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SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 | WINNECONNE NEWS

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VOLUME 154, ISSUE 37

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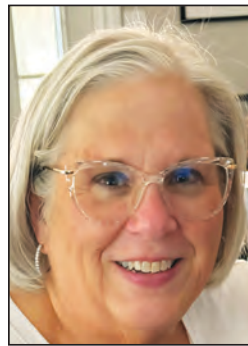
County Board considers \$3.5M housing loan program

ARPA funds could support new home construction

By Bethanie Gengler
Winneconne News

Winnebago County commissioners are moving forward with allocating \$3.5 million from the county's Spirit Fund to a revolving loan program aimed at boosting local housing development.

Two ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Strategy and Outcomes Commission meetings last month included discussion about the best use of the Spirit Fund and the county's role in dealing with a growing housing shortage.



Scheer

At an Aug. 22 meeting, Housing Grants Specialist Lu Scheer wrote in a committee item report that there is a severe shortage of housing, with Wisconsin needing nearly 227,000 new units and the U.S. facing a shortfall of more than 12.5 million homes.

In Winnebago County, "we will need to

create around 10,000 new housing units in the next decade," Scheer wrote.

Tricia Rathemel, president and chief executive at Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corporation, told the commission that the county's housing supply isn't meeting the needs of the workforce.

"We are recruiting people to our area that cannot find housing here, and either they're working here and living other places, or they're just simply leaving our communities because they can't find affordable housing," she said.

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Wolves football picks up conference win
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Koval seeks all around volleyball success
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Photo from St. Mary's Catholic Church

Project groundbreaking

A full church and large outdoor crowd gathered Sunday morning at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Winneconne to celebrate and bless the grounds for a new building addition. The project will connect Kaudy Hall to the church and provide a welcoming gathering space along with offices for church staff.

County provides information about vaccinations

By Anya Kelley
Winneconne News

The Center for Disease Control has confirmed 1,431 cases of measles in the U.S., the largest outbreak since it was declared eliminated in 2000.

Wisconsin has 24 confirmed cases as of last week. All the current cases are in Oconto County and have been confirmed to be unvaccinated people. Two cases have resulted in hospitalization, but no deaths

have been reported yet.

As childhood vaccination rates continue to decline across the country, Wisconsin ranks as the state with the third lowest vaccine uptake rate leading public health offices to gear up for a potential public health crisis.

Jaci Grignon, the communicable disease supervisor for Winnebago County Public Health, said the number one goal for the county is to not see vaccine rates

decrease.

"It's different for each disease when we're looking to get herd immunity," Grignon said. "Mainly our main goal is just, at this point, not to have rates decrease. At least to not have a decrease."

Winnebago County Public Health offers two federally funded programs to assist low-income people and families access vaccinations, the Vaccines for Children (VFC) and the Vaccines for Adults (VFA)

programs. Vaccines can be administered onsite for no cost and appointments can be made by calling the office.

Last year, Winnebago County Public Health used the Routine Immunizations Through Community Engagement (RICE) grant to help increase vaccine accessibility by partnering with clinics around the county. Those clinics allowed

SEE Vaccines ON PAGE 2

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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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Vaccines

FROM PAGE 1

people who didn't have access to their provider or had multiple children to get appointments that worked around the work and school day. Grignon said the highest risk population is always lower income groups.

"Sometimes, low income doesn't just mean you don't have insurance," Grignon said. "The low income might mean that you're in a position where you can't take off work."

At the state level, Wisconsin offers a few helpful tools to survey the public health landscape. By going to dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/child-adolescent-vaccine-data.htm, anyone can see the percentage of vaccine uptake split up by each county and specific vaccine. Currently,

83.4% of 24-month-olds in Winnebago County have received one or more doses of the MMR vaccine.

The Wisconsin Immunization Registry allows each person to enter their name and social security number to access their history of vaccinations negating the need for vaccination cards in the state of Wisconsin. The registry also allows records to be printed at home to eliminate needing to wait for a doctor to provide them.

"Not every state has that," Grignon said. Grignon emphasized vaccine safety and efficacy, and their ability to prevent more than just disease. Antibiotic overuse is a major issue in the US, and vaccinations can help reduce their need.

"You don't always think about the influenza and all the things that come in pneumonia and all that," Grignon said. "The ear infections that come with [out] the HIB vaccine ... you don't realize all the strep

throats and the ear infections that come from that and all the antibiotics you're taking over the years from all of this."

Grignon said vaccines keep people out of the emergency room and away from taking unnecessary doses of antibiotics that can be hard on the kidneys.

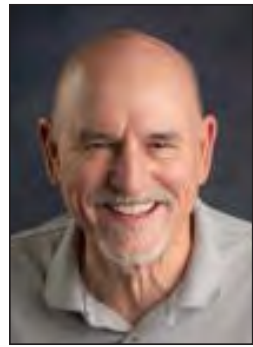
"Vaccines have to be even safer than say, a cancer medication or a medication for someone who's got pneumonia and is very sick, who's got renal disease and such because they're giving [them] to someone who's healthy," Grignon said.

To learn more about Winnebago County Health's immunization initiatives or to schedule an appointment, call 920-232-3000. Anyone who suspects they may have been exposed to measles or have symptoms should stay home and call their doctor immediately.

County waits for campus building condition assessments

By Anya Kelley
Winneconne News

Planning for the former UWO Fox Cities campus has reached a standstill as Winnebago County officials wait for building condition assessments to be completed.



Ulbricht

After nearly two months into Winnebago County owning the 43 acres of the campus, Walt Ulbricht, secretary of the UW Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee, said during a committee meeting in August everything is still very tentative

for plans going forward.

The campus consists of 43 acres of land, 18 of which are campus buildings. Ulbricht said assessments should have been completed a year ago to allow the county to measure the amount of money needed for repairs.

County officials said there are some clear-cut assets on the campus. The community gardens and greenhouses are being considered for county-wide programming, the child care center, currently leased by the Menasha Joint School District, is helping to close the child care gap and there is a large communications and arts center consisting of two theaters and an art gallery that could be used.

