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Local area becomes site for movie filming

By Anya Kelley
Winneconne News

What do you get when you have a small-town pharmacist looking to expand his business and an empty bank at the edge of Winneconne? A heist movie.

Ken Bressers, the owner of Omro Pharmacy, had been working with realtors for days and hadn't found anything fit for his business. As another day was coming to a close, one of his pharmacists asked if the old bank was for sale.

"We took a walk over there and the next day we called; we looked at it, I was kind of doubly excited," Bressers said. "I really

wanted to buy it for the pharmacy, but I was also excited about the really cool looking safes and the fact that it still looked like a bank."

Bressers called Simon Phillips, a friend who also happens to be an award winning British actor, and told him he had a place for their next project together. Phillips visited Winneconne to check out the location, and soon after got started working on the script with film director Jamie Bailey. That's how the Omro Heist was born.

Bressers has lived in Omro for almost 30 years and as the owner of the pharmacy, he wanted to combine the two things

to make a movie. While the movie is set in Omro, most of it was filmed in Winneconne.

"We had to cheat a little bit and tell people that the bank is in Omro," Bressers said. "I apologize to the people of Winneconne, but I'm sure they understand."

"Ken wants to be the most famous person in Omro," Phillips said.

As filming began, locals became intrigued. Bailey said that when you bring an entire film crew to a small town, "it's kind of like the circus arrived." The crew began

SEE **Omro Heist** ON PAGE 8

INSIDE



Library hosts group
of special guests
Page 3

Football coaches
add new title
Page 12



Photo by Doug Sasse

Rainy day

Rain showers on Sunday didn't stop the Lions of Butte des Morts from holding the 50th Annual Carp Fest. Family-friendly entertainment included raffles, music, face painting, carp chowder, corn, brats and burgers, a slide and bounce house and carnival games. Funds raised from the event go to support a variety of organizations.

Sheriff's office shares county's ICE stats

By Jonathan Richie
Winneconne News

Recent data from the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office shows the department is working with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency following an agreement between the departments.

The agreement between the county and ICE primarily allows the sheriff's office

to detain individuals for up to 48 hours as they wait for ICE to pick them up. The 287(g) agreement was signed in March by Winnebago County Sheriff John Matz and former acting director of ICE Caleb Vitello.

This year, between Jan. 1 and July 18, the sheriff's office reported 2,105 total bookings into the Winnebago County Jail, 126 of them were born outside of the United

States. ICE was notified about 88 individuals. A detainer was placed on eight individuals, six of whom were turned over to ICE, and the other two were transferred to another agency.

Matz on Aug. 4 addressed during a Judiciary and Public Safety committee meeting when and why the county notifies ICE. The person has to have committed a jailable offense, he said. This does not

include something like a broken taillight during a traffic stop, but it would include crimes like battery or a second drunk driving offense.

When the person is being booked into Winnebago County Jail, Matz said jail staff will notify ICE about the person under two circumstances. The first is if the indi-

SEE **Ice Numbers** ON PAGE 6

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Sarah Ruiz
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Publisher
Karen Schneider, 920-858-6407
karen@oshkoshherald.com

Editor
Chris Lusvardi, 920-508-0027
editor@oshkoshherald.com

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Submitted photo
Brian Brooks and Sydney LaCroix of Jorgie's Bar & Grill in Borth present a \$4,500 check raised during the Jorgie's Summer UTV Ride. Funds will benefit Journey Together Service Dog, Fox Valley Veterans Council and H.O.O.A.H. Wisconsin.

Legion supports Jorgie's UTV ride for veterans

Winneconne News
The Giles-Luce American Legion Post 364 supported the annual Jorgie's Summer UTV Ride held on July 12. The Legion said this fun and meaningful event brought together riders from across the area for a day of scenic trail riding, camaraderie and community support — all with the goal of raising funds for local veterans programs. Thanks to the generosity of Jorgie's in Borth and all the ride participants, the Le-

gion said this year's event raised \$4,500. The funds will be divided among three impactful organizations that serve our area's veterans: Journey Together Service Dog, Fox Valley Veterans Council and H.O.O.A.H. Wisconsin. Lunch during the event was provided by the Winneconne American Legion, and riders enjoyed a great day on the trails thanks to careful route planning and coordination. "We're incredibly thankful to Jorgie's

for organizing this ride again and for everyone who came out to support our veterans," the Legion said in a statement. "These donations go a long way in helping those who have served our country."

Church to host ice cream social, raffle

Winneconne News
An ice cream social and raffle will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday at St. Thomas, Poygan, 5753 Church Road. Mass will follow at 6 p.m. Friends of St. Thomas is inviting the community to view the progress of current renovations donated by Dowling Construction. They will serve custard and offer raffle items. Visitors are invited to tour the church and cemetery while exchanging church history and family stories.

Deadline approaching for fall gun deer hunt for hunters with disabilities

Winneconne News
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said eligible hunters hoping to participate in the Gun Deer Hunt For Hunters With Disabilities should contact and confirm a location with a hunt landowner sponsor before Sept. 15. Thousands of acres of land are available for this year's hunt, which will take place Oct. 4 to Oct. 12. Hunters should contact sponsors directly to participate in the 2025 hunt. Some properties can accommodate more hunters than others, so hunters are advised to contact potential sponsors as early as possible to determine availability. To sign up for a hunt, hunters or assistants should provide their name, contact information and DNR customer ID number. To be eligible, hunters must possess a valid Class A, C or D disabled permit or qualifying Class B permit. Eligible hunters may sign up for one sponsored property per year and must possess a gun deer license. For more information, visit dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/hunt/disdeer.

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Photo from Winneconne Public Library

Visitors enjoyed a variety of activities during a weekend at the Winneconne Public Library's stuffed animal summer camp.



Photo from Winneconne Public Library

Winneconne Police Chief Ben Sauriol reads to a group of campers who were spending time at the library.

Library invites special guests for summer camp

By Anya Kelley
Winneconne News

The Winneconne Public Library hosted Stuffed Animal Summer Camp as part of their summer event series July 31 through Aug. 4.

