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INSIDE



Brew crew

Homebrew operations
are good clean fun

Page 5

School rides

Council signs off on
student busing plan

Page 2



Photo by Michael Cooney

To your health

Nursing staff at Advocate Aurora Health's emergency department in Oshkosh are shown outside the facility Sunday. Hospital officials said the ER patient load was about normal and they haven't had to use the temporary overflow emergency facility created in the parking lot. The man wearing the shield does intubation and other procedures that require additional protection.

Arena's proposal in dispute

Justice Department adds to legal objection

By Miles Maguire
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The U.S. Justice Department has weighed in against the proposed financial reorganization of Menominee Nation Arena, saying that disclosures made so far are "inadequate," "insufficient" and unclear about why creditors should be prevented from pursuing legal claims against officers and other insiders.

The objections are contained in an April 15 filing from the U.S. Trustee, which is the office of the federal government that is responsible for monitoring bankruptcy cases and serves as a watchdog over the process.

The government has now joined the arena's largest secured creditor, Bayland Buildings Inc., and the largest unsecured creditor, an Amherst family that is owed

SEE **Arena claims** ON PAGE 16

Students, teachers learn lessons away from school

By Joseph Schulz
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Students and teachers across the Osh-kosh Area School District are adapting to at-home learning that will continue through the spring semester, but opportunity gaps have caused some students to have a more difficult time adjusting than others.

The district implemented at-home learning March 18 where students in third grade or above took their Chromebook laptops home while students in kindergarten through second grade were given paper assignments, according to the OASD At-Home Learning Plan.

For elementary school students, the focus is to ensure they retain what they've already learned in literacy, math and science, according to Kim Brown, director of learning.

"It's a difficult time for families, and that's why we're trying to be flexible, and we're just trying to help maintain where

the kids are because we know it's a lot for families," she said.

For math skills, students can use the Bridges: Math Learning Center website to continue learning along with the paper assignments, Brown said. For literacy, she said it's essential to continue reading and writing at home.

For some elementary students, schooling at home can be a struggle, said Amy Sippert, a first-grade teacher at Merrill Elementary School. Some families are dealing with "resource scarcity" and do not have books for children to read or paper to write on beyond what was given out by the district, Sippert said.

She added that some families with children in kindergarten through second grade don't have a device for accessing the Bridges website.

Beyond resource scarcity, Sippert said some parents are considered essential workers and need to continue going to work and cannot ensure their child is ac-



Submitted photo

School district Chromebooks, first purchased through a 2014 public referendum, provide a remote learning connection for students.

tively doing schoolwork. In some families, older siblings must take care of their younger siblings during the day.

"Not every child has the same opportunity," Sippert said.

At Merrill, she said the school has a "huge gap in equity" due to socioeconomic factors.

"I like to think about it as an opportunity gap, resources and experiences are just not there," she said. "When you're at-home learning it's the same thing, except possibly an even bigger gap."

The district is mailing new coursework to families and providing Wi-Fi hotspots to those without access, ac-

SEE **Lesson plans** ON PAGE 16

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Council OKs student transit plan

By Tom Ekvall
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Effective July 1, Oshkosh students will be able to ride city buses for free under terms of an agreement between the city and the Oshkosh Area School District that was approved by resolution at the April 14 meeting of the Common Council.

The vote was six in favor and one opposed, with Deputy Mayor Steve Herman saying he had several reasons for opposing the measure. He noted that the agreement has to offer the service to all private school students and those in outlying townships that the city would be funding.

Amendments to the agreement ask the school district to provide information to determine if the new measure accomplishes certain performance objectives, including truancy data. City Manager Mark Rohloff said his conversations with district Superintendent Vickie Cartwright indicated that information would be

tracked and provided.

ESTHER, an interfaith social justice organization in the Fox Valley, was among the groups pushing for adoption of the free transit service as a way to encourage attendance at public schools and reduce truancy.

The transit agreement will be in effect for two years before it is reviewed for extension. Middle and high school students will be required to show a school ID card when getting on the bus.

The council meeting was the last for Herman and Bill Miller. Herman did not seek re-election while Miller lost his re-election bid, placing fourth for one of the three open seats with 4,548 votes.

Matt Mugerauer won his second term on the council with 5,637 votes, which was the second most votes behind newcomer Lynnsey Erickson (5,890), who works for the Winnebago County Health Department. Also winning a seat was Michael Ford, a University of Wisconsin-

Oshkosh professor who garnered 4,670 votes. Erickson and Ford are both members of the city's Plan Commission.

Fire Chief Michael Stanley highlighted at the meeting the strong cooperation and collaboration by local organizations to promote the governor's Stay at Home order. He said the city to date has not sustained the degree of COVID-19 cases facing other municipalities.

"We are out front and will stay that way," Stanley predicted. He added that UW Oshkosh will probably not be designated as a center for those testing positive as had been proposed and that a regional isolation center would be situated in another community if needed and required.

Stanley said the majority of those testing positive have not required hospitalization.

Council members recessed until this Tuesday when the two new council members were installed.

Candidates had to adjust campaign efforts

By Tom Ekvall
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The coronavirus pandemic put a monkey wrench into campaign efforts by those seeking a two-year term with the Common Council as some said they had to change their campaign plans once the Safer at Home order was issued statewide.

"Normally I would be attending public events and going door-to-door to campaign," Councilman Matt Mugerauer said. "Instead I relied on social media to get my message across to the citizens."

Mugerauer has the second most votes among the six candidates behind newcomer Lynnsey Erickson, a community health strategist with the Winnebago County Health Department. Also elected was Michael Ford, who is a professor of public administration at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

Mugerauer said this election was "unique and unprecedented" with little ability to converse with voters.

He said a highlight of his first two-year term was collaborating with other council members, the city manager and other staff to develop the city's Strategic Plan to guide future actions as well as working on debt management and the budget process.



Erickson



Ford

He added that his goal for the next term is to ensure the city follows that plan.

Erickson and Ford both said the coronavirus situation affected how they campaigned for the office, highlighting the use of social media to promote

their qualifications.

"I am ready for positive change," Erickson said, adding she wants to work with residents and city staff to promote a better Oshkosh. Housing is a major concern of hers, including affordable places to live, homelessness and other related topics.

Ford said he was excited to get to work, noting that a key goal of his is to see a "performance dashboard" in one place to highlight what is being accomplished.

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Congratulations to the new members of the Oshkosh Common Council.

Bill Miller

Rules, assistance efforts continue to adjust

City, organizations stay focused on collaboration

Oshkosh Herald

Local residents, educators and businesses had to recalibrate their future activities around COVID-19 restrictions last week as schools were officially closed statewide for the rest of this term while Safer at Home orders were extended into late May.

City, county and business leaders took part in a Chamber of Commerce virtual town hall to discuss local response efforts and business assistance programs less than an hour before Gov. Tony Evers directed the Department of Health Services to extend a modified Safer at Home order from this Friday to 8 a.m. May 26.

City Manager Mark Rohloff, Winnebago County Executive Mark Harris, Wisconsin Business Development Senior Vice President Jason Monnett and attorney Jim Macy reviewed collaborative efforts among public and private entities to protect against the pandemic while helping stressed companies get past the shutdown restrictions.

At last Tuesday's final meeting of the Common Council before it reconvenes this week with two new members, it approved a handful of measures to help ease the economic burden caused by virus precautions. They included the waiving of late fees on utility bills, deferring first payments on special assessment until next year, and easing parking restrictions for takeout/delivery services and signage used to inform and welcome customers.

The council also approved adding another \$250,000 from income gained through its downtown Tax Increment Financing District No. 16 in addition to the \$250,000 it is providing to a Rapid Recovery Loan Program formed with the Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corp., Winnebago County and Fox Cities Regional Partnership.

Monnett noted at the town hall session that demand for the U.S. Small Business Administration's Payroll Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans have exceeded the current funding. But locally, Greater Oshkosh EDC has nearly \$1.8 million in small business lending support available that doesn't have to be paid back for at least six months. Apply at www.greateroshkosh.com or call 920-230-3321 for details.

Rohloff also said at the town hall session that he will ask the council to approve waiving of liquor license fees for businesses this year while adding that related inspection rules would need to stay in place.

Evers' order implements some new measures to ensure safety and support the progress made in containing COVID-19 while allowing certain activities to start up again such as allowing minimum operations for non-essential businesses and curbside pickup service at public libraries. The order can be read at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov.

The Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce and other statewide trade associations and chambers had been urging the governor to not extend the order and instead begin a process of reopening the state's economy, which they said they will continue to pro-

mote a plan that protects both health and livelihoods. A petition in that regard to the governor and lawmakers is available at www.wmc.org/restart.

WIC aid expanded

The Wisconsin WIC program recently updated services to welcome those furloughed or unemployed due to COVID-19, and the Winnebago County Public Health Department encourages expectant parents and expecting parents to sign up. Those living in Winnebago County can call their local WIC office in Oshkosh at 920-232-3350 to find out if they are eligible. Appointments are being scheduled via phone to comply with the Safer at Home order. For detailed information about qualifying for WIC, visit wicmomstrong.com.