Winnebago County executive Gordon Hintz is working to hire a management team for the communications and arts

center to allow members of the public to rent the space for performances. The questions that remain for all those buildings are what their current conditions are and who is going to maintain them in the long term.

The campus also has a fieldhouse that community members have been asking to rent. Before the county can allow that, officials said the assessments must be completed, and repair costs will likely be high. Steven Binder, chair of the UW Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee, said the county will determine whether buildings are worth saving or if a new building is more beneficial.

The UW Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee meets at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month in the James P. Coughlin Center in Oshkosh.

WINNECONNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Join us as we celebrate the completion of the Winneconne Middle School Renovations.

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Winneconne News

Looking for crafts

The annual Winchester Craft, Farm and Holiday Fair was held Saturday at the Town of Winchester Municipal Grounds. The event featured more than 75 vendors. Along with the craft fair, the Town of Winchester Fire Department hosted an open house.

First look offered at Butte des Morts history book

Winneconne News

The Butte des Morts Historical Preservation Society will be holding a bake sale, chili lunch and annual meeting Saturday at the Butte des Morts Lions Club, 5063 Washington St. in Butte des Morts.

The chili lunch with hot dogs and bake sale will begin at noon, followed by the annual meeting at 1 p.m.

Deb Daubert will be presenting a teaser about an upcoming book the society has been working on. Those attending the meeting will be the first to hear and see what will be in the publication Butte des Morts: The Stories Beyond the Tombstones.

The presentation will include virtual trips to six local cemeteries to learn the life stories of interesting past residents of Butte des Morts. The group said one of the highlights of the presentation will be sam-

ples of Mrs. Petford's Lemon Cake, from her own recipe books used for making meals at the Petford Hotel.

Members and the public are welcome to attend.

American Legion offers bricks for gifts

Winneconne News

The American Legion Giles-Luce Post 364 Memorial Brick Project is providing a way to honor veterans in the Winneconne area.

Bricks can be a gift idea for veteran grandparents, parents, son or daughter, family member or friend. Bricks can be purchased with a name inscribed on it along with service information. The purchased items will be installed in the brick pathway at the American Legion Post 364.

There are three sizes: 4" x 8" for \$100, which has three lines and 14 spaces per line; 8" x 8" for \$200, which has six lines and 14 spaces per line or the 8" x 16" for \$400, which has six lines and 28 spaces per line.

Several orders are pending and will be sent on Monday so they can be completed and installed before the second frost. Anyone who would like to have their order included can fill out a form available at winneconnepost364.org/brick.

Additional orders can be placed but can't be guaranteed to be installed before the end of the year.

The Legion said the project has created a beautiful sidewalk made with engraved bricks, each one commemorating a veteran who has served this country with honor, dedication and valor. The sidewalk serves as a daily reminder of the bravery and commitment of those who have served in the armed forces.



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Norbert Rich School Forest organizing scavenger hunt

Winneconne News
The Norbert Rich School Forest will host a GooseChase scavenger hunt during its September Family Night.

The event from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Sept. 18 will feature campfire s'mores after the GooseChase. Each family will need one smartphone capable of downloading the free GooseChase app.

Using the app, families can take part in an interactive scavenger hunt that take them hiking and running around the Norbert Rich School Forest to find objects or

complete tasks. Photos or videos can be taken through the app. The school forest is located at 5007 Ginnow Road.

Each task completed score a team points. The goal is for each family to complete the most tasks or score the most points. The live leaderboard can be viewed as it changes throughout the event to keep groups moving and motivated.

Sign up for the event and find more information at signupgenius.com/go/10C-094BADAE23A5FCC52-58045138-september#.

Watercolor painting class dives into autumn colors

Winneconne News
Art with Ang is returning to the Winneconne Public Library.

The free beginner-level watercolor painting class designed for adults will be held at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 7. The first session was held in August.

The upcoming session led by Ang Breunig will focus on diving into the vibrant

hues of autumn with two beautiful fall-themed watercolor cards. Whether interested participants are a seasoned artist or just looking to explore their creative side, this class is open to everyone aged 18 and up.

Spots are limited to the first 20 adults. To sign up, contact the Winneconne Public Library.

Retired County Educators and staff set meeting

Winneconne News
The Winnebago County Retired Educators' Association invites all retired school employees who live in or have worked in Winnebago County to its meeting Sept. 18 at Delta Restaurant, 515 N. Sawyer St. in Oshkosh.

Registration starts at 11 a.m. followed by a short business meeting at 11:30 before lunch. At about 1 p.m. the program will feature Michael McArthur, local history and genealogy librarian from Osh-

kosh Public Library. He will speak about the history of the Athearn Hotel, a prominent landmark in Oshkosh known as one of the largest hotels in Wisconsin back in the late 1800's.

This chapter includes retired teachers, administrators, secretaries, custodians, instructional aides, counselors, bus drivers, cooks and school nurses. Those interested can email rolson3430@aol.com by Friday for more information.

Financial literacy class offered at seniors center

Winneconne News
The 2025 edition of the Adventures In Investing classes with Jeff Kemp will be coming this fall to the Oshkosh Seniors Center.

Adventures In Investing seeks to empower individuals attending with the knowledge required to make informed decisions when managing money invested in the stock and bond markets.

Kemp is not a financial planner or associated with any financial service company, so he said the information presented in the classes is educational. Topics covered will be how mutual funds work and the importance of being aware of the expenses associated with the financial products being offered. Also covered will be bonds, asset

allocation, retirement planning, the economic factors investors need to be aware of which influence one's investments and more.

Kemp said these classes should be of interest to everyone because acquiring the basic knowledge of the fundamentals of investing is a core building block in attaining a healthy and thriving financial life.

The series of six free of charge investment classes at the Oshkosh Seniors Center, 200 N. Campbell Road in Oshkosh, will begin at 6 p.m. Oct. 1 and run through Nov. 5. Adventures In Investing is offered as a community service and all ages are welcome to attend.