Five years ago, Library Director Amanda O'Neal and Library Clerk Linda Tipler held the same event for about 12 stuffed animals. This year, the library hosted 58 guests. They closed the back lounge and set up forest backgrounds, a tent, created a

river made from blue paper and used a donated boat-shaped shelf to make the summer camp come alive. Photos were shared with scenes from camp on the library's Facebook page.

"We got a lot of great feedback from parents and grandparents saying how much fun it was just for the kids to watch," O'Neal said. "So, I tried to stagger our posts so that the kids would be able to go on with mom and dad and check to see what they were doing that day."

O'Neal said the kids who participated ranged from very young to 12 years old. One girl asked O'Neal to remember to feed her animal.

"I'm like, 'oh my gosh,' so Linda was like, 'we have to have at least one picture with her eating something,'" O'Neal said.

Campers had their photos taken and each one was given a nametag to take home with a goodie bag. O'Neal brought large stuffed animals from her niece that functioned as the camp counselors that

greeted kids as they picked up their campers on Aug. 4.

O'Neal said the event was so successful they are planning another stuffed animal sleepover for over the winter. This time, it will likely be Christmas themed.

To see all of the pictures from Stuffed Animal Summer Camp or to view the library's calendar of events, visit Winneconne Public Library on Facebook.



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Ambulance board discusses possible station locations

By Anya Kelley
Winneconne News

The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Ambulance Board met Aug. 7 to discuss possible locations for two stations to house ambulance crews, vehicles and supplies.

The board decided that one location will be located in the City of Omro. It's considered a central area and allows an ambulance to be housed closest to the Village of Winneconne and the City of Omro, which have the highest call volume. The second location will be located further south to help cover the Town of Black Wolf, the Town of Nekimi and others.

Originally, the board was discussing plans to renovate a building on Superior Street in Omro that housed an ambulance in the 1990s. LifeStar EMS, the selected service provider, went to the location to take measurements and determined it was not an idea space.

Brandon Hennes, the Omro city administrator, said the space currently houses public works equipment. To make the space work for LifeStar, three of the existing bays would need to be used and the city has no other place for storage.

Now, the city has pivoted to the empty Dollar General on Main Street. The loading bays in the back are high enough to accommodate an ambulance and there is enough space inside to potentially house two full EMS crews. Renovation estimates for that building are coming in around six figures.

Mike Krueger, the EMS operation consultant, said he likes this location better than Superior Street.

An old veterinary office has also been in consideration, but as of now, the building would likely be leased from the owner and cost the city around \$6,000 per month. It would also require renovations that are not factored in with the monthly rent.

Dana Wood, assistant secretary of the board, said she cautions against paying for renovations on a building they would not own.

The last feasible option is a 46-acre parcel of land currently owned by a family in the area. Wood said she has been in contact with the owner about purchasing one acre to use for new construction.

Rick Fisher of Fisher & Associates LLC said he would be willing to do part of the



The Ambulance Board has been considering various sites, including a garage on Superior Street and an old Dollar General on Main Street, to potentially house EMS crews.

project for free and sent in plans for a station he built in Waupaca. Wood said the landowner seems preliminarily interested and is working up a price.

The board has until Jan. 1 to have at least one ambulance up and running. State approvals, audits and buildings can take anywhere from three to six months, so the board is looking for a place to temporarily house an ambulance to avoid paying fees to expedite the project.

Jay Treleven, the Omro/Rushford joint fire department chief, said he would call a special meeting with his crew to vote on allowing an ambulance to use one of their

bays temporarily.

"The firemen own the fire station," Treleven said. "So, I need to go to a meeting and make a proposal to 40 guys."

If the firemen do not pass the vote, the Town of Utica has an old fire station that could potentially be used as a temporary location. However, that building would require some renovations as it no longer has useable restrooms.

During a different meeting, the Winnebago County Personnel and Finance Committee on Aug. 7 approved an additional \$24,000 for an ambulance feasibility study to be conducted. Last fiscal year,

the committee approved \$40,000 for the study; however, the lowest bid they received was \$60,000. A total of \$64,000 is needed to run the study, and the \$24,000 will just cover those expenses.

Frank Frassetto, the ambulance board chairman, said he hopes that the study will be beneficial to the IGA's new EMS district called the Southern Winnebago EMS District.

The ambulance board has scheduled two more meetings this month. A meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Town of Omro town hall and on Aug. 27 at the same time and in the same location.

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Shallow Lakes Chronicles

Banding together

By Matt Harp
Outdoor Reporter

The alarm screamed out at 3 a.m. – not a common occurrence in my retired years, and certainly not in August. Today was my first duck hunt of the season, and I was excited to be part of the action again.



Harp

I would return home around 10 a.m. after having brought in a mixture of 72 Mallards and Wood Ducks. We should have had more, but isn't that always the case? Let me explain

before you call 1-800-TIP-WDNR.

Each year, about this time the DNR captures and bands ducks to help to assess their population. I was with a group at Collins Marsh, just southeast of Brillion. The ducks are just becoming flighted, after



Photo from Matt Harp

A band being placed on the leg of an adult Mallard.



Photo from Matt Harp

DNR staff and volunteers removing ducks from the catch net at Collins Marsh.

molting feathers and young-of-the-year birds growing in their first feathers.

DNR staff from other field offices join in on the round-up, but they also need some additional hands and ask volunteers to help. About 20 of us got up and navigated the fog of this morning and put a good dent in the 800-bird target that they try to band each year.

"We shoot for 750 Mallards and 50 wood ducks each year," commented Steven Easterly, a wildlife biologist for the area. "The fog made for a later shot, but we got a good number of birds for the second week."

The "shot" he is referring to is when a 20 x 60 net is shot over the top of ducks that are feeding on corn cobs used as bait. OK, it wasn't really a hunt, but it was good to get up early, take in a sunrise afield and watch hundreds of ducks land in front of me.

It's a good thing Lu, the wonder dog, wasn't there; she would have lost it.

Reach Matt at
lakeandpond2@gmail.com

Worship service tradition continues in the park

Winneconne News

Winneconne Christian Fellowship Associate Pastor Patrick Plashko felt welcomed to the community after experiencing his first Sunset Worship Service in the Park to conclude the 58th annual Sovereign States Days.

