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Marijuana policy updates weighed

Local authorities look ahead at national trend

By Jack Tierney
 OSHKOSH HERALD

Winnebago County Sheriff John Matz said there is a chance the state's cannabis policy could change through a pending advisory referendum in Wisconsin and recently talked about it with a sheriff in Colorado, taking away lessons about the importance of education and preparation.

Matz said the sheriff informed him that homelessness, youth exposure, marijuana-related suicides, grow operations, interstate trafficking, and traffic accidents related to marijuana presence increased after recreational and medical legislative approval in Colorado. Matz said he takes that information seriously and as an opportunity to prepare for what could happen through a referendum.

Montana, South Dakota, Mississippi, New Jersey and Arizona all approved cannabis use in the November general election through an advisory referendum.

South Dakota became the first state to legalize recreational and medical use at the same time.

"There is a very good chance a marijuana advisory referendum would pass in Wisconsin," Matz said. "I just hope that if we do, we're educated about it, smart about it. I hope we learn from other states and not make those same mistakes."

Matz said the sheriff's office does not actively pursue small marijuana investiga-

SEE **Marijuana policy** ON PAGE 12



Photo by Art Eichmann

Shaving ice time

Motorcyclists practice laps Saturday on Millers Bay in preparation for the upcoming ice racing season.

Vaccine doses arrive for area caregivers

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh's frontline caregivers have been the first residents receiving the COVID-19 vaccine over the past two weeks that is allowing them to remain on those front lines to treat patients for coronavirus and their overall health needs.

TheaCare health care system received its first shipment of the COVID-19 vaccine Thursday from Moderna after Ascension Wisconsin and Aurora Health Center started receiving vaccine doses the previous week from Pfizer-BioNTech. Wisconsin and other states were receiving less of the vaccine than initially expected in the second week due to the limited supplies that have been shipped nationwide.

The first phase of the federal inoculation program started with hospital workers, emergency responders and long-term care staff. Nurses, medical assistants, clinical technicians and others have been trained to prepare the vaccination and administer it to staff and the public.

"This may be a new vaccine, but we are

SEE **Vaccinations** ON PAGE 5

Court reporting expands digital option

FVTC has first such curriculum in state

By Dan Roherty
 OSHKOSH HERALD

Capturing everything said during courtroom proceedings and trials has been an essential role for stenographers who report and transcribe all that is spoken during a legal case as it moves through the justice system.

Alongside that traditional role is a digital recording alternative that is slowly but steadily growing into an important complement to secure the court record and offer a more mobile model for filling a need statewide and nationally. An estimated two-thirds of all court reporters in Wisconsin will be eligible for retirement within the next three years.

A digital court reporter program



Photo from FTR

Digital recording software such as For the Record is finding a more versatile use in state courthouses.

launched last year by Fox Valley Technical College is leading the way on meeting that

demand for trusted transcription as the first of its kind in the state and one of only a handful nationwide.

Winnebago County is the first to reap the benefits as FVTC's first graduate of the one-year program is working in Oshkosh to service courtrooms there and elsewhere in the five-county 4th Judicial District.

Jeff Meverden, FVTC's department chairman for paralegal and related programs, said casual conversations with friends and associates from the legal profession sparked his interest in developing the curriculum. Matching career trends with trades and industries is something the college keys in on as an education priority.

"I'm kind of preprogrammed after working at the Tech for so many years that

SEE **Court reporters** ON PAGE 12



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Advertising deadline is noon Friday for the following Wednesday. The classified line ads deadline is 4 p.m. Friday for Wednesday.

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Corrections

It is the policy of the Oshkosh Herald to correct all errors of fact. For correction information, call 920-508-9000.

About the newspaper

Published weekly and mailed free of charge Tuesdays for Wednesday delivery (may vary based on U.S. Postal Service and holidays) to more than 28,500 homes and businesses in the Oshkosh area.

Oshkosh Herald LLC,
923 S. Main St. Suite C, Oshkosh.
An E-edition of the newspaper can be accessed at
www.oshkoshherald.com.

AirVenture to key on end of WWII

EAA's AirVenture 2021 will feature expanded warbird flying activities as the annual convention July 26-Aug. 1 at Wittman Regional Airport commemorates the 75th anniversary (plus one) since the end of World War II.

AirVenture will tell aviation stories of the Greatest Generation and the worldwide conflict during its afternoon air shows with flying displays and groups that have been favorites for EAA audiences.

Highlighting the commemoration will be major flying exhibitions July 30-31 and additional WWII aircrafts featured on the Boeing Plaza.

