

WINNECONNE NEWS

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWS SOURCE

Serving Village of Winneconne; Communities of Butte des Morts, Larsen, Winchester; Towns of Winneconne, Poygan, Vinland and Wolf River.

DECEMBER 11, 2024 | WINNECONNE NEWS

\$1

VOLUME 153, ISSUE 49

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WINNECONNE NEWS
YOUR HOMETOWN NEWS SOURCE

Small Wonders Daycare Center to close after 30 years of service



Winneconne News

Some Small Wonders children from 2022.

By **Becky LaDue**

A beloved childcare service in the Town of Winchester is set to close its doors at the end of the year. Small Wonders Daycare—owned and operated by Ed and Nanette Drews (sister and brother-in law)—has made the

difficult decision to stop operating, due in large part to ongoing staffing challenges.

“This is one of the hardest decisions we’ve ever made,” said Nanette, “we love our community and know it’s a need, but staffing is just impossible to

get.”

Small Wonders first opened its doors to the greater Winchester/Larsen community in September 1993, owned initially by Curt and Vicki Sprenger. The Drews duo purchased it in May of 2000 (renaming it to Small Wonders Daycare), and operated it for another 24 years—creating countless memories with generations of families.

Ed and Nanette, in preparation for closure, cataloged the many families and children the childcare center served. In total, Small Wonders has touched the lives of 207 families and a remarkable 340 children, ranging in age from 6 weeks to 13 years.

“Small Wonders has been more than just a daycare,” said Nanette. “It has been a nurturing space where children have grown, learned, and blossomed into remarkable young individuals. For over three decades, our dedicated staff has fostered an environment of warmth, creativity, and encouragement, guiding little hands and bright

SEE **Small Wonders** ON PAGE 2

INSIDE



Winchester Elementary Reunion
Page 4

Library Winter Reading Program
Page 3

Wolves Wrestling Underway
Page 10

Jingle Bark Bash Provided tail wagging fun



Holiday fun is in full swing in the village, and last week brought the Jingle Bark Bash to Winneconne High School for area children to enjoy. This group of hardworking high school students helped orchestrate the day.

Winnebago County Council Meeting hosted in the village



Winneconne News

County Council Meeting attendees Mary Koslowski, Chaplain, of ALA Unit #33 of Neenah; Diane Steinert, Secretary/Treasurer, of ALA Unit #234 of Omro; Sandy Hinkle, Vice President, of ALA Unit #364 of Winneconne; Donna Smith, President, from ALA unit #33 of Neenah.

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), Winnebago County Council, hosted its December, holiday-themed gathering at the Winneconne Legion Clubhouse on Dec. 3.

Attendees included members from Winneconne, Neenah, Omro and Oshekosh ALA units for a large and festive gathering.

Past Department President Char Kiesling, member of ALA Unit #33 of Neenah, installed the new County Council board members to include Mary Koslowski, Chaplain, of ALA Unit #33 of Neenah; Diane Steinert, Secretary/Treasurer, of ALA Unit #234 of Omro; Sandy Hinkle, Vice President, of ALA Unit #364 of

Winneconne; and Donna Smith, President, from ALA unit #33 of Neenah.

Over 30 members attended the council meeting where they discussed and voted on donation distributions, changes to the council board structure and future meetings.

After the meeting the attendees enjoyed a fun social dinner featuring hot beef sandwiches, many side dishes and desserts, and holiday-themed door prizes.



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A large group of dedicated women from Winnebago County who volunteer their time to American Legion Auxiliary activities.

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Advertising deadline is Noon Friday for Wednesday. Classified line ads deadline is 3pm Friday for Wednesday. *Deadlines exclude holidays.

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Corrections
It is the policy of Winneconne News to correct all errors of fact. For correction information please call 920-582-4541.

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Art After Dark

Thursday, December 19
5:30-8:30pm

The Event of the Season

Dearest gentle reader,
It is with the utmost excitement that this author announces The Event of the Season at Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass. Regency-era festivities will include musical entertainment by the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra, creating your one-of-a-kind fan, sweetmeats, and more. It promises to be the most splendid social gathering.

Yours Truly,
Lady Evangeline



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Small Wonders

FROM PAGE 1



Winneconne News

Nanette with some adorable children from Small Wonders.

minds through their earliest adventures.”

Though the closure is emotional for the community, the team at Small Wonders wishes to celebrate its decades of service and accomplishments.

They are inviting all past and present children, families, and staff to join them on Saturday, Dec. 21 from 12 to 4 p.m. for a special farewell gathering at Grace Lutheran Church, 8396 Steeple Hill Drive—the daycare’s location. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and reminisce.

“We hope anyone who has ever walked through our doors will join us for this meaningful event,” said Na-



Winneconne News

Ed Draws under a happy pile of children at Small Wonders.

Winneconne Chamber seeking your involvement in 2025

The Winneconne Area Chamber of Commerce is encouraging the community to engage with the greater Winneconne community and become a member of the chamber in 2025.

Benefits include a prominent business listing on its website, support in advertising your business, promotion on Facebook for your events/sales/

specials and more.

To ensure you are added to all promotional materials for the spring/summer 2025, membership must be received by February 28, 2025. Regular memberships start at \$125.

Visit winneconne.org for more information and to sign up.



HOLIDAY EARLY AD DEADLINES

WINNECONNE NEWS
YOUR HOMETOWN NEWS SOURCE

Oshkosh Herald Dec. 25 issue

Display Ad Deadline
Wed., 12/18 Noon

Classified Ad Deadline
Wed., 12/18 3pm

Obituary Deadline
Fri., 12/20 Noon

WINNECONNE NEWS
YOUR HOMETOWN NEWS SOURCE

Oshkosh Herald Jan. 1st issue

Display Ad Deadline
Tues., 12/24 Noon

Classified Ad Deadline
Tue., 12/24 3pm

Obituary Deadline
Fri., 12/27 Noon

908 E. Main St. Suite C
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Winter Reading Programs at the Library: A Season of Fun and Rewards

As the winter chill sets in, the Winneconne Public Library is heating up with a series of exciting reading programs designed for all ages. Whether you're a bookworm, comic book enthusiast, or a young reader eager to earn cool rewards, there's something for everyone this season. Thanks to support from the Friends of the Library group, these programs offer not only great reading opportunities but also a chance to win fantastic prizes. Here's a look at what's in store:

For Adults and Teens:

1. The Snow is Falling, Books are Calling

This popular winter program invites adults and teens to curl up with a good book and earn chances to win amazing local prizes. For every hour you read, you'll earn a ticket to be entered into a drawing for one of 12 gift cards or certificates to local businesses, all generously sponsored by our Friends of the

Library group. It's the perfect way to get cozy, discover new books, and support local businesses!