Food delivery help

Heroes of Oshkosh has partnered with the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry to help get the food to those who need it. Call 651-1919 to get on the list. Planet Perk will deliver boxes containing more than 40 pounds of food on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

FVTC donates equipment

Fox Valley Technical College's nursing program recently furnished local hospitals with a variety of Personal Protective Equipment. Most came from the college's health division along with other instructional departments. Ascension, Aurora and ThedaCare representatives picked up the PPEs at FVTC in Appleton. A total of 58,500 items were collected.

Food pantries

These resources are among those assisting with food issues during the COVID-19 pandemic. Donations and volunteers are welcome. Many schools and community agencies are still providing meals and groceries for families.

Oshkosh Area School District: Free grab-and-go meals Monday through Friday at several schools and neighborhood locations. www.oshkosh.k12.wi.us/families/at-home-learning/free-meals.

Lutheran Food Pantry: (714 Division St., 920-379-4774) Curbside pickup between 8 and 10:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. www.jerichoroadoshkosh.org.

Oshkosh Area Community Pantry: (2551 Jackson St., 920-651-9960) Pantry will distribute packaged food near the front door of the St. Vincent de Paul building. Clients will receive drive-up service or be given food if they arrive by public transit. www.oacptoday.org.

St. John's Food Pantry: (808 N. Main St., 920-231-5480) No financial forms to fill out. Use back entrance and follow signs. Hours and information: <https://stjohnsonmain.org>.

Father Carr's Place 2B Food Pantry: (1062 N. Koeller St., 920-231-2378) Vehicle will be directed to the side of the building where volunteers will load groceries. Hours and information: <http://fathercarrs.org>.

NOTICE OF CITY OF OSHKOSH GRASS CUTTING REQUIREMENTS

Residents are reminded that blowing or placing grass clippings, leaves, or other debris onto the street is prohibited. Storm water runoff carries grass clippings and other debris on the street pavement surfaces into the storm sewer system. The City of Oshkosh's storm water runoff drains directly to local lakes, rivers, and streams. Storm water runoff is not treated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Debris carried by storm water runoff can cause inlets and storm sewers to plug and this can lead to flooding. Additionally, grass clippings and leaves contain nutrients that help feed algae blooms on adjoining waterways.

PER MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 25 / STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Section 25-26 Obstructions in Street prohibited

This code indicates that no person shall place or deposit any substance in any sidewalk or street without a permit. In addition, no person may obstruct or stop the flow of water in any ditch, sewer, gutter, or culvert along or across any street, lane, alley, public grounds, or sidewalk in the City.

PER MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 14 / STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

Section 14-30 Discharge Prohibitions

This code indicates that no person shall throw or discharge any pollutants to the municipal storm sewer system.

Property owners face a potential citation for violation of the Municipal Code.

THIS FORFEITURE IS \$232 FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE.

Violators can be reported to the Engineering Division Department of Public Works at (920)236-5065.

PLEASE HELP KEEP GRASS OUT OF THE STREET, WHICH WILL MEAN LESS DEBRIS THAT REACHES THE STORM SEWER SYSTEM. YOUR EFFORTS WILL HELP TO REDUCE POLLUTION AND ALGAE GROWTH IN LOCAL WATERWAYS.

NOTICE OF CITY OF OSHKOSH SPRING YARD CLEAN UP 2020

The City of Oshkosh will be collecting yard waste starting April 27th and continuing through May 15, 2020. **Brush and yard waste (including leaves) must be placed in PAPER BIODEGRADABLE BAGS or must be bundled and tied.** No other container or bags will be collected. Bags must be out for collection by 7:00 a.m. on your regular garbage collection day. Brush will also be collected during this period. Brush should be less than three inches (3") in diameter and bundled in four-foot (4') lengths. The bundles shall not exceed fifty (50) pounds in weight. **The City does not pick up grass, dirt, root balls, or stumps at any time.**

Residents may also take yard waste and brush to the City Yard Waste drop-off center located on West 3rd Avenue, between Ohio Street and Idaho Street. **Note: A PERMIT IS REQUIRED TO ACCESS THE DROP-OFF CENTER AND THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF OSHKOSH PROHIBITS COMMERCIAL ENTITIES FROM USING THE SITE.** Permits can be purchased at the Collections counter at City Hall, located at 215 Church Avenue; or at Kitz & Pfeil Ace Hardware, located at 427 North Main Street.

The seasonal drop-off center hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The yard waste drop-off center is closed on holidays. Please empty all bags and containers at the drop-off center.

For more information, call (920)232-5383 or (920)232-5380, Monday through Friday, between 7:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE THAT YARD WASTE OR LEAVES WILL NOT BE COLLECTED FROM THE TERRACE UNLESS PLACED IN PAPER BIODEGRADABLE BAGS.

Child care providers concerned with stability

Stimulus efforts so far fall short for providers

Oshkosh Herald

Child care providers in Oshkosh and statewide are seeking legislative action that would offer bonus pay, health insurance provisions and other protections for their operations and workers deemed essential during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local child care businesses have expressed their concerns with continuing to provide family care without financial and health protections to maintain workers who are taking the health risks for limited

pay in an already stressed industry.

Tammy Dannhoff, owner of Kids Are Us Family Child Care and care provider since 1989, is concerned about the future of her Oshkosh program due to current challenges that she noted other state governments have dealt with to support work conditions.

She said a recent survey indicated that only about 30 percent of Wisconsin programs said they are confident they will reopen when the COVID-19 crisis ends. That is in a climate



Dannhoff

where Wisconsin has lost 68 percent of regulated family child care centers and 9 percent of group child care centers since 2010.

"I urge state Senator Dan Feyen and Representative Gordon Hintz to take concrete action and pass legislation that provides bonus pay for the care of children of essential workers, health insurance provisions, 'license-exempt' status for child care providers to care for a child at their essential worker parent's home, and tuition subsidy to continue to pay operating costs while at decreased capacity," Dannhoff said in an email to the Herald.

Last week Gov. Tony Evers signed COVID-19 response legislation that allows the state to give out the \$2.3 billion Wisconsin is receiving from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act stimulus but includes no provisions for hazard pay or compensation for frontline workers that include child care providers.

Feyen said part of the CARES Act includes up to an additional \$51 million in child care block grants that are credited to two current block grant appropriations for child welfare services. The state legislation authorizes compliance with the CARES Act but doesn't add the flexibility sought by the state Department of Children and Families on how those funds can be used amid the pandemic.

"We have got to get those changes made as our state laws are very restrictive on how funds can be spent," Dannhoff said, which normally is OK but disastrous right now."

Licensed for eight children, Dannhoff

has been operating at 20 percent to 30 percent of her normal numbers since March 16. Of the eight enrolled at Kids Are Us there is now just one attending five full days a week and another for two days.

"I do not know how much longer I can stay open without assistance of some sort," she said. "I have chosen not to take on other children for emergency care for the essential workforce as I do not feel that is safe for myself, my husband and the children currently in my care."

Erica Norton, owner of Green Apples Academy, another state-licensed day care here, also emphasized "the imperative service we continue to provide as many of us remain open putting ourselves at risk to aide our child care families and other essential providers during this time."

The Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, which conducts national research and policy analysis, has been advocating a series of recommendations to better direct public funding and emergency response for providers and families. They include suspending all group child care, establishing a relief fund to ensure expenses are maintained during the closure, funding for in-home care services for children of essential workers, and forming an interdisciplinary team to establish guidelines.

Dannhoff, recipient of the Governor's Trailblazer Award for Women in Business in 2018 and a national child care teacher award, noted the child care workforce earns poverty-level hourly wages (\$10.13 on average) and limited access to employer-sponsored health insurance that leads to a high turnover rate.

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Put Tax-Smart Investing Moves to Work

The tax return deadline has been extended until mid-July, but you may have already filed your taxes. If you were not entirely happy with the results, you might start seeking ways to change the outcome for next year. And one area to look at may be your investment-related taxes.