"We originally planned to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II and tell all the aviation stories as part of AirVenture 2020," said Rick Larsen, EAA

vice president of communities and member programming.

"We still want to pay tribute to all the people and aircraft involved in bringing the end to this conflict, so in 2021 we will properly commemorate the aviation story of World War II, from the Eagle Squadron and American Volunteer Group through the final Allied victories in 1945."

Specific aircraft and flying demonstrations are being finalized but will feature

aircraft from the European and Pacific theaters.

Additional highlights will tell the stories of heroism and pioneering technology that changed the course of the war.

An evening program on July 30 will focus on legendary aircraft that turned the tide of the war.

Throughout the week, evening movies at the Fly-In Theater will include WWII aviation themes.

Arena inks deal with Keurig Dr Pepper

The Menominee Nation Arena announced a multiyear sponsorship deal with national beverage company Keurig Dr Pepper. The partnership gives Dr Pepper the title sponsorship for a major con-

cert or show in 2021 and visible branding in the arena.

Dr Pepper will be featured on the new FanFood App that will be available for in-seat food and drink delivery at Menominee Nation Arena. Fans will be encouraged to browse menu options from their phones.

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Public library offers winter boredom busters

The library is promoting games and activities for all ages to help brighten up the winter months.

Board game titles include Sorry, Battleship, Trouble, Candy Land, Clue, Jenga, Chutes and Ladders, Connect Four, Monopoly and Backgammon. More games will be added to the collection. Check the online catalog for new selections.

Hands-on craft projects include adult

take-home kits with January's DIY a label-making project to help organize a home. Reserve a kit for pickup by calling 920-236-5208.

Additional activities include a reading competition to earn prizes such as this year's Wild Winter Read Off. Others include Wonderlab: STEAM take-home kits with supplies to create projects while learning about corals and insects. Call



920-236-5208 or go to calendar.com/oshkoshpubliclibrary to learn more.

High Flyers Early Literacy take-home kits contain tips and seasonal activities designed to help get kids ready to read. Call 236-5208 to reserve a kit for pickup.

Call 920-770-2760 at any time to listen to a Dial-A-Story prerecorded children's story read by one of the staff members. Stories will be updated weekly.

Storytime in a Bag offers themed collections of books and activities in a to-go bag

by logging into a library account or calling 236-5208.


The events are sponsored by a grant from the Mildred and Edward Baar Youth and Education Fund through the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.

Information about book clubs for all ages, virtual programs and new services are at shkoshpubliclibrary.org/events.

"The library has lots of ways to brighten up long nights and dreary days," library marketing coordinator Laura McDonald said.

Follow the library on Facebook and Instagram for current offerings. Subscribe to its YouTube channel and email newsletter to receive updates.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, according to the State Historical Society. The National Register of Historic Places is a list of sites, buildings and objects worthy of preservation. The Oshkosh church building was erected in 1890 and designed by local architect William Waters.

Dec. 24, 1974
Historic Building Named – Oshkosh Church is Registered:
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Source: Oshkosh Daily Northwestern, Dec. 24, 1974; A Compilation of Articles Pertaining to the Works of Architect William Waters by WCHAS



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Technology helps support care facility residents

By Amy Putzer
OSHKOSH AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The holiday season can be a lonely time for many people. This year, however, there's an extra hurdle, especially for individuals in nursing homes or long-term care facilities.

"The restriction of visitors and nonessential personnel to these facilities has created a heart-wrenching tension," says Tim Laurin, lead activities specialist at Park View Health Center, "between protecting medically fragile individuals from the virus and cutting them off from outside support and connection, which we know is vital to their overall well-being."

Luckily, there has been a surge of creativity by many local residential care facilities amid the crisis.

Several facilities hosted outdoor or window visits to facilitate contact with loved ones during summer. As we enter the winter season, technology has become critical in maintaining connection between families and friends.

Recent grants from the Oshkosh Area



Community Foundation photo

Park View Health Center resident Chris Kaiko takes advantage of daily FaceTime calls with family during which he uses non-verbal communication with his hand.

Community Foundation totaling almost \$28,000 have been awarded to Park View

Tips to stay connected

Establish a regular contact schedule and stick to it religiously. Talk on the telephone. A good old-fashioned phone call is a wonderful way to stay connected. Video calls on a computer or mobile phone. Drop off letters or care packages. If allowed, put together a bag of basic supplies, favorite snacks, or comfort items. Encourage family and friends to send letters and cards.

Health Center, Miravida Living and Evergreen Retirement Community. The bulk of the grant money will pay for new technology to keep residents connected but safe in the age of COVID-19.

