

WINNECONNE NEWS

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JULY 30, 2025 | WINNECONNE NEWS

\$1

VOLUME 154, ISSUE 30

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Breister continues recovery from snowplow accident

By Anya Kelley
Winneconne News

Dan and Jenny Breister sit outside of their light blue sided house on a set of matching patio furniture. The sky is bright blue, and the air is warm. Jenny is sporting a pair of black shades, and Dan has a tank top and shorts on.

"I still have a wound here and one through the groin ... but that's about it," Dan said. "Everything else is healed ...

You want to see pictures?"

Five months ago, Dan was run over by a snowplow on County Highway T while working for the Winnebago County Highway Department. His injuries were immense – his right leg was degloved, both fibulas, left foot and right ankle were fractured and his pelvis was chipped. He spent 105 days at Froedtert Hospital in Milwau-

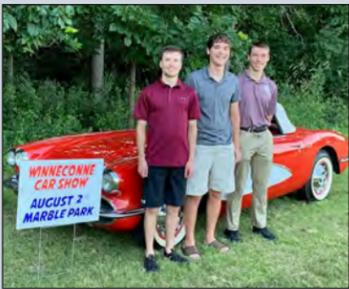


Submitted photo

Dan Breister enjoys some ice cream, which he said is exactly what Dr. Nolan ordered.

SEE **Breister** ON PAGE 12

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Road Runners car show funds scholarships

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Winneconne News

Paddle powered play

Hot, humid temps didn't keep these friends from a morning game of pickleball at Marble Park Thursday for exercise and camaraderie.

Town's request to join Ambulance Board approved

By Anya Kelley
Winneconne News

The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Ambulance Board voted last week to approve the Town of Winneconne's membership request.

The board also voted to commence service contract negotiations with Lifestar Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

At the town's board meeting on July 17, they voted to join the IGA contingent on the voting arrangement being changed. Per the town's request, the change to voting will require a two-thirds vote when considering new members of the board and making changes to the written agreement. The town agreed to leave the vote for the selection of a service provider

unanimous.

The IGA voted unanimously to accept the town's membership request. Eric Lang, president of the Town of Winneconne, immediately took his seat as the town's board commissioner.

The Village of Winneconne also had requested membership contingent on changes to the agreement. The village wanted the IGA to add a provision allowing all municipalities the ability to walk away from the IGA at any time if they are unhappy with the selection of the service provider.

They also wanted language added to say that municipalities cannot be held liable for "perceived damages arising from delays in delivery or support data or failure

to provide cost rationale in a timely manner," said Brian Sajdak, the IGA's attorney.

Other changes the village proposed were to switch voting to a two-thirds majority and the ability for members to re-evaluate their commitment every year.

"My thoughts from a legal perspective is these are changes that ... should not be acceptable to the board," Sajdak said. "You're going to have a contract with a service provider. That contract is going to be based on what they envision the call volumes are going to be over the course of that particular agreement. They're going to be charging you based on that."

Sajdak said he didn't understand what was driving the village's interest in increasing the ability to walk away from the IGA

at any time. The IGA voted to accept the village's request for membership contingent on the village accepting the change that was made after the town's request and that no other changes be made to the agreement.

The IGA gave the village seven days to call a special meeting to vote to accept.

The board began discussions about potential facilities for the ambulance and the crew. Brandon Hennes, the city administrator for the City of Omro, attended the meeting to discuss possible locations.

"We at the City of Omro kind of determined, and most likely assumed at this point, that a logical spot for at least one

SEE **EMS** ON PAGE 12

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School board presented budget, approves updated policies

By Anya Kelley
Winneconne News

The Winneconne Community School District (WCSD) school board was presented with this year's state budget, voted to approve school fees, voted to approve minor updates to the teacher and support staff handbooks and updated the cell phone policy at the school board meeting on July 21.

This year, the WCSD will receive 40% reimbursement for special education expenses compared to 30% last year. Currently, \$2 million is transferred from the general fund to help with special education costs, and with the new reimbursement, \$270,000 will not need to be transferred. There will be 13% less general state aid allocated to the WCSD and the state has approved an increased revenue limit of \$325 per student.

The board approved the adult breakfast and lunch fee to be adjusted to \$4.88 and removed the bus transportation fee for the east side of the Village of Winneconne. All other fees will remain the same for next school year.

The board voted to make minor language changes to the teacher and support staff handbooks for clarity. Updated sections include leaving before contracted time, unpaid and unauthorized leave, birth or placement leave and family illness leave. The full handbook can be found on the WCSD website.

The cell phone policy has been updated to include laptops. Students in grades



Photo from Winneconne Public Library

Mural debut

The first Winneconne mural has been finished. Winneconne Public Library staff member Linda Tipler came up with the idea to paint the wall behind the Holiday Florist flower shop, 217 W. Main St. She researched and developed the plan. Tipler then invited local art teacher Ang Breunig to join her along with local high school students to work on the project.

6-12 are provided with Chromebooks and are no longer allowed to bring their personal devices.

This meeting was not recorded due to updates to the technology system at the

middle school. Future meetings will be livestreamed and uploaded to the WCSD YouTube channel and held in person in the middle school library. The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 4.

Waterfest Celebrates Summer 2025

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Car show, craft fair planned for Saturday

Winneconne News

The annual Winneconne Road Runners Car Show and Fundraiser is set for 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Marble Park, 639 W. Main St. The show this year is funding three scholarship winners.

Mike Heider, president of the Road Runners, said that last year no one applied for the award. Heider said he's excited that they're getting an opportunity to help three students through college.

The 2025 scholarship recipients are Tyler LeBoutan, studying automotive technology, Owyn Zanto, studying airframe and powerplant mechanics and Taylor Noffke, studying mechanical design technology. All three will be attending Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC). They will each get \$1,000 and the scholarship is renewable annually.

The event features a car corral and craft fair. Entrance to the event is free for spectators and food and drinks are available for

purchase. Registration for the car show is from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. on the day of the event with trophies awarded at 2 p.m. The car show features 16 unique trophy classes.

Additional information is available on the Winneconne Road Runners Facebook page.

The Winneconne Historical Society Craft Fair will begin at 9 a.m. at the Winneconne Historical Complex, 611 W. Main St. The craft fair features unique crafts, jewelry, hardwares and fine arts along with sweets and treats.



The annual Winneconne Road Runners Car Show and Fundraiser Saturday at Marble Park is funding three scholarship winners. The scholarship recipients include Tyler LeBoutan, Owyn Zanto and Taylor Noffke.



