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PHOTOS BY MICHAEL COONEY



Smooth sailing

Mike Krill takes Slick Trick, his D-class stern steering iceboat, for a ride on Lake Winnebago last Wednesday. He said the sport is ruled by weather conditions that can change in a minute. The owner of five iceboats, Krill and his friends have sailed 100-plus miles in a day to the south or north shores.

University funding feud finds resolution

Pending agreement has state paying \$6.3M to end dispute

By Miles Maguire
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The dispute between the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and its fundraising arm is coming to a close with the state agreeing to pay \$6.3 million.

"After approximately 12 hours of productive, court-supervised mediation involving leaders of UW-Oshkosh, UW System, the UW-Oshkosh Foundation and several financial institutions, we reached resolution," UW-Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt said in an email message to employees Dec. 22.

The settlement "ends a costly litigation process that would have burdened the institution and Wisconsin taxpayers for additional months, if not years," Leavitt said. A ruling this summer said the state was on

SEE **UW-Oshkosh** ON PAGE 9

Dance team event bringing the warmth to West

Oshkosh Herald

The Oshkosh West Wildcat Invite dance team competition returns for its fifth year at the high school Saturday with 37 teams from around the state taking part in the fundraising event that benefits students in need and the dance team.

Morgan Boyce and Mackenzie Wissink, West's coaches and former team members, launched the inaugural event with



the junior varsity while both were in college and spending countless Saturdays at dance competitions in the area.

"We knew from being on the team and then from our experience coaching that

the help of one of the dancer's mothers. Boyce was coaching the West varsity team and Wissink led

the money was always extremely tight," said Wissink, an elementary school teacher in the district. "We knew that running an event would be a substantial fundraiser for the team and would allow us to 'gift' items to the team that we had never had."

A cornerstone of the event is a Spread the Warmth campaign to benefit elementary and middle school students in need of warm clothing during winter months. Competitors and spectators are encour-

aged to bring a clothing item to donate. Spectators will receive \$1 off the cost of admission with a donation and the dance team with the most donations earns a trophy.

This year the West Wildcat team has attended competitions in Ashwaubenton and Little Chute and will be going to Menomonee Falls in addition to the

SEE **Dance teams** ON PAGE 11

Fox Cities club ready to roll with arena games

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

It's a fast, physical game with a retro feel to it.

Welcome to the colorful, chaotic world of roller derby, where skates, speed and slams intersect.

Oshkosh residents will get a chance to check out this full-throttle, highly entertaining sport this winter.

The Fox Cities Roller Derby club has found new digs at the Menominee Nation Arena and will play its home schedule at the Oshkosh venue.

The local club known as FCRD will compete on three dates at the arena: this

Saturday, Feb. 2 and March 23. Double-headers will be played featuring FCRD's two teams – the All-Stars travel team and the 920 Honeys – against the Confluence Crush from Bellevue, Ill.

Fox Cities Roller Derby is celebrating its 12th season as a not-for-profit organization and member of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA). It welcomes players of all ages, sizes and skill levels.

Fox Cities Roller Derby previously played its home games at Skaters Edge in Appleton and currently practices there. Getting an opportunity to compete at an

SEE **Roller Derby** ON PAGE 10



MF PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

Fox Cities Roller Derby brings its squad to the Menominee Nation Arena to compete with other teams on three double-header dates in the coming months.

Sawdust District growth goals outlined

By Tom Ekvall
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Plans for revitalization of the Sawdust District on the south shore of Oshkosh, which includes the South Main Street corridor and waterfronts along the Fox River and Lake Winnebago, were presented by the city's Planning Division before a recent meeting of the Sawdust District Advisory Group.

The group, which includes area property owners, economic development professionals and other civic-minded indi-

viduals, first met in March and provides monthly input into a special area plan for the district. The city intends to direct growth and infrastructure investment through recommendations, strategies and policies with the ultimate goal of reinvigorating the neighborhood.

"We want to plan for the future," said Daryn Burich, planning services coordinator. "We want to reimagine the future for the area."



BURICH

The Sawdust District is known historically for its industrial uses and was once home to leading lumber and furniture companies. As the dominance of those industries decreased in the community the district transitioned into other heavy uses.

The area has been experiencing redevelopment as Buckstaff Co. land was transformed into the Menominee Nation Arena and development plans have been approved for the former Miles Kimball property and a former sewing company along the same stretch of South Main. Other developments included the opening of the Fifth Ward Brewing Co. at 1009 S. Main St. and reopening of the Granary building at 44 W. 6th Ave.