Twenty-four tablet computers will help residents keep in touch with loved ones through virtual visits. And upgraded closed-circuit television systems will help the facilities livestream worship services, sing-a-longs, family visits, exercise sessions, resident broadcasts, cooking demonstrations, and more.

For longtime Park View Health Center resident Chris Kaiko, the benefits of virtu-

al visits could not be clearer. Injuries from a 2008 car accident limit him to nonverbal communication using one hand to respond to yes/no questions.

Before the coronavirus, his stepfather Don Koehler played an active role in Chris' physical therapy with daily visits. The two shared a special means of non-verbal communication.

"When I had to stop visiting in person, it was really hard," shares Don. "There was frustration as I wasn't able to provide my personal touch and encouragement and needed to rely entirely on Park View staff and nurses."

Thanks to daily FaceTime calls, Don is again able to connect with his stepson and Park View staff have learned more about the pair's special language.

"Our family German shephard Odie has come to recognize the FaceTime ring tone and immediately comes running to the phone with his ball," adds Don. Playing catch was always a loved physical therapy activity for both Chris and Odie.

"Visiting with our elders via virtual pathways may not seem like a significant means of connection, however we are finding it to be absolutely paramount to the psychosocial well-being of those we are trying to protect during this time," said Krissy Reiersen, director of nursing at Bethel Home.

Grants were supported by these Oshkosh Area Community Foundation funds: the Oshkosh COVID-19 Relief Fund, the Ladies Benevolent Society: Advocates for Older Adults Fund, and the Community Impact Fund.

Visit www.oshkoshunitedway.org/ COVID19 for more information.

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HEALTH TIPS TO GET YOU THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

Advertisement



Dr. Eric Koehler PT, DPT

First of all, it's important to realize that you can enjoy the holiday season without overeating. This time of year is all about gratitude, family, and good food – but it doesn't have to be about binge eating. There are plenty of delicious, healthy foods that you can eat in moderation and really enjoy. When you consciously make good choices, you'll build confidence in yourself until you know you can succeed! Wouldn't you rather go forward with optimism, confidence, and peace of mind? If you can navigate the holiday season without giving into temptation, you'll find that the new year will be that much easier.

If you're worried that you'll be tempted to overeat, here are a few steps you can take to curb your cravings:

1. Focus on other aspects of the experience rather than just the food... Enjoying some quality time with family members whether in person or through zoom/facetime is the best thing to celebrate this year and it isn't just about the food. Focus on spending quality time with loved ones. You'll be surprised when you realize how much fun you can have without eating foods you'll regret!
2. Savor your meal completely...Bite by bite. Chew each food at least 18-24 times. You will be not only be able to properly add digestive enzymes from chewing more, you will also slow the tendency to overeat.
3. Slow down...Take more time than usual to enjoy your food by taking more time in between bites of food. Place your spoon or fork down after each bite. Enjoy the conversation with your loved ones, or at least the family member that annoys you the least. Conversation during the meal will enable the experience to last longer. An additional benefit of taking longer will also allow your stomach time to signal to your brain when you are truly full. All of us have likely had the experience of eating fast and not realizing until it's too late that we overfilled our stomachs.
4. Turn the TV Off...You will enjoy each other's company more and you will more fully

Dr. Eric Koehler is a Physical Therapist and owner of Physical Achievement Center. He has lived in Oshkosh since 1991 while raising three children. He is an expert in both in person and digital communication to deliver care where patients choose-in the safety & convenience of home or in the clinic. His goal is to help you achieve greater mobility and strength to stay independent without medications, injections, or surgery.

savor the experience. Distracted eating while watching the game or a movie is a sure-fire way to distract yourself into binge eating.

So, there you have it. Easy tips to keep you in check without overeating and moving towards more healthy options for the holiday season and into the 2021 new year! We at Physical Achievement Center are here to help you improve your health and goals with our new weight loss program.

Times for our "FREE Breakthrough Weight Loss Seminar"
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This Holiday season, please enjoy time with your family and close friends---in person, phone, or virtual. We will be here to help you achieve greater health in 2021!

Vaccinations

FROM PAGE 1

by no means new to the practice of consistent, reliable and effective distribution of vaccines to our caregivers and those we

serve throughout all corners of our service area," said Dr. Mark Cockley, chief clinical officer at ThedaCare.