2. Melia's Comic Book Challenge

Calling all comic book fans! Melia's Comic Book Challenge offers a fun and engaging way for teens and adults to dive into the world of graphic novels. With every challenge you complete, you'll be entered to win one of four grand prizes: a \$20 gift certificate to House of Heroes Comic Book Store, one of two Holiday Pop Character Collectibles, or a Lime Green Stanley Cup. It's a comic lover's dream come true.

For Youth:

1. Read Up a Storm

The youngest readers can participate in 'Read Up a Storm', a program designed to make reading a fun and rewarding adventure. As kids read, they'll earn rewards throughout the program. From hot chocolate to goody

bags, each 2-hours of read brings them one step closer to the next fun surprise. This is the perfect way to encourage young readers to enjoy the magic of winter books.



Winneconne News
So many great prizes will be available through the Teen/Adult Reading Challenge.

2. Hoops with the Herd

Kids of all ages can score big with

the Hoops with the Herd program. As they read, they'll earn exclusive Wisconsin Herd merchandise. Whether it's a drawstring backpack, hacky sack, or other exciting items, every book read brings kids closer to cool prizes straight from the Wisconsin Herd.

Pop-Up Holiday Programming:

In addition to the library's reading programs, it will be offering pop-up holiday programming throughout the season. Enjoy crafting, fun activities, and seasonal cheer to celebrate the holiday spirit in the library.

How to Get Involved:

To join any of these programs, simply stop by the library to sign up. Staff members are ready to help you get started and will be available throughout the winter to assist with tracking your reading progress and awarding prizes.

This winter, let the library be your destination for fun, reading, and rewards. Miss Linda has the library decked out in the holiday spirit and they can't wait for you to visit.

Winneconne Public Library
31 S. 2nd St. • P.O. Box 518

HOURS:
Mon 9am-4:30pm
Tue 9am-6:00pm
Wed 9am-4:30pm
Thu 9am-4:30pm
Fri 9am-4:30pm
Sat 9am-Noon
Sunday Closed

CURBSIDE PICK UP is always available. Special appt times may be available upon request by calling 582-7091.

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Calling all Winchester Elementary School students

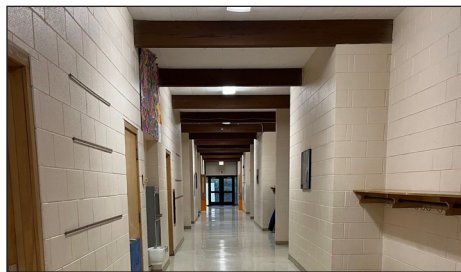
The Winchester Area Historical Society invites all students and teachers who attended the Winchester Elementary School to take part in a special reunion on June 21, 2025. The reunion is in the early planning stages with details forthcoming. It is important now to locate and inform as many potential attendees as possible, so details can be conveyed as they become known.

The society continues to make improvements to the school: two years ago, it replaced the heating system and last year, the roof. CESA-6 has leased part of the building and has contributed to the improvements.

Although the historical society is sponsoring the event, it really belongs to the students and teachers

themselves. A committee of former students is needed to develop the program and coordinate communication with everyone.

For now, contact the historical society at wahs2022@outlook.com or (920) 778-0099 to receive more information.



The hallway at Winchester Elementary School is empty now, but the coat racks and shelves are waiting for a big reunion on June 21.

News from the Winchester Area Historical Society

A new collection of memorabilia is on display at the Winchester Area Historical Society (WAHS). Winchester resident Holly Stevens has graciously shared her Mikey Mouse collection, put on display in a locked cabinet owned by the society. Stevens, a life-long collector of Mikey Mouse mementos, will have her keepsakes available for viewing until the New Year. The society welcomes future collections from anyone in the community for monthly displays—always secured.

The board has formed a committee to more efficiently schedule monthly speakers. This will allow for timely notification of speaking engagements. Suggestions on future speakers can be directed to wahs2022@outlook.com.

The society is also excited to announce its plans for a Winchester Elementary School teacher/student reunion set for June 21, 2025. A committee is being formed for this event and there is a separate story in this week's edition of the News with more information.

Regarding the status of the roof project, from Oct. to Nov., \$8,122 was raised with a remaining balance of \$155,488 to be collected. Gifts came



A view of Holly Stevens' Mikey Mouse collection on display at WAHS.

from Cindy Johnson Coy, Jim Johnson, Jack Johnson, John & Mary Agria, Jackie Parish, Maragaret Gierke, Linda Johnson Charapata, Susan Johnson Elbing, Gary & Darlene Bruce, the Larsen-Winchester Lions, John Zeller, extra pie sales and an anonymous donor.

A reminder to all that membership renewals are due January 1, 2025.

