl; her grandchildren, Kevin, Alex, and Kyle Kita, Benjamin and Elizabeth Seidl, Trevor, and Audra Jensen; and her great-grandchild, Walker Kita. She joins her late husband, Frank; her daughter, Connie Seidl; and her siblings—Charles, Robert, John, Doris, and Clarence—in eternal peace.

To honor Jane’s beautiful life, a funeral service will be held on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 11:00 am at First English Lutheran Church, located at 1013 Minnesota St., Oshkosh, WI 54902. Prior to the service, we invite everyone to join us for visitation starting at 10:00 am. Afterward, she will be laid to rest at Ellenwood Cemetery.

The Family would like to express their gratitude for the wonderful care Jane received from her doctors, the Eden Meadows staff and Home Instead caregivers and friends who were compassionate and always went the extra mile. A special thank you to Jenny who brought the world to her for the last 10 years as she began to show her age.



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Obituaries

Patricia Belle Follett

Patricia “Pat” Belle Follett, 93, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully on September 14, 2025, at Mercy Medical Center, surrounded by loved ones. Born on August 14, 1932, to Leonard and Marjorie (Barber) Ziegenhagen, Pat dedicated her life to family, work, and uplifting her community.

On October 4, 1952, she married Everett Follett, and together they built a life filled with love and adventure, operating Follett Fireworks for over 54 years along with Winnebago Fisheries until Everett’s retirement. Their partnership was the foundation of the many endeavors and adventures they had.

Pat’s passion for learning shone throughout her life. She pursued her education in Minneapolis, studying art and earning the Helen Farnsworth Mears award in her youth. Later, she embraced education again at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, achieving her bachelor’s degree in her forties. Pat was committed to community service, serving on the Winnebago County task force for youth and co-founding Parents in Crisis in 1973 to support troubled youths. Her dedication was recognized with two citizen recognition awards from ADVOCAP, reflecting her unwavering

commitment to making a difference. After retiring with Everett, Pat devoted herself to working alongside her daughter, Linda, bringing to life Linda’s vision for Eastbrooke & WestBrooke Manor Assisted Living and Memory Care. From the very beginning, she was instrumental in shaping the community, serving as Activities Director, trusted advisor, and Linda’s constant right hand for over 16 years. Pat poured her heart into creating a home-like atmosphere—decorating for every season and holiday (especially her beloved Christmas and Halloween), planning meaningful activities, and spending time with residents to ensure they felt valued and cared for. Tireless in her dedication, she often went above and beyond, even staying late just to sit and talk with someone who needed company. Her hard work and compassionate spirit left an indelible mark, enriching the lives of everyone who walked through the doors. Pat had a special knack for design, whether it be for arrangements for weddings & special occasions, or transforming her home with stunning seasonal decorations that drew compliments from the neighbors & many observers outside the neighborhood. Shopping trips with her daughters, particularly for those legendary Kmart Blue Light Specials, brought her immense joy. Patricia will be missed by her children, Linda Follett Carlson, John Michael (Julie) Follett, Tammy Follett-Kempf, Timo-

thy (Valarie) Follett and daughter-in-law Debbie Follett. Along with ten grandchildren; Paul (Jenny) Lohry, Eric (Alisha Ohlinger) Lohry, Brooke Spanbauer, David (Beth) Follett, Elizabeth (Michael) Follett-Figueroa, Sarah (Andy) Eichhorn, Nicholas (fiancé- Ashley Singers) Kempf, Ceaira (Christopher) Macijeski, Hannah Follett, Clairissa Follett. Along with 10 great grandchildren, 3 great-great grandchildren as well as many close friends and relatives. Pat is further survived by her constant kitty companions Mandy & Lil Kitty (Baby).

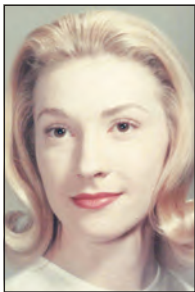
Along with Patricia’s late parents and husband, she is preceded in death by two sons, Everett Daniel Follett and infant son Andrew Follett. A funeral service for Pat was held on Monday, September 22, 2025. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery.

Pat’s family would like to thank Dr Weston Radford and the Ascension Medical Staff and a special thank you to Pat’s private caregiver, Alisha.



Karla Ann Grabner

Karla Ann Grabner, 82, of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully on September 12, 2025, surrounded by her family.



Born on May 17, 1943, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, to Fred and Johanna (Miller), Karla lived a life defined by kindness, creativity, and service to others.