Burich said the city will meet with business owners in the next several months to discuss revitalization ideas. He said the Sawdust District Plan includes seven subdistricts, each with its own special features and design/development guidelines. These subdistricts include:

- River North area where lumber-related factories once lined the banks of the Fox River. Burich said the Al Brouline Memorial Garden park should be expanded along with development of one- to four-story buildings oriented toward the river and continuation of the Riverwalk



FROM OSHKOSH PLANNING SERVICES DIVISION

rail access. Burich said the long-term goal should be to create a "clean slate" for future redevelopment by working with existing owners to relocate to the city's newer industrial parks and create multistory developments that take advantage of water views while buffering the presence of the railroad tracks.

- Pioneer District, the industrial area once redeveloped into the former Pioneer Inn and Resort. Goals include reestablishment of a hotel for the site, modernization of the marina and residential housing.

- Arena District, the area that includes Menominee Nation Arena, to be further developed into

through the district to Pioneer Island.

- West Transitional District, between South Main on the east and Oregon Street to the west, with small- to medium-size residential housing and business office spaces proposed through adaptive reuse of industrial buildings.

- Core District, which is historic Main Street, with a long-term vision to re-establish the "Main Street feel" from the 600 block to 12th Avenue along both sides of the street and reduce the industrial feel of the area.

- Central North District, a predominantly industrial area with large parcels of buildings and storage facilities along with

an entertainment district along with added parking areas.

- South Gateway District, which represents the southern extent of industrial activity previously occupied by Oshkosh Brewing Co., now School Stationers at 1641 S. Main. The proposed development pattern would be one-story buildings with front-yard parking for residential, retail and service, and professional offices.

Burich said plans to turn around the Pioneer Inn area have carried the highest costs and said the city will need financial incentives to accomplish revitalization of that area.



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Oshkosh initiatives to get public review

Oshkosh area residents are invited to participate in the sixth annual Oshkosh Outlook at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 10 at Fox Valley Technical College's Room 133.

The program will feature brief presenta-

tions by leaders of the key public institutions in Oshkosh about the major issues, initiatives and priorities that the community can expect to see in the coming year. Audience questions will follow the presentations.

Invited presenters include Mark Rohloff, city manager; Vickie Cartwright, Oshkosh Area School District superintendent; Alex Hummel, special assistant to the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Chancellor for Strategic Partnerships;

Mark Harris, Winnebago County executive; and Melissa Kohn, campus administrator for Fox Valley Technical College.

The event is sponsored by Citizens for a Strong Oshkosh, a nonpartisan organization that promotes civil dialogue and creates settings for residents to identify, review and discuss needs, priorities and opportunities for improvement.

Contact Kathy Propp at 231-4770 or kmpropp42@gmail.com for questions about the event.

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Separate groups work for thoughtful interaction

By the Rev. Tom Willadsen
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

So you managed to get through Thanksgiving and Christmas by avoiding conversations about everything but the most banal topics — “The weather? Well, it simply gets more interesting every day!” But now you find yourself facing a new year, hungry for genuine, thoughtful conversation about important issues that are unchanged by discussing the clouds.

Well, citizen, you're in luck. Three different organizations are working to promote civil, reasoned and substantive conversation in the community.

The Oshkosh Civility Project has been around since 2011 and its efforts are based on P.M. Forni's book, “Choosing Civility: The Twenty-five Rules of Considerate Contact.” You have probably seen the group's posters up around town. Perhaps someone handed you a card with the nine principles the Civility Project emphasizes.

The group continues to work to lower the temperature of heated discussions by using different media to spread the word about civility.

A lesser-known but longer-standing group, Citizens for a Strong Oshkosh (CSO), has been around since 2007 striving to create an environment in which difficult — often highly charged — public policy issues can be understood, analyzed and advanced using objective facts and the application of clear-thinking and fair-minded policy-based discussions.

CSO has offered Oshkosh Outlook every year since 2013. Leaders of local institutions — the Oshkosh Area School



PHOTO BY WALTER SCOTT JR.
Sue Panek (left), former executive director of the Oshkosh Area United Way, and singer-songwriter Franki Moscato are shown at the Oshkosh Civility Project booth at the Saturday Farmers Market this summer.

District, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Fox Valley Technical College, the city and county — present to the public one or two efforts they are excited about promoting in the new year. Each Oshkosh Outlook follows brief presentations with a time for audience questions.