Have Fun This Fall

at the Village Pub

WEEKLY FOOD & FUN

- Mexican Monday!** Open 4-9 (Bar)
 - Taco/Nacho Bar • \$4 Margaritas
- Tuesday Build your own Pizza**
 - Open 4-9 (Bar) • \$2 Domestic
 - (Kitchen CLOSED to Full Menu Mon. & Tues. – Specials Only)
- Wednesday Pizza Special** **\$9.99**
 - 16-in, 2-Topping Pizza (Dine-in Only)
- DJ Trivia EVERY Thursday • 6:30 p.m.**
- Fish Fry FRIDAY**
- Saturday Prime Rib** **\$17.99**
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Church Notes

St. Mary's Catholic Church
 210 Pleasant Drive
 Winneconne
 Priest Celebrants
 Fr. Tom Long
 & Fr. Ben Pribbenow
 Deacon Paul Vidmar, Pastoral Coordinator
 Thurs.: 2 pm - Rosary.
 Sat.: 3:30 pm - Confession. 4 pm - Mass. KC Bake Sale & Car Wash.
 Sunday, Dec. 15: 10:30 am - Mass. 11:30 am - Book Study/Kaudy. KC Bake Sale & Car Wash.
 Mon.: 7:30 am - Low w/Communion.
 Wed.: 7:30 am - LOW w/Communion. 3:10 pm - ES FF. Grades 3-5. 4:30 pm - Confession. 6:30 pm - MS FF.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
 9077 North Road
 Zittau
 Pastor Tauna Roth
 Sundays: 9 am - Worship.
Lord of the Lakes (ELCA) Church
 6090 Harbour South
 Winneconne
 Pastor Kevin Heffernan
 Thurs.: 8:30 am - Bible Study.
 Sunday, Dec. 15: 8 & 10:30 am - Worship. Children's Program at 10 am Service.
 Mon.: 5 pm - Narcotics Anonymous. Newsletter items due.
 Tues.: 9 am - Busy Hands. 6:30 pm - Council Mtg.
 Wed.: 5:30 pm - Soup Supper. 6:30 pm - Advent Service (youth and music practices to follow).
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
 8 South Fourth Street
 Winneconne
 Pastor Ben Berger
 Pastor Darin Warnecke
 920-582-7772
 Thurs.: 9:30 am - Bible Study.
 Saturday: 4:30 pm - Worship/Lord's Supper.
 Sunday, Dec. 15: 8 & 10:30 am - Worship/Lord's Supper. 9:10 am - Family Bible Study.
 Mon.: 6 pm - Contemporary Music Practice.
 Tues.: 8:30 am - Quilters. 5:45 pm - Stewardship Mtg. 6:45 pm - Church Council Mtg.
 Wed.: 5 pm - Supper. 6 pm - Advent Worship. 6:30 pm - Catechism Study.
Grace Lutheran Church
 8396 Steeple Hill Drive
 Winchester
 Pastor Mark Laatsch
 Thurs.: 1 pm - Leah Circle.
 Sunday, Dec. 15: 9:30 am - Worship (streamed and in person) with Praise Band. 10:45 am - Adult Forum.
 Mon.: 9 am & 4 pm - Ruth's Pantry.
 Tues.: 8:30 am - Property Team.
 Wed.: 9:10 am - Women of Grace. 5:30 pm - Ad-

vent Worship.
Winneconne Christian Fellowship
 313 N. Ninth Avenue
 Winneconne
 Senior Pastor Jake Gibson
 Associate Pastor Brett Fox
 Associate Pastor Derek Vercimak
 Sundays: 9:30 am - Praise & Worship Service.
 11:00 - Intentional Fellowship.
 Tues.: 8:30 am - "Approved" Adult Bible Study/
 Fellowship Hall
St. Peter's Lutheran Church, WELS
 8630 County Road MM
 Larsen
 Pastor Paul Ibisch
 920-878-3001
 Sundays: 10 am - Service with Bible Study/Fellowship to Follow.
 Also online through Facebook.
 Free Little Food Pantry 24/7 at North Entry of Church.
First Presbyterian Church
 32 S. Third Avenue
 Winneconne
 920-706-0047
 Pastor Emily Lueder
 8:30 am - Sunday Service.
 Zion Ev. Lutheran Church
 E9016 Marsh Road
 Fremont
 www.zionfremont.com
 920-667-4301
 Sundays: 9 am - Worship service. 10:15 am - Bible study and Sunday School.
Bible Baptist Church
At First Presbyterian Church
 32 S. Third Avenue
 Winneconne
 Pastor Robert Hatch
 920-582-7100
 Sundays: 10:45 am - Sunday School. 12 pm - Worship.
Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church - Omro Evangelical Lutheran Synod
 7394 Liberty School Rd.
 Omro
 www.messiahomro.com
 920-875-0755
 Pastor Philip Geiger
 Sundays: 9 am - Regular Sunday Worship, with Fellowship to Follow
 Wednesday Prime Service
 Wednesday Bible Study
AA and Al-Anon
 St. Mary Church Basement
 Thurs.: 7 pm - Al-Anon.
 Please refer to the district website for available AA meetings in our area.

Lucky 13 Raffle drawing this weekend

Still time to pick-up a ticket or two



The Winneconne Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce its next Lucky 13 Raffle drawing, set for Friday, Dec. 13 at Woodey's Bar & Grill. There will be 13 \$100 winners drawn at 7 p.m.

You can get your \$10 raffle ticket at many local businesses displaying the "Lucky 13 Raffle" sign including Woodey's, Premier Community Bank, Fortifi Bank, StoneRidge Piggly Wiggly, and Jackie's Parkside.

Don't Forget - If you're one of the 13 \$100 Winners drawn, you do not need to present to win, and the event

will be livestreamed on the chamber's Facebook page.

Got News?
 Call
920-582-4541

Happy Holidays!

Holiday Hours

Wednesday Dec 11 thru Saturday Dec 21
 9 am to 5 pm

SUN 22 10 am-2 pm	MON 23 9 am-5 pm	TUES 24 9 am-5 pm	25-27 CLOSED	SAT 28 9 am-5 pm
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U G L Y

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Shallow Lakes Chronicles

The Irony of the Outdoorsman

By Matt Harp, Outdoor Reporter

Ducks Unlimited, Whitetails Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, Pheasants Forever, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation... the list goes on for just about every species on the globe supporting outdoorsmen. Heck, you could even argue that the World Wildlife Fund in their own way help to propagate species for our enjoyment.



Harp

It's a weird dichotomy of assisting species and habitat that ultimately, we harvest or benefit from. I have made the argument that "what's good for ducks (and other species) is good for people," and I believe that's true. Ducks Unlimited and the monies from our federal waterfowl stamp are the biggest purchaser and protector of wetland habitat – great for ducks, but these wetlands host so many other species and act as the "kidneys of the land" filtering out impurities from runoff and creating clean water.