To help control these taxes, consider these moves:

- **Take full advantage of tax-deferred investments.** As an investor, one of the best moves you can make is to contribute as much as you can afford to your tax-deferred accounts – your traditional IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan – every year. If you don't touch these accounts until you retire, you can defer taxes on them for decades, and when you do start taking money out, presumably during retirement, you may be in a lower tax bracket.
- **Look for tax-free opportunities.** Interest from municipal bonds typically is exempt from federal income tax, and, in some cases, from state and local income tax, too. (Some municipal bonds, however, may be subject to the alternative minimum tax.) And if you qualify to contribute to a Roth IRA – eligibility is generally based on income – your earnings can be withdrawn tax-free, provided you've had your account for at least five years and you don't start taking withdrawals until you're at least 59-1/2. Your employer may also offer a Roth 401(k), which can provide tax-free withdrawals. Keep in mind, though, that you contribute after-tax dollars to a Roth IRA and 401(k), unlike a traditional IRA and 401(k), in which your contributions are made with pre-tax dollars.
- **Be a "buy and hold" investor.** Your 401(k) and IRA are designed to be long-term investments, and you will face disincentives in the form of taxes and penalties if you tap into them before you reach retirement age. So, just by investing in these retirement accounts, you are essentially pursuing a "buy and hold" strategy. But you can follow this same strategy for investments held outside your IRA and 401(k). You can own some investments – stocks in particular – for decades without paying taxes on them. And when you do sell them, you'll only be taxed at the long-term capital gains rate, which may well be less than your ordinary income tax rate. But if you're frequently buying and selling investments you've held for less than a year, you could rack up some pretty big tax bills, because you'll likely be taxed at your ordinary income tax rate.
- **Be prepared for unexpected taxes.** Mutual fund managers are generally free to make whatever trades they choose. And when they do sell some investments, they can incur capital gains, which will be passed along to you. If this is a concern, you might look for funds that do less trading and bill themselves as tax efficient.

While taxes are certainly one factor to consider when you invest, they should probably not be the driving force. You need to build a diversified portfolio that's appropriate for your risk tolerance and time horizon. Not all the investments you select, and the moves you make with them, will necessarily be the most tax efficient, but by working with your financial and tax professionals, you can make choices that can help you move toward your long-term goals.

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Brewing operations scale back, return home

By Lee Reiherzer
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Homebrewing in Oshkosh tends to surge each time the local breweries falter. It happened in 1920 with the start of Prohibition. It happened after 1972 with the closing of Peoples Brewing.

And it's happening now with the restrictions on breweries in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of spending the afternoon in a brewery taproom, folks in Oshkosh are bringing out their kettles and making their own beer.

Jeff Duhacek, co-owner of The Cellar Brew Shop, has seen the spike in homebrewing firsthand.

"We're having people coming in buying two or three beer kits thinking they're going to be home for the next few weeks with time on their hands," he said. "We're also seeing more first-time brewers and people who are dusting off equipment who haven't brewed in a while getting back into it."

Oshkosh homebrewer Travis Sullivan is one of those who has been putting some of his unexpected free time into making beer. Sullivan, a certified registered nurse anesthetist, is spending far less time in the operating room now that elective surgeries have been canceled.

He has filled the gap by brewing several batches of beer including a cream ale he calls Dad's Weekend Ale. Sullivan, a father of two, describes it as a "crushable" 6 percent ABV beer.

"I also whipped up six gallons of Chardonnay wine," he says. "And this week I'll be brewing up an Imperial Belgian Blonde for a barrel-aging project that a few of us



Travis Sullivan, shown with his children Maddie, 6, and Jack, 10, is a homebrewer and Society of Oshkosh Brewers member who currently has more time for beverage production when he's not a hospital anesthetist.

SOBs (Society of Oshkosh Brewers) are collaborating on."

Sullivan is part of the homebrewing club that's feeling the pinch of Wisconsin's Safer at Home order. The club has canceled events for the foreseeable future, including a gathering of members that was to take place at McFleshman's Brewing Co. in Appleton. Like all breweries, McFleshman's has been forced to close its taproom. The impact on small breweries has been devastating.

The Brewers Association, a trade group representing craft brewers, has report-

ed that among its members sales have dropped 77 percent since the wave of shutdowns began in late February. Small brewers across Wisconsin continue to sell beer that was already in their pipeline, but most have ceased regular brewing operations. Among those that have stopped making beer for the time being is Bare Bones Brewery in Oshkosh.

Jody Cleveland, head brewer at Bare Bones, was furloughed from his position in March. His beer-brewing journey began with homebrewing and now he finds himself returning to his roots.

"Brewing beer is the first hobby I've ever had and as much as I hate being laid off, I do like that I have time to brew at home again," Cleveland said.

He has been working up pilot batches on his home system that he'd like to dial in and eventually produce commercially when he returns to work. "One of them uses wild yeast that I captured in my backyard," Cleveland said.

But going back to brewing five gallons at home is a far cry from the 15-barrel batches he's accustomed to producing.

"It's been weird to say the least," Cleveland said. "I took a huge risk two years ago to follow my dream and brew professionally. I wouldn't trade that for anything, and I'm really glad I did it, but I never dreamed I'd be in the position I am now. I've been living in fear day to day about where everyone's going to be at the end of this. Homebrewing helps me escape all that."

Back at The Cellar, Duhacek said the uncertain times have brought in others who share that sense of unease.

"We've had a bunch of people come in and buy champagne yeast for bread because stores don't have any yeast right now," he said. "We've had people come in and buy five-gallon buckets of honey because they want to make sure they have something to sweeten things with or to make bread with that doesn't spoil. It's just a different mindset right now."

Lee Reiherzer has been writing about Oshkosh's beer and its brewing history since 2010 when he launched the Oshkosh Beer website. He is the co-author of the book "The Breweries of Oshkosh" and author of "Winnebago County Beer."

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Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh is proudly celebrating a milestone of 50 years serving Oshkosh youth and families throughout 2020. The grand finale will be a citywide block party at the Club. Broad Street will close down for a cookout with live entertainment, activities for families, Club tours and more! Everyone in the community is invited to attend this free event!

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF OSHKOSH

50 YEARS OF BUILDING GREAT FUTURES

Election cybersecurity an ongoing challenge

By Jack Tierney
OSHKOSH HERALD

The thought of a cyberattack is not new to Oshkosh and not something to be brushed off.

A Russian-based cyberattack hit the city in January and locked staffers out of their databases. A ransom request has not been confirmed, but similar attacks have cost other cities millions of dollars.

Cyberattacks in elections have become another increasingly common talking point. The 2016 general election process brought years of investigations to determine if there was meddling by outside sources in the bedrock of the democratic process: voting.

Since then there has been constant debate at the federal level on whether cybersecurity is being taken seriously enough. If outside sources have the power to influence our elections, people's rights to a fair and democratic process is being challenged.

Sue Ertmer, the Winnebago County clerk in charge of election voter security and other imperative county tasks, said residents should feel secure that their vote

will count.

"For the past six months we have been in continuous contact with federal and state officials to make sure we are doing what we should to protect voters," Ertmer said. "We have also had constant communications within our county department with information systems." Operators of those systems identify whether an email is fraudulent.

Ertmer said that once a vote is submitted in Winnebago County, the Dominion Voting Systems Corp. software that residents use to cast votes is responsible for holding on to and protecting the data.

She said there are numerous firewalls to protect the information. Things get critical for Ertmer and staff when they send that Dominion report to state elections officials as a PDF file. While vulnerable at that point, it is a quick interchange and once the information is received the network that was used is canceled.

Winnebago County information systems specialist Jay Schaefer said that once elections are over, all state election information and networks are shut down, leaving nothing to be hacked in to.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, an active player in the voter safety process, said the Wisconsin Elections Commission has been working to consider immediate election security concerns, including seeking \$7 million of federal grant funding to secure state elections. All voting systems used in Wisconsin have received federal certification, the elections commission says.

Webroot, a private anti-virus software company that conducts annual reports on states' cyber hygiene, reported in its 2020 cyber hygiene risk index that people should be more wary than the good news purported by government workers.

In its report, Wisconsin was ranked 44th overall for cyber hygiene, which they define as measures taken to ensure security.

"The plain truth is most Americans receive a failing grade when their cyber hygiene is examined in-depth," the report states. "This is especially true when measuring avoidable risks to online data and identity. Using this metric, the average American scored a 58 percent on our Cyber Hygiene Risk Index, while no state

scored higher than a D grade (67 percent)."

David Dufour, a cybersecurity expert at Webroot, said the 44th rank Wisconsin received was worthy of a "D" grade.

Michael Jasinski, UW Oshkosh associate political science professor, said there are multiple levels to cyberthreats, one being information reported from governments that are in their best interest of the state. He said he does not believe there was firm evidence of meddling in the 2016 vote. He said election hacking occurs mostly at the county level and does not believe that will be an issue in the November general election.

"As soon as we know that there is foreign political support for a candidate, we know that that candidate is going to be under suspicion, which means that it would be something that backfires," he said. "Because of that, I believe interfering in elections is not very high on the list of priorities (for foreign governments). The far bigger problem now is that we're still going to be in the middle of a pandemic in November."

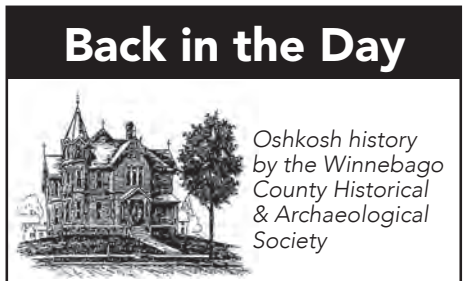
More than \$1.7 million awarded to ride program

The Wisconsin Employment and Transportation Assistance Program (WETAP) recently awarded grants totaling \$1,748,581 to 11 nonprofit organizations, including three serving Winnebago County, to provide employment transportation services to low-income workers.