General public availability of the vaccines is still months away and health care providers ask that patients not call to schedule a vaccination. There are no current wait lists.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved emergency use authorization for a vaccine developed by Pfizer/BioNTech for people ages 16 and older and the other from Moderna that is approved for people 18 and older. Unlike the Pfizer vaccine, Moderna's can be stored in normal freezers,

which allows the vaccine to be shipped directly to vaccinating entities.

"We believe the vaccines are both safe and effective and the benefits of being vaccinated outweigh any identified risks or side effects," said Ascension's Dr. Greg Brusko, chief clinical officer.

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Slow start hurts Lourdes in loss to Notre Dame

By Dustin Riese
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

With the holiday break approaching, the Lourdes boys basketball team had one order of business left as it hosted Notre Dame last Wednesday at the Castle. Looking for an early Christmas present, it was the Tritons who went home with a 90-70 nonconference win.

"I thought we did some very good things and we certainly have some things to work on," head coach Dennis Ruedinger said. "We have played some good teams over break and they have exposed some areas that we need to address to reach our potential. We have a stretch over Christmas break where we can string together several practices in a row. We need to really take advantage of it."

Down 12-9, Notre Dame began to put the pressure on the Knights offense and forced them into uncharacteristic mistakes. The Knights offense was out of sync as Notre Dame began to seize control with an 8-0 run to take a 17-12 lead. After Preston Ruedinger converted on a tough layup, Notre Dame's Daniel Hornacek ig-

nited another 8-0 run to push the Tritons lead to 25-14.

"I think that we are still working through the mental side of the game and the focus that it takes to be highly successful," coach Ruedinger said. "Our team has the skill to be very efficient with the basketball. The mental side needs to develop."

Josh Bauer started to heat up for Lourdes with five quick points to close the gap to six, but once again the Tritons had an 8-0 run to put the score at 35-21. That deficit held with a 48-34 halftime score.

The Knights opened the second half with a 9-0 run to close the gap to 48-43.

"I think our team felt like we were close to turning the corner," Ruedinger said. "We need to lock in on each individual possession and shouldn't even know what the score is until the last two minutes of the game."

Leading by 10 after Emmett Lawton and Luke Warden baskets, Chris Mitchell stretched the Notre Dame lead to 15 and the Knights couldn't get it back to single digits from there again.

"I also think this can be attributed to the



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Jack McKellips drives to the basket against Notre Dame

mental part of the game," Ruedinger said. "I think it took some of our will when it was pushed back up to 10."

Bauer finished with 23 points while Ruedinger had a game-high 25. Jack Huizenga added 12 points.

Coach Ruedinger is hoping that his

players can use this time to refocus and get back to playing Knights basketball down the stretch.

"We need to take full advantage of the practice time that we have over break," he said. "If we can do that as a team, we should start playing at a level we know we can."

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Prep sports roundup

GIRLS HOCKEY

Warbirds shut out at home by Fox Cities

The Fox Cities Stars used a big second period – scoring four goals – as they shut out the Fond du Lac co-op Warbirds last Tuesday.

It was a scoreless game until Grace Rentmeester got Fox Cities on the board at the 9:10 mark in the second period and then the Stars got three more – another from Rentmeester as they led 4-0 going into the final period.

Hailee Scheier recorded 35 saves in the loss.

BOYS HOCKEY

Ice Hawks fall after first-period lead

The Oshkosh Ice Hawks boys hockey team had a 3-1 lead after the first period, but came up empty in the third as they

lost a close 5-4 game against New Berlin on the road.

Oshkosh jumped out to a 3-0 lead after Ethan Hoodie, Jacob Sprister and Marshall Koch scored goals. New Berlin scored with minutes left in the first to cut it to 3-1 but then Dylan Sprister got on the board with a goal at the 8:38 mark of the second period for a 4-1 lead.

That scoring attack would come to an end for the rest of the game as New Berlin scored the next four goals to pull out the win.

Sprister had three assists in the loss for the Ice Hawks while William Engedal recorded 25 saves.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

West pulls away from North in second half

Last Tuesday the Oshkosh West girls basketball team used a big second half to pull away from Oshkosh North in a Fox Valley Association contest.

Tied at 18 at halftime, the Wildcats outscored the Spartans 35-21 in the second half for a 53-39 victory to improve their record to 2-6.

Breanna Gehri led West with 12 points while Brianna Davis had 10 points. Maddi Choinski added eight points while Reese Lang and Meredith Posanski chipped in seven points.

For the Spartans, Mallory Ott had 13 points and seven rebounds and Bailey Boelter had 11 points. Ava Hanson chipped in eight points, five rebounds and two assists in the loss.