"While this event has been an ongoing tradition for many in Winneconne, it was my first," Plashko said. "This has been a season of learning, new experiences, and meeting many new people. One of the striking features of this time has been how strongly I have been welcomed into this church."

After the SS Days weekend, Plashko said he sees that this is a trait that is shared with the larger community of Winneconne.

"In participating in this event, the first thing that struck me was the joy exhibited by each new person I met, as they were eager to share what they loved about this annual service," he said.

The service this year included 65 attendees from area churches including Lord of the Lakes, First Presbyterian, Winneconne Christian Fellowship and Community Church.

Plashko said the service this year brought a theme of community and hope, featuring opportunities to learn more about each church as they shared selections of scripture and songs of worship that held importance to them.

"I learned that this built on sharing that had been a highlight from last year, and I saw how the representatives who shared were passionate about what they read and



Submitted photo

A group from local churches gathered July 20 for the Sunset Worship Service in the Park to conclude the 58th Annual Sovereign States Days.

how it expressed part of their calling," he said.

In addition to this sharing, the group also heard a message of hope for the lost from Evangelist Chris Lee of Winneconne Christian Fellowship. With a nod to Winneconne's unique history and reason for the Sovereign State Days celebration, Lee highlighted how "our God sees and cares for all who are lost or have felt overlooked and looks to bring them into community," Plashko said.

As the service came to a close, Plashko saw how this gathering of churches showcased a welcoming community.

"Members from the different churches continued to connect with each other, and a sense of joy permeated the conversations all around," he said. "I heard from many how they hope to see more opportunities like this and are looking forward to next year's Sunset Service in the Park."

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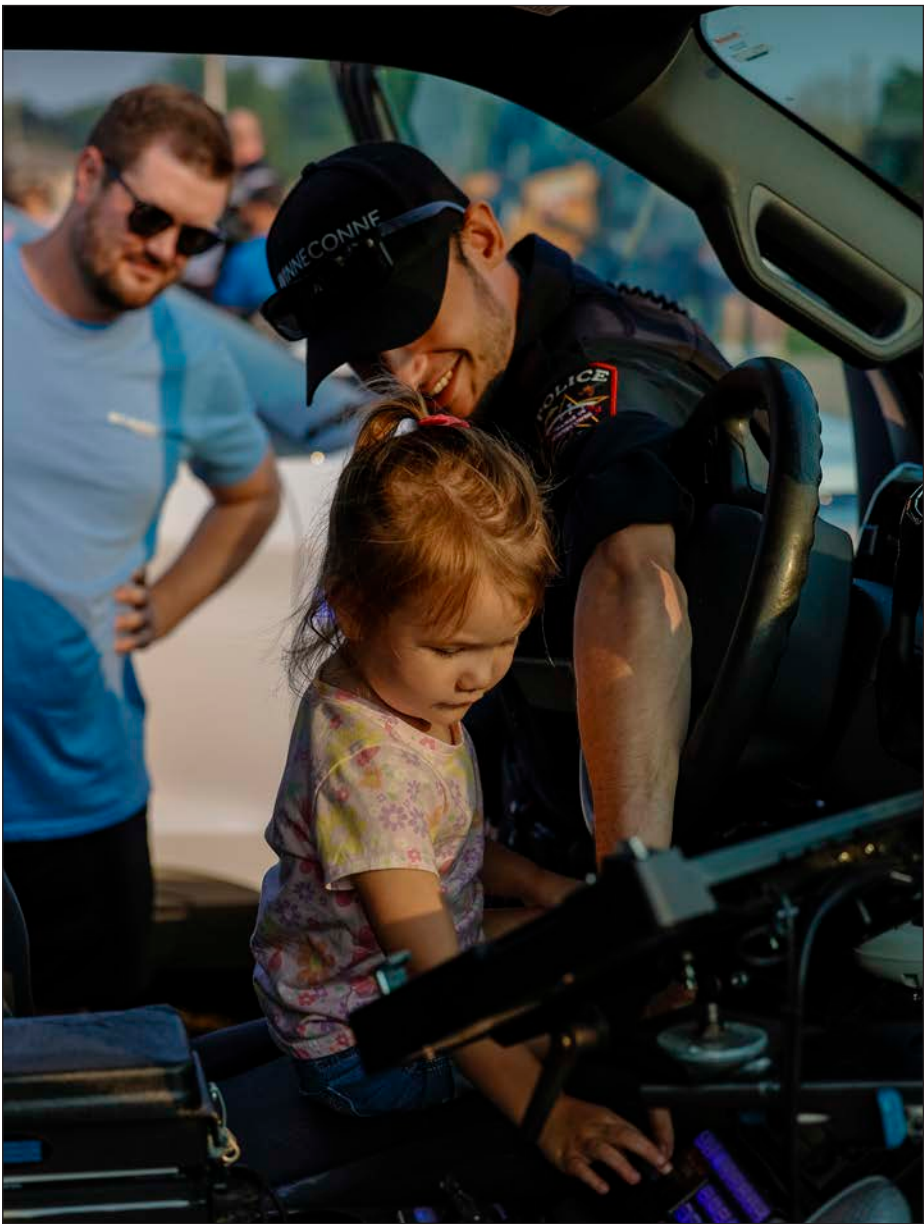


Photo by Doug Sasse

Community connections

The Winneconne Police Department organized a National Night Out event Aug. 5 at Marble Park. Other organizations, including Winneconne Poygan Fire Department, Winneconne Department of Public Works, Theda Star, Department of Corrections, Winneconne Public Library and Omro Police Department, participated in the event. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes partnerships between police and the community.

Woman charged after June traffic stop

Winneconne News

A Monroe County woman who Winneconne Police pulled over in June has been charged with multiple drug-related offenses.

According to Police Chief Ben Sauriol, the vehicle Dawn N. Folkers, 44, was driving was stopped June 11 on Wolf Run near Winneconne High School. Sauriol said at the time, “We understand the location of the traffic stop was inconvenient to some but the vehicle needed to be stopped immediately.”

Sauriol said the sole occupant and operator of the vehicle said she came to the Village of Winneconne to go “fishing” or so she had told an officer. The officer noted the Volkens had passed by several fishing areas in Winneconne, but that there is not a fishing area near the high school or parking lot.

