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‘What happened to Montee Ball?’

Photos taken or provided by UWO alumnus Michael Cooney and FIXED participants. Last year, Montee Ball, a running back for UW-Madison and former NFL player, opened up about his battles with addiction.

Former UW football star talks addiction

By Natalie Dillon
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Pain and addiction

“What happened to Montee Ball? That is the million-dollar question.

“That is the question I saw on Google, on Twitter, all the time. I was so anxious to go out and to talk to people, so for me, alcohol was my social lubricant. I fell back on the drinking.

“Why? Because when I was drunk, I felt

comfortable. When I was drunk, it seemed like everyone loved me, and I did not understand I was creating some terrible habits that I’d fall back on once I went to the NFL.

“My room growing up was blue and orange with a wooden Broncos head on it, and that was my lifelong dream.

“Fast forward to April 26, 2013: Draft day. John Elway was calling me when I was 22 years old and asking me if I wanted to be a running back for the Denver Bron-



Photos taken or provided by Michael Cooney and FIXED participants. Jenna Washuleski, left, has been surrounded by substance abuse her whole life, watching her sisters Carly, middle, and Leah, right, fight addiction.

Odd one out:

A family fights addiction and for each other

By Kaitlyn Scoville
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Just a day in the life

Jenna Washuleski is in her element. Despite the chaos of kids running around at the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh, she glides in with a special guest for a H.O.P.E. Group — Hold On, Pain Ends. Montee Ball, former Wisconsin Badger and Denver Broncos running back, came to share his experience with addiction and alcoholism.

Every Tuesday, Jenna facilitates this group for teens to gather and discuss some of the hardships they face in their homes. She created H.O.P.E. Group in February 2019 to provide an outlet for teens to connect with others who have been through similar experiences.

These young people pour their hearts out about how they’ve been impacted by addiction, mental health issues, criminal activity and incarceration.

“I wanted them to have an area where they can relate to other people their age,” Jenna said, smiling at the teenagers playing football in the concourse. “I’ve seen so many students come forward about sharing their story. I want them to gain tools they can apply to their lives, but to do it in a way where we play games and activities or by learning through guest speakers.”

A smiling teenage girl approaches Jenna, showing off her latest artwork from a tattered and worn notebook.

“Hey, that’s really great,” Jenna said, as she flips through the notebook. “How is everything going?”

“Good. I just got a job here at the Boys and Girls Club, so I might not be able to make it to H.O.P.E. much anymore,” the teen said.

“That’s OK,” Jenna said. “I’m glad you’re taking steps to better yourself.”

Jenna is always delighted when she sees her club members succeeding. These teens all share a common experience — they all come from difficult lives where they need support, such as living with family members who struggle with addiction.

Jenna knows what they are going through. She knows what it’s like to grow up in an environment full of addicts and abuse. She knows what it’s like to use. And she knows what it’s like to move past the addiction that still affects her family to this day.

Getting the call

The call came in the morning when Jenna was finally relaxing in bed after a 14-hour work day, starting first as a substance abuse counselor and then as a waitress. She didn’t want to look at the Caller ID.

“Please, please, don’t let it be about my sisters,” she thought. Jenna often didn’t know where either of her sisters were. They could be in jail. They could be in the hospital from an overdose. They could be anywhere.

She tried to ignore the ringing, but, as always, she couldn’t. She’s the responsible sister. She always picked up.

One week earlier, Jenna had reached out to Carly, her older sister, and asked if she needed help. Carly had said no then.

“I changed my mind. I decided I need you to take Makayla,” Carly said.

Jenna went on high alert. “OK, when?”

“Tomorrow.”

Jenna thought to herself, “Oh my God, tomorrow?” “Are you serious? OK.”

