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City budget for 2026 set for final vote

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The 2026 budget includes a few items that have raised concerns among elected officials and the public.

The Oshkosh Common Council was set to vote on the 2026 budget on Tuesday. The budget book is a 361-page document outlining each department's revenue sources and expenditures. The total budget includes the 2026 operating budget and the 2026-2035 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

The levy for 2026 will be \$47 million, which taxpayers will cover. This was the first budget under City Manager Rebecca Grill in Oshkosh. She highlighted a number of items the city focused on in the budget, including continuing to provide high-quality services to the community.



Grill

Grill stated that the tax levy has not changed from 2025 to 2026 but the tax rate is expected to drop from \$8.14 to \$7.73. City officials believe this will result in the city's portion of the tax bills being lower for most taxpayers in Oshkosh.

An average home in Oshkosh valued at \$225,000 can expect to be charged \$1,740 for the city's portion of the tax bill, which is down from \$1,831 for the same property this year. Oshkosh tax bills will be mailed out by the city in December and the four taxing agencies are the city, the Oshkosh Area School District, Fox Valley Technical College and Winnebago County.

Oshkosh Area Humane Society

The contract between the Oshkosh Area Humane Society (OAHS) and the city is up for renewal. The previous contract was a sum of around \$100,000 for services provided to the city. This includes being available 24/7, 365 days a year to take in strays, abandoned and impound animals.

OAHS took in 112 animals from Osh-

kosh Police and an additional 589 animals brought in by city personnel or community members.

The 2026 budget cuts funding to OAHS by 44% from around \$107,000 in 2025 to \$60,000 in 2026. OPD Chief Dean Smith called this right-sizing and paying for the services provided.

The city will pay OAHS \$50,000 for the first 500 animals and \$100 for each additional animal past 500. The city believes there will be about 600 animals next year, even though OAHS consistently reports that about 700 stray and abandoned animals are brought to the shelter annually.

OAHS receives an average of \$150 per animal compared to the \$250 of care each stray receives. The humane society operates on a loss under the current contract. The new proposed contract would deepen that loss.

OAHS executive director Ieva Engel and a number of concerned residents

SEE **City budget** ON PAGE 10



Photo by Michael Cooney

Salute to veterans

Oshkosh North High School hosted a Veterans Day ceremony Thursday in the Frank Schade Fieldhouse. Students greeted guests in the parking lot, transported them to the fieldhouse on ATV's and looked after them throughout the event. Music performances by North's music department included the Star-Spangled Banner, Armed Forces-The Pride of America and America the Beautiful.

District borrowing \$5 million to continue paying staff

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

For the second time in three months the Oshkosh Area School District will be borrowing millions of dollars to cover a cash flow issue to be able to pay teachers and staff members.

OASD executive director of business services Drew Niehans went to the board in August requesting \$10 million in short-term borrowing. The request was approved and Niehans came back to the board last week asking for an additional \$5 million in short-term borrowing to cover district costs until next year when payments from the state will continue.

The borrowing request came before the district announced Friday it is engaging

in a system-wide process to reduce its operating budget for the 2026-2027 school year. The district is seeking ways to address a projected \$6 million deficit.

In terms of the borrowing plan discussed during the Nov. 5 board meeting, Superintendent Bryan Davis explained that there are issues stemming from the quarterly revenue payments the district receives from the state. The payments are made from the taxes collected and then paid to the district in varying amounts.

"When you're paying monthly bills and getting these quarterly payments, there are these gaps," Davis said.

"This looks terrible to the taxpayer and the people within our community," board member Kelly DeWitt said.

She called for greater transparency and possible education for the public regarding this type of borrowing. She added the board and administrators know the money is to make sure staff is paid but that often does not get communicated to the public.

"You and I, and all of us here may understand what's going on, but the everyday, average voter or citizen does not understand that," DeWitt said.

Niehans admitted to the board that he should have requested a short-term loan of \$15 million in August. Board member Tim Hess asked if the interest accrued from the borrowing will have any effect on the district budget that was approved in August.

"I do not have that number, what we budgeted for interest expense, off the top

of my head," Niehans said.

The district receives four payments from the Wisconsin Department of Instruction every year. Niehans said the district received \$12 million in September and will receive a payment of \$22 million in December. The remaining payments will come in March and June.

Board member Chris Wright said short-term borrowing is commonly done by school districts because the way the state gives out funds is not exact and forces districts to short-term borrow.

The district is set to receive \$144.5 million in remaining revenue this year.

The board voted to approve the short-term borrowing in the amount of \$5 million with no opposing votes.



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Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical Society

Nov. 6, 1911

Sturgeon Spurs One-Upmanship: City sealer of weights and measures Benjamin Struthers claims he and a companion named Mr. Weatherby, landed an 80 pound prize sturgeon yesterday and is willing to corroborate his story. When Struthers told his story this morning at city hall, City Clerk Dan Witzel raised his window and told how he landed a big sturgeon years ago. Then Struthers reported that a well-known local fisherman named Schoen landed a monster weighing about 135 pounds. Struthers did not see the fish secured by Schoen but has the word of a reputable person on Lake Butte des Morts. Schoen attested, “When I pulled up the line northwest of Sunset Point, the eighty-pound fish was the only one on the 1,200 foot line. When the fish came to the surface, Mr. Weatherby and I both struck the monster and after a hotly contested fight we succeeded in pulling it into the boat. Mr. Witzel then stated that he and a companion landed a sturgeon that was so big they could not pull it over the side of the boat but were compelled to sink the stern of the boat to get the fish into the craft. This story caused those present to change the subject.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Nov. 6, 1911



Oshkosh Herald

Eye-catching painting

Discover Oshkosh Executive Director Amy Albright talks about the 1,000-foot-long mural that was installed last month on the back wall of the Cummins plant on High Avenue that is the largest mural in Wisconsin to date. The mural is part of a partnership with Discover Oshkosh, Cummins and the JEK Foundation that is visible along the Oshkosh Riverwalk. Muralist Mauricio Ramirez was selected to create the piece.

Choir presents Bible Stories concert

Oshkosh Herald

The Divine Voices of the Valley Gospel Choir will present a Bible Stories concert. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Reeve Union Ballroom, Room 227, 748 Algoma Boulevard on the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh campus. Doors open at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

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Correction

Nov. 5, Page 8: In the “ATV usage in city turned down after council discussion story,” the study Winnebago County ATV/UTV Alliance chairman Dave Schmidt cited was completed by the Wisconsin ATV/UTV Association from Sheboygan. The study claims “ATV/UTV riders in Wisconsin were responsible for generating an estimated \$5.2 billion in direct economic activity, supporting the creation of 29,845 jobs” in 2023.

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City celebrates opening of gazebo in William Waters Plaza

By Chris Lusvardi
OSHKOSH HERALD

Kathy Webb sees William Waters Plaza as a place that can be used to bring members of the community together.

After more than a decade in the works, those aspirations are starting to become more of a realistic possibility as a key part of the William Waters Re-Imagined reconstruction project has been completed.

A newly constructed gazebo in the plaza was dedicated during a Nov. 4 ribbon cutting ceremony. The gazebo was designed to match many of the architectural features of Oshkosh Public Library, which stands across from it on Washington Avenue.

“We thought we could build an area for the community,” said Webb, who worked on the project representing the River East Neighborhood Association. “We’ve talked about how the library and gazebo can be used together. It really elevates the area. The sky is the limit for ideas.”



Oshkosh Herald
Kathy Webb talks about how the plaza can be used as a vital part of the River East neighborhood.

Webb is continuing to dream big and has plans for the neighborhood association to plant flowers in the spring and work with the library to organize events in the plaza.

“We’re looking forward to that,” Webb said. “It’s taken a while, but it’s so beautiful. It’s going to be here long after we’re all gone.”

The gazebo was built as part of a tribute to architect William Waters, who designed many buildings in Oshkosh, including Oshkosh Public Library. The plaza was originally dedicated in 1980 by the Oshkosh Rotary Club. It honors Waters’ enduring impact on Oshkosh’s architectural heritage.

“This project in my opinion is a perfect meeting of past, present and future,” Oshkosh Public Library director Darryl Eschete said. “The design and placement are an homage to the library designed by William Waters. It also adds interest in community building activities that are sort of built into it.”

Eschete sees being able to use the space for the library to host activities such as one-act plays, concerts and outdoor story times.

Brandon Nielsen, a planner with the City of Oshkosh, said initial renovation of the plaza was completed in 2019, funded in large part by a grant to River East Neighborhood Association through the City of Oshkosh. Shortly after that, he said a \$250,000 donation was received to build the gazebo, but the COVID pandemic forced a delay in the project due to rising construction costs.

The columns of the gazebo were built with what is expected to be a 200-year life capacity.



Oshkosh Herald
Brandon Nielsen talks about the planning that has gone into designing William Waters Plaza since 2014.

“It should last as long as the library at such a high caliber,” said E. Carter Arndt, senior project architect with MSA Professional Services. “It was important for it to be done well. The city can be proud of it.”

Chris Anderson, one of the owners of the Anderson Brothers masonry company that did the stone work on the gazebo, said they paid careful attention to make sure the architecture of the library matched with the gazebo.

“It’s neat to see something like this that will be here forever,” Anderson said. “We were interested in doing it because of where it is and the connection with the architect.”

The project was made possible through the collaboration that includes Oshkosh

Area Community Foundation, Alexandria Charitable Trust, City of Oshkosh Planning, Public Works and Parks Department, Downtown Business Improvement District Beautification Committee, Downtown Rotary Club, individual donors to the Taking Root Fund, Landmarks Commission, Oshkosh Public Library, River East Neighborhood Association and Washington Building Developers.

The gazebo was designed by MSA Professional Services and constructed by D&J Quality Construction.

“This is a great community collaboration,” Nielsen said. “With a collaboration like this, we were able to do more than we could alone. It wouldn’t have looked like this.”

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Oshkosh man remembered for kindness, leadership

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

Walter Scott Jr. passed away last month, leaving behind a legacy in Oshkosh of leadership, kindness and a man that cared deeply about others and people getting along.

He was affectionately known as Scotty and some of those who knew him spoke about what he meant as a community member, a friend and a father.

Mike Scott, one of Scotty's four children, talked about his father and the impact he had on the community.

"He didn't dip his toe into anything. He was all in," Mike said. "He had such a strong moral compass and was always considerate and respectful of others."

Mike noted Scotty was great at connecting with people and he would meet someone with a particular interest. Then, months later he would meet another person with similar interests and did everything he could to connect them.

"He just really enjoyed connecting people, and it was beneficial for many people," Mike said.

Mike took his father's lead on giving back to the community and joined community groups like his father and over the last 10 years Scotty and Mike would



joke about the role reversal.

"I lived my life being Scotty's son, which is great, but over the last 10 years he would start joking with me that he had become 'Mike's dad,'" Mike said.

Scotty helped found the Oshkosh Civility Project in 2010 after noticing civility began taking a backseat in the community including several negative editorials published in the daily newspaper. The project continues today with posters in the meeting rooms across the city, and it continues to run as a volunteer-led organization.

The group successfully engaged the Oshkosh Common Council, the Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education and the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors to adopt the nine principles that the group follows.

The group didn't just focus on governing bodies but also on individuals including reaching people at the Oshkosh Farmers Market.

"I credit him for helping me become more civil and then I could use that to continue helping others," Margy Davy said. "He was probably one of the nicest people I've ever known."

Davy, who served on the Oshkosh Civility Project board, said she and Scotty didn't always agree on topics but the two were able to disagree on things without issue.

"That's what civility is about, being able to respect someone and disagree with them," Davy said. "To choose civility is what Scotty and everyone else is working for."

Sue Panek, who joined the Oshkosh Civility Project a few years after its inception, said Scotty's philosophy seemed to make people more aware of new things.

"It could be leading the charge on civility or introducing new concepts," Panek said. "He strived his whole life to help others become better people."

Alex Hummel of the civility project said, "15 years later, the Oshkosh Civility Project has become a kind of staple set of principles here. It really does influence the civic wellness and strengthen connectedness within Oshkosh, its local government cultures and so many varied organizations around us."