Funding for vehicle loans, mobility management programs and operations went to ADVOCAP Inc., Forward Service Corp. and Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin. The awarded funds are shared among different groups of regional counties served by those agencies.

WETAP combines state funds from state Department of Transportation and the Department of Workforce Development, with federal funds, into one coordinated program to assist transportation-provider groups in the state to deal with needs for low-income workers.

"Lack of transportation can be an enormous barrier to people looking for work," Secretary-designee Craig Thompson said. "This program helps to connect people to jobs - especially in counties without public transportation."



April 16, 1887

President Cleveland and Wife to Visit: It is reported that when President Cleveland and his wife go to Ashland next July they will stop over in Oshkosh a day or two, the guests of Senator Sawyer. The presidential party will pass through here about the time of the laying

of the cornerstone of the government building and it is expected that President Cleveland will deliver an address at the ceremonies. Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland are warm friends of Mr. Sawyer, indeed the senior senator from the Badger state is the favorite senator of the lady of the white house and she would very much like to visit with Mr. Sawyer. It is proposed, in case the presidential party remain here more than one day, to have an excursion to Island Park and show them the beauties of Lake Winnebago.

Source: *The Oshkosh Northwestern*, April 16, 1887

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Prison officials respond to coronavirus cases

By Joseph Schulz
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

In response to eight confirmed cases of COVID-19 among inmates at the Oshkosh Correctional Institution (OSCI), their housing units have been placed on lockdown, according to Rep. Michael Schraa, a Republican from Oshkosh who chairs the Assembly's Committee on Corrections.

As of April 16, OSCI had completed 22 tests with eight positive results, 12 negative results and two pending, according to the Department of Corrections website.

Schraa said the inmates who have tested positive have been placed in a separate housing unit and will remain there until they are cleared of the virus.

It hasn't been identified how the virus

was brought into the facility, but from contact tracing Schraa said it appears it was brought in from an asymptomatic staff member.

"(About) 18 percent of individuals don't even know that they have the virus," Schraa said. "That's all that we can think of."

No OSCI employees have tested positive for the virus as of April 16, according to the DOC.

Schraa and Rep. Evan Goyke, a Democrat from Milwaukee and also on the Committee on Corrections, have called on the DOC to take further containment action and be ready to implement a full lockdown at a moment's notice. Schraa said putting facilities on full lockdown is rare because it vastly limits inmates' abilities to move around, exercise and can negatively impact an inmate's mental health.

"There had been riots in other facilities across the United States where the institutions have gone on full lockdown," he said.

DOC Secretary Kevin Carr has been in conversations with corrections officials across the Midwest to gauge how to best handle the situation, Schraa said. In terms of releasing at-risk inmates to allow for more distance, he said the DOC has had early discussions but the topic hasn't come up in recent weeks.

"That would be, in my opinion, much more difficult to implement because 80 percent of the individuals that are incarcerated are individuals that have a violent felony," Schraa said.

He said the recent escape of two inmates from Columbia Correctional Institution in Portage will likely put a damper on those conversations.

One proposal that Schraa said would be more likely would be to release inmates whose sentences are nearly up.

"Let's say a person was scheduled to be released on parole on June 1. The DOC may take a look at that and move that date up," he said.

Schraa said the DOC is trying to acquire personal protective equipment (PPE) from the state stockpile and the private market for inmates and correctional officers. He said officers can wear masks they bring from home and the DOC is giving masks to some officers from a limited supply.

Inmates in select DOC facilities have volunteered to produce PPE that will be distributed to facilities that have confirmed COVID-19 cases, Schraa added.

"Oshkosh Correctional is on the top of the list," he said.

Fit Oshkosh ends operations

Race equity education provider Fit Oshkosh announced it will end its operations here after six years of working in the community.

Tracey Robertson, Fit Oshkosh's co-founder and executive director, asked the group's board of directors earlier this month to dissolve the nonprofit organization. She said in a statement that they regretfully but unanimously agreed.

"Fit Oshkosh has left a legacy that I hope will allow you to pick up the mantle to disrupt racism in all the places that you occupy," Robertson said. "Race equity work can often have short shelf life, specifically for people of color for whom the work is very personal."

"Racial fatigue is real, and the weight of it has forced me to prioritize and to preserve myself."

Robertson said the office closing will be finalized sometime in May, after which she said she will be taking on some unrelated consulting projects.

"I am eternally grateful to each of you for your support of this work," she said in her email statement.

Fit Oshkosh's co-facilitator Marijke van Roojen will continue to provide racial literacy training through her consulting company, Common Talks: Mediation and Facilitation Services. She can be reached at vanroojen@gmail.com.



Oshkosh Herald photo by Jack Tierney

Nice catch

This fisherman shows a string of three walleye caught at the northern end of the Riverwalk in front of the Leach Amphitheater on Sunday. He said he had just been reeling in a sturgeon before the photo was taken and had to cut the line because it was so powerful and taking all of his line. That was his second sturgeon of the day, he said, while out fishing with a group of people.

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\$3.99 lb.

11-oz. - Joseph's White Pita Bread
\$1.49

12-Count - Homestyle Dinner or Mini Sheboygan Hard Rolls
\$2.69

Asiago Pasta Salad
\$5.49 lb.

Swedish Meatballs
\$5.99 lb.

8-Count Assorted Variety Cabot Cheddars
\$3.99

16-oz. - La Brea Sesame Semolina Loaf
\$3.69

2-Liter Bottle Coke, Sprite or Diet Coke
\$3.50

2-Liter Bottle Faygo Soda
\$1.79

24-Pack, 12-oz. Cans Pepsi or Mtn Dew
\$7.99

16 to 18.5-oz. Bottle Snapple or Snapple Straight Up Tea
\$5.55

piggly wiggly Beverage Headquarters

12-Pack, 12-oz. Cans or 8-Pack, 12-oz. Bottles Coke, Sprite or Diet Coke \$12.99	6-Pack, Half-Liter Bottles Pepsi or Mtn Dew 4/9	12-Pack, 12-oz. Cans or 8-Pack, 12-oz. Bottles 7 UP, RC, or Dr. Pepper \$12.99	18-Pack, 12-oz. Cans or Bottles Miller Lite or Coors Light \$12.99	30-Pack, 12-oz. Cans Miller High Life \$15.91	6-Pack, 12-oz. Cans or Bottles Blue Moon \$5.39 ea.
12-Pack, 12-oz. Cans Corona Refresca \$14.29	6-Pack, 12-oz. Cans White Claw Hard Seltzer \$6.99 ea.	6-Pack, 12-oz. Bottles Angry Orchard Hard Cider \$7.59 ea.	750ML Bottle Apothic Wines \$8.29	1.5-Liter Bottle Sutter Home Wines \$6.99 ea.	1.5-Liter Bottle Smirnoff Vodka \$19.49
2-Liter Bottle Coke, Sprite or Diet Coke \$3.50	2-Liter Bottle Faygo Soda \$1.79	24-Pack, 12-oz. Cans Pepsi or Mtn Dew \$7.99	16 to 18.5-oz. Bottle Snapple or Snapple Straight Up Tea \$5.55	1.5-Liter Bottle Sutter Home Wines \$6.99 ea.	1.5-Liter Bottle Smirnoff Vodka \$19.49

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Kid Scoop

HAPPY ARBOR DAY!

When is Arbor Day?

National Arbor Day is the last Friday in April, but many states observe Arbor Day on different dates according to their best tree-planting times. To find out when your state celebrates Arbor Day, go to arborday.org.

Trees are Terrific!

On Arbor Day, people celebrate by planting trees. Why? According to The National Arbor Day Foundation, there are many reasons to plant and care for trees.

1. Trees help clean the air!
2. Trees bring songbirds.
3. Trees make your neighborhood more beautiful.
4. Trees save energy by shading houses in the summer and blocking cold winter winds.

Can you think of some more reasons to plant trees?

Planting Plan

Tammy wants to plant five trees in order of height. Use the clues below to list the trees in order from tallest to shortest.

- The oak tree is 68 inches tall.
- The maple is 5 inches shorter than the birch.
- The cherry is the shortest at 40 inches.
- The birch is 8 inches shorter than the oak tree.
- The magnolia is 10 inches taller than the cherry.

OAK: _____ inches
 CHERRY: _____ inches
 MAPLE: _____ inches
 BIRCH: _____ inches
 MAGNOLIA: _____ inches

How many maple leaves do you see?



Which of these leaves appears most on this page?



How many differences can you spot between these silly trees?

What is the People's Choice for America's National Tree?

The Arbor Day Foundation asked people to vote for the tree they thought should be America's national tree. More than 400,000 responded to their poll.