CSO offers other community forums about important issues. Past events have explained the state budget, given background information about OASD referendums and even explained how money from the 2010 economic stimulus was being used in Oshkosh.

Oshkosh Outlook 2019 is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Jan. 10 at Fox Valley Technical College's Room 113 (story on Page 2).

The new kid on the civil conversation block is Considerations, a monthly discussion organized by the Oshkosh Public Library. Traditionally libraries have played a key role as impartial arbiters of information, open forums for viewpoints and gathering places where a healthy dialogue can happen, so Considerations is a natural fit.

Launched in September as a way to bring people together and encourage thinking beyond a soundbite, it has become a popular offering.

“Considerations is a time for adults to interact within our local community and have a free and open conversation based on reliable, verifiable, factual information,” said Sandra Toland, adult program coordinator.

Toland researches each topic and posts links to relevant articles on the library's website before the month's conversation. Past months have focused on gratitude

and the Great Lakes.

The next Considerations is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the first-floor reading room at 106 Washington Ave. The topic is “My Fair Share.” Where do tax dollars go? Why do I have to pay for services I don't use? What's my fair share to be considered a responsible Oshkosh community member? Refreshments and warm beverages will be available starting at 6 p.m.

Relevant articles to consider before the meeting are on the library's website at oshkoshpubliclibrary.org, and clicking on the events page.

Paulette Feld, one of CSO's founding members, believes the work of these three organizations is crucial to a community.

“In our partisan world, folks need to have the means to know how to find the facts and weigh the issues. We need to be able to judge the information put out by partisan groups and social media,” she said. “Groups like CSO and programs such as Considerations help to make that information available.”

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AirVenture prepares to celebrate 50 years here

By Dick Knapinski
EAA COMMUNICATIONS

The Experimental Aircraft Association is marking the 50th consecutive year of its annual EAA AirVenture Oshkosh fly-in convention in Oshkosh this year with a full schedule of activities for arriving aviators and residents of EAA's hometown.



The 67th annual event is July 22-28 at Wittman Regional Airport.

The EAA fly-in convention was first held in Milwaukee in 1953. In 1959, the event moved to Rockford, Ill., where it was held annually through 1969 before coming to Oshkosh. EAA moved its permanent headquarters from the Milwaukee area to Oshkosh in 1983.

"A half-century ago, EAA founder Paul Poberezny saw Oshkosh as the perfect place to bring together aviation enthusiasts," said Rick Larsen, EAA's vice president of communities and member



Warbirds, such as these B-25 bombers from World War II, are always a popular draw at EAA AirVenture as it gets ready to mark 50 straight years in Oshkosh.

programs, who coordinates AirVenture features and attractions. "Oshkosh has become synonymous with 'The World's Greatest Aviation Celebration' so it's a natural that we commemorate 50 consecutive years here with events that involve those who attend and those who have made the

city such a welcoming place for aviators." EAA is seeking any of the showplanes present at the 1970 EAA fly-in convention and inviting the current owners to bring them to Oshkosh next summer. They will be featured in exclusive parking areas on the grounds. In addition, EAA is seeking

members and volunteers who will be attending their 50th consecutive fly-in in 2019, and unique memorabilia and stories from the 1970 event that will add to the history of what has grown to be the largest annual fly-in in the world.

In 2018, EAA AirVenture Oshkosh welcomed more than 600,000 people from 87 nations, along with more than 10,000 aircraft.

As a thank-you to Oshkosh residents for welcoming the aviation world to their city for the past half-century, there will be special offers for community members and additional ways to engage in this historic milestone. Those details and others are in development and will be announced as they are finalized.

"Over 50 years, nearly every significant aircraft type in the world has landed on the runways at Wittman Regional Airport to be part of the EAA fly-in," Larsen said. "More important are the stories of the people who have come to be a part of this event and the legacy of what is now known simply as 'Oshkosh.' That is what we will be celebrating in 2019."

More bait shops join invasive species fight

Bait shop owners in the Winnebago Waterways System area are taking steps to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Wisconsin lakes, according to Chris Acy, AIS coordinator for the Winnebago Waterways Program.

Non-native plants and animals threaten lakes and river systems by harming native species and decreasing the economic value of bodies of water. The invasive species have the potential to harm local economies by decreasing revenue from tourism and fishing that can directly affect businesses.

Local bait shops have agreed to feature AIS educational materials in their stores

and answer customer questions about aquatic invasive species. Three bait shops joined the effort in 2018: Critters Sports in Winneconne, the Sportsman in Appleton and Rippp-Lips Tackle Co. in Stockbridge.