The Oshkosh Civility Project is celebrating its 15th anniversary next year and

will be honoring 15 people across Oshkosh with the honor of Civility Torch Bearers.

Scotty was also instrumental in creating the Excellence in Leadership group. The group holds luncheons on a semi-annual basis as a space for business leaders to share how their Christian values help in the business. The group recently celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Doug Marone said Scotty was instrumental in establishing start-up retirement plans for small businesses based on Warren Coe's model. This was at a time when financial advisors were not handling because there was not enough money to justify the expense of setting up the plans.

"Others would just wait until the plan was large enough for them and try to talk the business owners into switching administrators. Coe and Scotty, established the plans in an economical way and were patient in waiting for the plans to grow through contributions over time."

Scotty joined Noon Kiwanis in 1963 and continued working with the club for the past 62 years. Marone worked with Scotty as they both belonged to the club.

"He was a great leader in the Kiwanis Club," Marone said. "He was always planning and leading the programs we would put on including our bingo event. Bingo for a Cause was a name he came up with."

Bingo for a Cause is an annual fundraiser held by the club which benefits the Kiwanis 'n' Cops 'n' Kids reading program and the Oshkosh Public Library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program.

"He was involved and was very positive," Marone added. "He always kept his values on in front. He always treated everyone with respect and civility. We'll miss him a lot. He's going to leave a big hole in our club and our community."

Mike and Scotty worked together for 17 years as financial advisors and over his whole career Scotty wore suits, but Mike pointed out that as they were planning his funeral, Scotty knew exactly what he wanted to be wearing.

"He made sure we knew he wanted to be buried in a Franki Moscato red 'Be Kind' t-shirt with his Packers cap and his Packers slippers," he said. "A man that wore a suit all his life wanted to be buried in a shirt announcing Be Kind."

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Oshkosh Herald
Darla Salinas is sworn in as city clerk Nov. 4 during the Oshkosh Common Council budget hearing.

New city clerk sworn into office

Oshkosh Herald

After the first day of her new job Darla Salinas was taking notes for the Oshkosh Common Council budget hearing. Salinas was sworn in by city attorney Lynn Lorensen Nov. 4 as the council meeting began. “I’m very excited to be here,” Salinas

told the Herald. “Why not Oshkosh? This move made sense. We’re closer to home and just really happy to be here.” Salinas had recently worked in Fox Crossing as the village clerk in a similar role. In Oshkosh, she will oversee elections, council meetings and a plethora of other tasks at City Hall.

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District’s current cell phone policy follows new state law

By Dave Gill
 HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

If the Oshkosh Area School District administration has its way, a statewide school cell phone ban signed into law by Governor Tony Evers on Oct. 31 will have little to no impact on existing district policy.

“Our current policies follow the new guidance,” said OASD Communications Director Katie Nieman in a statement. “Specifically, OASD policy allows students to use personal devices before and after school, and for our high school students, during non-instructional times like lunch and between classes, provided there is no disruption.”

In signing the statewide school cell phone ban into law, Evers released the following

statement: “I am deeply concerned about the impacts cell phone and social media use are having on our kids and their mental health, school outcomes, and how our kids engage and interact with each other and the world around us.

“Our kids are struggling today, perhaps now more than ever,” Evers continued. “It’s really tough to be a kid these days, and we know that cell phones can be a major distraction from learning, a source of bullying, and a barrier to our kids’ important work of just being a kid.”

One of the state senate sponsors of the cell phone ban legislation is Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara, whose District 19 covers rural west Oshkosh to I-39, including Omro, Winneconne, Wautoma,

Waupaca and New London.

Cabral-Guevara’s Chief of Staff Ryan Retza said that between 80 to 90% of Wisconsin school districts already have some form of policy regulating personal communication devices during instructional time and that the new law will require the remaining school districts to craft a policy by July 2026.

Retza also acknowledged that one of the provisions of the act reminds Wisconsin school boards with existing cell phone policies that it is in their power to institute more restrictive bans if they see fit.

According to the newly signed cell phone ban law, “Nothing ... prohibits a school board from adopting a policy relating to the use or possession of wireless communication devices by pupils that is more restrictive” than what existing district policies already address.

The existing OASD Personal Communication Devices (PCD) policy states: “Students may use PCDs before and after school at the elementary and middle school levels at the discretion of the building principal and/or classroom teacher.”

For high school students, PCDs may be used “before and after school, during their lunch break, and in between classes as long as they do not create a distraction, disruption or otherwise interfere with the educational environment...”

The existing OASD Personal Communication Devices policy was adopted on Nov. 18, 2015, and was last revised on June 22, 2022.

Nieman said that the administration and school board will ensure that the current PCD policy language lives up to the letter and spirit of the new cell phone ban law.

“We will be reviewing our policy language and practices to ensure alignment with all requirements and necessary exemptions specified under the new state law,” Nieman said.

An email was sent to parents of Oshkosh West High School students last week outlining a new policy in the school’s math classes. Math teacher Nicole Bouzek wrote in the email that cell phone referrals have increased, linked to suspicions of cheating.

“Therefore, the math department has unilaterally decided to make it a mandatory rule that if a student has a cell phone on them, they must turn it into a designated spot in their teacher’s room for safe keeping for the entire class period,” she wrote. “Our goal is to limit the amount of distractions from their phone during class and allow them to focus on learning the material. Any student who is found to have their cell phone on them will be written up according to the school policy.”

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Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 6:30pm
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2025 Holiday Parade Float Registration Form

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<p>WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION SUNDAYS 9:30 AM</p> <p>203 ALGOMA BLVD., OSHKOSH, WI 54901 OSHKOSH-EPISCOPAL.ORG (920) 231-2420</p>	<p>St. Andrew's Lutheran Church</p> <p>1100 E Murdoch 9:30 AM Worship & Communion standrewsoshkosh.org (920) 235-6616</p> <p><i>All are Welcome at God's Table</i></p>
<p>Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)</p> <p>Worship: Sun. 9:00 am; Thurs. 7:00 pm Christ-Centered Education for children and adults</p> <p>370 Bowen St. (920) 235-7440 www.trinityoshkosh.org</p>	<p>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church</p> <p>2450 W 9th Ave • Oshkosh • 54904 920-231-0530</p> <p>Sunday Worship: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Thursday Worship: 6:30 PM <i>Proclaiming Christ's Word Through Truth, Innovation & Fellowship</i></p> <p><small>goodshepherdinoshkosh.com</small> Good Shepherd Lutheran Church-Oshkosh</p>
<p>SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00AM</p> <p>INFORMAL WORSHIP 6:30PM (THURSDAY FEBRUARY - NOVEMBER)</p> <p>1306 MICHIGAN STREET OSHKOSH, WI 920.235.8340 emmanueloshkosh.org</p>	<p>Immanuel Lutheran Church</p> <p>WELS • 338 N. Eagle Street, Oshkosh, WI</p> <p>We are a traditional, small church FAMILY. Come and join us for Worship Sundays at 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>We continue to use the "Red" Christian Worship 1993 Hymnal immanuel-oshkosh.org</p>
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<p>River of Life Church - Oshkosh (920) 230-2444</p> <p>440 W. South Park Avenue • Oshkosh, WI 54902 Pastor Larry Pettit</p> <p>Sunday Morning Service: 10:00 am Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 6:30 pm <i>The Friendly Church With An Eternal Message</i></p>	

Business news roundup

Tommy's Express opened its new location Friday at 2100 Omro Road. Tommy's Express locations are built using recycled materials and feature signature floor-to-ceiling windows and a transparent roof. Each site offers a bright, modern environment that the company said turn a routine car wash into an inviting and enjoyable experience. The new facility in Oshkosh features premium amenities, including complimentary floor mat washers and high-powered vacuum stations, to ensure every part of a vehicle is spotless.

Davita has opened a new dialysis facility in Oshkosh. The facility is located at 1950 Venture Drive. Call 920-500-1011 to schedule a tour.

Matt Loranger has been appointed vice president of risk management at **Verve, a Credit Union**. Loranger joins Verve from First Commonwealth Federal Credit Union in Allentown, Penn., where he served as senior vice president of enterprise risk management. In his new role, Loranger will be responsible for monitoring and mitigating Verve's operational and strategic risk while ensuring organizational compliance with applicable laws and regulations pertaining to the credit union. He will lead Verve's Compliance, Fraud, Information Assurance Risk, Quality Assurance, and Risk teams.

Mia Beltran has been promoted to vice president of marketing and customer success for **Fox World Travel**. In this role, Beltran will lead the integration of marketing and customer success to drive the company's customer-centric vision



Tommy's Express hosted guests last week during a private reception to celebrate the opening of its location on Omro Road.

forward. Since joining the company in 2015, Beltran has played a key role in Fox's growth. She has served as market-

ing manager, brand manager and for the past seven years, director of customer experience.

Millwork Distributors begins expansion of Oshkosh facility

Oshkosh Herald

Work has started on an expansion of the Millwork Distributors, Inc. (MDI) facility on the west side of Oshkosh.

The company held a groundbreaking ceremony for the project on Oct. 31 at 2751 Universal St. The expansion will include 23,000 square foot of additional warehouse space and a remodel of the office front façade and entryway.

The project also includes additional restrooms, expansion of the team's breakroom which will serve multi purposes including lunch, meetings and trainings, building out a Will Call/drivers office for customer pickups, increasing the parking lot size and upgrading and adding additional landscaping.

President/CEO Scott Ryback said with the increase in space the locally run and employee owned business will accommodate its recent growth and is expecting to add between six and eight personnel in the warehouse and shop area.

Construction on the expansion will begin this month and is targeted for completion the second quarter of 2026. The contractor for the project is Keller Builds, headquartered in Kaukauna.

MDI was established in 1987 and provides customized millwork products to a network of dealers throughout Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

The original building which houses MDI was constructed in 1993. In 1998 an additional 25,000 square feet was added. In the past two years the business has focused on upgrading machinery, which was step one of their strategic growth plan.



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Worker allegedly shoots manager at McDonald's

Oshkosh Herald

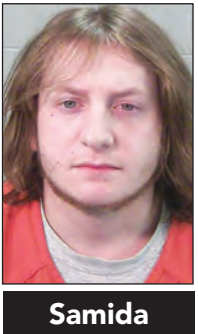
An Oshkosh man who allegedly shot his manager in the foot last month at the McDonald's on Jackson Street is facing misdemeanor charges after police initially recommended felony reckless injury charges.

Adam Samida, 24, is facing two misdemeanor charges of carrying a concealed weapon and disorderly conduct – use of a deadly weapon.

The maximum sentence he faces is one year in prison and \$11,000 in fines. At his initial court appearance last week, Samida was ordered to have no contact with the manager or the McDonald's and was given 24 hours to surrender any firearms he owns to the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

Online records show he posted his \$500 cash bond set by Court Commissioner Eric Heywood and is no longer in custody.

According to the criminal complaint, the incident in the early morning hours of Oct. 29 began when Samida didn't want to work and was just walking around the



Samida

restaurant.

An OPD officer reviewed video of the incident. The complaint outlines the manager was grabbing and pulling Samida while yelling at him.

The manager allegedly said, "I will whoop your a**, boy."

Samida then goes toward the entrance/exit to the restaurant but when the manager approached, Samida retreated toward the bathroom area. The manager grabs Samida and forces him to the ground. While on the ground, the manager put his hands on the back of Samida's neck, pushing him further into the ground.

The manager eventually gets off Samida. That's when Samida is able to get his firearm and allegedly shoots the manager in the foot.

The manager was later transported to a local hospital to care for the injury that was considered non-life-threatening. Another witness gave their side of the story to police. They told an officer the interaction between Samida and the manager was "professional and non-confrontational."

The complaint notes the contradictions in the witness' timeline of events from the video. They alleged that Samida gestured

to his waist band, where firearms are often kept, and asked the manager to "meet him outside."

The witness also stated they asked Samida to leave when they were at the entrance/exit doors, which contradicts the video the officer watched.

Shortly after the shooting, Samida fled the restaurant and, according to OPD, was

located within 14 minutes of being dispatched to the scene.

Samida was arrested and taken into custody. He declined to make any comment while at the police station.

No one else has been charged in connection with the incident.

