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First phase of Marble Park fundraising underway

Winneconne News

The Winneconne Area Community Foundation (WACF) and the Village of Winneconne Parks Committee shared progress on fundraising for the first phase of the Marble Park Reimagined Community Project.

As part of the public-private partnership, WACF is spearheading fundraising efforts for the project's first phase, and along with the village, is researching and applying for grants.

WACF has also been meeting with local businesses and community members to provide an update on project plans. Winneconne Thrift & Gift, Switchgear Power

Systems, Premier Community Bank, Castle Pierce and Klein Ford have all offered multi-year commitments to the first phase of the project, which aims to upgrade playground equipment, basketball and pickleball courts, and add a shaded seating area.

An anonymous donor is also supporting a new beach house and pavilion which will be included in the phase.

Over 50 organizations, businesses and donors have already committed their support, raising 87% of the \$2.55 million goal for the first phase.



Winneconne News

Winneconne Fall Fest attendees Saturday learned about the Marble Park Reimagined Community Project with fundraising efforts underway.

SEE **Marble Park** ON PAGE 7



Winneconne News

Beautiful fall day

The 2/5th's Party Band finished its set Saturday during Winneconne Fall Fest by playing America the Beautiful. Fall Fest included activities throughout downtown and at Waterfront Park on a warm day that felt like summer. For more photos from the event, see page 16.

Groups working to address homelessness in Winnebago County

By Anya Kelley
Winneconne News

As America faces an affordable housing crisis, the homelessness rate is at an all-time high across the country, and rural homelessness looms in the shadows.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the 2024 point-in-time (PIT) count, a survey of the number of people facing homelessness in both shelters and unsheltered on a single night in January increased 18% from 2023 to

2024.

Sara Kosmicki, the executive director of the Casa Esther Catholic Worker House in Omro, and Mandy Kimes, the tenant support specialist at Advocap, work directly with individuals facing homelessness in Winnebago County. Statistics show 58% of Wisconsin's homeless population is rural, which they say causes unique struggles for the community.

"I think in rural areas, we tend to not see homelessness as visibly as we do in

urban areas," Kosmicki said. "People living in weekly motels are often people who experience intermittent homelessness, and they pay for a hotel when they can and then they live unsheltered when they can't."

Kimes moved from Chicago to Ripon in her early 20s. She hadn't planned on staying in a small-town community but fell in love after landing a job with the Ripon Chamber of Commerce. Kimes described her role as the "welcome wagon for the

community," helping people who were interested in moving to town find the resources they needed like when to take trash cans out to the road or what apartments were available for rent.

"Over time, as homelessness has started to just drastically increase and the housing crisis is being felt so much by so many people, we started to have people showing up that were not just there to get a wel-

SEE **Homelessness** ON PAGE 11

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Families invited to Spooktacular Candlelight Story Hike

Winneconne News
The fourth annual Spooktacular Candlelight Story Hike will be from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Oct. 16 at the Norbert Rich School Forest, 5007 Ginnow Road.

The family-friendly event will provide a chance to walk along the Story Hike Trail illuminated with candlelight bags and spooky creatures. Visitors will be able to read a Halloween story and stop at trick-or-treat stations along the way.

A bonfire with smores will be available afterward sponsored by the Winneconne FFA.

Organizers said the event will feature even more spooks, props, jack-o-lanterns, fun and candy added to the trail this year.

Guests are encouraged to bring their own flashlight to navigate the trail and to make reading the book along the trail easier. The event is geared toward children ages 3-10 but all ages are welcome. Costumes aren't necessary but are encouraged.

Winneconne PTA organizing Trunk or Treat

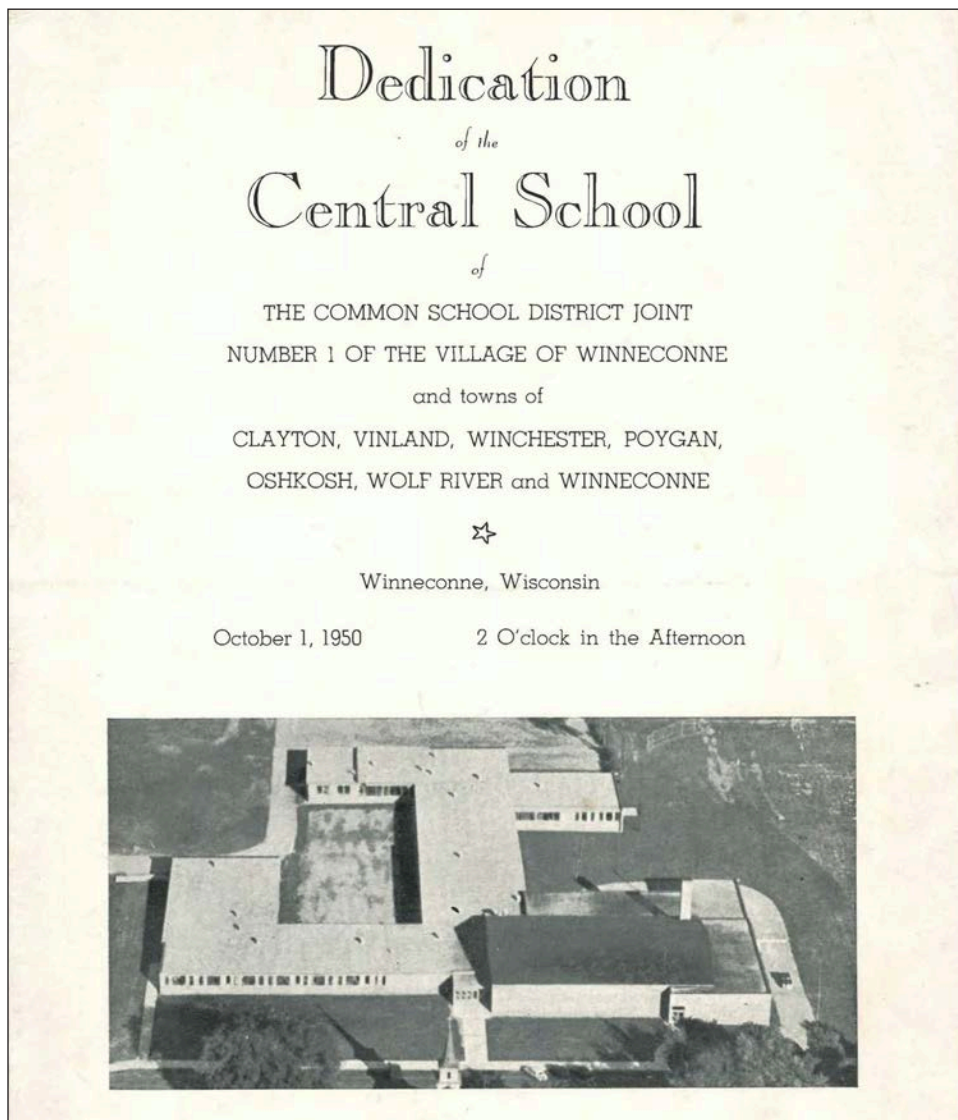
Winneconne News
A spooktacular night of fun will be held from 4:30 p.m. to dusk at Winneconne Elementary on Oct. 16 as the Winneconne PTA is hosting a Trunk or Treat event.

Attendees are encouraged to wear a Halloween costume and enjoy one festive loop around the track, stopping at decorated trunks hosted by each grade, local businesses and community clubs. This family-friendly event is open to all ages.

The PTA will have coffee and other treats for purchase while attendees explore. Organizers said do not forget to cast a vote. The host of one lucky trunk will win a \$100 gift card for Best Trunk.

Anyone interested in hosting a trunk should reach out to the Winneconne PTA for more details.

Back in the Day



October 1, 1950: On this day 75 years ago, the community dedicated the first-ever consolidated school district in the State of Wisconsin. The program and other related school books were preserved by Mae Sohrweide, who attended the ceremony in

1950. Mae's daughter, Jill Ronk, recently donated it to the district for its historical files.
From Winneconne Community School District

Calendar

- Thursday, Oct. 9**
Get Lit Book Club, 5:30 p.m., Lake Winneconne Barn
WHS Football vs. Fox Valley Lutheran, 7 p.m., WHS
- Friday, Oct. 10**
Winneconne Village Wide Fall Rummage Sale
Halloween Card Class, 10:30 a.m., Winneconne Crafts
- Saturday, Oct. 11**
Winneconne Village Wide Fall Rummage Sale
Beiser Realty Free Paper Shredding Event, 9 a.m., alley behind (to the north of) 144 W. Main St.
Boys Soccer Triangular vs. Waupaca, 9 a.m., WHS
Halloween Card Class, 9 a.m., Winneconne Crafts
Clayton Fire Rescue Open House, 11 a.m., Station 43, 8348 Hickory Ave., Larsen
Winneconne Open For a Cause bowling, 2:30 p.m., Marble Park Lanes
- Sunday, Oct. 12**
Winneconne Village Wide Fall Rummage Sale
Rug Hooking Club, 9 a.m., Primitive Gatherings
- Monday, Oct. 13**
Fall Storytime: Pumpkins, 10:30 a.m., Winneconne Public Library
Page Turners Books Club, 1 p.m., Winneconne Public Library
- Tuesday, Oct. 14**
WHS Volleyball vs. Menasha, 7 p.m., WHS
- Wednesday, Oct. 15**
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Project preserves historical depot complex

Winneconne Historical Society

The Winneconne Historical Society has been busy preserving another historical building, once part of the early days of Winneconne.

Many have driven by the Depot recently and noticed work being done by LEKSIII Construction owner John Leksander.