They join other bait shops around the Winnebago System who joined the effort in 2017, including Fish Tales and Fox River Bait & Tackle in Oshkosh.

Winnebago System bait shops have teamed up with the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, University of Wisconsin-Extension, UW Department of Life Sciences Communication and state Department of Natural Resources to share information

with boaters and anglers about the threats of invasive species.


"We are very fortunate to have local bait shops involved and applaud their efforts," said Acy, who coordinates work in Calumet, Fond du Lac and Winnebago counties for the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance.

Acy noted one bait shop owner said, "We are all responsible for protecting our lakes. It's important that we all do our part to make sure the lakes stay clean for future generations."


Bait shop owners or employees who would like to join the effort are asked to contact Acy at chris@fwwa.org or 920-460-3674.

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16-oz. - Conly's Heat & Eat Pulled Pork or Chicken
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\$1.49

16-oz. Package Food Club Cream Blueberries or Berry Medley
\$6.99

10-oz. Package Food Club Mango Chunks, Sliced Strawberries & Bananas, or White Strawberries
\$5.99

Smithfield 12-20-oz. - Fully Cooked Heat & Eat Sausage Patties or Biscuits
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Fresh Dutch Cilantro 59¢	Fresh Tomatillo \$2.29 lb.	Large Poblano Peppers \$2.69 lb.	Fresh Vidalia Root \$1.29
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Community events

Ongoing

Nutcracker in the Castle, Paine Art Center and Gardens, through Monday

Friday, Jan. 4

Marine Corps League Bingo, 5:30 p.m., Marine Corps League, 4715 Sherman Road

Comedy Improv Show, 9 p.m., Backlot Comedy House, 424 N. Main St.

Saturday, Jan. 5

Winter Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Menominee Nation Arena

Oshkosh Gallery Walk, 6 p.m., downtown

Fox Cities Roller Derby, 6 p.m., Menominee Nation Arena

Comedy Improv Show, 9 p.m., Backlot Comedy House, 424 N. Main St.

Wednesday, Jan. 9

Wisconsin Herd vs. Northern Arizona Suns, 7 p.m., Menominee Nation

Arena

Thursday, Jan. 10

Professional Women's Connection, 11:30 a.m., La Sure's Banquet Hall, 3125 S. Washburn St.

Friday, Jan. 11

Comedy Improv Show, 9 p.m., Backlot Comedy House, 424 N. Main St.

Saturday, Jan. 12

Oshkosh Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Menominee Nation Arena

Marine Corps League Bingo, 5:30 p.m., Marine Corps League, 4715 Sherman Road

Murder Mystery Dinner, 6:30 p.m., The Howard, 405 Washington Ave.

Comedy Improv Show, 9 p.m., Backlot Comedy House, 424 N. Main St.

Bad Habitz, 9 p.m., Rev's Bowl Bar and Grill, 275 N. Washburn St.

UW-Oshkosh

FROM PAGE 1

the hook for as much as \$15 million.

Full details of the settlement, which was first announced Dec. 21, were not immediately available but Tim Mulloy, chairman of the UW-Oshkosh Foundation, said, "We feel pretty good."

"After completing a court-ordered mediation process, the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Foundation are pleased to announce that they have agreed to settle all issues relating to the disputes between the Board of Regents and the UW-Oshkosh Foundation," the UW System Board of Regents said in a statement released Friday night.

The university will take ownership of the Alumni Welcome and Conference Center "for a net settlement of \$4.6 million," the regents said.

"Additionally, the Board of Regents will invest approximately \$1.7 million in the Witzel Avenue Biodigester, a renewable energy power plant and revenue-generating educational asset that will yield significant returns."

The money will be paid directly to the banks that funded the projects, which will allow the deal to go forward notwithstanding a provision in the current budget law that says funds may not be paid to the foundation without approval of the state Legislature.

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos did not respond to a request for comment.

The university and the foundation have been battling in court for more than a year. For almost two years the regents stance, described in a Jan. 18, 2017, announcement, was that public money could not be paid to support a private organization. This position provided the rationale that

Trees sought for markers

The Otter Street Fishing Club is accepting discarded Christmas trees to use as ice road markers on Lake Winnebago. Trees can be dropped off by the shoreline at the end of the road on Merritt Avenue.

led to civil and criminal actions against former UWO officials and that cut off funding to the foundation, causing it to file for bankruptcy.