A hearing is scheduled in this case for Dec. 18 in front of Judge Michael Gibbs.

Former OCP president working with authorities from Michigan

Oshkosh Herald

A former theater group president appears to be working with authorities in his theft case. The man is accused of stealing thousands of dollars from bank accounts used by the Oshkosh Community Players.

Court documents show since charges were filed against Justin J. Drabek in September he hired an attorney, demanded discovery and changed his address.

Drabek, 42, is facing one felony count of theft in a business setting between \$5,000 and \$10,000. He was initially charged in August with an initial court appearance scheduled in mid-September.

Drabek allegedly set up a GoFundMe page for the organization that raised \$2,000, but OCP says they never received the money.

An official at the organization's credit union said Drabek was the only person with a debit card for the accounts. He was removed from the bank accounts on Feb. 26, 2025 after being voted out as president of OCP.

Police reviewed all transactions not related to OCP, like U-Haul, Menards and True Value purchases, and compiled them on a spreadsheet. These non-OCP charges are believed to have been made by Drabek between January 2024 and February 2025, totaling \$29,841.98.

Drabek attended an initial court appearance last week by video after an arrest warrant was issued for his arrest in September.

Court Commissioner Eric Heywood set Drabek's signature bond at \$5,000.

These include ATM cash withdrawals and transactions at Oshkosh bars, restaurants and online retailers like Amazon.

Drabek moved to Michigan in November 2024 and police were unable to set up an in-person interview, which led them to do a phone interview. Drabek told police during that call he was responsible for about \$4,000 in transactions.

Authorities believe he left Oshkosh last November and was living in Interlochen, Mich. Drabek is now living in Kinglsey in Northwest Michigan, according to court documents.

During the phone call police listed off a number of transactions that Drabek admitted to making. This included purchases at Lion's Den adult shop, Only Fans, Airbnb and Allegiant Air.

Online court records show Drabek was deemed ineligible for a public defender by the Wisconsin Public Defender's Office in Oshkosh. Drabek has hired attorney Erik C. Johnson to represent him.

Drabek told police he made the purchases when he was going through a difficult time in his life – mentally, emotionally and financially. He said he planned on paying the money back but was not able to do so.

According to the criminal complaint, Oshkosh Police were dispatched to a fraud complaint on Feb. 21. Members of the OCP, a non-profit organization, told police Drabek had access to both accounts. Drabek was authorized to make purchases for the group, but bills were not being paid.

"He was going through a bad relationship, strapped for cash, and he wanted to maintain an illusion that he was doing okay with everybody," the complaint states.

They believed Drabek had stolen approximately \$16,000 based on their belief that there was \$6,000 in the checking account and \$10,000 in the savings account. Both accounts were then left with \$56 in the checking account and \$6 in the savings account.

Drabek went on to say he did collect the \$2,000 from the GoFundMe page and added it to the OCP bank accounts - the same accounts he was using for unauthorized transactions.

Bank statements show in February 2024 the organization's savings and checking account had a total of \$8,949.22 and on Feb. 23, 2025 there was a combined \$62 in the accounts.

The case is set for an arraignment hearing next month in front of Judge Bryan Keberlein.

Event supports suicide prevention efforts

Oshkosh Herald

Community for Hope is holding its second annual Hope Rising event.

The event dedicated to suicide prevention and mental health awareness will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Venue 404. The organization is planning the event to bring the community together to raise funds, share stories and support those affected by suicide.

The evening will feature music, food, speakers, raffles, games and more to support suicide prevention in Oshkosh and Winnebago County.

Tickets are available at shorturl.at/NE9gU.

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New wall placed to cover Read Elementary mural



The back wall of Read Elementary had featured a vibrant mural featuring artwork students painted last year.



The back wall of Read Elementary used to be a vibrant mural featuring artwork from the students. It has recently been covered by a new black wall.

By Jonathan Richie
OSHKOSH HERALD

The wall on the north side of Read Elementary school was vibrant after an elaborate mural was painted last year with the help of students. Now it has been covered by a black wall.

In June 2024 the new playground at the school opened to the students and the public. It sits on Algoma Boulevard to south of Oshkosh Fire Station 17 and the new equipment came with a fire station theme.

One major portion of the playground was a mural on the school's north wall. Muralist Neo Medina worked with students from all grades at Read in spring 2024.

But now the wall appears to be a blank slate.

Oshkosh Area School District communication director Katie Nieman said the mural has not been painted over but instead covered by a new outer wall as part of a necessary maintenance repair to stop water damage.

"In early spring 2025, the exterior walls of the school's media center were found to be leaking, which was damaging the interior and its contents," she said. "We investigated options for salvaging and reinstalling the mural but found the wall panels could not be removed without destroying the artwork. To correct this, the district had to install a new outer wall with aluminum panels and flashing over the damaged section, which meant the mural had to be covered."

A letter was written by Read Principal Emily Eisenschink to explain why the mural is no longer visible and was set to be

delivered to Read families in June. However, it did not go out to families due to a technical error with the district family messaging system.

The letter was expected to be sent out to Read families on Monday.

"While the timing of this project is less than ideal, we're grateful that the source of the water damage is being resolved," Eisenschink wrote. "Please know that we are taking deliberate steps to preserve and honor the mural in a meaningful and lasting way. The mural's removal is in no way a reflection of any diminished commitment to the belonging and success of our wonderfully diverse community of scholars at Read Elementary."

Medina was informed of the wall being put up and the district is working with him to recreate the mural. It's being called Mural 2.0 and will keep the original message of representation and identity.

Nieman added that inside Read there will be an image to "permanently showcase the story, images and impact of the original April 2024 mural."

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City budget

FROM PAGE 1

spoke Nov. 4 at the budget hearing about the proposed cut.

“I want my taxes to support it. A \$107,000 animal services budget only sounds like an inflated figure, if you don’t understand the wide scope of the work the OAHS does,” Cari Tetzlaff said.

“When funding is reduced, it’s not just the animals that suffer. It touches everyone. Families that lose support, volunteers who give their time and a community that values kindness and care,” Melissa Holtz told the council.

Smith did confirm with the Herald that contract negotiations were ongoing with OAHS.

Council member Jacob Floam requested funding OAHS at the 2025 budget level of \$107,582. He called to have the additional \$47,582 taken out of the city’s general fund. Council member DJ Nichols countered that with his own amendment.

The city allocated \$50,000 earlier this year to cover the costs of the Menominee Park Amusement Train. A large portion of those funds have not been spent by the parks department on upkeep for the train to be open for the season.

Floam’s amendment failed and Nichols suggested using those unused funds, about \$42,500, to go to the Humane Society. That amendment also failed.

If the council plans to increase the animal control budget, it would have to do so through a budget amendment at Tuesday’s meeting.

Pedestrian bridge

The city last year announced it had been awarded a federal grant to build a pedestrian bridge across Interstate 41. U.S. Senator

Tammy Baldwin said at the time that the \$8 million the city was awarded would “ensure that all travelers – whether you are driving, biking or walking – will be able to get where they need to go safely and efficiently.”

The funds would come from the federal Department of Transportation’s Safe Streets and Roads for All program. The total grant is for \$10 million. The city would have to pay that over the next several years and then would get reimbursed up to \$8 million.

The proposal calls for a 12-foot-wide pedestrian and bicycle bridge to be constructed over I-41 just north of Taft Avenue and Sawyer Creek. The bridge requires two landing spots, one would be in the U-Haul parking lot and the other would be on Linway Court on the west side of the interstate. Linway Court is a private road that the city would need to acquire to build the bridge.

City transportation director Jim Collins noted one of the difficulties with roundabouts is that drivers are trained to look to the left when approaching a roundabout and drivers will often not check on the right side before entering the roundabout.

The city reported 17 bike injuries and four pedestrian injuries between 2018 and 2022. In that same time there have been two fatal crashes and multiple crashes involving serious injury.

In response to the safety concerns with roundabouts the city has installed rapid flashing beacons or RFBs. These are at crosswalks at roundabouts that allow pedestrians or cyclists to push a button that will get lights to flash at the entrances of the roundabout.

Mugerauer had concerns about the process of getting the grant and safety.

He pointed out that even with the pedestrian bridge people would still use the roundabouts and those are dangerous. He suggested installing more of the RFBs as it

would be a fraction of the cost, possibly as much as \$400,000, of the proposed bridge.

Mugerauer called the project a “cart before the horse” situation. He said city staff took the lead on the project without seeking input from the council. This would have started under former city manager Mark Rohloff, who used funds under his discretion for the feasibility study but the project never went to council for approval.

“This is the biggest (grant) that city staff could possibly do and didn’t ask if this was something that council wanted staff to do,” he said. “The cart got put before the horse and that staff, at probably city manager’s direction, at that time put forth the grant application.”

Mugerauer said he was in favor of getting federal grant money back into Oshkosh, but he had concerns that the price the city will be paying will be well over \$2 million.

There are also the potential land acquisition costs that are not included in the grant. Mugerauer stated a number of parcels would need to be purchased, according to the city plans, and a stretch of road may have to be built to connect the bridge with Patriot Way.

City staff said this was a unique opportunity that may never come back around to build a pedestrian bridge across the interstate with the help of federal dollars.

“This is a generational opportunity for

you to consider,” Collins told the council. “It’s an opportunity to greatly enhance and improve the city’s multi-model infrastructure. I don’t know if we’ll have another opportunity like this.”

The council gave direction to staff to continue moving forward with Mugerauer being the only member opposing the project.

Amusement train

The Parks Department is working on a plan to replace the on-track amusement train at Menominee Park with an on-land train that can drive around on the paths and roads at the park.

The city is working with the Oshkosh Community Foundation and other groups to raise \$150,000 to buy the new train. Parks director Ray Maurer told the council that the group has already raised \$75,000 of the funds, and that is why there are no city funds being set aside in the 2026 budget for the train.

Maurer highlighted this is an opportunity to highlight the cultural and historical aspects of Menominee Park.

One of the main reasons the on-track train has struggled financially over the past few years is a shortage of employees available to work. Maurer said with the historical aspects of the train being added, he thinks the city will be able to hire retired people to run the train in the future.

UWO searching for new food services provider

Oshkosh Herald

UW-Oshkosh plans to have a new food services vendor next year after its current provider chose to end its contract.

In a letter dated Nov. 3 sent to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and addressed to Oshkosh Mayor Matt Mugerauer, Elior provided notice of planned layoffs.

The company said all 155 affected employees have been notified of their separation dates and that their separation from employment will be permanent.

“These employees are expected to be separated from employment beginning on May 17, 2026,” Elior Director of Human Resources Jessica Lund-Denn said in the

letter. “Some affected employees are represented by a collective bargaining agreement, and appropriate notice is being provided.”

UWO spokesman Alex Hummel said Elior has chosen not to take part in UWO’s current, ongoing food services vendor selection process. The company’s contract was already set to conclude next spring, Hummel said.

“Elior’s decision will not affect UWO students, faculty or staff,” Hummel said. “UW-Oshkosh will have a new dining services provider in place next spring to ensure a smooth transition and uninterrupted service for our campus community and guests.”

UWO plans graduate school open house

Oshkosh Herald

UW-Oshkosh invites community members, professionals, alumni and students to take the next step in their educational journey at the Graduate School Open House from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Nov. 19 in the Reeve Union Ballroom on the UWO campus.

The open house offers a one-stop opportunity to connect with faculty, current graduate students and alumni from across UWO’s range of master’s, doctoral and

certificate programs.

Guests can move through a series of interactive information stations, including meeting with a graduate coordinator, student or alumni and ask questions about financial aid, student resources and tips for success.

The event is free and open to the public. Free parking will be available in Lot 15 directly across from Reeve Memorial Union. More information about UWO graduate programs is available at uwosh.edu/gradschool.