Calendar

Thursday, July 31

Jim 'n' Nancy, 5 p.m., Bee Hive Bar and Grill

Inspiration Theatre presents Anastasia, 7 p.m., WHS Performing Arts Center

Friday, Aug. 1

Inspiration Theatre presents Anastasia, 7 p.m., WHS Performing Arts Center

Saturday, Aug. 2

Winneconne Bass Open, 5:30 a.m., Woodeye's Bar and Grill

Adult Basketball, 6:30 a.m., WHS Gym

Winneconne Road Runners Car Show and Fundraiser, 8 a.m., Marble Park, 639 W. Main St.

Winneconne Historical Society Craft Fair, 9 a.m., Winneconne Historical Complex, 611 W. Main St.

Sand Bar Bash, Road Trip Band Concert and Vets & Friends of Wisconsin Fundraiser, 9 a.m., Clarks Bay

Inspiration Theatre presents Anastasia, 6 p.m., WHS Performing Arts Center

Sunday, Aug. 3

Inspiration Theatre presents Anastasia, 2 p.m., WHS Performing Arts Center

Tuesday, Aug. 5

National Night Out, 6 p.m., Marble Park

Wednesday, Aug. 6

The News is out. Subscribe today at winneconnenews.com.

New Colleague Day, 7:30 a.m., WHS

Talent show at library cancelled

Winneconne News

The Talent Show scheduled for Thursday at the Winneconne Public Library is being postponed.

The library said in a Facebook post that it hopes to host the event later this year during the winter season. The event was cancelled because the library said it did not have enough registrations.



National Night Out coming up Tuesday

Winneconne News

The Winneconne Police Department is hosting National Night Out from 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 5 at Marble Park.

Squad cars, fire trucks and department of public works vehicles will be showcased and a ThedaStar helicopter will be onsite at 7 p.m.

Games and activities will be set up at the park along with a bounce house. There will be refreshments and photo opportunities for children as well.

Peak season starts now!

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 Leach Amphitheater
 July 31 Vic Ferrari
 August 7 Steely Dane
 August 14 Lover Boy

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 August 6 FREE Campground Concert with Frank Ray
 August 7 Cody Johnson
 August 8 Kane Brown
 August 9 Parker McCollum

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Scan here to make the most of your summer weekends.



Historical Society feels immense loss

Group remembers two longtime members

Winneconne Historical Society

The Winneconne Historical Society said it has recently lost two, long-time, faithful members. According to the society, Donald "Red" and Marlene O'Connell's welcoming smiles are now greeting people up above.

Red and Marlene could be found every Sunday afternoon during open hours at the Steamboat House in the historical society's museum complex in Marble Park. Red loved showing people how the porch windows worked. Since both were longtime Winneconne residents, they could easily inform visitors of Winneconne's history.

The couple was recently remembered when family members presented a \$1,000 donation to the historical society during Sovereign State Days. A memorial bench at the museum complex was also dedicated in their honor earlier this month.

In their younger years, Red and Marlene attended Winneconne High School.

Following high school, Marlene pursued a degree in nursing at Madison General School of Nursing and then worked at Mercy Medical Center. Red was an insurance agent. He later drove milk trucks for the milk factory and then sold dairy equipment to farmers. He and Marlene owned and operated Surge Dairy Equipment Sales.

Marlene enjoyed gardening, reading, sewing, knitting, crocheting, canning and baking. She was involved in an investment club and was an original member of the Young at Heart Homemakers Club. She liked to volunteer her service to the Red Cross and the Winneconne Historical Society.

Red was well known around the village, as he enjoyed coffee in the morning at Lang's Landing, or The Fin, and would always visit with people at Leo's Service Station. Red was a member of the building committee that was in charge of constructing the bridge tender's house replica in Marble Park for the society. He liked hunting, fishing and sturgeon spearing. Red had a big raspberry patch and would



Submitted photo

O'Connell family members presented a \$1,000 check during Sovereign State Days earlier this month to the Winneconne Historical Society in memory of Don "Red" and Marlene O'Connell. The presentation was held on the porch of the society's Steamboat House museum. Pictured are Tenee O'Connell Angelo, society board member Mary Harper, society president Angel Elmer and Darby O'Connell Koltitz. Not pictured in the photo is Shaun O'Connell.

sell the berries. He also tended a huge, 15-yard by 25-yard garden out in the country and would take excess produce to Leo's. He also loved watching sports.

Don and Marlene in their 67 years of marriage before he passed away in November 2023 loved to attend parades, festivals,

chicken BBQs, welcoming visitors to the museum complex and going to gamble at casinos. They played cards since they were young with family members, friends and neighbors; they belonged to a card club.

Marlene passed away in June.

Tickets for Sportmen's Banquet go on sale Friday

Winneconne News

The American Legion Giles Luce Post 364 is planning its Sportsmen's Banquet to be held Sept. 17 at Woodey's Bar & Grill.

Doors for the event open at 5 p.m., with dinner served at 6 p.m.

Tickets go on sale Friday and include dinner and entry into the door prize raffle. Tickets for the other raffles (blue, green and orange bucket raffles, 50/50 and walk around raffles) are sold separately at the event.

Tickets will be available at Critters Wolf River Sports in Winneconne. The Legion

said tickets have sold out in the past and seating is limited.

The cost is \$65 for adult 18 and over and \$45 for youth 17 and under. For more information, visit winneconnepost364.org/banquet/.



Author to share insights about book

Winneconne News

The Winneconne Public Library's Get Lit Book Club is welcoming a special guest at its August gathering.

Local author Lori Jones will be joining the group to talk about her book Spared. Those attending are invited to bring a snack or appetizer to share along with a drink of their choice.

Organizers said the meeting is an opportunity to connect with book enthusiasts and engage in a meaningful discussion with Jones.

The book club will meet at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 13 at the American Legion Giles-Luce Post 364, 536 W. Main St. in Winneconne.



Submitted photo

Local author Lori Jones holds a copy of her book, Spared, which she will be discussing during a Get Lit Book Club meeting Aug. 13.

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Winneconne Historical Complex
 611 W. Main Street, Winneconne

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For more information
 Call: 920-420-0463
 email: historicalsocietyofwinneconne@gmail.com

Shallow Lakes Chronicles

Older than rock

By Matt Harp
Outdoor Reporter

If you want to take a jab at someone's age or mindset, the typical phrase is "You're older than dirt."

