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EVENTS CALENDAR

Add your event to this calendar or change it by sending details to news@oelweindailyregister.com, editor@oelweindailyregister.com, mailing them attn: Calendar or bringing them to the Daily Register, 25 First St. SE, PO Box 511, Oelwein, IA 50662.

FRIDAY, JAN. 26

Oelwein Senior Meal Site, 11:30 a.m., V.F.W. Post 1725, 120 N. Frederick Ave. Meals by Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A), open Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Older adults can reserve a meal two days ahead by calling the Oelwein Senior Center, 319-239-8019. Diners under age 60 must pay the cost of the meal. Menu, chicken gravy, mashed potatoes, fruit, veggie, whole wheat bread
Hootenanny, 6 to 9 p.m., Oelwein Coliseum. Live music, fellowship and dancing. Guest musicians are always welcome. Free will donation.

SATURDAY, JAN. 27

Arlington Community Club Cornhole Tournament, 2 p.m., at the Arlington Event Center. Register on arrival and draw for teams. Meal for purchase; open bar. Proceeds go to the club for Arlington Days 2024 events.
AMVETS Post 79 Steak Fry, 5–7:30 p.m., Waverly Area Veterans Post, 1300 Fourth St NW, Waverly. Call in steak orders any time before 2 p.m. on Jan. 27, at 319-483-9287. Public welcome.

SUNDAY, JAN. 28

Thyron Mathews, T & T Barbecue, Meal Fundraiser for West Central Post Prom, 12-4 p.m. 115 Main St., Westgate. See West Central Community Schools Facebook.

MONDAY, JAN. 29

Oelwein Senior Meal Site, 11:30 a.m., V.F.W. Post 1725, 120 N. Frederick Ave. Meals by Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A), open Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Older adults can reserve a meal two days ahead by calling the Oelwein Senior Center, 319-239-8019. Diners under age 60 must pay the cost of the meal. Menu, Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, fruit, veggie

TUESDAY, JAN 30

Prevent Relapse 12 Step Program, 6:30 p.m., Evangelical Free Church, Oelwein, 319-240-9135

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31

Oelwein Senior Meal Site, 11:30 a.m., V.F.W. Post 1725, 120 N. Frederick Ave. Meals by Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A), open Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Older adults can reserve a meal two days ahead by calling the Oelwein Senior Center, 319-239-8019. Diners under age 60 must pay the cost of the meal. Menu, creamy chicken over buttermilk biscuit, fruit, veggie
Night at the Nature Center, come-and-go between 4:30 and 7 p.m., at Fontana Park Nature Center, south of Hazleton. Naturalists can discuss live reptiles and at 6:30 p.m., a live owl. Hiking or snowshoeing may be available, along with a campfire. Registration optional but encouraged, <https://www.buchanancounty.iowa.gov/services/conservation/index.php> under events tab.
Shechem Conference Lutheran Churches Pancake supper and bake sale. West Union Event Center. 4:30-7 p.m. Cost applies. (under 5 is free). Snow date Feb. 7.

THURSDAY, FEB. 1

Oelwein Grief Support Group meets 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church.

FRIDAY, FEB. 2

Hootenanny, 6 to 9 p.m., Oelwein Coliseum. Live music, fellowship and dancing. Guest musicians are always welcome. Free will donation.

By **JAKE BLITSCH**

Columnist



If you had the opportunity to walk through the halls of the various Oelwein schools you would see the Therapy/Support dogs, aka, service, or comfort dogs, being led by their handlers. The mission statement on the district’s webpage reads: *The Oelwein Community School District along with PAWSitively Oelwein, a not-for-profit organization, have teamed up to provide comfort dogs for the school district and community to enhance engagement, support, and additional resources to help meet the needs of all students and their successes.*

Not only are the dogs trained for that environment, but the students are likewise trained. They learn to respect the dog’s space and keep trash off the floors that may be an attraction to the animals. Jerry Bond of Maynard is a professional dog trainer and has had much success with the Oelwein School District’s 7 comfort animals, with another in the wings. Mr. Bond’s training includes that all dogs must pass the *AKC Good Citizenship* test.

There is a cost associated with having these canines on campus. Of course there’s training but also other necessities such as registration, vaccines, insurance, flea and heartworm care. *PAWSitively Oelwein* establishes the rules and facilitates the expenses of the handler (owner). The money comes mostly from grants, donations, and public fundraising events but some normal cost of dog ownership is paid by the handler.

Studies prove a therapy dog can lift moods in the classroom, often provoking laughter and kindness. The therapy dog is also there to offer friendship and a shoulder to lean on for students.

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JAKE BLITSCH | Oelwein Daily Register

Winter path to the Hernandez grave at Woodlawn Cemetery walked daily by Rosie Casey.