A lot of bare wood and peeling paint prompted this project and the desire to keep the museum complex looking as beautiful as possible.

The crew working on the project had fun and felt a sense of pride in their job on the Depot. They were excited to be working on such a historical building, restoring it to its glory.

“They want to keep replacing wood that wasn’t in the contract, but they kept insisting so we are doing it,” Leksander said. “They feel special about being involved and that is such a neat thing. Thank you for giving my crew, and myself, the opportunity to do this project.”

After scraping 50 years’ worth of paint, the crew found the original white paint around the windows, so the trim will once again be white and restoring the building to its former glory.

LEKSIII Construction went above and beyond for the society. They will also be applying a clear coat to the signs and putted some of the windows where needed.

Two holes were found at the back of the School House and Leksander was asked if he could check those out and let the society know why those holes were there. Apparently, woodpeckers were hard at work. LEKSIII Construction took care of these three issues for no extra charge.

Along with the Depot getting a facelift,



Photo from Winneconne Historical Society

Areas around the museum complex have been renovated in an attempt to restore the area to its glory.

the society also had eight railroad ties replaced in front of the building, as they were rotting away. The porches, steps and decks also got stained and wood replaced where needed.

The society said projects like this wouldn’t be possible without the community’s continued support. They are always willing to accept donated talents, too. They could use trim painted around the School House, Doll Cottage and around the windows on the Little House.

Volunteers are heavily relied upon and donations to keep the complex looking nice. The project was also supported with funds left by Geraldine Driscoll through the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.



Photo from Winneconne Historical Society

Geraldo Rodriguez paints a door at the Depot as part of a Winneconne Historical preservation project as John Leksander and Nick Koth look on.

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Teen continues recovery from injuries in Oshkosh crash

By Anya Kelley
Winneconne News

A 14-year-old boy continues to recover from injuries sustained while a passenger in his dad's truck heading through the intersection of High Avenue and Wisconsin Street in Oshkosh when a motorcyclist collided with the passenger side door on Sept. 7.

Police said the driver of the motorcycle, a 27-year-old Appleton man, was killed in the crash.

Sustaining life threatening injuries, Tanya Schmidt said her son, Carter, was airlifted to Children's Hospital in Milwaukee. Doctors quickly discovered he had a broken orbital bone, shards of glass stuck in his eye socket and face, bruising behind his eye, three broken ribs, collapsed lung and more. After two weeks in the hospital, Carter was able to go home on Sept. 21.

Schmidt and Carter sat last week on the patio outside Starbucks on Kohler Street in Oshkosh. Schmidt was wearing a shirt that says "momma" across the front, and Carter was dressed in a black T-shirt and sweats with a special brace over the top.

"For me, [being home is] a little less stressful just because I'm not split between two places," Schmidt said. "I feel like he's sleeping a little bit better."

Schmidt is a mother of five children and works three jobs to support their family. Carter, appearing very quiet and shy, kept his gaze at his hands. He returned to school on Sept. 30 for half days until the end of the semester. When asked how his first day back was, he gave a little shrug before turning to ask Schmidt how long the rest of the semester is.

"Do I get to go back to band after that?" he asked her.

Carter is currently on lift restrictions due to the break in his back and pelvis and had to drop out of band and weightlifting until further notice. Schmidt said they would know more about the timeline after his check-up on Friday.

"So then I would be able to play long enough for me to go to the trip," Carter

said.

"That is our goal," Schmidt said. "And even if you can't play on the trip, we're hoping you can at least attend the trip."

In March, Carter is supposed to go to Florida with his band to perform in a Disney World parade. If his lift restrictions are gone by January, he said he could learn the music in time to play in the parade.

"I think our biggest goal we're pushing for right now is to still be able to try and do some portion of that trip," Schmidt said. "Even if mom's a weirdo and gets a hotel just to watch."

Two days before the crash, Carter had started his first job at Cattails Supper Club in Larsen. Cattails owner Cathy Davey immediately stepped in to offer support, setting up a fundraiser for Carter's family.

"For the rest of September, Cattails Supper Club will give 20% of gift card sales directly to Carter's mother to help with all the expenses. If you can't make it out this month, you can call us at 920-836-0279 and purchase a gift card over the phone and we will mail it to you!" Davey posted on Cattails Facebook.

The outpouring of love for Carter and his family was immediate. Commenters sent their prayers or responded saying they would be in to purchase a gift card.

When Davey had first asked Schmidt how she would feel about a fundraiser, Schmidt told her she didn't have the time or the energy to help set anything up. Davey and the Cattails community did it for them.

Schmidt said she felt alone when the crash first happened. Having a large family to support, taking time off work was not an option. The financial support from both Cattails and a GoFundMe page allowed her to stay with Carter as he healed.

"And then all of the kind words and people wanting to know how he's doing and people that recognize him when he's out," Schmidt said. "Now it's just realizing you're not really alone in that."

Schmidt said they really appreciat-

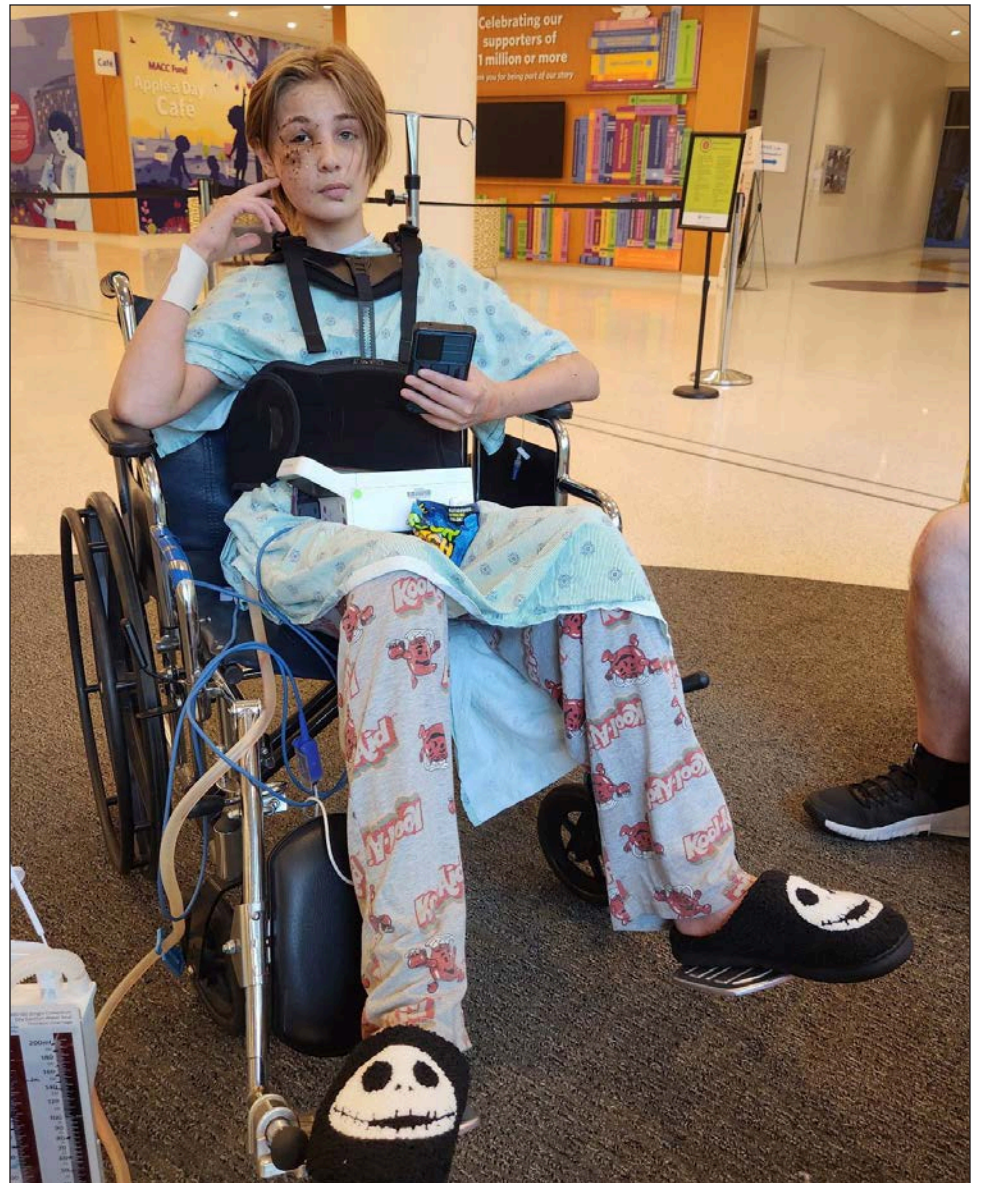


Photo from Tanya Schmidt

Carter, 14, spent two weeks at Children's Hospital in Milwaukee after being injured in a car crash Sept. 7 in Oshkosh.

ed all the kind words, and that during a life-changing event, it can be easy to slip into a dark headspace. But the positivity kept Carter in a healing mindset and Schmidt said the incident has reshaped how she sees her community.

"There [are] people that are helping with the other kids and stuff, and those people have always been there. I think it's unfortunate, but when tragic things happen, people are like, 'why are we all

just passing by?'" Schmidt said. "It's that reality of everybody's struggling you just don't always see it. Ours people saw, and so people were more willing to reach out."

Schmidt said this situation has brought to light just how important it is to make good decisions and that kindness, no matter what, is always the best policy and to be grateful for everything you have today.

