

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SHAWANO, WI  
PERMIT NO. 135

## Winter Sale on Now!

**Save 25% to 50% OFF**

fine quality, American made furniture from Temple, Parker Southern, and Rowe. Hundreds of styles --over 1000 fabrics.

**MANY ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY!**

HOURS: Mon-Fri 10am - 5:30 pm • Sat 10am-4pm  
Sunday & Evenings by appointment

**Great Estates**  
FINE FURNITURE

217 N Main St., Oshkosh WI 54901  
920-232-9772

## INSIDE



**Out of reach**  
North can't keep pace with No. 1 Neenah  
Page 18

**Lyrical legacy**  
Morrison, Chapin daughters stand apart  
Page 4



Photo by Michael Cooney

## Sturgeon success

Suzette Fagan of Oshkosh is shown with her first sturgeon catch that weighed in at 56 pounds and 62 inches. She said she caught the fish just before the 1 p.m. closing time Saturday. This was Fagan's seventh year spearing. Over the first two days of the season, 424 sturgeon were registered on Lake Winnebago.

## School cost jump alters work plan

Increases force delay in some security upgrades

By Kaitlyn Scoville  
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education reviewed the progress of recently passed referendums for construction of the new Vel Phillips Middle School and upgrading secure entrances district-wide.

According to a staff report, the cost has increased by \$4.6 million, or 8%, to build the new facility due to a variety of market conditions. Neenah-based Miron Construction was awarded the project.

District staff reported their work with Miron to mitigate the cost issue and replace some unnoticeable features around the school with cheaper, cost-effective yet similar alternatives, which Deputy Superintendent David Gundlach explained as "value engineering."

"We're building a school for a hundred years, one middle school on the north side of town, and we want to make sure it lasts and meets the needs of this community," he said.

Gundlach also said the district only received one bid for the second phase of the secure entrance project for the schools that came in about 200% over budget. It was suggested to the board that the se-

SEE **Middle school** ON PAGE 8

## Choir conductor ready to back Bocelli

Oshkosh upbringing launched music career

By Dan Roherty  
OSHKOSH HERALD

Oshkosh native Randy Pagel is taking on two major music concert projects in Las Vegas that reflect his enduring reputation as a choir conductor and instructor for which he credits his hometown for developing at an early age.

Pagel will be conducting the background chorus for noted operatic tenor Andrea Bocelli's performance this Friday at the Las Vegas MGM Grand Garden Arena. He also will be conducting Johannes Brahms' German Requiem with

the Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society at the city's Artemus Hall Concert Hall on March 13.

Pagel, who maintains strong ties to Oshkosh where he attended school growing up and through his college years, has conducted at New York City's Carnegie Hall, Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center and Chicago's Orchestra Hall among his more than 200 choirs in 33 states. His education focus shifted to becoming principal of Sunset East High School in Las Vegas before retiring and continuing to sub as an administrator, but his musical calling is never far away.

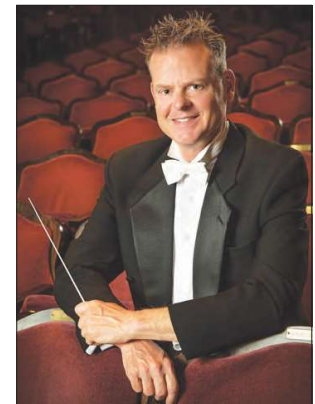
The North High School and UW Oshkosh alumnus shared his background and appreciation for how his hometown

shaped his career ambitions while maintaining close ties to his friends and mentors from early on.

"I was an active member of the Boys Club, as it was known back then when it was on Main Street, since age 5," Pagel recalled. "The executive director Jack Rickert got me involved playing the piano, singing or speaking at many civic events."

Taking piano lessons with Carol Winborne starting at age 7, Pagel represented Oshkosh at Wisconsin competitions and when he won a statewide contest it was held in UW-Oshkosh's Music Hall. After performing and singing for his Peace Lutheran Church congregation, he was asked

SEE **Choir conductor** ON PAGE 8



Submitted photo

Randy Pagel is choral conductor for two upcoming Las Vegas concerts.

# Congratulations

## Honor Roll Students



## United Way annual event set virtually

The Oshkosh Area United Way will hold its virtual annual celebration event at noon March 2 to mark the 2021 campaign.

Last year funds were awarded to 41 partner programs in the community related to early education, financial stability and mental health initiatives. A full list of programs is at oshkoshunitedway.org.

The winner of the 2021 Eco Sport Sweepstakes sponsored by Bergstrom Automotive also will be announced.

## Two board members named to OAUW

Oshkosh Area United Way has appointed two new board members, Jonelle "Jo" Simon, of Amcor Flexibles, and Houa Xiong, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

Xiong, instructor and associate dean at UW Oshkosh, has been working in higher education for the past 21 years in student services and advocacy. She has presented at conferences, served in leadership positions for Wisconsin Academic Advising Association, and serves as a member of diversity and inclusion initiatives at both UW Oshkosh and the Oshkosh Area School District.

As a refugee from Laos, she came to the United States at a young age and grew up in La Crosse with her parents, six brothers



Simon



Xiong

"This is an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding game-changers in our area," said Brenda Haines, campaign co-chair and co-owner of Blue Door Consulting. "Because of your fighting spirit and the funds raised, OAUW will be able to continue to bring people together to address the biggest needs in our community and change the game for the most vulnerable."