Compiled by Alex Wolf, Herald contributor

Christmas tree collections set

Residential curbside Christmas tree collection will take place on the scheduled garbage collection day the weeks of Jan. 4-8 and Jan. 18-22, the city's Sanitation Division announced.

The trees must be removed from plastic bags, placed on the terrace or driveway apron no later than 7 a.m. on collection day, with all decorations and lights removed.

Wreaths, garland or swags that contain a metal frame and artificial trees should be placed in the garbage cart.

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Knights guard puts work in to help lead program

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Good things happen when Hope Burns has the basketball in her hands.

The Lourdes Academy senior is one of the top girls' hoops players in the Oshkosh area. She landed first-team honors on the all-Trailways East team last season and is a four-year varsity player putting the finishing touches on a stellar prep career.

In nine games this season, the 5-foot-7 guard leads the Knights in scoring with an average of 13.1 points per game. She is second in assists (1.9 per game), steals (22) and 3-pointers made (13), and third in rebounding (5.4 per game).

"Hope is a very valuable part of our program," said Lourdes coach Quinn Heintz. "She has put in the work to improve herself every year of her high school career. She's worked hard at becoming a good leader for the younger players in our program. It's

been fun to see her progress each season."

Burns established herself as a freshman, playing in 23 of 25 varsity games and swishing 30 3-pointers, while averaging 4.8 ppg. She elevated her game as a sophomore, averaging 9.5 points, 3.2 rebounds and 1.2 assists while sinking 33 threes.

Burns became the Knights' go-to scorer as a junior, leading with a 13.1 ppg scoring average. She nailed 56 threes and averaged 4.3 rebounds and 1.6 assists per contest.

Burns is a combo guard who can play both shooting and point guard.

"I see myself as more of a team player than a scorer," she said. "Creating shots for everyone — that's what gets me excited — and it creates opportunities for me to score."

When she gets those scoring opportunities, Burns usually converts them. A dangerous perimeter shooter, Burns has connected on 132 career treys. Burns has worked with a trainer, Anthony Miller, on her shooting form the past five years.

"He (Miller) helped me perfect my shot and still does," said Burns. "I work on my shooting every day. I try and get at least 100



Photo by Andy Ratchman

Hope Burns leads the Knights in scoring.

makes a day."

With Burns leading the way, Lourdes is off to a 5-4 start with a 2-1 record in Trailways East play. Playing in a near-empty gym without the support of her family has been a different experience for Burns and the rest of the Knights.

"Our fans bring energy and we'd prefer to have them, but our team brings energy, too," said Burns. "I just focus on what I'm

doing in the game."

One of her biggest fans is her grandfather, Leon Luker. Burns wears No. 30 to honor Luker, a former prep basketball player who once wore that number.

"Hope has always received a lot of support from our family, including aunts, uncles and grandparents," said Hope's father, Todd. "It's been hard on our family. Her grandfather is probably her biggest supporter and he can't go to her games."

Burns is also a top-notch softball player, hard-hitting outfielder who led the Lourdes/Valley Christian team in batting (.471), slugging percentage (.588) and on base percentage (.550) as a sophomore in landing first-team all-conference honors. Burns was an immediate starter with the program, hitting .289 with a .372 slugging percentage as a freshman. Burns also ran cross country for the first time last fall and was among the Knights' top five runners.

Basketball, though, is Burns' preferred sport. She hopes to play the game collegiately, although she hasn't yet settled on a school. Burns is a high honors student at Lourdes, carrying a 3.5 grade point average.

"To play collegiately, I need to work on every aspect of my game," Burns said. "That's OK, because I really like being in the gym."

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Obituaries

Charles Bowlus

On December 23, 2020, Charles Bowlus, fondly known as Chuck, passed away in the care of the Oshkosh Evergreen nursing staff after battling Covid-19. Charles was born in Iola, KS on Julius Caesar's birthday in 1938, the son of the late George and Jane (Heffner) Bowlus. He possessed a gregarious and energetic spirit and packed a whole lot of living into his 82 years. As a kid, he developed a passion for baseball. He had an encyclopedic knowledge of the game and was very proud of his skills as a catcher in high school. Charles' love of learning and adventures took him far in life. While an undergraduate at the University of Kansas (KU), his plans to study chemistry went awry when he caused a fire in the chemistry lab, a fortuitous accident which led him to his true calling in the humanities. He went on to become a medievalist, completing his PhD at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and teaching at the University of Arkansas Little Rock (UALR) for over twenty-five years.