So, while these groups may target a certain species they also harvest, there is so much positive collateral good that the ends certainly justify the means.

One of the biggest concerns with the decrease in hunters and outdoors-people is the reduced money put into the system in the way of stamps, fees, and taxes collected on ammunition and gear. There is certainly interest in keeping our hunter numbers up.

For 2024 at least, there is some good news. We had an increase in deer hunters in Wisconsin. We've been losing numbers for the past few years and it's a welcomed development. The DNR also shared other data from the 9-day deer hunt in Wisconsin.

Preliminary figures show hunters registered 189,622 deer during the

2024-gun deer season, including 89,787 antlered and 99,835 antlerless deer. Compared to 2023, the gun season harvest total is up 5.2% statewide, with the antlered harvest up 3.6% and the antlerless harvest up 6.6%.

Since the opening of the bow and crossbow seasons, Wisconsin hunters have registered 289,361 deer. This harvest is 8.7% ahead from the same time last year.

Adams County in the Central Farmland Zone led the state with 12.4 deer registered per square mile. Vernon County led the Southern Farmland Zone with 7 deer registered per square mile. Adams County also led the Central Forest Zone registering 4.2 deer per square mile. Finally, Florence County led the Northern Forest Zone with 2.9 deer registered per square mile.

For our local area we saw double-digit increases from 2023 in Fond du Lac (up 10.0%), Outagamie (up 17.7%), Waupaca (up 15.1%), Waushara (up 29.3%), and Winnebago (up 21.9%).

I wanted to add a story along the lines of hunters assisting their quarry. A group of deer hunters were performing a deer drive near Triangle Farm Campground and three deer ran from the woods and fell through the ice on the Wolf River. After several calls to the DNR and the sheriff's department, the guys from the Boom Bay Volunteer Fire Department (BBFD) answered the call.

They set aside their time and put their talents and equipment into action and ran the BBFD airboat up the Wolf River and eventually got the deer out of the icy waters. Rescues like this obviously helped the deer, but also provide invaluable training for more real-world operations involving people in distress.

Hats off to Dave Vandenberg, Steve Wolgaert, Tim Martin, Chief Dave Plat-ta and the rest of the Boom Bay crew. A shout out to the Boom Bay Bar and Grill who furnished all the airboat's gas as well.

I know I sleep a little better at night

knowing these guys are around and willing to trade their sleep for mine.

"A life is a life," commented Chief Plat-ta. "We were just happy to be able to an-

swer the call."

Reach Matt at
Lakeandpond2@gmail.com

Tales From The Land of Retirement

OH CHRISTMAS TREE

By Jeanne Lehr

"Oh, Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree, do I put you up, or do I not?"

The expense, the work, the mess, and the room it takes up are all good excuses to skip it.

Yet, a Christmas tree is to Christmas what the wearing of green is to St. Patrick's Day. It's just something you have to do; it's not Christmas without it.

Throughout my life I've had various types and sizes of Christmas trees.

Some were too big, and some were way too small. My husband brought one home after hunting one year and I asked him, "Where do you think I should put this one, maybe on top of the TV set?" I've had real trees that managed to shed their needles in the blink of an eye and some so full they took up literally the entire room.

When I was left alone to deal with the task, I just found it too hard to get one, set it up, decorate it, then take it down and dispose of it.

Then came Christmas's next chapter – my artificial tree. It was big, beautiful, did not shed needles, and I could manage it by myself. Unfortunately, it also came with assembly and storage issues.

I persevered and that tree lasted a long time, but the day came when the branches were breaking off and the thing got too hard to handle. So, I did what was best for me. I went over to the Family Dollar and picked up one of their white artificial Christmas trees and bought it

on sale for \$10. Yes, I said \$10.

I love it. It comes in three sections with the branches and lights all attached. Slam, bam, the tree is up, and it can be easily folded away for storage. With it being white, a touch of color is all I need to make a beautifully merry tree.

I know my tree isn't for everyone – but it works for me. I say if it makes you happy, it has served its purpose. You have the lights of Christmas shining and you can gaze at them and reminisce about all the wonderful Christmases past. It does not take a lot of money or a lot of effort to make Christmas work. It just takes love.

Isn't that the reason for the season, anyway? Forgiveness, helpfulness, kindness...love. All good gifts to give to others requiring little effort and zero dollars.

Like the lesson my little white tree taught me, keep it simple, sprinkle things with love and just see how your holidays go.

Reach Jeanne at
genie6364@yahoo.com

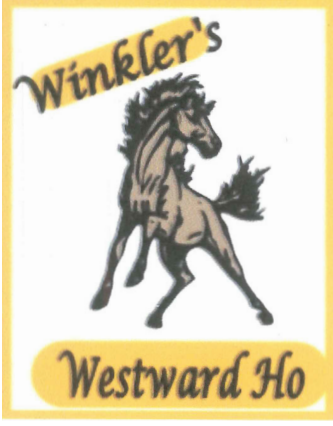


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Where can I find the livestream?

Winneconne High School is no longer able to livestream athletic events to the Winneconne Athletics Youtube page.

However, the good news is the athletic department is still able to provide free livestreaming for events (gymnasiums and football fields currently) to the public for regular season contests.

Streaming can be found by downloading the Hudl-Fan app on your mobile device, or by going to hudl.tv on your browser and searching "Winneconne" for viewing.

To view events on your computer,

visit fan.huddle.com and type in "Winneconne" in the search bar, which will then pull up a menu of sporting events.



Athletics

Livestreaming UPDATE



Hudl Fan App



Calendar

Thursday, Dec. 12: 4 pm - 8th grade boys BB, Home/Ripon; 7th grade @ Ripon. 5:30 pm - Third Grade Holiday Concert/WCAC. 5:30 pm - Beautification Comm. Mtg./Municipal Ctr. 5:45 & 7:15 pm - JV/V Girls' BB @ Waupun. 6:30 pm - Wrestling, Home/Waupun. 7 pm - 4th Grade Holiday Concert/WCAC. 7:30 pm - Girls' Hockey @ Madison.

