

# WINNECONNE NEWS

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

JULY 23, 2025 | WINNECONNE NEWS

\$1

VOLUME 154, ISSUE 29

COUNTY CORNER



Soil Health Programs for Farmers

Land & Water Conservation

## Village, town to make EMS decision

By Anya Kelley  
Winneconne News

The Village and Town of Winneconne each voted last week to join the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Ambulance Board, contingent on the IGA approving changes to the agreement before they sign.

As the agreement currently stands, members of the IGA are signing a six-year deal. The earliest any municipality could

pull out would be sixth months before the end of the fifth year. The IGA is working to establish the Southern Winnebago Emergency Medical Service District that includes the towns of Omro, Poygan, Utica, Black Wolf, Rushford and Nekimi along with the city of Omro.

Logan Fuller, the Winneconne village administrator, proposed that the contract be up for evaluation every year to allow

municipalities to determine if they want to stay vested in the emergency medical services (EMS).

Fuller also proposed switching the voting mechanism to a two-thirds vote, rather than a simple majority. Town of Winneconne President Eric Lang agreed with that change in hopes that it would balance

SEE EMS ON PAGE 3

## INSIDE



Inspiration Theatre group prepares to present Anastasia

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Photo from Doug Sasse

## Time to celebrate

The Sovereign State Days parade down Main Street highlighted a weekend full of celebrations in Winneconne. This year's theme was "the Lost City of Winneconne – Sovereign State Under the Sea" referring to being left off the map in 1967 and suggesting that perhaps Winneconne had gone the way of Atlantis. For more photos from the event, see page 12.

## County considers 'mega building' in long-term facility plan

Other options include renovation, consolidation

By Bethanie Gengler  
Winneconne News

After months of discussion, the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors recently got their first look at the complete facility master plan, which outlines long-term building and infrastructure needs across county departments.

One of the most significant recommendations to come out of the plan is the potential development of a centralized \$350 million "mega building" that would house county departments under one roof.

"What I want everybody to remember is that this is a master plan, just like the county's strategic plan. It's going to be a roadmap for the future," Facility Director

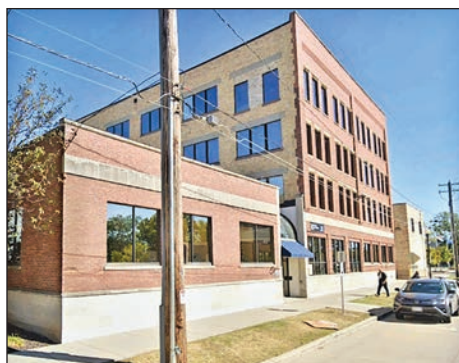


Photo from Winnebago County

The Winnebago County Administration Building was once a factory and office for Oshkosh B'gosh. Its limited parking space and outdated layout are among the challenges highlighted in the county's facility master plan.

Mike Elder said at the meeting.

The Winnebago County Master Plan

was initiated under former County Executive Jon Doemel, with funding approved during his tenure. The planning process was already underway when current Executive Gordon Hintz took office in April.

Brad Kwasny with Venture Architects presented the plan at a County Board meeting last month, with recommendations focused on combining departments and reducing maintenance costs.

Kwasny said the assessment process included interviews with all department heads and committee working sessions. The team evaluated county buildings, considered projected staffing needs and incorporated existing master plans for departments like Solid Waste and Parks.

"With this plan, you have to look to improve your efficiency, maximize the use

of each building, address costs associated with each of the options that we're going to present," Kwasny said.

The county has about 1,000 employees who work out of more than 138 buildings. The plan identifies significant infrastructure challenges, including \$69 million in maintenance across county buildings.

"The longer that gets pushed off, or you do a little bit here, a little bit there, you can expect those costs to go well north of \$100 million just in maintenance," Kwasny said. "That does nothing to improve your buildings, other than keeping them warm and cool."

According to the plan, current facilities are inefficient, with departments scattered

SEE Facility Master Plan ON PAGE 6



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## Long-running C&M Circus coming to town

Winneconne News

The Winneconne Chamber of Commerce is bringing the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus to Lake Winneconne Park with showtimes at 5 and 7:30 p.m. Aug. 13.

The C&M Circus has been running for 40 years, and there are multiple new acts being featured in this year's performance, including Big Cats, trapeze, tight rope, the wheel of destiny and more.

Circus day will start at 9:30 a.m. with a tent rising celebration and a tour of the grounds. Patrons will have the opportunity to look behind the scenes and learn about life on the road and what the animal care for the event looks like. The grounds will open at 4 p.m. for pony rides, carnival rides, a concession stand and more.

Each performance lasts 90 minutes and is suitable for all ages. Advance tickets are available at the Winneconne Public Library, TLC Child Care Center, St. Paul's



Submitted photo

The upcoming C&M Circus performances in Winneconne will feature several new acts, including Big Cats.

Child Care Center and Anchor Nutrition. 65, tickets are \$8 and adult tickets are \$13. For children ages 2-12 and seniors over

## StoneRidge Meats plans to double capacity in Wautoma

Insight on Business Magazine

A Wautoma meat and cheese wholesaler that also owns Piggly Wiggly grocery stores announced plans for doubling its capacity that will result in a store closure.

StoneRidge Meats announced it will close its Wautoma Piggly Wiggly store Sept. 25 and would offer the 56 employees jobs at one of its other grocery store locations or with the wholesale business.

StoneRidge owns stores in Winneconne, Kaukauna, Little Chute and De Pere. It also has a cheese processing facility in Coloma.

Owners Duane and Parker Detjens

cited growing demand for its wholesale meat products as the reason for the store closure. They intend to use the Wautoma store property to expand the wholesale operation and double capacity from 200,000 pounds of snack sticks and sausage per week to 400,000 pounds per week.

The existing grocery space will be converted to a USDA inspected production facility with refrigeration, packaging and employee break areas. A 24,000-square-foot addition is planned as well.

The company said the first phase of the expansion will add 50 to 75 jobs and the second phase will add another 50 to 75

jobs.

The business was founded in 2004 with the grocery store in Wautoma and rebuilt after a fire in 2005. A social media post emphasized the company's commitment to the area.

"We made a deliberate decision to expand right here rather than build elsewhere because we believe in the future of Wautoma and Waushara County," the statement said.

StoneRidge products are available at retail grocers including Piggly Wiggly, Hy-vee, Woodmans, Caseys and others.