I had a bus gig last week transporting 26 first graders to an Upper Iowa women’s basketball game as a Husky Adventure event. Toward the end of the game, as I walked out of the gymnasium to get the bus, I saw Mr. Bill Prochaska walking in. I’ve known of, and admired, Mr. Prochaska for many years. Bill is an Upper Iowa University (UIU) icon. He has been named on a litany of Halls of Fame for coach, player, and umpire and his 1995 induction into the UIU Hall of Fame was a given and well deserved.

I walked over to him at the gym door and introduced myself and told him it was a pleasure seeing him. He stopped me, gripped my shoulder, and told me he loved reading my column saying, “I read it every week.”

I can’t deny I was blown away, and I considered that a huge compliment. I guess that jumps my readers list all the way to nine by now.

Mr. Prochaska asked about my daughters Bridget and Stacey who are UIU alum. Bill was very instrumental in getting Stacey an internship with a resort in Orlando through her major in Fitness Recreation. That led to her auditioning and

eventually getting a role in the television show *Rollerjam*.

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Sometimes it’s hard to find the good amongst us. But if you look around, it’s easy to see the good outweighs the bad.

Rosie Casey has been visiting her parents’ grave at Woodlawn Cemetery, John, and Mary Hernandez, since her father died over 60 years ago. Her mother Mary died in 2013 at the age of 102 and I think, descriptions of her lifestyle, written in her obituary, molded the dedication daughter Rosie would live by too. It said: *She taught her children to be proud of their heritage, love your family and be true to their Catholic faith.*

Everyday Rosie makes the drive to the far west edge of the cemetery, parks her car along the road near

section 9b and walks about 75 feet east- rain, snow, or shine. At her feet is the monument with the inscription bearing her parents’ names and she begins her conversation with Mom and Dad. Rosie says her daily visit, “makes me feel closer to them.” Heeding her mother’s advice about being true to her Catholic faith, she opens a small green plastic container of holy water and sprinkles it on their grave. She prays for them and asks them to watch over her and her family. But now there is another name she adds to her spiritual petitions.

In the wintertime she would put on her overshoes and slog through the snow. One day, a couple years ago, she went to the cemetery and stopped at the road. To her astonishment a path was cleared through the snow to the gravesite. She looked up heavenward but found no answer.

Remember Jon Latham, our Salvation Army bell ringer, and Community Cupboard volunteer? For the last two years in the wintertime, “saint” Jon Latham has been going out to the cemetery and shoveling or snow blowing the path from the road to the Hernandez gravesite. She only recently found out that Latham was her snow removal angel. So now, after her daily prayers at the gravesite she asks her parents to pray for Jon, for his kindness to her and everything he does in our community. There is a lot of goodness in this world. We just have to get past the noise.

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Being kissed while you’re asleep is the purest form of love... unless you’re in prison.

From the Pastor’s Desk

By **JOSHUA SCHUNK**
Pastor, Zion Lutheran

Friends in the Community, Greetings to each and every one of you from God our loving heavenly Father and our living Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope and pray that this article finds all of you well now that we are quickly leaving January behind!

I am a hard charging person. What I mean by this is that I believe the words of a book I read several years ago called, “Rhinceros Success.” In that book, Scott Alexander discusses the need to have thick skin and to be willing to keep charging even when life tries to hold you down. I love this book, and I have quoted it many times in sermons and in other materials I have written. If you have not read the book, it should be on

your someday reading list. It really is great!

One of the reasons I love this book is because too many of us tend to get weighed down by the burdens of life. We get tired when we need to make it through another week filled with appointments, meetings and social events. We get worn out when we need to go to one more medical appointment. We feel weary when we know that the weekend is coming, but Saturday and Sunday are going to be busier than the previous five days.

Along with these, we also feel the burden of sin. We allow ourselves to be weighed down by those poor decisions we made this morning, yesterday, last week and even last year. When we look back over the moments of our lives, we tend to see many of the negative things we have done or the negative things that have been inflicted upon us. We feel

as if that sin has the final word on our lives because those failures have seemed to have devastating consequences.

What would happen if we had thick skin? What would happen if we believed we could persevere and keep charging through life and not be defined by our mistakes or the mistakes of others? This is the story of the cross and the resurrection of Jesus. When Jesus died on Good Friday and rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, Jesus overcame our sins, and he overcame the sins of the entire world.

Jesus wants us to live in this forgiveness. He wants us to allow our lives to be defined by his victory instead of our defeats. When we live our lives in response to this gift of forgiveness, we are able to live with energy and enthusiasm. We realize that we are no longer slaves to the sins of the past. We are allowed to live in the

present and look forward to the future.

This news allows us to keep charging. When we get up in the morning, we can give thanks to God for bringing us to a new day and look forward to what God is going to do for us and all of his people during that day. When we stop to rest at night, we can thank God for the day that has passed and look forward to the next day that is going to come. We can continually persevere because we know that we are forgiven, restored and given entirely new and different lives.

When we come to believe this, we are promised that we are not alone. Jesus is with us to remind us each and every moment of each and every day that we are beloved and forgiven children of God. As we receive this reminder, we can live with energy once again!

Just a thought...
Pastor Josh

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