The mere mention of the word "dirt" in my soils classes at Point's College of Natural Resources would earn you an instant "F." "It is 'soil,' not 'dirt,' and I don't want to ever hear that word again," they would instruct. Soil is formed from the weathering of rock, so if you really want to zing someone, you really want to say, "You are older than rock."

Rock comes to mind this week as I spent the good part of last week amongst a lot of rock – our nearby destination that is Door County. While I like to take pride in my family's 68-year camping history at Peninsula State Park, we're barely a second in the time that this place has seen.

The iconic Eagle Tower was first built in 1914, then again in 1932 and reopened in 2021 to its newest design. The must-play Peninsula State Park Golf Course was added in 1917. Even the tower and the golf course, as imposing as they are, aren't really that old.

When you think Door County, you always think cherries, and now is the time to go get some. Thanks to Joseph Zettle, a Swiss immigrant, planting the first commercial cherry trees in 1896, we all enjoy this annual tasty treat. We make a point of picking at least a few, but also certainly checking out the shops that have everything cherry and a lot of other agricultural



Harp

products from the area.

Now we're getting into some history, or are we?

The Niagara Escarpment littered with Red Cedar trees, from Gills Rock all the way down to High Cliff State Park (touching our own Shallow Lakes) and further to Niagara Falls, from which the escarpment got its name. It was only 25 years ago when Doug Larson, a Canadian scientist thought to age these common and unimpressive trees. Through his testing, he determined that many of these trees, no more than a foot in diameter, are hundreds of years old. One tree was determined to be the oldest tree in Wisconsin at over 1,300 years old. Amazing!

The first inhabitants of Door County arrived as the ice receded – they crossed the land bridge from Asia, through Alaska, and found their way here to hunt mastodon, mammoth and giant beaver. As I'm looking out at the same sunset that I've seen my whole life, I try to imagine these first people staring at the same view some 12,000 years ago. I also try to imagine what Eleanor, my new grandbaby and one of the newest inhabitants, sees through her 4-month old eyes.

Then there I am standing on a cliff at Cave Point County Park, one of almost a million visitors that will be there this year. My feet touching what was once the sediment of a great lake 430 million years ago. Sheesh.

There's a lot of great history in Door County, and just a couple hour's drive from here. After a week of picking, hiking, swimming, cliff jumping, biking and boating, I guarantee you'll feel as old as these rocks.

Reach Matt at
lakeandpond2@gmail.com

Carp Fest celebrating golden anniversary

Winneconne News

The Lions of Butte des Morts is organizing the 50th Annual Carp Festival with plans for it to be the biggest celebration yet.

The event includes food such as carp chowder, live music, raffles, community spirit and all things carp. Sponsorships

and donations for the event allow the Lions Club to serve the community in meaningful ways.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 10 at Lions Park in Butte des Morts. For more information about becoming a sponsor, contact BDMLions@gmail.com or call 920-279-6119.

Sturgeon spearing tag deadline Friday

Winneconne News

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reminds sturgeon spearkers that the deadline to apply for an Upriver Lakes spearing tag for the 2026 sturgeon spearing season is Friday.

Due to the higher harvest rate associated with the Upriver Lakes (lakes Poygan, Winneconne and Butte des Morts), anyone wishing to spear on the Upriver Lakes is required to apply for a tag. A total of 500 applicants will receive a tag to spear a sturgeon from the Upriver Lakes during the 2026 sturgeon spearing season.

These spearing tags will be issued through a drawing where priority is given to applications with the most preference points. Those applying as a group will have their point value based on the individual with the lowest point total within the group.

Spearkers can also choose to purchase a preference point in lieu of applying for a

tag.

Spearkers can apply for an Upriver Lakes tag or purchase a preference point online through the Go Wild system or at any license sales location.

Applicants selected to purchase an Upriver Lakes sturgeon spearing license will be notified by Oct. 1 and may then purchase their Upriver River spearing license.

Any license holder not selected during this drawing will be awarded a preference point towards future drawings and can purchase a Lake Winnebago spearing license.

The 2026 Winnebago System sturgeon spearing season will begin on Feb. 14, 2026, on Lake Winnebago and the Upriver Lakes. The season is authorized for a maximum of 16 days or until any of the annual biologically based harvest caps are reached. Separate harvest caps are set for each system: Lake Winnebago and the Upriver Lakes.

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School consolidation history in Winchester schools

Historical Society plans school reunion event

By Mary Lee Christianson
 Winchester Area Historical Society

A Winchester Elementary school reunion is being planned in an attempt to preserve a piece of the area's history.

The Winchester Area Historical Society said needed roof repair to the school building has been completed but funding for the project has fallen short by over \$135,000.

The group's members hope the open house event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 16 will help to raise some of the needed funds. Community members are invited to the event at the Winchester School, 5270 Ann St.

The event will feature raffle baskets, food, a Cornhole tournament and other activities. At 12:30 p.m., the Stamp Plate stone located on the south side of the school, dated 1957, will be removed to reveal what is inside, which could be a time capsule.

Some of the history related to the school involves the consolidation of rural schools and school districts beginning to take place in the 1940s and continuing during the following decades to come. The number of school districts in Wisconsin dropped from over 5,000 to 500 within a six-year period of time.

Opposition to school consolidation was due to the concern of many citizens regarding the impact on their communities and was rooted in a desire to maintain local control over education and preserve the cultural and economic fabric of the smaller community.

Although there were reasons for the opposition to consolidation, the benefits far outweighed the negative aspects:

- Financial reasons — merging would allow for reduction of the cost of having to maintain several smaller buildings.
- Standardization of instruction and improved academic outcome for students and closer monitoring of the quality of education provided by individual teachers. Additional instruction in music, art and physical education would be more accessible to all students. Accessibility to kindergarten would also be an option for all children.
- Grouping students by grades. One room schools were becoming obsolete. In



Winneconne News

The Winchester Area Historical Society entry in the recent Sovereign State Days parade promoted the upcoming Winchester Elementary school reunion.

the past, one room schools required the teachers at these schools to teach all six grades.

• Advancement in transportation. The availability of the school bus allowed for the transportation of students in rural areas to a larger, consolidated school.

• Growth of the school population — as in other communities throughout the area, the enrollment in the Winneconne Schools had increased over 40% in six years (1950-1956).