## Library offers adult watercolor painting class

Winneconne News

A beginner-level watercolor painting class designed for adults to explore foundational painting techniques while discovering the creative flow of neurographic art is being offered at the Winneconne Public Library.

Students will learn basic watercolor skills alongside unique methods to express mindfulness and thoughts through flowing, abstract lines. No prior experience is needed.

The class will be held at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 19. Space is limited to 20 participants. Snacks will be provided during the event, which is funded from the Winneconne Thrift & Gift grant for adult programming.

To sign up, contact the Winneconne Public Library.

## Library to host 4-H geology program

Winneconne News

The 2025 Winnebago County 4-H Geology Program will be held Aug. 15 at the Winneconne Public Library.

The goal of the program is to link video games such as Minecraft and Pokemon to the science of geology and paleontology. The STEM program revolves around the rock cycle, mineral identification and fossil creation. The program will be full of hands-on activities, with science that can be brought home.

The two-hour program beginning at 1 p.m. is open to both 4-H members and non-members. The deadline to apply is Aug. 10 or until full with a maximum of 30 participants. More information is available at [forms.gle/akBkZGLgvwjMTH1u6](https://forms.gle/akBkZGLgvwjMTH1u6).

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# Village approves Marble Park project funding

By Anya Kelley  
Winneconne News

The Village of Winneconne board met on July 15 to vote on approving the Marble Park memorandum of understanding and receive updates from the library board and fire district.

Six members of the community spoke on behalf of Marble Park during public participation calling on the board to approve its portion of the funding for the park project.

Candice Olson, the lead grant writer for the project at the Winneconne Area Community Foundation, said that while new housing and commercial developments are often celebrated, parks are equally important for economic growth.

“Families don’t just purchase homes; they purchase a lifestyle and a sense of place,” Olson said. “Marble Park is 43 acres and one of the village’s most prominent public assets. In its current deteriorated state, it detracts from the overall appeal of the wonderful community we live in.”

The board voted to approve the Marble Park memorandum of understanding, which pledges \$100,000 to the project for this year. Based on this vote, this board will also be able to reassess every year and donate more if village finances are in good standing. They will also be able to pull funding if the project does not move forward starting in 2026.

Library Director Amanda O’Neal shared a few updates from the Winneconne Library board. Its staff was recently trained in CPR and AED to help assist the approximately 150 to 220 people that attend the library every day.

The library recently met with Winne-



Winneconne News

The Village of Winneconne approved \$100,000 in funding this year for the Marble Park renovation project.

fox Library System, the library federation that services five counties in the state, where they said that out of the Winnebago County libraries, Winneconne has the largest percentage of residents with library cards. In Winneconne, 47.61% of village residents have cards compared to the second closest in Neenah with 37%. Winnefox also shared that Winneconne is the only library at 90% recovery post COVID-19.

Fire Chief Kevin Allcox announced that

the Winneconne-Poygan Fire District has two new firefighters in class, and another one looking to join. It also has one new emergency medical response (EMR) personnel in class, and the possibility of three others who need to finish their applications. The fire district will be presenting its budget for next year at 7 p.m. Sept. 8 during its board meeting.

The Village of Winneconne holds board meetings at 5:30 p.m. every third Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall Board Room. The next meeting will be on Aug. 19.

# Town board appoints new plan commissioner

## Annual boat launch fees approved

Winneconne News

The Town of Winneconne board met July 17 to appoint Brad Hansen to the plan commission, approve the boat launch fee for the DNR sponsored dock on Lake Butte des Morts and approve a three-year snowplowing contract.

Hansen will start at the next plan commission meeting on Aug. 13. The board is still looking to fill two alternate spots on the commission and anyone interested can call the town hall or any board member for an application.

The board voted to make the annual fee for the Lake Butte des Morts boat launch \$20 and the daily fee \$5 for both residents and nonresidents after tabling the discussion at last month’s meeting. The DNR required the town to collect a fee in order to receive \$98,000 for funding the project.

The board voted to enter a three-year contract with Radtke Contractors for snow removal. The board released a request for proposals two months ago, but no bids were received.

Town board president Eric Lang said Radtke has minimally increased their pricing, so he was comfortable moving forward with their services again.

Town board meetings are at 6:30 p.m. every third Thursday of the month in the town hall.



## EMS

FROM PAGE 1

voting power amongst the municipalities.

The IGA notified the town and village that they needed to decide to join by July 22 or the board would consider voting to require a buy-in in order for a potential member to join late. Lang said he doesn’t agree with the buy-in proposal, citing no costs are being taken out yet.

Fuller said the date seems arbitrary.

“I don’t think it’s necessary due to, if the infrastructure isn’t built yet,” Lang said. “I mean, why would you have to buy in if there’s no cost, or we don’t even have cost for the infrastructure to be built?”

The IGA originally said that the July 22 date was required so they could move forward with applying for the Wisconsin Innovation grant. However, Fuller said in an email that recent legislation has caused delays in the grant’s launch due to revi-

sions being made to the grant.

“The grant we are pursuing does require submission requirements which has timing considerations, however there was no clear outline or identifiable benchmarks that were mutually agreed on to my knowledge,” Fuller’s email said.

During both the village and town meetings, board members had questions and concerns about joining the IGA.

Dale Burghardt, the town supervisor, said he is concerned that joining the IGA will fracture the town’s relationship with Oshkosh and feels that some municipalities are trying to get as far away from Oshkosh as possible.

If the IGA does not accept the changes to the agreement, the village and the town indicated they will work together to find a solution elsewhere. The village has received pricing models from Gold Cross Ambulance Service and shared them with town officials for further consideration.



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- Reworld Fox Valley
- Marsh Family Dentistry
- Marten’s Heating & Cooling
- Winneconne Men’s Club
- Winneconne Pyrotechnics Team
- Village of Winneconne

### GOLD LEVEL

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- Highlands at River Crossing
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- American Legion Auxillary
- Ray’s Sanitation
- Winneconne Area Community Foundation
- Fortifi Bank
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- Randall’s Auto Haus
- Critter’s Wolf River Sports
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- Winneconne Masonic Lodge
- Wolf River Resort

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- Jack Clevon
- Cornerstone Processing Solutions
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# Fundraiser for veterans to be held on Clarks Bay

Winneconne News

The Sand Bar Bash and Road Trip Band Concert scheduled for Aug. 2 in Winneconne is aimed at raising funds for veterans. The event will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Clarks Bay along Lake Winneconne's north shore.

