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INSIDE



Warriors advance
Valley Christian rolls
to regional crown
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No traffic light
City nixes addition by
Traeger School
Page 3



Photo by Michael Cooney

Keeping tradition going

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources plans to release about 75,000 pheasants this fall on more than 80 public properties statewide, part of a long-running effort to maintain hunting opportunities even as wild populations have declined. DNR wildlife biologist Josh Jackl said he released about 40 birds west of Oshkosh last week to start the season, scattering them in small groups of four or five across public lands. The pheasant season runs through Jan. 4.

School Board approves tax levy increase

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Area School District's Board of Education approved an increase of about \$1.67 million to the tax levy but officials are also promoting a decrease in the mill rate.

The tax levy is increasing by 2.5% to \$67,616,532 for next year from \$65,943,198 this year. The mill rate is set to drop from \$7.90 to \$7.81.

OASD executive director of business services Drew Niehans said that if a homeowner's property valuation has not increased the school's portion of the tax bill will go down.

"If everything's equal and you had a \$200,000 property last year and you have a \$200,000 property this year – your school taxes will be lower," Niehans said.

For a homeowner that owns a home valued at \$225,000 with the new mill rate of \$7.81, they can expect the district portion of the tax bill to be around \$1,757 on their December tax bill, compared to paying \$1,778 for the same property last year.

Board members Kelly DeWitt and Tim Hess both voted against the budget in September and voted against the tax levy last week.

Hess spoke at length about using equalized value versus assessed value for the mill rate. Niehans uses the equalized value to come up with a mill rate, and Hess argued it's not transparent to use that figure because the tax bills are based on assessed value.

The assessed value is what the city says a home is worth. The equalized value is what the home is worth in context of all the taxable properties in the municipality.

Hess noted that taxpayers in Oshkosh may see their taxes go down with this mill rate, but that may not be the case for those

SEE **Tax levy** ON PAGE 10

Quarry Park design gains initial commission approval

Plan moves to Common Council for consideration

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

An Oshkosh park with a long history could be seeing changes to create a new type of park for the neighborhood.

The plan for Quarry Park will cost over \$500,000 and will include a path that winds through the park, new seated areas and a musical garden featuring outdoor musical instruments. It has received committee approval and now awaits consideration from the Oshkosh Common Council.

The history of Quarry Park goes back to the 19th century when three quarries were in the area of South Park Avenue and Knapp Street. The Oshkosh Stone Company closed the 50-foot-deep quarry in 1954 in the area that is now Quarry Park

on Knapp Street between Florida and West 17th avenues.

This used to be the outskirts of Oshkosh and by 1962 the city had purchased or leased most of the land around the closed quarries for sanitary landfills. The quarry was filled and became a landfill. In 1968 after the landfill was full, the area was graded and fenced as a park.

Two ball fields were used for kids baseball and softball games. The ball fields were eventually removed along with a parking lot and small building because it had become as one resident called it – "like a lunar landscape."

Due to the landfill city staff and residents acknowledged the ground has continued to shift and sink over the last 50 years when the site was sealed.

In 2010, the city installed a vent system to manage the methane levels coming

SEE **Quarry Park** ON PAGE 10



City of Oshkosh Photo

This conceptual rendering shows a bird's-eye view of what Quarry Park could look like in the future. Plans include a path that wraps around the park with entrances at each corner of the park, a musical garden and stone seating that pays tribute to the history of the site.



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Photo by Michael Cooney

Downtown Trick-or-Treat

A cool fall morning gave way to sunshine as Main Street filled with families for the annual Downtown Trick-or-Treat during the Oshkosh Saturday Farmers Market. Kids in costume stopped by the Market Central tent where Miss Oshkosh Thea Bender and Miss Oshkosh Teen Izzi Mugerauer handed out candy and smiles. Market Manager Michelle Schmid-Schultz said the day is a highlight and wonderful way to end the outdoor season. The Oshkosh Winter Farmers Market begins Nov. 15 at Oshkosh Arena.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical Society

Oct. 30, 1975

Rock Star Takes the Stage in Oshkosh:

The famous rock group “Faces,” featuring Rod Stewart and Ronnie Wood, brought the house down at the Kolf

Center Thursday night. Despite the terrible acoustics at the Kolf, Stewart and Wood brought the 6,000-plus crowd of under-20s to their feet. The group’s plane arrived at Wittman Field 45 minutes late which delayed the concert by an hour. But once the group stepped on the stage, all was forgiven by the anxious crowd. Stewart stomped, leaped, and gyrated across the stage accompanied by the outstanding guitar work of Wood who just came off tour with the Rolling Stones. The four-hour long concert began with a set by The Atlanta Rhythm Section (who many complained they never heard of).

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Oct. 31, 1975

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Oshkosh Southwest Rotary selects new president

Oshkosh Herald

Karen Boehm, director of advancement at Lourdes Academy of Oshkosh, has been named the Oshkosh Southwest Rotary Club’s incoming president for the 2025–2026 Rotary year, which began in July.

Boehm, who joined Rotary in January 2020, has been an active and engaged member for the past five and a half years. Her involvement in the club has included serving on the Youth Committee, participating in local service projects such as Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed builds, serving meals at Day by Day, supporting the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry and volunteering at community events including Rock the Block and the Parent Connection Christmas Party.

“Since joining Rotary, I’ve encountered people from our community and around the world who share a common mission — ‘Service Above Self,’ which is the motto of Rotary,” Boehm said. “I’m continually inspired by Rotarians who seek opportunities to make positive changes in their communities and the world. I became president to continue the work and mission of Rotary and serve alongside individuals who share in that mission.”

Boehm said what she enjoys most about being a Rotarian is the sense of fellowship and shared purpose.

“From the moment I joined Rotary, I felt welcomed into a community of people who are passionate about using their time and talent to serve,” she said. “Service is an opportunity to show love in an outward way, and Rotary provides a vehicle to do that.”

Outside of Rotary, Boehm is involved in the community, volunteering with organizations such as Father Carr’s Place 2B, St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church and previously with the Professional Women’s Connection. Her volunteer work includes helping with holiday programs, delivering meals and mentoring engaged couples through her church’s FOCCUS Ministry.

Correction

Oct. 22, Page 4: In the “William Waters Plaza gazebo work completed” article, William Waters was an accomplished architect in Oshkosh, not the city’s mayor.

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NOTICE OF
CITY OF OSHKOSH
2025 FALL LEAF & YARD WASTE COLLECTIONS

With Autumn right around the corner, please help us keep debris off of the streets and out of the storm sewers by participating in the 2025 Loose Leaf Collection Program.

By working together, we will have a clean and efficient storm sewer system resulting in a cleaner Lake Winnebago!

Leaf & Yard Waste Disposal Options

- (1) LOOSE LEAF COLLECTION GUIDELINES:
- Leaves must be raked onto the terrace. **DO NOT RAKE LEAVES INTO THE STREET**, into the gutter line, onto sidewalks, around parked cars, mailboxes, fire hydrants, power poles, or other obstructions.

Street Division crews complete several collection cycles for the whole city. Please see schedule below.

Please **DO NOT** place yard waste, branches, or grass clippings into the same piles as the leaves. Rocks, branches, and other debris can injure employees or damage equipment. Crews will NOT pick up leaf piles that contain these materials.
- (2) YARD WASTE IN PAPER BIODEGRADABLE BAGS:
- Sanitation Division crews will collect yard waste in **PAPER BIODEGRADABLE BAGS** on your regular garbage collection day during the first full collection week in November and December. Please place leaves, flowers, garden waste, etc. only in **PAPER BIODEGRADABLE BAGS**. Bags **CANNOT** exceed a weight of fifty (50) pounds. **Grass clippings CANNOT be put out for collection and must not be mixed with the yard waste.**
- (3) DROP-OFF CENTER:
- Another option is to take your leaves to the drop-off center located on West 3rd Avenue between Idaho Street and Ohio Street. THIS OPTION REQUIRES A DROP OFF PERMIT, WHICH CAN BE PURCHASED AT CITY HALL OR KITZ & PFEIL. The drop off site also accepts grass clippings and brush. Hours of operation are 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and closed on holidays. Please empty your containers at the drop-off center. All yard waste being transported in trucks or trailers to the drop-off center must be properly secured with a tarp.

2025 Leaf & Yard Waste Schedule

- (1) LOOSE LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE:
- Loose Leaf Collection begins Monday, October 20th. To reduce congestion in the neighborhoods, the primary day for loose leaf collection will be **THE NEXT BUSINESS DAY FOLLOWING** your garbage collection day.
- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| FRIDAY GARBAGE = MONDAY LEAVES | 10/20 | 10/27 | 11/03 | 11/10 | 11/17 |
| MONDAY GARBAGE = TUESDAY LEAVES | 10/21 | 10/28 | 11/04 | 11/11 | 11/18 |
| TUESDAY GARBAGE = WEDNESDAY LEAVES | 10/22 | 10/29 | 11/05 | 11/12 | 11/19 |
| WEDNESDAY GARBAGE = THURSDAY LEAVES | 10/23 | 10/30 | 11/06 | 11/13 | 11/20 |
| THURSDAY GARBAGE = FRIDAY LEAVES | 10/24 | 10/31 | 11/07 | 11/14 | 11/21 |

The loose leaf collection is scheduled to end the week of November 17th, weather permitting.

LOOSE LEAF COLLECTION MAY END EARLIER DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER.
- (2) BAGGED & BUNDLED YARD WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE:
- LEAVES WILL ONLY BE COLLECTED AFTER THE SCHEDULED COLLECTION ENDS IF THEY ARE PLACED IN PAPER BIODEGRADABLE BAGS TO BE PICKED UP DECEMBER 1ST THRU DECEMBER 5TH ON YOUR REGULARLY-SCHEDULED GARBAGE DAY.**
- (3) DROP-OFF CENTER:
- As a reminder, the drop-off center is available 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and closed on holidays.

For more information, call (920) 232-5380 or (920) 232-5383, Monday through Friday.



Submitted photo

TEDxOshkosh is returning Nov. 15 to The Grand Oshkosh with a new lineup of speakers selected to spark curiosity, foster dialogue and inspire community action.

TEDxOshkosh announces speakers for upcoming event

Oshkosh Herald

TEDxOshkosh announced the speakers for its ninth annual fall event Nov. 15 at The Grand Oshkosh.

Open to the public, the event promotes open-minded thought through a lineup of speakers selected to spark curiosity, foster dialogue and inspire community action.

A locally produced event, licensed by the TED organization, TEDxOshkosh presents short, thought-provoking talks in the “TED Talk” style. Live and in-person, the event offers attendees a fast-paced day of reflection Beyond the Horizon of ordinary thought, with a carefully curated selection of talks that will introduce audience members to topics they may not have chosen on their own when watching online.

According to TEDxOshkosh co-producer, Craig Burnett, “I continue to be inspired by the scope of regional speaker talent and topics we are privileged to present, and I sincerely believe this year’s lineup promises to be one of the best yet. Joining other equally curious attendees brings audience members the opportunity to not only absorb interesting ideas, but to also talk about them throughout the day.”

TEDxOshkosh is presented in four fast-paced segments with time in between to socialize and discuss new-found knowledge. Food is provided during breaks, and a catered hot lunch is included. Seating price options range from \$39 for students,

plus \$79, \$89 and \$99 for adults, depending on the seating area.

Registration closes on Nov. 10. Sign up at TEDxOshkosh.com/register by that date.