A quote from The Winneconne News on Sept. 27, 1956 stated, "The Board of Education issued this statement today regarding the special school election on Saturday, September 29:

"We have used information from the former Lay Committee, birth records, present enrollments, past enrollment, records, area meetings and personal study. The conclusion indicated that the proposed school buildings in Winchester and the addition in Winneconne are needs if the schools are to serve everyone in the best advantage. Therefore we, the Board of Education urge you to vote."

Highlights of the history of the Winchester School as recorded in the Winneconne News at that time:

- June 7, 1956 — the purchase of the Harrison property at a cost of \$400 an acre for eight acres of land for the new school.
- July 7, 1956 — approval of the architectural plans submitted by Mr. Edgar Steuborach. The building would consist of six classrooms and a large multi-purpose

room.

• Jan. 31, 1957 — \$323,901 for bonds to build a new elementary school and an addition to the existing Winneconne School. Due to budget restrictions, building of the kindergarten addition would come at a later date.

• April 4, 1957 — Building contracts issued. Charles Gambski-building construction, Wenzel Bros., Appleton-heating and ventilation, Simmons, Oshkosh-plumbing, and Uptown Electrical, Waupaca-electrical installation.

• April 13, 1957 — Groundbreaking at both the Winneconne and Winchester School sites.

• The opening of the new school in Winchester took place in January 1958 with over 120 students attending, grades one through six.

• The kindergarten addition was added in 1962.

• 1972 — The sixth grade students were sent to the Winneconne Central School.

• 2001 — due to the larger enrollment of the school population in the Winchester School, the fifth grade students were also sent to Winneconne.

• The Winchester School was in operation from 1958 until 2010.

• The building was purchased from the Winneconne School District by Peter Christianson for the Winchester Area Historical Society in 2010. The building now houses the CESA Horizon program and Winchester Historical Society.

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Study shows economic impact of EAA AirVenture

Region receives boost of \$257 million from event

Winneconne News

A University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh study estimates last week's EAA AirVenture fly-in convention provides a \$257 million total economic impact for the Fox Valley region each year.

The UW-Oshkosh study showed direct spending of \$171 million in the five-county Fox Valley region (Winnebago, Fond du Lac, Outagamie, Calumet and Brown), with an additional \$86 million of "ripple effect" impact as that spending passed through the community.

The total is based on the EAA AirVenture 2024 statistics, which included total attendance of 686,000.

"The growth of AirVenture since our last economic impact study in 2017 made it essential that it reflect the current environment," said Jack J. Pelton, EAA's CEO and Chairman of the Board. "It was very important to have an independent study that looked at the value of the event for our region, as those benefits ripple across nearly every local business sector during AirVenture week while the world literally comes to Oshkosh and Wisconsin."

The study showed that \$117 million of the economic impact, including \$95 million of direct spending, took place in the Oshkosh community alone. AirVenture also directly created 2,092 full- and part-time jobs in the region, with 815 of those in Oshkosh.

"The increased earnings and community value during AirVenture alone means an additional \$328,000 in property tax revenue for the Oshkosh-area economy, which does not include EAA's annual



Photo from Discover Oshkosh

A C130 cargo plane was parked in front of the world's busiest control tower at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh. The event last week brought in 704,000 visitors to the area from throughout the world.

property tax payments," said Dr. David Fuller, a professor in the UW-Oshkosh economics department, who compiled both the 2017 and 2024 studies.

The benefit to the region and state is magnified as more than 70% of AirVenture's visitors come from outside Wisconsin, bringing "new money" into the state and in some cases, into the U.S. overall in 2024, visitors came from 94 countries.

In 2017, lodging and camping accounted for 35% of the average daily spending of \$300 per day per visitor, as people stayed in hotels, campgrounds, college dormitories and private housing. Food, entertainment, and clothing/retail are also major benefactors, along with unexpected areas such as event staffing, landscaping, and other associated industries.

"The success of EAA AirVenture helps

promote our community in many ways, but most importantly in the visibility that occurs worldwide as fly-in visitors 'Discover Oshkosh,'" said Amy Albright, executive director of the Oshkosh Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Furthermore, the revenue that funds our operations allows us to promote the community and all the other features and activities that make Oshkosh such a great place to live and visit."

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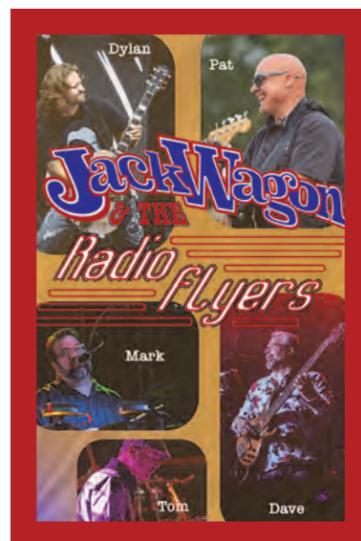
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Carp Fest



Sunday August 10th

Lions Park Butte des Morts



Playing 3:30-6:30

Music All day
Raffles
Carp Chowder
Brat Hut
Beer
Corn
Family Fun



Playing 12:00-3:00

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
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 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.

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BACK to SCHOOL FAIR

CAMPAIGN 2025



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Help Us Support Winneconne Students This Fall! The Winneconne Community School District (WCSD) is hosting its fourth annual Back-to-School Fair this August—and we need your help to keep making it a success.

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.

Your support makes all of this possible. Your generosity helps us meet the growing needs of our community. Let's work together to ensure every student starts the school year ready to succeed!

Please donate by completing and mailing your donations by August 6, 2025 to:

WCSD Back to School Fair
 C/O Winneconne News
 908 E. Main St. #C
 Winneconne, WI 54986

_____ \$40 shoes
 _____ \$75 for backpack and supplies
 _____ \$100 to sponsor a child
 \$_____ to meet the need to help a child

Please make checks payable to: WCSD (Add Back to school fair in memo line)

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Name as it should appear in the Donor Thank You in the Winneconne News

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Obituaries

Timothy James Hansen Jr
With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Timothy James Hansen Jr,



who left this world far too soon on July 25, 2025, at the age of 44, following a courageous four-year battle with cancer.

Born on March 25, 1981, Tim lived a life marked by quiet strength, deep compassion, and unwavering devotion to his family. He was a loving husband to Katie Marie Hansen and the proud, adoring father of their triplet daughters — Sophie Kate, Eliana Grace, and Layla Mae. His greatest joy came from being a dad, and he poured his whole heart into raising his girls with love, humor, and intention. “To my beautiful girls—you are the light I carried in my heart every day. May you always know how deeply you are loved, how proud I am of you, and how fiercely I’ll be watching over you. Carry my love with you, always!”