That “tomorrow” was Sept. 16, 2017 when Jenna, then 26, took her then 13-year-old niece, Makayla, into her home in Fond du Lac because her sister, who struggles with addiction and mental health disor-

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Latest Awards
First Place Best of Show Newspaper, Associated Collegiate Press (ACP), 2020
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Fifth Place Best of Show Special Edition, ACP, 2020
First Place Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation (WNAF) Better Newspaper Contest, 2020, in column writing, sports photography, page design and newspaper promotion

Emergency order back in place

By Sophia Voight
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Gov. Tony Evers’ statewide restriction on public gatherings to 25% of a building’s capacity is back in place following a northern Wisconsin judge’s ruling Monday.

Barron County Circuit Court Judge James Babler ruled against the Tavern League of Wisconsin and lifted the temporary restraining order that blocked the emergency order.

Babler also denied the Tavern League a temporary injunction to block the order’s restrictions while the lawsuit is pending.

The Tavern League filed a lawsuit Oct. 13 to strike down the Evers administration’s emergency order that affects bars’ and restaurants’ capacity.

On Oct. 14, Sawyer County Judge John Yackel temporarily blocked the statewide bar and restaurant capacity rule.

The Evers administration issued the emergency order Oct. 6 limiting public gatherings to combat the “deadly, uncontrolled and exponentially growing spike in cases of COVID-19” in Wisconsin.

The order took effect on Oct. 8 and is scheduled to remain in place until Nov. 6.

Babler reversed the block Monday after the Wisconsin Department of Justice, defending the Evers administration, asked to substitute a judge.

The case then moved from Yackel’s courtroom to Bayfield County Judge John Anderson where the Tavern League’s lawyers made their own request for a substitute judge, moving the lawsuit to Barron County.

The current ruling can still be appealed, but the Tavern League has not mentioned any plans to



Sophia Voight / Advance-Titan

A northern Wisconsin judge upheld and reissued Gov. Tony Evers’ emergency order to limit public gatherings to 25% of a room or buildings capacity after a previous judge put a temporary block on the order.

appeal the decision.

Tavern League of Wisconsin President Chris Marsicano said in a statement released after the ruling that he was disappointed in the decision, but Tavern League members will continue to provide a safe environment for their employees and customers.

“We are obviously disappointed in the ruling and the catastrophic effects it will continue to have on small businesses across Wisconsin,” Marsicano said in the statement.

Evers released a statement after the ruling stating that the decision was critical in helping us prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the state.

“This crisis is urgent,” Evers said. “Wisconsinites, stay home. Limit travel and going to gatherings, and please wear a face covering whenever you have to go out.”

The ruling comes after a week of record numbers of daily COVID-19 cases and deaths in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin’s coronavirus death toll reached 1,600 people Monday as hospitalizations spiked with 1,172 active patients, including 302 in the intensive care unit across the state, according to the Wisconsin Hospital Association COVID-19 update.

The Oshkosh-Neenah area is listed as No. 3 in the New York Times Top 20 list of U.S. metro areas where cases are rising the fastest as of Oct. 20.

Hospitalizations are at the highest level to date in the Fox Valley area, according to the

Winnebago County Health Department, or WCHD. Fox Valley hospitalizations are almost three times higher than last month with 150 COVID-19 patients as of Oct. 13.

Deaths are on the rise with one-third of the area’s total 43 COVID-19 deaths having occurred in October, according to the WCHD weekly COVID-19 data summary.

The WCHD recommends you assume you are at risk of exposure in every public place as Winnebago County had 1,155 active cases as of 1 p.m. Tuesday.

They recommend to wear a mask and keep your distance any time you are in public or with people in your household who are at risk of exposure.

County board postpones vote on health ordinance

By Sophia Voight
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The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors postponed their vote on an ordinance to give the county health officer power to enforce orders to prevent the spread of communicable diseases on Tuesday, after numerous board members claimed they did not receive copies of an amended proposal to the ordinance.

During the board’s discussion on the ordinance, many members voiced they had not received the amended version of the ordinance that was emailed to them the day prior.