If interested in the classes, call the seniors center at 920-232-5308.

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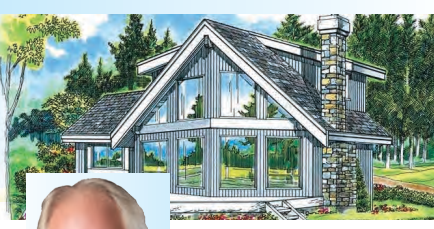



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Shallow Lakes Chronicles

Big sky country

By Matt Harp
Outdoor Reporter

Montana may be the state known as Big Sky Country, but I'll tell you that anytime you get west of the trees of Wisconsin and Minnesota, you're in for big sky everywhere and a lot of other big things. A recent elk hunt drew me to Utah, and



Harp

the vastness of everything cannot be overstated.

In training for extended climbing and hiking, all I could find "big" in these parts was Mosquito Hill, just over 100 feet in elevation.

"Well, this will have to do," I told myself. If we have anything big around here, it's big amounts of oxygen at our 800 feet in elevation. I did my best to ready myself with this relatively small hill.

A short walk at 10,000 feet in the western landscape quickly lets you know that no matter what shape you're in, it can't ready you for trying to catch a breath up there. "Like trying to breathe with a bag over your head," one guy remarked. In other words, that means big breaths trying to stay conscious.

Each day started with a 30-minute ATV ride into the Fish Lake National Forest darkness. We were treated to cloudless nights and a view of the stars that was simply staggering. The stars were so vivid, you could actually see why they were labelled their given names. Cancer actually looks like a crab, Orion actually has a bow and a sword hanging from his belt and Androm-

eda actually looked like she was chained to a rock. They seemed so close, like you could reach up and pick one out of the darkness. Big sky indeed.

After the ride in, we had a big hike of about a mile to the edge of a plateau and then scaled down about 500 feet to the area we thought we could get within bow range of some Utah elk. Between carrying a pack and a bow, the scramble downhill caused shakiness in our legs with each step. The worst part was knowing that for every step down in the relatively comfortable 50-degree temps, it meant making those same steps back up in 80-degree temperatures. Big effort.

Each of our four days afield we saw elk - bulls, cows and spikes seemed to parade around in front of us, painfully, well out of bow range (we were willing to let one fly at about 50 yards max). We did spot a pair at 40 yards, but the brush and trees provided just enough cover for them. We estimated them to be about 300 pounders and worthy of a shot if they could just take a few more steps. Big animals.

One of our hunts was thwarted by the combination of another hunter and something else we could only smell. The foulness told us it was probably a bear, and a later scat sighting told us he was right there with us, the feces still steaming and glistening in our headlamp lights. We never saw the other hunter, but he sure loved to use his cow call; we moved quietly out of the area. Big disappointment.

On our way to and from Utah, we saw other places like the Black Hills, Mount Rushmore, Devil's Tower, Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons and a landscape of mountains, valleys, canyons, lakes and rivers. Big adventures deserving of a longer

stay to be sure.

While we returned home with our big coolers empty, our big memories of this place will be forever remembered. While that might not feed the body, it sure will

feed the soul. It's always a good thing to go to a big place to feel small again.

Reach Matt at lakeandpond2@gmail.com.



Submitted photo

Puppy yoga

Four 10-week-old puppies from Our Pack Animal Rescue joined a recent yoga class at Yoga En Mi Casa. Led by Karina Mino-Mickelson, the class enjoyed snuggles, laughs and relaxation. A portion of the registration fee went directly to the rescue.

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ARPA

FROM PAGE 1

Other counties have committed significant ARPA dollars to housing. Milwaukee County dedicated \$15 million in ARPA funds to affordable housing, including gap financing for tax credit projects, rehabilitating tax-foreclosed homes and emergency energy assistance. Outagamie County invested \$3.5 million in ARPA funds for affordable housing through a grant program, creating 98 new housing units for low- to moderate-income households

Under the proposed revolving loan program, Winnebago County will offer low-interest loans to developers and communities for housing projects, covering costs like property acquisition and pre-development expenses. Loans will be repaid and recycled into future projects, creating a revolving fund, with interest supporting administration and potential community grants or reinvestment into the fund.

The program comes with a requirement that municipalities contribute to early-stage costs, such as engineering or environmental studies. Priority will go to projects that provide true affordability rather than just developer profit, according to Scheer. An advisory board will oversee applications, evaluate risk, and report regularly to ensure transparency and alignment with county priorities.

The Spirit Fund is a special account created under former County Executive Jon Doemel to hold federal ARPA pandemic relief dollars. The county reclassified the ARPA money as "lost revenue" from the pandemic and moved it into the Spirit Fund to be spent on local projects that reflect the original intent of ARPA.

The county was awarded \$33.3 million in ARPA funds, split between payments in

2021 and 2022. As of Aug. 22, about \$11.7 million remained, including about \$3.5 million in accrued interest. The funds are held in a money market account earning 4.1% interest monthly.

County Executive Gordon Hintz told commissioners last month that the county has been working to develop the revolving loan program for a year. In June, the Industrial Development Board (IDB) committed \$1 million to the proposed program.

Hintz said the \$3.5 million the county would commit comes from the interest earned on the ARPA dollars.

"The amount that we're earmarking for this new revolving loan initiative is interest that was accrued on the dollars, and allows us to experiment with a program where the risk is lower because the money comes back, is leveraged with IDB money and helps us accomplish new housing needs, net new construction, and meet some of the economic goals of the county," he said.

Hintz said there was indication from the County Board that the remaining Spirit Fund money would be used for county projects and not for municipal or non-profit projects based on the previous allocation of the ARPA funds.

"I would suggest that a county initiative, especially one that replenishes the funding, and that it doesn't go away, is something that supports the mission of the county and goals that we're trying to accomplish," he told commissioners.

Among the discussion was whether the Spirit Fund should be used for housing or reserved for deferred maintenance and capital projects. The county faces \$67 million in deferred maintenance and \$350 million in Master Plan proposals.