"I know that's said a lot, and it's so cliché, but it just really does show how fast things can [change]," Schmidt said. "His recovery has been fast, too, but it could have gone just as fast the opposite way."

As Carter continues to heal, his care team will be shifted from Milwaukee to the Appleton and Oshkosh area. The road ahead looks long, but Schmidt said if anyone had told her Carter would be back to school already, she wouldn't have believed them. The GoFundMe for Carter is still accepting donations and can be found at shorturl.at/EbXRY. The Cattails Facebook page is posting updates about Carter as well.



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Shallow Lakes Chronicles

A little company

By Matt Harp
Outdoor Reporter

A funny thing happens when people age. Slowly, you start to look a little deeper into your life, yourself – you know – sort of an assessment on the current state of affairs.



Harp

It's the same for an old duck hunter. Sometimes the process evokes a grin; sometimes that analysis can be downright terrifying. Maybe that's why it's nice to have a little company out there.

Well, Lake Poygan didn't disappoint on providing company – it seems she never will in that regard. I saw trailers at the ramp abandoned by their owners. They were already in their boats, on the marsh, while most sane people were getting a fish fry at the nearest bar, tavern or restaurant.

The pre-dawn morning looked like a Christmas parade, a dance of red, green and white lights, each headed a different direction. When shooting time finally arrived, a year-long build-up to this moment seemed to explode all at once but yet with a thousand different blasts. It was a feast for the senses, and all was right in the world again. For sure, it was a great distraction.

Then, you have this whitening-faced, yellow dog. Lu doesn't feel the need for such introspection. She is about here, now and literally the moment. She could crack her head a hundred more times on the boat blind when she races out after a duck; she doesn't remember the last 99;

she's just ready to go at that moment.

Some guys will tell you that their dog is just a tool to save them from getting wet and having to chase their own birds. They'd be lying. They call dogs "man's best friend," but a lot of times for an old salt, that's your only friend out there; the only one between you and certain insanity

And then there's Annabelle. My middle daughter is a tough one to tie down these days. Traveling the state chasing work tasks and mostly returning to her apartment in the Milwaukee area. Whenever you can pin her down to a duck hunt, it's an accomplishment.

This soft-spoken, sneaky witted, half-pint is simply a lot of fun to be around. Added to a duck boat, it always makes for a memorable hunt. It seems every few years when I can coax her to go, something burns its way into my permanent psyche.

On this day, the dozens of beady eyed deer, ducks and grebes were the topic. She sure was a great focus point for this year's opening day – hopefully another year soon enough, too.

Mind you, I'm not making some plea or guilt-trip to get the kids to "go spend some time with the 'old man.'" It's merely a statement of how much it is treasured – never expected at all. Thirty, forty, fifty opening days can go by like the snap of your fingers. The ones we remember most are those with a little company.

Reach Matt at lakeandpond2@gmail.com.



Submitted photo

The Winneconne Men's Club donated two concrete picnic tables to the public fishing piers.

Men's Club donates picnic tables at fishing pier

Winneconne News

The Winneconne Men's Club has donated two concrete picnic tables to the public fishing piers in the village.

The project was spearheaded by Dave Barter as part of the club's mission to keep all of the money they raise local.

The Men's Club is a 105-year-old non-profit that supports events such as the Christmas Crusade, the Fourth of July fireworks and the summer reading program at the Winneconne Public Library.

The Men's Club is open to all, and the annual membership fee is \$40.

Retired county educators, staff set gathering

Winneconne News

The Winnebago County Retired Educators' Association invites all retired school employees who live in or have worked in Winnebago County to its Oct. 16 social.

It will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 32 S. Third Ave. in Winneconne.

Registration starts at 11 a.m. This event will feature the annual Silent Auction with all proceeds going to the scholarship fund

for each of the high schools in Winnebago County.

School supplies will be collected for the Oshkosh Teachers' Closet donation. Lunch consisting of soup and salad will be catered by Fin 'n' Feather Supper Club with members providing desserts.

Those interested in attending are asked to email rolson3430@aol.com by Friday for more information.



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THANK YOU!

Fire department shares safety tips with kindergarteners

By Anya Kelley
Winneconne News

The Winneconne Elementary School's kindergarten classes attended fire safety day last week at the Winneconne Poygan Fire District station.

This year, the station hosted 96 kids Oct. 1 split up into six classes. Each class was picked up from school by firefighter Dave Pritzl on the 1931 Peeter Pirsch fire truck – a tradition they've held for more than 40 years.

Each class spent an hour at the station with Fire Chief Kevin Allcox to learn about the importance of fire prevention and key skills like how to call 911 and how to use stop, drop and roll.

"Kids can be notorious for nagging their parents, so I always give them homework assignments to tell mom and dad to check smoke detectors, tell mom and dad to check the batteries, and tell them to have fire drills," Allcox said.

After their lesson, Allcox gave each class a quiz on the fire safety tips they just learned. Some of the students came prepared with answers having studied with the teachers the week prior. Allcox said his favorite part of the day is getting to interact with the kids and getting them excited about fire safety.

"Especially the early classes, [they] are kind of tired and real quiet," Allcox said. "So, I get them worked up."

Fire safety and prevention tips

In conjunction with fire safety prevention day, Allcox provided his top three tips for fire safety and prevention.

- Make sure every child knows how and when to call 911.

Quiz children about certain scenarios



Photo by Doug Sasse

Firefighter Dave Pritzl provides the classes a ride to the fire station on a 1931 Peeter Pirsch fire truck, a tradition dating back four decades.

and ask them what they should do. For example, ask the child "if there is a fire, who should you call first?" Mix them up with questions like "if you're wondering what's for dinner, who should you call?" to help them understand when it is appropriate to call 911.

Make sure the child can answer the questions an emergency operator will ask, like what the emergency is and where they are located. Get them comfortable with reciting their full address to trusted adults.

• Practice at home fire drills

Once or twice a month, get the family together to practice escape routes in case of emergency. Establish multiple paths out of the house from different rooms so the children feel comfortable knowing how to exit from any place. Have children practice using safety tools like emergency fire escape ladders during the drills so they feel confident in the event of an emergency.

• Establish a meeting place

It's easy to get separated during a chaotic emergency. Set up a rallying point at a safe location so children know where they can meet the rest of their family. Having a meeting place allows everyone to get out as quickly as possible without feeling like they need to stick together. Partner with neighbors to create a safety network and establish meeting zones for the neighborhood. Make sure to set the meeting zone far enough away so emergency personnel have easy access to the scene.



Winneconne's

Village-Wide

Rummage Sale

October 11th weekend



If you are having a sale the weekend of Oct 11th, you can post your photo's, item descriptions along with your address on the Winneconne Chamber Facebook page.



If you are shopping all the sales, have Fun!



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Pub Date	Ad Space/Copy Deadline	Creative Press Ready Deadline
December 3:	Tuesday, November 18	Friday, November 21
March 4, 2026:	Tuesday, February 17	Friday, February 20
June 3, 2026:	Tuesday, May 19	Friday, May 22
September 2, 2026:	Tuesday, August 18	Friday, August 20

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Rescue team finds man dead, rescues another from Lake Poygan

Winneconne News

First responders recovered the body of a man Sunday from Lake Poygan during a search and rescue effort that began a day earlier with the rescue of another man.

On Saturday, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office responded to the Bay Lane Boat Launch on Lake Poygan after boaters on another boat located a man in distress in the water.

The individual was rescued and transported to a local hospital by the Fremont Ambulance Service and is expected to survive. During the rescue, deputies were informed of another man who was unac-

counted for.

The Winnebago County Dive and Rescue team, the drone team and fire departments including the Boom Bay, Winneconne-Poygan, Poy Sippi, Omro-Rushford along with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources assisted at the scene.

The dive team and DNR on Sunday located the missing man, who was deceased. His identity is known but was being withheld pending notification to family members. The incident is still under investigation and no further information was released.



Winneconne News

The first phase of the Marble Park Reimagined Community Project includes fundraising to upgrade the playground equipment.

Marble Park

FROM PAGE 1

The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation also extended its support to the project and announced a \$100,000 matching grant opportunity. The match will run through Dec. 31 and all community dollars raised will secure a dollar-for-dollar match.

"In the year since the Marble Park Master Plan was approved, community support and participation has been exciting to see," said John Broderick, a member

of the WACF committee advancing the fundraising efforts for phase one of redevelopment. "As part of the Foundation's public-private partnership with the village, we have been working hard but quietly behind the scenes."

With an anticipated timeline to begin the design and engineering process by 2026, the groups said now is the time for community members to help push play on the Marble Park Reimagined Community Project.

For more information, visit winneconneareacf.org or contact info@winneconneareacf.org.

Alpha Fitness fundraising for breast cancer research

Winneconne News

Alpha Fitness is bringing back "Burpees for Breast Cancer" for a second year.

For the entire month of October, Alpha Fitness will be taking donations from members and nonmembers for breast cancer research. For each dollar that is donated, the person can choose a staff member to do a burpee.

The business will track the amount

of money donated and the number of burpees completed in the club on its chalkboard. At the end of the month, they take all the money donated and present a check to a local breast cancer research facility.

Last year, Alpha Fitness donated \$1,200 to the Vince Lombardi cancer clinic at Aurora in Oshkosh.