It was later determined that the board members all had received the amended ordinance but had not checked their emails before the meeting to see it.

The amendment to the County Health Officer code would give the health officer power to issue orders “for the control and suppression of communicable diseases,” according to the amendment proposal.

This new ordinance would give the County Health Officer authority to close schools, forbid public gatherings and quarantine and disinfect people or buildings.

The power of county health of-

ficers to issue orders to prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases is already granted in the state legislature.

However, the county’s general code lacks the language that gives the officer power to enforce those orders.

Winnebago County Health Officer Doug Gierny said in order for the county to enforce local health orders, they needed to reference the state statute in the county’s ordinance.

“We’re not adding any additional powers,” Gierny said. “We’re not doing anything that’s necessarily new or that hasn’t been in place for many decades.”

The amendment was originally proposed back in May after the Wisconsin Supreme Court overturned the Safer at Home extension to allow the county to enforce its own orders to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The county board was set to vote on the ordinance on June 16, but tabled the issue after residents voiced concerns about giving an unelected official power to enforce county shutdowns and mask requirements.

The ordinance received months of harsh criticism from the public at previous meetings urging board members to vote against it.

The amendment to the County Health Officer code came back on the agenda after the County Board of Health revised the proposal to require any general orders to pass a majority vote in the county board before being enforced.

The previous proposal was based on language in the state legislature that stated the county health officer had sole authority to enforce orders to stop the spread of communicable diseases.

General orders by the county health officer will now have to be approved by the county board at their next meeting or within 14 days before going into effect.

Winnebago County residents voiced their concerns at the last board of supervisors’ meetings who claimed that giving a government official power to create safer at home orders goes against

their constitutional rights.

Around 300 people attended the Zoom meeting, with the majority of residents who spoke asking the board members to “vote no to 11.08.”

Oshkosh resident Glenn Petsin said at the July board meeting that he doesn’t think the health officer should have total rule to shut down schools and businesses.

“It is draconian to give somebody in the health department total rule to shut down our county,” Petsin said. “This affects livelihoods [and] people’s income.”

Oshkosh resident Renee Eisley said she thought allowing the county health officer ability to quarantine people and shut down businesses would give him too power over the lives of residents.

“I do not agree to give up my civil liberties for a temporary sense of security,” Eisley said.

However, Winnebago County resident Pat Halloquist said we need effective government regulation on the local level to get the coronavirus under control.

The County Board of Supervisors will vote on the amendment at their next general business meeting in November. The date of the meeting has yet to be determined.

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C⁶hancellor P¹⁵rofessor

Leavitt discusses his experience leading a lab section during a pandemic

By Carter Uslabar
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“I’m not a PC user, you’ll have to forgive me,” Chancellor — or rather, Dr. Andrew Leavitt told his chemistry 105 lab section Monday afternoon, as he swiveled around and pulled up a graphic of the color spectrum.

It’s not the most common sight on a college campus — an administrator leading a lecture — but the UWO campus is full of changes and oddities this semester.

Leavitt has periodically taught lab sections since the last time he led a class, lecture and all, in 2009.

Leavitt, who received a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Utah in 1994, taught academic chemistry at the University of West Georgia for 11 years before moving into administration. Now, he says he tries to lead a lab every few years to stay grounded to his roots in chemistry and to stay in touch with the university’s students.

Leavitt makes regular appearances at extracurricular events around campus, but he said it’s harder to keep in touch with the academic community.

“When you’re a full-time administrator, you can become very isolated, or even worse, insulated,” Leavitt said. “You don’t really truly understand what experience the students are having academically.”

“Everyone’s under a lot more stress, but I notice a lot of focus, too,” Leavitt said. “I think the students are more serious now than they had been in the past because this is a very serious time we live in. I think that people are beginning to appreciate what it means to be in a face-to-face environment and what it means to be on campus.”

Leavitt said that he was impressed with the student body’s compliance with the university’s COVID-19 precautions.

