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JUNE 11, 2025 | WINNECONNE NEWS


\$1

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C O U N T Y

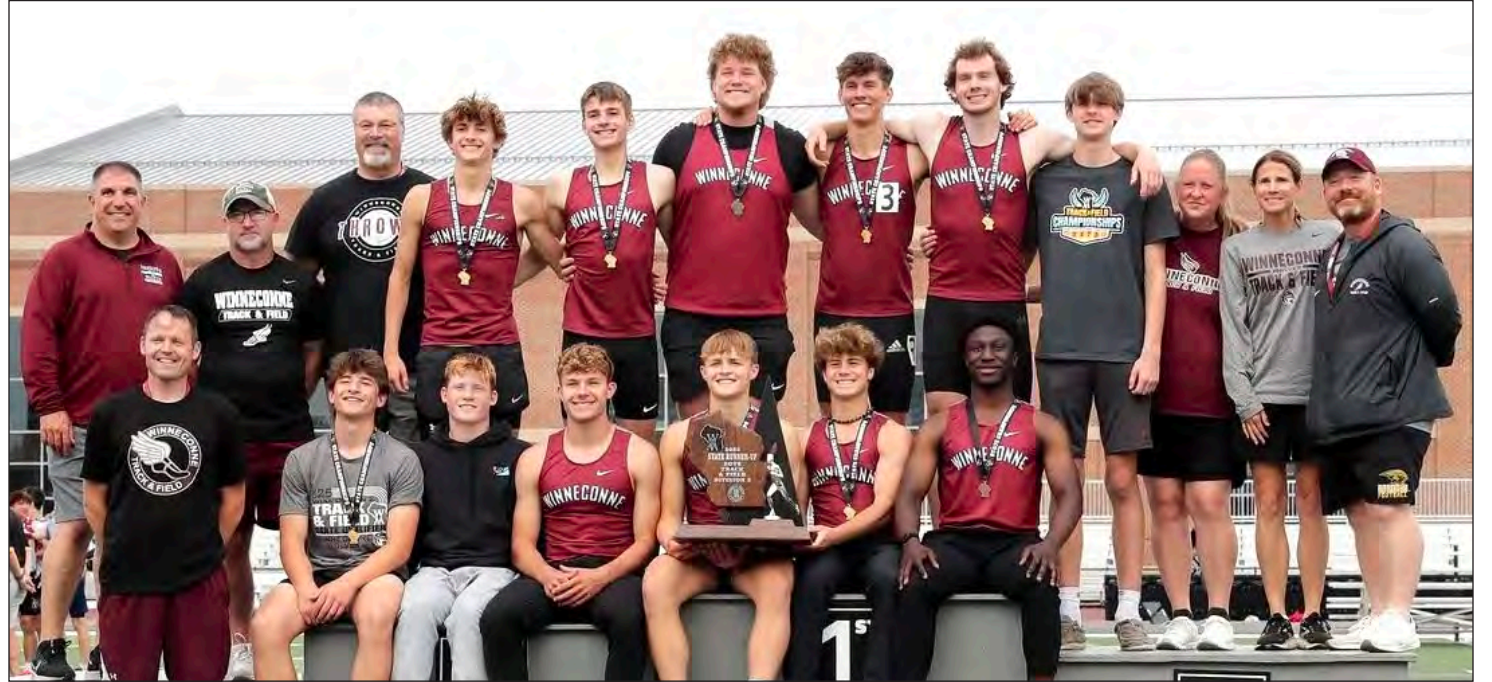
C O R N E R

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Wolves race to runner-up finish at state track meet



Submitted

The Winneconne boys track and field team hoisted the silver trophy after finishing second in Division 2 at the WIAA State Track and Field Championships last weekend. The Wolves finished just 1.5 points behind Green Bay Notre Dame for the title.

By Steve Clark

Winneconne News

Any time a team in any sport falls just short of its goal, there are always a list of “what ifs” that can be examined.

But Winneconne boys track and field coach Kraig Western wanted to make sure that his team was seeing the big picture after last weekend.

The Wolves finished a close second in the boys Division 2 field at the WIAA State Track and Field Championships in La Crosse but as tight as the race was – Winneconne ended a mere

1.5 points behind Green Bay Notre Dame – the team still earned a nice piece of silver hardware.

“On the way home, guys were lamenting about if I would have done this or that, but I told them that it’s the state meet. That’s why to get any trophy is a special accomplishment,” Western said. “You always want to be No. 1, but being a runner-up at state is not too bad at all.”

Western was also pleased with the grit the team showed after a rough start to the state meet, which left them look-

ing up at the top squads entering the second day.

The Wolves climbed the leaderboard on Saturday, winning the final event of the meet – the 1,600-meter relay – to move past Prairie du Chien and into second place. That win was highlighted by seniors Cody McLeod and Jack Quigley.

McLeod has been battling an injury since May and was unable to compete at full strength in regionals and

SEE **Track meet** ON PAGE 2

INSIDE



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State Historical Marker Dedicated at Pioneer Cemetery

By Becky LaDue

The Village of Winneconne celebrated its deep historical roots with the dedication of Wisconsin State Historical Marker No. 622 at Pioneer Cemetery (once West Side Cemetery) on June 7.

A sizeable crowd gathered at the site as Village President Chris Boucher welcomed attendees to commemorate the cemetery’s historical significance and honor the area’s earliest settlers.

Winnebago County Executive Gor-

SEE **Pioneer Cemetery** ON PAGE 4

Winneconne News editor to retire, new editor named

Winneconne News Editor Becky LaDue has announced her retirement after 20 years with the newspaper. LaDue will retire on June 27.



Becky LaDue

her mission to keep the newspaper in the community beyond its 154-year history.

LaDue has reported on the community since 2005 and was instrumental in securing new ownership of the Winneconne News. With the passing of John Rogers in 2023, LaDue made it

LaDue has covered the government, school district and community with professionalism to inform our readers of news they need to know, often commenting that the lifeblood of Winneconne is the school district. WCSD Superintendent Peggy Larson shared, “Winneconne Community School District is incredibly grateful for the unwavering support and outstanding work of Mrs. Becky LaDue, an exceptional journalist who has been a true partner in education. Through thoughtful reporting and genuine interest, she has helped keep our community informed and connected, highlighting the achievements of our students and staff in academics, athletics, the arts, and beyond. Her ded-

ication to sharing the positive stories within our schools has made a lasting impact, and we deeply appreciate the role she plays in celebrating all that is good in Winneconne.”