Karla married the love of her life, Ronald Grabner, after first spotting him at church—she knew immediately they would one day marry. Together they built a life centered on family and faith. Their shared love of boating took many forms over the years, from trips to Door County to their “second paradise” on Lac Vieux Desert, where Karla discovered a new joy in fishing with her captain.

In her early years of marriage, Karla devoted herself to raising their two children. As they grew, she pursued her passion for design and began creating beauty in people’s homes. She started at Prange’s before founding her own business, Karla G. Interiors, which she ran for more than 20 years. Helping families shape their most cherished spaces brought her great joy. She was known for her kind heart, her legendary chocolate shakes, chocolate chip cookies and baking in general,

and her gift for making everyone feel welcome while bringing warmth and beauty wherever she went. Karla also loved gardening, where her creativity blossomed outdoors. Whether arranging colorful flowerbeds or nurturing plants with care, she delighted in making the world around her beautiful.

Karla is survived by her husband of 61 years, Ronald; their children, Ronald (Cheryl) Grabner of Oshkosh and Karlene (Christopher) Leitch of Oshkosh; and five cherished grandchildren, Chelsea (Jake), Melinda (Quincy), Zachary, Anika, and Audrik. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Charles; her sister, Rosemary; and the family pets who brought her joy and companionship over the years—Grabs, Tempe, and Dawson.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, September 29th, at Most Blessed Sacrament (St. Peter’s) in Oshkosh, with visitation beginning at 9:30 a.m., and a luncheon immediately following. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Most Blessed Sacrament or the charity of your choice.

Karla’s family is deeply grateful for the exceptional care provided at Parkview Health Care Center.

Her legacy of love, beauty, and faith will live on in all who knew her.



Tanner J. Hielsberg

As shared in his full obituary, Tanner J. Hielsberg, 36, of Oshkosh, passed away unexpectedly from a heart attack at his home on August 23, 2025.



Tanner will be remembered for his sharp mind, love of technology, thoughtful spirit, and the deep connections he held with family and friends.

Tanner’s family invites all who knew and loved him to join them for a Celebration of Life on Thursday, October 2, 2025 at The Hangar Bar and Grill, 1485 W 20th Ave, Oshkosh, WI 54902 from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm.

All who held him in their hearts are welcome as we gather to share memories and honor the lasting impact he had on our lives.



Yvonne Russell

Our beloved Mother and Grammy, Yvonne (Krause) Russell, 89, of Oshkosh,



Wisconsin, went home to heaven and into the loving arms of Jesus on August 11, 2025. She will be dearly missed by those she leaves behind.

She was born on March 7, 1936, in Shawano, Wisconsin, the youngest daughter of Robert and Mamie Krause.

Yvonne deeply loved her children and grandchildren. She worked hard all her life to care for her family and to help others. Her quick wit and sense of humor were

treasured by family and friends, bringing laughter to many. Her smiling eyes reflected her fun-loving spirit. Above all, Yvonne loved and depended on the Lord with her whole heart. She often spoke with gratitude for His unfailing faithfulness, and Psalm 23, her favorite scripture, was a cherished reminder of God’s constant presence. She is survived by her four children—Daniel (Karen), David (Debbie), Dawn (Luigi), and Dayna (Richard)—as well as 14 grandchildren: John, Rehana, Teresa, Aaron, Miranda, Jessie, Joshua, Cody, Caitlin, Taylor, Dusti, Sawyer, Jacob, and Katarina; and 15 great-grandchildren. A Celebration of Life will be held in Shawano, Wisconsin, on October 3, 2025, at 11:30 AM at the Woodlawn Cemetery Chapel.

Florence Michels Schatz

Florence Michels Schatz of Omro Wi. our beloved mother, passed away peacefully at home on Sept. 7, 2025.



Born March 15 1932 in Oshkosh to Elizabeth Hansetter and Chester Kilbey.

She was first a nurturing mother of 8, later a preschool teacher, then a nurses-aid, and in retirement a gracious volunteer at Paine art center and later at Omro Care center.

One of her greatest gifts was her incredible talent as an artist (painter) sharing her many works with family and friends. She continued her hobby right up to her last days.

Preceded in death by her parents, husband Sig and step-son Travis Schatz. She is survived by children Dennis Michels, Dean Michels (Gloria), Leanne Kinderman, Lynn Kershishnik (Allen), Amy Krumenauer (Rick), Laurie Pieper (Dr. David), David Michels (Cindy), Kay Goode (Dave), Sister Connie and Dave Friedel, Sarah Friedel, Along with 20 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren.

She will be cherished for her kind, good-natured and giving personality. Her spirit and endearing legacy will live on forever in the hearts of those who knew her. We would like to give a special thank you to those who allowed her to stay in her own home; Amy Madsen for her loving care, hospice nurse Whitney, and CNA Erika for their wonderful care. There will be no formal service and she will be interred at Lakeview Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to Omro Community Center 1005 E Main St. Omro WI. 54963 for a memorial in her name.