“People know that right now we’re on this tenuous plane, if you will, and we don’t know when it’s necessarily going to end and if we’ll have to go back online,” Leavitt said. “Right now, we’re looking pretty good, but you know, that could always change. It really depends on the behavior of everybody and their ability to comply with the safety guidelines.”

Leavitt said he and the univer-

sity administration was aware there would be a surge in cases at the beginning of the semester, but that he’s been impressed with the student efforts to lower the cases.

“You can’t bring in this many people and not have [a surge in cases],” he said. “I’ve got to be honest, there were a couple days there I was really holding my breath, but part of what was driving the numbers was our deliberate attempt to go find the virus.”

UWO has instituted a proactive testing regimen, in which the university sought out cases in hopes to contain the spread. When someone on a resident hall

floor tested positive for, Leavitt said they would call in the whole floor to be tested, instead of relying on the random testing. Now, all students living in residence halls are tested weekly, and sewage samples are

analyzed for traces of COVID through UWO’s Environmental Research and Innovation Center.

Similar to his desire to connect with students in the classroom, Leavitt spent time working the front desk in Webster Hall to see the experience of students in isolation first-hand, where he said he met lots of resilient students.

But he went on to stress that housing, whether it be on-campus dorms or rental houses off

campus, is where the coronavirus is spreading.

“What you do on campus, you need to do off campus,” Leavitt said of social distancing, mask-wearing and other precautions that have been implemented in the classroom. “That will help us contain the spikes that we’re inevitably going to have.”

Although he said he understands his single lab section doesn’t compare to what faculty and academic staff handle on a daily basis, Leavitt said he hopes to show solidarity with those staff by putting himself in their shoes.

“Everyone in this university has taken a big financial hit through the furloughs,” Leavitt said. “My heart hangs heavy because that’s been so disruptive to many people’s lives.”

Although most staff were furloughed either over summer or for the fall semester, the university hopes to be able to lift furloughs by the year’s end.

“I’m delighted that the enrollment turned out to be stronger than we anticipated,” Leavitt said. “I’m delighted that the state subsidy will remain largely intact this year. This means that we could lift the furloughs and let people do full work for full pay.”

Leavitt said that even though the students seem to be pulling through reasonably well, his worrying instinct of a parent comes out when students are sick, in pain or otherwise not feeling well.

“This is scary stuff,” he said.



Carter Uslabar / Advance-Titan

TOP: UWO Chancellor Andrew Leavitt demonstrates how to use a pipette to his chemistry 105 class. BOTTOM: Leavitt demonstrates a spectrometer to the students who will be measuring light as it passes through various solutions.

FIXED: Sisters' addictions changes lives



From Page 1

ders, couldn't care for her. Jenna knew, at that moment, her life would be changed forever.

Winnebago County sees dozens of overdose deaths each year. In 2018, 24 people lost their lives because of opioids and other addictive substances. The year before, 34 died from opiate overdoses.

Jenna plays an active role in helping those who are willing to develop a life in recovery. She does this through her profession as a counselor, as a member of the steering team and chair of the Prevention and Awareness Action Team for Breakwater, formerly called the Winnebago County Drug and Alcohol Coalition, as a board member at Solutions Recovery, Inc. and at the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh through H.O.P.E. Group.

The early years

Jenna was only 1 when her father left for work and never returned. Her sisters, Leah and Carly, were 3 and 5, respectively. Their mother, overwhelmed with being a single mom and learning to balance working third-shift with schoolwork, struggled to cope. The hardship of raising three children alone with little support became too much; she lost custody and spent four months in jail on charges of child abuse. Jenna and Leah, then 5 and 7, went into foster care; Carly, the oldest at 9, lived with their grandmother.

After a year apart, they reunited as a family. However, the scars of losing their mother and being put into foster care remained. Leah and Carly began abusing addictive substances, starting with prescribed medications: Ritalin, Adderall and Xanax. Leah used weed and drank alcohol at 12, which progressed to opioids, and then to meth when she was 28. Carly did ecstasy for three years when she was 22, which progressed to heroin use, then cocaine at 30.