Village Wide Rummage Sales coming this week

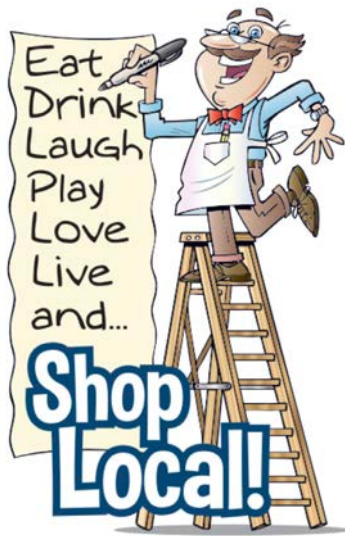
Winneconne News

The fall Village Wide Rummage Sales are coming to Winneconne this weekend, so organizers said the season change means it's the perfect time for another home cleaning out and chance to participate in the event.

The Winneconne Chamber of Commerce will post yard signs for the event and encourage participating homes to do the same. The chamber does not publish a map due to the number of people participating, but ads featuring different sales and featured items can be found in the Winneconne News classifieds.

A public Facebook event listed by the chamber shows photos and descriptions of sales. That event can be found at facebook.com/events/1537715863868379.

Some sales will be running all weekend, while most will be Saturday only.



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Wolves bounce back to pummel Red Devils

By Steve Clark
Winneconne News

Coming off its first loss of the season two days before, the Winneconne volleyball team was simply looking to get back on track Thursday when it hosted a struggling Green Bay East program.

Three easy set wins had the Wolves feeling like things were back to normal.

Winneconne never trailed the entire night and rolled to a 25-12, 25-11, 25-10 win over the Red Devils on its annual Dig Pink Night at the Wolf Den, improving to 4-1 in the Bay Conference.

"It felt good to get our rhythm back and our confidence back," senior Neela Gardner said. "Obviously, Tuesday night (in a loss to Fox Valley Lutheran) didn't go our way but we are going to bounce back and have a great rest of the season."

Head coach Ellie Mackenzie said that the team being able to regain its confidence was important as it closes in on the

end of the regular season.

She was also pleased to see the way the Wolves were enjoying the victory.

"Getting confidence was the biggest thing for us in this match but it was good to see us working on the free ball plays and working on different sets and getting everybody mixed in," Mackenzie said. "It was definitely needed. They were having a lot of fun, which we lost there for a while."

The Red Devils' struggles helped the Wolves throughout the match, but Winneconne was also earning their share of points.

Bailey Church started the night out with two aces on her first three serves before Gardner served four straight points for a 7-1 lead. Jaidyn Halder and Alyssa Koval each picked up kills before Tess Immel capped another string of four straight points for a 12-5 lead.

Hallah Josephson was the next server for Winneconne to run off a string of points, taking the Wolves to a 20-8 lead, while a Malia Bodoh kill and a Kendal Vette ace helped the Wolves finish off the set.

Despite the lopsided win in the first set, the Wolves struggled a bit finding their rhythm as the numerous Red Devil errors kept them from running a lot of their offense.

"It's tough to stay in rhythm but we just keep going and it works out," Gardner said. "It was good that we were keeping (our serves) in. That's always important every single match."

Green Bay East stayed close to start the second set but kills from Bodoh and Olivia Dupont, followed by three straight aces from Vette broke the game open as Winneconne took a 12-5 lead.



Photo by Doug Sasse

Kendell Vette stretches to pass the ball forward during Winneconne's win over Green Bay East on Thursday.

After a Red Devil sideout, the Wolves came back in with five more points as Halder had a couple of kills and Bodoh and Dupont each had one.

Laney Immel collected a couple of kills and Gardner added another down the stretch as Winneconne was able to close out the win.

"Tonight was fun because we had the opportunity to do different things (with our lineup)," Mackenzie said. "It was a good match to do that."

There was no letup in the third set for the Wolves as they once again broke things open early on.

Leading 6-5, Winneconne scored 10 of the next 11 points, highlighted by aces

from Church and Gardner and a stuff block from Bailey Brantley.

Consecutive kills from Dupont, Koval and Halder on Tess Immel's serve boosted the Wolves' lead to 21-10 before Winneconne finished it out with Vette – who notched her first front-row kill of the season earlier in the match – rattling off three straight aces to close out the win.

"We served the ball well tonight," Mackenzie said. "We have been doing a lot of pressure serving with game-like serves, just trying to focus on our serve game."

Winneconne's next home match will be on Oct. 14 against Menasha before the Wolves close out the regular season two days later at New London.



Photo by Doug Sasse

Malia Bodoh spikes one down against Green Bay East during the team's annual Dig Pink Night on Thursday.

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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Cegielski makes most of her late arrival to golf

By Steve Clark
Winneconne News

Prior to the start of her sophomore year at Winneconne High School, Emma Cegielski was urged to join the Wolves girls golf team.

Cegielski had never played golf before – she had never even touched a golf club up to that point in her life – but decided she would give it a shot. And things, well, didn't get off to a great start.

"My sophomore year was a big struggle. I wanted to be good, and I just wasn't," said Cegielski, who credits teammate Jada Kaiser as being the one who encouraged her to try golf. "I was on the practice squad, and it was fun. I just kind of learned."

Cegielski advanced to the junior varsity squad last season but never was part of the varsity lineup.

Entering her senior season, Cegielski was focused on changing that. She wanted to earn a spot in the varsity lineup and prove she belonged on the team.

"This summer I put in a lot of work to get my spot on varsity and just really pushed myself to be my best," Cegielski said. "I didn't take it seriously my sophomore year and maybe just a little more my junior year. Then definitely my senior year, I took it more serious."

Cegielski is reaping the rewards of that hard work now.

The senior posted a team-best fifth-place finish at the Bay Conference meet and then, last week, finished tied for 10th place at the WIAA Division 2 regional meet at Mid-Vallee Golf Course.

Cegielski's round of 97 qualified her for the sectional meet, which was held on Tuesday at Crystal Springs Golf Course, meaning she was just one round away from possibly advancing to the state tournament in her first year of varsity competition.

"I don't like to think too far ahead. I think in the moment and finish what I'm doing right now," Cegielski said after a practice last week in preparation for the sectional meet. "I have surprised myself this season. This isn't what I expected."

Winneconne head coach Chris Peters said that coming into the season, Cegielski

had been penciled in as one of the varsity team members but wasn't locked into a position, yet.

It didn't take long for that plan to change.

"Emma was one of the kids who worked hard, and we knew that as long as she came back this year, she would be in the mix. But you could tell from day one, Emma had been playing golf leading up (to the season), and it was very apparent that this was something she was going to do," Peters said. "She quietly has put together a very strong season and was probably our most consistent player all season."

Making the jump to varsity brings with it plenty a player has to deal with.

Cegielski really had only one concern, though.

"I was nervous because I thought the varsity girls might be meaner," Cegielski said. "They are not, so it's really not that different from playing (junior varsity)."

Cegielski's scores have been an asset for the Wolves this season, but Peters points out that she brings more to the team than just consistent low rounds.

And, he said, she has been the same way since she first stepped onto the team.

"Emma has been the consummate teammate," Peters said. "She's had a great attitude from that sophomore year through this season. She is positive with her teammates. When the girls were struggling, she would be at practice cracking jokes and trying to keep them in good spirits."

Being a good teammate is something that is important to Cegielski.

"It's important to help my teammates and then when I'm down, they can help me," Cegielski said. "We just try to push each other to do our best and support each other."

"I like all the fun we have on the team. If nothing else, we can have fun."

Cegielski believes the strength of her game is from 100 yards and in, while Peters highlights another skill set she brings to the course.

"She is a relatively straight hitter. She has some distance, some sneaky distance at times, and for the most part, it is easy to find her ball," Peters said. "That allows her



Winneconne News

Emma Cegielski didn't start playing golf until her sophomore year but has had an outstanding senior season and represented Winneconne at the WIAA Division 2 sectional golf meet on Tuesday.

to get the ball to the green to give herself some chances at some pars and bogeys."

Cegielski said she plans to continue to play golf as an activity beyond high school and she is certainly thankful to Kaiser for bringing her into the sport and involving her in the strong tradition Winneconne has in golf.

"I have made some good, strong connections through golf and meeting new people has really been a plus. The girls have been great," Cegielski said. "The boys will say nice job to you, and I can turn around and say it to them, too. We all talk

about it at school. It's a good little community we have."

And more than just some great rounds, great friendships and great memories, Cegielski can take plenty of lessons with her from the course and into her everyday life.

"Working with people you might not be the biggest fan of is something golf has taught me," Cegielski said. "When you are matched up with a girl who might be rude, you can't do anything about it. You have to stick with them and have to deal with it. You can't let that bother you. That's a good lesson to learn and experience to have."

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FOOTBALL

Schaefer spearheads Wolves' easy win

Brody Schaefer had another big game as second-ranked Winneconne stayed undefeated with a 56-0 thumping of Waupaca on Friday night.

Winneconne improved to 7-0 on the season and 5-0 in the Bay Conference. The Wolves are tied with Seymour atop the league standings. The Wolves have outscored their last three opponents 140-0.

Schaefer, a University of Iowa commit, ran for three touchdowns and threw for two more in the win. He finished with 49 yards on just six carries, while completing 7-of-8 passes for 137 yards. He also intercepted a pass in the game.

Mason Mathe led the Winneconne running game with 77 yards and a touchdown on 11 carries, while Trey Zemke scored on a 15-yard touchdown run.

Ryan Quigley had four catches for 88 yards and a touchdown in the game, while Jordan Nettekovan also hauled in a touchdown pass.

Defensively, Winneconne was led by Jovan Zeller and Zemke, who finished with six and five tackles, respectively. Noah Bouras also had an interception in the game, while Cal Volp recovered a fumble.

Winneconne will play its final home game of the regular season on Thursday when the Wolves host Fox Valley Lutheran. The Foxes are 5-2 overall and 3-2 in the Bay Conference.