Before she was stopped at around 2:55 p.m., the officer scanned Folkers’ plates after she had come within close proximity to another vehicle, almost causing an accident. The police had received a reckless driving complaint around the same time.

According to the criminal complaint, the officer who made the stop noticed the vehicle because its front end appeared as though it had hit something and the owner appeared to have used bungee cords to hold the front end together and keep the hood down.

Sauriol said the officer conducted a search of the vehicle and found out the driver was on active probation for five prior felony convictions, including for

the manufacture and delivery of methamphetamine. The officer noticed contents of the vehicle that were in plain-view included several bags, clothes, grocery bags and torch-style lighters commonly used for smoking illicit substances.

Police in a later search of the vehicle allegedly found a small gem baggie with a brown granular substance weighing 0.52 grams, with packaging, in the trunk. The brown granular substance later tested positive for fentanyl. Police also found two digital scales, \$341 in cash, \$18.04 worth of coins, 34 lottery tickets, a purple cell phone and a pill bottle containing 55 pills. The pills were found to be four different types of medication.

The Winnebago County District Attorney’s Office has since completed their review of the case and Folkers was charged with each of the five charges the police department requested, Sauriol said.

The charges for repeat offenses include possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine between 10-50 g with a modifier of possession with intent to deliver/distribute a controlled substance on or near a school. Other counts include possession of narcotic drugs (fentanyl), felony bail jumping, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of an illegally obtained prescription.

Sauriol said Folkers is currently detained at the Monroe County Jail awaiting a probation revocation hearing for other cases still pending. She is scheduled for an initial appearance in Winnebago County Circuit Court on Monday in the case.



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Ice Numbers

FROM PAGE 1

vidual cannot be matched to a person in the system and the other is if the person is in the country illegally.

Matz said this includes individuals under removal proceedings or someone who has been previously removed from the country with no legal re-entry.

He said these numbers show that ICE is not in Winnebago County rounding up individuals at restaurants or manufacturing facilities as is being reported in larger cities across the nation since the Trump Administration took steps to increase immigration enforcement.

“We turned people over to ICE in the past and never gave it a thought until January when all this, y’know ... hoopla started. And everybody is all upset about what is happening,” Matz said. “It’s been happening for a long time.”

Matz started working with the department in the county jail in 1999 and stated the department has been transferring individuals to ICE for as long as he remembers.

ICE data going back six years shows that between 2019 and 2024 the department

made 102 notifications to ICE. Matz explained to the Judiciary and Public Safety committee that the records for transferring individuals to ICE records were never maintained.

Matz called it as common as when individuals are transferred to Brown County or Milwaukee County departments.

He compared working with ICE to working with any other federal agency the sheriff’s office collaborates with including the FBI to track terrorists and the FBI internet crimes against children task force.

“We have worked with (the FBI) with people who maybe wanted to harm our country or the people within our country. That happens,” Matz said. “You don’t want me to stop doing that. This is no different.”

ACLU Wisconsin published a report in July titled “The Jail-to-Deportation Pipeline in Wisconsin” that addresses the 287(g) agreements that 13 law enforcement agencies have signed with ICE.

The report states there are around 162,000 immigrants living in the state who are not yet U.S. citizens. This year as of June 10, over 1,000 people have been detained under the 287(g) agreements across Wisconsin.

“Being booked into a county jail in Wis-

consin very often starts a process that can end in deportation, even for minor violations, and even before conviction of a crime,” the report states.

Winnebago County Supervisor James Ponzer sits on the Judiciary and Public Safety committee and asked Matz why these people were detained. Matz responded that they were jailable offenses.

Matz admitted he doesn’t know the criteria ICE uses for who is taken into ICE custody after being notified by the sheriff’s office. He stated that he believes the people of the county elected him to do this job.

“We’re working with a federal law enforcement agency,” he said. “There have been no reports of going into restaurants, going into public places, going into businesses (to arrest people), that’s not happened here.”

Matz added these checks on individuals to see if ICE needs to be notified is only happening in the jail. Deputies are not conducting street checks on people and notifying ICE of any individuals who have not committed an offense that would land them in county jail.

“They have to have committed a jailable offense,” Matz said.

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Photo from Winnebago County Land & Water Conservation Department
A Soil Health Field Day will be held Aug. 21 at Todd Messerschmidt's farm to provide information about conservation practices and weed management.

Field day to showcase soil health, waterhemp management practices

Winneconne News

Grain farmer Todd Messerschmidt will host a Soil Health Field Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 21 at his farm, located at the corner of Wisconsin Highway 44 and County Road FF in Oshkosh.

The event, organized by the Winnebago County Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD), is designed to share innovative, research-based practices for waterhemp management and soil conservation with farmers, landowners, and community members. Lunch will be provided for those who RSVP by calling 920-232-1952.

Messerschmidt is an active participant in the Soil Health Challenge, a county-led initiative that supports farmers in implementing and evaluating conservation practices aimed at improving soil structure, reducing runoff, and boosting long-term productivity.

He operates his family's corn and soybean farm and has been working with LWCD staff to address erosion issues that were creating gullies in some of his fields. Since adopting no-till practices — which minimize soil disturbance by eliminating traditional plowing — Messerschmidt has seen improvement in soil stability and water retention. As part of the Soil Health Challenge, he is now also incorporating cover crops, which are planted between growing seasons to protect and enrich the soil.

Field Day topics will include:

- Effective strategies for managing waterhemp and palmer amaranth.
- Combine cleanout practices to limit weed seed spread.
- A producer-led discussion with the Muddy Bottom Farmers Watershed Group and Pheasants Forever.
- The benefits of legume cover crops for soil health and savings.
- An update on the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP).
- An overview of the Soil Health Challenge and its countywide impact.

Winnebago County LWCD staff encourage area farmers, landowners and conservation partners to attend, ask questions and explore how these strategies could benefit their own operations.

Winneconne Public Library

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HOURS:
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Tue 9am-6:00pm
Wed 9am-4:30pm
Thu 9am-4:30pm
Fri 9am-4:30pm
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Winneconne News
The Winneconne-Poygan Fire District and Winnebago County Sheriff's Department have partnered on a new search and rescue airboat.

