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Photo by Michael Cooney

Kalbus planting party

Carolyn Uhi (left) and Avery Garcia take part in a wetland restoration planting project recently at Kalbus Country Harbor on Lake Road south of Oshkosh that included more than 2,000 native plants. Volunteers from Zebra Technologies in Greenville, Kalbus Country Harbor and Team SNW staff worked with Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance staff after the alliance's Winnebago Waterways Program was approached with the idea of incorporating the restoration project into development plans for the property.

Complaints made over judge actions

Attorneys say Woldt lacking impartiality

By Bethanie Gengler
OSHKOSH HERALD

A month after voters re-elected Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge Scott Woldt, who was suspended for judicial misconduct two years ago, he is facing another complaint after he allegedly threatened to retaliate against an attorney who supported his opponent in the Branch 2 judicial race, unless the attorney paid him \$28,000.

Woldt was appointed to the Branch 2 bench in 2004 and was re-elected four times. This year was the first election he faced opposition after the Wisconsin Supreme Court suspended him for a week without pay in 2021. He retained the Branch 2 position, defeating LaKeisha Haase by about 1,300 votes.

The latest misconduct complaint, filed last month by attorney Matthew Goldin of Oshkosh, requests that Woldt be investigated for threatening to retaliate against Goldin for supporting Haase's Branch 2 election campaign.

On April 25, Goldin attended a get-together for attorneys and other legal professionals at Ruby Owl Tap Room in Oshkosh, where he encountered Woldt and his wife, Missy, who is a judicial assistant for Branch 3.

Documents say Woldt pulled Goldin over

SEE **Woldt** ON PAGE 5

Postal workers' food drive set to deliver again

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh mail carriers and supporting sponsors are getting ready to revive their participation in the Stamp Out Hunger nationwide food drive this Saturday that will help restock the shelves at local food pantries.

Conducted by the National Association of Letter Carriers, the largest one-day food drive in the country has weathered pandemic restrictions and was suspended in Oshkosh after the 2019 effort.

"I am hoping for a really good turnout this year because it has been so long since we have had one," said food drive coordinator Ginny Klein of the National Association of Letter Carriers No. 173. "The food pantries are excited this is taking place again. It has helped restock their shelves in the past. I am impressed by all the food pantries' willingness to work together to make sure expired food doesn't get tossed out."

Klein said mail carriers collected 43,472 pounds of food in 2019 compared with 65,285 pounds in 2018, which she partly attributed to donation bags not being distributed. J. J. Keller sponsored the bags the next year and while COVID stalled that

SEE **Food drive** ON PAGE 7

Drug deaths, prevention efforts reviewed

Winnebago supervisors hear overdose concerns

By Bethanie Gengler
OSHKOSH HERALD

Fatal drug overdoses continue to rise, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now ranking overdoses as the third leading cause of death in the United States and fentanyl as the primary threat.

County Medical Examiner Cheryl Brehmer provided an update on overdose deaths in Winnebago County so far this year at a Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting last week.

At the end of April there were 11 confirmed fatal overdoses countywide for the year, with 10 involving fentanyl. An additional six pending cases are awaiting toxicology results, with preliminary testing showing four of those as positive for fentanyl.

The county recorded 41 fatal overdoses in 2021 and 38 in 2022.

There was a seizure of about 600 grams of fentanyl earlier this year and the Winnebago Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group reported the county has experienced a 360% increase in fentanyl seizures this year compared with all of 2021.

Between 2016 and 2021, overdose



Photo capture from Oshkosh Media

Winnebago County Medical Examiner Cheryl Brehmer reports to the county Judiciary and Public Safety Committee last week on overdose deaths.

deaths in the U.S. involving fentanyl increased by 279% to 21.6 per 100,000 people, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

Brehmer said there also has been an increase in overdoses involving xylazine, a non-opioid, large-animal tranquilizer often used in conjunction with fentanyl. The drug is so prevalent in Pennsylvania that 90% of street opioid samples contained xylazine in 2021, according to its Public Health Department.

"The last I heard Milwaukee had 17 fatal overdoses in less than seven days in this last month and they believe that those will

probably show xylazine as well," she said.

Narcan, a drug that reverses opioid overdoses, does not work on xylazine.

"The only thing you can do is protect their airway," Brehmer said, adding that xylazine slows down heart rates and respiration and is not meant for human consumption.

Sheriff John Matz said that just when officials find ways to mitigate certain drugs, a new one comes out.

In March, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the sale of Narcan

SEE **Overdoses** ON PAGE 22

Overdoses

FROM PAGE 1

over the counter. Milwaukee became the first in Wisconsin to install Narcan vending machines, offering fentanyl test strips and Narcan at no cost.

"The only thing I'll say about Narcan vending machines, I've heard that they want to put them in high schools possibly," Matz said. "At some point, we become complicit. It's perpetuating drug use. We've got to be careful that we're not doing that, that we're not making it easy."

Earlier this year, the sheriff's department was authorized to purchase one TruNarc Narcotic Analyzer and two TruNarc Solution kits, which a representative demonstrated at the meeting.

TruNarc is a handheld portable testing device that can identify 250 narcotics and test drugs using laser technology, so officers don't have to come in contact with the drug.

Obituaries

Jean Zimmerman

Jean passed away on April 28, 2023, at the age of 101. She had been currently residing in Libertyville, IL at StoryPoint Assisted Living.



ShewasborninOshkosh at Mercy Hospital on February 14, 1922, the daughter of Irma (Loos) and Herbert p. Fink. On July 27, 1946 she married

Roy H. Zimmerman who preceded her in death on May 8, 1994.

As a lifelong resident of Oshkosh, she graduated from Oshkosh High School in June 1939. She was active in retailing for more than 64 years beginning her career at Dickson's Ladies Ready to Wear from August 1939 to February 1970. Then in 1970,

she joined Pranges Department Store as an area manager in Ladies Ready to Wear. She continued when Younkens acquired the business, retiring in 1994. Beginning in 1998, she volunteered at the Oshkosh Seniors Center as manager of The Gift Shop for 9 years and then continued to volunteer there in many other capacities.

Every friend was a special treasure to her.

Survivors include her daughter Kay (Stephen) Fredrick of Mundelein, Illinois, her son William (Christina) Zimmerman of Carmel Valley, California, three grandchildren, Jeffrey (Kate) Fredrick of Antioch, Illinois, Matthew (Beth) Fredrick of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, Parker Grey of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Three great-grandchildren, Lainey Fredrick, Menomonee Falls, Avery Fredrick of Menomonee Falls, and Andrew Fredrick

of Antioch, Illinois.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Richard Fink, of Oshkosh.

Funeral services will be on Friday May 12, 2023 at Fiss & Bills-Poklasny Funeral Home, 865 S Westhaven Drive, Oshkosh, at 1:00 PM. Burial will be in Lake View Memorial Park. Family and friends may call at the funeral home on Friday from 12:00 PM until the hour of services.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Friends of the Oshkosh Seniors Center Endowment Fund in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

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