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2.49^{lb}

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4.99

16 oz Select Sliced Bacon




2.99

3 lb Bag California Seedless Navel Oranges



4/\$11

6 pk, .5 Ltr Bottles 7UP, Dr Pepper or A&W Root Beer



8.25-18 oz Select Party Size

FREE

Doritos, Ruffles, Tostitos, Cheetos or Rold Gold



2/\$5

6 oz Blackberries or Raspberries



3.49

46-52 oz Apple, Grapefruit or Orange Simply Juices



2/\$11

6 pk, 12 oz Cans Bubbl'r



2/\$4

6-8 oz Food Club Sliced Cheese



2/\$10

16.35-27.4 oz Select Screamin' Sicilian Pizza, 15.65-18.6 oz Loaded Breadsticks or 16 oz Milwaukee Beast Pretzel



3.99

48 oz Edy's or Oreo Ice Cream



5/\$5

14.5-15.25 oz Select Green Giant Canned Vegetables



4.99

19-30 oz Select Kraft Mayo or Miracle Whip



2.99^{lb}

Original or Mustard Aunt Em's Potato Salad



2/\$7

1 lb Land O' Lakes Butter



7.99

6 Mega Roll Cottonelle Toilet Tissue or 6 Big Roll Select Viva Paper Towel



19.49

30 pk, 12 oz Cans Busch or Busch Light



2.99

24 pk, .5 Ltr Bottles Piggly Wiggly Drinking or Spring Water



1.99

When you redeem 2000 pig points

12-18.2 oz Select General Mills Cereal



Regular Sale Price 2.99

2.49

When you redeem 2000 pig points

5 lb Bag Select Gold Medal Flour



Regular Sale Price 3.49

9.99

When you redeem 2000 pig points

23-30.5 oz Select Hills Bros. Coffee



Regular Sale Price 10.99

Offer expires 11/18/25

PLU 27202

Wisconsin McIntosh Apples



3-pound bag

\$2.49 each

Limit one with separate \$25.00 purchase

Good at Red's Piggly Wiggly in Omro and Oshkosh only

Offer expires 11/18/25

PLU 27203

Nestle Splash Flavored Water



6-pack, half-liter bottles

2/\$3

Must buy two. Limit two with separate \$25.00 purchase

Good at Red's Piggly Wiggly in Omro and Oshkosh only

Offer expires 11/18/25

PLU 27204

Piggly Wiggly Water

Spring or drinking, 24-pack, half-liter bottles



2/\$5

Must buy two. Limit two with separate \$25.00 purchase

Good at Red's Piggly Wiggly in Omro and Oshkosh only

Offer expires 11/18/25

PLU 27205

Pepperidge Farms Goldfish Crackers



5.9-8 oz

2/\$4

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1.75 liter bottle

\$7.99 each

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5/\$5

14.5-15 oz Red Gold Tomatoes or Sauce



4/\$3

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2/\$3

WITH REWARDS

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6.99

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per pound

From the Deli

Broccoli
Cauliflower Salad

\$5.99
per pound

Texas Caviar

\$4.99
per pound

From the Bakery

Half Pies

\$3.99
each

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3 lb Bag Wisconsin
McIntosh
Apples

69¢ ea
Fancy
Lemons
or Limes

2.99 lb
California Red or Green
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Grapes

2.49 ea
POM Wonderful
Pomegranates

1.69 lb
Washington Premium
Fuji, Gala
or Granny
Smith Apples

3.99
6.7-13 oz Fresh Express
Chopped
Kits

1.99 lb
Garden Fresh
Tomatoes
on the Vine

1.99 ea
3 lb Bag
Gold Salad
Potatoes

1.69
2 lb Bag Bolthouse Fresh
Cello
Carrots

19.99
Autumn
Fair
Bouquet

11.99
5 in
Assorted Blooming
Plants in Elsie Tin

3.99
1 lb Little Potato Co.
Oven Ready Potatoes
or 8.5 oz Giorgio
Stuffed Mushrooms

69¢ lb
Wisconsin
Green
Cabbage

beverage center

5.99
12 pk, 12 oz Cans
Mr. Pibb,
Fanta, Barq's
or Minute Maid

1.99
2-ltr Bottles
Mr. Pibb,
Fanta, Barq's
or Minute Maid

11.99
24 pk, 12 oz Cans
Pepsi
or Mtn Dew

2/\$4
12 oz Can
Poppi

4/\$5
18 oz Bottle
Bai

2/\$4
64 oz
Food Club
Apple Juice
or Cider

2/\$5
128 oz
Arizona
Tea

3.99
64 oz
Northland
Cranberry Juice

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Pepsi or
Mtn Dew

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Creamer



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Food Club
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3.49
6-24 ct or 16.5 oz
Pillsbury
Cookie Dough



2.99
2 ct
Food Club
Pie Crust



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5 oz
Weyauwega
Parmesan Cheese



3.49
10 oz
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Cheese Spread



3.49
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Food Club
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Cheese



3.49
6 pk
Sunny D



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Artesano Bread



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24 oz
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3.99
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C&H
Granulated Sugar



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Pillsbury
Cake Mix
or Frosting



3.99
8-12 oz
Hershey's
Baking Chips
8 oz Hershey's Baking Cocoa...5.99



1.99
16.3 oz
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Favorites
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1.79
14.5-15.25 oz
Food Club
Canned Fruit



2.79
6 pk
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5.99
20 oz
Rana
Pasta



2.99
6 oz
Food Club
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2.99
2.8-3 oz
Oscar Mayer
Bacon Bits
or Pieces



3/\$5
20 oz Pineapples
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6.99
36 oz
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2/\$5
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Bread Crumbs



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12 ct
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Pop-Tarts



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8-8.2 oz
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1.69^{lb}
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Portion**

2.49^{lb}
Family Pack Pork Steaks...
2.49^{lb}

2.49^{lb}
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Thighs or
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4.99
16 oz, 85% Lean
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2.99^{lb}
Boneless
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8.99
16-18 oz Select Jones
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16 oz Select
Jimmy Dean
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4.99
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Deli Snack Sticks

13.49^{lb}
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9-14 oz Select
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10 oz w/Sauce
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Wholey Cooked
Shrimp Ring

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- 10 to 12-lb. Turkey
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- Sage Dressing - Gravy
- Green Bean Casserole
- Cranberry Relish - Pumpkin Pie

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- 10 to 12-lb. Turkey
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- Sage Dressing - Gravy
- Cranberry Relish - Pumpkin Pie

\$99⁹⁹

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7.99^{lb}
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Michelob
Ultra

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750 ml Bottle
Kendall Jackson
Chardonnay

21.99
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Miller Extra Light 64

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15 pk, 12 oz Cans
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Korbel
California Champagne

17.99
8 pk, 12 oz Cans
Carbliss
Cocktails

11.49
4 pk, 12 oz Cans
Cutwater
Cocktails

10.99
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Fireball
Cinnamon Whiskey

19.99
1.75 ltr Bottle
E&J VS
Brandy

7.99
1.75 ltr Bottle
Fleischmann's
Vodka

8.99
Select 750 ml Bottle
Apothic
Wines

Calendar of events

Wednesday, Nov. 12
Lakeside Speaker Series featuring Fr. Joe Mattern, 6:30 p.m., Jesuit Retreat House, 4800 Fahrnwald Road

Thursday, Nov. 13
“When the Ends Don’t Meet” Exhibition and Speaker Stephanie Land, 5 p.m., Culver Center at UWO

Friday, Nov. 14
Meet Author Robert Vajgrt, Writer of “The Story in Your Head,” 2 p.m., Caramel Crisp Bookstore, 200 City Center

Saturday, Nov. 15
Oshkosh Hmong New Year, 8 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center
TedxOshkosh, 8:30 a.m., The Grand Oshkosh
Craft and Vendor Fair, 9 a.m., Vel Phillips Middle School
Oshkosh Farmers Market, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Arena
Ruby’s Pantry, 9:30 a.m., St. John’s Lutheran Church of Nekimi, 491 Old Oregon Road
Cranksgiving Benefit Ride, 2:30 p.m., Becket’s
Divine Voices of the Valley Gospel Choir presents Bible Stories, 6:30 p.m., UWO Reeve Union Ballroom Room 227, 748 Algoma Blvd.
The Land Before Time, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater

Sunday, Nov. 16
12:34 Music Series featuring TAE & The Neighborly Duo, 11:30 a.m., Algoma Boulevard UMC, 1174 Algoma Boulevard
Bowl for the Kids, 2 p.m., Revs Bowl Bar & Grill, 276 N. Washburn St.
Instability (The Pilot Premiere), 4 p.m., Time Community Theater
The Divine Voices of the Valley Gospel Choir presents Bible Stories, 6:30 p.m., UWO Reeve Union Ballroom 227, 748 Algoma Blvd.

Sherlock, Jr. with the Carthage Wind Orchestra, 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Tuesday, Nov. 18
A Celtic Christmas by A Taste of Ireland, 4 and 7:30 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh

Wednesday, Nov. 19
Wisconsin Herd vs. Grand Rapids Gold, 6 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Thursday, Nov. 20
EAA Speaker Series: Flying the F-35, 7 p.m., EAA Aviation Museum
Taming of the Shrew presented by Vintage Theatre, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Masonic Center, 204 Washington Ave.

Friday, Nov. 21
Taming of the Shrew presented by Vintage Theatre, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Masonic Center, 204 Washington Ave.
Plan 9 From Outer Space, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater
Wisconsin Herd vs. Sioux Falls Skyforce, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Saturday, Nov. 22
Lourdes Academy Craft Show, 8 a.m., 110 N. Sawyer St.
Craft and Bake Sale, 8 a.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2450 W. Ninth Ave.
Oshkosh Farmers Market, 9 a.m., Oshkosh Convention Center
Meet Local Authors Bonnie Paruch of “The City Ever Green” and Christine Jacobs of “God Love Gardening,” 10:30 a.m., Caramel Crisp Bookstore, 200 City Center
Holiday Wine Walk, 1 p.m., Downtown Oshkosh
UWO Jazz Ensemble Celebrating John Harmon’s 90th Birthday, 7 p.m., The Grand Oshkosh
Taming of the Shrew presented by Vintage Theatre, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Masonic Center, 204 Washington Ave.
Planes, Trains, and Automobiles, 7 p.m., Time Community Theater
Wisconsin Herd vs. Sioux Falls Skyforce, 7 p.m., Oshkosh Arena

Sunday, Nov. 23
Oshkosh FIRST LEGO League Regional Tournament, 8 a.m., Oshkosh North High School
Deer Widow Weekend Craft and Vendor Event, 9 a.m., Poplar Creek Barn



Photo courtesy of Mick Thompson

Winnebago Audubon and Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter are organizing an event next week to provide information about purple martin.

Event celebrates connection to purple martins

Oshkosh Herald

Winnebago Audubon and Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter have partnered to offer a program about purple martins. These colony-nesting birds can often be seen near lakes and their calls can be heard as they swoop over the water devouring insects, like lake flies and mosquitoes. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 20 with treats available with the program starting at 7 p.m. at Evergreen Retirement Community, Lower Level – Behnke Room, 1130 N. Westfield St. It is free and open to the public. Speaker Dick Nikolai is well-known to both organizations. With a BS in wildlife

management, Nikolai worked with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for over 39 years. In his presentation, Nikolai will provide background information on the ecology of this aerial insectivore while explaining human impacts that threaten their survival. He has spent a lifetime of banding, researching and observing purple martins in hopes of turning around a declining population that is struggling with its constricting occurrence on the landscape. Visit the Winnebago Audubon website for updates and learn more at winnebago-audubon.org or on Facebook.

North to host robotics league regional tournament

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh Wave Robotics is hosting the Oshkosh FIRST LEGO League Regional Tournament, sponsored by Oshkosh Corporation, taking place 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 23 at Oshkosh North High School. The tournament will bring together FLL Explore Teams (grades 2-4) and FLL Challenge Teams (grades 4-8) to showcase their achievements from the FIRST Unearthed Season. Throughout the season, teams have been digging into archaeology - uncovering history, exploring the challenges archaeologists face and developing innovative solutions to real-world problems. These young innovators have been working hard and are eager to share their skills. At the end-of-the-year Explore Expo, FLL Explore teams will share their projects and models publicly for part of the event, followed by presentations to their peers, families and friends. The Challenge Tournament will feature teams from across the state as they present their Innovation Projects to judges and compete in the Robot Game matches. Top-performing teams will have the opportunity to advance to the Wisconsin FLL Sectional Tournament on Dec. 13 in Mukwonago.