The cost is \$20 per person with boat parking from 9 a.m. to noon with the cost covering either a donation or raffle tickets. Volunteers will be parking boats with instructions on how to approach the area available on the event's Facebook page. Organizers are expecting the parking area to possibly be full by about noon.

Music will be from 1 to 5 p.m. The band is scheduled to take a 30-minute break

near the middle of the afternoon. Organizers will be using the time to thank veterans, sponsors, volunteers and supporters. Proceeds from donations and raffle tickets sales minus the payout will go to Vets and Friends of Wisconsin.

The raffle drawing will take place on the stage with the winning number announced over the sound system near the end of the event. The winning ticket number will be posted to the Facebook page afterward. The winner has 48 hours to reach out in person or message after the end of the event at 5 p.m. If no one reaches out as the raffle winner, the payout will be added as a donation.

# Bass fishing tournament offers payouts, prizes

Winneconne News

Registration is underway for the 13th Annual Winneconne Bass Open to be held Aug. 2.

A meeting begins at 5:30 a.m. at Wood-ey's Bar and Grill, 700 W. Main St. before takeoff at 6 a.m. The weigh-in is scheduled

for 2:30 p.m. Payouts and prizes will be available.

The entry fee is \$250 per team with a day-of-event fee of \$20. For more information, contact Art Sakowatey at 414-507-3779 or the Wolf River House at 920-582-4555.



Submitted photo

The lion drinking fountain at the Menominee Park Zoo in Oshkosh has been a staple for years. Sara O'Leary was eager to give the fountain a much-needed update, including some repairs and new paint.

# Local artist brings to life new mural at zoo

By Jonathan Richie  
Winneconne News

One woman's trips to the Menominee Park Zoo in Oshkosh with her daughter over many years led to an opportunity to use her expertise in art to bring lively scenes and colors to the zoo.

The lion drinking fountain was Sara O'Leary's first opportunity to showcase her skills by re-painting the cartoon-like lion, which has been a staple at the park for many years.

"We were going to the zoo for years and always looking at the dilapidated statue. It was so sad," O'Leary said.

After seeing a post online about renovations taking place at the zoo, O'Leary reached out to the Oshkosh Zoological Society, offering her services to re-paint the fountain that had seen better days.

Last summer, O'Leary was able to donate her time and materials to bring a fresh coat of paint to the fountain. However, during the process she heard numerous stories from people who had fond memories of the lion fountain.

"I was really excited to be able to have this opportunity, and it was just a really cool experience," she said. "I got to hear so many cool stories from people about how they remember their kids drinking from the fountain and what it means to them."

The lion fountain needed to be sanded down in parts, patched in other parts, then more sanding, coats of primer, paint, more paint, blending, touch-ups and detailing

before several coats of clear coat were applied, zoo education coordinator Kate Grassley said.

O'Leary is also responsible for the brand new mural inside the Lakefly Café at the Menominee Park Zoo. The mural features many animals including a bald eagle, bear, fox, squirrel, egret and wolf.

O'Leary said the mural was Grassley's brainchild. O'Leary got the concept from Grassley and did the entire mural free-hand.

She said the fun part about the mural is that it is designed with a tree as the centerpiece and the trees branches have shelves that the zoo has stocked with gift items available at the zoo.

When O'Leary moved to Oshkosh her daughter, Cecilia, was two years old. Going to the zoo and seeing the animals became a regular part of their summer.

"Our favorite is probably the turkey," O'Leary said, while chuckling. "We've been going to the zoo for years and now she's almost 10."

O'Leary admitted she hasn't been able to use her art skills in her job as a quality assurance manager, but this experience gave her that opportunity.

"I went to an art middle school, art high school and art college and was never able to do anything with it. Until now I wasn't able to do anything with it," O'Leary said. "I'm excited I got to do some cool art for the community to enjoy."

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# Shallow Lakes Chronicles

## Preparations continue – in the heat

By Matt Harp  
Outdoor Reporter

I shouldn't beat myself up too badly. I made an honest attempt to do the work when it was cold; Mother Nature wasn't having it. So, here I am in the heat, the nettles and the heat, just like I told myself I wouldn't do.



Harp

There were so many walleyes to catch in April, though. Trout fishing, yard cleanup, having friends over and early camping were my May excuses. Shoot, by June, you have to get in our Shallow Lakes and take in our fun and plentiful summer festivals, drinks and music. We're here already, a couple of great firework shows later, standing on the edge of August.

You can't be fumbling around in your deer woods too close to Sept. 13, Wisconsin's bow opener. You have to have your ducks in a row now. The Boy has a nice list of what each of the eight or so stands need for maintenance, so at least we have a list of what we didn't do yet. He also has two of my trail cameras, which should also have been up by now.

I bought one of those 360-degree cameras on sale last week that also needs to be placed. With all the logging that took place last year, we're just not sure what the deer are going to do – stick to the old routes or adopt new ones with the clearer paths through the property.

The challenge this year, too, is to incorporate two more hunters so as to give

everyone a good opportunity. I think it's going to end up being that there won't necessarily be more deer seen, but it'll be tougher for the same number of deer to slip through the property without one of us seeing them.

As the sweat pours out of me hiking in, cutting limbs, moving branches, hanging a scent rope and climbing stands, my first thought is how this should have been done in cooler weather. But really, it's just my way of reinforcing it in my head to not let it happen again next year.

After a little more thought, I convince myself that each drop of sweat that hits the ground is the equivalent of every step of a deer in sight. The more work we put into it now, the more deer steps that our group will witness in just a few months.

At each stand I imagine I'm each of the kids – I try to crawl inside of their heads for a while. What are each of them going to see or feel this year from this spot? While I have the luxury of going out any day to any of the stands, their time is a lot more limited and precious because of each of their differently busy lives.

Is it just a good time to catch up on some way overdue sleep? Is it a quiet place to crush candy or play some other phone games? Perhaps catch up on work emails that need attention? I'm sure hoping that they take the time there to take in the natural world, notice all the birds and non-game critters out there. I hope that they can just open their soul to the wilderness.

Whatever this year's hunting season brings to them or brings them to, I hope a big part of it is peace. Peace in their minds, peace in their hearts, peace in their lives. Nature does that every single day; let it happen to you.