GIRLS GOLF

Cegielski advances to sectional tournament

Emma Cegielski fired a 97 at Mid-Valley Golf Course to grab the final individual sectional qualifying spot at last week's

WIAA Division 2 regional tournament.

Cegielski finished tied for ninth overall and was the third individual to advance to the sectional tournament, which was held Sept. 30 at Crystal Springs Golf Course.

Winneconne fell just short of qualifying for sectionals as a team, placing fifth among the eight schools at the regional. The Wolves finished with a team score of 408, which was one shot behind Little Chute and 13 behind third-place Wrightstown.

Jada Kaiser narrowly missed a chance to advance as an individual, shooting a round of 100 to finish in a tie for 11th place.

Mia Rust added a round of 104 and Taryn Meyer chipped in a 107 to round out the scoring golfers for the Wolves.

CROSS COUNTRY

Winneconne squads fare well at Waupaca

The Wolves girls finished second and the boys took third at the Waupaca Invitational last week.

The girls finished behind only Marshfield in the final team standings, edging Fox Valley Lutheran by six points for the runner-up finish.

Quinn LeRoy and Lydia Luce each finished in the top 10 to lead Winneconne. LeRoy placed second overall, while Luce came in seventh.

Lauren Wiedemeier was the next finisher for Winneconne, placing 17th with Ruby Kuehn and Audra Schaeffer rounding out the scoring runners in 21st and 22nd place, respectively.

The boys had their five scoring runners finish in a span of seven finishers all within 26 seconds of one another.

Tyler Bostwick led the group with a 19th-place finish with Merrick Heise,



Photo by Doug Sasse
Winneconne's Brady Marks chases down a Waupaca ball carrier during Friday night's victory.



Photo by Doug Sasse
Winneconne's Jordan Nettekovan stiff arms a Waupaca defender during the first half Friday night.

Maxwell Helfrich and Jackson Monroe placing 21st, 22nd and 23rd, respectively. Broc Berglund rounded out the group in 25th place.

VOLLEYBALL

Wolves suffer first conference loss

Winneconne ran into a strong Fox Valley Lutheran squad last week and dropped a 25-18, 25-13, 25-22 decision and were saddled with their first conference loss of the season.

Malia Bodoh finished with eight kills to lead the Wolves, while Neela Gardner

finished with six and Alyssa Koval added five. Bodoh led the team with four blocks.

Bailey Church finished with 17 assists to top the team while also collecting 10 digs. Koval led the team with 15 digs, with Hallah Josephson adding 11.

SOCCER

Winneconne drops pair of matches

The Wolves lost a pair of Bay Conference matches last week, falling to Fox Valley Lutheran, 3-0, and to Xavier, 3-1. Winneconne is 3-8 overall and 2-6 in the Bay Conference.

Art Activity Day Saturday, October 11



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Homelessness

FROM PAGE 1

come packet, but they were there because they have nowhere else to go," Kimes said.

At Casa Esther, their Basic Needs Distribution program has become their largest program, serving the entire county. A majority of that program goes to rental assistance for those falling behind on rent or looking for help with a security deposit or first month's rent. In some cases, they help people pay for an emergency hotel stay. Last year, Casa Esther spent \$57,636.81 on the Basic Needs Distribution program, \$46,302.81 of which went to housing.

Kimes is working on a demonstration grant to prove that when people are placed in housing and receive "wrap-around services or supportive services," they are far more likely to succeed because homelessness is about more than just placing someone in a home.

"We actually have to find out what is going on deeper that needs to be addressed," Kimes said. "What are the obstacles to really having sufficient income, or are there some mental health needs that are really going unchecked that they really have to be able to work on so that they can function or keep a job?"

Kosmicki and Kimes said that everyone is one or two financial crises away from

homelessness, especially those living on fixed incomes or paycheck to paycheck. In Wisconsin, one in eight people are paying more than 50% of their income for housing alone.

"All it takes sometimes is breaking up with someone or a job loss," Kimes said.

She recounted a story of a woman who called her panicked about her living situation. She had her birth plan worked out and was ready to take her maternity leave when she suddenly needed an emergency cesarean section. Due to her surgery, she missed more days than she was allowed, was fired from her job and nearly lost her apartment while trying to care for her newborn.

"So many people, because of the cost of living and the cost of housing, they're all so much on the brink and it just takes one awful thing," Kimes said.

Kosmicki said Winnebago County is lacking the infrastructure needed to care for the homeless population, many of whom cannot access shelters. The closest shelters to Winneconne are in Oshkosh and often have strict rules for entry and long waiting lists. Kosmicki said she has seen an increase in families living out of their cars as a last resort.

"I think it's kind of the last thing people hang on to," she said.

Kosmicki added many aren't going to give up their car even if they lose their housing.

"At least I can keep my stuff here," in a car, she said.

Fighting against homelessness

As part of World Homeless Day on Oct. 10, the Wisconsin Newspaper Association is partnering with newspapers around Wisconsin, including the Winneconne News, to provide readers with tangible ways they can help the fight against homelessness.

Kosmicki and Kimes gave five action-

able steps to help end homelessness in the state.

• Learn about what homelessness looks like and what causes it.

Understanding homelessness can be complicated, especially when it's invisible to the naked eye. Rural homelessness can be hard to spot, but it's happening in every community. Kimes said it's important to understand that rural homelessness will look different everywhere. Many people are temporarily living in motels, empty houses or cars due to lack of access to a designated shelter.

"Just because you might not see somebody necessarily sleeping on the street doesn't mean it doesn't impact your community," she said.

• Volunteer whenever possible.

Places like shelters and soup kitchens are always looking for extra help. Kosmicki said that besides the physical help somebody is providing, volunteering forces them to put a face and a name to the unhoused. Volunteering breaks down barriers by giving them a chance to listen to real people's stories.

"I think doing that kind of work and just taking the time to listen to people's stories and understand why they are where they are and see that their life is maybe not as different from yours as you would imagine it to be," Kosmicki said.

• Understand the power of storytelling.

Everyone brings a unique perspective that can be used to broaden other people's awareness. Whether they know someone who has experienced a housing crisis or someone who can't find a place they can afford, people can help others understand by sharing stories from their life. Speaking up helps to break the stigma around homelessness while dismantling misconceptions and myths.

"It helps us all understand that this is an 'us' problem, not a 'them' problem,"

Kimes said. "The way we speak about this issue matters ... help people see that this is an issue we all are being impacted by."

• Be a community mentor.

While resources are available, access is usually a long and arduous process. The paperwork is complicated and the criterion for qualification is often slim. Filling out applications can be a full-time job, and many are trying to do it during lunch breaks or while borrowing someone else's phone or computer.

Others struggle to fill applications out due to disabilities. For those who understand how to fill out government applications, are proficient in English or have good organizational skills, they are encouraged to consider mentoring someone in need. A little help can go a long way.


• Create a support system for those in the community.

"The reason why there are so many people in our country who do live in poverty but aren't homeless is because they have support, they have family, they have friends," Kimes said.

Homeless people are often missing the social network of support that many rely on in times of hardship. Kimes said that beyond economic poverty, there is relational poverty, too.

Create a support system first. Join adult groups, find a club, join a sport or get involved in a congregation and start to build a village. Once someone has established themselves, they are encouraged to try to help others in the community do the same.

Building a community safety net can be as simple as putting fliers up for club meetings or asking someone they just met about what they like to do in their free time. Joining community Facebook groups and responding to posts asking questions is another great way to build community trust.



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Coordinator shares insights on homelessness in local cities

Pingel highlights barriers to housing and solutions

By Bethanie Gengler
Winneconne News

Growing up in Neenah and later returning as director of St. Vincent de Paul, Jeremy Pingel has both lived through and witnessed poverty firsthand. Now, as a homeless outreach coordinator for Green Bay, he sees a stark difference in how cities respond to homelessness.

Pingel's commitment to the issue is deeply personal.

"Growing up, it was me and my mom, and we sometimes had a really rough time getting through. We had to rely on services and food share programs and so on to get by," he said. "While I was growing up in Neenah, I didn't know anyone else that was going through that like I was. I'm sure there were, but I thought I was the only one."

With World Homeless Day on Oct. 10, Pingel reflected on what he has learned about supporting people in need, and what communities can achieve when they rethink how they respond to homelessness.

A shift in attitude

Pingel resigned from his position in Neenah in April to take the Green Bay role, where he says the city is taking a collaborative approach to helping residents experiencing homelessness.

"Homelessness here is obviously more visible," he said. "The population's bigger, but the city also recognizes that there are homeless individuals here, whereas Neenah had some legislation that was aimed at the homeless folks."

Neenah passed an ordinance last year that banned camping on city-owned property and in rights-of-way in response to complaints about unhoused people camping in front of businesses on South Green Bay Road. More recently, the city installed signs in the bathrooms at city hall prohibiting shaving, bathing or laundering.

Neenah Mayor Jane Lang said in a televised interview in August that during the most recent Point-In-Time homeless count, only two people were identified as homeless in the city.

Pingel was skeptical of the number, noting that criminalizing homelessness often drives people to hide, making accurate counts difficult.

During his time in Neenah, Pingel said he sometimes allowed people to stay in their cars in the St. Vincent de Paul parking lot, advising them to rotate every couple of nights to other lots, such as Walmart's, to respect property rules and city regulations. He added that the city would occasionally call to check whether individuals had permission to be on the property.

Pingel said he sometimes let homeless people use the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry reception and waiting area as a warming shelter. St. Vincent de Paul also provides food and other supplies to homeless residents.