While at KU, he met the love of his life Barbara Frey-Wyssling, a Swiss exchange student. The two of them met on a blind date and so began the most romantic tale, embellished by my father with each retelling. After Barbara's return to Zurich and a short stint as a newspaper man in Colby, KS, Charles decided to join the army in hopes that, by preempting the draft, he might get stationed in Europe. This gamble eventually landed him in Bar-Le-Duc, France, working as a chaplain's assistant, an experience that turned him into a life-long Francophile. Although he had carelessly lost the contact information of his Swiss Miss, who had long since given up on him, he concocted a plan to find her again. He knew that her father was a professor at the ETH in Zurich, so posing as an American colleague of Herr Professor Frey-Wyssling, Charles was able to secure a phone number. And so began the courtship, with Charles using long weekends to power over the mountains to Zurich on his ten-speed bicycle—feats which won over his future in-laws—or to rendezvous with Barbara in Paris. In 1966 the two were married on Lake Zurich and made their way back across the big pond on a steamer to start a life together.

First and foremost, Charles was a scholar of the Middle Ages, with a focus on the military campaigns of Charlemagne. While most historians had traditionally relied primarily on the Latin texts, Charles believed in an interdisciplinary approach which also included archeology and physical geography. He believed you could not really understand the Carolingian campaigns without hiking or biking the terrain, and in doing so, he and Barbara grew to know the landscape of Central Europe like the back of their hands. He continued to research and write clear into his seventies, Barbara his primary editor. The two spent months together in their beloved second home in Munich, Germany, where they enjoyed biking, cultural events, sojourns with friends in beer gardens, and working at the Monumenta Germaniae, where the most comprehensive archive of medieval primary sources is housed. Like, Charlemagne, Charles believed that "to speak another language was to have another soul." For an American, he was quite the polyglot, speaking Ger-

man and French, and possessing reading knowledge of Latin.

Charles was a teacher. At the dinner table with a gigantic world map on the wall and a set of the *World Book Encyclopedia* within arms' reach, he never missed an opportunity to educate his children. A simple question would quickly evolve into a lecture. On the UALR campus he was known as an energetic, erudite, and witty. While his area of research was medieval history, he taught everything from world to environmental history. He had a bellowing voice which could be heard through the classroom walls. Although he was tone deaf, he loved to sing, especially when he saw students nodding off. His favorite was "La Marseillaise." Yes, he was an iconoclast, a revolutionary at heart. He was THAT professor who made an indelible impression on students, not only engaging them in the complexities of human history but laying bare its relevance.

Charles was at once a team player and a rugged individualist. He was a committed Social Democrat, who believed that it was only through the taxation of the wealthy, investment in education and health care, and the regulation of corporations that social, racial, and economic equity could be achieved. He also loved the idea of being self-sufficient. When, in 1977, he and Barbara bought part of an old dairy farm on the outskirts of Little Rock, he promptly got the well going and bought a two-man saw. Petite Barbara was to be the other man. Needless to say, it was not long before he upgraded to a chainsaw, but he remained very proud of the fact that he was able to keep his home heated with BTUs harvested from his own plot of land. He loved that his kids could experience a Rousseauian childhood, surrounded by a menagerie of animals, exploring the thousands of acres of wetlands behind the house. He was anything but a gentleman farmer, always dirty, sweaty, and usually sunburnt. Together Charles and Barbara cultivated the most amazing organic garden, freezing and canning tons of produce each year. He planted and tended fruit trees, each with their own name. And yes, he slaughtered some poultry, all Christened with historical names like Saint Valentine and Louis XVI.

Charles was a frugal man with epicurean tastes. He couldn't care less about clothes and believed in living off the land and eating seasonally. Yet, he could easily drop \$100 on some fine wine and imported cheeses. While serving in Europe, he became friends with an accomplished amateur chef, who taught him the basics of French cuisine, skills he perfected with the help of Julia Childs' *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. With time, he branched out, making all kinds of ethnic dishes. In middle age, Charles started growing hops and found a new calling in beer brewing. Together with his dear friends, Jim Parins, an English professor, and Tom Lynch, a biology professor, he could be seen on the front porch, huddled around a cauldron of mead, holding a hydrometer up to the light as steam rose around them.

Charles was also a generous man, welcoming people of all creeds. He loved to host friends and international students in his home. He had, however, absolutely no patience for mediocrity, mendacity, or bigotry. Extraordinarily well-read, with exhaustive knowledge of history, he never failed to call truth to power. Raised in the Presbyterian Church, he knew the Bible well; yet he was also a free thinker, a staunch believer in the separation of church and state, with a strong aversion

to organized religion. In 1981, when Arkansas governor Frank White signed the Act 590, which would have required the teaching of creation science in the public schools, he was one of the first to sign on as a plaintiff in the ensuing Arkansas Supreme Court case McLean v. Arkansas Board of Education.