"When I was in middle school, I remember seeing [my sisters] experimenting with drugs and smoking, drinking and partying at our house when my mom wasn't home," Jenna said. "They engaged in criminal activity — robbing our neighbors, stealing cars, ending up on supervision and the bracelet." The "bracelet" is a court-ordered tracking device for people who have been convicted of a crime.

Both Leah and Carly have been arrested for various charges. Some of Leah's charges include possession of

methamphetamine, possession of narcotic drugs and battery. For Carly, the charges include neglecting a child, disorderly conduct and theft.

Jenna, somehow, was different from her sisters. She was living a double life between school and home.

At school, she maintained good grades and participated in extracurricular activities. At home, she experimented with drugs and alcohol with her sisters to try to stay close with them.

During her junior year of high school, Jenna began to distance herself from her family. She didn't want to follow her sisters down the path of addiction. Their experiences drove Jenna's desire to help others, so she went to college while her sisters were still active in their addiction.

"I went to class and we were talking about heroin. It was the day after I found out my sister Leah was doing heroin. It was really difficult to go to class and learn about these things as I am finding out that is what my sister is doing." Jenna learned that creating healthy boundaries was her next step.

The break-in

"Jenna, come with us," Leah whispered.

"What are we doing?"

"We're going to break into the neighbor's place."

Jenna didn't really want to go, but she wanted to be closer to her sisters. She's the quintessential little sister who just wants to fit in. She was a good student, an athlete and was well-liked at school. Her sisters were rebellious, angry and sometimes violent with each other and with her. They reveled in the adrenaline rush they got from doing illegal things.

Jenna knew her sisters were taking drugs — she avoided all that, seeing how the drugs affected them. That was, until sophomore year in high school.

Leah would take Jenna to local concerts in Fond du Lac. At those concerts, Leah would hand her pills — they ranged from Oxycodone, Xanax, Adderall, to Methadone and more — and say, "Here Jenna, try this."

And she did.

When the effects settled in, she felt nauseous. She didn't like the way the drugs made her feel, but she kept doing them because it built a bond between her and her sister.

As a teenager, Jenna knew taking random pills was bad, but she tried not to think too much about it. She and her sisters were getting along — something she wanted her entire life.

Then came the break-in. Jenna and her sisters went to a neighbor's house and climbed through an open window. They



ABOVE: Jenna Washshuleski and her niece, Makayla Brewington, look through a photo album together. Jenna took legal kinship of Makayla when she was 13. RIGHT: From left: Carly, Jenna, and Leah as children. Jenna was just 1 when her father left. Shortly after, her mother lost custody and Jenna was sent to foster care with her sister Leah, while Carly went to stay with her grandmother.

Photos taken or provided by UW Oshkosh alumnus Michael Cooney and FIXED partici-

weren't looking for anything in particular, but they all ran around and grabbed random things they thought might be of value. Everyone except for Jenna; she just stood there.

"This is stupid, why am I here?" Jenna thought. Fear raced through her body, but a sound from upstairs had broken her paralysis.

"Jenna, come here. You gotta see this!" It was Carly and Leah.

She slowly made her way up the stairs to a room where the sisters were huddled around a closet. As she got closer, Jenna realized that the homeowners were growing marijuana. That was the first time Jenna saw a marijuana plant.

Someone grabbed the plant and shouted, "Jenna, come on! We gotta get out of here!"

Jenna quickly followed. She thought, "What am I doing here? I don't want to be like this."

While her sisters continued using drugs and alcohol, Jenna stopped and continued the push to complete her high school education. Both Leah and Carly did not earn their diplomas the traditional way, as they had children at a young age.