His role in Green Bay allows him to work within a more coordinated system. The city has dedicated outreach programs, partnerships across departments and resources to tackle homelessness proactively rather than reactively.

"Here I'm able to have a more collaborative effort to try to combat homelessness," he said. "The city's invested. They have two positions that are directed at that, and they're involved with the housing initiatives."

Barriers to housing

Pingel said the need for more housing is

clear.

"Housing is always going to be an answer," he said. "There always needs to be more housing; that's always part of it."

But other barriers make it difficult for people to find stable places to live.

"Homeless people, if they get a municipal ticket or a trespassing charge, in some cases, that alone will withhold them from housing opportunities," he said.

Criminal records and past evictions are also a challenge.

"The hardest one is the (sex offender) registry," he said. "They can't get into any types of shelters."

The lack of a year-round homeless shelter in Green Bay is another obstacle. Local shelters only operate from Nov. 1 through April 30, leaving residents without overnight options during the rest of the year.

The homeless population is also aging.

"Our growing population of elderly and disabled folks is the next big event on the horizon," he said. "We're seeing older and older folks with no support systems, with mobility issues, with physical issues, with cognitive issues, out on the streets."

Advocacy and casework

Advocacy is a crucial part of Pingel's job.

"We choose to go with them to as many medical appointments as we can for our folks, just to make sure there's an advocate making sure that the proper things are addressed," he said.

The case coordinators keep small case-loads of about 10 to 12 each to provide individualized support.

"We're meeting people on an individual basis and figuring out the steps that that individual needs to take to get off the streets," he said.

Pingel recounted the story of "Jim," an elderly Green Bay man whose name has been changed to protect his identity. Jim retired at age 73 and received Social Security, but a series of medical challenges left him homeless. With no family to support him, he lost his apartment and car during a 14-month stay in hospitals and rehabilitation centers and was released to a shelter with few resources.

"When I came across him, he had absolutely no clue how to be homeless, which was good, because I was just starting and figuring out how to help people that are homeless," Pingel said.

Pingel's support for Jim included helping him keep doctor's appointments and securing the documents he needed to access housing. When the shelter closed, Pingel helped Jim move into a transitional house, but his health soon declined again, and he was hospitalized.

At one point, the hospital prepared to discharge Jim to the streets despite his severe illness and inability to care for himself. Pingel contacted Adult Protective Services, which intervened and required a proper discharge plan. Jim remained in the hospital overnight, and the next day he was diagnosed with a potentially deadly bacterial infection. He spent two weeks in the hospital followed by six weeks in a rehabilitation center.

"But think of the people that I haven't been there for," Pingel said. "I mean, this isn't the only story."

Programs and collaboration

Green Bay's Homeless Response Team (HRT) is one example of innovative collaboration. Pingel explained that when a citizen or officer encounters a homeless person who doesn't require police intervention, they notify the HRT, which is a team of 20-30 members, including Pingel. Members of the team then respond to see how they can assist them.



Winneconne News
Jeremy Pingel, who grew up in Neenah, now works as a homeless outreach coordinator for Green Bay.



Winneconne News
Homeless residents have set up a tarp and blankets under a tree at St. John's Park in Green Bay, while additional residents stay in the park shelter visible in the background.



Submitted photo
A sign recently installed in the Neenah City Hall men's restroom prohibits shaving, bathing or laundering.

"It's cut down on police calls, and it's improved the relationship between the police department and homeless individuals," he said.

The city also refers people to a "safe parking" program, which provides a place for people living in their vehicles to park overnight with porta-potties, a mobile washing station, and an RV on site that holds supplies, a microwave, and is used for intake meetings. Volunteers and local organizations also provide meals.

Stigma and misconceptions

One persistent challenge is the stigma surrounding homelessness. Pingel said that most people do not choose to be homeless.

"Most people are there for a multitude of factors, mental health, substance use, all those things are part of it," he said. "But most of the folks that I come into contact

with on the streets don't exactly know what the next step is to get off the street."

Despite the challenges, Pingel remains hopeful.

"Collaboration is the key, and I just want to see more collaboration, less stigma, to improve these communities, the parks, the cities that we're in," he said.

When asked how the public can help, Pingel said it's important to reduce personal stigma.

"I'm not asking you to go find the first homeless person and give them a hug, but some empathy goes a long way; some sympathy goes a long way," he said. "Understand that that person asking you for money probably could use a water or a meal more than that dollar, and then really donate to those services in your community that are really making a difference."

The Weekly Whisk

Sheet Pan Spinach and Artichoke Lasagna

All the creamy, cheesy goodness of classic spinach artichoke dip meets hearty lasagna in this sheet pan version. It's layered, bubbly and packed with flavor — but way easier to serve and perfect for feeding a crowd. Think comfort food with a fresh, veggie-packed twist that comes together right on a single pan. Feel free to add shredded chicken or cooked Italian sausage for an extra kick of protein.



16 ounces lasagna noodles, broken into large pieces

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 8 cups fresh spinach, divided
- 3/4 cup ricotta cheese
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup grated parmesan cheese, divided
- 1 (14 ounce) can artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes (optional)

1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the lasagna noodles and cook for 4–5 minutes. Drain, toss with 1 tablespoon of olive oil (in the same pot or in a large bowl), and set aside.

In a large skillet, heat a drizzle of olive oil over medium heat. Add the garlic and sauté until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Stir in 2 cups of spinach and cook until just wilted, about 3 minutes. Remove from the pan, roughly chop with kitchen shears and

transfer to a small bowl. Stir in the ricotta and 1/4 cup Parmesan, season with salt and pepper and set aside.

In the same skillet, add the artichokes and sauté for 2-3 minutes. Pour in the cream and bring to a gentle simmer. Season with salt, pepper and red pepper flakes. Simmer until slightly thickened, 2–3 minutes, then stir in the remaining spinach and cook until wilted.

Combine the mixture with the lasagna noodles. Stir in 1/2 cup Parmesan and half of the mozzarella until the cheese melts and coats the pasta evenly.

Preheat the oven to 425°. Lightly grease an 18x13-inch baking sheet or a 9x13-inch baking dish. Spread the pasta mixture evenly across the pan. Dollop the ricotta-spinach mixture over the top, then sprinkle with the remaining mozzarella and Parmesan.

Bake until bubbling and golden, 15–20 minutes. For a crispier top, switch to the broiler for the last 1–2 minutes. Let cool slightly, garnish with fresh herbs if desired and cut into squares to serve.

For questions or comments email weeklywhisk01@gmail.com

Lunch Menus

Oct. 13-17

Advocap
Winneconne Meal Site
920-517-0950

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

Monday: Brat. German Potato Salad. Saucy Baked Beans. Banana.

Tuesday: Frozen – Tarragon Chicken. Baby Red Potatoes. Green Beans. Applesauce.

Wednesday: Ham Slice. Baked Beans. Broccoli. Tropical Fruit.

Thursday: Frozen – Salisbury Steak. Mashed Potatoes. Carrots. Pears.

Friday: Baked Haddock. Baked Sweet Potato. Peas and Mushrooms. Fruit Cup. Dinner Roll.

Winneconne Community School District

Monday: ES – Mac and Cheese, Ham and Cheese Sandwich or Chef Salad. Flavored Muffin. California Blend. MS – Philly Cheesesteak. French Fries. Broccoli. Quick Bites – Hamburger/Bun, Chef Salad, Buffalo Chicken Salad, Fruit Bowl and Smuckers PB&J. HS Country Roads – Chicken Nuggets. Smuckers PB&J. Broccoli. Buttered Pasta. Fruit and Salads – Fruit Bowl, Chef Salad, Buffalo Chicken Salad and Yogurt Fruit Parfait. Stadium Burger – Chicken Patty/Bun. Spicy Chicken Patty/Bun. Onion Rings. Willies Pizza – Cheese Pizza.

Tuesday: ES – Cheeseburger/Bun, Ham and Cheese Sandwich or Chef Salad. Educational Snack. Diced Carrots. MS

– Cheese Pizza Slice. Mixed Vegetables. Quick Bites – Chicken Patty/Bun, Chef Salad, Buffalo Chicken Salad, Fruit Bowl and Smuckers PB&J. HS Country Roads – Baked Zitti. Smuckers PB&J. Mixed Vegetables. Fruit and Salads – Fruit Bowl, Chef Salad, Buffalo Chicken Salad and Yogurt Fruit Parfait. Stadium Burger – Pizza Cruncher. Rice Bowl/Lo Mein. Willies Pizza – Pepperoni Pizza.

Wednesday: ES – Orange Chicken, Ham and Cheese Sandwich or Chef Salad. Broccoli. Fried Rice. MS – Taco Bowl. Diced Carrots. Rice Pilaf. Quick Bites – Chicken Wings, Chef Salad, Buffalo Chicken Salad, Fruit Bowl and Smuckers PB&J. HS Country Roads – Chicken Tenders. Smuckers PB&J. Assorted Vegetables. Fruit and Salads - Fruit Bowl, Chef Salad, Buffalo Chicken Salad and Yogurt Fruit Parfait. Stadium Burger – Chicken Wings. Taco Bowl. Willies Pizza – Bosco Sticks/Sauce.