Reach Matt at  
lakeandpond2@gmail.com



Photo from American Legion Giles Luce Post 364

## Honoring Leo Esch

The American Legion Giles-Luce Post 364 dedicated a memorial bench July 10 in honor of Leo Esch, who passed away in May 2024, recognizing his service and the steadfast support he had given to the Legion over the years. Family members gathered with Leo's wife Doris at the ceremony, where Post President Dick Krueger presented her with a challenge coin in tribute to her and Leo's support of the Legion and Auxiliary. Leo served with the Red Arrow Division of the Army National Guard during the Berlin Crisis, and his legacy of service lives on. The bench dedication took place beside Leo's memorial brick on the Legion's sidewalk, which the Legion said is a lasting tribute to a life of dedication and patriotism.

## Vet service officer to answer questions

Winneconne News

The American Legion Giles-Luce Post 364 is hosting a county veteran service officer from 2 to 6 p.m. on Thursday.

The vet service officer will be able to answer any questions about military ben-

efits for veterans, active military members, spouses, beneficiaries and others.

The legion is located at 536 W. Main St. in Winneconne and can be contacted with questions at 920-376-5181.

MONDAY, JULY 21-SUNDAY JULY 27, 2025



Scan here for everything to see and do while you are in Oshkosh!

Have fun!

So much to do...  
check it all out & make plans now.



# Facility Master Plan

FROM PAGE 1

across multiple locations and buildings not designed for their current uses. One example is the Administration Building, which was once a factory and office for Oshkosh B'gosh. Adding office space there would mean building into an already undersized parking lot.

"The other problem is you have insufficient parking at almost every facility in the county, and if we're going to maintain the buildings where they sit now, we have to basically add on to every one of the buildings," Kwasny said.

The plan notes challenges with the current courthouse and Human Services buildings in Oshkosh, both of which are on the National Register of Historic Places. Human Services has grown significantly and will require space for more than 100 additional employees by 2035.

Kwasny said the county courthouse "doesn't even come close to current standards for maintaining safety in a court facility."

The Coughlin Center and Law Enforcement Center are among the few facilities in good condition with some capacity for expansion, according to the plan.

The plan presented three main strategies. Under Option A, the county would retain all services in their current locations, addressing maintenance needs, renovations and additions over time. However, Kwasny warned this could lead to inefficient layouts, aging mechanical systems and unpredictable emergency repairs. The estimated cost of Option A is \$183.2 million.

Option B calls for existing buildings to be expanded, renovated, repurposed or abandoned, and for new buildings to



The courthouse in Oshkosh is one of the county buildings that is considered to have challenges, as it does not meet current standards for maintaining safety in a court facility.

be constructed to accommodate growth and improve efficiency by bringing related departments together. It would require resolving legal questions related to Health and Human Services and Administration being in close proximity to the county's 980 criminal offender housing. The projected cost is \$100.8 million to \$345.8 million.

"The way this would help is you could move your facilities all much closer together geographically, and when you're geographically closer together, it makes facilities' life easier," Kwasny said.

Option C explores building a new central county campus on an undeveloped site, though it would require purchasing property, a cost which was not included in the total estimated project cost of between \$348 million and \$351.6 million, depend-

ing on final design decisions.

Kwasny said Option C is essentially a placeholder option for those who might not like the previously presented sites, providing a generic alternative location for potential development.

Following the presentation, county supervisors questioned Elder and Kwasny about the plan.

Supervisor Karen Powers raised concerns about bus routes, noting that the current transportation system doesn't adequately serve county facilities.

Elder suggested engaging the city to ensure bus routes meet county service needs, proposing alternative approaches like potentially renting library rooms for outreach in areas with limited transportation.

"I'm familiar with people not being able to get to the different places, so we'll have to talk to the bus department, the transportation to try and get a bus route out there," Elder said. "But there's also alternate means of transportation that could possibly be arranged for; but there's also alternate ways of delivering services to the

people."

Powers suggested the new buildings should incorporate rooftop gardens.

"Experts seem to tell us the next major war that's fought will not be over oil, but over water," Powers said.

Supervisor Kristl Laux questioned why the county would build a mega building when it's much less expensive to upgrade the buildings the county already owns.

Kwasny said upgrading and moving staff to other buildings would be less expensive, "but if you want to make the building function as efficiently as possible, then you're looking at a pretty extensive process."

Supervisor George Bureau challenged the proposed square footage and the cost for an addition to existing county buildings, noting it would add an additional 100,000 square feet of space and questioning whether the county truly needs such extensive additional space.

"We cannot tax our citizens out of their homes, but we also cannot be inefficient in how we provide their services," he said.

Supervisor Steven Binder expressed skepticism about the investment, pointing to an aging population and uncertain future needs.

"I guess I'd like to say sometimes you have to live within your means, and I don't see a way we can afford all this," he said. "You know, we have people right now living on Social Security who can barely get by."

Supervisor John Hinz noted the importance of considering transportation and accessibility for all county residents.

"Oshkosh is approximately 70,000 of 170,000 (county residents)," he said. "That means there are 100,000 people elsewhere in the county that need to get to these buildings as well. So that's something to think about in the future."

Elder said any decisions about how to implement the master plan will start with the county administration, which will make recommendations to the Facilities Committee. The committee will bring proposals to the full County Board for a vote.

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# Inspiration Theatre presenting musical Anastasia

Winneconne News

Inspiration Theatre is performing the musical Anastasia at 7 p.m. on July 31 and Aug. 1, at 6 p.m. Aug. 2 and at 2 p.m. Aug. 3 in the Winneconne High School Performing Arts Center.

Based on the movie by 20th Century Fox, Anastasia follows the story of Grand Duchess Anastasia (Anya), who is rumored to have survived execution by the Russian Imperial family. Anya, who is plagued with amnesia, follows Dimitry and Vlad, two con men, through a journey to the past.

"I enjoy the life, sparkle, humor and hear of this musical," said Jackie McGinnis, the founder of Inspiration Theatre.



Winneconne News

Cast members walked in the Sovereign State Days parade Saturday to promote Inspiration Theatre's upcoming performances of Anastasia.

"I see a young woman claim her identity through three stabilizing anchors. Her grandmother, representing her past, her sweetheart, representing her future, her choice to persevere, representing her present future. Victoriously overcoming the

tragedies of life."

Ticket reservations for the show are open online at inspirationtheatre.org up to two hours before each performance. Box office tickets will also be available on a first come first serve basis.

# Winnebago County Fair offers new experiences

Winneconne News

It's almost time for the Winnebago County Fair, with organizers preparing to offer some new attractions next week. The fair runs from July 30-Aug. 3 at the Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh.

This year's theme is "Carnival Lights, Action-Packed Nights."

Fair Board President Mike Domke is looking forward to the family-friendly entertainment options.