Speaker lineup

- Shola Adegbite - The World is a Marketplace: Lessons from the Yoruba Culture

Stav Atir - The Unexpected Benefits of Talking with Strangers

Danielle Block - Exploring the Hidden, Human-Created World Beneath Our Feet

Kristin Bock - Saying Yes to Strangers Can Change Everything: Lessons Learned from Hosting International Exchange Students

Mary Beth Connors - Micro-Enterprise for All Abilities: Brewing Futures Through Coffee and Confidence

Angie Freeman - The Answer to Performative Allyship: Having the Courage to Call Your Own Bluff

Mikki Gates - When was the last time you really thought about toilets?

Lia Medeiros - Visualizing Black Holes: Seeing More thanks to Machine Learning

Connie Schneider - Another look at CPR: Two Hands to Save a Life

Abraham Smith - Life Is a Poem

Saanvi Uppalapati - A Hidden Cost of AI No One Wants to Talk About

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Meeting the challenges facing school districts, boards

Last month I had the pleasure of speaking to a group of school board members in Minnesota about the challenges they face.

It was a good mix of about 40 elected officials representing small, large, urban and rural school districts. While each district had their own unique challenges, three areas of discussion are highly relevant to school districts and boards here in Wisconsin (and, of course, Oshkosh).

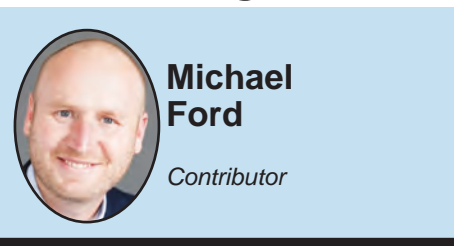
First is the pressing need for school boards to coalesce around the goal of improving student academic outcomes. While prioritizing student outcomes seem obvious, school boards have not always focused on student performance.

In 1959 political scientist Thomas Eliot, in one of the earlier academic writings on school boards, opined that the role of the school board is “to hire and support a competent professional as superintendent, defend the schools against public criticism, and persuade the people to open their pocketbooks.”

While hiring a competent superintendent is always important, it is hard to argue that boards should blindly defend a district against all criticism or always advocate for more funding. Some critiques have merit, and funding should be advocated for only when it is impactful.

Even today many school boards lose sight of the core mission of improving student outcomes. Boards can get focused on micro-managing staff, arguing over symbolic resolutions relating to national political issues, indulging in culture war disputes and more.

The nature of the issues distracting a board from its main task is less important



than the impact of the distraction. Governing boards will always find something to focus on, but if school boards do not focus on student outcomes, the outcomes are unlikely to improve.

The second area of discussion was the challenge of declining enrollment. In Wisconsin public school enrollments decreased by about two percent between 2023 and 2025.

Over that same time, enrollment in the Oshkosh Area School District (OASD) has decreased by about half a percent. Some of the decline is due to demographics trends, some due to families leaving Wisconsin and some due to families making the choice to attend a publicly funded school outside of OASD or homeschool.

Enrollment trends are crucial for several reasons. Financially, schools receive funding based on enrollments, so each time a child leaves a district, less funding is available.

Enrollment counts are made on three-year rolling averages to cushion the impact of declines, but the financial implications are real, especially because fixed costs often remain the same during times of declining enrollment. When 20 students leave a district, for example, they do not all leave from one classroom enabling a reduction of staff.

The larger challenge of declining

enrollment is the message it sends about parental confidence in a school district. Demographics trends are what they are, but parents choosing to send their children to non-district schools is a powerful signal that there is something parents want that is not being offered.

For some it is religion, and that is obviously beyond the scope of a public school district. But many want things that could be provided. Districts and board must prioritize listening and innovating so as to provide the things that attract parents.

The third area of discussion was trust. I purposely list trust third because a school district is unlikely to improve student outcomes or stem the tide of declining enrollment without a high degree of trust.

That trust goes in multiple directions. School board members must trust each other’s intentions. The superintendent must trust school board members ability

to process and discuss challenging information. The board and district must trust parents’ stated desires and lived experiences.

Trust is hard to gain, easy to lose, but essential for improving student outcomes in a large and complex public school district.

I share my experience with board members in Minnesota as a reminder that the challenges we face here in Oshkosh are not unique. Many school systems are struggling with the same things.

But we also must accept that some are doing a better job than others in addressing these struggles. My hope is that we in Oshkosh can create the trust to meet these challenges for the betterment of our community and its future.

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

North students host ‘Sweat for a Vet’ fundraiser

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh North High School juniors and seniors in the Communities 2 program are hosting their annual “Sweat for a Vet” fitness fundraiser on Nov. 11 at the Frank Schade Fieldhouse.

This CrossFit-style workout, with a modified option for walkers, marks the culmination of the students’ study of the military-to-civilian transition and Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs). Proceeds from the third annual event will benefit the Northeast Wisconsin Old Glory Honor Flight, supporting their mission to transport local veterans to Washington, D.C.

The Communities 2 program is proud

to partner with Westside FIRE Fitness Camp, owned by Eli Macias, to host this event. Designed for convenience, registration begins at 5:45 a.m., the workout starts promptly at 6 a.m., and the event wraps up by 7 a.m., allowing participants to easily get to work or attend other Veterans Day activities.

Participation in the “Sweat for a Vet” fitness challenge costs \$15, with an option to purchase a commemorative event T-shirt for \$10. All proceeds go directly to support the Honor Flight’s efforts to honor local veterans.

Community members can participate, attend, or make a donation online at <https://bit.ly/sweatvet2025>.



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County changes plan to borrowing for capital projects

By Anya Kelley
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors last week approved a plan that would authorize the borrowing of no more than \$28 million for the next two years to be used on capital improvement projects.

Capital improvement projects range from general construction, road maintenance and remodeling all the way to furnishing buildings and replacing fixtures. The board has already approved 53 capital improvement projects for 2025 coming to a total of \$19.7 million. There are 20 projects planned for 2026 totaling \$16.7 million that have not been approved yet.

The resolution presented at the County Board of Supervisors' Oct. 21 meeting by Finance Director Paul Kaiser and Managing Director of financial advisor firm Baird Justin Fischer had been considered by the Personnel and Finance committee before it was brought to the Board of Supervisors.

Kaiser said Winnebago County tends to be reactive with their budget, spending from the general fund for capital projects to then borrow after replenishing the fund. In the past few years, the Personnel and Finance committee and the Board of Supervisors have worked to change the spending structure and improve their five-year financial planning process.

"The foresight of what we've been trying to do is we wanted to borrow proactively to pay for all of the capital projects

with money we have borrowed so that the general fund could be invested at the interest rates to be able to get our money before interest rates start going down," Kaiser said.

Kaiser said that the goal is to invest the unassigned general fund. The resolution states that the highest amount that can be borrowed is \$28 million – \$20 million will go against the debt levy and the tax levy for the general fund, \$5 million will be used for highway improvement projects and \$3 million will be used for solid waste.

Both a debt levy and a tax levy involve property taxes but are used differently. A tax levy, or general levy, is the total amount of property taxes a local government collects to fund its operational budget, and a debt levy is used to repay borrowed money usually over a long term.

The term for repayment is 10 years, and the loan will be callable in 2032. Fischer gave a bond market update and said since spring of this year, interest rates have been volatile. Right now, volatility has cooled, and Fischer said it's a good time to get ahead of the future market. Winnebago County has a high-quality bond credit rating at double A1 due to years of positive financial health and quality spending. Fischer said this will give them a good interest rate once they go out to the market.

"This is going to reimburse the 2025 projects that have been spent, as Paul mentioned, plus fund the 2026 capital improvement projects that you've seen," Fischer said.

A hypothetical long-term CIP financing plan was provided in the meeting packet and illustrated how almost all of the county's outstanding debt would be paid off by 2034. Fischer said this long-term plan allows for

capital projects to be completed without a heavy increase to the tax levy or the mill rate to avoid burdening the constituent.

"We're trying to pay it down as fast as we can within reason so your taxpayers can save on interest cost but also manage that levy year over year while they continue to fund investments within their county," Fischer said.

Supervisor George Bureau asked for clarification on the types of projects the money will be used for citing an upcoming "massive" capital project. The \$28 million will be used for the ongoing capital improvement projects the county takes on every year and will not be used for the master plan that has been in the works for the past few years. Kaiser said the master plan will likely require 20-year borrowing.

"My personal opinion ... is that we should always be establishing our borrowing for what we are approving in our budget, not for something we have already approved," Supervisor Stefanie Holt said. "And I think you all have been getting ... a pretty clear and consistent message from the Personnel and Finance Committee that we have to start being proactive and timing our borrowing to match the budget instead of looking back and saying 'well, okay now how do we refund this?'"

Supervisor Chuck Farrey said he was concerned about approving borrowing

money before the board approved the capital projects they will take on for 2026 stating that there is a change in their usual process. Farrey also asked why the county should bond \$10 million for capital projects when there is \$10 million in the ARPA fund that has been approved for county capital improvement.

"I am just trying to proactively borrow for capital projects," Kaiser said.

Supervisor Steven Binder was against the resolution and said that in his 10 years serving at the county level, they have never borrowed for more than one year at a time. He also cited the money sitting in APRA for capital improvements as a reason not to borrow for the 2026 projects.

"Why take the money from the taxpayer when you all know that they're basically struggling to make ends meet right now?" Binder said.

The resolution needed a 3/4 vote to be approved and failed 26-7-3 needing 27 votes to pass. A motion for reconsideration was made immediately, and discussion was opened again.

Supervisor Donald Nussbaum asked what happens if the resolution fails and Kaiser said he wasn't sure, but someone would likely need to bring an amendment to the floor with a new dollar amount, or no money will be borrowed. Ultimately, the reconsideration passed 29-6-1.

Board urges increased support for SNAP

By Anya Kelley
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors at its board meeting Oct. 21 voted in favor of a resolution to support increased funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The ongoing federal government shutdown has effectively cut off all federal dollars to programs that have not been deemed essential. Services such as Social Security and the United States Postal Service are guaranteed funds, but SNAP, also known as FoodShare, is one of many services to lose its federal dollars. FoodShare benefits are 100% funded by the federal government and will end starting in November.

Along with the federal government shutdown, the passing of the H.R. 1 bill, or the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, implemented immediate changes to the FoodShare program that started Oct. 1. H.R. 1 increases the work requirements for individuals who receive SNAP while also changing what is considered an error. Now, if a state has higher than a 6% error rate they will be fined.

Starting Saturday, county government workers will be required to verify the additional requirements without adding additional staff members. According to a letter sent by the Wisconsin Counties Association, 56 more staff members are required to keep the state's error rate low. That totals \$16.1 million needed to avoid penalties.

The Wisconsin Counties Association put together a call to action for county governments asking each county to send a letter to their representatives and senators to support a funding request.

The funding request will not require counties to spend extra dollars on SNAP. Instead, it encourages the state to make a budget correction to allow their dollars to fill the federal gap.

"The changes in the laws regarding SNAP payments are going to impact all counties in Wisconsin," Winnebago County Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke

said. "The issue is that there will not only be further need to evaluate or to verify SNAP payment recipients, which will cost our manpower and our time to do, but also, that we will be concerned about having a higher error rate."

Currently, Wisconsin ranks in the top five lowest error rates in the country. In 2024, the error rate sat at 4.47% while the national average was 10.93%. When a state has a high error rate, they are subjected to federal penalties and, in some cases, increased oversight. Error rates include underpaying and overpaying households for their benefits.