Hintz said allocating a portion of available funds to immediate needs would reduce project costs, but very minimally,

and the county needs to act proactively on new construction and housing, or risk falling behind neighboring counties.

Commissioner Don Merkes, who is the former mayor of Menasha, told commissioners to look at the big picture, stating that the only way to fix and balance the county budget is to grow the county.

"So we should really be looking for things that help grow that value of our county, and help our cities and other municipalities grow the value of their communities, which in fact increases the value of the county," he said at the meeting.

Merkes made a motion to amend the revolving loan program resolution to specify that in awarding funds, addition-

al consideration should be given to projects that promote the building of homeowner equity, incorporate mixed-income housing and provide workforce housing opportunities for households earning up to 140% of the county median income. His amendment also noted that the \$3.5 million allocation comes from the Spirit Fund's accrued interest. Both the amendment and resolution were approved by the commission.

The County Board is expected to consider the resolution authorizing the revolving loan program at its Oct. 21 meeting. Once the program is approved, the county plans to hire a nonprofit to manage the new housing loan fund.



Photo from Winnebago County Parks & Sunnyview Expo Center
Work is underway to make improvements at the Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh, which hosts events such as the Winnebago County Fair.

Renovations start at Sunnyview Expo Center

Winneconne News

West campus improvements at the Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh began at the end of August.

The project includes a complete redesign of the parking lot to improve the flow of traffic and create better spaces for the over 600 events hosted each year. The previous lot had recurring drainage issues around the lot and the expo building that this project will address.

The campus will also get a retention pond and added gravel overflow parking and space for campers. Lighting will also be improved throughout the parking lot.

The Sunnyview Expo Center hosts events including the county fair, horse shows, festivals and more. The construction project is set to be completed by early summer 2026 in time for peak festival season.



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Wolves dominant in conference win over Bulldogs

By Steve Clark
Winneconne News

Two possessions into Friday night's Bay Conference matchup against New London, things weren't going Winneconne's way.

The Wolves had fumbled the ball on their opening possession and then were unable to disrupt a drive by the Bulldogs, which had a 39-yard run and a touchdown pass on a fourth-and-goal from the 15-yard line.

"Those were the mishaps we didn't want to have happen early in the game," Winneconne co-head coach Ryan Krings said. "It's kind of how we started against them last year."

But it wasn't how the Wolves started that ended up standing out, but rather how the team finished.

Winneconne rattled off the next 48 points – including a 27-point second quarter – and barely let the Bulldogs gain a yard the rest of the night, posting a 48-6 win over New London to improve to 3-0 overall on the season.

"For us to come out and dominate on both sides – once we got through those first drives – all of the guys played hard," Krings said. "The guys fought back. There were a lot of guys that stayed with it and kept the rest of the team going and obviously the scoreboard showed it at the end of the night."

Bryce Jones spearheaded the offense with three touchdowns – two powerful short scoring runs and an 83-yard pass play in which he sprinted through and past the Bulldog defense – while Brody Schaffer threw for a pair of scores, ran for another and returned a punt 67 yards for a touchdown as well.

Winneconne did not punt in the first half – scoring on all but its opening possession – and led 34-6 at halftime en route to the win.

Defensively, the Wolves allowed minus-8 yards on the five first half drives after the Bulldogs opening touchdown before pitching the second-half shutout.

"We came out flat and had a rough start but after that we got pumped up and started making some plays," said senior Jovan Zeller, who finished with two of the Wolves' three sacks in the game and three of the team's tackles-for-loss. "We all kind of came together and brought the energy."



Photo by Doug Sasse

Ryan Quigley eyes up a pass from Brody Schaffer on Friday night. Quigley led Winneconne with six catches for 104 yards and a touchdown in the Wolves' win over New London.

After surrendering the opening touchdown – Hudson Samolinski blocked the extra-point kick to keep the Bulldogs' point total at six – New London failed to gain a yard on three of its next four possessions.

The Wolves' defense allowed just 43 yards of total offense in the game and spent much of the second half with its defensive line setting up shop in the Bulldogs' backfield.

"We got some muscle up front. We have some big boys working," Zeller said. "The coaches kept telling us at halftime that it was 0-0 and to keep our foot on the gas."

Krings was pleased with the way the defense kept New London scoreless over the final 3½ quarters.

"They didn't want to see more points go on the board so they are going to fight tooth and nail and as much as they can," Krings said. "I thought they did a great job (staying focused). It was from the first play of the game the guys were giving it 100 percent. They never let off."

Winneconne started its scoring barrage on its second possession, marching 68 yards on 12 plays for its first touchdown. Schaffer converted a fourth-and-1 to keep the drive going, which was capped by Jones plowing into the end zone from two yards out.

Schaffer scored on a 4-yard run on Winneconne's next possession on a play that was preceded by a 30-yard pass from Schaffer to Jordan Nettekoven and a 13-yard pass to Ryan Quigley.

Jones then picked up his second touchdown run of the game, again from two yards out, to cap a nine-play, 65-yard drive.

"Bryce did an awesome job tonight. He's running with a little more oomph in his step," Krings said. "Tonight was a huge game for Bryce. He worked hard for it and earned everything he got."

Jones finished with 115 yards of total offense on just six touches, while averaging 6.4 yards per carry on his five rushing attempts.

"Shout out to the line. They were dominating the front. When our line gets fired up, there are not many guys who can stop them," Jones said. "We've got a ton of confidence (as an offense) and it all starts with the line."

Jones' biggest play of the night, though, was the touchdown pass from Schaffer in which he snagged the short throw off the

top of his cleats and then sped and weaved his way through the Bulldogs defense all the way to the end zone.

It was a play design that the Winneconne coaches had installed during the week. Jones just had to wait patiently for it to be called.

"Coach was scheming that up all week and was excited to call that and when he did and we scored, we all got super-hyped about that," Jones said. "I couldn't feel anything (on the run). I had so much adrenaline. I was just kind of floating down the field."

Jones' score sent the Wolves into intermission with the 28-point lead and Winneconne wasted no time extending the lead in the third quarter.