Presentation to cover renewable energy information

Oshkosh Herald

A presentation will provide information about developments in community solar and renewable energy. The free event will take place at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 18 in Reeve Memorial Union, Room 306, 748 Algoma Boulevard at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Speaker Beata Wierzba, government affairs director with RENEW Wisconsin, will cover recent developments in renewable energy policy - regulatory and legislative - including proposed community solar legislation. She will focus on advocacy efforts and opportunities for public development. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A, and an opportunity to write to legislators. Wierzba’s presentation is sponsored by the UW-Oshkosh Student Environmental Action Coalition and the Oshkosh and Fond du Lac chapters of the Citizens’ Climate Lobby.

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Learn more at covey.org

Volunteer Ombudsman Program expands to include assisted living

Oshkosh Herald

The State of Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long Term Care is expanding its Volunteer Ombudsman Program to include assisted living communities in addition to skilled nursing homes.

This expansion includes community based residential facilities, residential care apartment complexes and memory care settings. By encouraging volunteers to serve in a variety of long-term care settings, the Board on Aging can offer improved advocacy services for individuals, aged 60 and older, living in long-term care communities.

The Volunteer Ombudsman Program is a supplement to the agency's Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, which works with individuals and their families to promote and protect the rights of long-term care consumers, while also working with long term care service providers to define and achieve the highest standards possible. The Volunteer Ombudsman Program cur-

rently operates in 35 counties.

Through the guidance of the Volunteer Ombudsman Program, volunteers conduct weekly visits with residents of long-term care facilities. During these visits, volunteers inform residents of their rights and help them address concerns related to their quality of life.

As the number of assisted living communities in Wisconsin continues to increase, the need for volunteer advocates grows statewide.

The Board on Aging and Long Term Care is looking for individuals with an interest in advocacy to join this program. No prior long-term care experience is necessary to become a Volunteer Ombudsman, as in-depth training and ongoing support is provided.

To learn more about the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program or to become involved with the Volunteer Ombudsman Program, visit longtermcare.wi.gov or call 1-800-815-0015.



Submitted photo

Oshkosh Elks Lodge No. 292 Lecturing Knight Scott Struensee presents Denise Bittner, who was a Speech and Language Pathologist in the Appleton School District and has volunteered at The Teachers Closet for 15 years, and volunteer Paula Bennett, who taught first and second Grade at Washington Elementary School for 33 years, with a donation area teachers can use for classroom supplies.

Elks donates money for classroom supplies

Oshkosh Herald

Thanks to a Wisconsin Elks Association (WEA) Charitable Lodge Grant, Oshkosh Elks Lodge No. 292 donated \$1,500 to The Teachers Closet in Oshkosh.

The Teachers Closet is a non-profit organization that provides classroom supplies to teachers free of charge. The Elks also donated two boxes of Drug Aware-

ness pencils, pens, rulers and crayons along with glue which will go to the children in the Oshkosh Area School District.

Volunteers Denise Bittner and Paula Bennett expressed how wonderful it was that this was available for teachers so they did not have to dig into their own pockets to purchase these needed items for their classrooms.

The items were delivered on Oct. 30.

Thanksgiving meals program supports families in need

Oshkosh Herald

This Thanksgiving season, the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh is calling on community members to help make the holiday brighter for local families in need.

Many of the club's families face financial challenges that make it difficult to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Through the generosity of donors and supporters, the club provides fully prepared Festival Foods Thanksgiving Day meals to ensure every family can celebrate with warmth and gratitude.

Each donated meal includes turkey, a

variety of sides, gravy, dinner rolls and pie — offering a complete holiday experience for families who may otherwise go without.

Meal donation options include small dinner for \$50 (serves approximately 2-3), medium dinner for \$80 (serves approximately 6-8) and large dinner for \$150 (serves approximately 12-14).

Donations will be accepted through Nov. 26. The Boys & Girls Club will coordinate delivery of the meals directly to families in time for Thanksgiving Day. To donate a Thanksgiving meal, visit bgcosh.org/thanksgiving-meals/.

Father Carr's Place 2B hosting annual Thanksgiving dinner

Oshkosh Herald

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

Dinner will include roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, vegetables and pumpkin pie for dessert.

For meals to be delivered, call 920-231-2378. Meals will be delivered on Thanks-

giving Day between 10:30 a.m. and noon. Orders are currently being taken.

For those who prefer to dine in the Saint Mother Teresa Center at Father Carr's on Thanksgiving Day, food will be served from noon to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 27. No reservations are necessary. Father Carr's is located at 1062 N. Koeller St.

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Please call the store at 920-235-9368 to schedule a pick up.



Submitted photo

Showing off style

The Oshkosh Area Women’s Association’s 39th Annual Benefit Style Show took place Oct. 28 at the Oshkosh Convention Center. This year’s event theme was “Every Holiday is a Gift” and showcased fashion from a lineup of 10 local stores. The co-emcees were Kelsey McDaniels, Miss Oshkosh 2011, and Ryan Rasmussen, executive director of the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. Proceeds benefitted the Town of Oshkosh Fire Department for EV (electric vehicle) rescue plugs, Military Veterans Museum Memorial Plaza for their front flag pole renovation, the Oshkosh Area Women’s Association High School Scholarship Fund and Miss Oshkosh Scholarship Competition.

West seeks distinguished alumni nominees

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh West High School is seeking nominations for its Distinguished Alumni award.

The deadline to submit nominees for the 2026 OWHS Distinguished Alumni Award is Nov. 30.

Nominees can be someone who has made significant contributions to the mu-

sic or athletic programs. Each year West honors a variety of individuals who have excelled in their professions, are role models and provide leadership to its students.

Visit tinyurl.com/6pg5mgw to submit nominations for these Oshkosh West awards. For additional information, contact cory.beaulieu@oshkosh.k12.wi.us or justin.hable@oshkosh.k12.wi.us.

Local college graduates

Just over 1,500 students received doctoral, bachelor’s, master’s and professional degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in August.

The graduates from Oshkosh include:

Emillie Cieslewicz, College of Letters and Science, master of arts-library and information studies

Sadie Dempsey, College of Letters and Science, doctor of philosophy, sociology

Ashley Roth, College of Letters and Science, bachelor of arts, psychology

Gillian Schatz, College of Agricultural and Life Science, bachelor of science, ge-

netics and genomics, graduated with highest distinction

Lauren Grill, doctor of dental surgery, dentistry and Maddie Weitz, bachelor of arts, psychology, both of Oshkosh, graduated this summer from Marquette University in Milwaukee.

Jacob C. Reuter of Oshkosh graduated in August from the University of North Dakota with a bachelor of business administration degree in management.



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Faith guides Martin’s advocacy, volunteer work

World Relief Wisconsin

For Deb Martin of Oshkosh, refugee volunteer work and advocacy for World Relief Wisconsin flow directly from her upbringing and her family’s deep-rooted faith.

“Growing up, my dad was a teacher and my mom was a nurse,” she said. “We always went to church and believed in caring about other people and helping ...it might be a neighbor or someone across the world.”

Martin’s family moved often, expanding her perspectives.

“I’ve been all over the United States, so I think I see the world a little differently,” she explained.

Add to that Martin’s curiosity about a wide range of topics and her next-level organizational skills, exemplified by her professional career as an industrial engineer.

In high school, Martin jumped into everything — Student Council, Future Nurses, anything that piqued her interest. When vandals egged the football coach’s house, she didn’t wait for someone else to step up. She organized her classmates to clean it up.

“I have been organizing people my whole life,” she said.

Whether she’s setting up apartments, shopping for culturally appropriate groceries or helping families new to the area learn to get around, Martin brings energy and intentionality to her advocacy and volunteer work in the Fox Valley.

She sees volunteering as an opportunity for human connection. And she learns as much as she gives.

“I realized there’s a lot of food I didn’t know about,” she said with a laugh. “The

first time I did the grocery shopping, I had to go to three different stores in town to find the right items.”

Each small interaction has opened her eyes to the everyday challenges newcomers face — things most Americans might not think twice about.

Volunteers like Martin are essential for World Relief’s work. Last year, the faith-based humanitarian organization recruited nearly 27,000 volunteers in the U.S. — including nearly 180 in Wisconsin — contributing thousands of hours to help refugee and immigrant families rebuild their lives.

“Deb is such a blessing to have on our team of volunteers. She is so passionate about caring for others in the community and her energy spreads to those she interacts with,” said Kalina Davis, World Relief Wisconsin’s church and community engagement manager in the Fox Valley.

“We are incredibly grateful to have a group of dedicated and compassionate volunteers who commit to building relationships with our newcomer neighbors. These mutually transformative relationships create opportunities for us all to learn and grow together.”

Over time, Martin has uncovered hidden barriers newcomers face. One day, while supporting a newly arrived family through her church’s Good Neighbor Team, she realized they had not been managing the growing pile of unopened mail in their home. With limited English and little cultural context, they had missed critical school notices. Martin and a World Relief staff member teamed up to sort out the documents.

From beeping smoke detectors to air



Submitted photo

World Relief Wisconsin staff, including Heather Doerfler, a client care specialist, celebrated the impact of volunteers like Deb Martin (front) during Volunteer Appreciation Week in spring 2025.

conditioners that need to be installed, Martin notices what needs to be done.

“These are smart, resilient people,” she said. “They’ve survived so much to get here. I just want to make the transition a little easier.”

Martin’s support for refugee families is often practical and systems-minded. She brings efficiency and problem-solving into her volunteer life.

She’s helped stock apartments, driven families to appointments and supported ESL learning. She’s always looking for ways to remove logistical barriers. When she noticed Oshkosh Community Food pantry clients riding the bus couldn’t carry enough groceries home, she bought and tested rolling carts on the city buses herself to make sure they fit—then got them into the hands of those who needed them.

Beyond logistics, Martin lends her

voice to many issues of justice and policy. She’s spoken at city council and school board meetings, especially around housing access and equity. Through advocacy organizations, she’s worked for years to address hunger, transportation and structural barriers in her community.

In all her work, her faith remains central.

A Bible verse from Philippians shapes how she sees what’s possible: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

“I can’t do everything,” Martin said. “But I can do a lot more than I ever thought I could.”

Since 2012, World Relief Wisconsin has partnered with the church to welcome nearly 2,000 new neighbors fleeing violence, famine and extreme poverty as they find safety and rebuild their lives in Wisconsin. To volunteer or learn more, visit worldrelief.org/wisconsin/.

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Results from weekend playoff action was not available prior to early press deadlines due to Veterans Day.

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Submitted photo

Dave Misterek holds the 2025 Outstanding County Contact Award that he received from the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin.

Misterek receives bluebird education award

Oshkosh Herald

Dave Misterek of Oshkosh has received the 2025 County Contact of the Year Award from the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW). BRAW’s statewide network of county contacts plays a key role in educating the public and helping folks set up bluebird nest box trails. “Misterek sets a high bar for his field work in Winnebago County, as well as for putting on public presentations,” BRAW President Steve Sample said. The retired DNR employee came by his love of birds from outings with his father. He went on to earn BS and MS degrees in

biology from UW-Oshkosh. “There I learned respect for the environment, which guided my 37-year career protecting it,” Misterek said. A long-time member of BRAW, Misterek is also active with the Winnebago Audubon Society, as well as the Fox Valley Wild Ones Chapter that focuses on native prairie restoration. He suggests that “if we enjoy and preserve the environment now, all birds and wildlife will prosper in the future.” In accepting the award, Misterek thanked all who made possible the recognition. His BRAW state convention presentation about “experiences starting a bluebird trail” is posted at braw.org.

Obituaries

James Knaggs

James (Jim) Knaggs, age 68, passed away unexpectedly on October 17, 2025, at St. Elizabeth Hospital. He was born to parents, Clifford and Leone (Harrison) Knaggs on December 16, 1956, in Oshkosh, WI.