Friday, Dec. 13: 9 am - Town of Wolf River Board Mtg./Wolf River Town Hall. 3:15 pm - MS Dance. 4:30 pm - Girls' Wrestling @ Brillion. 5:45 & 7:15 pm - JV/V Boys' Varsity BB @ Waupun. 7 pm - Girls' Hockey @ Hudson.

Saturday, Dec. 14: 8 am - Wrestling @ Bay Port.

Sunday, Dec. 15: Worship at the Church of Your Choice.

Monday, Dec. 16: 5:30 & 7 pm - JV/V Girls' BB @ Wega-Fremont. 5:40 & 7 pm - JV/V Boys' BB @ New London.

Tuesday, Dec. 17: 2 pm - Rummikub/Senior Ctr. 3 pm - Bean Bags/Senior Ctr. 4:30 pm - Bowling @ Kaukauna. 5:30 pm - Village Board Mtg./Municipal Ctr. 5:45 & 7:10 pm - JV/V Boys' BB @ Mayville.

Wednesday, Dec. 18: The News is OUT - Subscribe today @ winneconne-news.com. 9:30 am - Craft/Senior Ctr.

Lunch Menus

Dec. 16-20

Advocap Lunch Menu

The people receiving meals are asked to contribute as much as they can toward the cost of the meal. Please call 920-517-0950 the day before for reservations.

Mon.: Spaghetti/meat sauce, veggie medley, garlic bread, orange.

Tues.: Chicken breast sandwich, baked beans, coleslaw, tropical fruit, cookie.

Wed.: Pork chop suey, broccoli & cauli-

flower, rice, pineapple tidbits, grape juice.

Thurs. CHRISTMAS DINNER: Hot ham, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, cherry fruit fluff, Christmas cheesecake.

Fri.: Tuna salad sandwich, salad with veggies, carrots/dip, mandarin oranges.

Sat.: (Meals are frozen; delivered Friday)

Please consider volunteering at the Winneconne meal site. Please phone 582-7656 if you can assist.




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Obituaries

Robert Abell

Robert "Uncle Bob" J. Abell, 91, Mt. Morris, passed away unexpectedly, Saturday, December 7, 2024.



Uncle Bob was born in Oshkosh on April 25, 1933, the son of the Edward C. and Peg Abell. Bob attended Fox Valley Technical College and was a graduate of the Monroe Institute. For 44 years he was employed by Gilbert Paper Company. He was a former member of The Free and Accepted Masons Lodge 186, Winneconne; Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Green Bay; Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Tripoli Temple, Milwaukee; and Winnebagoland Shrine Club, Oshkosh.

Bob was a Master Gardener, enjoying working in his yard and his many years of activities and volunteer work with the Master Garden Share and Garden Club in Wautoma. He loved travelling, reading, and entertaining family and friends at his lake home in Mt. Morris.

Survivors include his nieces, Peg Gierke, Winneconne; Pam Daczyk, Allenville; great-niece, Jackie (Paul) Schulz; great-great-nieces, Victoria Palkovich Albright and Lauren Neabling; great-great-nephew, Brody Schultz. He is also survived by his special "kids", Randy and Linda Vollrath; and wonderful cousins and friends.

Uncle Bob was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Jackie (Jim) Soley; brother, Richard; brothers-in-law, Fred Gierke and Don Daczyk; and great-nephew, Jimmy Daczyk.

A visitation for family and friends will be on Thursday, December 12, 2024, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon at Mueller Funeral Home, Winneconne. A service will be held on Thursday at 12 noon at the funeral home. After the service a luncheon will be provided at Off the Wolf Supper Club, Winneconne. Cremation will follow and private inurnment will be at a later date at Lake View Memorial Park, Oshkosh.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Waushara Animal Shelter, The Shriner's, or St. Jude's in Uncle Bob's name.

If you wish, please submit online condolences to muellerfh.net.

LeRoy "Jiggs" H. Heller

LeRoy "Jiggs" Harvey Heller took our Lord's hand and was peacefully led into heaven in the early morning



of December 8, 2024,

at Aurora Medical Center surrounded by love, faith, and the cherished memories of family, friends, and neighbors whose lives he touched.

Born to Harvey and Loureha (Henke) Heller, Jiggs grew up on a farm with a strong sense of hard work and community. After graduating from Rosendale High School in 1962, he served in the Air Force from 1965 to 1968, including a tour of duty in Vietnam. LeRoy took great pride in his service, often wearing one of his many Vietnam veteran hats and shirts. He would insist on wearing his silver Vietnam veteran coat whenever possible, a testament to his deep respect for his time in the military and the future that opportunity created for his family.

Jiggs married Janice Schmid on April 30, 1966, at Bethany United Church of Christ in Oshkosh. They began their married life in Dover, DE, where he was stationed. Upon his return from Vietnam, they lived in Camp Douglas and then the Van Dyne/Oshkosh area.

Jiggs began his career at Lone Elm Cheese Factory and Tolibia Cheese before dedicating over three decades to Mercury Marine (1973-2005). After retiring, he and his wife moved to their beloved 50-acre plot of land in Hancock, where they built a home that became a gathering place for family events. Together, they cultivated a beautiful garden, pouring hours of labor and love into growing sweet corn and other vegetables. Their harvest was not just for themselves but was generously shared with others, a testament to the legacy of selflessness they passed down to their children and beyond. In 2017, they moved to Winneconne where Jiggs spent many hours fishing from his pontoon boat and enjoying early morning coffee with his coffee buddies.

A lifelong sportsman, Jiggs found joy in hunting deer and turkeys, fishing, trapshooting, bowling, and softball. His martial arts practice reflected his discipline and love for competition. His involvement in community was

evident through his memberships in the Van Dyne Sportsman's Club, the Van Dyne Lions Club, and the VFW in Plainfield.