Here are leaves and needles from the five trees that got the most votes. Add the numbers above the leaf or needles of each tree. The one that adds up to an even number is the people's choice for America's National Tree.

16 + 5 + 2 =



DOGWOOD

19 + 19 + 4 =



OAK

11 + 8 + 8 =



REDWOOD

6 + 3 + 12 =



PINE

3 + 3 + 5 =



MAPLE

Extra! Extra! Seeds of Change

Look through the newspaper for ideas and inventions that have made big changes in people's lives. Describe the idea and explain what changes it caused.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Together:

Tree-Vial Pursuit

Answer each Tree-vial Pursuit question.

What color do the leaves of most maple trees turn in the fall?

- A. black and blue
- B. brown
- C. red, yellow and orange

Magnolia trees are famous for:

- A. big, beautiful flowers
- B. little stinky flowers
- C. pink leaves

The shagbark hickory is named for its shaggy:

- A. fruit
- B. leaves
- C. bark

What do people traditionally plant on Arbor Day?

- A. potatoes
- B. trees
- C. eggs

The ideas for Tree-vial Pursuit are adapted from the arborday.org website.

Draw your favorite tree here:



Write On!

Why Trees?

Do people really need trees? Write an opinion piece expressing your opinion about this.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Squirrel Spotting

Sam is looking for squirrels. On Sunday he spotted 3 squirrels. Each day since then, the number of squirrels he has spotted has doubled. In which week and on what day of the week will Sam spot more than 1,000 squirrels?

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
WEEK 1	3						
WEEK 2							

Standards Link: Mathematical Reasoning: Use a variety of strategies to solve problems.

Double Double Word Search

MAGNOLIA NATIONAL SHORTEST HICKORY FLOWERS DOGWOOD GLANCE STINKY ENERGY ARBOR TREES MAPLE BARK DAY OAK

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

S	H	O	R	T	E	S	T	G	N
S	I	Y	G	R	E	N	E	L	A
T	C	A	K	E	D	T	A	A	D
I	K	I	R	A	L	N	O	N	O
N	O	T	Y	B	O	P	N	C	O
K	R	A	B	I	O	A	A	E	W
Y	Y	L	T	A	R	R	B	M	G
O	M	A	G	N	O	L	I	A	O
R	N	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	D

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.



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Benjamin Franklin



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DNR's hunter ethics award goes to Oshkosh man

By Jerry Davis
ETHICS AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE

Hank Xiong, 29, of Oshkosh, will be presented the 2019 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Ethical Hunter Award by DNR administrator April Dombrowski and Shamus Terry of Vortex Optics in Barneveld.

A presentation will be held at a date to be determined at Vortex Optics headquarters, corporate sponsor of the award, which will give Xiong an item from its line of rifle scopes, binoculars and range finders.

Xiong was able to find the rightful owner of a crossbow left in a parking lot in White River Marsh Wildlife Area in Green Lake and Marquette counties, where Jim Bonney left it the previous day.

Xiong met Bonney early the previous morning when the two parties set out to hunt deer during the archery/crossbow season. When Xiong returned at the end of his hunt, Bonney's vehicle was still parked there, but he returned from the woods shortly thereafter.

"We went looking for a deer my uncle shot and by the time we returned, Jim's vehicle was gone but there was a crossbow laying near where he had parted," Xiong said. "We talked about the best way to get it back to the rightful owner, who we believed to be Jim."

Leaving the crossbow there or taking it to a local sheriff's office crossed Xiong's mind as he talked with his hunting partners.

"We waited for an hour and no one returned that evening, so I took the crossbow, posted a note on Facebook, and then stopped by a sheriff's office to report the incident," Xiong said. "I agreed to try to



Submitted photo

Hank Xiong of Oshkosh will be awarded the state DNR's annual Ethical Hunter Award.

find the owner and if I didn't I'd bring the bow back to the sheriff to keep until someone reported it missing."

The next day Xiong returned to the parking lot, about 40 miles from his Oshkosh home.

"Jim drove in a bit later, about 2 p.m., and had a big grin on his face when I handed him the crossbow," Xiong said. "Jim

thanked me and we exchanged contact information agreeing to keep in contact."

Xiong retold a story of his own bow misfortune when he was younger. He left his archery gear in the back of his father's covered truck box and the next morning when he drove out to hunt deer, he discovered the bow was missing.

"I was devastated," Xiong said. "It was

the most devastating thing that had ever happened to me and I didn't want it to happen to anyone else. Hunting is a big part of what I do with my free time. I saved and saved to get that bow and finally got a day off work from my seven-day job but couldn't hunt."

Bonney did kill a deer that opening morning and eventually found the doe after dark.

"I went back to the parking lot the next morning thinking maybe the bow was still there, but nothing. Then I came back that afternoon and saw Hank and he handed me my bow and took my picture."

Bonney was relieved. "I liked the bow, shot a few deer with it and am grateful Hank took the effort to get it back to me," he said.

The awards committee receives nominations from the public during a calendar year and then meets in early February to select the winning nomination. Any licensed state hunter is eligible.

In addition to Dombrowski, the selection committee includes retired DNR warden Steve Dewald, retired La Crosse Tribune outdoors editor Bob Lamb and freelance writer Jerry Davis of Barneveld.

"Hank demonstrated behavior that reflects positively on the tradition of hunting in Wisconsin. His concern for another hunter losing equipment was very admirable," Dewald said.

"Hank is the epitome of the award's intent, going well beyond what he did for another hunter," Lamb said.

More about the nomination process and the award can be obtained from committee members or conservation wardens.



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UW Oshkosh announces furloughs on its campuses

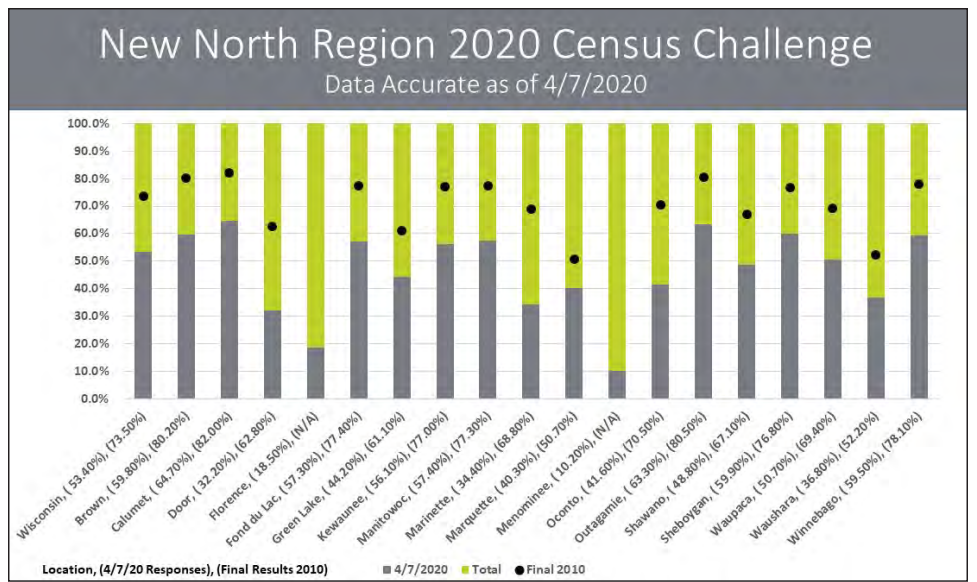
The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh announced Monday it will enact furloughs for employees across its three campuses as soon as May 4, some extending until Aug. 31. Others will have intermittent furloughs through June 2021.

“During the past few months, we have taken several steps necessary to protect the health and safety of our university community,” UW Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt said in a statement. “Those actions came with unavoidable financial implications. By taking this action now, we hope to prevent more serious measures in the future.”

After moving instruction to alternative delivery formats for the spring semester,

the university provided reimbursements for residence hall students and meal-plan participants; it also provided one-time payments to students who lost campus-based jobs. UW Oshkosh has maintained staffing to continue to provide student support services such as advising, academic tutoring, information technology support, counseling and testing.

While UW Oshkosh will benefit from \$6.2 million from the federal CARES Act, half of those funds are direct financial relief for students. UW Oshkosh has initiated a fundraising campaign, Titans Rise, to provide funds directly to students who are struggling. So far that fund has raised more than \$17,000.



Census response promoted in New North campaign

New North Inc. and its partner organizations have created a Census Challenge campaign to encourage everyone in the region to respond and be counted in U.S. Census 2020.

For the next decade the federal government will rely on the data collected to help determine funding distribution across 316 Census-guided programs to states, counties and communities. Wisconsin counties on average could lose \$2,217 annually in federal funding for each person not counted, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The Census also provides the basis for reapportioning congressional seats and for the state Legislature to draw congressional and state districts.