"What we're recommending is that we ask the governor and the state legislature to cover us for those increased funds so that we don't start having higher error rates and suffering penalties," Hancock-Cooke said.

Supervisor Conley Hanson said resolutions like these are not uncommon, but they seem to be more effective when they are sent to the legislative committee. Since the issue is time sensitive, Hancock-Cooke said waiting three months for the resolution to hit the floor could deem it ineffective.

Vice chairman Chuck Farrey agreed that the time sensitivity made it pertinent to vote at last week's meeting.

Supervisor Rachael Dowling was in favor of sending the resolution back to the legislative committee and said she would rather have all 36 county board supervisors personally call and send letters to the state.

"36 voices, a chorus of meeting for support, is going to be louder than a letter that might get there in 30 days," Dowling said.

Supervisor Lucas Reinke disagreed with sending it back due to the time sensitivity and said the county board can both send a letter to the state, and everyone can contact their representative.

The vote to send the resolution back to the legislative committee failed 13-22 and discussion for the original motion began again. The resolution passed by voice vote.

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Fox Valley Take Back the Night, 5 p.m., Culver Family Welcome Center
- Friday, Oct. 31**
City of Oshkosh Trick-or-Treat, 5-7 p.m.
Trick-Or-Tease: A Burlesque Masquerade, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena
House on Haunted Hill in Emergo, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater
The Pocket Kings play Thriller, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh
- Saturday, Nov. 1**
Altrusa Club of Oshkosh Harvest Moon Craft & Bake Sale, 8 a.m., Leannah Hall, Sacred Heart Church of St. Jude Parish, 515 Knapp St.
Winnebago Area Model Classic Model Show and Swap Meet, 10 a.m., Hilton Garden Inn, 1355 W. 20th Ave.
Oshkosh Sings, 3 p.m., Oshkosh North High School Field House
Fox Cities Roller Derby Monsters Brawl, 5 p.m., Oshkosh Arena
Oshkosh Gallery Walk, 6 p.m., Downtown Oshkosh
Oshkosh Area Community Band Fall Concert, 7 p.m., Alberta Kimball Auditorium
Jon Stetson – The Stetson Experience, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Masonic Center, 204 Washington Ave.
Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater
- Tuesday, Nov. 4**
First Tuesday at First Congregational featuring Handel, Rachmaninoff and Elgar, noon, 137 Algoma Boulevard
- Thursday, Nov. 6**
Meet Local Author Machaela Jackson (My Othello), 5:30 p.m., Caramel Crisp Bookstore, 200 D City Center
- Friday, Nov. 7**
NEWGame - Northeast Wisconsin Gameapalooza Annual Board Game Convention, 9 a.m., Culver Welcome Center
Morgan House Tour, 6 p.m., 234 Church Ave.
Princess Bride, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater
Turn to Stone: A Tribute to ELO, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh
- Saturday, Nov. 8**
Holiday Wonders Shopping Expo and Craft Fair, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center
NEWGame - Northeast Wisconsin Gameapalooza Annual Board Game Convention, 9 a.m., Culver Welcome Center
Brittany Feria, Author of Sammy Goes to the Doctor, Book Signing, 10:30 a.m., Caramel Crisp Bookstore
Family Discovery Days, 11 a.m., Oshkosh Public Museum
Oshkosh Garden Club Scholarship Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., TJ's Highland Steakhouse
Metallica with Scorpions Tribute Shows, 6:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh
Kansas and Blue Öyster Cult, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena
Labyrinth, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater
- Sunday, Nov. 9**
Oshkosh Communities Autumn Craft Fair, 9 a.m., Oshkosh North High School Field House



Photo from Oshkosh Area School District

The OASD Education Foundation accepted a \$1,000 kickoff contribution from Battle on Bago at Franklin Elementary School. This donation launches the Foundation's \$5,000 fundraising drive to purchase essential hats, mittens, and gloves for local students in need. Pictured (back row, from left): Glenn Curran, founder and president of Battle on Bago; Dr. Bryan Davis, OASD superintendent; Theresa Duren, OASD Education Foundation director; Kathryn Noble, Franklin Elementary School principal; and Battle on Bago board members Todd Reuss and Curt Stam.

Winter gear initiative to support local students

Oshkosh Herald

For the second year, the Oshkosh Area School District (OASD) Education Foundation and Community Clothes Closet are partnering to provide essential winter gear to Oshkosh public school students in need. This ongoing effort ensures that no child goes without proper clothing during Wisconsin's coldest months.

With more than half of OASD elementary students - over 2,000 children - coming from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, many families struggle to afford warm winter gear.

Thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the J.J. Keller Foundation to the Community Clothes Closet, snow pants and boots will once again be provided to students in need.

To meet the continued demand, the OASD Education Foundation is working to raise an additional \$5,000 to purchase mittens, hats and gloves. The campaign got a strong launch thanks to a \$1,000 contribution from Battle on Bago.

Community members are invited to join the effort by visiting bit.ly/472AcZI to make an online donation. Donations will be accepted through Nov. 28.

Local Veterans Day ceremonies planned

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh Patriotic Council will be holding Veterans Day ceremonies beginning at 10:45 a.m. Nov. 11. This year the ceremonies will take place inside at the American Legion Post 70 located at 1332 Spruce St.

The community is invited to honor veterans for their bravery and recognize the sacrifices they have made for the country.

The guest speaker will be Vietnam Veteran Ralph Beck, who is a Past State Commander AMVETS, Past Commander of AMVETS Post 7 and a Past Commandant of the Winnebago Detachment Marine Corps League.

In addition to the guest speaker, there will be a full program including the laying of the wreath, and the event will close with The United Veterans Honor Guard's rifle volley in honor of deceased veterans followed by the playing of Taps by Lisa Zemlock.

Veterans Day was originally known as "Armistice Day" on Nov. 11, 1919, which was the first anniversary of the end of World War I. In 1954 President Dwight D. Eisenhower changed the name to Veterans Day to honor all former military service members.

Ceremonies are traditionally held on the "the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour," to mark the armistice signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany which took effect at 11 o'clock in the morning.



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Authorities recover body from lake

Oshkosh Herald

Officials recovered the body of a dead man over the weekend in Lake Winnebago.

The Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office received a report of suspicious items and possibly clothing was floating in the water Saturday morning near the Mill Street boat launch in Oshkosh.

Financial education workshop series offered

Oshkosh Herald

The Winnebago Area Literacy Council (WALC), in partnership with Community First Credit Union and the Oshkosh Public Library, is offering a free three-part Financial Education Workshop series in November, aimed at helping adults in the community better understand and manage their personal finances.

The workshops will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Oshkosh Public Library (Conference Room A/B). The sessions include Understanding Your Finances on Nov. 5,

The items were about 50 feet from the shore and just south of the mouth of the Fox River. Deputies recovered the body of an adult male from the water.

The name of the deceased man has not been released.

The sheriff’s office was assisted on the scene by the Winnebago County Medical Examiner’s Office.

Spending and Budgeting Basics on Nov. 12 and Creating a Monthly Budget on Nov. 19.

Each session will be led by financial specialists from Community First Credit Union, covering topics including how to manage personal finances, the differences between credit and debit cards and the basics of purchasing a home or vehicle.

The Financial Education Workshops are free and open to all adult residents in Oshkosh and the surrounding Winnebago County.

Registration is required. Interested participants can sign up online at <https://forms.gle/LtGLCQXT9pwGdsqp9>.

First Tuesday concert features classical music

Oshkosh Herald

UWO music department faculty pianist Eli Kalman, cellist Katie Decker and recently retired Chicago Lyric Opera cellist Laura Deming will be performing Nov. 4 during First Tuesday at First Congregational, 137 Algoma Boulevard.

They will perform the music of Handel, Rachmaninoff and Elgar.

The public is invited for music starting at noon, followed by homemade soups and four kinds of fresh baked bread.

The suggested donation is \$10 per person.

County’s seasonal outdoor warning siren testing concludes

Winnebago County’s summer outdoor warning siren testing has concluded for the season.

Winnebago County Emergency Management conducts weekly testing of “Se-

vere Weather Outdoor Warning Sirens” during the summer months. The last noon siren test was Saturday.

The weekly testing will resume again in spring 2026.

Public library calendar

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

Saturday, Nov. 1

Read to a Dog, 10 a.m., ages 5 – 12
Oshkosh Community Jam, 11 a.m., all ages
Tabletop Role-Playing Games, noon–2 p.m., all ages

Monday, Nov. 3

Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m.
Read to a Dog, 4 p.m., ages 5–12
Write On! Fall into Writing, 6 p.m., adults

Tuesday, Nov. 4

Storytime for Grownups at Planet Perk, 6 p.m., adults

Wednesday, Nov. 5

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.

Financial Education Workshop: Understanding Your Finances, 1 p.m., adults
Teen Advisory Board, 4:30 p.m., teens
Learn How to Play Bridge, 5:30 p.m., adults

Thursday, Nov. 6

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

Friday, Nov. 7

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

Saturday, Nov. 8

Nibbles and Giggles, noon, babies – preschool
Games at the Library: Open Play, noon, all ages
Learn and Play Unknown Worlds – Adventure with the Game Developers, noon, teens and adults

Sunday, Nov. 9

Winter Photo Sessions with Shaena Ragna Photography, 1–4 p.m., all ages

Monday, Nov. 10

Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m.
Mini Job Fair, 1-3 p.m., adults
Read to a Dog, 4 p.m., ages 5–12
Write On! Fall into Writing, 6 p.m., adults

Tuesday, Nov. 11

Tunes and Tots, 10 a.m., babies, toddlers
Genealogy Club: AI and Genealogy, 1:30 p.m., adults
Adult DIY, 6 p.m.
Stitch Together, 6:30 p.m., adults

Wednesday, Nov. 12

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.
Financial Education Workshop: Budgeting Basics, 1 p.m., adults
Learn How to Play Bridge, 5:30 p.m., adults

Thursday, Nov. 13

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m.
Second Thursday Book Group, 1:30 p.m., adults
Adult Animanga Club, 4 p.m., adults
Chess Club, 5–7 p.m., all ages

Friday, Nov. 14

Elementary Book Club, 4:30 p.m.
Young Adult Book Club, 4:30 p.m., teens

Saturday, Nov. 15

Read to a Dog, 4 p.m., ages 5–12
PuzzleRama, 1 p.m., all ages

Monday, Nov. 17

Preschool Storytime, 9:30 a.m.
Read to a Dog, 4 p.m., ages 5–12
Write on! Fall into Writing, 6 p.m., teens and adults

Tuesday, Nov. 18

Free Legal Assistance, 4:30 p.m., adults

Wednesday, Nov. 19

Baby and Toddler Storytime, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.
Financial Education Workshop: Creating a Monthly Budget, 1 p.m., adults
Teen Advisory Board, 4:30 p.m.
Learn How to Play Bridge, 5:30 p.m., adults

Thursday, Nov. 20

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

Friday, Nov. 21

Librarian Learns, The Great Fire of 1875, YouTube
WonderSTEAM, 4:30 p.m., elementary and preteen

Saturday, Nov. 22

Games at the Library: Friendsgiving, noon–2 p.m., all ages

Monday, Nov. 24

Write On! Fall into Writing, 6 p.m., teens and adults

Tuesday, Nov. 25

Tunes and Tots, 10 a.m., babies, toddlers
Banned Book Club, 6:30 p.m., adults

Thursday, Nov. 27

Library Closed: Happy Thanksgiving

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County Board revises shoreland zoning ordinance

By Anya Kelley
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors at its Oct. 21 meeting approved a revised shoreland zoning ordinance removing general land-use zoning and handing the power to municipalities.