Fire district adds new search and rescue airboat

By Anya Kelley
Winneconne News

After 20 years in service, the Winneconne-Poygan Fire District is retiring its Huskey airboat for a 24-foot search and rescue airboat from 1000 Island.

Fashioned with a large fan on the back and a flat bottom, it will be used for rescues out on frozen lakes and shallow, marshy areas. The boat was purchased by the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, which will also maintain it.

The boat will be operated by specially trained personnel from the Winneconne-Poygan Fire District. Since the fire district is volunteer run, any of its firefighters can elect to participate in the airboat training.

"They're required to be able to show proficiency in driving the boat, getting it on and off the trailer, getting it from open water to ice," fire chief Kevin Allcox said. "That's just to operate the boat and then to do the rescues, that's a whole different set of training."

The fire district runs water rescues to Lake Winneconne, Lake Poygan, a portion of Lake Butte des Morts and certain points of Lake Winnebago to aid the City of Oshkosh.

The old boat will stay in service until there are enough people trained for the new one. Allcox said he doesn't have a cap for the number of people who can be trained, and he will take as many as possible.

"Because we're a volunteer department, we need to have any many people cross-trained as possible," Allcox said.

The sheriff's department will decide what to do with the old Huskey. Since it's still in good working order, Allcox said it will likely be sold to another municipality.

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Omro Heist

FROM PAGE 1

collecting people off the street to act as extras. Bailey recalled a lady in her 80s who stayed through an entire day of filming to be in the movie. The Omro police station and the Omro/Rushford fire district



Bressers

loaned cars and firetrucks. A fireman even makes a cameo in the film.

“We took his fire jacket and apparatus off of him and he became the locksmith that didn’t want to go [into the bank],” Bress-

ers said. “So, we used him, and he actually got a nice little talking role and he did a good job.”

Anthony Crivello, who plays Chief DW Johnson, said the cooperation from everyone in both Omro and Winneconne was fantastic, exactly what any director could hope for.

“Not only are they cooperative, they’re just trying to really help you out,” he said.

The cast and crew had eight days to get everything right. With the time constraints and low budget, moments of serendipity are crucial to making the film come alive.

“My goal is to try to make it feel like it’s really happening,” Bailey said. “That you’re almost seeing a documentary.”

Unplanned moments like an extra falling during a fight scene or an actress getting nervous when her lines were changed last minute made all the difference when

Bailey made the final cut.

“As long as it doesn’t mess up continuity of something we’ve already done ... we’re always looking for the best idea in the room,” Phillips said. “So, a lot of people’s favorite moments are actually kind of unscripted moments that Jamie comes up with or I come up with on the day.”

Phillips said that filming a movie in eight days isn’t for the faint of heart. The actors had to nail 20 pages of script on the day of, and there isn’t time for redoes.

“Simon throws all these lines at me,” Bressers said. “I’m an old man and I’m sitting there, and you can go through it. I’m right on my line [but] Simon’s making stuff up in the middle of everything and the whole crew is standing around waiting to go to lunch. So, there’s a lot of pressure.”

Phillips laughed and said Bressers had a great time during the filming process. The two have made 10 films together before the Omro Heist.

“When you make these kinds of movies, it’s been my experience that the people that show up, no one’s there for the money first of all, because there isn’t any or very little, no one’s coming for the free lunch,”

Phillips said. “They’re coming because they love movies. They’re coming because they have a passion, and they want to be a part of it. And I find when you put a group of people like that together, that’s where a bit of magic will happen and that’s how we can make a movie in eight days.”

The movie was shown during a preview screening at Marcus Theatres in Oshkosh. Bressers and Crivello used it to gauge how audiences were perceiving the film. Back in the lobby after the showing was done, they took notes on what people liked and didn’t like, sending them to Bailey for another round of edits. The final cut was produced and shown at the Avalon Atmospheric Theatre in Milwaukee. At the 2024 Milwaukee Independent Film Festival, the Omro Heist won best feature, and Phillips was awarded best actor.

The Omro Heist is available to stream on Amazon Prime, Apple TV, Google Play and Fandango. To see social media posts and interact with the film, search the hashtag #theomroheist on Facebook or Instagram.

Winneconne Car Show draws large crowd, support

Winneconne News

The 2025 Winneconne Car Show hosted by the Winneconne Road Runners Aug. 2 at Marble Park included over 200 cars in the show and an estimated total attendance of 1,000 car enthusiasts.

Event organizer Mike Heider said business sponsors from Winneconne and the surrounding areas helped the event raise over \$10,000 to support scholarships to Winneconne youth entering the trades. He said the event combined a car show, craft fair and job fair into one event that drew participants from throughout the area.

Heider added the car show featured a huge variety of beautiful cars, from 1930 Model A’s to a Bugatti, a Bentley, Corvettes, Mustangs, Camaros, and muscle cars of all kinds. The show had 16 classes that were voted on by the participants and

spectators. Winners in each class receive hand-made trophies assembled from a variety of engine parts and “are clearly one of the biggest attractions of the show,” Heider said.

“While it’s great to see all these beautiful cars, it’s even more rewarding to see so many businesses and individuals within our greater community come out and financially support our efforts to provide scholarships to Winneconne youth that want to pursue a career in the trades,” said Jeff Wicinsky, president of the Winneconne Road Runners and owner of Lazer Car Wash.

The 2025 scholarship recipients are Tyler LeBoutan, Owyn Zanto and Taylor Noffke, who will each be attending Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC).

Next year’s show is set for Aug. 1, 2026.



Photo by Doug Sasse

This year’s Winneconne Car Show attracted 1,000 people who could take a look at over 200 cars.

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BACK to SCHOOL FAIR

Sheriff's office mourns retired K9's passing

By Jonathan Richie
Winneconne News

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office and the community are mourning the passing of retired K9 Tim who served in the department for more than 10 years before retiring in spring 2024.

The sheriff's office announced Tim's passing last week on social media. The Facebook post received over 1,200 reactions, including over 100 comments sharing condolences to the sheriff's office and thanking Tim for his service.