Registration is required by noon Feb. 28 at oshkoshunitedway.org.

and a sister. She has a bachelor's degree in recreation management and master's in college student development and administration from UW-La Crosse.

Simon, senior supply chain manager at Amcor Flexibles, provides strategic oversight for the development of planning processes for the meat, poultry, and seafood business unit. Before this role, Jonelle held various positions in operations and logistics.

Before joining Amcor Flexibles, Jonelle served in the U.S. Navy as a surface warfare officer and a supply corps officer. She attained her undergraduate degree in mathematics from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. She also holds two master's degrees from Keller University.

## School Bus Driver Appreciation Week underway

Wisconsin School Bus Driver Appreciation Week is underway to recognize school transportation personnel involved in the highest standards of safe practices to assure the protection of their passengers

There are more than 12,000 school buses that safely transport more than 475,000 students to and from school each school day and travel nearly 60 million miles a year.

## Choir conductor

FROM PAGE 1

to direct its youth choir at age 13.

"I sang at many weddings in Oshkosh and continued to entertain at many various events including for many local and state politicians who had me either sing the National Anthem or perform at their campaign parties," he said. "I was also a clown at the events around Oshkosh, including many parades."

Other jobs the active teen took on included coat checker and bottle boy at the Eagles Club, a server at Ray's Restaurant, studio pianist at Richard's School of the Dance and game organizer for the short-lived Wisconsin Flyers CBA basketball team.

Page was, not surprisingly, active in the North High choir but also its musicals and jazz ensemble while performing with the Oshkosh Community Players. He took part in fundraisers as well, including one to keep the Grand Opera House from being torn down.

But he said his personal teenage highlight was singing the National Anthem for the Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field in 1984, where it was broadcast live on WGN television and shown in every class of his high school.

Although offered full music scholarships at other colleges, Page chose to stay and attend UW as a music major with a choral education emphasis.

"At that time, I couldn't imagine leaving Oshkosh, the jobs I was working, and all the people I had connected with," he said, where he had strong ties with choir director Carl Chapman, piano professor

James Kohn and renowned tenor Frank Hoffmeister.

Back to the present, and as a longtime educator in Las Vegas, Page was aware Bocelli made annual stops there with a show featuring a 60-voice choir to back up his solos. Page said he jumped at the invitation to conduct it this year while knowing they only get one rehearsal just hours before the performance.

"What makes this show so special is that Bocelli's daughter Virginia and son Matteo will sing with him on some of his songs," he said. "Since the venue at the MGM Grand Garden Arena is so huge - holding 18,000 people - with different colored lights dancing around during the performance, it will be an experience of a lifetime."

As for Brahms' German Requiem in March, Page said this choral work "is a whole different ballgame."

"Aside from the score preparation, it takes a lifetime of musical and humanitarian experience to comprehend the complexities of this masterwork - the choral parts, the orchestra parts, the text, and how they all work together," he said. "There is only one rehearsal with the conductor and orchestra (without the chorus) and one rehearsal with the orchestra and chorus the next day. The following day is the live performance."

He hopes to someday conduct the Requiem in Oshkosh with what he said are some great singers and orchestra players here. In the meantime, he retains many Oshkosh ties and brings Oaks candy canes back to his students every year.

## Middle school

FROM PAGE 1

mentary school will long outlast any of the secure-entry projects by decades," Gundlach said.

The school board also reviewed and approved a bid for about 1,200 security cameras for the district through a completed request for proposal (RFP) presented by Gundlach.

This project was funded by the 2020 operational referendum and budgeted as part of the district's Sustainable Technology Budget. According to a statement from staff, most current cameras will be about 5 years old and in need of replacement.

Among six vendors that were encouraged to submit a proposal to the district, the technology services team decided to award Camera Corner Connecting Point's AVA/Axis security cameras for just over \$775,000.

With the approval from the board last week, the new devices will be ordered and installed before the start of the 2022-23 school year.

"In short, your middle school and ele-

In partnership with Legacy.com

# Obituaries

Honor your loved one with the timeless tradition of an obituary

- Provide the community with timely service and memorial details
- Give friends and family a convenient place to offer condolences and make charitable donations
- Have an easy way to share the notice on social media
- Create a permanent record of your family member's legacy for future generations to explore

To place an obituary in the Oshkosh Herald submit through  
Your Funeral Director • obits@oshkoshherald.com • 920-508-9000

## INDIAN RIVER DIRECT

### CITRUS TRUCKLOAD SALE

# OSHKOSH

**SAT., FEB. 19, 3:00-4:00PM**

**THE BAR, 825 N. WASHBURN STREET**

~20 lbs RUBY RED GRAPEFRUIT <b>\$35 PER BOX</b>	~20 lbs SUPER SWEETS TANGERINES <b>\$40 PER BOX</b>
~20 lbs SEEDLESS NAVAL ORANGES <b>\$35 PER BOX</b>	~20 lbs TEMPLE ORANGES <b>\$40 PER BOX</b>

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

[www.indianriverdirect.com](http://www.indianriverdirect.com)