LaDue has covered the highlights and lowlights of the community, and Police Chief Ben Sauriol appreciated her ability to fairly cover and communicate with the police department, “Becky has been wonderful to work with over the years. She always replied to my emails quickly and we kept in communication over local events.

Becky always had the Winneconne community’s best interest in mind and her work with the News reflected her

SEE **Editor Announcement** ON PAGE 2



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Corrections
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Track meet

FROM PAGE 1

sectionals but was inserted into the opening leg of the relay. Quigley, who has anchored the group all season, has been a staple in relay events and finished the race strong to get the win.

“I didn’t want to ride home on the bus thinking we had a couple of seconds sitting there that we didn’t use, so we put McLeod in and rolled the dice,” said Western. “You just knew when (Quigley) got the baton he was determined. As a senior, knowing it’s your final race is a special sauce sometimes. Jack wheeled that thing around the track for us.”

Koltyn Kachur and Grant Wenzelow handled the middle two legs for the Wolves’ relay, which finished with a time of 3-minutes, 21.32-seconds.

That winning time was nearly a full second ahead of runner-up Osceola.

The 1,600-meter relay was the only event where Winneconne took first place. However, the Wolves scored points in eight of the nine events the team competed in at La Crosse.

Trey Zemke picked up second place in the pole vault by clearing 14-feet, 6-inches, while Hudson Samolinski finished second in the discus (176-2) and fifth in the shot put (54-9¾).

Colton Tisler also scored in the field events for the Wolves, tying for seventh in the high jump. The sophomore cleared 6-4, narrowly missing on his final attempt at 6-6.

In addition to running on the 1,600-meter relay, Wenzelow finished with fourth place in the 800 meters on Saturday after taking eighth running in the 1,600 meters on Friday.

Rounding out the scoring events for the Wolves was the foursome of Jovan Zeller, Brody Schaffer, Kachur and Quigley, which placed fourth in the 800-meter relay.

“We had to fight so hard on Saturday to get those points so the way we took second made it feel like a great accomplishment,” Western said.

Western could also look ahead to next year already as the bulk of the group that competed in La Crosse will be back. Although the Wolves will lose stalwarts McLeod and Quigley, the rest of the athletes who competed at the state meet this year – are expected to be donning the team’s maroon uniform next spring.

“It’s hard not to think about next season. It’s a natural instinct for a coach and it’s easy to get excited,” Western said.

Editor Announcement

FROM PAGE 1

pride and love for the community. Her work effort was at a high level which is another aspect of Becky’s passion for what she did. She will be missed.”

Lynn Rogers, whose family published the Winneconne News for over 71 years, shared that LaDue was “truly part of the heart and soul” of the newspaper, adding “her insight, dedication and passion for local journalism left a lasting impact on the paper and everyone around her” and thanked her for her years of professionalism, warmth and unwavering support.

Chris Lusvardi began in May as editor of both the Neenah News and Oshkosh Herald and takes the reigns at the Winneconne News beginning in July.



Chris Lusvardi

Lusvardi was most recently editor of Seed Today, an agricultural trade publication based in Decatur, Ill.

Before that, he spent 11 years as a reporter for the daily Herald & Review newspaper in Decatur.

Lusvardi has a master’s degree in

public affairs reporting from the University of Illinois at Springfield and a bachelor’s degree from St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minn. He has lived in Oshkosh since July 2022 with his wife Amber and daughter Chloe.

There will be an open house at the Winneconne News’ office, located at 908 E. Main St., Winneconne, on June 26 to introduce Lusvardi to the community and say farewell to LaDue. The community is welcomed for refreshments and giveaways from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lusvardi can be reached at editor@oshkoshherald.com; LaDue can be reached at beckyladue@winneconne.com and Schneider can be reached at Karen@oshkoshherald.com.

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Winneconne educators honored with CESA 6 Regional Award



Submitted

WCSD educators honored by WCASS, from left to right: Jennifer Krause, Andie Plachetka, Heather Haese, Lindsay Nelson, Sara Behm, Kayla Kallas, Mercedes Zabel, Nicole LeDioyt.

For the 2024-25 school year, Winneconne Community School District (WCSD) had 10 staff members honored with a Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services (WCASS) CESA 6 Regional award.

"The most incredible part is that these 10 staff members were nominated by their own colleagues," said WCSD's Director of Pupil Services Laurin Dodd.

The following individuals won awards in these categories:

Special Education Teachers:

- **Mercedes Zabel:** Was honored for the partnerships she has built with local businesses to get students out in the community and practicing life skills.
- **Kayla Kallas:** Won an award for the hard work and time she has dedicated to making sure students are successful in the high school setting.
- **Michelle Sagorac:** Was recognized for her empathy and understanding of students with IEPs. She works hard to ensure they have what they need to reach their goals.
- **Nicole LeDioyt:** Won an award in her first year of teaching for her posi-

tive attitude and the connections she has built with students and families as they prepare for life after K-12 education.

Pupil Services Staff:

- **Jennifer Krause (district nurse):** Was honored in recognition of her outstanding advocacy for students by providing the highest standard of medical care in the school setting.

Support Staff:

- **Sara Behm (special ed aide):** Was recognized for the various roles she fills across the district, demonstrating remarkable flexibility and a deep commitment to building meaningful relationships with students.
- **Heather Haese (special ed aide):** Was recognized for her support of middle school students, showing an unwavering dedication to create a positive and supportive environment.

Related Services Staff:

- **Lindsay Nelson (speech/language pathologist):** Received an award due to her advocacy of all learners, fostering an environment of trust and collaboration.
- **Andie Plachetka (physical education):** Andie was nominated for two

categories, Inclusive General Educator and Related Services Staff Member. She was recognized for creating inclusive and adaptive learning environments for all, especially those with special needs

Inclusive General Education Teacher:

- **Lisa Hutchinson (speech communication):** Lisa brings a thoughtful approach to her work with students drawing on a wide range of experiences. She works hard to truly understand students with disabilities, serving as a strong advocate for their success.

Village residents invited to community leadership exchange

The Village of Winneconne administration and trustees invite the community to a collaborative meeting led by Village Administrator Logan Fuller on June 12 from 5 to 6 pm within the Municipal Center boardroom.

The discussion will feature insights from department heads from the Department of Public Works (DPW) and chairpersons from DPW and the Personnel & Finance Committee.

The meeting will dive into important topics such as capital planning and the annual general budget process.

This is your opportunity to learn how the village government executes key milestones throughout the year, inviting constituents to engage in open dialogue with village employees.