A federal judge and a state judge have both since ruled that this reading of the law is incorrect. The judges said state funding can flow to a private entity if that entity is carrying out a public purpose.

"The UW-Oshkosh Foundation is pleased that we were able to reach resolution with the Board of Regents to move forward," Mulloy said in a statement issued jointly with the group's secretary/treasurer, David L. Omachinski.

"The Board of Regents is pleased to have resolved this issue in a way that protects taxpayer and student interests, and renews the productive relationship between UW-Oshkosh and the UW-Oshkosh Foundation," said Michael Grebe, a lawyer for Aurora Health Care who serves on the board.

Added Leavitt, "We look forward to working together again to support UW-Oshkosh, the region and the citizens of Wisconsin. I thank our partners in the UW-Oshkosh Foundation for joining with the university in renewing a spirit of trust, service and philanthropy as we support the experiences and journeys of our students."

The legal agreement was expected to be filed in federal district court before Christmas but was not publicly available several days after the holiday. One source said he didn't read anything into the delay.

Miles Maguire is editor of the Oshkosh Examiner news blog.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL COONEY

Christmas Eve at shelter

Day by Day Warming Shelter guests line up promptly at 6 p.m. daily for one of the 25 spaces available each night. On Christmas Eve there was room for everyone and no one was turned away. Shelter staff hung stockings with small gifts above each mattress, as well as providing guests with packages with gift cards and items necessary for everyday life. Staff and volunteers know the guests by name and treat them with respect, kindness and humor to make a night in the shelter feel a little like home. For some, their life on the street started as one guest stated: "I have had a lot of bad things happen in my life." Once on a downward spiral, coming back becomes increasingly difficult but each year a growing number of shelter guests move on to housing, employment and stability in their lives.

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Roller derby

FROM PAGE 1

arena offers many advantages for FCRD, and its players are ready to roll.

"It's an amazing facility," said Oshkosh resident Shelly Hitchcock, the club's secretary and a 920 Honeys player. "It's big, there are locker rooms and there are concessions. Everything we could possibly need is there. We're hoping to draw a lot more fans from Oshkosh. There's a lot of excitement."

Heather Brockman, the club's head official and a former FCRD player and board of directors member, has been with FCRD for nine years and sees the new venue as a major step forward.

"We really want to make it our new home," said Brockman. "This is a bit of a dream of mine. I always wanted it to be held at an arena, where it feels like you're at the next level. I think it will be a lot better fan environment. It was nice and homey where we've played in the past, but you had to bring your own chairs and things like that. With an arena, you get more of a sports feel. It's going to bring in more fans and we want to establish it as our home base."

Roller derby's roots go back to the 1930s and it became a television favorite in the 1960s and 1970s when its brawling, over-the-top antics amused and entertained audiences. There is plenty of contact in today's roller derby and it retains its scrappy nature, but it has become a far more athletic game built around skating. While derby is generally considered a women's game, the Men's Roller Derby Association was founded in 2007 and currently has 64 teams under its jurisdiction.

"It's definitely something different,"

said Hitchcock. "I think a lot of people who haven't seen modern-day derby will be pleasantly surprised, especially people who remember it from the '70s. A lot of people I know who have not seen derby expect it to be on the banked track with the fake fighting and the theatrics.

"That's not how we do it anymore. It's on a flat track, it's very athletic and we have a lot of rules we play by. You won't see any of the fighting. But just seeing that athleticism and how serious people are about the sport, and just how strong these girls are will be pleasantly surprised. And we're very family friendly."



HITCHCOCK

Oshkosh resident and FCRD player Holly School feels that fans unfamiliar with derby will be repeat customers — if they just give it a chance.

"There's kind of a wow factor to derby," said School, a physical therapist's assistant and marathon runner who is in her fourth season with FCRD. "What's neat about it is that it's totally unique. It's very competitive, very fast and a contact sport. You have to be really quick on your feet and agile."

Hitchcock, a 1998 Oshkosh West graduate, was a swimmer in high school and took dance classes. She later dabbled in martial arts before giving derby a shot.

"Honestly, when I started, I could hardly stand up on skates," said Hitchcock. "I missed doing a lot of the sports I had done growing up and was looking for something different and fun. It was a challenge to be able to skate and learn how to do a crossover and fall properly. I had no idea what roller derby was about but I gave it a try and fell in love with it."

The camaraderie and lasting friendships built through derby are primary factors in keeping many of the players in the game. It's a sisterhood on skates where players support one another on and off the track.