“Now more than ever it is important for counties in the New North to receive federal dollars, which are formulated based on Census response,” said Barb LaMue,

executive director of New North, the marketing and economic development corporation for 18 counties. “To that end, we are encouraging all residents in New North counties to please complete the Census. Doing so will help to bring in resources to support our local communities.”

Residents received outreach materials from the Census Bureau in mid-March for their responses or can go to www.2020census.gov. Census takers will interview homes that haven’t responded by mid-May.

The goal of #CensusChallenge is to increase the response rate of New North counties to more than 80 percent, according to LaMue. Fact-finding by Matthew Christman, director of research and technology, shows that participation in those counties through April 7 has ranged from 10.2 percent to 64.7 percent.

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Earth Day marks 50 years with indoor programs

The 50th anniversary of Earth Day is being marked by organizations this week with a restricted set of activities that includes a Wednesday program by the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh's Sustainability Institute for Regional Transformations (SIRT).

"The current global pandemic gives this Earth Day special significance, as it encourages us to reflect on our relationship to each other, to other species and to the broader environment, and to consider the kind of world we want to shape going forward," said Kevin Crawford, UWO SIRT director. "This year, we engage with Earth Day's past, present and future through a series of virtual events, remembering that even when we are apart, we are in this together."

Earth Day on Wednesday will include virtual panel discussions focusing on Earth Day, COVID-19 and sustainability, an art workshop and student climate activism. It also will include an outdoor cleanup, done individually but together.

A panel focusing on the past, present and future of Earth Day is set for 9 to 10 a.m. and will reflect on the role of environmental activism in shaping a sustainable future. Panelists include student organizers of the first Earth Day, Harley Christensen (1973) and David Misterek (1969, '74), along with current UWO history professor Stephen Kercher, alumna Dani Stolley and current student Samantha Sprenger.

The Big Slow Down: Art and Sustainability in the Time of COVID-19 art workshop will be led by Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization RuckusRoots on the connections between staying home, living sustainably and the creative process.

Those attending the virtual event set for 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. will learn to make artisanal seed paper at home with recycled newspaper, scraps or old notebooks.

Virtual chemistry shows are being offered Wednesday, Friday and Sunday by the Northeast Wisconsin American Chemical Society on Facebook Live starting at 3 p.m. each of those days. Volunteer chemists will relate chemistry to the Earth for children and families to see the properties of water and carbon dioxide, forma-

tion of clouds, earth-friendly plastics and other connections.

Chemists Celebrate Earth Week started in 2003 to help unite schools, businesses and individuals on the importance of chemistry for the health of the environment. Visit www.acs.org/ccew for more information; share on social media using #CCEW and #EarthDay2020.

Earth Day was founded April 22, 1970, by Wisconsin U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson to promote ecology and respect for life on

the planet as well as to encourage awareness of the growing problems of air, water, and soil pollution.

"Our hope is that these events will provide a bright spot during a difficult time, reminding us of our connection to the Earth and each other and that we have the power to shape a better future," said Stephanie Spehar, associate director of SIRT.

More information on Earth Week can be found at uwosh.edu/sirt/events/earth-week.



Oshkosh Herald photo by Jack Tierney

Spring passage

A boat makes its way through the Fox River channel into Lake Butte des Morts on Sunday with redevelopment work seen in the background in the Pioneer Island and South Main Street area.

Resource list

Resources for businesses that are being negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are listed on the city's COVID-19 webpage and DevelopOshkosh.com.

Updates will be made as new options become available. Contact economic development services manager Kelly Nieforth at 236-5055 with questions on the list.

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Arena claims

FROM PAGE 1

almost \$4 million, in fighting the financial reorganization plan put forth by the arena's developer, Fox Valley Pro Basketball Inc.

An attorney for the developer did not respond to a request for comment.

The Amherst family, Peter and Carol Gehrke along with their three daughters, disclosed in an April 9 filing that they are pursuing arbitration claims under state and federal securities law against Gregory Pierce, an Oshkosh financial consultant who has been the primary backer of the arena development.

The Gehrkes are also pursuing claims against Pierce's investment company, Windward Wealth Strategies, and one of his associates, Walter Koskinen.

"The Gehrkes have alleged that Windward, Pierce and Koskinen violated federal and state securities laws and other applicable laws in the manner in which they solicited the Gehrkes to induce them



Oshkosh Herald

The financial reorganization plan by the owners of Menominee Nation Arena is being challenged by a federal oversight agency.

to loan funds to, or invest in, the debtor," according to their filing. "Other investors may have similar claims."

The proposed reorganization plan would block those claims without providing any offsetting consideration to the creditors, the Gehrkes said.

"The debtor's plan seeks to insulate Windward, Pierce and Koskinen from the consequences of breaching their fiduciary and other duties to customers, contrary to

complex federal and state laws and regulations," the family said. To make matters worse, it said, Pierce and other insiders would get paid before "unsecured creditors and the innocent investors such as the Gehrkes."

Both the U.S. Trustee and the Gehrkes also contended that the reorganization plan and its related disclosure statements do not explain how the arena can emerge from bankruptcy given the COVID-19

pandemic.

The arena's "business has been dramatically affected by the restrictions imposed in an effort to depress the spread of COVID-19 in Wisconsin," the Gehrkes said. The financial projections that are part of the reorganization plan "are not realistic in light of the response to the ongoing pandemic."

Miles Maguire is editor of the Oshkosh Examiner news blog.

Lesson plans

FROM PAGE 1

According to OASD technology integration coach Amy Monigal. Reading and math coaches have been assembling packets for students to complete at home.

The company that produces math coursework has provided free digital resources for families that have been printed and mailed to them, Monigal said.

The district is also mailing kindergarteners through second-graders reading materials because many have already finished

the books they took home in March.

"The biggest push is to try to figure out how we can get more reading resources into kids' hands, and that's where I think the equity (gap) comes into play," Monigal said. "There are so many online companies that are opening up their subscriptions to parents and teachers free of charge. But if a family doesn't have a device then there's no way for them to access it."

She said the district has had early discussions about providing devices to access reading materials online.

For middle and high school students, the district is focused on continued learn-

ing through the learning management system Canvas, according to Julie Conrad, director of curriculum and instruction. She said the focus is on teaching students "essential course content" for each class at every grade level.

Brett Hartman, an English teacher at Oshkosh West High School, said much of his class was already on Canvas so the transition was relatively smooth. Each week he posts a calendar with due dates and assignments and tries to make daily videos with updates and reminders about what students should be working on.

Early on, Hartman tried to make his

videos professional and polished, but after getting feedback from students his videos became more casual to mirror his teaching style.

"I'm going to get the information across that I need to, but I'm going to try to make it as entertaining and as laid back as possible," he said. "Even though it's become easier, it's still nowhere near as impactful as it is to be in person with the kids. That's something that online learning will never be able to replace."

Hartman said the share of students completing assignments hasn't changed too much from the start of the semester, while the district has extended due dates for assignments and not penalizing students for turning in late work.

Sara Klein, an English teacher at North High School, teaches a dual credit class offering both high school and Fox Valley Technical College credits. Because students are receiving college credit, Klein said they're more invested in completing work on time.

"I don't have to do a whole lot of parent contact unless they get far behind," she said. "I don't have to do as much hand-holding as if you have an elementary student."

The district introduced an opt-in pass/fail grading system for middle and high school students, Conrad said. At the end of May, students will have the option to finish each course for a letter grade or a pass/fail grade.

A grade of C or better will count as a pass, and a grade of a D or F will count as a No Evident grade, Conrad said. Pass/fail grades will not affect a student's grade point average or class rank.

To combat learning gaps, the district is planning to backfill classes, meaning content from this year will be reviewed next year to bring students up to speed. For example, students generally move from algebra to geometry, but next year students in geometry classes would review key algebra concepts before moving ahead.

"We're already taking a look at how that's going to look as we move forward and how we're going to know where to start with the students," Brown said.

Conrad says the district also offers social workers, counselors and psychologists to any students dealing with mental health struggles or difficulties at home.

"You can control your classroom environment, but you can't control the at-home environment, and that's the wild card in all of this," she said.

ADVERTISEMENT

Accident of Evolution or Child of God? That is the question. What does a killer T cell in our immune system say?

A virus is a simple soul in comparison to cells. It consists of a small amount of DNA or RNA with a cover of proteins. The genetic material contains the recipes for making the proteins, and the proteins assist in making the genetic material. If this mutual admiration society can commandeer the appropriate apparatus, it can make copies of itself. The apparatus exists in the healthy tissue cells of people – hosts to uninvited viruses.

Killer T cells kill host cells that have been invaded by a virus. If a virus is not killed, it will make copies of itself which upon leaving the host cell can infect other cells. None of the immune system leukocytes (including killer T cells) and antibodies can enter an infected cell so the battle must be waged outside. Viruses are stealthy and neighbors of an infected cell would be unaware of the infection except for another brilliantly designed feature of cells.