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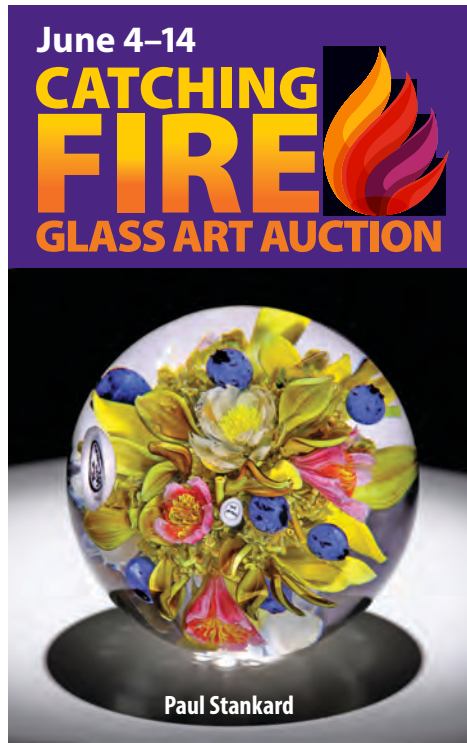
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Pioneer Cemetery

FROM PAGE 1

don Hintz delivered the official proclamation, recognizing the enduring legacy of those buried at the cemetery. "This marker stands as a permanent tribute to the lives and legacy of Winneconne's early settlers and affirms the importance of remembering those who came before us," Hintz stated. His remarks highlighted the influence of the cemetery's roughly 54 known burials—pioneers who helped establish local governance, commerce, education, and faith traditions and were buried at the site between 1850 and 1871 before the cemetery was abandoned and fell into ill-repair.

Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara was also in attendance and praised the work of the Winneconne Historical Society and the Historic Preservation Committee. "We must remember and not forget," she said, calling the efforts a powerful reminder of community values.

Winnebago County unveils Purple Heart Highway Signage on Route 21

Winnebago County has dedicated a portion of Wisconsin Route 21 as a Purple Heart Highway, honoring the brave men and women who have been wounded or killed in combat while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Today's Purple Heart refers back to General George Washington in 1782 and the pin recognizing heroic acts by troops in battle.

The unveiling ceremony hosted

Mary Lou Schroeder, vice president of the Winneconne Historical Society, shared stories of some of the individuals interred



Submitted

Winneconne's Historic Preservation Committee, left to right: Brian Miller, Adam Ahrens, Mary Lou Schroeder, Janet Eiler, Jaci Stelzner, Angel Elmer and Ian Livingston.

at the site, including a Civil War veteran John Peterson, who had several of his descendants in attendance at the dedication.

Fitzie Heimdal, coordinator of the State Historical Marker Program, then unveiled the signage with Boucher, remarking, "Historical markers are an excellent educational tool, telling stories of our collective past," he said. He noted that the state has over 620 his-

torical markers, the first being placed in the early 1950s, with eight to 12 new applications each year. All historical marker endeavors are generated from the local level to help preserve meaningful state history.

The project was made financially possible through the efforts of nearly 50 donors, with the signature donation coming from Marybeth Gabbert who contributed \$2,000.

by the Winnebago County Veterans Services Office was held on June 7, in partnership with the Winnebago County Highway Department and local veterans' organizations.

This section of highway now joins a nationwide network of Purple Heart routes, designed to recognize and honor the sacrifices of Purple Heart recipients. The new signage will serve as a permanent tribute and visible reminder of the community's deep gratitude

for its veterans.

About the Military Order of the Purple Heart:

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is a congressionally chartered veterans' organization comprised of military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat. The organization advocates for veterans and promotes patriotism across the country.

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We hope to see you there!



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Shallow Lakes Chronicles

Field Trip!

By Matt Harp, Outdoor Reporter

Probably the two best words you could hear back in school. Getting out of the sterile classroom to get into the sun, the breeze, and the greens of our Shallow Lakes' landscape. "No running," the teacher would yell as we raced to get to the best seats in the back of the bus.



Harp

It turns out that not just classrooms, but offices or workplaces are just as confining and there is a group that feels our pain.

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin is a statewide 501(c) formed in 1986 as declining budgets severely compromised critical programs of the DNR. With the support of donors and members, the foundation has boosted private sector investment and involvement for Wisconsin's lands, waters and wildlife.

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consin's most imperiled species and ecosystems, and helps our state explore, love, and protect its natural resources.

Over time the foundation has offered more than 4,000 field trips to different areas of interest throughout Wisconsin. In all, 278 field trips are being offered April through November 2025, some close, some a day trip, and some you might want to make a quick overnighter.

Close to us there are field trips to hike and explore Mosquito Hill, kayak or canoe the Waupaca Chain O' Lakes, take a hayride and farm tour in New London, check out a woodland restoration in Coloma, and dozens more opportunities of various interests.

There is a full interactive guidebook at winconservation.org that allows you to search a statewide map of trip locations and search by ease of travel, species to see, and activities to do.

Even if you don't participate in the field trips, The Natural Resources Foundation is worthy of your support and is doing a lot of great things, not only encourage us to get out there, but also help ensure that there is an "out there" to get out and see!

I'm sure I'll see you on one of these field trips - look for me at the back of the bus.

Reach Matt at lakeandpond2@gmail.com

Tales From The Land of Retirement

Dinner's ready

By Jeanne Lehr

The older I get, the more I realize the importance of family. I am bless-



Lehr

ed because all my immediate family is nearby. I don't have a job that takes up the bulk of my time anymore, or the responsibilities of running a household full of children. Things that used to matter and consume my day, no longer do.

When all is said and done, you are left with your loved ones. All that really ever mattered, anyway. The money you made, the sacrifices you made, and the promises you made are all rolled into one word: FAMILY.

I think of couples who choose not to have children. They have careers or lifestyles to keep them too busy. But if you don't have a family when you are young, you will not have one when you are old. Some of my favorite memories are of my kids growing up - watching them grow into themselves.

My kids now have kids, and their lives are busy in the ways mine used to be. That's where my Wednesday night dinners come into play. It not only gives me a get-together, but it keeps me busy for a couple of days. There is a house to clean, groceries to buy, and baking and cooking needs to be

planned and started, all in preparation for a few hours of family time. When I don't have a weekly dinner, I miss it. I miss the activity and the family.

So, I might be getting older, but I still know what is important in my life. I have the time to do something special for people. It is surprising how much they appreciate not having to come home from work to cook a meal. It is also surprising how much they appreciate a home-cooked meal with all the trimmings - things that take time to cook.