K9 Tim, a German Shepherd, was a dual-purpose K9 unit, meaning he was trained in narcotics detection and apprehension. He was also trained in tracking, building searches, area searches and handler protection.

K9 Tim was 2 1/2 years old when he came to the sheriff's office in 2013. He began working with deputy Clint Czerwinski before he was reassigned to work with his handler of over 10 years, Lt. Kyle Schoonover.

Schoonover said K9 Tim was a great dog and a great partner. He added working with Tim was an honor, a blessing and definitely a career highlight.

"Tim was intense and fearless, a true alpha dog. He loved to work," he said. "He would get excited and start barking the second he heard me unbuckle my seatbelt or key up the mic, knowing he might get the chance to work."

K9 Tim never hesitated to put his own life on the line to protect Schoonover.

The sheriff's office said Tim eventually became the unofficial big brother to the



Sheriff's office photo

K9 Tim served with the Winnebago County Sheriff's office starting in 2013. He retired in March 2024 before passing away last week.

newer K9s in the department by showing them the ropes and how to act when working as a K9.

Schoonover and K9 Tim would often do demonstrations in schools and at countless public events. Schoonover loved those moments, especially the smiles it brought to children's faces.

"The last demo we did before he retired was at my kids' school; it's a memory I'll cherish forever," he said.

The sheriff's office currently has three dual-purpose K9s, one K9 specializing in explosives and a therapy K9.

"As with all of our K9's we are appreciative of their commitment to protecting our deputies and the citizens we serve. Regardless of the weather conditions, how much rest they've had or any other external factors they are always excited to work," Sheriff John Matz said.

In March 2024 the sheriff's office an-

nounced that after over 10 years of service Tim retired at home with the Schoonover family. In retirement, Tim thrived.

"He loved being outside with our kids," Schoonover recalled. "He was deeply loved by our family. He will be greatly missed and we will honor him forever."

"K9 Tim, W298. Rest easy buddy, I love you."

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
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Thursday: 7 p.m. - Al-Anon.
Please refer to the district website for available AA meetings in the area.

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Calendar

Thursday, Aug. 14 Horseshoe League Playoff, 6 p.m., The Hill Tavern, Poygan	Thomas, Poygan
Friday, Aug. 15 Winnebago County 4-H Geology Program, 1 p.m., Public Library The Plastic Knives, 6 p.m., Fin ‘n’ Feather	Sunday, Aug. 17 Historical Society Museum open, noon-4 p.m., Marble Park Jim ‘n’ Nancy, 2 p.m., Tilly’s Too Tavern
Saturday, Aug. 16 Adult Basketball, 6:30 a.m., WHS Gym Town of Clayton Fire Department Touch-a-Truck, 10 a.m., Trailhead Park, 8348 Hickory Ave., Larsen Winchester Elementary School Reunion, 10 a.m., 5270 Ann St., Winchester Rock River 2, 2 p.m., Fin ‘n’ Feather Ice Cream Social and Raffle, 4 p.m., St.	Monday, Aug. 18 Picture Day, 8 a.m., Winneconne Elementary School Large Gym End of Summer Grand Prize Drawing and Celebration, 10 a.m., Public Library
	Tuesday, Aug. 19 Adult Watercolor Painting (registration required), 5:30 p.m., Public Library
	Wednesday, Aug. 20 The News is out. Subscribe today at winneconnenews.com. Bike Night, 4 p.m., Village Pub

Lunch Menus

Aug. 18-22 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: Meatloaf. Scalloped Potatoes. Squash. Mandarin Oranges.	Tuesday: Frozen. Tator Tot Casserole with Mixed Vegetables. Candied Carrots. Mixed Fruit Cup. Wednesday: Hot Dog. Potato Salad. Baked Beans. Fresh Apple. Thursday: Frozen. Roast Beef. Mashed Potatoes. Broccoli. Diced Peaches. Friday: Creamy Chicken and Rice Soup. Romaine and Spinach Salad.
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Photo from Lions of Butte des Morts

Helping hand

Members of the Winneconne High School football team helped Aug. 6 with setting up for the Lions of Butte des Morts 50th Annual Carp Fest, which was held on Sunday. The team came out to help with some of the heavy lifting, putting up a tent, moving picnic tables and setting up tables and chairs in the pavilion.

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The Weekly Whisk

Copycat Noodles & Company Pesto Cavatappi

It’s Estella bringing you my next installment to my mother’s recipe column. I’ve always had a soft spot for the pesto cavatappi at Noodles & Company. There’s just something about that swirl of tender pasta coated in creamy, herby pesto, punctuated with bites of fresh tomato and mushrooms — it’s pure comfort food. But let’s be honest, dropping \$10–15 a pop for takeout adds up fast.

So I set out to recreate it at home — and honestly? This version hits all the same notes. It’s bright, cozy and adaptable enough to suit whatever you’ve got in the

fridge. You can easily add protein, toss in extra veggies, or keep it simple for a quick weeknight dinner or meal prep lunch. Either way, it’s a dish that delivers.

Ingredients
Serves 4–6

- 1 tablespoon salt (for pasta water)
- 1 pound cavatappi pasta (or any short, twisty pasta — gemelli or rotini work, too)
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 large tomato, cored and diced (or a handful of cherry tomatoes sliced in half)
- 4 ounces white button mushrooms, trimmed and sliced (optional, but worth it)
- ¼ cup chicken broth or vegetable broth
- ¼ cup heavy whipping cream

Winneconne Community School District Annual Notices

SPECIAL EDUCATION REFERRAL AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES
Upon request, the Winneconne Community School District is required to evaluate a child for eligibility for special education services. A request for evaluation is known as a referral. When the district receives a referral, the district will appoint an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to determine if the child has a disability, and if the child needs special education services. The district locates, identifies, and evaluates all children with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in private (including religious) schools, elementary schools and secondary schools located in the school district. A physician, nurse, psychologist, social worker, or administrator of a social agency who reasonably believes a child brought to him or her for services is a child with a disability has a legal duty to refer the child, including a homeless child, to the school district in which the child resides. Before referring the child, the person making the referral must inform the child’s parent that the referral will be made. Others, including parents, who reasonably believe a child is a child with a disability may also refer the child, including a homeless child, to the school district in which the child resides. Referrals must be in writing and include the reason why the person believes the child is a child with a disability. A referral may be made by contacting Laurin Dodd, Director of Pupil Services in the Winneconne Community School District at 920-582-0922, or by writing him/her at 233 S. Third Ave. Winneconne, WI 54986.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION
The Winneconne Community School District designates the following personally identifiable information contained in a student’s education record as “directory information,” and may be disclosed as permitted by FERPA without prior written consent as provided herein.