The revised ordinance gets rid of all reference to general land-use zoning in the county’s ordinance. General land-use zoning is typically a local ordinance that divides land into different zones or districts. General land-use zoning determines what lots are residential, commercial or industrial, the type of structures that are allowed to

be built and how the land can be redeveloped in the future.

County Executive Gordon Hintz expressed concern about the revised ordinance going into effect immediately if passed by a majority. He pushed for an amendment to the ordinance to wait until April 1, 2026, for it to go into effect to allow all municipalities to develop their own general land-use ordinance as some do not currently have one.

He was also concerned about the legality of the revision. In a Facebook post on Oct. 10, Hintz said he requested that the Corporation Counsel get an opinion from the

Wisconsin Attorney General to make sure counties are not required to zone shoreland areas within municipalities, or unincorporated areas.

“We can operate under either paradigm but need to do so compliantly with state laws and with a thoughtful transition that would allow towns time to adopt new zoning ordinances and be ready for the (costly) permitting and enforcement process,” Hintz said in his post.

Corporation counsel Mary Anne Mueller said she was concerned that the revision would bring litigation to the county based on an “interplay between Wisconsin statutes coupled with case law.” Supervisor John Hinz asked if the planning committee had been made aware of Mueller’s concerns before they voted unanimously to send the revised ordinance and she said they were.

Hinz said the revision has been under consideration for many years. He said when a committee comes to a unanimous decision on something, he tends to trust them. Supervisor Conley Hanson said the municipalities often know what’s best for the county and should be empowered to make their own zoning decisions.

“I cannot imagine that the DNR, having signed off on this, has not also done their due diligence,” Hanson said.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided the model for the revision based on its updated model ordinance from 2023. Since 1968, Winnebago County has been required to administer shoreland zoning specifically to protect water quality and conserve wildlife in the watershed.

According to Winnebago County Supervisor Howard Miller, who brought the revision to the board, the DNR model is up to date with all current state laws regarding

shoreland zoning.

Miller said the county is tasked with protecting nature and not with protecting people which is the job of general land-use zoning. The revision gives the municipalities the power to use their current general land-use zoning code. Miller said municipalities are not allowed to make any special ordinances regarding zoning, so there is no extra work to be done.

“As far as litigation goes, the DNR has provided us a model,” Miller said. “So, if litigation does occur, we have the backing of the state. If we go rogue and put general zoning in there, we’re on our own if litigation comes up.”

Supervisor Chuck Farrey said the only thing the municipalities gain is general land-use zoning authority while the county retains its authority over shoreland. Many permits will still be issued by the county.

After further conversation about the drafted revision and assistance from the DNR, the revised ordinance passed with no further amendments. The revised ordinance will be given to Hintz to sign, veto or refuse to sign.

Bank robbery suspect arrested in Oshkosh

Oshkosh Herald

A 43-year-old man who is suspected of robbing a bank was arrested last week in Oshkosh.

The Outagamie County Sheriff’s Office, in collaboration with the Oshkosh Police Department, on Oct. 22 arrested Martin M. Muniz-Lara in connection with the Oct. 17 armed robbery of the Premier Community Bank in Bear Creek.

Investigators identified Muniz-Lara as the suspect who has been residing in the Greenville and Oshkosh areas. Law enforcement took Muniz-Lara into custody without incident in the 2300 block of Jackson Street in Oshkosh.

After Muniz-Lara’s arrest, three separate search warrants were conducted. Two search warrants were conducted by the Oshkosh Police Department’s SWAT Team, Patrol Division and Criminal Investigation Division. One was in the 200 block of East Fernau Avenue and a second in the 400 block of West South Park Ave-

nue in Oshkosh.

A third search warrant was conducted by the Outagamie County Sheriff’s Office Emergency Response Team in the N1600 Block of North Road in Greenville.

As a result of the search warrants, a 38-year-old man from Oshkosh was arrested by the Oshkosh Police Department and taken to the Winnebago County Jail for alleged drug-related offenses. A 24-year-old woman from Oshkosh was arrested by the Oshkosh Police Department and taken to the Winnebago County Jail for alleged possession of cocaine.

The armed robbery investigation is ongoing, and Muniz-Lara is being held in the Outagamie County Jail.

In addition to the Outagamie County Sheriff’s Office, the Oshkosh Police Department, Lake Winnebago Area MEG – Drug Unit, Fox Crossing Police Department, Grand Chute Police Department and the Winnebago County Sheriff’s Department assisted in the investigation.

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Quarry Park

FROM PAGE 1

from the landfill material. Currently Quarry Park is an empty eight-acre lot.

Now city officials would like to put in a new community park. The park will rely on street parking due to the landfill not providing enough support for parked cars.

John Kneer of Rettler Corporation last week went over the conceptual plan with the Plan Commission. Rettler Corp. designed a pair of park plans and used input from city staff and the neighborhood association to pick a final option that combined the favorable aspects of both plans.

“What can go on here? What opportunities do we have to create a neighborhood connection, a neighborhood green space? Something that’s usable and encouraging for people to get into the site,” Kneer said about planning the park.

A pair of neighbors spoke in favor of the park.

“We are thrilled to be moving forward with this and would love to see some progress made,” Lori Buskirk said.

“This plan that we’ve come up with now is really exciting,” Connie Drexler added.

Kneer gave the site history and described the landfill materials moving underground as land undulation. The plan calls for placing large boulders at the park for seating. The quarry stone will serve as a reminder of the former quarry at the site.

Ken Larie questioned the boulders and noted how the ground undulation could affect the park. Larie was a kid when the quarry was filled and saw workers move dirt and seal the site. He has watched the park change over the last 50 years.

“When I saw the heavy slabs of granite placed in a semi-circle – I just know in time, they’re going to sink and tip and

pitch,” Larie said. “That ground over 50 years continues to move and sink and change.”

Kneer admitted that the subsoil at the park is a “bathtub” as the landfill and fill material are sitting in the quarry rock bed. He said the stones will be four feet by two feet by two feet and will be able to be moved by park staff if the ground shifts.

Rettler will work with the DNR for the post-closure modification once the approval process is completed.

That plan was approved by the Plan Commission last week and will be sent to the common council for its approval.

The conceptual plan for Quarry Park includes a winding path throughout the park with entry points at each of the park’s corners, boulder seating, native prairie plant areas, a large grass area for soccer or football and a musical garden.

The musical garden will consist of large musical instruments children can play. There are similar outdoor instruments at the Read Elementary School playground and other playgrounds across the city.

Larie also questioned the noise that will come with the musical instruments.

Maurer said the musical equipment will be in the center of the park and away from the homes in the area. The equipment will be surface mounted and could be removed if the city receives a large number of complaints.

The project is set to cost around \$521,000 not including the cost of the DNR permits and approvals which Kneer said should cost between \$20,000 and \$50,000 based on his experience with these projects in the past.

The grass field will not be dedicated to any particular activity for organized sports, but Kneer said it would be big enough for neighborhood kids to put a game together.

OASD reports student enrollment continues to fall

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Student enrollment in the Oshkosh Area School District continues to decline.

For the ninth straight year OASD has seen a drop in enrollment during the Third Friday Count. At the same time the district continues to see more and more students open enroll out of the district.

State law requires all public schools to hold a count on the third Friday of September to determine school and district population and that data is used to determine funding for schools.

The official OASD Third Friday Count that was submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is 8,923. That number has consistently dropped since 2017-18 when it was 9,951.

OASD Assistant Superintendent of Operations Brian Yerkey said that number is not the “end all be all.”

There are students that are out sick on that Friday or possibly on vacation. The district can resubmit updated numbers to the DPI through January to better understand how many students attend OASD schools.

Open Enrollment

Every year since 2017-18, OASD reported a net loss of students open-enrolling out of the district. The loss has grown from 76 students in 2017-18 to 310 students for this school year.

OASD reported 194 students open-en-

rolled into OASD for this school year, compared to 504 students who open-enrolled out of the district. Last year, the district had 182 students open-enroll into the district and 479 students open-enroll into other districts.

A family exit survey was used to ask families why they are open-enrolling out of the district. Of the 433 families that left the district in 2025, the district received nine responses.

“Of those nine responses, they were kind of all over the board,” Yerkey said.

Yerkey is working on more ideas to find out why families are leaving the district.



Yerkey

“How do we get better data on people thinking about leaving the district,” he said.

Yerkey also reported that between June 2024 and June 2025 hundreds of families left the district not related to open enrollment. He said 456 moved to another district in Wisconsin, 155 moved out of state, 105 now attend private school and 124 families switched to home-school.

Yerkey reported during the meeting that 902 families left the district, but that was inaccurate and that 902 tickets were made in the district system for families inquiring about leaving the district.

Tax levy

FROM PAGE 1

living in the towns and villages that are inside the OASD boundaries.

“Property taxes are based on assessed value. So when we present equalized value mill rates that does not reflect what is likely to happen when somebody opens up the property tax bill,” Hess said. “I’m really struggling with a notion that, in fact, people are going to see a reduction. I think, well, I know in the townships they will see an increase.”

Hess added, “We gotta get better at being more transparent. Your tax bills, unless you’re in the city of Oshkosh and are residential, otherwise for most people their tax bills are going to go up. It’s not going to go up a large amount, but I’ll admit that, but it is going to go up.”

Other board members spoke about the budget and the tax levy.

Mike Ford said that mill rates have consistently gone down over the last five years

because property values continue to go up.

“That can be a misleading metric,” Ford said of the mill rate.

Ford also called for more transparency with the process. Superintendent Bryan Davis said this has not been an attempt to trick people into thinking their taxes are going down. He said the first line of communication is that the tax levy is going up by 2.5%.

“Bottom line is are we spending more dollars than we did last year to be able to keep the district running. 2.54% is that amount and we think that’s a reasonable amount as we’re moving forward,” Davis said.

Barbara Herzog noted the efforts the board has made to serve the taxpayers, such as reducing the number of teachers, closing schools and consolidating buildings.

These numbers are just for the school district’s portion of an Oshkosh tax bill; the other entities are Winnebago County, Fox Valley Technical College and the city, which has proposed a lower tax rate as part of its 2026 budget.



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Valley Christian powers past Sevastopol in regional final

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

The spikes that Anna Giannopoulos, Lizzie Fink and the other Valley Christian hitters were unleashing against Sevastopol on Saturday night were a sight to see.

But it was the build-up to those powerful swings that may have been the most impressive performance of the night for the Warriors.

A strong night of passing helped Valley Christian dominate the Pioneers in a WIAA Division 4 regional final at Valley Christian as the Warriors collected a 25-11, 25-16, 25-21 sweep inside to claim the regional title plaque.

“You can’t do anything if you don’t have good passers and our defense is the best it’s ever been,” Fink said. “Without their scrap-piness, I don’t know where we would be. They are just such an important part of the team.”

Head coach Lizzy Potratz said that she thought passing could be one of the strengths of the team coming into the season. It has been something the team has certainly relied on.

“We have some talented hitters and I think we surprise teams with just how good our hitters are, but our passing puts us in those positions,” Potratz said. “We wouldn’t hit like this without our passing.”

Aubryn Lehman and Ellie Demler lead the Warriors’ back row brigade, while setters Lydia Hardy and Bella Birr delivered those passes to the hitters.

Then Valley Christian can just swing away.