So, when you are sitting there bored with nothing to do, I suggest you plan a family dinner. The weather is getting nicer, so the guys can go out and fire up the grill. If you don't have family around you, invite friends or neighbors to join you for a meal.

The way to anyone's heart is through their stomach. Eating, drinking and being merry is a wonderful way to fill your days.

Reach Jeanne at genie6364@yahoo.com

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THANK YOU DONORS

Winneconne Historical Preservation Committee would like to give a Special Thanks to all the donors and those that helped make the Pioneer Cemetery Historical Marker Dedication event happen:

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- The Hill Tavern - Poygan
- Butte des Morts Supper Club
- Mueller's Ice Cream and Grill

School board meeting draws full house, deadlocks on new member appointment

Winneconne News

A packed house greeted the Winneconne Community School District board on June 2 as students from the high school's civil engineering and architecture classes kicked off the meeting by presenting semester projects that drew enthusiastic applause.

Then, during open forum, several residents expressed vocal support of the district, the board and administration.

"I speak on behalf of the majority in our community whose voices are often overshadowed by a vocal minority claiming to represent us all," said Martin Brethouwer, a longtime Winneconne resident and veteran. "Your

cruel comments toward our board members and specifically the Administrator along with unfounded implications of systematic grooming are just ridiculous."

Brethouwer warned that such rhetoric could drive educators away, adding, "If our high-performing schools do not meet your expectations, HWY 116 runs both ways. Please take advantage of open-enrollment options and don't let the door hit you on the way out."

Nancy Albright, who has lived in the district for over three decades, also defended the administration: "When something isn't broke - don't try to fix it. There are so many achievements that you have in this school system. It's

something to be very proud of and for anyone to sit here and say this is not the way this school system should be run doesn't know what they're talking about."

Former board member Rob Reberman called for unity. "Our job as adults—we are parents and leaders in this community—we have to come together for the good of our children. This district is amazing. It is the envy of everyone in the state, and we cannot tear it apart. Whether you like the decision [on a new board member] or not, support the decision and support our great community."

Sal Ruiz, a parent whose children attend Winneconne schools through open enrollment, added: "There is fantasy and there is reality, and the reality is that this is a great school district. [It is] at the grace of the school board and the district that my kids have come here. My kids are 4.0 students and that happens because there are great teachers, administrators, and a school board who cares."

Board Deadlocks on New Member Selection

The evening then moved forward with interviews to fill a vacant seat on the school board. Candidates Monica Wicinsky and Nathaniel Harter were both questioned on issues ranging from educational vision to handling outside pressure and the role of families and the broader community in district affairs.

The board's first vote ended in a 3-3 deadlock. A second vote yielded the

same result. When board member Katy Caliwarts suggested a coin toss to break the tie, the motion was rejected 4-2 after President Donna Hanson noted the method was not compliant with current district policy.

Hanson has until June 20 to make the appointment.

Additional Business

The board also reviewed open enrollment data. Of 67 new-to-the-district applicants, 49 were accepted, with nine remaining on the waiting list due to grade-level caps.

The board will hold only one meeting in July, scheduled for July 21 due to the holiday weekend.



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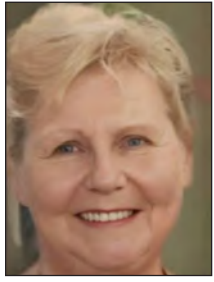
Obituaries

Donna Mae (Butt) Bouras

Donna Mae (Butt) Bouras, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother and friend, passed away peacefully on Sunday, June 1, 2025.

Donna was born on June 26, 1936, in Oshkosh, WI, the daughter of Loretta (Balda) Butt and Alfred Butt. She graduated from Oshkosh High School and married the love of her life, William (Bill) Bouras, Sr., in 1954. Together, she and Bill welcomed their five children in the City of Oshkosh before moving their family to the Village of Winneconne in 1971.

In her early years, Donna loved breed-



ing and raising Peekapoo puppies, taking yearly trips to Las Vegas, playing bingo, and bowling with her husband, Bill. While raising their children, she worked part-time at various Oshkosh businesses, including the Oshkosh Candle Factory, Miles Kimball, and Mary's Toys n' Togs. When her children grew older, she worked full-time at Mercy Medical Center for 27 years, where she held positions in the maternity ward, the psychiatric ward, and the radiology department.

After retirement, Donna and Bill spent most of their time enjoying their beautiful property along the Embarrass River in Leopolis, Wisconsin. Donna enjoyed frequenting casinos in northern Wisconsin, and she was also a master at puzzles at home. They eventually moved "up north," where they often looked forward to visits from family and friends.

She loved meeting and holding her new grand-babies, watching grandchildren splash in the pool, gathering for summer cookouts, and hearing all about the kids' adventures in the woods.

Donna will be greatly missed by all and will be welcomed and loved in heaven by all who are waiting for her. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill; her first-born, Sue Ann Bouras-Steig; her parents, Loretta and Alfred Butt; her sister, Bonnie Thompson; her brother, Noel Butt; and her great-grandson, Nathan Ulrich.

She is survived by her children: Mary Lou (Mark) Fabiano, William Jr. (Kari) Bouras, Nick Sr. (Kathy) Bouras and Lisa Bouras. Grandchildren: Raymond (Jodi) Steig, Robert (Jenny) Steig, David Jr. (Denise) Ulrich, Terry (Audrey) Ulrich, William (Heather) Bouras,

Elizabeth (Tom) Last, Nick Bouras Jr., Derek (Megan) Blochwitz, Malissa (Aaron) Knapp and Drew Blochwitz. Step-grandchildren: Sherri Dewhurst and Samantha Dewhurst. Donna's very special niece: Lori (David) Stevens. She is also survived by 33 great-grandchildren, 14 great-great-grandchildren, and additional nieces and nephews.

Special thanks and appreciation go to the staff at The Residence of Oshkosh for the excellent care and kindness shown to our mother.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.



Christopher Jon Kulick

Christopher Jon Kulick, husband, father, grandfather, boss, and friend passed away peacefully in his home on Sunday, June 1, 2025, in Winneconne, Wisconsin surrounded by family after a battle with esophageal cancer. He fought harder than most but ultimately his body failed him. He was so strong even on the last days.

Born on September 13, 1964, Chris was the son of Barbara and Dennis Kulick. He grew up in Stevens Point with his three brothers, always keeping Mom on her toes. He was a wiffle ball champion and liked to get into trouble. He could beat anyone in a good game of cribbage.