Tim is survived by his wife, Katie Hansen; and their daughters, Sophie, Eliana, and Layla. He is also survived by his father, Timothy Hansen Sr; twin sister, Kim (Randy) Tomaier, and their

sons, Jacob and Josh; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Russ and Sheila Flanigan; sister-in-law Amy (Greg) Gunderson, and their children, Graden and Norah; brother-in-law, Steve (April) Flanigan, and their daughter, Rachel.

He was preceded in death by his beloved mother, Lois Hansen; infant brother, Jason; grandparents, Delbert and Delberta Beale, and Al and Irene Hansen; close friend, Wayne Borth; and all the children with Muscular Dystrophy who have passed — whose courage and strength left a lasting imprint on Tim’s heart.

MDA Summer Camp held a special place in Tim’s life. What began as a meaningful experience as a camper grew into a lifelong commitment. He returned year after year as a volunteer and eventually served as a dedicated camp director. His leadership, compassion, and joy made a lasting impact on countless children, families, and fellow volunteers.

Tim also felt a deep sense of connection and gratitude for his work family at PRN Healthcare, where he found not just purpose, but lasting friendships and support that meant the world to him.

Those who knew Tim will remember him for his steady presence, his

kindness, and the way he lived by the phrase: “Be the buffalo, Charge the storm.” Tim believed in facing life’s challenges head on, not avoiding hardship, but meeting it with courage, grit, and grace. His resilience inspired everyone around him and will continue to guide those who love him.

A funeral Mass will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday July 30, 2025, at St. Mary Catholic Church 210 Pleasant Dr. Winneconne, WI, with Fr. Ben Pribbenow officiating. The visitation will be held on Wednesday at the church from 10:00 a.m. until the hour of Mass at 1:00 p.m. For those unable to attend, the service will be livestreamed at <http://stmarychurches.org>

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Just Jess Foundation or The Spierings Cancer

Foundation honoring Tim’s spirit of generosity. These local organizations have positively supported the Hansen family throughout this journey.

The family would like to personally thank Tim’s medical teams at Froedtert Hospital Milwaukee and ThedaCare Cancer Center for their care and compassion throughout his treatment.

Tim’s legacy lives on in the family he loved fiercely, the lives he touched deeply, and the example he set through the way he lived. He will be missed beyond measure and remembered always.

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

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Monday: Italian Ground Beef

Casserole. Romaine and Spinach Salad. Tropical Fruit. Garlic Bread.

Tuesday: Frozen. Country Sausage Gravy. Biscuit. Carrots. Hot Apple Bake. Banana.

Wednesday: Chicken Supreme. Baked Potato. Beets. Pears.

Thursday: Frozen. Swiss Steak. Mashed Potatoes. Peas and Corn. Fresh Fruit Cup.

Friday: Taco Casserole with Pasta, Refried Beans, Lettuce, Tomatoes and Sour Cream. Peaches.



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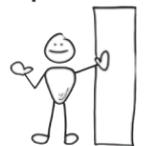
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WINNECONNE COMMUNITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
WINNECONNE HIGH SCHOOL-
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100 WOLF RUN WINNECONNE WI
54986
JUNE 16, 2025 – 6:30PM**

Meeting called to order by Board President
Pledge of Allegiance

Board Member Roll Call

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

Administrative Team and Visitor Recognition and Open Forum

District Administrator, Peggy Larson, Middle School Principal, Todd Schroeder, Assistant Middle School Principal, Carley Horvath, Elementary Principal, Lisa Hughes, Pupil Services Director, Laurin Dodd, Buildings and Grounds Director, Steve Cady, Technology Director, David Jerabek

VISITORS: (See Visitor List on file)

OPEN FORUM- Community Resident spoke in open forum on the purpose

of working together as a team, and as role models for the student body.

OPEN SESSION

5. consent items:

- Approve Minutes of June 02, 2025, Regular School Board Meeting
- B. District Checks #10016566 to #1001660 in the Amount of \$2,273,337.95
- C. Student Activity Checks #915670 to # 915680 in the Amount of \$18,274.38
- D. District ACH Payments \$33,434.38
- E. Student Account ACH Payments \$1,416.71
- F. Approve hiring HS Special ED Teacher for the 2025/2026 school year
- G. Approve resignation of Head Varsity Softball Coach. Effective immediately
- H. Approve one (1) FFA student to the Washington DC Leadership Conference July 7-13-2025

Board Member Calewarts asked for letter (A) of the Consent Agenda to be pulled out and voted on separately. Calewarts question was on the process of appointment prior to the 60-day window June 20, 2025, thinking we are not following legal timeline for filling vacant board seat. The Link from legal was in board packet, with update. All information as to legal process was included

in the board packet. Calewarts questioned the suggestion of appointment be made by President, but Board of Education President declined to make an appointment. Motion made by Verich seconded by Kunde to approve Consent Agenda Item B-H
Roll Call: Kunde-Aye, Stelzner-Aye, Verich-Aye, Ackmann-Aye, Calewarts-Aye, Hanson-Aye
Motion approved: 6-0
Motion was made by Verich, second by Hanson to approve Letter (A) of consent Agenda Item, June 02, 2025, Regular School Board Meeting Minutes
Roll Call: Stelzner-Aye, Verich-Aye, Calewarts-Aye, Ackmann-Aye, Kunde-Aye, Hanson-Aye
Motion approved: 6-0

6. Appointment of Vacant School Board Seat by board vote

President Hanson mentioned that after last meeting Monica Wicinsky had withdrawn here name for the vacant school board seat. Motion made by Verich, seconded by Ackmann to appoint Nathaniel Hater to the One-year term for the vacant seat on the WCSD Board of Education. (Let the Motion and minutes reflect all links to Legal or Legal process is being followed, this had been included in board packet dated June,02,2025)

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

7. 2024/2025 LEA Reports

These LEA (Local Education Agency) reports are (Seclusion and Restraint, Bullying, Nursing services) these reports are required to be shared with the Board of Education. The reports and incidents in each area of the three campuses were reviewed.

8. 2024-2025 Seclusion and Restraint Report

Restraint and seclusion are practices used in public schools as a response to student behavior that limits their movements and aims to escalate them, by either physically limiting their movement (restraint) or isolating them from others (Seclusion).