"When Makayla moved in with me, I was going to college to get my bachelor's degree in psychology. I already had my degree for substance abuse counseling, so I was working as a counselor, waitressing and going to school full-time. The next thing you know, I am taking on a teenager. I put school on hold and quit my waitressing job so I could take care of her."



The overdose

The text came on a Friday afternoon.

"Is there any chance we can reschedule the interview? I want to hang out with a friend I haven't seen in a long time," Carly sent.

"Yeah, it's no problem," Jenna replied.

Breakwater, formerly the Winnebago County Drug and Alcohol Coalition, was doing a project called "Live Stories" that interviewed people from all walks of life who were impacted by addiction. Jenna knew her family's story would be perfect for the project. Jenna, her niece Makayla, and Makayla's mother, Carly, signed up to participate.

When Carly backed out, Jenna spent the day with Makayla and Makayla's grandmother, being interviewed for the Live Stories project. They ended the long day of interviews with a pizza dinner, then she and Makayla went home.

The very next day, May 19, 2018, Jenna's mom called. Carly had overdosed on heroin she got from her former dealer and ex-husband in Waupun. Her lungs were deflating — it took three shots of Narcan to revive her. Doctors found a tear in her heart and told her if she kept using, she would die.

Jenna had mentally prepared herself for that phone call for years.

She thought to herself, "How am I going to tell my niece that her mom had overdosed?"

Both Jenna and Makayla knew better than to think that the struggles of substance abuse disorders could be fixed

in a snap. Still, Jenna knew that when it happened, she had to distance herself, and Makayla, from Carly in order for them to focus on their own mental health and self care.

More on Makayla

Since Sept. 16, 2017, Jenna has been the de facto parent to Makayla, Carly's daughter, who now attends high school in Fond du Lac County.

Jenna obtained kinship of Makayla in October of 2017. This was done over guardianship because Jenna did not want to see Carly completely lose Makayla. According to the Department of Children and Families, "kinship" refers to "helping a family support a child in the home of a relative that might be under stress or when the child has experienced abuse or neglect."

Makayla, who was 13 at the time, was struggling to find a place to live after she and her mother were evicted from their rental home.

Makayla had been sleeping on the couches of her mom's friends' homes. She also spent a week living with her pastor and his family. Her mother, despite her drug addiction, managed to pull herself together and call Jenna for help.

For about a month, from September to October, Jenna, who was living in Fond du Lac, would take Makayla to school in Ripon each day, then head to work in Oshkosh. Then she would drive back to Ripon to pick Makayla up from school, then back home to Fond du Lac. That was around 100 miles per day, about two hours on the road.

Ball: ‘Addiction does not discriminate’



Ball

From page 1

cos. As you can imagine, I was standing on top of the world. I’m like, ‘See Mom and Dad? I told you I could handle my alcohol. I didn’t even listen to you and I’ve accomplished every single thing that I’ve wanted to accomplish.’ It was quick, boom, you’re gone. That fast. My dream since I was 8 years old, every single year of me working my butt off, it was like the blink of an eye.

“The Broncos was a two-year thing. My depression accelerated, and it took me to a very, very dark place. A train wreck happened. I projected my insecurities onto someone else. I was looking for someone else to blame other than myself. It wasn’t my fault they released me. When I was in jail for three and a half days, I watched the Broncos win the Super Bowl against the Panthers. The inmates around me are telling me, ‘That’s supposed to be you up there winning. You are supposed to be someone we look up to, but you are in here with us.’”

Life in recovery

“I felt as if the game of football was my entire puzzle, but



Photos taken or provided by UW Oshkosh alumnus Michael Cooney and FIXED participants
Montee Ball was nominated for the Heisman Trophy in 2011 and was drafted into the NFL by the Denver Broncos in the second round. He played professional football for two seasons before his drinking and depression caught up with him.

throughout therapy I learned that is only a piece of my puzzle. It was always something I did for fun. It was only something I did to entertain myself, my family and my friends, but it does not define me. Once I retired from the NFL, I struggled with letting that door shut. I struggled with, who am I now? Who is Montee Ball? Addiction does not discriminate. It got me early, but I’ve come out the other end stronger. I always told myself, every day, to stay sober for my

son, but my therapist told me I shouldn’t do that. My therapist told me, ‘You should be sober for yourself, because if you focus on being sober for yourself, in a way, you fight harder to stay sober.’