In 2008, he and Barbara moved to Oshkosh, WI to be closer to their daughter and her family. Despite gradually losing most of his mobility over the past ten years, Charles remained actively engaged in life and appreciated the opportunity to live vicariously through others. He delighted in the accomplishments of his children and grandchildren. He particularly cherished Sunday night dinners with his family and absolutely loved the AFS exchange students hosted by his daughter's family. He embraced Wisconsin fish fries and joined his grandson in rooting for the Brewers and Packers. He did, however, remain loyal to the Royals and was overjoyed to see the Chiefs win Super Bowl LIV. He was a committed Jayhawk basketball fan, seeing his team win three NCAA championships in his lifetime. He was especially proud to have been able to vote by mail in the last

election. The Bowlus family is grateful to the staff in Evergreen's long-term care facility for their noble efforts to care for him, especially during these long pandemic months.

Charles is survived by his life's companion of 54 years, Barbara Bowlus; his daughter Cordelia (Michael) and son Christopher (Carrie); four beloved grandchildren, Cordelia, Clementine, Konrad, and Cassandra, aka Zosia; his sister Judy Cronin (Thomas); and many wonderful nieces and nephews.

"*Omnia Fluunt, omnia mutantur Quod fuimus, aut sumus, cras non erimus.*" — Ovid

"*Everything flows, everything changes What we were and what we are, we will not be tomorrow.*" — Ovid

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Charles Bowlus' name to the History Department at University of Kansas, Lawrence. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



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Marijuana policy

FROM PAGE 1

tions the way they did 15 or even 10 years ago, adding that his department is more concerned now with heroin, cocaine and meth use prevention.

County Board Supervisor Brian Defferding introduced an advisory referendum in August that would have authorized the county clerk to publish a notice of referendum regarding the legalization and decriminalization of cannabis in the state.

The board denied the question, but it would have measured the tolerance in the community for cannabis reform, according to Defferding.

"I genuinely think that the entire state of Wisconsin wants to have cannabis legalized," he said, adding that "our approach

to cannabis is entirely wrong. We need to stress education over incarceration."

The Madison Common Council voted unanimously Nov. 17 to approve three ordinances overhauling the city's marijuana laws. The changes permit adults to carry up to 28 grams of cannabis locally and consume it on public or private property depending on a location's specific restrictions.

Another recent policy shift came out of Appleton on Oct. 21 when in a 13-1 vote the Common Council reduced fines for possession of an ounce or less of cannabis from \$200 to \$50, plus court fees. No mandatory court appearances are specified in the ordinance. Penalties related to paraphernalia were also reduced.

A 2018 Marquette University Law School poll of Wisconsin voters found that 61 percent of respondents said mar-

ijuana should be fully legalized and regulated like alcohol while 36 percent opposed legalization.

That same year more than half of Wisconsin's population saw cannabis-related measures on their ballots, according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and every one of the measures passed. Medical cannabis questions received between 67 percent and 89 percent support in the 11 counties and two cities where they appeared. Adult-use questions garnered between 60 and 76 percent of the vote.

According to the Wisconsin Marijuana Policy Project, "Wisconsin is lagging behind the times on marijuana policy reform." While Michigan and Illinois have legalized marijuana for adult use, and Minnesota has a medical cannabis program, Wisconsin remains one of 19 states that still allows for imposing jail time for possession, and one of 14 states without a medical cannabis program.

The state Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance, which reviews and amends the biennial budget, rejected a medical

cannabis law in 2018, but incoming Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu expressed openness to the media for it in the next budget.

"I think it is to the point where we should have the conversation — I'm not saying whether I am for it or against it — but I think more information does need to come out on both sides," he said.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) earlier this year released an updated national report on unequal marijuana enforcement nationwide and state by state. The report found that in 2018, Black individuals were 4.2 times as likely to be arrested for marijuana possession as white residents in Wisconsin, despite similar use rates. This made the state the 14th worst in terms of racial disparities in marijuana enforcement, according to the ACLU.

While legalization does not eliminate unequal enforcement, it reduces the total number of arrests. Five of the seven states with the lowest disparities were states that approved legalization.

Court reporters

FROM PAGE 1

when you see a need for employees that's kind of what the technical college does," said Meverden, who was a private practice attorney before joining FVTC in 2001. "It fills in those holes."