- The student’s name
- The student’s address
- The student’s telephone number
- The student’s date and place of birth
- The student’s major field of study
- The student’s participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- The student’s weight and height if a member of an athletic team
- The student’s dates of attendance
- The student’s digital image (photograph, video, etc.)
- The student’s degrees and awards received
- The student’s date of graduation
- Secondary student’s school email address

After the parents and/or students have been notified, they will have fourteen (14) days to advise the school’s principal in writing of any or all of the items they refuse to permit the district to designate as directory information about that student. School officials shall exercise discretion when releasing student information. Such release shall be in the best interest of the student and the school. School officials may routinely provide class lists of the information listed above only to schools, universities and the armed forces. This complies with FERPA and Wis. State § 118.125(1)(b). Parents/guardians and eligible students have the right to inspect and review education records under FERPA.

STUDENT RECORDS
An adult student (18 or older) or the parent/legal guardian of a student currently enrolled in the Winneconne Community School District has the right to:

- Inspect and review the student’s education records. The request to inspect and review the records must be made in writing to the respective school administrator/ designee. The adult student or parent or guardian of the student can make an appointment with the respective school administrator /designee for this inspection and review of the records subsequent to the school receiving the written request.
- Seek amendment of their own student records or their child’s student records that are believed to be inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights. The request to seek amendment of the records must be made in writing to the respective school administrator/designee.
- Consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and state law authorize disclosure without consent.

The Winneconne Community School District requires written permission from the adult student or parent or legal guardian of the student currently in attendance in the Winneconne Community School District to transfer that student’s educational records to another school district when the request to transfer the records is made prior to the student enrolling in another school district. If a request for educational records is made by another school district, the Winneconne Community School District will forward those records without consent from the adult student or parent or legal guardian of the student upon enrollment in that school district. The Winneconne Community School District shall disclose a student’s educational records to school officials within the district who have a legitimate educational interest in those records. District school officials including the Board of Education Members acting officially, who have a legitimate educational interest in a student’s educational records; include all professional staff and administrative staff employed within the district who have instructional contact with the student, supervision of the student and/or an evaluative or consultative relationship on behalf of the student.

- File a complaint with the Family Compliance Office of the U.S. Department of Education alleging the school’s noncompliance with FERPA requirements. The address of this office is Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605. Student behavioral records shall be maintained for one (1) year after the student ceases to be enrolled in the District, unless the student specifies in writing that his/her behavioral records may be maintained for a longer period. Student progress records shall be maintained for at least five (5) years after the student ceases to be enrolled in the District.

NOTICE OF EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS
The Winneconne Community School District is focused on providing a quality education to all of the students within our district. In addition to the traditional, high quality education offered within our classrooms, WCSD seeks to provide educational options to meet the diverse needs and interests of its students.

Educational Options include:

- CAPP/AP courses through UWOC, Lakeland College, and other UW system schools (college credits)
- Transcript and Advanced Standing courses through FVTC (tech college credits or advanced standing)
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program through FVTC
- Virtual and Blend-ed courses
- Early College Credit program options
- Youth Apprenticeships
- 66.0301 enrollment agreements between school districts
- Home-based & private education opportunities
- Part-time & Full-time open enrollment
- Winneconne eAcademy

If you are interested in learning more about these educational options, please contact Joe Pitsch, Director of Learning at pitschj@w-csd.org or 582-5802 x3135.

STUDENT NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY - 2260
The Winneconne Community School District Board of Education is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students in the District. The Board does not discriminate on the basis of the Protected Classes of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex (including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability (“Protected Classes”) in any of its student program and activities. Students, parents and all other members of the School District community are encouraged to promptly report suspected violations of this policy to a teacher or administrator. Any teacher or administrator who receives such a complaint shall file it with the District’s Compliance Officer at their first opportunity. The District’s “Compliance Officers” are Joe Pitsch Director of Learning – pitschj@w-csd.org and Laurin Dodd, Director of Pupil Services/Special Education doddld@w-csd.org

- 1 cup basil pesto (store-bought or homemade)
- 1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese

Optional add-ins and toppings

- Sautéed or grilled chicken, shrimp or Italian sausage
- Black olives, chopped sun-dried tomatoes, spinach or kale
- Red pepper flakes for heat
- Whole grape tomatoes (for a more rustic feel)

Instructions

- Cook the Pasta

In a large pot, bring about 4 quarts of water to a rolling boil. Add the salt and pasta. Cook until just al dente—about 10 to 12 minutes (check the box for exact time). Drain well and set aside.

- Sauté the Veggies

While the pasta cooks, heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the diced tomato and sliced mushrooms (if using). Cook for about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the mushrooms soften and the tomato starts to break down a bit. You want some of that juicy

flavor in the sauce!

- Make the Sauce

Stir in the broth and cream. Bring to a gentle boil, then lower the heat and simmer for 2–3 minutes until the sauce begins to thicken slightly. It should coat the back of a spoon.

- Add the Pesto

Stir in the pesto and let everything simmer for another minute or two, just until warmed through and beautifully fragrant. Your kitchen should smell like an Italian café right about now.

- Combine and Finish

Add the drained pasta directly to the sauce. Toss gently but thoroughly to ensure every twist and turn of pasta is coated. Remove from heat.

- Serve

Plate it up and sprinkle generously with Parmesan cheese. Serve immediately — or divide into containers for easy meal prep throughout the week.

For questions or comments email weeklywhisk01@gmail.com.