“My story did not end when the Broncos released me. My story did not end once I stepped out of jail and had the world attacking me for what I did. My story has just begun. I truly, truly believe that I was given the sport of football, I was given the

platform to speak on something greater than myself. I believe that life doesn’t get easier. I believe that we just get stronger. We get stronger throughout our life.

“So the question, the million-dollar question: What happened to Montee Ball? Life happened. That is the answer, you guys. Life happens to us all, but it most definitely does not define you.”

Montee Ball, a running back for the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 2009-2012, was a finalist for the Heisman Trophy in 2011. He was drafted in the second round by the Denver Broncos in 2013 and played for two seasons. Now retired from the NFL, Montee is working toward his real estate license and completing his degree from UW-Madison. He is also a research specialist for Wisconsin Voices for Recovery. All interviews took place in fall 2019.



Washuleski

From page 5

So she quit one of her jobs and moved to Ripon, where Makayla was attending the eighth grade. Jenna had to put her education on hold before the fall 2017 semester began at UW Oshkosh to take care of

Makayla. “When she moved in with me, we didn’t know how long it was going to be for and we didn’t know what was happening. I just took her,” she said. This was new for both Jenna and Makayla. It was a rough start, but the two of them worked it out. They sat down and created rules and guidelines for each other. “I just kept pushing through it, because that’s what you have to do in that kind of situation. You have to make it work, especially with Makayla. I had to do what needed to be done,” Jenna said. “So although it was very difficult, it’s very rewarding seeing the person that she’s become.”

These days, Jenna and Makayla like to hang out, playing board games and listening to music in their tidy two-bedroom apartment. Succulents are displayed around the living room and the ambiance radiates a positive feel. Motivational posters hang on the walls around the small space. Everything is clean,

pristine and elegant. There is no TV in their living room. It’s a space to create closer connections.

Life today

Jenna knows there is always something good that comes out of hard work, dedication and focusing on what can benefit a healthy lifestyle. Her job as a substance abuse counselor, and the relationship she fostered with Makayla, has allowed her to create boundaries and guide her sisters in the right direction. Makayla has talked with her mother about how she does not want to move back in with her. Carly was supportive and understanding of her decision. Reflecting on how her upbringing was quite rough, Jenna realizes she wouldn’t be where she is today without it. “Although their struggles have caused a lot of hardships for our family, I’ve turned those into a positive. Their addiction gives me an opportunity to be a better professional and to give back to the com-

munity,” Jenna said. Having grown up with two sisters who struggled with addiction, Jenna has learned to take life and all of its ups and downs in stride. “There’s always something,” she said. “You get a phone call and you’re not even surprised anymore of what you’re going to hear on the other end, because you’re normalized to the chaos. Another thing that’s pretty hard to talk about is that there were times that I’ve already accepted that they’re going to die from this. As a result, I decided I don’t want children because I fear that they could also struggle with an addiction like many members of my family. I don’t want to spend my entire life worried about things like how I didn’t want my sisters to know where I lived, or leave them alone with my purse, because I couldn’t trust them. It does feel really good now that they are doing well, and I don’t have to worry so much about those things.” Now that both Leah and Carly are on their way to recovery,

Jenna said she and Makayla have an opportunity to focus on themselves. “We’re relieved because we can finally just sit back, relax and not worry about that phone call or what’s going to happen next,” Jenna said. “We know that they’re both safe, getting treatment and getting the help they need.” Looking back, Jenna also realizes that her relationship with Makayla has played a big part in who she is today. “People ask me how I turned out so differently. I believe everything happens for a reason,” she said. “Now that I reflect back on everything, I think me needing to be there for Makayla was a huge part of that. I was in a good place to be there for her and take care of her when it was needed, and that’s probably the most important thing I’ve ever done in my life.”
Editor’s note: All interviews took place in fall 2019. For more information on the FIXED storytelling project, visit uwosh.edu/fixd.