Koltyn Kachur scooped up a loose ball that New London failed to cover on the kickoff and the Wolves needed four plays to reach the end zone. Schaffer, who finished 14-of-18 passing for 265 yards, while also running for 91 yards on 15 carries, connected with Quigley for a 5-yard touchdown to cap the drive and start the running clock.

Mason Mathe added a 37-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter for the final points as the Wolves closed out the win.

Winneconne will host Sheboygan Falls on Friday night before returning to Bay Conference action the following week at Shawano.

But for now, the team can enjoy the 3-0 start.

"It's amazing but we just have to keep working," Zeller said. "Keep coming together as a team and we will get something done."

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Wolves rebound to finish off Thunder

By Steve Clark
Winneconne News

Winneconne first-year head coach Ellie Mackenzie would have liked to have seen her squad dispatch Seymour in the three sets during their Bay Conference match at home Thursday.

But she also didn't mind seeing how the Wolves responded when the Thunder extended the match to a fourth set.

Winneconne bounced back from a close loss in the third set to control the fourth and collect a 25-12, 25-17, 24-26, 25-11 victory over the Thunder inside the Wolf Den.

"A little disappointed we didn't win it in three but at the same time it was good to have that competition and have them push back so that we had to go to the fourth and see what that was like," Mackenzie said. "It feels great (to get the conference win). I know going into a tougher conference it's only going to get harder from here so I'm excited to see what the rest of the season looks like."

After comfortable wins in the first two sets, Winneconne led from the start of the third set and took a 21-15 lead in the third set following a block from Laney Immel and a spike off a dig attempt from Olivia DuPont.

Seymour answered with five straight points to pull within one before an Alyssa Koval kill stemmed the Thunder's run. Another Koval kill and a tip from Neela Gardner helped Winneconne get to match point at 24-23, but Seymour rattled off the next three points to extend the match to a fourth set.

"I think we got a little unfocused and our energy went down a little bit because we were like, 'We got this,'" senior Malia Bodoh said. "I think it was really important to get the momentum (in the fourth set)."

Winneconne scored the first three points of the fourth set and later took the lead for good on back-to-back kills from Immel and Koval, followed by a Seymour error.

After the Thunder cut the Wolves' lead to 12-9, Hallah Josephson reeled off 12 straight points on her serve to break the game open. Josephson had four aces in the run, which left the Wolves leading 24-9.

Bodoh also chipped in two of her three



Winneconne News

Malia Bodoh goes up for a spike at the net during Thursday's match against Seymour.

blocks in the run.

"It feels really good to get the blocks," Bodoh said. "You have to be really aware and watch where the setter is placing the ball and then you just have to press over (the net) so it goes straight down."

Bodoh was one of handful of players at the net who played well for the Wolves.

Koval led the Winneconne attackers with 15 kills, while Gardner added 10 and Bodoh finished with seven. Jaidyn Halder added seven kills and DuPont chipped in four.

Bodoh and Immel each finished with three total blocks with DuPont chipping in two.

"I think it's really cool and comforting to know that everybody in the front row is going to do something with the ball,"

Bodoh said. "We got down a little bit in the third set, but we found our energy and got back."

Mackenzie said the balance at the attacking positions allowed her to juggle the lineup a bit while always keeping powerful players at the net.

"We can mix and match wherever," Mackenzie said. "In the fourth set, we flip-flopped our outsides but it didn't really matter too much. It's just so consistent throughout the (rotation)."

Winneconne faced early deficits in each of the first two sets, but once the Wolves were able to get the lead, they pulled away.

Gardner had a string of seven serves in the first set to help Winneconne extend its lead from three points to an 18-8 margin. The Wolves closed out the set on spikes from Bodoh and Gardner before a Seymour hitting error on the final point.

The second set featured a serving string from Tess Immel, who helped turn a 7-3 deficit into a 9-7 lead and Winneconne never trailed again. Bodoh served out the final five points of the set to give the Wolves a commanding lead in the match.

Bodoh and Josephson each finished with five aces to lead the Winneconne servers overall, but the Wolves also missed a total of 16 serves in the match – seven in the third-set loss.

"It's little disappointing because we work on serving quite a bit," Mackenzie said of the serving errors. "I know they were trying to be aggressive but I think we can be aggressive while still getting them in. It's finding that fine line with being aggressive but still getting them in."

Bailey Church led Winneconne with 19 assists in the match, while Tess Immel finished with 15. Josephson led the Wolves with 16 digs with Garner notching the next highest total at eight.

Winneconne will be back in action at Shawano on Thursday, while the team's next home match will be Sept. 23 against Xavier.



Photo by Doug Sasse

Hallah Josephson bumps a pass forward for Winneconne in Thursday's win over Seymour.

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Prep Roundup

CROSS COUNTRY

Wenzelow, Leroy lead Wolves runners at invite

Grant Wenzelow finished 11th in the boys race, and Quinn Leroy placed 15th in the girls race to lead their respective Winneconne teams Thursday at the DePere

Invitational.

The boys finished in eighth place in a field consisting of mostly Division 1 teams.

Silas Sarbo was the second Winneconne runner to finish, placing 51st overall and was followed by Merrick Heise (69th),

Tyler Bostwick (72nd) and Maxwell Helfrich (87th).

For the girls, Ruby Kuehn and Lydia Luce were the next two finishers, placing 42nd and 46th, respectively. The scoring runners for Winneconne were rounded out by Vivian Verich in 93rd place and Lauren Weidemeier in 98th place.

The Winneconne girls also finished ninth among the 30 teams at the invite,

ending just two points behind Wausau West and six points behind Mukwonago.

SOCCER

Winneconne suffers shutout loss

The Wolves slipped to 0-3 on the season with a 7-0 loss last Thursday at home to New London.

Winneconne will be at home on Thursday to face Shawano before travelling to St. Mary Catholic on Saturday afternoon.



Photo by Doug Sasse

Winneconne goalkeeper Andrew Sperling stretches to make a save on Thursday against New London.

