



Lomira set for 1st sectional appearance since 2011-12

SPORTS, 8B

Oshkosh Northwestern

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026 | THENORTHWESTERN.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

HACKING THE GRID



Digital sabotage turns infrastructure into a weapon

Saman Zonouz Georgia Institute of Technology | THE CONVERSATION

The darkness that swept over the Venezuelan capital in the predawn hours of Jan. 3 signaled a profound shift in the nature of modern conflict: the convergence of physical and cyber warfare. While U.S. special operations forces carried out the dramatic seizure of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, a far quieter but equally devastating offensive was taking place in the unseen digital networks that help operate Caracas.

The blackout was not the result of bombed transmission towers or severed power lines but rather a precise and invisible manipulation of the industrial control systems that manage the flow of electricity. This synchronization of traditional military action with advanced cyber warfare represents a new chapter in international conflict, one where lines of computer code that manipulate critical infrastructure are among the most potent weapons.

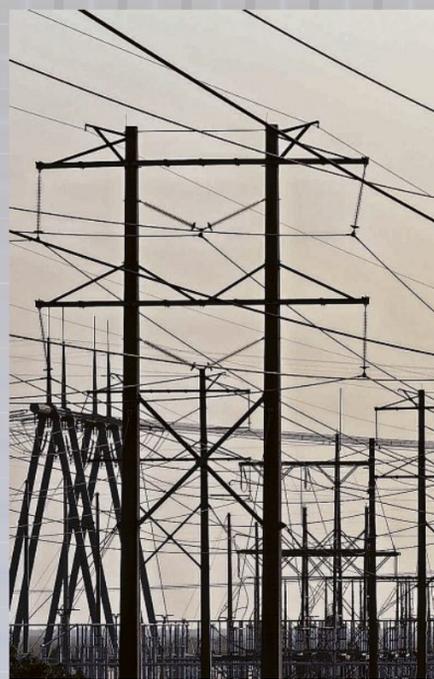
To understand how a nation can turn an adversary's lights out without firing a shot, you have to look inside the controllers that regulate modern infrastructure. They are the digital brains responsible for opening valves, spinning turbines and routing power.

For decades, controller devices were considered simple and isolated. Grid modernization, however, has transformed them into sophisticated internet-connected computers. As a cybersecurity researcher, I track how advanced cyber forces exploit this modernization by using digital techniques to control the machinery's physical behavior.

Hijacked machines

My colleagues and I have demonstrated how malware can compromise a controller to create a

See **HACKING**, Page 3A



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

TOP: Smoke rises during a full blackout after the United States struck Venezuela and captured its President Nicolás Maduro in Caracas, Venezuela, Jan. 3. The blackout was the result of a U.S. cyberattack on the power grid. LEONARDO FERNANDEZ VILORIA/REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

Tell us why you love Oshkosh

Justin Marville
Oshkosh Northwestern
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

OSHKOSH - It must be all the museums, right? Right?

Or maybe no one told them there hasn't been a KFC in Oshkosh in, like, forever.

Whatever those reasons are (OK, so they were actually affordable housing, local economy, access to quality schools and health care), Wisconsin's "Event City" made yet another list of the best places to live in the United States.

In case you missed it, U.S. News & World Report recently listed its top 250 cities nationwide, and Oshkosh

See **OSHKOSH**, Page 4A

Stevie Rachelle talks Tuff, Sunset Strip, CWA and being an '80s meme

Kendra Meinert
Green Bay Press-Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Stevie Rachelle found glam band fame on the Sunset Strip in the '80s, but the writing was never on the wall for those who knew him growing up in Oshkosh.

"It wasn't expected, because I wasn't the music guy in high school. I wasn't in a band. I wasn't playing guitar. I wasn't in chorus. None of that," he said by phone from Los Angeles, where he's lived for nearly 39 years.

His exposure to live music back in his youth was maybe catching a band playing a Foghat song at a campground somewhere. Then at the tail end of his senior year in 1984, he went to see KISS on the Lick It Up World Tour at Brown County Veterans Memorial Arena in Ashwaubenon. It was his first major concert - the lights going down, the roar of the crowd, the smoke, the lasers, all of it.

A month later, he was at Dane County Coliseum in Madison for Ozzy Osbourne's Bark at the Moon Tour

See **RACHELLE**, Page 3A

addressUSA

The market won't wait. And neither should you.

Buying or selling? Don't wait—make your move now.

Discover more at addressUSA.com



Know your home's value. Then make your move.

📍 My dream home...

🔍 Help me sell fast...



Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to thenorthwestern.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 159 | No. 54
Subscribe 877 424-5048
©2026 \$2.50