MHC receptacles on the surface of tissue cells display fragments of proteins they make. (Fig. 1a) This occurs all the time in cells. An infected cell makes viral proteins which will be displayed in the surface receptacles along with the cell's proteins. (Fig. 1b) The viral proteins are a red flag to killer T cells. A killer T cell binds the viral protein (Fig. 1c) and secretes a substance called perforin, which perforates the surface of the infected cell, allowing fluid to enter and kill the cell (Fig 1d). Then interleukin receptors appear on the killer T's surface which will induce it to divide when interleukin binds to it. Interleukin is secreted by helper T cells. This continues until the infection is neutralized.

After the infection is over, most antibodies and immune system cells are flushed from the body. The few remaining antibodies and killer T cells can live for decades and are the reason that a later infection by the same antigen is met by a quick, effective response.

Why is the immune system not self-destructive, attacking the body's own cells and proteins? Antibodies and leukocytes attack by binding to surface features on foreign particles. If host cells and proteins had any of the same features, they would be attacked. Considering the body's 20,000 different proteins – most with large, irregular surfaces – it seems inevitable that many would be attacked. Why doesn't this happen? The answer is a marvelous example of design.

T cells are continually made in the bone marrow, each capable of binding a specific shape. Before a T cell is released for duty, it is inspected by the thymus gland. It is only selected if it cannot bind a surface feature on the body's cells and proteins. Only T cells are inspected since they control the proliferation of antibodies and other leukocytes. The enormity and importance of the thymus's task is staggering (when considering the awesome destructive power of helper and killer T cells).

Is our immune system the result of AoE, unguided and purposeless, OR is it a gift to every CoG?

AoEorCoGScience@gmail.com

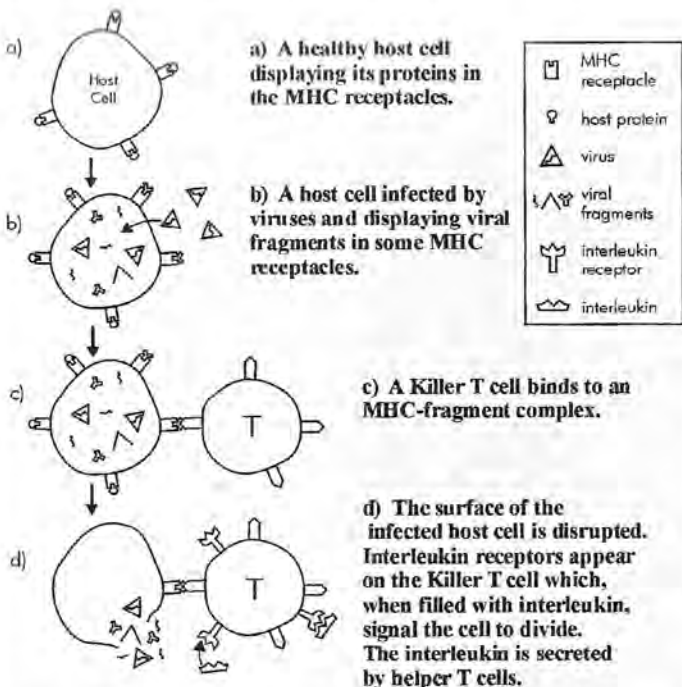


Figure 1. Attack of a viral-infected host cell by a killer T cell

Sidelined: Area athletes dealing with down time

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh pitcher Matt Wiechmann envisioned a breakout season in 2020.

Instead, he's getting an unwanted break and a forced farewell to the game he has dedicated his life to.

Wiechmann, a senior from Sleepy Hollow, Ill., is one of thousands of college and high school athletes forced off the field due to the global firestorm known as COVID-19.

The timing couldn't be worse for seniors like Wiechmann.

The right-hander pitched sparingly out of the bullpen his first three years with the Titans but nailed down a spot in the starting rotation this spring and pitched well in his first two starts.

He never got his third one and knows he's probably thrown his last pitch as a college athlete. The NCAA has already canceled spring championships and it's doubtful Wiechmann's baseball season — originally scheduled to end May 2 — will resume.

The NCAA has granted spring athletes like Wiechmann an extra semester of eligibility but he would have to delay his graduation plans and wait until next spring to play.

"We pretty much know as a team that there isn't much hope (for a season), at least for this semester," he said. "I'm trying to continue throwing, but it's hard to find a place to train. Right now, there are a lot of things up in the air, even school. I hope I get an opportunity to play (organized) baseball again because I love the sport."

Wiechmann, a kinesiology major, started two of UWO's first six games and posted a 1-1 record with a 3.21 earned run average and 12 strikeouts in 14 innings. In his previous three seasons he pitched a combined total of just 21 innings.

"In my three previous years, to be honest, I hadn't performed that well," he said. "I hadn't gotten many opportunities and I thought this would be my year. It was my senior year and I was going to get a chance to be a starter, which is what I envisioned when I decided to go to Oshkosh."

"I had a few starts underneath my belt,



Photo from UW Oshkosh

Matt Wiechmann's senior year on the UW Oshkosh baseball team ended abruptly like many athletes on all levels.

had my confidence going and our team was starting to play a lot better. It (the cancellation of the season) was a shock at first and I was very upset about it for a while.

"Yeah, I put all that hard work in — hours and hours of practice four or five days a week — and it was taken away from me. But there are so many athletes in the same position, and you can't do a thing about it."

No team on the UW Oshkosh campus experienced a more gut-wrenching finish than the women's basketball squad, which reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Division III tournament and arrived at Hope College in Holland, Mich., for its March 13 game against Loras College. Hours after practicing on the Hope court, coach Brad Fischer called a meeting at the team's hotel to say the NCAA had canceled all tournaments.

"When coach called us together and said he had some news, we looked at each other like, this is probably not going to be good news," said Leah Porath, the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference player of the year and an honorable

mention selection on the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Division III All-America team.

"It was devastating. We had worked so hard to get there and this was such a big accomplishment for our program and team. It was very sad to walk away from what could have been."

Porath, a junior guard, will get another opportunity for a Sweet 16 game and national championship, but it was the last game for seniors Olivia Campbell and Emily Miller.

"We're going to have a good team next year and hopefully we get back there and finish what we started," said Porath, who was also voted to the all-Central Region first team by D3hoops.com. "But you feel so bad for our seniors. I mean, you put your whole life into basketball — working hard and trying to accomplish so much. When it all gets taken away and you don't even know if it's your last game or last practice, you just don't have that closure. When you lose a game, you think, I played my hardest but we lost. But our seniors didn't even get to fight for their last game."

High school athletes in Oshkosh are experiencing the same empty feeling.

Oshkosh West senior sprinter Nate Carlin was preparing for a big finish to his track and field career after competing at the 2019 WIAA Division 1 state meet in the 100-meter dash and 400-meter relay. He put together a strong football season for the Wildcats as a wide receiver, then trained all winter for a return trip to La Crosse.

"Oh absolutely, it's very tough on me and all my senior teammates," he said. "I wanted — and still want — to be a state champion in the 100. For me, ever since football ended, it's been track, track, track. We were able to get about a week in of practice before everyone went on lockdown."

Carlin plans to play college football at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. Like most sidelined athletes, he continues to work out on his own, hoping he'll get

an opportunity to finish his prep career.

"It's all just super weird — it's not every day you get a pandemic, right?" he said. "We're missing a big chunk of our senior year. We're not only missing track, but prom, and maybe graduation."

Oshkosh Lourdes senior Raechel Russo is another track and field standout who throws the shot put and discus, and was a state meet qualifier her freshman and sophomore years.

"It's been very frustrating because it's my last chance to play high school sports," Russo said. "I don't even know if I'll get the chance to play organized sports again."

"My goal was to make podium at state — that's been my goal since my freshman year. This whole thing feels so surreal."

"My entire routine has been thrown off and I have no equipment at my house. I can't do anything but cardio stuff. But I still have high hopes for a season."

So does Lourdes classmate Claire Chier. The senior was Russo's volleyball teammate last fall and was planning to play golf this spring.

"It's just sad for the seniors," Chier said. "It's not as hard on me as it is for people at our school like Ellen Moore (track) and Gavin Meyers (baseball), because they were super-excited about spring sports. Golf is something I'll always be able to do, but it's a lot more fun playing with your teammates."

"It would have been great this year, too, because there hadn't been a lot of snow and we would have been able to get on courses earlier. I'm still holding out hope. I think we'll be able to figure out a way to make it happen."

West senior Bryce Hinn spent most of his winter preparing for his final season of high school baseball. But he never got the chance to hear an umpire bellow "play ball."

"Everyone is bummed out, obviously, and we're all hoping things will change and they will let us play," Hinn said. "All athletes are going through this right now."

West softball player commits to Edgewood

Oshkosh West junior Tatum Duff recently announced via Twitter that she has verbally committed to play college softball at the next level at Edgewood College in Madison next fall.