"I kind of found my people through derby," said Brockman, a Neenah resident who is employed in the sales industry. "I first started it because it was something sporty, something new and something that would benefit my health. I've made so many friends through derby and it's helped me grow as a person."

School added, "We're one big happy family. We challenge each other to be better skaters and to grow and be better people as well."

Hitchcock missed playing so much that she is returning to derby this season after taking the last three years off. She served as a derby referee in that time period.

"I'm a stay-at-home mom and it's nice just to get away and do something athletic," said Hitchcock. "I just love skating. It's tough physically. Most of us, if not all of us, do strength training outside our regular practices. But there's nothing like the feeling you get from an hourlong scrimmage when you're pushing yourself to the limit. You really feel good."

Derby isn't a complicated game. The teams play two 30-minute periods with five skaters apiece on the track. Both teams designate one player as a "jammer" who scores points by lapping members of the opposing team. Jammers wear a star on their helmets.

To score a point, the jammer must stay on the track in the two-minute period they can score points known as a jam. Four blockers, including one who can act as a pivot, assist their jammer while also focusing on stopping the opposing jammer from passing them. The pivot is the only other player who can act as a jammer

but must switch helmet covers with the current jammer.

It is legal for a skater to block opponents with their shoulders, hips and rear, but illegal to block to the back or head. Tripping and elbowing are also illegal. Players committing illegal actions get penalized 30 minutes.

The FCRD's All-Stars charter team is the more advanced of the FCRD teams and competes in a spring travel league. They are ranked among the top 150 of the 358 WFTDA-sanctioned teams in the country.

"You can't come to a practice, join the league and start hitting people and getting hit by people," Hitchcock said. "With our governing body, WFTDA, they have a minimum set of skating skills that everyone has to be proficient in before they're allowed to do any kind of contact."

"We also take a written rules test to demonstrate we know what we're doing out there, and then we slowly work people into it. So it takes time but anyone can do it."

As part of the fun, derby players go by colorful stage names during the bouts. School is known as "Holla Painyo," while Hitchcock goes by "Secretary of Skate" and Brockman is referred to as "Gixx Her."

"With our fans there's often that one skater they really like and cheer for," said Brockman. "It's always fun when you have an entire fan section cheering that one person. Derby is something different from anything out there, especially women's sports where you don't see a ton of physical action. It's a really different experience to actually see that."

Advance tickets are \$15 for ages 17 and up, \$10 for ages 6-16 and free for children 5 and under. Tickets at the door will be \$18 and \$13 and can also be purchased through ticketstaronline.com or from a derby team member.



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Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Jan. 1, 1901

Dedication of new Oshkosh school: A dedication program was held on January 1 to commemorate the opening of the new Merrill School. Approximately 2,500 people took time from their



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holiday to attend the event and tour the new building. Construction on the school located on New York Ave and Kentucky was completed on time for the dedication. The new school had four playrooms in the basement, and four classrooms on each of its two floors. It was named after the late Mayor James H. Merrill who once was school superintendent and had always been a friend of education.

Source: *Oshkosh Aflame! Traumas and Triumphs of Its Sawdust Citizens (A History)* by James I. Metz



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Business notes

The 2019 issue of **Livability Oshkosh**, Wisconsin, the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce's annual quality-of-life marketing program for talent attraction, is now available in print and online. The publication encourages business investment, talent recruitment and relocation by targeting entrepreneurs, site selectors, corporate executives and others to the community's quality of life. The chamber works with Livability Media to produce the print and digital magazine. More details at <https://livability.com/wi/oshkosh>

Business Expo 2019, the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce's annual exhibition sponsored this year by Network Health, will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Jan. 31 at the Oshkosh Convention Center. This year's theme is Classic Board Games. Booths are available at a cost of \$475 for Chamber members and \$535 for nonmembers; check with the chamber on registration deadlines. The cost to attend is either \$5 or a business card until 5 p.m., after which the Business After Hours entrance fee is \$6 for all.

A ribbon cutting to mark the new pharmacy that has opened within the **Aurora Jackson Street clinic** is set for 11:30 a.m. Jan. 25. The clinic and physical therapy facility will be open for touring as well. Food and refreshments will be provided.

Dance teams

FROM PAGE 1

WACPC Regionals and potentially state competition in La Crosse. The student-athletes, who compete in D1 pom and kick events, practice from June to early March and perform during halftime of West basketball and football games.

This year's invite will include more than 750 student-athletes and coaches in pom, jazz, kick and hip-hop categories, as well as solo, duet and small group competitions.