“A good defensive team really goes far because that’s the first ball you hit,” said



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Valley Christian players (from left) Lydia Hardy, Anna Giannopoulos, Ellie Demler and Aubryn Lehman react after beating Sevastopol in a WIAA Division 4 regional final on Saturday night.

Giannopoulos, who also rotates through the back row. “Serve receive and defense is something that we focus on a lot in practice and it just shows this entire year we are a pretty strong defensive team.”

Valley Christian got things rolling early against the Pioneers as Giannopolous and Lehman served the Warriors to a 15-4 lead after winning 11 of 12 points.

The closest Sevastopol would get the rest of the set was eight points with the Warriors scoring the final four points on a kill by Brielle Birr, a Sevastopol error and two aces from Giannopoulos.

“It’s always important to make it clear that you’re the team that’s ready to play and ready to win. You don’t want them to think they have a chance to come back,” Fink said. “That’s why it was important to come out strong.”

Valley Christian had beaten Sevastopol in a tournament earlier this season and the strong first set re-emphasized their dominance.

“We talked about that at the beginning of the game. We said we had to forget about (beating them),” Giannopoulos said. “We had to come in with confidence, respect our opponent and really try hard today.”

Valley Christian kept things rolling in the second set as Giannopoulos had two kills and Bella Birr had an ace to build a 6-2 lead.

The Warriors extended the lead throughout the set and took their biggest advantage at 21-8 on a kill from Brynn Weinaug. Fink registered a kill for the final point of the set and a 2-0 lead.

“We try to run fast and being able to

spread it around helps,” Potratz said. “We have a really great team for buying into the culture and into their roles. They realize I may not be a star hitter and get set 30 times a game, but those 10 or 12 sets, I need to make those worth it and they have been doing a real good job of buying into that.”

The third set was the most competitive of the night and the only time the Pioneers led in the match as they scored the first three points.

But after Fink delivered a spike off a block of a sideout, she proceeded to serve six straight points, capped by an ace, for a 7-3 lead.

Valley Christian stayed in front much of the set but Sevastopol tied the score at 15 and then took leads of 19-18 and 20-19. A sideout for the Warriors tied the score at 20 and Laila Gostas-Sims notched a kill to put Valley Christian ahead to stay.

Weinaug served the Warriors to game point and Fink notched the final point of the night with a spike that ricocheted off a Sevastopol block.

Giannopoulos finished with 12 kills, while Fink added seven. Brielle Birr and Gostas-Sims chipped in six and five kills, respectively. Brielle Birr also added a team-high three blocks.

Demler led the team with 15 digs, while Hardy and Bella Birr finished with 18 and 14 assists, respectively.

The Warriors will advance to a sectional semifinal match on Thursday against Montello at Lourdes Academy with the winner moving on to the sectional final on Saturday.

Valley Christian is two wins away from making the program’s first state tourna-

SEE **Warriors win** ON PAGE 19

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Thompson-Schreck helps Spartans grind out playoff win

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Jamond Thompson-Schreck said that coming into last Friday’s WIAA Division 2 playoff game against Marshfield, he expected to get a few more carries.

The senior certainly made good use of the added workload.

Thompson-Schreck racked up a career-night with 28 carries for 188 yards and a pair of touchdowns to lead the Spartans to a 28-7 win over Marshfield on JJ Keller Field at Titan Stadium.

“I was told we were going to split some carries this week and get me more involved and I ran hard. I just kept running as hard as I could,” Thompson-Schreck said. “It gives me a little boost of energy every time I make a run and every time I get that boost I want to run 10 times harder the next play.”

North’s leading rusher Jamare Scott was healthy for the game and was used steadily throughout the first half. He scored on a 12-yard run – where he powered into the end zone with a pair of Marshfield defenders hanging on – midway through the second quarter for the first points of the game.

But head coach Luke Ott said that Thompson-Schreck’s running style was better suited to combat a physical Marshfield squad.

“Jamond is hard-nosed runner and he took advantage of that,” Ott said. “He’s got a little burst and runs low and hard.”

Thompson-Schreck also benefitted from a strong performance by the offensive line in the game.

The Spartans believed they would be

able to run the ball coming in and the young group up front – which includes three sophomore starters – executed the game plan.

“The surge we were getting from tackle to tackle definitely helped us get the win today,” said Connor Kuehn, the lone senior starter on the offensive line. “We saw on film we would be able to run the ball and we went out and just did what we had to do.”

Ott said the young group took a few lumps in last week’s matchup against a talented Notre Dame defensive line.

But instead of letting it carry over into this week and come out with a sluggish performance, the group took what it could from the experience.

“They learned from that and came out tonight and did what they had to do,” Ott said. “If defenses are going to play four deep and linebackers play a little deeper to take away our pass game, we have to take advantage of it. It’s playoff football, you have to be able to run the ball.”

Scott’s touchdown gave the Spartans the lead but the Tigers answered back on the ensuing possession to tie the score.

Boosted by three unsportsmanlike conduct penalties, Marshfield drove 65 yards in just five plays and even the score with under five minutes left in the first half.

North answered with a 90-yard, four-minute drive that was highlighted by 60 yards rushing by Thomoson-Schreck – including a long run of 33 yards that gave North a first down at the Tigers 25-yard line.

Four plays later, Bryce Ott lofted a pass down the sideline to Dalton Clark for a 17-yard touchdown catch that sent the Spartans into halftime with the lead.

“It felt like halftime it was too close for us and we had to come out and get another one,” Kuehn said. “After that we played our game and came out with the win.”

There was a little hiccup first.

On the Spartans first possession of the



Photo by Jim Koepnick
Jamond Thompson-Schreck tries to break away from a Marshfield tackler in the first half of last Friday’s playoff game. Thompson-Schreck finished with a career-best 188 yards as Oshkosh North beat the Tigers, 28-7.

second half, Thompson-Schreck fumbled and Marshfield took over.

North, however, forced a Tiger punt on the ensuing possession and Thompson-Schreck went to work to make up for his mistake. Two plays after breaking free for a 53 yard run that gave the Spartans a first-and-goal, Thompson-Schreck powered into the end zone from two yards out to extend the Spartans’ lead to 21-7.

“I shouldn’t have fumbled. I wanted the ball right back after that,” Thompson-Schreck said. “It felt great to get into the end zone. I haven’t had many this year so that is definitely my favorite.”

Thompson-Schreck added the final score of the game late in the fourth quarter to seal the win for the Spartans.

It was the first postseason victory for the North program since 2013 – the year the Spartans finished as state runner-ups to Kimberly – and something the team will enjoy.

“I can’t even explain how it feels to win. We are here as a team and we put it all together and came out with a win,” Kuehn said. “We set a standard today. We accomplished what we had to today and it just feels nice to have the first playoff win in a long time.”

The Spartans are hoping it won’t be

SEE **North football** ON PAGE 20



Photo by Jim Koepnick
Oshkosh North’s Dalton Clark gets brought down by a Marshfield tackler during last Friday’s WIAA Division 2 first-round playoff game.

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Knights' defense delivers third straight shutout

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Lourdes Academy defense is in a groove. And that's making it tough on opposing offenses.

The Knights notched their third straight shutout and have allowed just 14 points in the last five games following their 33-0 win over Shiocton Friday night in a WIAA Division 7 first-round playoff game on JJ Keller Field at Titan Stadium.

"Pitching a shutout is great and we hope to do it again," said junior Max Behnke, the Knights' leading tackler on the season. "Coming out first round and getting shutout here shows everybody how we are going to play, that we are a team they should be scared of and we are ready to pound them into the ground."

The foundation of all of the success is a pretty simple concept, too.

"We just follow our read keys and do what we are supposed to do," Behnke said. "It works out every single time."

The undefeated Knights are likely to be tested a little more this Friday when they host Eleva-Strum in a Level 2 playoff game at 7 p.m. The Cardinals are coming off a 34-12 win over Blair Taylor and have scored 70 points in their last two games.

Lourdes Academy will be trying to advance to Level 3 of the playoffs for the second straight season and Friday's victory marked the third straight year the Knights have notched a playoff win.

It didn't take long for the Knights to unveil the game's storyline, forcing a three-and-out on Shiocton's first possession and then marching 50 yards in four plays to take a 7-0 lead.

"Scoring on our first drive definitely does set the tone and from there it just keeps rolling," said Brady Bauer. "Everybody is hyped and the team just wants to go, go, go."

Bauer's 30-yard run capped the opening scoring drive – which only took 54 seconds – and ignited a big night for the



Lourdes Academy defensive players Max Behnke (67), Nolan Gibson (26) and Jacob Bogardus (53) wrap up a Shiocton ball carrier in the first half of last Friday's WIAA Division 7 playoff game.

junior quarterback.

Bauer finished with 123 yards on 16 carries, while also connecting on 17-of-22 passes for 209 yards and three touchdowns.

A number of those completions were on jet-motion flips to Lucas Neuens, who finished with nine catches for 117 yards and all three of Bauer's touchdown throws. It was an option the Knights uncovered watching film leading up to the game.

"We saw on film how the outside line-

backers crash down so we took advantage of that. The wide receivers did their job blocking and all good things happened from there," Bauer said. "When you have a guy like Lucas, you have to use him."

Head coach Kevin Wopat liked the way the Knights were able to win in the trenches much of the night.

"I thought we controlled the line of scrimmage," Wopat said. "They were cramming up the middle so we were running off the edge and the passing game spring a couple of big plays which was nice."

Mat Yaggie booted a pair of second quarter field goals around the first Neuens touchdown as the Knights took a 20-0 lead at intermission.

Although the Knights were in control, Lourdes Academy never completely blew out the Chiefs. The Knights went for a two-point conversion to get a running clock midway through the fourth quarter and maintained the 33-point lead until the end.

Wopat didn't mind that.

"We had to earn a lot of stuff and our kids had to play more than a half," Wopat said. "All things considered I thought it went well."

Despite the easy win last Friday and the fact that Lourdes Academy has had only one game this year decided by less than 10 points, the Knights believe there is still room for improvement.

"I truly don't think we have played our best game yet," Bauer said. "I feel like we have a lot more potential to do a lot more great things."

That could be in the cards for the Knights who have amped up their focus and intensity now that the playoffs have begun.

Behnke said there is definitely a different feel around the team in the postsea-

SEE **Lourdes football** ON PAGE 20

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West girls, Lourdes boys qualify for state meet

Crowe, Moore, Hayes, Moran
advance as individuals

By Steve Clark
OSHKOSH HERALD

Both Oshkosh West and Lourdes Academy qualified teams for the WIAA State Cross Country Meet on Saturday, while Oshkosh North, Valley Christian and Oshkosh West will be represented by individuals at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

The state meet will begin at noon on Saturday with the Division 3 boys taking the course first, followed by the Division 2 boys and then Division 1 boys. The girls races are slated to start at 1:45 p.m. and will run in the same order as the boys.

Division 1

The Wildcat girls finished second to powerhouse Slinger at the Manitowoc sectional on Saturday to earn the team's first trip to the state meet since 2022, while boys qualified both Carter Crowe and Dominic Moore to compete as individuals.

The girls grouped all five scoring runners in a little more than a minute to finish with 72 points and comfortably outdistance Manitowoc Lincoln by 27 points for the second team qualifying spot. Slinger won the team title with just 19 points.

"I have been grinning since (Saturday)," head coach Stephanie Polak said in a phone interview on Sunday. "They have had an incredible season."

Abby Tercha led the Wildcats with an eighth-place finish and Polak was pleased with the junior, who has led the West squad all season long.