He married the love of his life, Cynthia (Cindy or Lu) Steinert on October 6, 1984, at the home of Al and Miriam Knaggs. Together, they raised a son, Zachary, and a daughter, Danielle. Jim had a big heart, was selfless and was a good conversationalist. Skills that would carry over in his work and business in the community. He loved living on the lake, hunting, fishing, cooking in the deer camp and learning about the weather. He also enjoyed his cocktails and spending time with family and friends. Jim is survived by his loving wife, Cin-

dy Knaggs; son, Zachary (See) Knaggs; brothers, Charles and Neil Knaggs; grandchildren, Evan, Ryan, Benjamin and Andrew; as well as many other family and friends. Preceding him in death was his daughter, Danielle Knaggs; parents, Clifford and Leone Knaggs; father-in-law, Charles D. Steinert; and special aunt and uncle, Miriam and Al Knaggs. A private family service will take place on November 8, at Lake View Memorial Park. On November 15, please join the family for a celebration of Jim’s life. It will take place at Westward Ho from 4:00pm to 9:00pm, 4905 County Hwy S, Oshkosh. All children are welcome. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Covey, 1903 Algoma Blvd., Oshkosh, WI, 54901 or on their website at www.Covey.org.



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Obituaries

James Russell Janes

James Russell Janes of Buttes des Morts passed away on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. He was born on August 20, 1944, in Milwaukee, WI to the late Stanley and Regina (Kucharek) Janes. On June 17, 1967, he married the love of his life Cynthia Lynne Snyder. Their love was a visible testament to the Sacrament of Marriage. He was a faithfully devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Jim attended St. Stephen's Catholic School and Notre Dame HS in Milwaukee, attended UW-Madison and graduated with a BBA from UW-Whitewater. Jim was an accomplished businessman starting at Rexnord Inc. in Milwaukee. He moved his family to Oshkosh in 1977 to work at Buckstaff Co. as VP of Finance. In 1985 he had a partnership in Roan Corp in Germantown before returning back to Oshkosh in 1986 as owner of Oshkosh Marine Supply. He added Derby Molded Products in 2005 and formed Janesco Inc. with his wife Cindy.

He was actively involved with the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce as a Chair-

man (2008-09), Treasurer (2004-06), Chair of Government Affairs, Distinguished Service Award winner (2011) and Volunteer of the Year (2007). He was involved in Oshkosh Area Economic Development Corporation, Independent Businessmen Association of Wisconsin and chair of Business Days in Madison where he was Board Member of the Year (2003). Jim was the lead Wisconsin Delegate to the White House Conference on Small Business. He was on the UW-Oshkosh School of Business Deans Advisory Board specializing in family business and quality management and a founding member of the Wisconsin Family Business Forum. He also remained on the Board of Directors at Buckstaff.

In retirement, Jim obtained his VFR pilot's license. He flew a Bonanza BE35 airplane and was a member of the Bonanza Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. He enjoyed taking Cindy and friends on day trips to small airports for breakfast, dinner or ice cream. He was a proud member of the Experimental Aircraft Association and a pilot for the Young Eagles program flying youth in the cockpit for the first time. Jim enjoyed his Porsche 911. Jim was part of the Fox Valley Region Porsche Clubs of America where he was

Membership Chair, Treasurer and 2012 Enthusiast of the Year because of the many Midwest rallies he planned. He drove many grandchildren in Lourdes Academy Homecoming Parades.

Jim was active at St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church and was a past parish council member. He was an avid golfer and served as a Marshall at the US Senior Open, PGA Championships, and NCAA Regionals. He also enjoyed skiing, teaching all of his children to ski, tennis, playing bridge, Badger Hockey games and planning trips with his family and friends. He loved cooking in retirement and helped organize neighborhood dinners with an abundance of food.

Jim is survived by his wife of 58 years, Cindy; his children, Pauline "Polly" (Timothy) Moore, Margaret "Peggy" (Mark) Tushar, and Philip (Megan) Janes; his grandchildren, Abigail Moore, Angela Moore, T. Jackson Moore, Ellen Moore, Molly Moore, Erin

Moore, Anne Moore, Maria Tushar, Michael Tushar, Melanie Tushar, Benjamin Janes, Margaret Janes, Jack Janes; and his sister, Karen (Paul) Taylor.

He was preceded in death by his parents, in-laws, and infant son Peter Janes.

A Mass of Christian Burial for family and friends will be on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at 11:00 am at St. Raphael Catholic Church 830 S. Westhaven Drive Oshkosh. Visitation will start at 9:00 am until the time of the Mass. A luncheon will follow at Good Samaritan Hall. A private family burial will take place at the Winneconne Cemetery.

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



Angeline D. Meidl

Heaven received, with open arms, an extraordinary caregiver — Angeline D. Meidl. A devoted wife to her husband, John, and a loving mother to their seven children, Angie passed away on November 5th, surrounded by her family's love.

Angie was born on a Thanksgiving morning in 1932 to Jacob and Mary Paulick. She grew up surrounded by the love of her brothers Jacob and Dan and her sister Virginia, and later welcomed her younger sisters, Silvia and Gloria. Her siblings preceded her in death, and Angie became the last of her generation — a loving keeper of their shared memories and stories. As a young girl, Angie attended Sacred Heart School and remained a devoted member of Sacred Heart Church throughout her life. She graduated from Oshkosh High School and began working as a cashier before becoming an operator for Wisconsin Telephone. One evening at a neighborhood dance hall, her life was forever changed when she met a young man who would become her lifelong companion and soulmate — Jack. Their love blossomed even as Jack served in the U.S. Navy and traveled the country, and they were married in San Diego, California, on November 8, 1952. Side by side, they built a remarkable life together — a partnership filled with love, devotion, and countless cherished memories — just days away from what would have been their 73rd wedding anniversary. Shortly after they were wed, Angie and Jack welcomed their first son, Glenn, the beginning of their growing family. Not long after, Jack was deployed to serve on an aircraft carrier during the Korean War, leaving Angie to care for their young son on her own. Fortunately, Jack's sister, Helen Rogers, and her husband, Jim, lived nearby, offering unwavering support and kindness to Angie — a generosity she always held close to her heart. After Jack's return and honorable discharge, the young family moved back to Oshkosh. Jack built a

successful career as a master sheet metal worker and later as a shop owner, while Angie devoted herself full-time to the important and beautiful work of raising six more children: Christine, Joseph, Lee, Mark, Jay, and Nanette — certainly a full and joy-filled household. Angie often said these were the happiest years of her life. Over time, their family grew to include twelve grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren, a testament to a life rich with love, laughter, and cherished memories. In retirement, Angie and Jack spent many winters in the sunny Palm Springs area, with a few children and grandchildren nearby. Though she missed the rest of the family during those months, the warm weather and the company of family close by made each season a true blessing.

Angie is survived by her husband of nearly 73 years, John (Jack), and her seven children: Glenn (Andrea), Christine Krause (Karl), Joseph (Kimberly), Lee (Tamara), Mark (Ruth), Jay (Melanie), and Nanette Meidl-Dobish (John). In addition, she is survived by twelve grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings, as well as her daughter-in-law, Tamara Meidl. The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to Eden Meadows Nursing Home and Moments Hospice for their loving care of Angie.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Angie on Friday, November 14, 2025 at 11 am in St. Jude Parish, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 519 Knapp Street in Oshkosh with the Rev. Louis Golamari as celebrant. A time of visitation will be held at the church on Friday from 9:30 am until the time of Mass. Burial will follow in Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery.

Angie — Mom, Grandma, and Great-Grandma — you were the heart of our family and the most beautiful part of our lives, and nothing in this world could ever take your place. God bless you.



Betty Lou Ploetz

Betty Lou Ploetz, age 82 of Oshkosh, passed away at her residence on Sunday, November 2, 2025. She was born on November 1, 1943, in Waupaca to the late Earl and Rose (Roberts) Nicolaisen. Betty was united in marriage to Steven Ploetz on September 7, 1963 and together they raised two sons.

A true social butterfly, Betty found joy in bringing people together. She loved entertaining and was often the life of the party. Her spirit will be remembered fondly during gatherings with friends and family, where a crisp glass of Tanqueray Gin was always in hand.

Betty cherished her adventures, whether it was fishing in serene waters, traveling to the Caribbean with her beloved travel partner Sandy Galica, or embarking on casino excursions with her dear friend Lola Krebsbach. She also cherished visiting her favorite restaurants alongside her partner in crime, Gloria Duly. In her earlier years, she enjoyed the camaraderie of her ladies' trap team at the 4th Street Gun Club. Amid her many joys, Betty had a special bond with her feathered companions,



Theresa A. DeMars

December 11, 1957 – November 4, 2025 Theresa A. DeMars, age 67, passed away peacefully at Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, surrounded by her children. She was born on December 11, 1957, in Neenah, Wisconsin, the daughter of the late Marvin and Susan (Jury) Rochon.

A longtime resident of Neenah, WI, Theresa lived a simple and caring life. She enjoyed the companionship of her many beloved dogs and cats over the years and was happiest in the comfort of home and family.

Theresa is survived by her three children: Daniel (Jackie) Jacob of Neenah, WI; Michelle (Cory) Jacob of Marquette, MI; and Kristin (Bryan) Boelter of Fox Crossing, WI. She is further survived by her sister, Wanda (Dennis) Hase of Lake Tomahawk, WI; her brother, Patrick (Mary) Rochon of Black Creek, WI; six grandchildren, Nathan (Coral), Hannah, Ellah, Maricxa, Legend and Rosie;

Cookie and Frosty. Betty is lovingly survived by her husband, Steven Ploetz; sons, Steven (Dena) Ploetz and Scott (Nicole) Ploetz; grandchildren, Kyle, Taylor, Madison, Chelsea, Samantha, Alex, Gessica, Nicolas, Noah and Elijah; great-grandchildren, Madeline, AJ, Theo, Oliver, Stella and Wrylan; brother, Earl Nicolaisen; sister-in-law, Joan Werner. She is further survived by nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Betty was preceded in death by her sister, Barbara Stahl; sister-in-law, Shirley Nicolaisen.

A memorial service for Betty will be held at 3:00 pm on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home-Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Dr. Visitation will take place at the funeral home from 1:00 pm until the time of the service.

During her final journey, she was lovingly supported by ThedaCare at Home Hospice, and we are deeply grateful for their attentive care. A special thanks is extended to Nicole Ploetz, Vicky and Mark Wenzel, and Gina, whose unwavering support provided comfort and stability to Betty and her husband, Steve, during this challenging time.



great-grandchildren, Harmony, Tristan, and Ellie; nephew, Ben Rochon and niece, Emily Rochon, both of Black Creek, WI.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many friends Theresa made at her former residences, whose companionship and care brought her great joy throughout the years.

In accordance with Theresa's wishes, there will be no formal services or celebrations. She will be cremated and laid to rest beside her mother at Oakhill Cemetery in Neenah. Some of her ashes will also be combined with those of her beloved pets and spread at a location she held dear.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in her honor to Saving Paws Animal Rescue (savingpaws.com, N3141 Meade St., Appleton, WI 54913).

The family wishes to thank the ICU staff at Aurora Medical Center for their compassionate care, and Project Linus (projectlinus.org) for the beautiful quilt and pillow covering that brought warmth and brightness to her room in her final days.

Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.



Obituaries

Wilma Schmekel Smith
Wilma Schmekel Smith, 99, a long-time resident of Joliet, Illinois, and most recently of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, was born January 31, 1926, and passed away on October 26, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family and secure in her faith in Jesus Christ.

Wilma lived a life anchored by her unwavering devotion to God, her family, and her country. Her faith in Jesus Christ was the foundation of everything she did, and she found comfort and strength in Scripture throughout her life. She read her Bible daily, believing it to be the word of God, and committed many verses to memory, with Psalms 100 and 23 holding special places in her heart. Her favorite verse, Psalm 100:1 – “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands” – reflected her spirit of praise and devotion.

Known for her strong, clear opinions and steadfast character, Wilma was a woman of conviction. She was a faithful member of St. John’s Lutheran Church of Joliet for most of her life and faithfully attended Resurrection Presbyterian Church for the last six years, where her presence and faith touched many lives.