Wednesday Night Men's Golf League at Lake Breeze

Aug. 27

North

Swing Shack	331.5 pts.
Fox Valley Metrology	331.0 pts.
The Big Show	327.5 pts.
Lake Breeze	322.5 pts.
Westward Ho	305.5 pts.
Woodeyes	293.5 pts.

South

Bankfirst	338.5 pts.
Rohm	337.0 pts.
Tinys	326.0 pts.
Reshel	318.5 pts.
Felix Auto & Towing	304.5 pts.

Veterans Mechanical II 289.0 pts.

Low Gross Scores

Troy Evers	34
Drew Lichtnam	37
Dave Pohlman	37
Joe Sarnowski	38
Jim Raddatz	39

Low Net

Nick Mohl	32
Troy Evers	33
David Chiu	33
Drew Lichtnam	34
Jim Raddatz	34
Phil Johnson	34

Calendar

Thursday, Sept. 11

WHS Boys Soccer vs. Shawano Community, 4:30 p.m., WHS

Tim Dorsey, 5 p.m., Bee Hive Barn and Grill

Friday, Sept. 12

WHS Football vs. Sheboygan Falls 7 p.m., WHS

Saturday, Sept. 13

Butte des Morts Historical Preservation Society Annual Meeting, New Book Reveal, Chili Lunch and Bake Sale, 1 p.m., Butte des Morts Lions Club

Sunday, Sept. 14

Rug Hooking Club, 8:45 a.m., Primitive Gatherings

Winneconne Middle School Project

Dedication Celebration, 1 p.m.

Bobby Evans, 2 p.m., The Hill Tavern, Poygan

The Plastic Knives, 3 p.m., The Bee Hive Barn and Grill

Tuesday, Sept. 16

Winneconne Area Homeschoolers Cereal Book Report, 1:30 p.m., Winneconne Public Library

Wednesday, Sept. 17

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

American Legion Post 364 Sportsmen's Banquet, 5 p.m., Woodey's

WMS Sixth Grade Orientation, 5 p.m., WMS

Library to host AI for business workshop

Winneconne News

An AI for business workshop by Vision2Excel will be offered for business owners to learn more about Chat GPT to market small businesses.

The free small business workshop providing a customer clarity blueprint is set for 5:30 to 7 p.m. Sept. 24 at the Winneconne Public Library Community Room. Participants are asked to bring their bootstraps, brilliance and a bit of moxie.

The workshop will provide information

about finding the real best customers, creating marketing that works without feeling fake and starting to get results.

The meeting is limited to 12 participants. For more information, email ro@vision2excel.net.



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Craft & Bake, Saturday, November 1st from 8am-2:30pm at Leannah Hall, Sacred Heart Church of St. Jude Parish located at 6th & Knapp St., Oshkosh.

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December 3	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. / 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
December 4	Closed (holiday parade)
December 5	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. / 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
December 6	10 a.m. – 4 p.m. / 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.



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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Koval finds success all around Winneconne court

By Steve Clark
Winneconne News

Despite being one of the taller players on her first club team, Alyssa Koval wasn't thrust right up to the net to start firing shots away at opposing players.

"My first year, I was a libero," said Koval, who was 11 at the time. "Granted, there wasn't much for me to do then."

What she may have lacked for action on the court during matches, she made up for working on her back row skills in practice. That helped form the foundation of an all-around game that has made her a staple in the Winneconne volleyball program.

Koval is entering her third year as a varsity player for the Wolves and plays all around the rotation – rarely, if ever, leaving the court during the match.

And although the skills learned as a libe-

ro are still present, it's her ability to rocket spikes and perfectly place tips that has made her a key figure for the Wolves.

"I'm glad I learned those skills early on because it's really all about fundamentals," Koval said. "For me, it was more learning how to hit, which is completely opposite of how it normally goes."

Koval led Winneconne in kills last season and is a formidable force on the outside of the Wolves' attack.

Yet, as much as she enjoys slamming a ball past or off an opponent, she knows that much more goes into a perfect spike than what she does.

"The kill is just for show. Everything else is what makes it work," Koval said. "We all know that if you can't pass the ball, you're not going to win. We work on it every day in practice so when it finally happens in



Winneconne News

Alyssa Koval goes for a tip in Winneconne's match against Seymour on Thursday.

the game, it's a great moment of respect for each other."

Koval has long been tied to the Winneconne volleyball program as she watched older sisters Anna and Katelyn perform while growing up.

She also had the chance to learn from both of her sisters, although sometimes the lessons she absorbed were a bit pain-

ful.

"Anna is the only one that's ever hit me in the face with a volleyball and she's done it a lot," Alyssa said with a laugh. "We have a sand court at home now, so we bring the competition out now and see who is better."

SEE KOVAL ON PAGE 12

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Obituaries

Shirley Mae Olson

Shirley Mae Olson, devoted grandmother, aunt, friend, age 90, passed away peacefully in her sleep and entered her heavenly home on Saturday, August 30, 2025. She was born on November 1, 1934, the only child of Willis and Frances (Hallock) Erdmann.



From a young age, Shirley developed a deep love for animals—especially poodles. She had many ‘favorite’ pet dogs over the years, most recently Mani. Shirley also enjoyed a successful career in real estate; antiquing; and she spent countless hours tending her beloved apple orchard.

On May 26, 1983, Shirley married the love of her life, Harley Olson. Together, they enjoyed traveling with their most memorable trips ‘out west’, to Hawaii, and locally to Door County until Harley’s health declined at which time Shirley lovingly cared for him until his death on January 3, 2010. Shirley was also preceded in death by her parents, and she endured the heartbreaking loss of her three sons, David, Steven, and William Wruck; She was also preceded in death by in-laws Glenn and Elaine (Olson) Olson, Byron “Barney” and Helen (Olson) Bacon; and Joseph Olson, and nephew and niece Daniel and Elayne (Hilger) Olson.