Submitted Photo

The Oshkosh West girls cross country team will compete at the state meet on Saturday after finishing second at the Manitowoc Lincoln sectional. The team consists of: (from left) Ellie Trebiatowski, Mila Crowe, Rowen Stellpflug, Abby Tercha, Coraline Strebelinski, Hayllie Hullar and Gwen Liptow.

"Abby ran a phenomenal race. All season long we have talked about going out controlled and not going out too aggressive and that's really important going into sectionals because you have all that adrenaline," Polak said. "The first half mile it was beautiful and they progressed just like we talked about. Abby did everything we needed her to do."

Hayllie Hullar was close behind Tercha, finishing in 11th place, while Gwen Liptow and Coraline Strebelinski finished two spots apart in 15th and 17th place, respectively.

Rowen Stellpflug rounded out West's scoring runners in 21st place followed by Mila Crowe in 22nd place. Ellie Trebiatowski also competed for the Wildcats and placed 29th.

"Our pack, one through seven, have been running strong all season long in some of the bigger meets we have. You will have some teams who have really strong runners up front but because our pack is so strong, we do well in the bigger meets."

Both Liptow and Stellpflug were freshmen on the last West team to compete at the state meet and will bring their experience to the rugged course next week which will help the Wildcats' younger runners deal with the atmosphere.

"Rowan and Gwen know what to expect. The rest of them, it's all new," Polak said. "I'm so happy for them and to see a whole team get there and for them to ex-

perience together, it is phenomenal. "As a whole, they have grown a lot in just confidence in their abilities this season. They have learned how to work with each other and count on each other. As a coach watching them grow and develop has been a lot of fun."

West will also be represented in the boys race by Crowe and Moore, who helped the Wildcats finish fifth overall as a team.

Crowe led the way by finishing seventh overall in the boys race, while Moore grabbed the final individual qualifying spot for state with his 10th-place finish.

"That last mile for both Carter and Dom was just awesome," Polak said. "We knew it was going to be close because there were a lot of great individuals there. The boys knew exactly what they needed to do and who to look for."

Moore finished about two seconds ahead of Watertown's Christian Maas to earn the final qualifying spot and Polak said she was sure to keep the runner informed of where he was at in the closing stages of the race.

"Dom was like, I didn't know (Maas) was so close until you yelled at me," Polak said. "We got a lot of help from people counting for us to figure out where we were at."

Arjen Karns was the third West runner to finish, placing 21st overall, while Alex DeDecker took 40th and Jordan Schrieder finished 52nd.

Oshkosh North will also have a runner competing at the state meet and nearly sent a duo off to Wisconsin Rapids.

Tianna Hayes qualified with a ninth-place finish, while teammate Adri Clark placed 14th overall and missed grabbing the final individual qualifying spot by six seconds.

Also scoring for the Spartans were Gabi Pereira Da Silva, who placed 47th, while Allison Cummings and Savannah Rust came in 58th and 61st, respectively. The

SEE **Cross country** ON PAGE 20



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Prep sports roundup

SOCCER

Lourdes/Valley collects regional title victory

Isaak Rucinski opened the scoring with a second-half penalty kick and Jackson Buttke also scored as the Lourdes Academy/Valley Christian soccer team posted a 2-0 win over Algoma on Saturday afternoon in a WIAA Division 4 regional final.

The Knights, who are the second seed in the sectional, will face third-seeded Xavier on Thursday at 7:15 p.m. at Titan Stadium. Lourdes/Valley beat Xavier, 3-0, earlier this season. The winner of the game will advance to a sectional final to be played at Kiel on Saturday afternoon.

The Knights advanced to the regional final with a 5-0 win over St. Mary Catholic last Tuesday.

Lourdes/Valley improves to 16-1-1 overall.

Wildcats, Spartans fall in playoff openers

Oshkosh West and Oshkosh North both lost their WIAA playoff matchups last week.

The Wildcats fell to Hamilton, 3-0, in a

WIAA Division 1 playoff matchup. The Spartans fell to Hartford, 2-0, in their WIAA Division 1 playoff contest.

FOOTBALL

Fast start not enough for Valley Christian

The Warriors jumped out to a 14-0 lead after the first quarter but couldn't hold off Wabeno/Laona in a 28-14 loss to the Rebels in a WIAA 8-player second-round playoff game.

Valley Christian finishes the season with an 8-2 overall record.

Wabeno/Laona tied the score at half-time and then took the lead in the third quarter as the Rebels held the Warriors scoreless over the final three quarters.

Sam Gloudemans finished with 108 yards on carries and a touchdown to lead Valley Christian, while Derek Wallace added 17 carries for 100 yards and a score.

Mason Everts finished 7-of-15 for 78 yards.

Wallace and Gloudemans also led the Warrior defense with 11 and 10 tackles, respectively, while Matthias Behling and Carter Belville each had an interception in the game.

VOLLEYBALL

Oshkosh West falls short in regional final

The Wildcats drew third-ranked Hamilton in its WIAA Division 1 regional final and came up short of pulling out a win, 26-24, 25-12, 25-20.

Sydnee Nelson led the team with 13 kills, while Emma Liebergen added nine kills, seven digs and four aces.

MaKaelyn Clark paced the team with 23 assists, while Olivia Xiong totaled 11 digs.

Oshkosh West advanced to the regional final following a 25-19, 25-18, 24-26, 25-20 win over West Bend West in the team's final home contest.

Nelson totaled 23 kills in the match with Kayana Turner adding 11 and Liebergen finishing with 10 kills and three aces. Clark finished with 40 assists and three aces.

Olivia Xiong led the team with 15 digs, while Clark and Turner added 14 and 12, respectively.

The Wildcats played both matches without standout libero Elaina Butz because of injury.

Valley Christian breezes past Omro in opener

The Warriors opened the WIAA Division 4 tournament with a sweep of Omro last week, notching set-score wins of 25-14, 25-18, 25-19.

Lizzie Fink led the Warriors with 13 kills, while Anna Giannopoulos added 11. Both players finished with a team-high three aces.

Ellie Demler totaled 13 digs in the win,

while Lydia Hardy had 17 assists and Bella Birr finished with 12.

North loses in first round of tourney

The Spartans came up short in their WIAA Division 2 playoff matchup against Plymouth.

Oshkosh North lost by set scores of 25-19, 25-16, 25-20.

Lourdes Academy falls in four sets to Roncalli

Lourdes Academy lost a pair of close sets as Roncalli edged the Knights in four sets in a WIAA Division 4 regional match.

The Jets downed the Knights by set scores of 25-23, 20-25, 25-23, 25-17.

SWIMMING

Oshkosh West drops FVA dual meet to Neenah

Kiersten Dietschweiler was a part of three wins for Oshkosh West as the Wildcats dropped a Fox Valley Association dual meet to Neenah, 115-71, last week.

Dietschweiler finished first in both the 200-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle, while joining Hailey Knutson, Avery Booms and Molly Dudzinski in placing first in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Layla Leinen also picked up a win in the 100-yard breaststroke for West.

Knutson posted second-place finishes in both the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle, while Dudzinski in the 100-yard butterfly and Neva Schlies in diving also earned second places.

The Wildcats also took second in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Warriors win

FROM PAGE 15

ment appearance since 2010, but the Warriors are mindful of not looking too far ahead.

"In order to go to state, which is our goal, we have to focus on every single game in order to get there," Giannopoulos

said. "This was just one of the milestones we had to hit to get to our goal."

Added Fink: "We're trying to make it a point to stay present and not get caught (looking ahead). We're trying to take it one game at a time and not get overconfident but we are all super excited that it's within reach for us. None of us have ever made it past the sectional final so we are all just really excited."

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Cross country

FROM PAGE 18

North girls finished eighth out of the 10 complete teams.

The Spartan boys finished 10th out of 12 teams, with Jay Weber leading the way for North in 23rd place. Mason Gumz was the next Spartan to finish in 29th place, with Blake Ludwig (61st), Reid Anderson (73rd) and Clay Poquette (79th) rounding out the scoring runners for North.

Division 3

Lourdes Academy head coach Tim Moore knew the only way his boys team would qualify for the state meet was if they all had career-days at the Manitowoc Lutheran sectional.

That’s exactly what happened.

Led by Henry Spanbauer’s top-five finish, they edged Valders by four points for the sectional title and will be making its first trip to the state meet since 2010.

“We knew going in we were going to be competitive but we also knew it would be a big challenge for us to make it,” Moore said. “I told the kids that a couple of you have to have the greatest races of your life to make it. That’s not to put pressure on them, that’s just the reality of how sectionals can work for you.”

Moore said that Spanbauer, who qualified for state as an individual last fall, ran as expected in taking fourth overall but it was the Knights’ next four runners that made the difference.

Mason Piechowski led the group in 13th place, followed by Zach Foster in 18th place and Cameron Kapral in 36th place. All three were at the top of the pack com-



Submitted photo

The Lourdes Academy boys cross country team raises the plaque after winning the Division 3 Manitowoc Lutheran sectional on Saturday. The team consists of: (from left) Connor Salm, Zach Foster, Kody Neitzel, Henry Spanbauer, Cameron Kapral and Mason Piechowski.

pared to the other finishers at the same position on other teams.

“That’s what helps you win sectionals, when each of your runners is in the top four of their (positions),” Moore said. “We have six guys on our team and every one of them had a (personal record) race or close to PR race and that’s what you need to go

to state at any sectional.”

Kody Neitzel in 51st place rounded out the scoring runners for Lourdes Academy with Connor Salm also competing for the Knights and taking 91st.

It’s been a big transformation for the Knights boys program, who were unable to field full teams a few years ago.

“In the last eight-to-10 years, we have struggled to put five guys together to get a team score,” Moore said. “Since this junior group has been around, their freshman year was the first consistent team scores we have been able to achieve. It’s an unbe-

Lourdes football

FROM PAGE 17

son.
“One-hundred percent there is,” Behnke said. “Everybody is way more hyped and ready to go because if you lose you’re done. Everyone is ready to go and ready

to keep playing.”

That makes Wopat’s job a little bit easier. “From a motivational standpoint there isn’t much I have to do. They believe in themselves and that is the most important part,” Wopat said. “The kids have been excited. They know the task at hand and they don’t want the season to end anytime soon.”

North football

FROM PAGE 16

their only one either.

North is slated to travel to New Richmond for a Level 2 playoff game on Friday at 7 p.m.

The Tigers are 8-2 overall and pounded Ashwaubenon 49-14 last week to earn their fourth straight win. During that win streak, New Richmond has outscored its

lievable accomplishment.”

With the entire team slated to return next season, Moore said his goal for the group at the state meet is to just run their best races and enjoy the experience.

“Recreating that magic (from sectionals) is going to be a challenge but this is going to be a great experience,” Moore said. “I’m confident going into state and coming out of state, these boys are going to be excited for next year because they know they can compete with anybody.”

The Valley Christian boys team finished seventh overall but had two runners finish in the top 20 in Jonah Menet (12th) and Jack O’Brien (17th). The rest of the scoring runners for the Warriors were Simon Menet in 39th place, Silas Johnson in 42nd and Zachary Werner in 48th.

Valley Christian will have a runner at state, though, as Mya Moran took fourth in the girls race and earned one of the individual qualifying spots.

Moran was one of only five runners to finish in under 20 minutes at the race, which was held at Meadow Links golf course in Manitowoc. She finished about three seconds out of second place and will make the trip after taking 11th last season, narrowly missing a trip to state.