Wilma was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Bernard Smith; her parents, William and Frieda (Riemer)

Edith Frisch
Edith Frisch, age 91, of Neenah passed away peacefully on Friday October 31, 2025 at Evergreen Retirement Community. Edith was born January 22, 1934 in Manitowoc to Herbert and Carmen (Rieck) Wagner. She was a graduate of Kiel High School and attended Patrica Stevens Finishing School in Milwaukee. Edith married the love of her life, Augie Frisch, on December 26, 1953. After his military service they resided in Appleton and worked at their jewelry store, Tennie’s, until they retired. Edith loved boating on the Heidi-Ho, dancing, golfing in Florida at their condo in Naples, going out to dinner with friends, playing cards, and shopping.

Edith was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Augie, her baby daughter,

Ruth A. Vorpahl
Ruth A. Vorpahl passed away peacefully on October 29, 2025. Ruth was born in Beaver Dam Wisconsin, and grew up in Hobart Indiana. She received a BA Degree from Augustana College in Rock Island Illinois and a MS Degree from the University of Wisconsin Madison. Ruth taught Business Education at Hobart High School in Hobart Indiana and taught 35 years at Oshkosh North & West High Schools (Oshkosh Wisconsin) and she became Head of the Business Education Department at North High School.

Ruth was on the Miss Wisconsin Pageant Board of Directors for 48 years and was the Traveling Companion to Miss Wisconsin for 10 years.

She was an avid Packer, Brewer, and Badger fan and she loved to play cards (especially bridge).

Ruth was a member of AAUW, Altrusa,

Schmekel; her grandsons, Austin and Adam Smith; and her siblings, Louise Malinowski, Emma Smith, Clara Johnson, Betty Barnes, and Frederick Schmekel. She is survived by her children, Cindy and her husband Michael Smith, and Carol and her husband John Hentschel; her grandchildren, Alyssa and her husband Jordan Belton, Ben and his wife Dana Hentschel, Brent and his wife Lizzie Hentschel, Anca Smith, and Ryan and his wife Ariel Hentschel; and her great-grandchildren, Elijah Hentschel, Emilia Hentschel, William Hentschel, Grace Hentschel, Luke Hentschel, Colt Sypert Hentschel, Levi Belton, Evelyn Belton, Lillian Belton, and Elsie Belton; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the caregivers from The Residence of Oshkosh and St. Croix Hospice. Their attentive care was much appreciated.

A Funeral Service for Wilma will be held at Resurrection Presbyterian Church (1205 Congress Avenue) on Saturday, November 22 at 4:30PM. A time of visitation will be held from 3PM until 4PM. An interment will take place on Monday, November 24, 2025 at 1:30 PM in Woodlawn Memorial Cemetery (23060 W Jefferson Street Joliet, IL 60431)

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Resurrection Presbyterian Church in Wilma’s honor.

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Kim, and her parents. She is survived by her two children: Brian (Karen) Frisch, Oshkosh, and Heidi (Terry) Krause, Oshkosh; two Granddaughters: Rebecca (Nick) Frisch Juedas, Oshkosh, and Danielle (Josh) Wara, Oshkosh; a grandson: Jacob (Lisa) Frisch; great grandchildren: Carter, Jacob, Camden, Josie, Kendall, and Laci; Sister: Judy Kohlman, Naples, Florida. She is further survived by many nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

Private family services will be held at Kessler Fahrenkrug Funeral Home 304 S. Commercial St., Neenah.

In lieu of flowers, memorials contributions will be given in Edith’s name to the Neenah Animal Shelter, 2475 Progress Court, Neenah, Wisconsin 54956, 920-722-9544 <https://www.neenahanimalshelter.org/donate.html>

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Delta PI Epsilon, Women’s Fund Community Foundation, Twentieth Century, Friends of Cerebral Palsy, Oshkosh Women’s Association, and Peace Lutheran Church. She also volunteered at the EAA AirVenture Oshkosh and took pride in helping with the B-52 bomber tours.

Preceded in death by her parents Victoria and Lester Vorpahl, her sister Dorothy (Pat) Schlageter, and her brother-in-law George Schlageter.

She is survived by her nephew Tom Schlageter and niece Diane Schlageter, five great nieces Leah Schlageter, Madeline Schlageter, Olivia Schlageter, Bailey Wineland, Sierra Wineland, and one great nephew Bradley Wineland.

Final funeral arrangements are pending. Please visit www.konrad-behlman.com for updated details.

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Gregory “Greg” Schaefer
December 15, 1951 – October 29, 2025
The world feels a little quieter and the

water a little stiller with the passing of Gregory (Greg) Schaefer, who left us peacefully on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at the age of 73.

Raised in Oshkosh, WI, Greg grew up with a deep love for the outdoors and an appreciation for the simple joys of life. From the first fish he caught as a boy to the last sunrise he watched from his favorite spot by the lake, he lived a life anchored in nature and friendship. Greg was the devoted husband of the late Angela “Angie” (Troudt) Schaefer, the love of his life and truly his best catch.

A fisherman through and through, Greg had a patience and reverence for the water that mirrored the calm strength of his soul. Greg looked forward to his yearly Alaska fishing trips with his dear friend Rick Volkman, a tradition that became one of the greatest joys of his life. When he wasn’t casting a line, you could find him in the woods, taking in the quiet of the hunt. Greg was also an avid gardener who took pride in tending his vegetables and turning them into delicious recipes. In recent years, Greg discovered a new passion in pickleball at the Oshkosh Community YMCA, where his time at the YMCA was as much about camaraderie as competition. His faith was also a source of strength—he was a proud member of the Emmaus Ecumenical Catholic Community of Oshkosh. And, of course, no one will forget his legendary fish fry dinners,

Shirley L. Merten
Shirley L. Merten, age 75 of Oshkosh, WI passed away at Ascension NE- St. Elizabeth Hospital on Friday, October 31, 2025. She was born on May 6, 1950 to the late William and Lois (Buchholz) McConnell in Ripon. Shirley grew up in Eureka, WI, graduating from Omro High School in 1968.

Shirley worked for the University of Wisconsin- Oshkosh for 28 years. At retirement, she was the supervisor for custodial services for buildings and grounds. It was while working for UWO that she met her husband, Gregory “Mert” Merten. Shirley and Greg married July 19, 1985, and were together for a total of 43 wonderful years. Together, they enjoyed things such as hunting and fishing to sitting together on the front porch listening to music or watching the Brewers; they were truly best friends who loved just being together. Other activities that Shirley liked to do were quilting, cross-stitching and playing games.

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gatherings that were never just about the food but about bringing people together, sharing stories and celebrating life the way he always did—generously and joyfully. To those who knew him, Greg was steady, kind, and genuine—a man who never hesitated to lend a hand or share a story. He believed in showing up, in doing the right thing, and in savoring the moment, whether it was a quiet morning on the lake or a lively evening with loved ones.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Angie Schaefer, his parents George and Patricia Schaefer, Jr. and great-niece Kera Alvarez. He is survived by his siblings Chris (Dennis) Stadler, Wendy (Gary) Gelhar, Lance (Cindy) Schaefer, Steph (Phil) Netzer and Cory Schaefer; his uncle Jerry (Jane) Lautenschlager; numerous cousins; 6 nieces; 7 nephews; 4 great nieces; 9 great nephews; sister-in-law Jody Troudt and her son Ryan (Sterling) Howes; sister-in-law Tracy (John Wrasse) Troudt and her daughter Bailey (Jarred Reeves) Steckbauer and son Sam (Claire) Steckbauer, 2 great nieces and 2 great nephews; and countless friends, who will forever cherish his wisdom, his humor, and the countless memories.

A private family service will be held and a celebration to honor Greg’s life will take place on Saturday, November 22 from 1-3pm at The Fountain Tavern in Oshkosh. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations of your choice be made in his memory.

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Above all, Shirley was a dedicated wife, mother, and especially grandmother to her five grandsons. Family was everything to her. It was important to her that all around her were well taken care of, always putting others first. Shirley is survived by her husband, Greg Merten; children, Michelle (Tim Carter) Hart, Rob (Rachel) Hart, Sarah (Damon) Mogensen; grandchildren, Samuel and Jackson Hodsdon, Wilderness Hart and Hunter and Elliott Mogensen; sisters, Sharon Weyers, Billie Jean (William) Parks, Joy Elliott and Kathleen (Joel) Eisch; sisters-in-law, Diane (Steve) Gibson and Cathy (Jeff) Boettcher. She is further survived by nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, Shirley was preceded in death by her brother-in-law, Chuck Weyers. A celebration of life for Shirley will be held in the summer of 2026. The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the wonderful ICU staff of St. Elizabeth Hospital for their compassionate care during her final days.

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Obituaries

Dan Glenn King
Dan Glenn King, passed away peacefully on October 21, 2025, at the age of 73. Born in 1952 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Dan later made his home in Lake Forest, Illinois, where he built a life grounded in love, curiosity, and family. Dan graduated from Oshkosh West High School in 1970 and attended the University of Wisconsin-Stout, majoring in Hotel and Restaurant Management. He had a profound passion for Native American culture, reflected in his many visits as a guide and director to the Navajo Nation. Dan produced Song Keepers: A History of the Flute Music in



Native American Culture and Its Meaning, showcasing his deep respect and admiration for this community. He was an avid reader of many genres and always sought to learn more about the world and the people in it. He could never travel to a new place without visiting a museum and reading every placard a reflection of his boundless curiosity and appreciation for knowledge. As a successful business owner, Dan first made his mark in the electronic components industry before transitioning into real estate. His entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to his work were evident in every venture he undertook. He shared a beautiful life with his devoted wife, Sandi King, whose love, and partnership formed the foundation of their family. Together, they created a home

filled with laughter, adventure, and deep affection a reflection of their shared values and enduring bond. A huge Wisconsin Badgers football fan and season ticket holder for many years, Dan loved cheering on his team with family and friends. A lifelong admirer of the natural world, he also found joy in simple pleasures: pressing wildflowers, cooking for loved ones, and spending time outdoors. He delighted in watching his children grow and thrive, taking immense pride in their accomplishments and happiness. Dan is lovingly remembered by his wife, Sandi King; his children, Andy King, Jamie King (Hali), MG King, and Madison King; and his siblings, Jack King (Jeanette), Kay Ferguson (Michael), and Chuck King (Lori). He was a cherished uncle to several nieces, nephews,

great-nieces, and great-nephews. Dan was the beloved son of the late Glenn King and Jalane Draeger. Those who knew Dan will remember his gentle spirit, endless curiosity, and unwavering pride in the people he loved most. His kindness, warmth, and quiet strength touched many lives and will be deeply missed, yet his memory will remain forever in the hearts of those he loved. A Celebration of Life will be at 10 AM, Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at Wenban – Lake Forest Funeral Home, 320 Vine Avenue, Lake Forest, IL 60045. For information – Lake Forest Funeral Home (Wenban), 847-234-0022 or www.WenbanFH.com.

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Ralph J. Boushele
Ralph J. Boushele, age 82 and 1/2, of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Sunday, November 2, 2025. Ralph was born on April 13, 1943, in Oshkosh to Cyril and Margaret (Weidenbeck) Boushele. Born and raised in Oshkosh, Ralph's happiest moments were those spent with his family and friends. On February 6, 1965, Ralph married the love of his life, Bonnie Runkel. To-



gether, they shared 60 wonderful years of marriage. Ralph is survived by his devoted wife, Bonnie; his awesome children Doug (significant other Diane) Boushele, Sue (Dick) Peterson, and Vicky (Joel) Rasmussen; six cherished grandchildren, Joy (Pat) Spillane, Kathy, Micheal, and Davana Boushele, and Emily (significant other Art) and Jeremy (Chelsea) Bodin; and four great-grandchildren. He is further survived by his cousin, Jack Borisch, who was like a brother to him. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Joan Boushele, and brother Bob Boushele.

Ralph worked for the City of Oshkosh Parks Department for over 30 years. Outside of work, Ralph found joy in the simple things - fishing, hunting, trap shooting, boating, camping with his family, and traveling. He especially loved a good game of cribbage. Whether playing in leagues or around the kitchen table with family and friends, Ralph was known for his skill - and for always seeming to have an "ace up his sleeve." He was proud to have scored the perfect 29 hand not once, but twice. Ralph will be remembered for his love of family, and the kindness he showed to everyone who knew him. A celebration of Ralph's life will be held

at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes-Eastside, 402 Waugoo Ave, Oshkosh, on Thursday, November 13, 2025, with the service starting at 6:30pm. A time of visitation will begin at 4:00pm and continue until the start of the service. Private burial will take place at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Oshkosh, at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you honor Ralph's memory by spending time with loved ones, sharing a story, or playing a good game of cribbage - he'd like that.