Jiggs was very proud of his children and was so grateful to have a close-knit family who loved and supported him, especially these last ten years with his many health issues. Jiggs believed in Jesus Christ as his Savior. Daughter Amy would text a daily spiritual reading and when his eyesight was failing, would share by reading it to him. The kids selflessly took turns staying with him for six weeks while Jan was hospitalized and recuperating. He was so grateful to be able to do hemo dialysis at home the past year-and-a-half. The kids would tease that he had at least nine lives (or 23)! Among our great memories is renting a "Christmas house" where the whole family could stay and play our annual Texas hold 'em poker tournament for the coveted possession and bragging rights of a Mickey Mouse trophy!

Jiggs is survived by his devoted wife, Jan. Together, they raised a loving family, including daughter Amy (Chris) Polzin of Greenville and her children: Major Jonathon Patterson of Hanover, MD; Ashe (Danielle) Patterson of Smithville, MO; and Erika (James) Crawford of Greenville. He is also survived by son Daniel (Lori) Heller of Greenville and his children: Ben Heller of Beaver Dam and Kate Heller of Oshkosh. Additionally, Jiggs is survived by son Aaron (Jennifer) Heller of Winneconne and his daughter, Presley Heller; and daughter Nicole (Mark) Weber of Mukwonago and her children, Riley Weber and Max Weber.

He also leaves behind step-grandchildren Nic Polzin, Chad (Shaun) McNichols, Cole McNichols, and Isabella (Richard) Morgan, as well as great-grandchildren Affaan Patterson, Ameen Patterson, and Alyce Polzin whose joy and laughter brought light to his life.

Jiggs is further survived by his brothers Howard Heller and Orville (Katie) Heller, sister Karen Koplitz, brother-in-law Walter Schmid Jr., and sisters-in-law Arloene (Pat) Blashka and Margery (Clay) Werner. Special cousins Jerry Berwald and Lorna Heller also shared in his life's journey.

He is reunited in heaven with his parents, Harvey and Loureha Heller; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Walter Sr. and Elsie Schmid; his sister-in-law, Mary Heller; his son-in-law,

David Bibbs; and his beloved aunts and uncles.

Jiggs' legacy of love, humor, and perseverance through his many illnesses will forever remain in the memories of his family, friends, and neighbors. Visitation will be held on Friday, Dec. 13 from 9 to 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Winneconne, with a celebration of life at 11 a.m. Interment will be at the Shrine of Rest in Fond du Lac.

Jiggs will be deeply missed, but his love and faith will continue to guide those who knew him. His family wants to thank the hospital staff at Aurora who treated Jiggs and the family with kindness and respect as he prepared for his journey to heaven.

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

Joyce Carol Kellerman

It has pleased our almighty Father to call his good and faithful servant, Joyce



Carol Kellerman, age 95, to her eternal home in heaven.

Joyce passed into the kingdom of heaven on December 6, 2024, at Country Villa Assisted Living in Omro.

Joyce was the first of two children born to the late Oscar and Elsie Eckstein on August 4, 1929. She was saved by grace through holy baptism on September 22, 1929.

Joyce was educated in Winneconne. She enjoyed farming and was a member of 4H where she showed her dairy cattle. She was confirmed in faith on May 13, 1943. She graduated from Winneconne High School in 1947 and went on to become a beautician.

On April 14, 1951, she married Arlyn Bruce Kellerman. They went on to live in Winneconne, where they were blessed with six children. In 1969, Joyce and Arlyn moved their family back to Joyce's family farm to take over the family dairy.

Joyce enjoyed reading, baking, cooking, gardening, sewing, bowling, and spending time with family and friends. She was an avid family historian, keeping records of her family and ancestors. She was patriotic and a member of the Amvets.

Joyce loved serving others at her home congregation, St. Paul's Luther-

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Obituaries

an Church, by teaching Sunday school, serving on Altar Guild, Ladies Aid, and the Funeral Committee.

Joyce and Arlyn were united in marriage for 55 years until his passing in 2006. In retirement, they could be found on Friday nights at Perk's Supper Club enjoying a good fish fry and an old fashioned and having family over on Saturdays for visits.

Joyce is survived by: her sons, Glen (Jody) Kellerman of Greenville, Gary (Carol) Kellerman of Neenah; daughter, Karla (Tim) Zeinert of Larsen; son-in-law, Bob Taylor of Appleton; her 13 grandchildren, Anna Gilbert, Amy (Kevin) Alksnis, Amanda (Jason) Bavinck, Erin (Terry) Foth, Stephanie (Judge) Finley, Patrick (Megan) Patterson, Elise Zeinert, Emily Zeinert, Kyle (Cailee) Kellerman, Glen Kellerman Jr, Abigale (Jacob) Crow, James Kellerman, Sarah Kellerman; and six great-grandchildren, Austin Ogden, Kaleb Alksnis, Gabe, Kayna, and Thea Finley, and Jack Patterson.

Joyce was preceded in death by: her parents, Oscar and Elsie Eckstein; her loving husband, Arlyn Kellerman; daughters, Kay Taylor, Kim Kellerman, and Gail Patterson; brother, Allan Eckstein; and sister-in-law, Shirley Eckstein.

A visitation for family and friends will be on Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Winneconne. A funeral service will follow at 1 p.m. at the church with Pastor Ben Berger officiating. A private interment will be in Lake View Memorial Park,

Oshkosh on Friday, December 20, at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made in Joyce's name to St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church-Winneconne.

Joyce's family extends a sincere thank you to all the staff at Country Villa Assisted Living of Omro, for the care and compassion shown to Joyce during her time with them, as well as St. Croix Hospice.

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

Dr. Rudolph C. Zernzach

Dr. Rudolph C. Zernzach DDS, age 92, passed away peacefully in the



presence of family members on the evening of November 24, 2024, at his residence in Omro, WI. "Rudy" was

born on May 26, 1932, in Oshkosh, WI, the son of John and Violet (Witt) Zernzach. Rudy's first wife, Joyce A. Bichler, mother of his oldest son, Randall, passed away suddenly in 1962. Rudy was later blessed with a marriage to Anne K. Haanen, of Green Bay, WI, on February 1, 1964, with whom they shared four additional children, Matthew, Frances, Margaret, and Peter. Rudy's family was truly the joy of his life.