"We have a new rodeo for the grandstand, which promises to be a good show," Domke said. "We have a new acrobatic show, Miller and Mike show and a glass blowing demonstration for family entertainment."

The carnival will kick off on July 30 with the CC Bucking Bulls Rodeo starting at 7 p.m. followed by Zach Thomas from American Idol performing at 8 p.m. The

entertainment continues at 7 p.m. July 31 with a County Tractor Pull and Dig Deep bluegrass band at 8 p.m.

The line-up on Aug. 1 includes the polka 2/5s Party Band from noon-4 p.m., music by the Delrays at 3 p.m., Badger State Tractor Pull at 6:30 p.m. and Star Six Nine taking the stage at 8 p.m.

The options on Aug. 2 include music by Jet Pack Stereo at 2 p.m., Hollywood Motorsports Demolition Derby at 6 p.m. and Spicy Tie Band at 8 p.m.

A sensory friendly day will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 3 with the fair closing at 4 p.m.

Domke said some returning events are Nick's Kids show, woodcarver, trout pond, face painting and pig and duck races. Senior Day is Friday when seniors get in for \$5 along with veterans day with special events planned by the Winnebago

County Veterans office and free admission for veterans.

Other special events, Domke said, include the Farmer for a Day program during which anyone can try their hand at exhibiting and Endless Adventures show, which allows special needs youth the experience of showing an animal.

Thrill-seekers can check out Mr. Ed's Magical Midway Rides in the late afternoon and evening for an adrenaline rush.

"We have the all-inclusive admission again, which includes family entertainment, barns, rides, parking, grandstand and nightly bands," Domke said. "With this pricing, it's incredibly reasonable for a family to have an all-day outing."

Admission is \$12 in advance and \$15 at the gate. Weekly passes are also available.

Visit the fair's website winnebagocountyfaironline.com for updated schedule information.

# Beach closed due to high bacteria levels

Winneconne News

The Lake Winneconne Park beach remained closed over the weekend due to high E. Coli bacteria levels.

The Winnebago County Health Department said the tests at the beach showed E. Coli bacteria levels above 1,000 MPN/100 MLS. The health department said that means a serious risk of illness may be present and swimming is not recommended.

The beach had been closed since a test first showed high bacteria levels. It was retested later in the week and continued to show high bacteria levels.

"E. coli levels fluctuate quickly, and it's difficult to determine the exact cause for the increase," the health department said in a social media post. "We can tell you that levels are typically high after large rainfalls because waste gets washed into the water."

The health department did not say



Winneconne News

A sign posted at the Lake Winneconne Park beach shows that the water is closed to swimmers.

when the beach is expected to reopen. Updates are posted at apps.dnr.wi.gov/beachhealth/healthmap.aspx.

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Sat, July 26	5:00-9:00	TBD
Sun, July 27	2:00-6:00	Kenny James & Reverend Fish
Fri, August 1	6:00-9:00	Riley
Sat, August 2	5:00-9:00	Rock River 2
Sun, August 3	3:00-6:00	Darrell Haze
Fri, August 8	6:00-9:00	Big Al & Blues Howler
Sat, August 9	5:00-9:00	Power Play Trio
Sun, August 10	2:00-5:00	Rodello the Kid Duo
Fri, August 15	6:00-10:00	The Plastic Knives
Sat, August 16	5:00-9:00	Rock River 2
Sun, August 17	2:00-6:00	Acoustic Jukebox



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# District updates plans

By Peggy Larson

I hope everyone is enjoying a restful and fun summer. Things have been busy for the school district, especially with the middle school renovation, which is really taking shape.



Larson

I cannot wait for our community to see the transformation. Please save the date and time of 1 p.m. Sept. 14 for our Community Open House and Dedication Ceremony. More details will be shared as we get closer.

Thank you to Anya Kelley for the recent article explaining the impact of the state budget on school funding. I wanted to provide a quick follow-up:

- **Special Education Funding:** We currently transfer over \$2 million from our general fund to special education. We will receive 40% reimbursement this year as compared to last year's approximate 30%. The impact is \$270,000 we will not have to transfer from our general fund to special education.

- **General State Aid (Equalization Aid)** is the money allocated to school districts by the state, based on a formula. Our July estimate shows that we will receive approximately \$1.2 million less than we did last year (-13%).

- Revenue limits determine the maximum amount of revenue a school district can raise from a combination of state aid and local property taxes. The state has approved a \$325 per-student increase to the revenue limit this year.

What does this mean for WCSD? While the state has allowed us to increase our revenue limit, our general state aid is decreasing significantly. This means the total amount of money available from the state to fund our schools is not growing.

It's just shifting who pays the bill. In our case this is the taxpayer. Again, the state said we can increase our revenue limit by \$325 per student (this amount is not keeping up with inflation), but taxpayers are paying for it as the State did not increase our state aid.

You may have heard that the new state budget was met with mixed reactions. While we are grateful a compromise was reached and that we're not facing delays into the fall, it's important to recognize that the state continues to hold a large reserve ("rainy day") fund, even as local communities like ours are asked to pay more of the cost to educate our children. Please call with any questions at 920-582-5802 ext. 3141 or email [larsonm@w-csd.org](mailto:larsonm@w-csd.org).

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We're excited about the future and look forward to celebrating our new middle school space with all of you in September.

*Peggy Larson is the administrator of Winneconne Community School District.*

## CAMPUS CORNER

**UW-Oshkosh: Larsen** -- Leah Frank, associate of arts and science, associate of arts and science; Liam Waggoner, associate of arts and science. **Winneconne** -- Michael Griep, master of science, athletic training; Ryan Hummel, bachelor of business administration, supply chain management; Elizabeth Jensen, bachelor of arts, communication studies; Elizabeth Jensen, bachelor of arts, history and Kyle Van Cuick, bachelor of arts, Spanish.

**UW-Madison: Larsen** -- Logan Dachel, College of Letters and Science, bachelor of arts, legal studies, graduated with distinction. **Winneconne** -- Jordan Biesinger, School of Pharmacy, bachelor of science-pharmaceutical sciences; Jonathan Boehnlein, College of Engineering, bachelor of science-mechanical engineering; William Fitzgerald, College of Engineering, bachelor of science-computer engineering, graduated with distinction; Mark Hurst, College of Agricultural & Life Science, bachelor of science, microbiology, graduated with highest distinction; Mary Murawski, College of Agricultural & Life Science, bachelor of science, environmental sciences and Jedidiah Schloesser, College of Letters and Science, bachelor of science, computer sciences, data science, mathematics and statistics, graduated with distinction.