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Obituaries

Arleen Anita Irene Potratz
Arleen Anita Irene Potratz (née Nitschke), age 92, of Oshkosh, passed away peacefully at Parkview Health Center on Thursday, October 30, 2025.

Arleen was born on November 9, 1932, in the town of Eldorado, Fond du Lac County, to Harvey and Edna Nitschke. On June 7, 1952, she married the love of her life, Carl “Duke” Potratz, at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Nekimi.

Known affectionately as “Ma” to not only her family but also to the entire neighborhood, Arleen’s greatest joy was caring for her family and creating a warm, welcoming home. She embraced her role as a devoted mother and homemaker, pouring love into everything she did. Out-



side of home, she worked at Miles Kimball Co., Standard Kollsman Co., and SNC Manufacturing, where she retired after 31 years in 1998.

Arleen cherished family summer vacations camping near Wabeno, playing endless games of sheepshead, and hosting gatherings that centered around laughter, food, and friendship. She hosted weekly dinners, and her door was always open for anyone who wanted to stop by for a cup of coffee, a sweet treat, and a good chat.

Arleen is survived by her brother, Roger Nitschke; and her children (*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs!*): Debra (Michael) Cushman; Calvin (Theresa), Warren (Janice), Glenn (Pauline), Russell (Wendy), Jeffrey (Susan), and Gregory (Amanda), all of Oshkosh; and Stanley (Chris) of Boscobel, WI. She is also survived by eighteen grandchildren — Christopher (Brittany) Potratz of Chillicothe, OH; Daniel (Amanda) Potratz of

Stoughton, WI; Amy Koch of Dousman, WI; Allyson (Kelly) Rennebohm of New Berlin, WI; Bryan (Deyv) Potratz of Salt Lake City, UT; Zak (Kate) Potratz of Minneapolis, MN; Christine Cushman (Lee Nichols); Michael (Ann), Jennifer, Alexander, Madisen, Joseph, Elizabeth, Abigail, Caitlyn, and Benjamin Potratz, all of Oshkosh; Sammy Hernandez of La Crosse, WI; and Michele Chacon of Racine, WI — along with eleven great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Carl; her parents, Harvey and Edna Nitschke; sister, Dorothy Achterberg; brother, Donald Nitschke; sisters-in-law, Betty and Jan Nitschke; brother-in-law, Ivan Achterberg; and nephews, Gary and Tom Achterberg. She was also preceded in death by her parents-in-law, Albert and Anna Potratz; brothers- and sisters-in-law, Lawrence (Mildred) Potratz, Gilbert

(Alice) Potratz, Elda (Art) Strey, Margaret (Harvey) Ahlswede, Ruth (Ray) Tensendorf; and an infant sister-in-law, Edna Potratz.

The family would like to express heartfelt gratitude to Arleen’s “second family” the staff at Parkview Health Center for their kind, compassionate, and exceptional care. We are sure that if she could thank you in person, it would be accompanied by one of her many stories. She loved and appreciated every day with you.

Visitation will be held on Friday, November 14, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home Westside, 100 Lake Pointe Drive, Oshkosh. A service will follow, officiated by Parkview’s Chaplain Dan Krause. Interment will take place at Lake View Memorial Park, on Saturday, November 15, at 11:00 a.m.

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Garage/Estate Sales

Holiday Craft Market. Nov 13th and 14th 9-4. Nov 15th 9-noon. 1015 W 10th Ave, Oshkosh. Cash and Checks only.

Miscellaneous

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Legal Notices

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, 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. 25CV907
Code No. 30301

Capital Credit Union
Plaintiff,
v.
Jeffrey Lawrence Greisch
Jason Scott Greisch
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 November 12, 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 November 12, 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 4th day of November, 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: November 12, 2025, November 19, 2025 and No-

vember 26, 2025
WNAXLP
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, CALUMET COUNTY
Case No. 18FA87

IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF
Petitioner
Cruz S. Villarreal
and
Respondent
Raven M. Brown

PUBLICATION SUMMONS
THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, TO THE PERSON NAMED ABOVE AS RESPONDENT:

You are notified that the petitioner named above has filed a **Petition** for divorce or legal separation against you. You must respond with a written demand for a copy of the **Petition** within 40 days from the day after the first date of publication. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court at:

Clerk of Court, Calumet County Courthouse, 206 Court St, Chilton WI 53014 and to Cruz Villarreal, W2377 US Hwy 10, Log 7, Forest Junction WI 54123.

It is recommended, but not required, that you have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not demand a copy of the **Petition** within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the **Petition**, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the **Petition**.

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.

You are further notified that if the parties to this action have minor children, violation of §948.31, Wis. Stats., (Interference with custody by parent or others) is punishable by fines and/or imprisonment:

If you and the petitioner have minor children, documents setting forth the percentage standard for child support

established by the department under §49.22(9), Wis. Stats., and the factors that a court may consider for modification of that standard under §767.511(1m), Wis. Stats., are available upon your request from the Clerk of Court.

You are notified of the availability of information from the Circuit Court Commissioner as set forth in §767.105, Wis. Stats.

§767.105 Information from Circuit Court Commissioner.

(2) Upon the request of a party to an action affecting the family, including a revision of judgment or order under sec. 767.59 or 767.451:

(a) The Circuit Court Commissioner shall, with or without charge, provide the party with written information on the following, as appropriate to the action commenced:

1. The procedure for obtaining a judgment or order in the action.

2. The major issues usually addressed in such an action.

3. Community resources and family court counseling services available to assist the parties.

4. The procedure for setting, modifying, and enforcing child support awards, or modifying and enforcing legal custody or physical placement judgments or orders.

(b) The Circuit Court Commissioner shall provide a party, for inspection or purchase, with a copy of the statutory provisions in this chapter generally pertinent to the action.

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

/s/ Cruz Villarreal
Cruz Villarreal
W2377 US Hwy 10, Lot 7
Forest Junction WI 54123
villarreal.cs523@gmail.com
Dated: 11-3-25

Runs: November 12, 2025, November 19, 2025 and November 26, 2025

WNAXLP

WONDER WEDGE wonders ...

“What in the world would we do without a wedge?”

An **inclined plane** is a sloped surface like this illustration.



Wedges are made up of inclined planes that make our work much easier.

Wedge to the Rescue

The sun was out. The classroom was getting warmer and warmer. Wonder Wedge looked around and saw his friends sweltering. One at a time the kids got up and tried to open the door. But, each time the door slammed shut. How could they keep the door open?

Wonder Wedge came to the rescue! He showed the kids two pieces of wood. Which one would work best to keep the door open?



How many wedges can you find on this page?

Wedges at Work

A knife, a nail, a doorstep, a pushpin and even a screw are types of wedges. They help us do many different things. Look at these pictures and circle all of the wedges the children are using.



Standards Link: Physical Science: Students understand simple machines and how they work.

Working Together

Draw a line to match the tools that work together.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

How is a screw like a wedge?

A wedge and a screw are both made with an inclined plane. To see how a screw is made from an inclined plane, try the following experiment:

1. Cut out the triangle-shaped wedge pictured here. (Fig. 1)
2. Tape side A to a pencil. (Fig. 2)
3. Roll the triangle around your pencil. Tape the tip of the triangle to the pencil. (Fig. 3)
4. What has happened to the slanted line of the triangle? This slanted line is also called an **inclined plane**.




Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step written directions.

Extra! Extra! W-to-W Dot-to-Dot

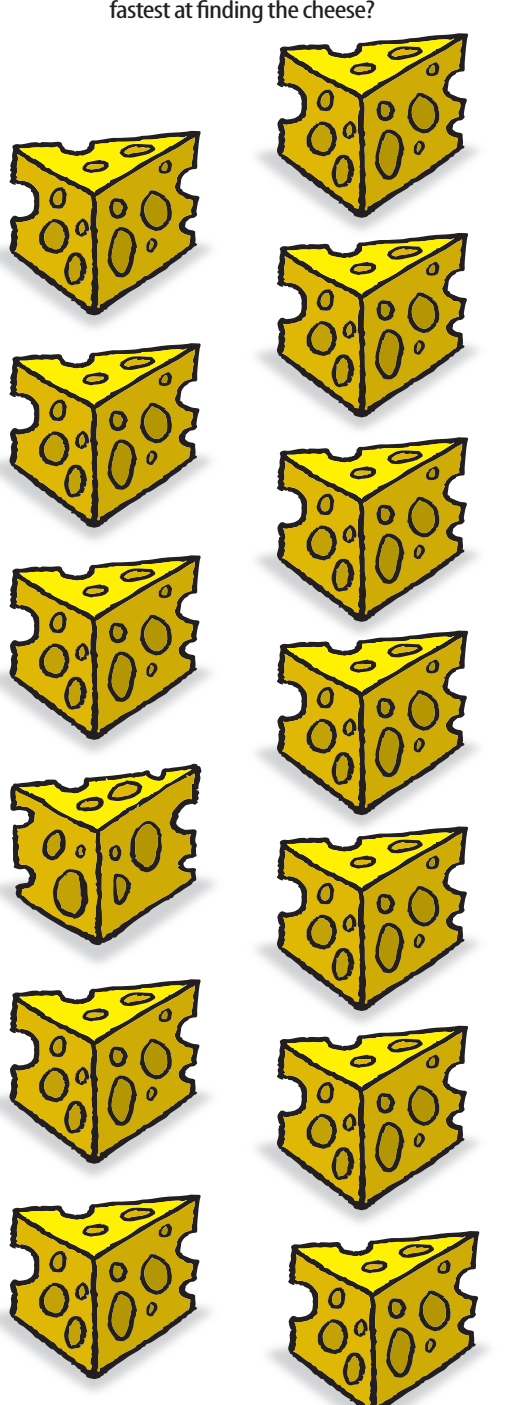
Select one page of the newspaper. Find and circle all of the **Ws** that you can. Draw lines to connect the **Ws** to make a dot-to-dot design. Color your design.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.

 **Kid Scoop Together**

Cheese, Please!

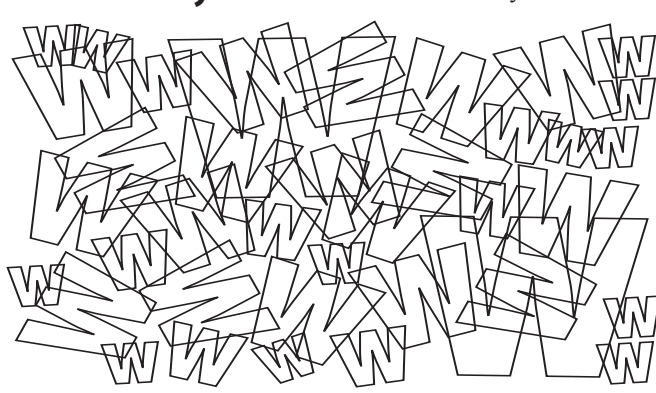
Have someone time you to see how quickly you can find the wedge of cheese that's different from all the others. Switch places and time the other person. Who was fastest at finding the cheese?



Kid Scoop Puzzler

Wild & Wacky Puzzle

WOW! How many **Ws** are here?



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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


W	H	D	E	W	O	H	S	D	Y
G	N	I	K	R	O	W	L	W	A
W	O	R	L	D	E	I	R	I	L
Y	A	E	T	G	W	D	H	T	E
K	H	R	D	O	O	N	H	E	
C	E	E	M	R	E	E	W	O	H
A	W	S	O	E	M	R	A	U	W
W	O	U	L	D	R	C	R	T	A
N	W	Y	W	S	W	S	D	H	Y



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

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 **Write On!** 

Write Words Wonderfully

Write an alliteration: a sentence where every, or nearly every, word starts with the same letter. Example: *Agitated alligators ate the apples anxiously.*



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