9. 2024-2025 Bullying Report

Incidents of bullying by each building were reviewed

10. 2024-2025 Nursing Report

Jennifer Krause District Nurse provided an annual report of all the nursing services provided for all campuses for 2024/2025

11. WCSD Instructional Opt-Out Procedures

Information on the Opt-Out

Procedures was reviewed with some concern as to where are opt outs recorded, opt outs being overlooked, random forms for request are not valid, only district opt out forms are valid. Keeping in mind the Federal and Wisconsin Law, parents are only allowed to opt out of certain aspects of the districts programs as example; Human Growth and Development, Student Assessment, and Student Surveys, and parents are not allowed to opt out their children from other aspects of the school's curriculum as established by the Board of Education.

Motion by Verich seconded by Kunde to approve the WCSD Instructional Opt-Out Procedures.

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

12. Frontline Administrator/Payroll Coordinator Job Description

The job description of the Frontline Administrator / Payroll Coordinator (Previously Payroll Assistant) was reviewed for approval

Motion made by Ackmann, seconded by Kunde to approve the Frontline Administrator / Payroll Coordinator job description

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

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Public Notice

Motion approved: 6-0

13. District Administrator Assistant Job Description

The job description of the District Administrator Assistant was reviewed for approval.

Motion made by Hanson, seconded by Verich to approve the job description for the District Administrator Assistant Roll call: Kunde-Aye, Stelzner-Aye, Verich-Aye, Calewarts-Aye, Ackmann-Aye, Hanson-Aye
Motion approved:6-0

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

15. Board Reports

President Hanson assigned the 2025/2026 Committees

Human Resources & Finance: Verich-Chair, Hanson and Stelzner
Marketing & Public Relations: Hanson-Chair, Ackmann and Stelzner
Policy: Kunde-Chair, Calewarts and Harter
President Hanson, and Board of Education Congratulated Board of Education (Member) Clerk Mark Kunde on receiving the Highest Honor of The Honorary FFA Degree by the State of Wisconsin FFA

A. Communications – There was no communications to be read

B. Committee Reports:

- HR/Financial Planning- met went over job descriptions, opt-out policy and more in closed session
- PR/ Marketing- Has not met
- Policy- nothing at this time, will be meeting in coming weeks

Executive Session

Motion made by Kunde, second by Ackmann to move into Executive Session under 19.85 to approve Executive Session Minuets from June 02, 2025, and Wis. Stat. 19.85 (1)(F) to consider financial, medical, social, or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, which, if discussed in public, would likely have a substantial ad verse effect upon the reputation of the person involved. Topics for discussion include Employee Compensation. The board will move into an open session and may take action on items discussed in a closed session.

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

Motion approved: 6-0

Open Session

The Board of Education moved back into the open session at 7:10 pm
Motion made by Kunde, second by Stelzner to adjourn the meeting of the WCSD Board of Education

Motion passed- All Ayes

Mark D. Kunde
WCSD- Board Clerk
7:15 pm

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**MINUTES
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 17TH, 2025, 5:30 PM
VILLAGE BOARD ROOM, 30 S. 1ST ST., WINNECONNE**

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by President Boucher.
Roll Call: Olson (present), Bouras (present), Stelzner (present), Janikowski (absent), Krings (present), Miller (present), Boucher (present).
Also present was Administrator Fuller and Attorney Chad Wade.
Pledge of Allegiance said in unison.
Regular Business
Motion by Bouras, second by Olson to approve consent agenda and payment of bills:
May 31, 2025, Treasurer’s Report/
Budget Comparisons
May 2025. Check Register

Motion passes by unanimous voice vote 6-0-0

Motion by Miller, second by Stelzner to approve the amended April 23rd, 2025 Village Board Special Meeting minutes
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote 6-0-0

Motion by Bouras, second by Krings to approve the May 20th, 2025 Village Board meeting minutes

Motion passes by unanimous voice vote 6-0-0

Motion by Krings, second by Bouras to approve the May 23rd, 2025 Village Board Workshop meeting minutes
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote 6-0-0

Communications

Chief Sauriol presented the Oath of Office to Patrol Officers Hayley Ackerman and Noah Brandl; both officers recited the Oath of Office and were pinned during the ceremony. Congratulations and well wishes were given by Chief Sauriol and the Village President and Administrator.

Public Participation
Steve Wiegard – Resident at 218 S. Second Street

Mr. Wiegard commented on the status of advertisement/sale of Waterfront Park, which is currently under contract with realty service NAI Pfefferle. Mr. Wiegard presented interest in the realty marketing of the property, noting that when he looked at the map that Pfefferle utilizes for their advertisement, the property is listed as prime waterfront property, however the ad does not list waterfront footage. Additionally, Mr. Wiegard commented that he was interested in the preservation of the park for the community.

CLA Presentation

Elizabeth McMasters, Director, Clifton Larson Allen, LLP
Ms. McMasters presented on the 2024 Village financial audit and provided the below summary and reflections:

The audit is a highly vigorous and involved process; Ms. McMasters thanked Administrator Fuller, Treasurer Schoenberger, and Director of Public Works Fluette for their efforts in the audit.

The goal of audit is to provide opinion on financials for the Village, ensuring that the Village’s financial policies and procedures are adequate, involving a risk-based approach in the review. The audit reviews all levels of transactions (no value threshold) for not only accuracy but adherence to internal policy. A large part of the audit process is developing an understanding of the internal control structure for Village.

CLA noted two findings:

Preparation of Annual Financial Reports
Adjustments to Financial Records
Overall, CLA did not identify any compliance issues, noting the Village is operating within the requirements of State statutes. The compliance summary reflected no change in opinion compared to last year’s review.
Governance communication
Accounting policy – CLA worked with worked with Treasurer Schoenberger regarding policy/statements for compensated absence, sick time, etc.
Uncorrected “misstatements” – no findings.

Corrected misstatements

Finding for material adjustments – discrepancy was noted that cost was recognized in incorrect year (needed to be recognized in subsequent years); the discrepancy was summarized as an issue of timing of when the transaction was recorded.
Per Ms. McMasters, the list of errors CLA has noted has greatly decreased since previous year audits.
Per Ms. McMasters, the Village is on correct path for creating financial policies, forward-looking plans, and maintaining financial health.
Ms. McMasters provided a summary of the previous years of financial audits stating that the biggest takeaway is that, previously, events/decisions on horizon were coming up too fast for the Village to adequately handle – some decisions weren’t thought through thoroughly (when to utilize debt, leveraging grant options, etc.).