Oshkosh North will be represented there with its varsity and junior varsity teams.

Beyond the fundraising effort the event also gives a retail boost to businesses. Wissink said teams typically do not stay overnight but Amy Albright, executive director of the Oshkosh Convention & Visitors Bureau, said the state Department of Tourism estimates that communities gain about \$64 for each day-trip visitor.

All funds from the competition go back into the team account, which is used to register for other competitions, buy uniforms, receive music and attend conferences.

"We are hoping that someday we would have enough money saved to build a dance



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Oshkosh West Dance Team, shown entertaining at halftime of a basketball game at the high school, is the host team out of 37 competing this weekend in Oshkosh.

studio, as we currently practice in the cafeteria," Wissink said.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and children, and all Oshkosh Area School District employees and students receive free admission with a district ID. The invite will begin at 8 a.m. with solo, duets and small group competitions.

Team competitions will take place from 11:15 a.m. until 6 p.m. followed by an awards ceremony. Raffles will be drawn to win donated baskets of prizes.

Student-athletes and volunteers manage the event, volunteer their time and organize activities for competitors and spectators throughout the day.

Weekend sports results not available

Our early holiday print deadlines prevented us from providing high school and other sports results from last weekend.

Scores and results from Oshkosh sporting events in general can be sent to submit@oshkoshherald.com and we will print those as space allows.

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EAA Museum calendar

The restoration of an iconic World War II bomber, Tom Hanks as Sully Sullenberger and the popular skiplane fly-in are some of the activities at the EAA Aviation Museum in January and February. Events include:

Jan. 3, 6:30 p.m. — Movie: "Sully"

This 2016 movie is based on the real-life Miracle on the Hudson emergency landing of an airliner in 2009. As a special guest, air traffic controller Patrick Harten, who was the controller talking to US Airways Flight 1549 that day, will introduce the film. \$5 for nonmembers.

Jan. 17, 7 p.m. — Museum speaker Harry Friedman and the restoration of the B-17 Memphis Belle

Friedman is a board member of the Memphis Belle Memorial Association and co-author of "Memphis Belle: Dispelling the Myths," the most definitive history of the plane. \$5 for nonmembers.

Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m. — Movie: "Red

Tail Reborn"

Narrated by actor Michael Dorn, this 2007 documentary tells the story of the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African American fighter pilots of World War II. \$5 for nonmembers.

Feb. 9, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. — EAA Skiplane Fly-In

One of the area's most colorful winter events returns for its 26th year at the museum's Pioneer Airport. Free admission with regular admission rates for the museum.

Feb. 21, 7 p.m. — Museum speaker: Steve Hinton Jr. and air racing

Hinton is an Unlimited category champion at the Reno National Championship Air Races and in 2017 set the absolute 3-kilometer speed record for propeller-driven piston aircraft at an average speed of 531 mph. \$5 for nonmembers.

Tickets are now on sale for the annual museum Hops & Props fundraiser March 9 through EAA. org/HopsProps.

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UWO basketball coach keeps the winning edge

Lewis already making mark as Titans leader

By Brad Hartmann
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Losing is not acceptable — it's a motivator. That is just one slogan University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh interim men's basketball coach Matt Lewis believes in as his Titans are 9-1 and currently ranked sixth by d3hoops.com.

"You are going to lose more games than you win. Many people lose a lot of big games compared to the smaller ones. Those losses create more memories," said Lewis. "Yes it would be nice to win those games but it's a bond that brings people together and motivates people going forward because you want to win that thing."

For the past six seasons Lewis was the Titans' top assistant coach and in last year's 2017-2018 campaign helped guide them to tie a school record of 25 wins and reach the NCAA Division III National Championship game for the first time in school history before coming up short 78-72 to Nebraska Wesleyan University in Salem, Va.



LEWIS

"After the loss sitting in the locker room with the team, that was one of the most powerful experiences that I had as a coach. Just sitting there for over an hour with these guys and reminiscing what had all occurred over the course of that season

and the three weeks leading up to that game. That is probably an hour of my life that I will never forget," said Lewis.

On May 17, the Lewis era began after Pat Juckem was named head coach at Washington University in St. Louis.

"I was excited and fired up," said Lewis. "I realized this is a dream job. As a 31-year-old guy you get to step into a nationally ranked team. It was like an emotional roller coaster because of the excitement and then my head started spinning knowing all the things that need to be done such as how to keep the momentum going."