Shirley is survived by her grandchildren: Brian (Brooke) Wruck, Ashley (Nick) Swan, Dennis (Amber Dutter) Wruck, Andrew (Lisa Lund) Wruck, and Sara Sheleski; and many great-grandchildren. She is also survived by a sister-in-law, Carla Olson; nieces and nephews, Mary Murvine, Matthew Olson, Jonathan (Shelley) Olson, Theodore (Jennifer) Olson, Thomas (Susan) Olson, Charles Olson, Holly (fiancé, Mark Johnson) Olson; and many great-nieces, great-nephews, and friends.

Shirley was a longtime member of Grace Lutheran Church in Winchester where a private family graveside service will be held to celebrate her life.

Shirley’s family extends many thanks to the staff at American Grand Assisted Living and Compassus Hospice for their thoughtful, loving, and compassionate care.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests any donations be given to Fox Valley Lutheran High School or the Neenah animal shelter in her memory.

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” 2 Timothy 4:7

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



The Weekly Whisk

Garlic Butter Sausage and Pasta

This Garlic Butter Sausage Pasta is a cozy, flavorful dish that comes together in no time. Juicy sausage bites are tossed in a rich garlic butter sauce and paired with creamy Parmesan pasta for the ultimate comfort meal. Perfect for busy weeknights or a hearty weekend dinner, it’s simple, satisfying and sure to be a family favorite.

1 lb Italian sausage, cut into bite-sized pieces

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 8 oz pasta (your choice)
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Cook the pasta according to the package instructions. Drain and set aside. In a large skillet, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the sausage pieces and cook until browned on all sides, about 5-7 minutes. Remove the sausage from the skillet and set aside.

In the same skillet, add the minced garlic and dried thyme. Cook for 1-2 minutes until fragrant. Add the heavy cream to the skillet and bring to a simmer. Stir in the Parmesan cheese, and season with salt and pepper to taste. Continue stirring until the sauce thickens, about 3-5 minutes.

Add the cooked pasta to the skillet and toss it in the creamy sauce, coating it evenly. Add the browned sausage bites back into the skillet, mixing them with the pasta and sauce.

For questions or comments email weeklywhisk01@gmail.com



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND CHAPTER 310 ZONING CODE OF THE TOWN OF WINNECONNE

The Town Board of the Town of Winneconne will hold a Public Hearing at the Winneconne Town Hall, 6494 County Rd. M, Winneconne on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. to consider an amendment to Chapter 310, Zoning Code of the Town of Winneconne.

A copy of the proposed amendment to Chapter 310 is available for inspection at the office of the Town Clerk, 6494 County Rd. M, Winneconne during the following hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Posted: August 29, 2025

Yvonne Zobel, Clerk

Published: Sept. 10, 2025 and Sept. 17, 2025
WNAXLP

VILLAGE OF WINNECONNE PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Village of Winneconne Code of Ordinances § 469-9. Special event vending permit, a public hearing will be held on September 16th at 5:30pm at 30 South 1st Street, Winneconne for the issuance of a Special Event Vending Permit to the Winneconne Area Chamber of Commerce for Fall Fest on October 4th, 2025.

Published 9/10/25
WNAXLP

Lunch Menus

Sept. 15-19

Advocap

Winneconne Meal Site

920-517-0950

For information or meal reservations, please call by 12:30 p.m. a day in advance.

Monday: Chicken/Broccoli/Rice Casserole. Peas. Baby Carrots with Dip. Fresh Orange.

Tuesday: Frozen. Roast Beef. Mashed Potatoes. Harvard Beets. Pears.

Wednesday: Sloppy Joes with Red Peppers and Onions. Baked Sweet Potato. Peas. Apple Juice.

Thursday: Frozen. Hungarian Goulash over Noodles. Broccoli. Tropical Fruit.

Friday: Au Gratin Potatoes with Ham. Baked Beans. Carrots. Peaches.

Winneconne Community School District

Monday: ES – Hot Dog/Bun, Smuckers PB&J or Chef Salad. Garden Bar. Baked Beans. Sweet Potato Fries. MS – Cheese Bites/Sauce. Peas. Quick Bites – Hamburger/Bun, Chef Salad, Crispy Chicken Salad, Fruit Bowl and Smuckers PB&J. HS Country Roads – Chicken Nuggets. Smuckers PB&J. Baby Carrots. Buttered Pasta. Fruit and Salads – Fruit Bowl, Chef Salad, Crispy Chicken Salad and Yogurt Fruit Parfait. Stadium Burger – Chicken Patty/Bun. Spicy Chicken Patty/Bun. Sweet Potato Fries. Willies Pizza – Cheese Pizza.

Tuesday: ES – Pizza Cruncher, Smuckers PB&J or Chef Salad. Garden Bar. Sun Chips. Broccoli. MS – Soft Shell Taco. Winter Blend Vegetables. Rice Pilaf. Quick Bites – Chicken Patty/Bun, Chef Salad, Crispy Chicken Salad, Fruit Bowl and Smuckers PB&J. HS Country Roads – Mini Corndogs. Smuckers PB&J. Winter Blend Vegetables. Rice Pilaf. Fruits and Salads – Fruit Bowl, Chef Salad, Crispy

Chicken Salad and Yogurt Fruit Parfait. Stadium Burger – BBQ Rib Patty. Rice Bowl/Lo Mein. Willies Pizza – Pepperoni Pizza.

Wednesday: ES –Hamburger/Bun, Smuckers PB&J or Chef Salad. Garden Bar. Tater Tots. California Blend Vegetables. MS – Mashed Potato Bowl. Corn. Quick Bites – Pizza Calzone, Chef Salad, Crispy Chicken Salad, Fruit Bowl and Smuckers PB&J. HS Country Roads – Chicken Tenders. Smuckers PB&J. Assorted Veggies. Fruit and Salads - Fruit Bowl, Chef Salad, Crispy Chicken Salad and Yogurt Fruit Parfait. Stadium Burger – Chicken Wings. Taco Bowl. Willies Pizza – Bosco Sticks/Sauce.