Moran was joined on the Warriors squad by McKenzie Murphy (39th place), Kendra Sandahl (72nd), Merian Getz (88th) and Madaline Weiss (96th). The Warriors were 11th overall among the 15 teams

The Lourdes Academy girls finished fourth overall in the team standings with 126 points, eight behind Southeran Door and 33 behind second-place Valders. Kewaunee won the team title with 74 points.

Annie Moore was the top finisher for the Knights in 14th place, followed by Evelyn Heinzen in 24th, Khloe Bunton in 26th and Allison Stromske in 27th. Tessia Mroczkowski rounded out the scoring runners for Lourdes Academy in 51st place.

opponents 171-42.

But Thompson-Schreck, for one, doesn’t believe the Spartans are done yet.

“We’ve worked for this the past couple of years to get to this point and win. That was the goal,” Thompson-Schreck said. “I feel like we needed to take a bigger step than last year and I feel like we did that. This year had been better than last year and we have at least one more game to play to the best of our ability.”

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Obituaries

Daniel J. Ilk

Daniel J. Ilk, 78, passed away on October 25, 2025 at Mercy Medical Center, due to complications with Leukemia which was caused by Agent Orange.

He was born to the late Gregory and Marjorie (Dolan) Ilk on September 20, 1947. He married Marsha in December of 1968.

Daniel was in the Army, serving in Vietnam. He obtained an associate's degree in mechanical design at Fox Valley Technical College. He worked at Leach Co. for 35 years and served as President of Leach Co. UAW, he was also President of their employee credit union board. He also worked at Oshkosh Corporation for five years.

Daniel loved golfing, gardening, hunting (turkey and deer), watching his grand-



kids, he was also a Cub Scout Master and was always willing to help anyone.

He is survived by his wife, Marsha; two sons, Trevor and Trent (Brooke) Ilk; sisters, Mary Witkowski and Kathy (Jerry) Hitchcock; and one brother, Gary (Collette) Ilk. He is further survived by two grandchildren, Harper and Sawyer; In-laws, Joan (Joseph) Hildebrand, Susan (Jerry) Anderley, Brent Wilson, Brenda Wilson. Along with many nieces and nephews.

Daniel is preceded in death by two brothers, Geoffrey and Stephen Ilk, and brother-in-law, Larry Witkowski.

A memorial service for Daniel will be held on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 11:00 am at Lake View Memorial Park, 2786 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI. Visitation will be held from 10:00 am until the start of the service.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
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Richard Lance Balfanz

Richard "Rich" or "Richie" Lance Balfanz, of Winneconne, Wisconsin passed away suddenly in Atlanta, Georgia on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at the age of 75. He was born June 28, 1950, in Chicago, Illinois.

Family and friends describe Rich as a kind and welcoming man who was always ready to help others in any situation. He never met a stranger with whom he couldn't have a conversation.

In addition to his love of people, he loved nature, music, riding his bike, and in previous years, kayaking with his wife and friends. Rich enjoyed golf, gardening, music, traveling, and was always up for an adventure. His joyful spirit was evident to everyone who met him.

Rich is survived by his loving wife of 36 years, Peggy Waddell Balfanz; his children and step-children, Alexander (Roberta) Balfanz, of Boone, Iowa; Kimberly (Joseph) Chelsvig, of Story City, Iowa;



Gayla (Matthew) Maynard, of Freedom, Wisconsin; grandchildren, Parker and Gabriel Balfanz; Benjamin, Dawson, and Christian Chelsvig; Dawson Mundy; great-grandson, Oliver; and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Balfanz and Dorothy Balfanz Teas.

A memorial service will be held on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church 32 S. 3rd Ave. Winneconne, with Pastor Emily Lueder officiating. There will be no visitation prior to the memorial service. Following the memorial service a visitation and reception will be held at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the First Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund or to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum 2021 N. Kinney Rd. Tucson, AZ 85743.

Mueller Funeral Home-Winneconne is assisting the family. If you wish, please submit online condolences/memories to muellerfh.net.



Rebecca Sue Thomas

Rebecca Sue (Roberts) Thomas, 44, of Boulder, Nevada passed away on October 14th at Henderson Hospital in Boulder. She was born in Oshkosh on May 28, 1981, to LaVerne and Geraldine Roberts. She grew up in Oshkosh and was a 1999 graduate of Oshkosh West High School. Most recently, Becky was the Assistant Executive Director at Senior Center of Boulder City.

Becky married Tim Thomas on May 20,



2022. She is survived by her husband and his family, her father Laverne, her brothers Rick (Kathy), and Roger (Vicki), and her sister Deb (Ray), all of Oshkosh. She will be especially missed by her niece Katrina (her beaner), and Katrina's daughter, Evie. She is also survived by her Godmother, Sylvia Fournier, many nieces, nephews, and other relatives. She was preceded in death by her mother Geraldine, brother and sister-in-law, Randy and Glenna, and her Godfather, John Klabunde.

There will be a celebration of life for Becky on November 9th, from 1 pm – 3:30 pm at Jaspers, 6510 WI-44 in Pickett.

Rachel Therese Zowin

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Rachel Therese Zowin, 31, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, due to sudden heart failure on October 20, 2025. She danced through this short life with the kindest of hearts and a gentle, beautiful soul, leaving a little sparkle and a trail of glitter wherever she would go.

Her memory will be held close by those she leaves behind. Parents: Father, David Zowin, Waupaca, WI, Mother & Stepfather Michele and John Spanbauer, Oshkosh, WI; brother, Alex Zowin, Waupaca, WI; stepbrother, Dan (Jenny) Spanbauer,



stepsister, Becky (Kyle) Quedrow, Oshkosh, WI; grandparents Rosemary and Larry Felice, Wisconsin Rapids, WI; Jean Zowin, Forest Lake, MN; aunts, uncles, cousins, and nephew Aidan Jahns.

She is preceded in death by her grandfather Gerald Zowin.

May she finally know the peace that's so eluded her in this life. In lieu of flowers memorials in Rachel's memory may be directed to the Saint Francis Free Clinic at Fr. Carrs at 1062 N. Koeller Street Oshkosh, WI 54902.

A private memorial service will be held at a future date. All arrangements were handled by Fiss Bills Poklasny Funeral Home Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

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Merrin David Koechell

Merrin David Koechell went home to be with his Lord Jesus Christ on October 26, 2025, after dealing with dementia and strokes.

Merrin was born to Alvin and Grace (Schultz) Koechell on May 4, 1938 in Wautoma, WI. He attended school in Wautoma and enjoyed playing on the basketball team.

Merrin worked at Morgan Doors and Leach Company for 19 years.

He married Susan M. Wiegert on October 14, 1972, recently celebrating 53 years of marriage.

Merrin enjoyed spending time with his daughters, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He enjoyed going to car shows, tractor pulls and riding motorcycles. One of his favorite things to do was spending time at his cabin in Wautoma.



Merrin is survived by his wife Susan, daughters Wendy Jagodinski (Jeff), Kim Jones (James), grandson Matthew Hobbs (Hannah), granddaughters Heather and Amanda Sagmeister. Great grandchildren Mason, Halle, Arianna, Axel, Keyon, Kiara, and Brinley. He is survived by his brother Dale Koechell (Jane), sister Nancy Kroll, sisters-in-law Chris Koechell and Patti Koechell as well as other family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brothers Ron and Dean Koechell and brother-in-law Richard Kroll.

Visitation will be held on Thursday October 30, 2025 from 10-11am and service will follow at Konrad-Behlman funeral home, 100 Lake Pointe Drive, Oshkosh with a lunch to follow. Private family burial at North Dakota Cemetery.

Special thanks to the Eden Meadows and Moments Hospice care teams.

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Marion R. Holicky

Marion R. Holicky, 97, passed away on October 22, 2025 at Aurora Medical Center surrounded by family. She was born July 19, 1928 to the late Ferdinand and Anne (Schweiger) Lipovitz. She married Bill Holicky on June 23, 1951.

A service for Marion will be held November 8, 2025, at Evergreen Retirement Community, 1130 N Westfield Street, Oshkosh, WI, at 1pm. Fr. Jerry Pastors will be officiating. A full obituary may be found at Konrad-Behlmans Website.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

Elaine D. Bradley

Elaine D. Bradley, age 97, passed away at Country Villa in Omro, with family by her side, on Thursday, October 9, 2025. She was born to the late Eldor and Elma (Lichtfuss) Boeshaar on December 23, 1927, in Oshkosh.

A service for Elaine will be held at Peace Lutheran Church (240 w 9th Ave) on Monday, November 3, 2025 at 11AM. A visitation time will be held from 10AM until the time of service. A burial at Peace Lutheran Cemetery will follow the service.

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Obituaries

Russell D. Beck

Russell D. Beck, age 96 of Oshkosh, WI passed away on October 19, 2025, at The-daCare Hospital in Neenah, WI.



Russell was born on April 29, 1929, to the late Louis and Jennifer (Loker) Beck in Oshkosh. He graduated from Oshkosh High School and went to Oshkosh Business School. After college Russell worked for Olson Transport Company as a rate and billing clerk. In February of 1951 he was drafted into the Army and served proudly for two years. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Corporal in February of 1953. After his military service

Russell was offered a job with Rosendale State Bank which launched him on a long banking career until his retirement.

Russell enjoyed being involved with the Lakeshore Kiwanis Club, the Lakeshore and Pickett Lions Clubs, the Masonic Temple, and the Winnebago Shrine Club.

He married Lorraine McMillion on August 13, 1955, in Antigo WI. They raised four children together. Russell and Lorraine traveled in his retirement, and he enjoyed the many trips they were able to take together. He enjoyed going to and supporting all his grandchildren's many interests and activities. Russell also enjoyed going antiquing along with attending both household and animal auctions with family members.

Russell is survived by his sons, Linn (Chelley) Beck, Terrance (Carol) Beck,

and Lawrence (Michelle) Beck; grandchildren, Angela Schmunk, Craig (Katie) Beck, Chad Beck, TJ (Carley) Beck, Zachary (Aalyha) Beck, Amanda (Special Friend Henry Kind) Beck, and Annie Beck; Great Grandchildren, Ryan Beck, Addison Beck, Colton Beck, and Trey Beck; he is also survived by a brother, Armond Beck; sister-in-law, Ruth McMillion; along with many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Lorraine Beck; daughter, Vickie Schmunk; son-in-law, Richard (Rick) Schmunk; brothers and their wives, Bud (Phyllis) Beck, Lyle (Mae) Beck, Earl (Betty) Beck, Howard (Jane) Beck and Wayne (Jeanne) Beck; and Brother-in-law, Art McMillion; sisters and their husbands, Arlene (Mike) Sawall and Thelma

(Romie) Schmitz; sister-in-law's, Marion Beck and Hazel (Roger) Lindell; and great grandchild, Arabella Victoria Schmunk.

Russell will be missed dearly by his family and friends. We love you.

A memorial service will be held on Friday November 7, 2025, at 6:00 PM, at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home – Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Drive, Oshkosh, WI. The time of visitation will begin at 4:00 PM and continue until the start of the service. Interment will take place at Ellenwood Cemetery on a later date.

Russell's family would like to thank the staff at Aurora in Oshkosh and the staff at ThedaCare for the amazing care he was given.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN FUNERAL HOMES

David Lloyd

On October 20, 2025, a sunny and crisp autumn day, David Lloyd passed to eternal peace with his four children and his dog at his bedside.



David was born February 22, 1939 to Thomas Lloyd and Pauline (O'Brien) Lloyd, who lived in Fessenden, ND and eventually moved to Oshkosh, WI. When he was 17 years old, David enlisted in the Marine Corps where

he worked on aircraft and learned valuable skills that served him a lifetime.