Ms. McMasters reflected to her on-site visits, stating the Village is willing to take feedback from CLA, works to be proactive instead of reactive, and continues to make efforts to improve internal controls. Overall, the Village’s position, according to Ms. McMasters lends itself to afford flexibility and options around financial planning.

Administrator’s Report

Business update

Administrator Fuller continues to work with GOEDC for a refresh of available grants for various sizes of businesses. The East Central Economic Development team and Administrator Fuller are continuing to collaborate on grants for various topics, which are helping shape or enhance the Village’s economic development strategy.
Brazee ACE Hardware is hosting a soft opening in the upcoming weeks with a grand opening expected in July or early August.

Operations

The Customer Service Representative (CSR) full-time position has been posted externally with 95 applicants within a week of the listing; Administrator Fuller has begun the initial interviews and will provide updates as the process progresses. An ongoing focus on process improvements and refinements continues within each department.

Key Meetings & Events:

Last week’s County IDB meeting focused on expanding economic development partnerships.

The Community Leadership Exchange covered topics of CIP, infrastructure selections, and an overview of government finance as well as the Village’s budgeting process. The event had many residents in attendance, including Trustee Olson and Trustee Stelzner.

Finance

The Village is currently operating at 35.89% of the budget, compared to 37.23% last year at the same time. The 2026 annual budget process will commence in mid to late July, incorporating reviews of the five-year CIP, wage study, and all fund sources. Basis of Estimate (BOE) and support activities are underway.

Committee Reports

Beautification: Beautification Committee met on June 12th, and will next meet on July 10th at 5:30pm. Currently, the committee is working on preparing for Sovereign State Days and their August 23rd brat barn fundraiser.
Cemetery: The Cemetery Board discussed creating a social media post for cemetery ordinance reminders, reviewed the successful Memorial Day ceremony, and continued to discuss cemetery digitization. The next meeting is scheduled for September 8th.

Fire District: Hose and ladder testing was completed; some hose failures were notated, all ladders passed testing. Preparations for the July 4th celebration are continuing. The next commission is Monday July 14th at 6:30.

Historic Preservation-

The Committee met on May 29th and finalized the plan for the Pioneer Cemetery sign dedication; the dedication recognized a large attendance, including many local and state representatives, such as Congressman Glen Grothman. Trustee Miller reported the cemetery looked excellent and thanked Public Works for their effort.
Library: Summer reading program continues into

the second week. Average circulation in non-summer months is around 4,000 (on average); halfway through June, the library is already recording circulation of 3,378. The library is experiencing a high “people count”, assisting 200+ a day with the help of staff and eight high school volunteers. The summer lunch program is running smoothly, thanks in great part to the Village Pub, Fin N Feather, and Woodeye’s support. A special community mural project will begin soon with the painting of Holiday Florist’s wall.

Parks – Parks Committee met on June 5th. The turf restoration at Lake Winneconne Park is completed, fundraising continues for the Marble Park Plan phase 1, and phase 1 for the barn project will be completed by the end of July, including French doors and new siding. Marble Park beach house is open for the season. The committee will meet next on August 14th.

Personnel & Finance – PFC reviewed the Personnel and Grade policy and recommended its approval to the Board. Additionally, PFC continued to review the MOU for the Marble Park Improvement plan and different ways to support funding.

Plan Commission –The Planning Commission review the proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD) ordinance; the ordinance would allow a case-by-case approach to review, so that the Village can approve beneficial projects. The Commission also discussed possible changes to the Accessory Building ordinance, as well as downtown/commercial district ordinances.

Public Safety – Chief Sauriol is working with Trustee Bouras on fundraising ideas. Chief Sauriol entered a request the Department of Defense for ammo for practice when the firing range is completed. Chief Sauriol is working Chief Allcox on dates for joint EMS/police training session. Additionally, work on the mooring ordinance to ensure clarity continues.

Public Works – The Committee met on May 12th and discussed the mechanical failure in wastewater treatment, which resulted in the separation functionality sustaining damage, causing the Village to manually move waste by hand. DPW Director Fluette noted that construction is on track for 6th Ave. project. The 6th Ave. lift station is in need of replacement as it is the oldest station in the Village. The small storm drain on 5th Ave. is installed; Public Works received two calls that the drain is working well. The Public Works Committee will not be meeting in July- the next meeting is scheduled for August 11th.

New Business

Motion by Olson, second by Bouras to approve the Operator licenses as presented for the licensing year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027

All applicants have completed

the necessary operator license application, including payment of fee and successful background check.
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote 6-0-0

Motion by Bouras, second by Olson to table the approval of a Special Event Vending Permit for Sovereign State Days for July 17th through July 20th, 2025

Upon further review and examination of \$469-9 Special event vending permit, this permit will not be applicable for the 2025 Sovereign State Days event. Therefore, the Board made a motion to table the item without vote.

Motion passes by unanimous voice vote 6-0-0

Motion by Krings, second by Miller to approve extending noise restrictions for Sovereign State Days until 1:00am on Saturday, July 19th and Sunday, July 20th, 2025

Motion passes by unanimous voice vote 6-0-0

Motion by Krings, second by Olson to approve a Temporary Class “B” picnic license for the Sovereign State Days for Thursday, July 17th to Sunday, July 20th, 2025

Motion passes by unanimous voice vote 6-0-0

Motion by Bouras, Second by Olson to approve the Personnel Grade and Step Program Policy

The Personnel Grade and Step Program Policy allows predictability and transparency in compensation; the policy was reviewed and recommended for Village Board approval by the Personnel and Finance Committee. Approval of the policy does not require any amendment to the personnel handbook.

Motion passes by roll call vote: Stelzner (aye), Krings (aye), Miller (aye), Olson (aye), Bouras (aye), Boucher (aye) 6-0-0

Motion by Olson, second by Bouras to approve the site plan for the St. Mary’s Parish Center

The site plan, which shows the addition of a link between existing church and hall, went through the Planning Commission for first review and recommendation to the Board. The Village engineers reviewed the plan and have noted no concerns from an engineering perspective. Steve Borsecnik, AIA LEED AP Senior Architect, at Gries Architectural Group, Inc. was present to answer any questions regarding the site plan.

Motion passes by unanimous voice vote 6-0-0

Confirm next meeting
Tuesday, July 15, 2025, 5:30 pm – Village Hall Board Room

Adjourn

Motion by Bouras, second by Olson to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passes by unanimous voice vote 6-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:33pm.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Vinland Town Board will hold a public hearing at the Vinland Town Hall; 6085 County Rd T, Oshkosh on Monday, August 11th at 6:45pm to consider the following applications for a Zoning Change and Conditional Use Permit. Said meeting will follow the Plan Commission meeting of August 4th at 6:30pm.