Winning nine of his first 10 games and outscoring opponents by an average of 86.3 to 65.1 was a great way to start. Lewis is one of the fastest coaches to accomplish that goal in the program's 60-year history; Ted Van Dellen was 8-2 in 1990-1991.

"He holds us accountable and at a very high standard," said senior guard Ben Boots. "As for a players' prospective we brought back a lot of guys from last year's team. Coach Lewis has done a great job of holding us to our high standard in which we like to call it 'after championship standard.'"

The standard has always been high for Lewis starting at age 5 when he first picked up a basketball after watching his brother shooting hoops at his local YMCA.

"Every kid dreams about playing at the Division I level and then the NBA. As a 5-year-old you think it's possible," Lewis said. "As you get older you get this reality check and you still think maybe you can still play major college basketball. As I got into high school I realized that wasn't in the cards for me. I thought — What could I do to still be at a high level of basketball? — and that's when I realized I could coach."

Growing up on a farm in Camp Point,



PHOTO BY STEVE FROMMELL

Matt Lewis took the reins of the Titans men's basketball team this year which has only one loss in its first 10 games.

Ill., and moving to Augusta, Ill., in the sixth grade. Lewis graduated with 29 others at Southeastern High School where he excelled in basketball, baseball and golf.

"Matt was such a competitor. He loved winning. He did it the right way," said Matt Douglas, one of Lewis' close friends from high school. "He would do anything he could to help his teammates out. We always knew with Matt on the floor he would find the open guy or he was good enough to get the open basket."

Many athletes' best high school memory would be winning a state championship. For Lewis it was losing his last varsity basketball game.

"Afterward I remember the car ride home with my brother and his friends. We drove up to Wisconsin and went skiing. I haven't skied in 10 years and it was that weekend I realized I have to keep playing basketball," he said.

He went on to play college ball at Cornell College in Iowa and made the transition from point guard to forward. Lewis started 52 of 93 games. In the 2008-2009 season Lewis led the Rams (21-7) to the Division III tournament. The following year he was a first-team selection in the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and received Cornell's Sportsman of the Year award after averaging 13.5 points and 6.7 rebounds.

"I thought I was an average player. I really couldn't shoot the basketball. I knew if I wanted to score and help the team I had to get to the rim to get fouled and get to the free throw line," Lewis recalled. "For us that is a big thing. The three most efficient shots in the game of basketball consist of open and rhythm threes, the stuff right around the basket and free throws."

Off the court he earned his bachelor's degree in economics and business and went on to seek a master's in business administration from Bethel University in Tennessee.

Other stops included coaching internships at Cornell College and Division I Tulane University. In 2010 Lewis earned his first assistant coaching job at Rhodes College in Memphis, then made the move back to Tulane to be director of basketball

operations until 2012 before heading to Wisconsin.

"I didn't have a job. I was here for a few weeks. My family moved to Neenah. Coach Juckem called me and asked if I wanted to coach at Oshkosh," Lewis said. "I looked at the map and realized it was only 15 minutes from Oshkosh and said absolutely."

One of the main achievements Lewis cherishes from his playing and coaching days is building relationships and creating memories with individuals.

Douglas recalls a baseball game that they played together back in high school.

"We were playing Triopia back in 2005. I believe they were state ranked at the time and we beat them 3-2. They had the athletes and we weren't supposed to win that game," he said. "Matt takes the mound and to throw them off he would throw at different angles. He would go sidearm, submarine or over the top. It was one of those games that Matt would do anything to get the victory."

One thing that separates Lewis from other coaches in the league is his creativity with "the today board" and it seems to be working for his athletes.

"It teaches our older athletes leadership

and how we can continue to get better as a program. One of the concepts was, let's focus on each and every day and how we can get better," he said. "We have a white dry erase board and before practice each athlete must write down what they are thankful for and what success they achieved that day."

Lewis earned his first coaching victory, 86-77, over Piedmont College.

"It was good. I really didn't think about it. I had a couple guys come up to me and say congrats on your first win. We had to instantly think about the next day because we played back-to-back games that weekend," he said.

The Titans resumed play after its holiday break Sunday against Concordia University at the Menominee Nation Arena. The game that many Titans will be trying to avenge will be Jan. 2 as WIAC conference play opens at the Kolf Sports Center against UW-Platteville, who was the only team to sweep the Titans in conference play last season.

"They are well coached. They play Wisconsin basketball," said Lewis. "They have physical guys. They defend and share the basketball so it will be fun and be a tough task for us."



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