Thursday: ES – Chicken Tenders, Smuckers PB&J or Chef Salad. Wheat Dinner Roll. Garden Bar. Mashed Potatoes/Gravy. Corn. MS – Pretzel Dog. Cheesy Potatoes. Baked Beans. Quick Bites – Bosco Sticks/Sauce, Chef Salad, Crispy Chicken Salad, Fruit Bowl and Smuckers PB&J. HS Country Roads – Ham & Cheese Melt. Soup Cheeseburger. Smuckers PB&J. Corn. Fruit and Salads - Fruit Bowl, Chef Salad, Crispy Chicken Salad and Yogurt Fruit Parfait. Stadium Burger – Hamburger/Bun. Mac and Cheese Bowl. Willies Pizza – Sausage Pizza.

Friday: ES – Pepperoni Pizza, Yogurt Fruit Parfait or Chef Salad. Cornbread Muffin. Garden Bar. Green Beans. MS – Pepperoni Slice. Roasted Vegetables. Quick Bites – Lunch Box, Chef Salad, Crispy Chicken Salad, Fruit Bowl and Smuckers PB&J. HS Country Roads – Buffalo Chicken Wrap. Smuckers PB&J. Assorted Veggies. Fruit and Salads - Fruit Bowl, Chef Salad, Crispy Chicken Salad and Yogurt Fruit Parfait. Stadium Burger – Fish Patty/Bun. BBQ Chicken Totchas. Willies Pizza – Supreme Pizza.

US 45 bridge work begins Monday

Winneconne News

A project to improve the US 45 Brooks Road overpass in the towns of Vinland and Oshkosh is scheduled to begin Monday. Construction is expected to finish by early November.

Brooks Road at US 45 will be closed during the work. US 45 will have lane and shoulder closures.

The project will replace the existing retaining wall on the east side of the Brooks

Road overpass at US 45. According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the retaining wall is deteriorating. Repairs to the retaining wall system will extend the service life of the structure and decrease future maintenance costs, WisDOT said.

Gov. Tony Evers earlier this week signed a \$950,000 contract for the project. Lunda Construction from Hilbert is the prime contractor.

Sponsorships sought for new holiday banners

Winneconne News

The Village of Winneconne Beautification Committee is seeking sponsorship of the new holiday banners that will be placed along Main Street.

The banners cost \$250 each and have a lifespan of five plus years. Businesses and organizations who sponsor a banner can choose to have their name printed across the bottom for no additional cost.

The banners are set to be on display by late fall and will remain on display for three to four months. Information and payment are due by Sept. 30. For more information on how to sponsor a banner, contact Joanne Loy at joannemloy@gmail.com or call her at (954) 296-6872.

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Koval

FROM PAGE 10

Just like in her household, Koval is one of a bevy of hitters on the current Winneconne roster and that is what helped make the team successful.

Over the course of a volleyball season, there will be on nights and off nights for every player and knowing there is a teammate there to help out when it's an off night is important.

"There's a lot of respect for each other and just knowing that if we're having a bad day - I know Maliah will step up if I'm having a bad hitting day or Neela will pick it up as well. It's nice that we have each other to be there when we aren't doing good," Koval said. "One day you feel like you are jumping so high and then one day you feel like you can't get off the ground."

Even if she's not on as a hitter, Koval can contribute in other ways.

She led the team in service aces last season and finished second on the team in digs - a big reason why she plays throughout the team's rotation.

"It helps me be more engaged in the game. I feel more connected in every way,"

Koval said. "It would be really weird if I wasn't (playing the whole rotation) - I wouldn't know what to do."

Contributing in multiple ways also helps Koval contribute to the team's motto of "We over me."

And as one of the senior leaders on the team, taking that philosophy onto the court is something she hopes to show the younger players.

"You have put your team before yourself if you're not feeling it," Koval said. "When you are having a bad day, you have to look at your team and figure how they can lift you up and how you can do it for them."

Winneconne is once again off to a strong start this season as the Wolves mark their initial season as members of the Bay Conference.

Last season, Winneconne won its first 10 matches of the season and 18 of their first 19 but the season ended abruptly with a loss to Shawano in a regional semi-final match at home.

Koval believes this year's team can be successful again, but the group has been hesitant to look too far down the road.

"We haven't talked much about playoffs at all. We just focus on the day to day," Koval said. "You're not going to get any-

where or see anyone unless you play it game by game. Keeping that momentum from each game and not looking too far ahead."

Koval currently hasn't set her plans for the future but she would be open to continuing to play volleyball at the collegiate level.

Yet, even if she doesn't find a new uniform to play in, that doesn't mean she

won't be stepping onto a court at all.

"I'm not sure what I want to do yet but even if I'm not playing, I will still be playing no matter what," Koval said. "Nothing builds confidence more than sports and I think anyone can vouch for that. Making one mistake, you can't shut down. You have to have the confidence in yourself to go back and take another swing and know it's going to be a hit."



Winneconne News

Alyssa Koval is a three-year varsity player for the Winneconne volleyball team who led the team in kills and aces last season and ranked second on the team in digs.

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- SEPT 10

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- SEPT 11

EAA Speaker Series: Remembering 9/11

EAA Museum • 7pm
A special evening reflecting on the events of Sept 11, 2001. Honored guest: David Norman, a first responder that fateful day. Free for first responders, veterans, and EAA members. \$5 for nonmembers.
- SEPT 12

Inside Out Movie

The Time Community Theater 7pm
Doors open at 6:30pm
A Pixar favorite in the historic theater in Downtown Oshkosh. \$5 admission
- SEPT 13

Oshkosh's Funniest Comedian Finale featuring headliner Josh Blue

Oshkosh Arena • 7pm
Feel the spirit of competition as five locals take the stage for their chance to earn bragging rights as "Oshkosh's Funniest Comedian."
- SEPT 13

House of Heroes 30th Anniversary • 5-8pm

Enjoy pizza, sodas, and all of your favorite House of Heroes crew as we celebrate 30 years of business downtown!



Scan here for the full list of community events this weekend and beyond.

DiscoverOshkosh.com