Chris was a loving husband to his wife, Julie, for over 30 years. She was waiting for him on the other side. He leaves behind two children, Nicholas and Jessica who loved him so much. Chris was a proud grandpa to his grandson, Lincoln, and only fought so hard for more time with him.

Chris loved the Brewers, Packers, fishing, hunting, golfing and bowling. He wore cowboy boots and a baseball hat every second he could. He worked at Appvion for the last 30+ years and made endless friendships.

Chris is survived by his children, Nicholas Kulick and Jessica (Joshua Boucher) Kulick; and his grandson, Lincoln Boucher. He is further survived



by his mother, Barbara Kulick; father-in-law and mother-in-law Ted and Janice Fox; his brothers, Mike (Andrea) Kulick, Jeff (Cindy) Kulick, Kevin (Kerry) Kulick; brother-in-law, Ted (Sarah) Fox; nieces, Emma Kulick, Laney Fox (Devin DuPrey); nephews, Charlie Kulick and Sam Kulick. Chris will also be missed by many extended family and a surplus of friends.

Chris was preceded in death by his loving wife, Julie Kulick; father, Dennis Kulick; his uncles and grandparents.

"We are gonna miss you so much Dad, but we are happy it was peaceful, quick and you're out of pain. Thanks for trying for us. I'll buy Link an endless supply of gummy bears and banana popsicles for you. See you on the other side, go ride your truck or motorcycle into the sunset."

"Goodnight, Grandpa."

A visitation for family and friends will be on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Mueller Funeral Home 904 E. Main St. Winneconne. There will be no service held.

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



David Gene Wilkening

David Gene Wilkening, age 68, of Omro, Wisconsin passed away on Friday, April 4, 2025, at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Appleton with family members.

David was born on November 7, 1956, in State Center, Iowa, the son of the late Eugene Wilkening and Marilyn (Eatwell) Wilkening. He graduated in 1975 from West Marshall High School and then studied airplane mechanics at Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, Oklahoma. David was married to Lori Kinzler for many years and then later divorced. David owned DGW Services, a landscaping company, and enjoyed his summers laying lawns and his winters plowing the snow. David was a founding member of the Lord of the Lakes Lutheran Church in Winneconne, Wisconsin.

David's love of airplanes was a lifelong passion as he worked as an airplane mechanic for over 40 years and was an active advocate of the EAA in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. In recent years he worked restoring airplanes for museums across the nation. David enjoyed singing, trav-



elling the world, polka jam bands, restoration work on antiques, a good fish fry and Wisconsin cheese, was a passionate Green Bay Packer fan, riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, and spending time with his beloved cat Margaret.

David is survived by his sister, Connie (Charles) Sigrist, Kirby, Wyoming; his nieces, Codi Sigrist and Casey Sigrist, Lincoln, Nebraska; his aunt, Rowena Nelson, Clifton, Arizona. He is also survived by many relatives and beloved friends.

A visitation friends and family will be held on Friday, June 20, 2025, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Mueller Funeral Home 904 E. Main St. Winneconne, Wisconsin. A funeral service will be held on Friday, June 20 at 2 p.m. at the funeral home. Inurnment will take place on Monday, June 23, 2025, at 10 a.m. at Rose Hill Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Marshalltown, Iowa. All friends and family are invited to attend the memorial service and the graveside service.

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



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Sports

Kuehn, Hart compete at state meet



Doug Sasse

Winneconne's Carlee Hart goes up for a pole vault attempt at the state meet this weekend in La Crosse.

Winneconne News

Both Ruby Kuehn and Carlee Hart made their first appearances at the WIAA State Track and Field Championships this weekend in La Crosse,

and both came away better for the experience.

Kuehn ran a personal best time of 2-minutes, 18.77-seconds to finish ninth in the Division 2 800 meters on Saturday. She was a little more than three seconds out of a podium finish.

Hart finished 12th in the pole vault, clearing a height of 10-feet, 6-inches – one of three vaulters at state to post 10-6 in the competition.

"It was great experience. The nature of track and field is that you can always do better and want more, but I think both of them were content," Western said. "Hopefully those two girls will serve as building blocks for what we have next year."

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Neace's hat trick fuels Wolves' win in regional final

By Steve Clark

Winneconne News

Harper Neace denied a background in hockey with a bit of a laugh.

Yet, her slight redirection of a Millie Braman blast had the inklings of how hockey players execute with their sticks.



Harper Neace

"I just kind of stuck my foot out," Neace said. "I didn't expect it to go in."

Neace's goal roughly six minutes into the second half was the final piece to a playoff hat trick and gave Winneconne the eight-goal margin needed to end the game as the Wolves claimed a WIAA Division 3 regional title with an 8-0 win over Seymour.

The win vaults the Wolves into a sectional semifinal match at Kiel on Thursday evening, with the winner advancing to a sectional final on Saturday against either Cedar Grove-Belgium or Sheboygan Falls. All four teams are ranked in the top 10 in Division 3.

The victory was anchored in a six-goal first half. Winneconne scored eight minutes into the game on a goal by Jada Kaiser and never looked back in toppling the Thunder.

Winneconne head coach Chris Guido said getting a jump on Seymour was a big part of the game plan coming in.

"The focus was to get up early and get the confidence in their heads," Guido said.

The Wolves' attacking players had a field day against the Seymour defense and were able to break the game open with a three-goal eruption over a span of less than four minutes.

Suri Hottmann, who assisted on Kaiser's goal, ran onto a long ball in the Seymour penalty area drawing the defense toward her. She then slipped a pass to Neace who drilled a shot at the 15-minute mark for a 2-0 lead.

About two minutes later, it was Neace finding Hottman who drilled a rising left-footed shot into the net,

while Neace added her second goal in the 19th minute on an attack started by Elianna Hardy.

Miraya Dodd got into the scoring column in the 26th minute off a Hottmann assist to give the Wolves a five-goal lead, while it was Neace finding Hottmann for her second goal with less than 10 minutes left in the half that lifted Winneconne to its 6-0 halftime lead.

The Wolves added to their total a little more than three minutes into the second half when Olivia Godfroy drew a foul in the penalty area and converted the ensuing kick. Neace added the final goal about three minutes later.