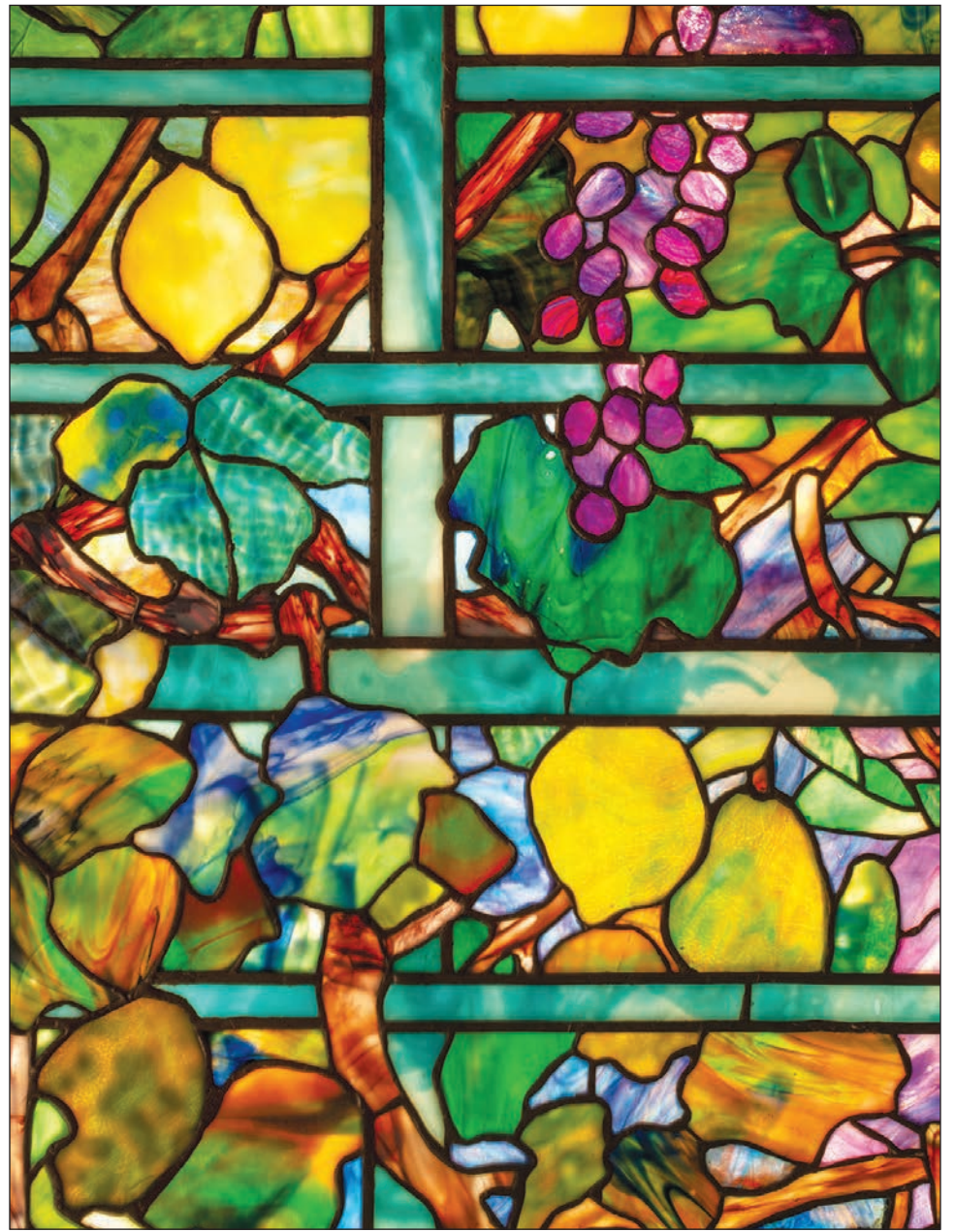


Photo from Oshkosh Public Museum

One of the items on display, Lemon Tree and Grape Vine with Trellis Window, was made in New York, between 1902 and 1910. Created by Tiffany Studios under the artistic direction of Louis C. Tiffany (1848-1933); design attributed to Agnes F. Northrop (1857-1953). The Neustadt Collection of Tiffany Glass, Queens, NY.

# Public Museum to display Tiffany's Garden in Glass

Winneconne News

Tiffany's Garden in Glass, an exhibition organized by the Neustadt Collection of Tiffany Glass, will be displayed through Jan. 3 in the Oshkosh Public Museum's Waldwic Gallery.

The exhibit features Louis C. Tiffany's celebrated lamps, windows and rare archival materials, taking visitors on a journey from inspiration to expression. According to the museum, Tiffany's exploration of glass as a creative medium and his enduring love of nature's beauty prevail in this exhibition.

The Tiffany Studios were staffed with designers, artists and artisans who shared Tiffany's passion for nature and willingness to explore techniques in using glass to achieve stunning designs that demon-

strated unsurpassed craftsmanship. Perpetually in bloom, Tiffany's floral lamps and landscape windows are described as reflecting the skill of his studios in faithfully translating natural forms into glass: velvety or paper-thin petals, waxy or veined leaves, dappled sunlight or shadow, and much more. Visitors can immerse themselves among the colorful lemon trees, natural landscapes, lilies, poppies and apple blossoms, represented in decorative glass art masterpieces that stand the test of time.

The museum is open 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and is extending hours on Thursday evenings until 7 p.m. for the duration of this exhibition. More information is available at [oshkoshmuseum.org](http://oshkoshmuseum.org).

In celebrating the history, art and culture of the Oshkosh area, the Museum will be offering a 50% discount on admission to patrons that share admission receipts or proof of membership from visits to the Paine Art Center or the EAA Aviation Museum during the Gardens in Glass exhibition, which opened Saturday.

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## Braman, Hottman honored by WSCA

Winneconne News

A pair of Winneconne soccer players were honored by the Wisconsin Soccer Coaches Association, it was announced recently.

Miller Braman was named to the Academic All-State Team, while Suri Hottman earned a spot on the all-state honorable mention list.

Former Winneconne soccer standout Millie Braman was named to the Wisconsin Soccer Coaches Association Academic All-State team announced recently.

Braman, who graduated this spring, was one of the leaders for a Wolves' team that finished 18-4 overall and won a WIAA regional title this spring. The midfielder finished with four goals and three assists on the season.