He was a skilled builder, metal worker, and entrepreneur – opening his own HVAC business. He enjoyed nature, hunting, and fishing. Ultimately, it was his love of fishing that brought him to Sturgeon Bay, WI – a community he called home for more than 45 years with his wife Janice, whom he married in 1972. Together, David and Janice enjoyed the pace of life in Door County, travelling throughout the United States, even making it to Alaska and Hawaii.

During his retirement David enjoyed

restoring collector cars. He could be seen riding through town in his 1965 Chevy Impala, 1972 Ford LTD, or 1978 Lincoln Towncar with his dog by his side. He loved the daily routine of driving one of his old cars to his regular breakfast haunt, Wall Street Journal in hand, where he knew the staff well and had many breakfast buddies.

Survivors include his children, Mark (Judy) Lloyd, Lori Fritz, Wendy Lloyd, and Brad Lloyd (fiancé Kim Gruendemann); nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and two great great-grandchildren; his four siblings, Janice Clark, WA, Connie (Gordy) Peterson,

WA, Carmen (Jack Capel) Claypool, OH, and Tom (Pam) Lloyd, WI.

David was preceded in death by his wife, Janice, his brother Earl Lloyd, and his grandson Mitch Lloyd.

Funeral services will be held at Forbes Funeral Home in Sturgeon Bay, WI on Thursday, October 30 at 4:00 pm. Visitation from 3:00 - 4:00 pm.

David will be laid to rest in the Bethesda Welsh Cemetery Oshkosh, WI during a private ceremony with military honors.

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Obituaries

Robert (Bob) A. Brayton

d. March 2, 2025

Bob Brayton, 84, passed away on Sunday, March 2, 2025, at his home in Las Vegas, NV. He was born in Oshkosh, WI, son of S. Arthur and Bonnie (Flanagan) Brayton and oldest of 14 children.

He attended Wood School. Dad worked at Oshkosh Co-op (Shippers), where he pumped gas and serviced vehicles. He bought the co-op and continued to run the business for many years. While fueling the vehicles, he would enjoy sharing tootsie rolls with the customers. We were taught to always offer to wash their windshields.

Dad farmed for many years and took over a second farm after the passing of his father.

In dad’s younger years, he enjoyed motorcycling, visiting friends, and fellow farmers. On his visits, he would like to stop and shake dice to see who buys the next soda round while catching up on the events and sharing jokes.

He enjoyed playing cards, playing Monopoly, long car rides, and loved to treat for meals with friends and family and was always welcoming.

He had nicknames for most of the family members. There was always much conversation on where and how he came up with some of those names!

Dad demonstrated his love by being a

very giving man. He was a sociable man and that brought much joy into our lives and others.

In his later years, Dad retired and moved to Las Vegas. He discovered that he preferred to keep busy and to be around others, so he went back to work for private security companies until his passing. This brought him much happiness.

He is survived by his 3 daughters and their families Laura (Ken) Johnson of Las Vegas, Kim (Jerry) Jensen, and Wendy (Jim) Pollnow, both of Oshkosh, WI; his Grandchildren: Ross Hobbs, Douglas (Taylor) Burdick, Rhienna Gabriel, Bethany (Garett) Neff, Valerie (Devon) Strebe, Kaurista Jensen & Fiancé - Sebastian Townsend., his previous wife Carol (our mother), and wife, Paula. His Great Grandchildren: Cole Fenske, Caleb Fenske, Casey Havertine, and Milo Burdick. His siblings and their families; Sister-in-Law (Macy) Brayton, Sisters; Anne Petri, Bonnie Droessler, Liz (Mike) Haanstad, Jane (Dick) Spanbauer, Ellen Read, Cindy Burton, Kathy (Chris) Vorster, Beverly (Jim) Rousseau, Brothers; Bill (Roberta) Brayton, Tim (Gina) Brayton, Don Brayton, and Ed (Tami) Brayton and many nieces and nephews.

Dad was preceded in death by his father; S. Author (Art), Mother; Bonita (Bonnie) A. Brayton, Brother; Jeffery Brayton, Brother-in-Law; James Petri, Brother-in-Law; Steven Read, Brother-in-law: Roy Burton. Nephews; Chistopher Petri and Andy Luebke.

We will have a celebration of Life for our Dad in Oshkosh at a later date where

family and friends can come to share the joy the memories and stories that our dad brought to their lives.

DAD

So many stories to tell, so little time to share,

How can we tell you just how much we really cared.

Thank you for your love in all the little ways shown,

even though we did not realize it until we were almost fully grown.

You expected a lot of us and taught right from wrong.

But looking back it was what gave us

Sharon Karow

Sharon Karow (Gustavus) passed away surrounded by family on October 10, 2025. Sharon was born September 1, 1944, to Joseph and Catherine Gustavus. She was united in marriage to Steve Karow on May 15, 1965 at Saint Mary Catholic Church. They raised two children, Ted and Michelle.

Sharon worked at Wisconsin Bell until after the birth of their first child. Sharon was the Secretary for the Town of Oshkosh Planning and Zoning committee for many years. She was a Life member of the Otter Street Fishing Club. She and her husband were active in Sturgeons for Tomorrow and served many years supporting the annual sturgeon spearing season.

Sharon is survived by son Ted (Holly) Karow and daughter Michelle Karow (Dave Sattler), grandchildren Travis (Selina) Karow, Katelyn Karow, Brandon and

our work ethic and the ability to remain strong.

You and mom set the roots, and we learned about God and His Love

That He is our Savoir and one day we will all meet in Heaven above.

In eternity with Christ, there will be no pain anymore.

While we rest in Christ’s arms forever, where we will tire no more

For forever with him, on his wings we will soar.

.

We love and miss you. You are forever in our hearts

Love, Laura, Kim & Wendy

Jacob Ristow, and great-grandchildren Genson and Amina Karow. She is further survived by her brother Joseph Gustavus, niece and Goddaughter Stephanie, sister Betty Gustavus, nephew Jeremy and cousins, Col (R) MaryAnn Monteith, Bill Monteith, Fred Monteith, Kathleen Monteith Omori (Wayne), Andrea Monteith, Matthew Omori, Sandy and Randy Parsons, and Erin Parsons-Grenfell (Matthew).

A special thank you to MaryAnn for all the time she spent with me- you were my guardian angel.

Sharon was preceded in death by her husband, Steve, her parents, sister Debbie Schneider, cousins Robert Monteith, Sue Monteith and Brother-in-Law John Karow.

Per Sharon’s wishes, a private mass of Christian burial was held.

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Legal Notices

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
WINNEBAGO COUNTY
Case No. 25-CV-781
Case Code: 30201

GERMANTOWN MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY,
W209 N11845 Insurance Place
Germantown, WI 53022
Plaintiff,

OSHKOSH RENTAL
PROPERTIES, LLC
1550 Maricopa Drive
Oshkosh, WI 54904
Involuntary Plaintiff,
v.
MELISSA SWACKHAMER
1010 Bayshore Drive, Unit #3,
Oshkosh, WI 54901

ACUITY, A MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
2800 S. Taylor Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081,

PHILIPS NORTH AMERICA, LLC
222 Jacobs Street
Cambridge, MA 02141,
and ABC INSURANCE, Defendants.

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 also served upon you, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within 40 days after October

15, 2025, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the complaint. The court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is Winnebago County Clerk of Court, Winnebago County Courthouse, 415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and to Ron Harmeyer Law Office LLC, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 330 E. Kilbourn Ave., Suite 1070, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within 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.

Dated: October 3, 2025.
RON HARMEYER LAW
OFFICE LLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff Germantown Mutual Insurance Company

Electronically signed Emily A. Geiser

By: Emily A. Geiser
State Bar No. 1125881
330 E. Kilbourn Avenue, Suite

1070
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
Tel. (414) 316.2500
Fax (414) 755.7081
egeiser@ronharmeyerlaw.com

Runs: October 15, 2025,
October 22, 2025 and October
29, 2025.

WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT,
WINNEBAGO COUNTY
Case No. 25CV820
Code No. 30301

Summit Credit Union
Plaintiff,
v.
Tabatha L. Bartlett
XYZ Unknown Defendant,
Defendants.

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 October 29, 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 October 29, 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 21st day of October 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: October 29, 2025, November 5, 2025 and November 12, 2025

WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT,
WINNEBAGO COUNTY
Case No. 25CV758
Code No. 30301

Summit Credit Union
Plaintiff,
v.
Savana Hiltz
XYZ Unknown Defendant,
Defendants.

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,

WNAXLP



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Fire Chief John Cunningham has a burning desire to make a difference. He wants to tell people that they are appreciated and that they matter.

To do this, he and his fellow firefighters are giving everyone in their town little Blue Ribbons that say, “Who I Am Makes a Difference.”

“I want to start a wildfire of acknowledgment,” says Chief Cunningham. “This is the kind of fire we don’t want to put out!”



Color this picture!

Blue Ribbon People

Can you make a list of 10 helpful people you know who are making a difference?

Blue Ribbon Breeze

Whoops! This Blue Ribbon got snatched by the wind. Help catch it!



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END

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Cut out pictures from the newspaper that show places where you make a difference and people in whose lives you are important.

Standards Link: Social Science: Understand the importance of public virtue and the role of citizens.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Research shows that the average child hears nearly 500 negative comments each day, and only about 75 positive comments.

Color the spaces with two dots red and those with one dot green to create a pie graph comparing negative vs. positive comments most kids receive each day. (Red = negative, green = positive.)




Take a moment today to tell a friend that he or she matters and makes a difference! When you do that, YOU are making a difference, too!

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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



Kid Scoop Together

You Can Give a Blue Ribbon Today!

The 7-Step Blue Ribbon Acknowledgment Ceremony:

- Honor someone: Say, “I have a Blue Ribbon that says, ‘Who I Am Makes a Difference,’ and I want to honor you for. . .” (Tell them the reasons they make a difference for you.)
- Ask: “Will you accept my gift?”
- Ask: “May I have permission to put it on you?”
- Place: Affix the Blue Ribbon above their heart, pointing upward toward all their dreams coming true.
IMPORTANT: Do not affix a Blue Ribbon to silk or leather!
- Cheer: Say, “In order to get the cheerleaders on the ribbon jumping for your dream, I’m going to point to them and shout BING!” Bing: This is the sound that helps make dreams come true!
- Gift: Gift them two extra Blue Ribbons to honor others.

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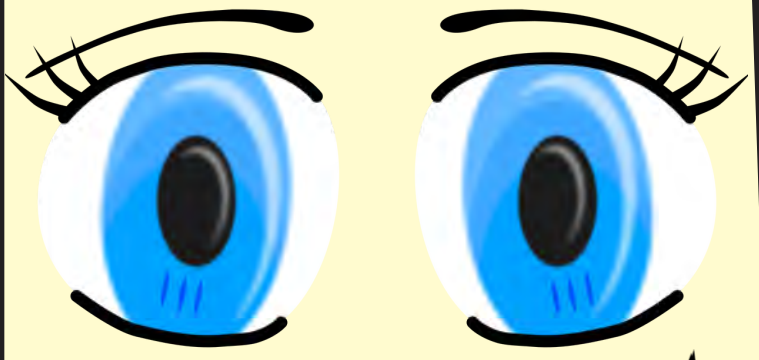
Write On!



You Matter to Me!

Write a message to a friend or family member telling them some of the reasons why they matter and make a difference.

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



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