Thursday: ES – French Toast/Syrup, Ham and Cheese Sandwich or Chef Salad. Babycakes. Sausage Patty. MS – Popcorn Chicken. Cauliflower. Buttered Pasta. Quick Bites – Bosco Sticks/Sauce. Chef Salad, Buffalo Chicken Salad, Fruit Bowl and Smuckers PB&J. HS Country Roads – Cuban Sandwich. Smuckers PB&J. Cauliflower. Chicken and Wild Rice Soup. Fruit and Salads - Fruit Bowl, Chef Salad, Buffalo Chicken Salad and Yogurt Fruit Parfait. Stadium Burger – Hamburger/Bun. Mac and Cheese Bowl. Willies Pizza – Sausage Pizza.

Friday: No school.

WINNECONNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT WINNECONNE, WISCONSIN BUDGET 2025-2026

	AUDITED		ADJUSTED BUDGET	
	2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025	2025-2026
GENERAL FUND 10				
10 - Fund Balance (year end)	6,216,082	5,964,799	6,827,203	6,454,860
Revenue & Other Financing sources				
Source 100 - Transfers In				
Source 200 - Local Sources	9,313,706	9,450,900	9,556,051	10,619,013
Source 300 - Inter-district Transfers	3,182,547	3,056,042	2,990,334	3,525,598
Source 500 - Rev. From Intermed. Sources	15,586	5,847	2,038	5,847
Source 600 - State Sources	9,330,509	9,496,968	9,585,097	8,625,587
Source 700 - Federal Sources	324,407	157,717	211,259	192,386
Source 800 - Non Revenue		0		
Source 900 - Other Sources	164,819	42,000	42,813	22,000
Total Revenues & Other Fin. Sources	22,331,574	22,209,474	22,387,592	22,990,431
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses				
100 000 Instruction	10,217,429	10,430,985	10,096,873	10,937,040
200 000 Support Services	8,369,907	8,510,372	8,221,326	9,126,154
300 000 Community Services	-	-	-	-
400 000 Non-Program Transactions	3,666,469	3,519,400	3,458,272	3,299,580
Total Expenditures & Other Fin. Uses	22,253,805	22,460,757	21,776,471	23,362,774
SPECIAL REVENUE TRUST FUND 21				
21 - Fund Balance	473,448	493,445	473,914	493,911
Total Revenues & Other Fin. Sources	524,229	100,000	401,074	100,000
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	520,440	80,003	400,608	80,003
SPECIAL PROJECT FUND 27 (Special Education Account)				
27 - Fund Balance	-	-	-	-
Source 100 - Interfund Payments	2,424,883	2,435,984	2,434,084	2,146,742
Source 200 - Rev from Local Sources - Gifts	26	0	0	0
Source 300 - Inter-district Transfers	0	0	0	0
Source 500 - Inter CESA Transfers	30,995	16,000	36,209	16,000
Source 600 - State Sources	882,543	939,263	944,706	1,279,346
Source 700 - Federal Sources	437,483	441,963	425,090	437,060
Source 900 - Other Sources	0	0	0	0
Total Revenues & Other Fin. Sources	3,775,930	3,833,210	3,840,089	3,879,148
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	3,775,930	3,833,210	3,840,089	3,879,148
DEBT SERVICE FUND 30				
30 - Fund Balance	4,038,095	10,719,863	3,467,569	3,573,269
Total Revenues & Other Fin. Sources	24,390,006	9,488,387	2,392,367	3,063,302
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	27,002,471	2,806,619	2,962,893	2,957,602
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND 40				
40 - Fund Balance	25,171,757	8,225,757	10,702,218	5,871,218
Total Revenues & Other Fin. Sources	1,252,064	554,000	6,106,293	169,000
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	3,172,854	17,500,000	20,575,832	5,000,000
FOOD SERVICE FUND 50 (Food Service Accounts)				
50 - Fund Balance	348,451	279,825	217,112	137,906
Total Revenues & Other Fin. Sources	818,032	844,150	808,438	847,350
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	978,477	912,776	939,777	926,556
	AUDITED	ADJUSTED BUDGET	AUDITED	BUDGET
	2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025	2025-2026
TRUST FUND 70 Retirement Trust				
70 - Fund Balance	2,106,485	2,227,485	2,184,441	2,360,441
Total Revenues & Other Fin. Sources	304,528	215,000	248,013	270,000
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	94,216	94,000	170,057	94,000
COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND 80				
80 - Fund Balance	2,081	2,081	2,081	2,081
Total Revenues & Other Fin. Sources	0	0	0	0
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ALL FUNDS				
Gross Total Expenditures - All Funds	57,798,193	47,687,365	50,665,727	36,300,083
LESS: Interfund Transfers & Payments	2,424,883	2,435,984	2,434,084	2,146,742
Net Total Expenditures - All Funds	55,373,310	45,251,381	48,231,643	34,153,341

The programs listed below have a financial impact on the proposed 2025-2026 budget				
PROGRAM CHANGE	FINANCIAL IMPACT			
Increase in special education funding from 32-42 %	increase in revenues of approx. \$330,000			
Open enrollment net income	\$2,798,254 (\$262,000 increase over prior year)			
Health Insurance Cost	10% planned increase in costs (approx. \$450,000 increase)			
Planned use of fund balance	-\$487,933 for capital improvements			
Reduction of state aid (equalization aid)	-\$977,564 in state aid			

2025-2026 Proposed Property Tax Levy			
	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
General Fund 10	8,962,670	9,143,790	10,292,903
Debt Service Fund 30	2,634,305	2,333,387	2,588,094
Capital Projects Fund 40	100,000	-	-
Community Service Fund 80	-	-	-
Total School Levy	11,696,975	11,477,177	12,880,997
Percentage Increase From Prior Year			12.23%

2025-2026 Projected Mill Rate Based on Prior Year October Valuation			
Tax Levy & Mill Rate Projection	October 2025 District Valuation (TID out)		\$2,152,842,087
	Tax Levy	By Fund	Mill Rate
10 Fund General Operation	10,292,903	10,292,903	4.7811
Prior Year Charge Back	0	0	0.0000
30 Fund Debt Service	2,588,094	2,588,094	1.2022
40 Fund Capital Projects	0	0	0.0000
80 Fund Community Service	0	0	0.0000
2025-2026 Projected Levy & Mill Rate	12,880,997		5.9833
24-25 Levy & Mill Rate - Actual	11,477,177		5.7400
Projected Change to Levy & Mill Rate	\$ 1,403,820		0.2433
Percent change to Levy & Mill Rate	12.23%		4.24%

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Obituaries

Paula Jean (Poepke) Snider

Marcia Hale Duma passed away on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at her home in Fenwick, MI due to health issues her team of doctors were never able to diagnosis.

She was born on May 6, 1964, to Carol (Germain) Hale and Kenneth Hale. She was a 1982 graduate of Winneconne High School. After graduation she went on to further her education at Fox Valley Tech for a Physical Therapy Assistant degree which took her to Michigan. It was there that she met the love of her life, Charles Duma. They married on November 6, 1993.

Her love of helping people had her back to school and she graduated as an RN in 2003. She worked as an RN in the ER in Carson City, MI until 2013 and Michigan Correctional Facility to present.

She was an avid Packer Fan (Warning... do not talk during a game), the greatest aunt and great-aunt ever! Marcia loved her fur babies all of which have been German Shepherds. She cherished time spent with her family and friends. Marcia lived for her visits to WI (home) most times she would bring her bestie Michele Forist, to enjoy "roundtables" with her Flamings, catch up with her Wisconsin friends and just hang with family. We are blessed to

have met and heard about the many Michigan friends that have been near and dear to her over her years there. She always brought fun and much laughter to us all... And a double batch of Chex Mix of course.

Marcia will be forever missed by: her beloved husband, Charles Duma; and dog, Dragos; mother, Carol Hale; brother, David "Courtney" (Mary) Hale; sister, Kathy Hale (Mike) Bouras; niece, Ashley Bouras (Sam) Druecke; nephew, Michael (Hillary) Bouras; great-nieces and great-nephews, Maddie and Bailey Druecke, Brantley and Merrick Bouras, Jared (Roxanne) Peterson and their children Eloise, Angus and Sylus Peterson, Miles Peterson (fiancée Lindsey) and their children Maveryk and Evalyn Peterson.

We want to give a special thank you to: nephew, Michael Bouras; special friends, Michele Forist, Gavin Christensen, Sue and Andy Dewitt, Dwight Dewitt and Marilyn McDougall for all their love and support these past days.

A visitation for family and friends will be on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at Mueller Funeral Home 904 E. Main St. Winneconne. A service will be held on Saturday, October 11 at 12:00 noon at the funeral home. Inurnment will follow in the Winneconne Cemetery.

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



James William LaBelle

James William LaBelle, 81, passed away peacefully at his home in Appleton, Wisconsin on Tuesday, September 30, 2025. Jim grew up on a farm in the Town of Winneconne operated by his parents, Leonard and Edith LaBelle. He graduated from Winneconne High School in 1961 and WSU-Oshkosh in 1965. Jim was a highly respected science teacher in the Menasha school system during his entire career. For many years he was also an active member of the First Presbyterian Church, Winne-

conne.

He is survived by his sister, Judith LaBelle.

A private inurnment will be held at the Winneconne Cemetery at a later date.

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



Marble Park Lanes Bowling

Oct. 1

WWWL

Team Standings

Tinys	30-15
Marble Park Lanes	27-18
Beiser Realty	20-25
Muellers	13-32

This Week

Tinys def. Marble Park Lanes	7-2
Beiser Realty def. Muellers	9-0

Top Scores

Team Scratch Game

Marble Park Lanes	689
Tinys	631

Scratch Game

Karen Marx	225
Patti Brinkmann	207

Team Scratch Series

Marble Park Lanes	1910
Beiser Realty	1832

Scratch Series

Karen Marx	640
Patti Brinkmann	556

Team Handicap Game

Tinys	890
Marble Park Lanes	862

Handicap Game

Patti Brinkmann	247
Staci Derr	245

Team Handicap Series

Beiser Realty	2492
Tinys	2487

Handicap Series

Patti Brinkmann	676
Karen Marx	658



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PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF WINNECONNE BOARD OF APPEALS
WINNECONNE TOWN HALL
6494 CTY RD M, WINNECONNE, WI 54986

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025
4:00 p.m.