The Academic All-State honors is for seniors who have at least a 3.85 cumulative grade point average, scored at least a 29 composite score on the ACT and played four years of high school soccer, with at least two years at the varsity level. Selections are based 80 percent on academic work, 10 percent on service work and 10

percent on soccer accomplishments.

A total of 25 players were honored by the WSCA. Braman was one of two players from the East Central Conference honored along with Ava Walz of Kettle Moraine Lutheran.

Hottman, a junior this past season, led Winneconne in scoring with 24 goals and nine assists and was a unanimous first-team all-ECC selection as a midfielder. Hottman had a pair of hat tricks on the season, including a season-high four goals in a win over Waupaca.

Hottman was one of three ECC players named on the all-state list with conference Player of the Year Kalli Knowles of Plymouth named to the second team, while Plymouth goalkeeper Paige Kurtz joined Hottman on the honorable mention list.



## Man arrested after police pursuit

Winneconne News

Winneconne police officers arrested a man allegedly showing signs of impairment while driving Thursday morning.

After officers stopped the vehicle the man was driving, Police Chief Ben Sauriol said the man was run through a series of tests and showed he did not appear to be in a safe state to be operating a motor vehicle. Sauriol said the man admitted to being on several medications, consuming alcohol and consuming THC-infused gummies.

Sauriol said the incident began at around 9:44 a.m. when a Village of Winneconne police officer was patrolling on East Main Street and noticed a vehicle traveling westbound passing the intersection with North Seventh Avenue at an

extremely high rate of speed estimated to be approximately 60 MPH in a posted 25 MPH speed limit zone.

The officer then witnessed the vehicle pass several vehicles that appeared to be traveling the posted speed limit at a busier pedestrian crossing intersection, Sauriol said. He added traffic at the time was heavier than usual.

The officer activated his emergency lights and sirens as he got behind the vehicle, but the vehicle did not stop. The officer proceeded behind the vehicle for a short distance and the vehicle then stopped behind a parked car. The vehicle then took off again with the squad behind it and the officer proceeded behind it until it ultimately stopped less than a block away.

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**CAMPAIGN 2025**



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This event provides local families with the essential supplies their children need to start the school year with confidence. Each child who signs up will receive; backpack of their choice, a school supply kit, and a shoe voucher for Rogan's. Socks, clothing, and hygiene are also available to families.

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Sports

# Quigley caps prep career in all-star win

Winneconne News  
Jack Quigley walked off the field after his final high school football game with a win.

The former Winneconne standout was a member of the North squad that earned a 19-12 win over their South counterparts during the Small School contest at the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association All-Star games held last weekend at UW-Oshkosh's Titan Stadium.

The North squad scored a touchdown with 2:49 left for the winning margin after the South team had tied the game at 12 about two minutes earlier in the quarter.

North led 12-0 at halftime. Quigley, a tight end, was not targeted for a pass during the game but helped pave the way for North's 137 rushing yards and an average of 4.3 yards per carry.

Quigley was a first-team all-Bay Conference selection following his senior season after catching 37 passes for a team-leading 643 yards and five touchdowns. He was an honorable mention all-conference selection as a junior.



Photo by Doug Sasse

Former Winneconne standout Jack Quigley seals off a defender with a key block during the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Small School all-star game at Titan Stadium in Oshkosh on Saturday.

Quigley was just the third Winneconne player to participate in the all-star games since 2017 joining Joshua Grignon (2023) and Jacob Omitt (2019).

The win in the Small School game helped North teams earn a sweep of the all-star games. The North squad won the 8-player game, 53-32, on Friday night and

then collected a 28-6 win in the Large School game.

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<p><b>THIS SPACE AVAILABLE</b> CALL <b>582-4541</b></p>	<p><b>TJC Home Improvements &amp; Painting</b> Quality work at a price you can afford</p> <p>(920) 420-4741 Thomas J Crain tjhomere modeling@aol.com</p>	<p><b>SBS Plumbing, Inc.</b></p> <p>• Residential • Commercial • Industrial</p> <p>New Construction, Remodel &amp; Service Derek Schaffer Master Plumber/President-MP#665479</p> <p>4717 Gray Wolf Dr. Oshkosh, WI 54904 SBSPlumbing.net</p> <p>Phone: 920.230.5933 Toll Free: 877.230.5933 Fax: 920.230.3657</p>	<p><b>Elizabeth Lee Franzen</b> 920-279-1233 gogreenwithbeth@yahoo.com elizabethleefranzen.norwex.biz Facebook.com/ElizabethLeeFranzen Independent Consultant Norwex</p> <p><b>Norwex</b> Independent Consultant</p>	
<p><b>Kelly Gross</b> PAINTING FREE ESTIMATES INSURED 920-379-4028</p> <p>• Interior • Deck Staining • Exterior • Pressure Washing</p>	<p><b>THIS SPACE AVAILABLE</b> CALL <b>582-4541</b></p>	<p><b>JOE &amp; ED'S WINDOW CLEANING SERVICES</b></p> <p>920-215-0082 Admin@JoeandEdsWindowCleaning.com</p> <p>Pressure/Soft Washing Gutter Cleaning • Roof Cleaning</p>	<p><b>LOWER or ELIMINATE YOUR FEES!</b></p> <p><b>CARD CONCEPTS</b> merchant services</p> <p><b>Point of Sale FREETERMINAL</b> Travis@cardconceptsinc.com www.cardconceptsinc.com</p> <p>TRAVIS ROGERS (920) 882-6680 (920) 252-0201</p>	
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<p><b>VERICH LAW, LLC</b></p> <p>Estate Planning • Probate • Guardianship • Elder Law • Small Business Advising • Real Estate • Tax Preparation</p> <p>Jillayne Y. Verich jverich@verichlaw.com (920) 810-7480 Downtown Winneconne</p>	<p><b>Ludwig's Plumbing</b> Since 1960</p> <p>Serving Winneconne &amp; Butte des Morts</p> <p>920-231-5770</p> <p>Water HEATERS • Water SOFTENERS • Sump PUMPS • Well SYSTEMS</p>	<p><b>RYF HEATING &amp; AIR CONDITIONING INC.</b></p> <p>240 W. Main - Winneconne</p> <p><b>Sales &amp; Service</b> • Installation • Residential • Commercial • Gas • Oil</p> <p>1-866-793-HEAT (4328)</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p><b>FATHER AND SONS</b></p> <p>Looking for lawns to mow, yards to clean up, bush pruning, light tree pruning, junk disposal, snow removal &amp; other odd jobs! Fully insured, free estimates, fast response times. We are your neighbors, not some high-priced company!</p> <p>Call or text with any questions you may have : 920-376-0389</p>	

# Church Notes

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
 210 Pleasant Drive  
 Winneconne  
 Priest Celebrants  
 Fr. Tom Long  
 and Fr. Ben Pribbenow  
 Deacon Paul Vidmar, Pastoral Coordinator  
 Thursday: 2 p.m. – Rosary  
 Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Mass/Fellowship.  
 Monday: 7:30 a.m. - LOW w/communion.  
 Wednesday: 7:30 a.m. - LOW w/communion.