He was able to develop the technical diploma curriculum with the help of his paralegal advisory committee in a shorter time frame than other programs usually take, with a "digital court reporter" title to make it more specific than the court system's digital audio recorders (DAR) label.

"If I created a program for digital audio recording I would probably have every wannabe music maker taking the course," Meverden joked.

The 27-credit curriculum focuses on court reporting fundamentals, hardware training and maintenance, transcription skills, other standard information software and lab classes where students work with the For the Record program that is standard in most Wisconsin courtrooms.

"Hopefully we have (graduates) all set up and ready to walk right into the court system and start helping out there," he said.

Winnebago County's court administrator in Oshkosh has been witnessing the growing need for reporting staff both on the stenographic and digital levels.

"There is not a court district in the state that does not struggle with court reporter coverage," said Jon Bellows, who worked with Meverden to create the potential pipeline for qualified court reporters for his team and the state's nine other judicial districts.

"In our circuit courts, which are courts of record, it's imperative to capture the record and have an accurate transcription of the proceedings."

He said states have had digital reporting for years assigned to specific judges using For the Record to record and transcribe proceedings, but said it won't replace stenographers as much as blend into a new reporting model.

"There will not be an elimination of stenographic court reporters. They provide a unique skill set," he said.

"It's not a matter of choosing digital or stenography. We need both and we're going to need both for years to come."

Meverden concedes there has been some resistance from attorneys and stenographic reporters about another technology presuming to replace an established expertise. But the shrinking pool of ste-

nographers and schools to generate them, coupled with the need to quickly staff courts across the state, is making a virtual reporter option necessary and attractive.

"I think that as a judge you feel more comfortable having someone next to you so that you can say, 'Oh stop and play that back, or I couldn't hear what the person said,'" he said.

"But I'm sure the judge would also want to probably make sure that the hearing go on versus saying, 'I guess we'll have to postpone it a week until someone can drive here.'"

The state Supreme Court has set goals for making all courtrooms accessible to digital court reporters, which are needed for most all proceedings outside of small claims or first appearances on family law cases.

FVTC's first graduate joined another digital reporter at the Winnebago courthouse to take the record in 4th District proceedings and at other state locations when available. While recording with the high-quality audio equipment they can make log-notes for reference points, later producing transcripts from those recordings.

Bellows coordinates the coverage for Winnebago and helps fill needs in the statewide system, which the pandemic has accelerated to some degree.

"They are taking the record in court around the state from my office, which is a model we didn't have a year ago," he said.

Meverden said accuracy will be the overriding focus for his students: attention to detail, careful listening, assuring clear speech and being personally interactive.

"It's not an easy job but it's definitely a necessary job, and for the right person who's fascinated by the court experience it's a great opportunity," he said.

Pay for the public positions start at about \$40,000 a year with benefits, and many of the skills translate to private industry needs for legal and transcription services.

FVTC's next group of nine digital reporter students are slated to graduate in May. Others who are starting to take some of the classes in January will work on the curriculum more gradually as part of the general paralegal program.

"It's gaining momentum but we've got a long way to go until those 100 and some court reporter positions are filled around the state," Meverden said.

"You may see us attracting people nationwide to come to our program. It will be exciting to see where it goes in a couple of years."

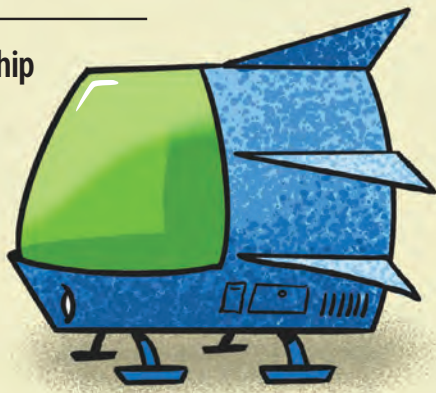


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Stasko would love to buy a new Supernova Ultra ship. It costs 12,000 zinks. After giving the dealership 2,000 zinks, she has to pay it off in monthly payments.

1. How much would she have to pay per month to completely pay for the ship in 50 months?

2. Or, if Stasko gave the dealership 5,000 zinks for the first month's payment, and made payments of 500 zinks per month, how many months would it take to pay for the ship?



Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **AFFORD**

The verb **afford** means to have enough money to be able to buy something.

By saving money for a few months, Clara could **afford** to buy a new bike.

Try to use the word **afford** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Double Double Word Search

CAREFULLY

MOOLAH
VENDING
MONEY
SNACK
COINS
BANKS
PAID
FIGURE
KIDS
BOOTS
BUY
PATH
VALUE
OUT

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

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

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