Duff was expected to take over in pitch-

ing for the Wildcats, who's season was canceled due to COVID-19. She was a part of last year's team that made it to the WIAA Division 1 Sectional Final.

Duff made the Fox Valley Association Honorable Mention team as a sophomore.

UW System cuts application fees

The University of Wisconsin System is reducing the undergraduate application fee to \$25 at UW Oshkosh and other campuses, while accepting unofficial high school transcripts for admission consideration and holding students harmless for changes in admissions testing, grading formats and other standard requirements.

"As students navigate the multiple facets of the COVID-19 disruption, the barriers to moving forward with their plans are exacerbated. System's announcement about making applying to a UW institution less challenging is a deliberate effort

to offer an increased level of support in a very challenging situation for all," said Aggie Hanni, UW Oshkosh's assistant vice chancellor for enrollment management.

The UW System also is expanding efforts to ensure students have resources available to help guide them now and into the fall semester. The UW HELP website will offer virtual services such as one-on-one consultations and online office hours to help students complete applications.

Many UW universities are still accepting applications for the summer and fall terms.



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Unemployment insurance scams warned by FVWDB

The Fox Valley Workforce Development Board has issued a warning to laid-off workers after being made aware of a scam in which a website attempted to solicit a payment to file an unemployment insurance claim with the state Department of Workforce Development.

The agency noted that a record number being laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic has overwhelmed the state's UI web site and telephone support line, along with confusion over federal government stimulus checks and where "gig" and contracted workers should be filing for relief.

"The only way to legitimately file an unemployment claim in Wisconsin is to go through the Department of Workforce

Development's official channels," said Anthony Snyder, CEO of the Fox Valley Workforce Development Board. "You never need to pay a fee to file a claim. Any person or entity asking for a fee to assist you with UI filing is not legitimate."

The best way to begin to file a claim is at dwd.wisconsin.gov. Individuals with no internet access can call 844-910-3661.

The local workforce board operates five job centers in the region, all currently closed due to the Stay at Home order. Individuals looking for temporary roles as essential employers can find a list, updated every two weeks, at www.foxvalley-work.org.

UW Oshkosh's WRST wins regional awards

Students with WRST-FM at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh were recently honored by the six-state Midwest Broadcast Journalists Association with awards named for longtime CBS journalist Eric Sevareid.

WRST student news director Joe Schulz took first place in the radio investigative and radio documentary/special categories for a long-form report on UWO's "Red Zone Initiative" to combat sexual assault on campus.

In radio broadcast writing, WRST took first place for student Isaac Marquardt's "I Am Not An Inspiration" that chronicled how people with disabilities want to be treated as anyone else and not as an inspiration.

An award of merit in this category went

to Rachel Ryan for her piece talking with baristas about their pet peeves.

WRST also took a first for an eight-part series on the stresses facing college students by UWO's News Production class and aired over WRST last spring.

The station also won an award of merit for radio newscast with student Jeff Rademaker's local newscast from Oct. 25.

In professional categories, UW Oshkosh director of radio services Randall Davidson was honored for a long-form report he did about misuse of the tones employed by the Emergency Alert System. It took merit awards in three categories: radio hard feature, broadcast writing and use of audio.

WRST can be heard at 90.3 on the FM dial and worldwide at wrst.org.

Miravida resident's death prompts follow-up testing

Eleven members of Miravida Living's Eden Meadows team and residents living nearby have been tested for COVID-19 after a male resident in his early 60s died from complications of the virus earlier this month.

Eight of those tests have been negative. In addition, some patients whose rooms are in the Eden rehabilitation wing have been tested. Test results are not expected

for a couple more days.

Miravida is working with the Winnebago County Health Department following procedures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Miravida's emergency team continues its daily meetings to monitor and implement up-to-date recommendations. Miravida employs 375 people and cares for more than 700 residents.

UWO Foundation creates student fund

To help support student financial needs during the COVID-19 disruption, the UW Oshkosh Foundation has launched the Titans Rise campaign to ask alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the university to donate toward student assistance.

The foundation is accepting applications from students through the Titans Rise Emergency Grant process found at uwosh.academicworks.com.

Applicants must be enrolled as under-

graduate or graduate students at any of the three UW Oshkosh campuses and have an immediate need for assistance due to the pandemic.

These needs could include costs associated with online learning, food, housing expenses, tuition or transportation costs to travel home.

The UW Oshkosh Office of Advancement can answer questions at scholarships@uwosh.edu.

Covey has grocery delivery for disadvantaged

Nonprofit group Covey is offering grocery delivery service in the Oshkosh and Appleton area, focusing on those with developmental and physical disabilities, the mentally ill, frail elders and their families.

The fees for this service are \$20 if the client preorders and prepays, and \$35 if Covey places the order and collects payment upon delivery. Financial assistance may be available, with inquiries about qualifications directed to brewolinski@covey.org.

covey.org. Deliveries are made on Tuesdays and Fridays.

This service will run until Covey determines it is no longer needed. Details are at Covey.org or by emailing info@covey.org.

Under normal circumstances Covey empowers youth and adults toward greater independence through community events and independent living classes. They also provide relief and ongoing support for family caregivers.

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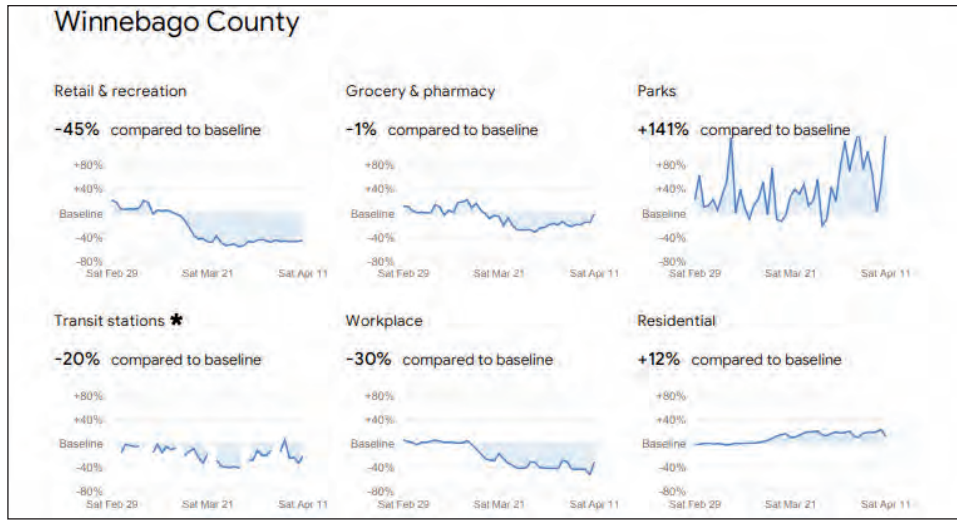
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The COVID-19 Community Mobility Report shows Google user movement since March 13.

Park use up 141% during Safer order

Google released data that it usually keeps private to help accelerate its own business to the public and at the behest of the federal government who said big tech companies need to do more to help during the epidemic.

Google said this data should not be used to diagnose anyone but should be used to influence public policy and social distancing.

What the data shows is that park usage has been up in Winnebago County 141 percent, which is a good thing if people are social distancing because the American Medical Association cites recreational walks as one of the best things people can do for cardiovascular and mental health.

Other data shows that county residents are following orders to avoid going into the workplace. Additionally, public transit use is down 20 percent and is so limited that there are breaks in the data. Google said that transit data can be used to show public policy makers when to schedule routes so that they can ensure social distancing. New suggestions have come from state officials to wear facemasks on public transportation.

The COVID-19 Community Mobility Report, shown above, can be found at www.gstatic.com and is updated every three days. Google said all of the data shown is anonymous. It is the same data they collect from users who turn on their notifications or use Google Maps.

Obituaries

Sharon L. Pearson

Sharon L. Pearson, age 80, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family at Aurora Medical Center on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. She was born in Green Bay to the late John and Lorraine (Adler) Smith on August 30, 1939. Sharon graduated with a bachelor's degree in Human Relations from Marian University. She worked as a social worker at UW-Oshkosh Headstart for many years. She was a lifelong learner; she loved to read especially mystery and who-done-it books. Sharon loved her church; she and her husband Doug are members at Most Blessed Sacrament- St. Peter's. She enjoyed music and loved her Green Bay Packers and Wisconsin Badgers. Sharon was driven to make this world a better place. She treasured her husband and family and is saving a place for them.

Sharon is survived by her husband, Doug, daughters, Dr. Kandace (Neil) Pearson-Schrimsher, and Karla (Dr. Rex) Pearson-Knauf; three grandchildren, Max and Miles Knauf and Aubrey Pear-

son-Schrimsher; sisters, Elaine (Joseph) Ferris, and Sandra (Haviland) Stode-Jackson.

A celebration of life is tentatively set for her birthday of August 30.

The family would like to thank Dr Russell Fredrickson and his devoted staff, as well as the EMT's who assisted Sharon.

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