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

**Lord of the Lakes**  
 (ELCA) Church

6090 Harbour South  
 Winneconne  
 Pastor Kevin Heffernan  
 Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - Bible Study.  
 Sunday: 8 and 10 a.m. - Worship.  
 Monday: 5 p.m. - Narcotics Anonymous.  
 Wednesday: 6 p.m. – Swag Youth Group.

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
 8 South Fourth Street  
 Winneconne  
 Pastor Ben Berger  
 Pastor Darin Warnecke  
 920-582-7772  
 Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study.  
 Saturday: 4:30 p.m. – Worship Service.  
 Sunday: 8 and 10:30 a.m. – Worship Service.  
 9:10 a.m. - Bible Study.  
 Monday: Contemporary music practice.

**St. Peter's Lutheran Church, WELS**  
 8630 County Road MM

Larsen  
 Pastor Paul Ibisch  
 920-878-3001  
 Sundays: 10 a.m. - Service w/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  
 Sundays: 8:30 a.m. - Sunday Services.  
 Services are livestreamed on Facebook/recordings uploaded to YouTube.

**Bible Baptist Church**  
 At First Presbyterian Church  
 32 S. Third Avenue  
 Winneconne  
 Pastor Robert Hatch  
 920-582-7100

Sundays: 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School.  
 Noon - 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 a.m. - Regular Sunday Worship, with Fellowship to Follow  
 Wednesday Prime Service  
 Wednesday Bible Study

**AA and Al-Anon**  
 St. Mary Church Basement  
 Thursday: 7 p.m. - Al-Anon.  
 Please refer to the district website for available AA meetings in the area.

## Lunch Menus

**July 28-Aug. 1**  
**Advocap Lunch Menu**  
**Winneconne Meal Site**  
**920-517-0950**  
**For information or meal reservations, please call by 12:30 p.m. a day in advance**

**Monday:** Kielbasa. Sauerkraut. Baked Beans. Fresh Orange.

**Tuesday:** Frozen. Chili with Pasta. Saltine Crackers. Carrots. Pineapple Tidbits. Corn Bread.

**Wednesday:** Chili Mango Chicken. Sour Cream and Chive Potatoes. Broccoli. Mandarin Oranges.

**Thursday:** Frozen. Beef Stew. Green Beans. Grape Juice.

**Friday:** Not yet available.

## Classifieds

### Miscellaneous

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## Calendar

**Thursday, July 24**  
 EAA AirVenture continues in Oshkosh through July 27.  
 Pop-Up Programming - Rain & Find n Seek Sticks, 1 p.m., Public Library  
 Boys Youth Summer Camp, 2 p.m., WHS Gym  
 Volleyball Open Gym, 5 p.m., WHS  
 WYDC practice, 5 p.m. WHS Varsity Softball Diamond

**Friday, July 25**  
 Volleyball Girls HS MS Open Gym, 9 a.m., WHS Gym

**Saturday, July 26**  
 Adult Basketball, 6:30 a.m., WHS Gym  
 Winneconne Community School District Golf Outing, 10 a.m., Lake Breeze Golf Club

Fin 'n' Feather Public Cruise Night, 5 p.m.  
**Sunday, July 27**  
 Volleyball Open Gym, 11 a.m., WHS  
 Historical Society Museum open, noon-4 p.m., Marble Park

**Monday, July 28**  
 Palettes of Pages Storytime with Miss Jackie- Buttons & Yarn, 10:30 a.m., Public Library  
 WYDC 12U Softball Practice, 6:30 p.m., WHS Varsity Softball Diamond

**Tuesday, July 29**  
 Colorful Creations - Button Art, 1 p.m., Public Library

**Wednesday, July 30**  
 The News is out. Subscribe today at winneconnenews.com.  
 Movie Day – Paddington in Peru, 1 p.m., Public Library

**Got News?**  
 Call  
**920-582-4541**

PUBLIC HEARING  
 TOWN OF WINNECONNE BOARD OF APPEALS  
 WINNECONNE TOWN HALL  
 6494 CTY RD M, WINNECONNE, WI 54986  
 THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025  
 4:00 p.m.  
 THE BOARD OF APPEALS  
 WILL CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING REQUEST  
 VARIANCE APPLICATION  
 TO CONSTRUCT A DETACHED GARAGE WITH A  
 HEIGHT OF 27 FEET RATHER THAN 18 FEET

Property Owner: Chris Rye  
 Address: 7288 Quigley Rd  
 Tax Parcel No.: 030-0259-01

All interested persons wishing to be heard are invited to the Public Hearing. Members of the Board of Appeals are encouraged to visit the site prior to the hearing.

Katie Harter  
 Zoning Administrator

Published Date 7/16/25; 7/23/25  
 WNAXLP

Wolf River Town Hall  
 8800 County Road II  
 PO Box 338  
 Fremont, WI 54940  
 Phone: 920-446-3837  
 FAX: 920-446-2491

Town of Wolf River Board Meeting  
 Will be held on  
 Monday, July 28, 2025, 7:00 p.m.  
 Wolf River Town Hall  
 8800 County Road II, Fremont

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED**

Notices are mailed or e-mailed by the clerk for posting at the following locations: Union Star, Hahn-a-Lula Resort and are posted at the Wolf River Town Hall, and Fremont Post Office.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Susan J. Gilbert, Clerk

Published July 23, 2025  
 WNAXLP



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# Sovereign State Days

Winneconne News

This year's Sovereign State Days celebration with the theme "the Lost City of Winneconne – Sovereign State Under the Sea" included many traditional activities including a parade along Main Street on Saturday morning. The event also included some new activities such as minnow racing at Marble Park. It was a weekend where people could gather with their families and friends to enjoy music, food, arts and crafts and games.



Photo from Doug Sasse



Photo from Doug Sasse



Photo from Doug Sasse



Photo from Doug Sasse



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Photo from Doug Sasse