Goalkeeper Emery Sommers earned her fourth straight shutout in the win. Her best save of the game came after the Wolves had taken their 8-0 lead when she made a dive to her right to



Doug Sasse

Winneconne's Abigail Oleson (right) battles for position against a Seymour defender on Saturday.

stop a hard shot by Seymour's Jaelyn Wenninger with defender Brooklyn Messerschmidt there to clear the loose ball.

"Our defense is amazing," said Guido. "They play well as a unit and are so confident in their play and we got another clean sheet because of that."

Winneconne advanced to the regional final following a 6-0 win over Fox Valley Lutheran, which was keyed by four second half goals.

Winneconne ousted from WIAA tourney

Winneconne baseball grabbed the early lead but couldn't hold off Kiel in a 3-1 loss in a WIAA Division 3 regional semifinal last week in Kiel.

Dallas Walker singled home Noah Bouras in the top of the second inning to stake Winneconne to a 1-0 lead. Kiel struck back with two runs in the third inning and added one more in the fifth for the final margin.

Colson Kleinschmidt and Lucky Pahl also had hits in the game for Winneconne.

Pahl also fanned 11, while allowing just six hits in 5 2/3 innings but took the loss for the Wolves.

Winneconne finishes the season with an 11-12 record.

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 Priest Celebrants
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 Deacon Paul Vidmar, Pastoral Coordinator
 Thurs.: 2 pm - Rosary.
 Fri.: 10 am - Rosary in the Park.
 Sunday, June 15: 8:30 am - Mass/
 CLOW - Father's Day, Holy Trinity.
 Mon: 7:30 am - LOW w/communion.
 Tues.: 6 pm - PMP Mtg./Kaudy Hall.
 Wed: 7:30 am - LOW w/communion.
 4:30 pm - Confession.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
 9077 North Road
 Zittau
 Pastor Tauna Roth
 Sundays: 9 am - Worship.
 Mondays: 10 am - Bible Study.

Lord of the Lakes
 (ELCA) Church
 6090 Harbour South
 Winneconne
 Pastor Kevin Heffernan
 Thurs.: 8:30 am - Bible Study.
 Fri.: 6 am - Breakfast send-off for youth.
 Sunday, June 15: 8 & 10 am - Worship.
 Mon.: 5 pm - Narcotics Anonymous.
 Newsletter Items Due.
 Tues.: 6:30 pm - Council Mtg.

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, June 15: 8 am & 10:30 am -
 Worship/Lord's Supper. 9:10 am - Bible
 Study.
 Mon.: Contemporary music practice.
 Tues.: 5:45 pm - Stewardship Mtg. 6:45

pm - Church Council Mtg.
St. Peter's Lutheran Church, WELS
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Bible Baptist Church
 At First Presbyterian Church
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 Pastor Robert Hatch
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 Sundays: 10:45 am - Sunday School. 12
 pm - Worship.

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 Sundays: 9 am - Regular Sunday Wor-
 ship, with Fellowship to Follow
 Wednesday Prime Service
 Wednesday Bible Study

AA and Al-Anon
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 Thurs.: 7 pm - Al-Anon.
 Please refer to the district website for
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Lunch Menus

June 16-20
Advocap Lunch Menu
Winneconne Meal Site
920-517-0950
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 reservations, please call by 12:30 p.m.
 a day in advance
Mon.: Meatloaf, scalloped potatoes,
 squash, mandarin oranges.
Tues.: FROZEN. Tater tot casserole

w/veggies, candied carrots, mixed
 fruit cup.
Wed.: Hot dog, potato salad, baked
 beans, apple.
Thurs.: FROZEN. Roast beef,
 mashed potatoes, broccoli, diced
 peaches.
Fri.: Creamy chicken & rice soup,
 romaine & spinach salad, fruited
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Friday, June 13: Shop & Dine Locally and Enjoy Winneconne!
Saturday, June 14: Shop & Dine Locally and Enjoy Winneconne!
Sunday, June 15: Worship at the Church of Your Choice. 12 noon to 4pm - Historical Society Museum Open/Marble Park.
Monday, June 16: 12 noon -Youth

Girls' Basketball Camp/WHS Gym. 2 pm - Youth Boys' Basketball Camp/WHS Gym. 5 pm - Boys' Basketball Open Gym/WHS Gym.
Tuesday, June 17: 8 am - Summer School Cheer/Dance, WES. 12 noon -Youth Girls' Basketball Camp/WHS Gym. 2 pm - Youth Boys' Basketball Camp/WHS Gym. 5:30 pm - Village Board Mtg./Municipal Ctr.
Wednesday, June 18: The News is out! Subscribe today at winneconne.com. 12 noon -Youth Girls' Basketball Camp/WHS Gym. 2 pm- Youth Boys' Basketball Camp/WHS Gym. 1 pm - Mahjong group/Public Library.

The Weekly Whisk

Chicken Caesar Smashed Tacos
 These chicken Caesar smashed tacos are a fun, summer twist on the classic salad—grilled ground chicken, crisp lettuce, and creamy Caesar dressing all tucked into crispy tortillas. Quick, flavorful, and perfect for sunny days!

- 16 ounces ground chicken
- salt and pepper
- bagged Caesar salad mix
- 6 tortillas


Divide the ground chicken into six equal portions. Press each portion onto a tortilla, spreading it thin and all the way to the edges. Season with salt

and pepper. In a skillet over medium heat, cook each tortilla, chicken-side down for about 4 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through and golden. Flip and cook the other side until the tortilla is crisp.
 Toss the bagged Caesar salad according to package directions. Top each taco with a scoop of salad, fold, and enjoy!
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*Marty Makary, MD, Blind Spots: When Medicine Gets It Wrong and What It Means for Our Health, 2023

Delightfully absurd satire “The Importance of Being Earnest” coming to The Grand

Oshkosh Herald

Oscar Wilde’s sparkling comedy “The Importance of Being Earnest” first debuted in 1895, yet it continues to dazzle audiences with its razor-sharp wit and biting spoof of Victorian society to this day. Lovers of local theater are invited to enjoy its hilarity at the Grand Opera House this month as the Oshkosh Community Players (OCP), now in its 86th season, readies to bring the comedy to life June 12-14 at 7 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee on June 14.

The show is guided by the directorial talents of James Lawrence. Lawrence is a UW-Oshkosh graduate and local novelist, excited to lead a production close to his heart—one he co-starred in three decades ago. Lawrence is a self-proclaimed “passionate thespian” and a new board member of OCP, bringing years of experience to the production.

“The fun of directing Earnest is

watching actors navigate the absurd logic of the script,” said Lawrence, “where everyone lies but no one actually gets hurt.”