After growing up in Oshkosh and graduating from Oshkosh High School in 1950, Rudy attended college at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. He later enlisted in the US Navy, serving as a dental corpsman, from 1953 to 1955. Rudy thoroughly enjoyed his time in military service, often sharing stories of his youthful exploits well into his retirement years. Dentistry, however, became his life-time vocation as he then returned from Naval service to complete his undergraduate requirements and attend Marquette University Dental School, graduating in 1960.

Rudy practiced dentistry in Omro and Winneconne for over 40 years. This limited space could not contain a proper accounting of the many lives he blessed over the years, nor the list of friends he accumulated. Rudy was highly sought after for his excellence in dental care as patients traveled to see him from all over the state of Wisconsin and beyond. Generations of family members received kind and compassionate care from him for decades. Fillings he placed in the teeth of his own children are still firm and secure, even after 50 years! Very few dentists could make that claim. Rudy was a true artisan with a drill and scaler.

Rudy lived life to the fullest and had an unending list of interests and hobbies, which included anything with his family, sailing, fishing, hunting, yardwork, skiing, long road trips, and even finding solutions to engineering challenges such as his creation of a unique "mast-stepping device" to help raise the large mast of a catamaran-type sailboat by a solo sailor.

Rudy will always be loved and missed by his living children, Dr. Randall and Christine Zernzach and their children, Tess (husband Ben) and Kate, of Anchorage, Alaska; Frances and Daniel McCarthy and their children Jake (wife Monika, great-grandchildren Parker and Noa), Grace (husband Brian), and Claire, of Aurora, Illinois; Margaret and Robert Perich and their children, Leo and Madeleine, of Phoenix, Arizona; and Peter and Angie Zernzach, and their children Zoey and Addy, of Omro. Rudy is survived by his sisters, Gloria (Hank) Farr, Virginia, Victoria (Grant) Bayer, New Jersey, Violet Metz, of Maryland and numerous nieces, nephews, and grand-nieces and grand-nephews. Rudy was preceded in death by his wife, his parents, his wife, Anne (2009), a son, Matthew James Zernzach (1993), his brother, Douglas Zernzach (2008), and his sisters, Lois Gaines (2012) and Patricia Boyd (2016).

A Mass of Christian Burial is planned for 11 a.m., Saturday, May 31, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Omro. Rudy will be laid to rest next to Anne and Matthew at Sacred Heart Cemetery on Sunday, June 1 at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Rudy's name may be directed to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, T2T.org.

The family would like to thank all the staff and providers at Country Villa in Omro and St Croix Hospice for their untiring and exceptional care.



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Sports

Winneconne wrestling squad hopes to learn from loss

By Steve Clark

It may not have been the result Winneconne wrestling coach Boone Roycraft would have wanted for the Wolves first dual meet of the season, but it was a starting point and gave the youthful squad something to build on.

Winneconne posted only one contested win against a potent Weyauwega-Fremont squad – a returning Division 3 team state qualifier from last season – and was saddled with a 67-9 loss in its season-opening dual meet, but Roycraft believes that brighter days lie ahead for his youthful squad.

“I knew going in this was going to be a tough dual meet for us, but I think it’s good for the freshmen to get pushed into that right away and see what high school wrestling is all about,” Roycraft said after the dual meet. “Obviously, I want to win now, but the biggest thing is just getting better. I care more about February than I do right now.”

Winneconne had four freshmen in its lineup for the dual meet and were missing some key wrestlers due to injury and the extended football season.

However, two of those four freshmen accounted for all of Winneconne’s points as Ryden Jezwinski earned a forfeit at 106 pounds and Brady Marks earned a wild 19-13 victory in the 138-pound match.



Photo by Doug Sasse
Freshman Brady Marks ramps up the pressure as he tries to get a pin against Weyauwega-Fremont’s Ezra Balthazor in the 138-pound match last Thursday night. Marks won the match, 19-13.

Marks was on his back multiple times and trailed 13-6 after the first period, but never gave up and scored a takedown and got four near-fall points in the final period to pull out the win.

“Just his attitude of not quitting was impressive. He was down in that match and never gave up,” Roycraft said. “He’s a tough freshman. I’m excited for him. I think he’s going to be really good for us.”

Although Winneconne didn’t post any other wins, Roycraft liked being able to see what the wrestlers need to work on moving forward. He knows wins are going to be tough to come by, but he’s excited to see how the matches

play out.

“It definitely gives you that opportunity (to see what you need to work on),” Roycraft said. “You learn more from your losses than you do from wins. I saw a lot of things where guys were making minor mistakes and it’s costing us matches and that’s what we have to fix.”

The Wolves’ opening lineup looked much different than the one Winneconne took the regional tournament last spring. Only three wrestlers from that tournament – juniors James Barone, JJ Mavroff and Carson Piotraschke – wrestled against the Warhawks.

One of the wrestlers the Wolves did expect to return was senior two-time state qualifier Chase Sternard, lost for the season due to an injury.

Roycraft does expect juniors Trey Zemke, who qualified for the state tournament last season, and Bryce Jones, to be returning to action soon. Both were members of Winneconne’s football team that reached the state semifinals.

“It’s going to be beneficial to have that leadership back. They are in the room but it’s a little bit harder to see that when they aren’t able to do what the other kids are doing,” Roycraft said. “Getting that leadership piece will be good for us because we are a younger team.”

“Everything we do has got to be purposeful - making sure we are doing the right things so at the end of the season we will be ready to go.”



Photo by Doug Sasse
Senior Jason Wiedmeyer works for control of Weyauwega-Fremont’s Tellyer Alix during the 215-pound match last Thursday.

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Sports

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wolves continue winning ways

The Winneconne girls' basketball team improved to 5-0 on the season with a pair of lopsided East Central Conference wins last week.

The Wolves devoured Kewaskum 72-22 last Friday bolting to a 50-9 half-time lead before coasting in the second half.