A decision may be made by the Town Board at their next regularly scheduled meeting after this first public hearing and or the item(s) listed below may be posted on agenda notices for discussion by the Plan Commission and/or the Town Board until a final decision is made.

BE ADVISED: Notices are only sent to neighboring properties within the 300 feet prior to the 1st hearing.
Public comment on the issue will be accepted at all meetings until a final decision is made.

Description of Subject Site:
Applicant: Precision Property Group LLC c/o Will Yates
Tax Parcel: 026063904
Location: Northeast corner lot of Indian Point Rd and County A
Explanation: To change current zoning from B-1 (General Commercial District) to B-2 (Highway Business Park District) zoning; and establish CUP for storage building

Mike McNamee, Zoning Administrator

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Breister

FROM PAGE 1

kee undergoing 28 surgeries to save his life.

“It’s a miracle,” Jenny said. “We have experienced medical miracles.”

Dan went through skin grafting and a process called recelling that Jenny described as “seeding the lawn, but you’re seeding the leg with skin cells.” Dan lost almost all of his subcutaneous fat on his right leg and has nothing but muscle left under his freshly grafted skin.

When Dan was first admitted, the doctors told Jenny and their children that they might have to amputate at the hip. The morbidity rate for someone who loses that much of their body ranges from one to five years.

“We just cried,” Jenny said.

After a week in the hospital, Jenny received a phone call saying that Dan was out of surgery and his leg had been placed in a wound vac.

“I just started jumping up and down,”



Submitted photo

Dan Breister shops at the StoneRidge Piggly Wiggly as he continues his recovery from his injuries.



Submitted photo

The group responsible for the upcoming fundraiser to benefit the Breister family.

Jenny said. “I was like, ‘they put it in a vac, they’re going to save it,’ they wouldn’t put it in a vac if they weren’t going to save it.”

Dan’s only goal was to get out of the hospital and walk again. At first, his care team wasn’t sure that was ever going to be possible. In April, he was given a walker after surgery and from there, he has been going to physical therapy three times a week to rebuild strength.

“I was like, ‘oh Christ, I just walked,’” Dan said. “And they’re like, ‘see? Now we just got to get it stronger.’”

Jenny recalled wondering how she would explain what happened to Dan once he was finally awake and responsive. She said his brain had done a great job protecting him, and he hardly remembered the first three and a half weeks in the hospital. The added stress might have set his progress back, or worse, made him give up the fight.

“It was a journey,” Dan said. “It was looking at the same dark spot on the ceiling. I told [the doctor] when I left, ‘can

you clean that spot? I ain’t coming back in this room.’ I looked at it 105 days and it was depressing.”

From early in the recovery process, Dan and Jenny adopted the mindset of what happened, happened and you can’t change it now. Jenny served as his anchor and was in the hospital with Dan all 105 days. Dan said if it wasn’t for her, he would have told the doctors to give up.

“We decided very early on, anger, bitterness, they’re not going to help you,” Jenny said. “That’s not going to change anything. And so, we really tried to be grateful. You could be upset and depressed over things that you don’t have, or you can be grateful for what you have.”

“I told myself it was like Shawshank Redemption, you ever see it?” Dan said. “Get busy living or get busy dying. That’s what you got to do.”

On day 105, Dan was pushed to the exit at Froedtert in a wheelchair. When he got to the door, he said he wanted to try and walk out so he could say that he

did it – and he did. Dan was released from the hospital on June 6 and was cleared to walk, swim and even kayak.

The Winneconne community rallied around the Breisters and raised over \$40,000 on GoFundMe. Dan and Jenny couldn’t believe the support they received.

“It’s crazy to realize you touched that many people,” Dan said. “They were dumping money and I’m like, ‘who is this?’ It was great. She could stay down there in a hotel with the dogs for the entire stretch. Every day she was there.”

Dan said that’s the spirit of a small-town community. If this were a big city, “you wouldn’t have heard nobody,” Dan said.

“I play cards at Tiny’s on Wednesday, they have a little fun up there, and the first night I got back to playing cards, I walked in and the bars full and they all stood up clapping,” Dan said. “It almost brought a tear to my eye. I said, ‘alright boys, the bars on me,’ and I bought the whole bar a round.”

Dan is currently serving as the president of the food pantry and has returned to work since coming home. People stop by to visit and ask him how he’s doing, kids he used to referee for ask if he’ll be back to ref another softball season.

“It’s nuts,” Dan said. “I appreciate everybody. You just can’t pay ‘em all back for what happened to me and the love and support.”

Evil Roy Slades, 110 W. Seventh Ave. in Oshkosh is hosting a benefit for Dan and Jenny from 1 to 4 p.m. on Aug. 16. All proceeds raised from the event will be donated directly to the Breister family.

“Everybody says, ‘remember 9/11? You remember Pearl Harbor?’ I remember Feb. 20, 2025,” Dan said. “The rest of my life, it definitely changed, but like I said, I’m here. I can still spend time with my granddaughter and my wife and kids. And I owe [Jenny] that vacation. Or two, or three.”



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EMS

FROM PAGE 1

place would be within the City of Omro,” Hennes said.

He cited its central location and high call volume as reasons why.

The city has an old garage on Superior Street that used to house Gold Cross in the 90s. The garage has been maintained and is currently used as public works storage, but Hennes said it could be cleaned out. That facility can hold two ambulances and house current facility needs. The kitchenette and living area need updates, but it could be up and running as soon as Dec. 31.

“You are not buying a new building and you’re not renovating a building either,” Hennes said. “So, you are saving capital costs within there to just be renovation costs.”

The end of the meeting switched to a closed session where the board heard from Gold Cross and Lifestar EMS about potential service contract negotiations. The board voted to move forward with Lifestar in a unanimous vote and authorized Sajak to begin working on the contract.

The IGA has not announced their next meeting date, but there will likely be two scheduled in August.

Classifieds

Miscellaneous

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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).

Published July 30th and August 6th, 2025
WNAXLP

Aug 2nd and 3rd, 9-5
123 N. 3rd St, Winneconne
Bar Items, cash register, glass's, coasters, signs, pictures, Halloween costumes, decorations, hunting and fishing items, gun cabinets, tv, tv stand, microwave, lots of misc.