A “trivial comedy for serious people,” according to Wilde, the play follows two young gentlemen—Jack Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff—who lead double lives to escape social obligations and pursue romance.

Jack, who poses as “Ernest” in the city, seeks to woo the sophisticated Gwendolen Fairfax, while Algernon impersonates “Ernest” in the countryside to charm the naïve Cecily Cardew. As mistaken identities multiply and romantic entanglements spiral, Wilde unravels the absurdities of aristocratic manners, customs, and the obsession with appearances.

The cast of nine area players includes Scott Hamilton (Jack), Aaron Kunz (Algernon), Tierney Potter (Gwendolyn), Madeline Molchaney (Ceci-

ly), Jennifer Shields (Lady Bracknell), Erica Dabrowski (Ms. Prism), Austin Borgardt (Dr. Chasuble), Richelle Hudson (Merriman) and Andrea Thiel (Lane)—some performing in their first-ever show with OCP.

“This play is a must see for anyone who has ever told a little white lie and gotten in way too deep,” laughed Law-

rence.

And those enjoy the power of cleverness, a cucumber sandwich, and a very happy ending, he added.

Tickets are available online at thegrandoshkosh.org/events/2024-2025-season or by calling the box office at 920-424-2350.



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Public Notice

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
WINNECONNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
WINNECONNE HIGH SCHOOL-
LARGE GROUP LECTURE
100 WOLF RUN WINNECONNE WI 54986
MAY 19, 2025 – 6:30PM**

Call the meeting to order and pledge of allegiance

Board President, Donna Hanson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Board Member Roll Call: Jaci Stelzner, Jill Verich, Kati Calewarts, Dean Ackmann, Mark Kunde, Donna Hanson

Administrative Team and Visitor Recognition and Open Forum

District Administrator, Peggy Larson, HS Principal, Leah Michaud, HS Assistant Principal, Dan Dobner, MS Principal, Todd Schroeder, MS Dean, Carly Horvath, ES Principal, Lisa Hughes, Assistant ES Principal Mike Meunier, Pupil Services Director, Laurin Dodd, Facilities Director, Steve Cady, IT Director, David Jerabek

VISITORS: (See Visitor List on file)

OPEN FORUM- Community

Residents spoke in open forum on various points of interest, Middle School Concert rescheduled same time as Board of Education Meetings Student Harassment, Vacant Board Position, Federal Guidelines, Federal Funds, Special Education Student Safety, Board Policies, Agenda Item review, Public Comment Guidelines, Extra Curricular Code, Art Showed participated by Special Education students, April 28, 2025

OPEN SESSION

5. consent items:

- Approve Minutes of May 05, 2025, Regular School Board Meeting
- B. District Checks #10016480 to #10016518 in the Amount of \$118,219.91
- C. Student Activity Checks #915652 to # 915662 in the Amount of \$5,999.01
- D. District ACH Payments \$44,389.79
- E. SA ACH Payments \$1,612.79
- F. Approve FFA to the State Convention in Madison, June 9-13, 2025

Motion made by Verich seconded by Stelzner to approve Consent Agenda Item A-F

Roll Call: Stelzner-Aye, Verich-Aye, Ackmann-Aye, Calewarts-Aye, Kunde-Aye, Hanson-Aye
Motion approved: 6-0

6. Interviews for Vacant board of education position

There were 7 applicants vying for the vacancy to sit on the Board of Education. This seat will be to fill the vacancy till election date in April 2026. The member appointed will have to run for re-election to retain the seat on the Board of Education. The applicants interviewed were Mark Fahley, Kari Flagg, Nathaniel Harter, Bill Huettl, Cynthia E. Otten, Thomas Schmude, and Monica Wicinsky. Each name was drawn out

to determine the order of interviews, seven of the same questions were asked of each candidate. When all candidates were done from the interview process then voting took place to determine the outcome to the final candidate to be appointed to the board. The First round of voting needed to be a majority or at least four votes. The first round of voting Mark Fahley and Thomas Schmude were eliminated, second round of voting ended up in a tie between Nathaniel Harter, and Monica Wicinsky, Kari Flagg, Bill Huettl, and Cynthia Otten were eliminated. The Third round of voting was again a tie between Nathaniel Harter and Monica Wicinsky. The process determined based after checking with legal counsel will be to hold a second round of interviews on June 2, 2025 Regular meeting of the Board of Education.

7. Elect Temporary Chairman

Motion made by Ackmann, seconded by Calewarts to nominate Jill Verich Temporary Chairman

Roll Call: Verich-Aye, Calewarts-Aye, Ackmann-Aye, Kunde-Aye, Stelzner-Aye, Hanson-Aye

Temporary Chairman Elected: Jill Verich

8. Elect Temporary Clerk

Motion made by Stelzner, seconded by Hanson to nominate Mark Kunde Temporary Clerk

Roll Call: Calewarts-Aye, Ackmann-Aye, Kunde-Aye, Stelzner-Aye, Verich-Aye, Hanson-Aye

Temporary Clerk Elected- Mark Kunde

**9. Board Officer Elections for President, Vice President, Clerk and Treasurer
President of the Board of Education**

Motion made by Stelzner, seconded by Verich to Elect Donna Hanson for President

Roll call: Ackman-Aye, Kunde-Aye, Stelzner-Aye, Verich-Aye, Calewarts-Aye, Hanson-Aye
Motion approved: 6-0 – **Donna Hanson elected President**

Vice-President of the Board of Education

Motion made by Kunde, seconded by Hanson to elect Jill Verich Vice President

Roll Call: Kunde-Aye, Stelzner-Aye, Verich-Aye, Calewarts-Aye, Ackmann-Aye, Hanson-Aye
Motion approved: 6-0- **Jill Verich elected Vice-President**

Clerk of the Board of Education

Motion made by Hanson, seconded by Ackmann to elect Mark Kunde Board Clerk

Roll Call: Stelzner-Aye, Verich-Aye, Calewarts-Aye, Ackmann-Aye, Kunde -Aye, Hanson-Aye
Motion approved: 6-0- **Mark Kunde elected Board Clerk**

Treasurer of the Board of Education

Motion made by Kunde, seconded by Hanson to elect **Jaci Stelzner Board Treasurer**

Roll call: Verich-Aye, Calewarts-Aye, Ackmann-Aye, Kunde-Aye, Stelzner-Aye, Hanson -Aye
Motion approved: 6-0- Jaci Stelzner elected Board Treasurer

10. Designations, Affiliations, and Appointments

Motion made by Kunde, seconded by Hanson to have the Official Depository- Fortifi Bank, Wisconsin Local Government Investment Pool, Associated Bank, PMA, American Deposits.