Four players reached double figures for Winneconne, led by 18 points from Grace Mitchell. Harper Neace added 14 points and a team-high seven rebounds, while Jada Kaiser and Brooklyn Messerschmidt finished with 12 and 10 points, respectively.

Millie Braman chipped in six rebounds and a team-best six assists in the win, which forced 24 turnovers and held Kewaskum to just 21 percent shooting from the floor.

Earlier in the week, the Wolves disposed of Plymouth, 64-38, behind 18 points from Neace and 11 from Messerschmidt. Kaiser and Ari Reetz each

chipped in nine points in the win.

Braman had another strong all-around game with six points, seven rebounds and six assists.

The Wolves shot nearly 50 percent



Photo by Doug Sasse

Millie Braman goes up for a layup during Winneconne's victory over Plymouth last week.

from the floor in the game and led 32-18 at halftime, enroute to the win.

Winneconne is on the road for

its next two games – at Waupun on Thursday and at Weyauwega-Fremont on Monday – before returning home to host Ripon on Dec. 19.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Wolves topple Warhawks for first win

Head coach Jim Flanigan registered his first coaching victory as Winneconne rolled past Weyauwega-Fremont, 65-38, in a nonconference contest last Thursday.

The Wolves had three players finish in double figures and hit nine 3-pointers in the game to earn the win.

Noah Bouras led Winneconne with 15 points, knocking down five 3-pointers. Gage Bartel and Parker Ingels each added 11 points, while Ryan Quigley finished with eight points and five assists in the win.

Dallas Walker paced the Wolves with 11 rebounds.

Winneconne will be on the road for its next three games, including a trip to Waupun on Friday for an East Central Conference game, before hosting Ripon on Dec. 19.

WRESTLING

Wolves take seventh at Watertown Scramble

A trio of top three finishes in the light weights highlighted Winneconne's performance at the Tom McGarvie Earlybird Scramble hosted by Watertown High School on Saturday.

The Wolves were led by a pair of 106-pounders on the day as Isaac Gustafson went 4-1 to finish second in

the division, while teammate Ryden Jezwinski finished third. Both wrestlers finished with three pins on the day.

At 120 pounds, JJ Mavroff posted a 3-2 record with a pair of pins to place third.

Briar Vroman (113) and Cayden Behm (150) added fifth-place finishes, while Kaden Krueger (285) was sixth.

The Winneconne girls wrestlers finished third among the 13 teams at the tournament, crowning three champions on the day.

Paityn Fritchen won the 100-pound title, winning all four of her matches by pin, including two in the first minute of the match. Addison Brown claimed the crown at 107 pounds, stopping all four her opponents by first-period pins, including a 49-second victory over Horicon's Natalia Saier in the title match. Nora Last was equally as dominant at 132 pounds, winning all five of her matches by pins in the first period with three wins coming in less than a minute. Marley Rewolinski finished 4-1 with three pins and a technical fall win to place second at 120 pounds, while Denna Gehrke was fourth at 152 pounds. Jayden Mahlke rounded out the Winneconne lineup by taking seventh at 145 pounds.

Classifieds

Miscellaneous

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Free

Free for the hauling of Ash firewood (recently cut down). Located on Olen Shores Estate Subdivision off Olen Trail. Bring chainsaw – Questions 920-450-7011

Wanted

Galvanized water tanks, leaks ok. Decorated windmills, any condition. Call or Text 920-410-7378.

Lord of the Lakes Church in Winneconne WI is seeking a part-time maximum 14 hrs. per week Administrative Assist/Bookkeeper. The ideal candidate would have a bookkeeping background including payroll and all payroll reports, be familiar with accounting programs, MS Office 365 and be highly organized. Compensation is commensurate with experience. Please submit your resume to Lord of the Lakes, 6090 Harbour South Dr Winneconne, WI 54986 Attn: Accounting Office or email to financialclerk@lordofthelakes.net

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The Weekly Whisk

Mistletoe Kiss

While on vacation in Mexico a few years back, I discovered what is now my favorite cocktail. The French 75. If you've never had one, do yourself a favor and try it! The traditional French 75 is gin, lemon juice, simple syrup, and champagne. It is simple, refreshing and so good. I figured there must be a version I could make for the holidays, so I did some research and found it! I hope you enjoy this as much as I do!

- 1 1/2 ounces gin
- 1/2-ounce cranberry juice
- 1/2-ounce lemon juice
- 1/2-ounce simple syrup
- Champagne or prosecco to top

Lemon, cranberries, and sprig of rosemary to garnish

Add all the ingredients, except the champagne, into a shaker with ice and shake until well-chilled. Strain into a champagne flute. Top with champagne and garnish with sugared cranberries, a twist of lemon, and a sprig of rosemary.

For questions or comments email weeklywhisk01@gmail.com



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Celebration of Lights
Through December 31 • Open daily 5:30-9 PM
EAA Grounds (follow signs)
General Admission/carload: \$20 \$5 off with donation of a sealed hygiene item (shampoo, deodorant, soap, etc.) or non-perishable in-date food items.

Nutcracker in the Castle
November 22-January 6
Paine Art Center & Gardens
The beloved Nutcracker fairytale returns to the Paine "castle" with a mesmerizing array of sights, sounds, and surprises! Guests are invited to explore the story on self-guided tours, guided tours, and candlelight tours.
From the opening party scene with a giant Christmas tree to the Land of Sweets and beyond, follow the adventure of Clara and the Nutcracker Prince. As part of your journey, guests are invited to visit the Sugar Plum Fairy's Cupcake Café for a scrumptious treat!
Guided tours feature dance performances by Valley Academy for the Arts

3rd Annual Brighton Acres Christmas Village & Craft Fair
December 13-14 • 4-8 PM
Kick off the holiday season with the Brighton Acres Christmas Village! Shop for Floral, Home & Holiday Decor, Crafts, Gifts and more! Drop your child off to make a craft at the Elf Academy (children under 5 must be accompanied by a parent). Take a horse-drawn carriage ride around the Christmas Village. Visit Santa. Food and drinks available for purchase.



This is just the start of the fun!

For everything holiday, scan here to visit our website.



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