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Cuttlefish

Cuttlefish are sea creatures. They are related to squids and octopuses.

Cuttlefish have some amazing skills! Things like bones that float, color-changing skin and loads of arms. Read on and learn!

Can You Cuddle a Cuttlefish?

Perhaps. They have eight arms and two other tentacles for grabbing food. That makes for a lot of arms to cuddle with!

Cuttlefish have a special shell inside their bodies which helps them to float. The name of this special shell can be found along the correct path through the maze.

Cuttlefish Are Smart!

Cuttlefish have passed a test that many toddlers can't pass. Scientists discovered that cuttlefish will not eat one treat if they know they'll get a better treat later if they wait. Could you do that?

I'm Not a Fish!

Even though they're called "cuttlefish," they are not fish. They're in the same family as clams and snails. Use the code to discover the name of this family of animals.

Cuttlefish Cousins Odd Facts

Octopuses and cuttlefishes are in the same family and have a lot in common. Read the list of ways these animals are the same. Some of these are true. Some are not. Do the math to get to the truth. The statements next to a math problem with an **even** answer are **false**. Those that add up to an **odd** number are **true**. These are truly some odd facts!


Compound Words

Extra! Extra!

Cuttlefish is a compound word. That means it is made up of two words, *cuttle* and *fish*.

Look through the newspaper for other compound words. Then look for words that could be combined to make compound words.

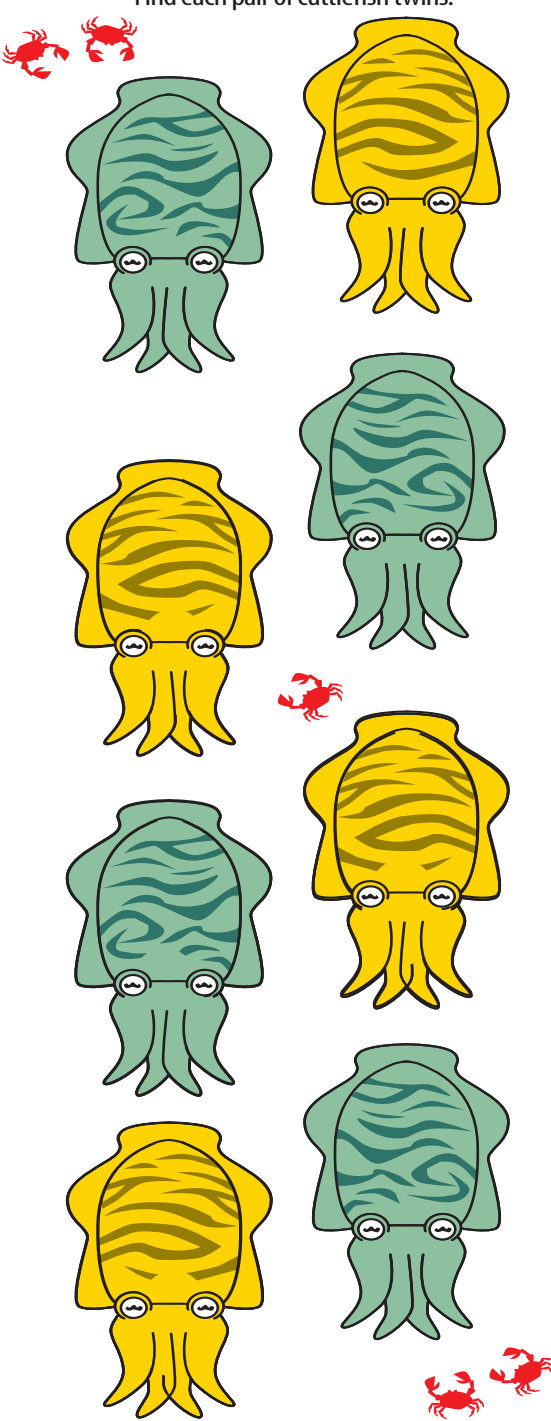
Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums and differences to 30. Language Arts: Identify compound words.



Kid Scoop Together

Cuttlefish Combos

Find each pair of cuttlefish twins.



Kid Scoop Puzzler

Cuttlefish can change their skin color and patterns on their bodies in a blink! They use this to hide from predators, talk to other cuttlefish or sneak up on prey like crabs and fish.

Color each cuttlefish to match each background.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions. Visual Arts: Create images using a variety of media.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

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Give some tips about how to be patient. Can you come up with five or more?

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



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