Obituaries

Ronnie L. Schmude

Ronnie L. Schmude, 74, of Oshkosh, died Monday, August 4, 2025, at his home. He was born August 6, 1950, in Oshkosh to Lloyd and June (Hart) Schmude. Ronnie was a 1968 graduate of Winneconne High School. From 1970 to 1976 he served in the Wisconsin Army National Guard. On August 4, 1973, he married Diane Wesenberg at Peace Lutheran Church in Oshkosh. From 1971 until 2005, Ronnie was employed with the Larsen Co-op, and from 2006 until his retirement he worked for Valley Popcorn. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and doing yard work.

Ronnie is survived by his wife of 52 years, Diane Schmude, of Oshkosh; daughter, Stacy (Greg) Wilker, of Valders; son, Steven (Chill) Schmude, of Sparta; grandchildren, Chase (special friend, Hallie), Rhys and Eliza Wilker, Anneliese, Cohen, Ysabelle, and Darron Schmude;

Village of Winneconne Notice of Public Hearing for Proposed Planned Unit Development Ordinance

The Village of Winneconne Board of Trustees will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, August 19th, 2025 at 5:30pm in the Board Room at Village Hall (30 South 1st Street, Winneconne, 54986).

The Village Board will hear comments from interested persons objecting to or supporting the proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD) ordinance. The Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning process is intended to provide a flexible land use and design regulation tool that allows for creativity in development and efficient use of land while preserving community character, protecting natural features, and promoting public benefits not achievable through conventional zoning. The process includes detailed planning, review by the Planning Commission, and final approval by the Village Board. The full proposed ordinance is available at Village Hall (920-582-4381).

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sisters, Nancy (Jim) Johnson, Carol (Robert) Salvinski, Tammi Schmude, Jonni (Steve) Janikowski, Julie Youmans, Mary Youmans; brothers, Rick (Katie) Schmude, Mike Youmans; stepfather, Jim Thorson; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Darel (Pam) Wesenberg, Dennis (Deb) Wesenberg, Duane (Kathleen) Wesenberg, Dean (Lisa-Marie) Wesenberg, Donna (Jay) Kopplin, Doreen Protz; nieces and nephews; best friend and hunting buddy, Jim (Mary) Maxwell; close friends and neighbors: the Furman family, Jim and Linda Kelly.

Preceding Ronnie in death was his father, Lloyd Schmude; mother, June Thorson; stepmother, Martha Schmude; and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Glenn and Louise Wesenberg.

A private graveside service and inurnment will be held at the Oak Hill Cemetery, Poygan.

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

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Classifieds

Miscellaneous

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Krings will have new title, same role with Wolves

By Steve Clark
Winneconne News

Ryan Krings' role hasn't changed with the Winneconne High School football team.



Only his title has. Krings, who has been involved with the Winneconne football program for the past 18 years and spent the last three seasons working with the high school team, was elevated to co-head coach along with Nate Ryf last spring and enters his first season in the role this fall.

"We had talked about it for a couple of

years, and we are certainly not the first (high school program) to do it," Krings said last week. "Our respective roles haven't necessarily changed any."

Krings said that his role with the program is handling many of the logistics surrounding a high school football program. Among his responsibilities are handling team communications, stat keeping and posting of results, making sure cameras and coaches' headsets are functioning and available on Friday nights and any other logistical tasks that come up.

He also works the sidelines on Friday nights where one of his main jobs is dealing with injuries and working with the rest of the coaches to make sure a replacement is on the field.

"The whole co-head coach thing doesn't change either of our roles. Nate's still doing what he has done and what he is very

good at, and I'm still doing what I do," Krings said. "Basically, I take care of all the behind-the-scenes stuff which obviously gives Nate more time to concentrate on practices plans and gameday stuff that needs to be taken care of on the field."

Being able to take on the added responsibilities is the result of having more time after his retirement following 33 years with Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue. Krings retired in June 2024 as a shift commander with the department.

"I have the time to do it and with Nate owning his own company, he is just busy," Krings said. "It's not that Nate didn't want to do it but now he doesn't have to worry about it."

Ryf has been the head coach at Winneconne since 2017, and the program is coming off the most successful season in his tenure.

Last season, the Wolves went undefeated in the regular season, winning the Bay Conference championship, while advancing to the state semifinals in Division 4.

That kind of success has certainly put a target on the Wolves' back entering the 2025 season but Winneconne also returns the bulk of last year's roster and could be on the verge of a special campaign.

"We understand what we have. We didn't lose a lot from last year," Krings said. "Last year we were picked to finish fifth in the conference – nobody was looking at us. This year, I guarantee we are the game for every team we are going to play. I know what our potential is but teams know what we can do, and teams are going to prepare for us differently."

DNR calls for citizen scientists to help with research

By Matt Harp
Outdoor Reporter

The DNR announced that it is looking for help from citizen scientists with its research by participating in Operation Deer Watch and the Game Bird Survey.

These surveys are designed to measure the reproductive status of deer and game birds by establishing ratios of adults to juveniles. This data helps indicate the productivity of deer and game bird populations. The data from these surveys, along with harvest information, provide DNR scientists with the key elements needed to make knowledgeable management decisions for these species.

"Wherever you are in Wisconsin, you

can get involved and collect data in your area," said Paul Frater, DNR surveys coordinator. "Sightings can easily be submitted through the Survey123 app, and every submission helps us better understand how wildlife are doing throughout the state. As more data is collected, it provides us a better understanding of the abundance and distribution of wildlife species in Wisconsin. The DNR encourages everyone interested in wildlife – from hunters and trappers to outdoor enthusiasts – to take part."

Participation in Operation Deer Watch and the Game Bird Survey requires no registration, and observations can be recorded using a mobile device. If in a vehi-

cle, participants should only record sightings when their vehicle is stopped and not while driving.

Operation Deer Watch – Members of the public can report location, age, gender and the number of deer seen from dawn to dusk during the summer months. This information helps to determine the fawn-to-doe ratio and, ultimately, deer population estimates. The deadline to submit observations is Sept. 30.

Game Bird Survey – Members of the public can collect information on the types and numbers of game bird broods they observe during the summer months. This information is the basis for monitoring the reproduction of game birds for

that breeding year. The deadline to submit observations is Aug. 31.

More information and downloads for both surveys are available on the DNR's Operation Deer Watch and Game Bird Survey webpages.

Got News?

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