THE BOARD OF APPEALS WILL CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING REQUEST

VARIANCE APPLICATION
TO CONSTRUCT A DETACHED GARAGE WITH A
FRONT YARD SETBACK OF 29' INSTEAD OF 75'

Property Owner: Evelyn M. Dorn
Address: 6520 Wiesner Rd
Tax Parcel No.: 030-0432-03

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

Katie Harter
Zoning Administrator

Published October 8 and October 15, 2025
WNAXLP

Workshop offered for caregivers

Winneconne News

A Powerful Tools for Caregivers workshop will be held from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Thursdays for six weeks beginning on Oct. 16 at Oshkosh Public Library.

The free workshop is designed to help caregivers meet their own needs, while caring for a loved one, whether that loved one lives with them or lives in a care facility, if they are distant caregivers or are helping a friend or neighbor.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers can help caregivers identify and manage stress, manage difficult feelings due to losses, schedule changes, increased responsibilities, trying to manage work and caregiving. They will also learn effective communication tools and several relaxation techniques that can help ease the challenges of caregiving.

For more information, call Alisa Richetti at the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Winnebago County at 920-236-1227 or email at arichetti@winnebago-countywi.gov.

County offers property fraud alert service

Winneconne News

Property Fraud Alert is a free online notification service available to the public. This service allows individuals to have their name monitored within the Register of Deeds Office to track possible fraudulent recordings.

Subscribers receive an alert each time a document is recorded with their name, or a similar name, at the Register of Deeds Office. With the growing threat of mortgage fraud and identity theft, many victims are unaware their property has been compromised until significant damage has occurred.

While Property Fraud Alert cannot prevent fraud, it serves as an early warning system, giving property owners the opportunity to take timely action if suspicious activity is detected.

Anyone interested can sign up online at PropertyFraudAlert.com, through winnebago-countywi.gov/Register-of-Deeds or in person at the Winnebago County Register of Deeds Office.

For more information, contact Winnebago County Register of Deeds Office by calling 920-232-3390, email rod@winnebago-countywi.gov or online at winnebago-countywi.gov/Register-of-Deeds.



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Highlands at River Crossing for seniors 55+. Spacious one and two bedroom apartments. Rent includes: Heated underground parking, cable TV and internet access. Prepare to be impressed with amenities beyond compare! Call today for a private showing! 920-582-7200. *Some apartments reserved for moderate income. HighlandsCommunities.com

Miscellaneous

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-748-6332

Live Auction - Home

Home For Sale-Live Auction! Lake Poygan/ Winnebago Chain! 7639 Boom Bay Heights Road, Larson WI. Oct. 25th-Opening Bid & Reserve ONLY \$155,000. Home has open concept kitchen & living room, two generously sized bedrooms, partially finished full basement & attached garage. Property is nicely landscaped w/concrete drive & boat house. Call 715-649-3453. www.stlouisauctionsllc.com Terms: 10 % buyers fee/down payment (non-refundable) will be added to winning bid & to be paid day of auction. Closing in 45 days or upon paper completion. Bidders must request bid form by calling St. Louis Auctions LLC. 715-649-3453. (6728 Whitefish Lk. Rd., Three Lakes, WI 54562). R.W.A.'s: Col. Rene' Brass #424, Col. Robert St. Louis #450.

Rummage Sales!

502 Cleveland Ave
Fri & Sat 9-4, Sun 10-3
Twelve long boxes of Comic Books, Household misc & much more.

123 N 3rd Street
Located in Backyard
Friday & Saturday 9-5
Gun Cabinets, Holiday Decorations, Halloween Costumes, Tables, Chairs, Dishes, Some Hunting & Fishing Stuff, Bedding, Lots of Glasses & More

6626 Lasley Shore Dr
Friday & Saturday 8-3
Vintage items, Decor, Corelle, Pyrex, Christmas Sleds, & Boat

Multi Family Sale
6735 Frontier Road
Friday 10/10 9-3
Saturday 10/11 9-1
Boys clothes infant - 3t, girls clothes, kid's shoes, toys, and lots of misc. items. Crib, baby swing, rocking chair, dressers, old sewing machines, golf clubs and carrier and so much more that can't all be listed.

7081 Wisnac Rd 3 miles North on M from 116.
Fri 10/10 Noon-5pm & Sat 8-4.
TV stand, lamps, stick vacuum, stoneware bowls, primitive wooden kitchen tools, household, side tables, sewing machines, dresser, desk, lots of framed artwork, home decor, lots of misc.

Notice of Pending Application for Proposed Wetland Disturbance

Logan Fuller, on behalf of the Village of Winneconne (the Village), PO Box 5000 Winneconne, WI has applied to the Department of Natural Resources (the department) for a permit to disturb wetlands to extend a roadway.

The project is located in of Section 15, Township 19 North, Range 15 East, Village of Winneconne, Winnebago County.

The Village has proposed to extend 14th Avenue from Twin Harbor Drive to Wentzel Drive which will provide access to Main Street (STH 116). The extension includes sidewalk and bike lanes for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Because of the current disconnection between Wolf Run and Main Street, traffic on Wolf Run and 9th Ave. utilizes the Winneconne School campus as a "cut through" route to gain access to the neighborhoods south of the school, Main Street, or business along Main Street. This project's goal is to reduce safety risks for students and faculty of the school in addition to improving access to businesses, and the neighborhood south of the school. The extension will incorporate a roadway width of 33' back of curb to back of curb (B-B) with an 8' terrace and a 5' sidewalk on the west side of the roadway. These design modifications from the typical urban collector street design (37' B-B, 6.5' terrace, and 5' sidewalks on both sides of the road) were chosen to minimize wetland impacts.

The department will review the proposal provided by the applicant and any information from public comments and a public informational hearing, if requested. The department will determine whether the proposal complies with ss. 1.11 and 30.12(3m), Stats., and ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code, and ensure that the required mitigation meets the standards in s. 281.36(3r), Stats. if the project impacts wetlands.

The department has made a tentative determination that it will issue the permit(s) for the proposed activity.

If you would like to know more about this project or would like to see the application and plans, please visit the department's permit tracking website at <https://permits.dnr.wi.gov/water/SitePages/Permit%20Search.aspx> and search for "WP-IP-NE-2025-71-X09-16T14-31-03".

Reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

Any person may submit comments and/or request a public informational hearing by emailing Jeremiah.Schiefelbein@Wisconsin.gov or writing to Jeremiah Schiefelbein, 2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54313 by U.S. mail. If you are submitting general comments on the proposal, they must be emailed or postmarked within 30 days after the date this notice is published on the department's website. If you are requesting a public informational hearing, the request must be emailed or postmarked within 20 days after the date this notice is published on the department's website. A request for hearing must include the docket number or applicant name and specify the issues that the party desires to be addressed at the informational hearing.

If no hearing is requested, the department may issue its decision without a hearing. If a public informational hearing is held, comments must be postmarked no later than 10 days following the date on which the hearing is completed. The final decision may be appealed as indicated in the decision document.

Docket Number IP-NE-2025-71-03033 (14th Ave, Extension)

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
For the Secretary

Date: 09/29/2025

Winneconne celebrates Fall Fest

Winneconne News

The Winneconne Fall Fest was held Saturday with vendors, food trucks, music and activities throughout part of downtown.

The Winneconne Chamber of Commerce organized the seventh annual event.

The block party atmosphere along Main and First streets featured vendors including, artisans, crafters, food trucks and businesses offering specials all day. Live music and a kids zone with bounce houses and face painting were among the

activities.

The Chamber thanked all those who came out for the fun from music to shopping experiences and unforgettable local flavors.

“Winneconne showed up in full festive force – and we couldn’t be more grateful,” the Chamber said. “A heartfelt thank you to our amazing vendors and sponsors, talented performers and volunteers and every family, friend and neighbor who joined the fun.”



Photo by Tim McEnroe

The participants in the Kids Fishing Tournament held Saturday morning.



Winneconne News photo

Vendors were lined up throughout Waterfront Park offering a variety of products and activities for those attending Fall Fest.



Winneconne News photo

The Fox Valley Dragon Boat Club shared information as it officially launches its activities. The group later provided a chance to try out its boat on the water.



Winneconne News photo

Booths filled Waterfront Park with artisans and crafters showing their products and creations.



Winneconne News photo

Main Street was packed with visitors as businesses and groups provided information about their products and services.



Winneconne News photo

Visitors could meet animals at the Go Fetch booth along with buying products for their furry friends.



Winneconne News photo

The Winneconne FFA Alumni was selling fall food and fall products such as pumpkins and squash at its booth on Main Street.



Winneconne News photo

Young children could look for a new favorite toy from the vendors in Waterfront Park.



Winneconne News photo

The Kids Zone included many fun activities for children throughout the event.



Photo by Tim McEnroe

Participants in the Winneconne Kids Fishing Tournament cast their lines from the East Fishing Pier to see what they could catch.



Winneconne News photo

Wisconsin Herd mascot Pointer walked around and greeted fans.



Winneconne News photo

Beiser Realty invited guests to come into its office for a haunted house.

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