Roll Call: Calewarts-Aye, Ackmann-Aye, Kunde-Aye, Stelzner-Aye, Verich-Aye, Hanson-Aye
Motion approved: 6-0

Motion made by Hanson, seconded by Stelzner to have the Official Newspaper- The Winneconne News

Roll Call: Ackmann-Aye, Kunde-Aye, Stelzner-Aye, Verich-Aye, Calewarts-Aye, Hanson-Aye
Motion approved: 6-0

Motion by Kunde, seconded by Hanson for the Affiliations with WIAA- High School Only

Roll Call: Kunde-Aye, Stelzner-Aye, Verich-Aye, Calewarts-Aye, Ackmann-Aye, Hanson-Aye
Motion approved: 6-0

11. eAcademy Agreement

eAcademy agreement is a Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Kiel Area School District and the School District of Winneconne. (Virtual Charter School Access for the 2025-2026 school year). The agreement was reviewed with the updates to the contract.

Motion made by Hanson, seconded by Ackmann to approve the eAcademy Agreement between the Kiel Area School District and the Winneconne Community School District
Roll Call: Stelzner-Aye, Verich-Aye, Calewarts-Aye, Ackmann-Aye, Kunde-Aye, Hanson-Aye
Motion approved: 6-0

12. 2025-2026 Agreement 66.03 – Winneconne and Omro School Districts

The 66.03 (Physical Therapy) agreement between the Omro School District and the Winneconne Community School District was reviewed with the changes and updates based on the increase in needs for the district.

Motion made by Kunde, seconded by Verich to approve the 66.03 (Physical Therapy) agreement between Winneconne and Omro School Districts.

Roll Call: Verich-Aye, Calewarts-Aye, Ackmann-Aye, Kunde-Aye, Stelzner-Aye, Hanson-Aye
Motion approved: 6-0

13. Conduct Unbecoming- Academic Integrity/ Extracurricular Activity Code

The Board of Education had asked for the code of conduct to be brought back with the revisions or updates for unbecoming athletic Integrity. Board Member, Verich agreed that the updates brought back were an improvement but still was concerned about such actions of harassment

and bullying by any athlete, members of clubs or Activities. Cheating, drinking, harassment, and bullying are all behavior that will not be tolerated

Motion made by Kunde, seconded by Hanson to approve the Conduct Unbecoming-Academic Integrity/ Extra Curricular Activities Code as presented with the updates to the violation’s extracurricular eligibility
Roll Call: Calewarts-Aye, Ackmann-Aye, Kunde-Aye, Stelzner-Aye, Verich-aye, Hanson-Aye
Motion approved: 6-0

14. Public Comment at Board Meetings

The current policy # 0167.3 was brought back for discussion based on the proposed language change, the process for allowing or denying community requests on agenda.

Motion made by Verich,, seconded by Kunde to do nothing with the current policy #0167.3 remove policy all together
Roll call: Ackmann-Nay, Kunde-Aye, Stelzner-Nay, Verich-Aye, Calewarts-Nay, Hanson-Nay,
Motion failed: 2-4

After further discussion on the policy, Motion was made by Hanson, seconded by Verich to eliminate the proposed language and approve current Policy #0167.3 as is.

Roll Call: Kunde-Aye, Stelzner-Aye, Verich-Aye, Calewarts-Nay, Ackmann-Nay, Hanson-Aye
Motion approved: 4-2

Reminder this Policy will be renumbered by Neola

15. Agenda Items Requests Policy

This portion of the Policy 0167.3 was also brought back for further discussion and clarification, Board Member Calewarts questioned why this had not gone back for the committee to review as from the last meeting the discussion indicated to be brought back to committee. Board Member Kunde reminded the board of the direction given to put the language that had been talked about in writing amongst policy so members could visually see the language that had been discussed. There was no change to the policy from previous meetings, the language just needs to be added. Board Member Calewarts also had some questions as to the new language and was not in support of the limitations the language would give community members.

Motion made by Calewarts, seconded by Ackmann to eliminate the new added language in letters B, D, G, I, and K of the Policy Public Comment portion of policy.

Board Member Ackmann had questions on the Language in Letter G, and felt it was ok to mention individual names in a positive way, and to keep letter G in the Policy. Board member Calewarts made a motion to amend her original motion seconded by Ackmann to keep letter G of the Public Comment at Board Meetings, but still eliminate the new language in letters, B, D, I, and K

Role Call: Stelzner-Aye, Verich-Aye, Calewarts-Aye, Ackmann-Aye, Kunde-Aye, Hanson-Aye
Motion approved: 6-0

16. Administration Reports- (See updated reports on file)

17. Board Reports

A. Communications – Letter of Thanks and Appreciation was read from Kim Zeller, Elementary Aide in the loss of her father

B. Committee Reports:

- HR/Financial Planning- will be discussing items in closed session met May 12, 2025
- PR/ Marketing- Has not met
- Policy- will let the board know the policy number for Public Comment at Board meetings, and Agenda Items requests once we get back from Neola

Executive Session

Motion made by Ackmann, second by Calewarts to move into Executive Session under 19.85 to approve Executive Session Minuets from May 05, 2025, and approve minutes form the May 07, 2025 Special Board of Education Meeting Wis. Stat. 19.85 (1) C to consider employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdictions or exercises responsibility regarding support staff listening sessions.. The board will move into an open session and may take action on items discussed in a closed session.

Roll Call: Verich-Aye, Calewarts-Aye, Ackmann-Aye, Kunde-Aye, Stelzner-Aye, Hanson-Aye
Motion approved: 6-0

Open Session

The Board of Education moved back into the open session at 9:15 pm

Motion made by Stelzner, second by Calewarts to adjourn the meeting of the WCSD Board of Education
Motion passed- All Ayes

Mark D. Kunde
WCS- Board Clerk
9:20 pm

Published 06-11-25
WNAXLP

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Published 5-28, 6-4, 6-11 & 6-18 2025
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SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORATE

WINNECONNE TOWN HALL
6494 COUNTY ROAD M
WINNECONNE, WI 54986

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2025 -6:30 p.m.

CONVENING A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ELECTORS UNDER STATE STATUTE 60.12 (1) (c) TO REQUEST APPROVAL FROM THE ELECTORATE TO SELL THE TOWN SQUAD CAR.

Published 6-11-25; 6-18-25
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