What if a candidate dies prior to election?

By Andrew Hansen
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What happens if a presidential candidate was unable to serve, through illness or death, prior to the election?

In a normal election year, this question wouldn't be on the mind of any average citizen. However this year, it seems to be a considerable possibility.

Both candidates are over the age of 70, President Donald Trump recently tested positive for, and then recovered from the coronavirus, and then one of Joe Biden's campaign team members tested positive.

Even still, who becomes the candidate if the person listed on the ballot is unable to accept the presidency is a bit confusing. David Siemers, a political science professor at UW Oshkosh, seeks to shed some light on the subject.

"Let's say one of the candidates got COVID, it takes a turn for the worst and they die. Right now, the respective national committees would replace the candidate," Siemers said. "The party nominees don't have any governmentally official status; they're just the party's nominee."

Ballots for a deceased candi-



Courtesy of The White House

If a president were to die prior to the election, the Vice President would become the new presidential candidate. However, voters would still have to vote for the deceased president as ballots are printed months in advance.

date that have already been submitted also have the potential of causing a bit of a legal conundrum.

"One complication is that the ballots have already been printed in virtually every state," Siemers said. "People would still have to vote for the dead candidate to allow the replacement to take their place as President."

In July, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that states may require electors to support the candidate picked by voters in the election. Currently, 33 states have laws against so-called "faithless electors."

But even so, these laws don't apply should the candidate become unable to serve prior to the election. In this situation, it may

be entirely up to a state representative's discretion which candidate they vote for.

"The will of the voters doesn't take into consideration a candidate dying; you can't anticipate that," Siemers said.

In the case of a president-elect were to be unable to serve before Inauguration Day, Siemers stated that it's assumed that the vice

presidential candidate becomes the president-elect and has to choose a new running mate, which may create opportunities for litigation from the opposing party.

The most recent time a nominee has died close to the election was Horace Greeley against Ulysses S. Grant in the 1872 presidential election. It should be noted that the deceased candidate, Greeley, had already lost the election, so the overall outcome of the voting remained unaltered. A winning candidate dying this close to the election would be unprecedented.

All of this leads to another question: Why is there such a long wait time between Election Day and Inauguration Day?

"On one hand, the president-elect has over 2,000 offices he/she has to fill, but with a President who is not elected continuing in office while the election is going on, there is the potential that a certain amount of mischief would be made by that person," Siemers said.

The third and final debate is scheduled to happen tonight, if both candidates decide to make an appearance.



April Lee / Advance-Titan

The Wisconsin Department of Justice issued a reminder that voter intimidation is against the law.

Wisconsin DOJ works to protect election integrity

Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul shared Monday how the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) is preparing for the upcoming election on Nov. 3, 2020.

The attorney general also issued a reminder that voter intimidation is against the law.

"The Wisconsin Department of Justice is working with other agencies to ensure that we have a fair election. It is critical that every lawfully cast ballot is counted and that voters feel safe at their polling locations," Attorney General Kaul said. "Voter intimidation is illegal. If someone breaks the laws that protect against voter intimidation, they should be prepared to spend time behind bars."

DOJ is ensuring the election is secure and that voters can vote safely.

DOJ's Division of Criminal Investigation staffs the Wisconsin State Intelligence Center (WSIC). WSIC facilitates intelligence and information sharing with federal, state, local, tribal, and campus law enforcement partners along with fire service, emergency manage-

ment, public health, military, and private sector agencies.

WSIC is prepared to identify significant threats to Wisconsin elections including, but not limited to, threats of election interference, foreign or domestic.

Prior to and on Election Day, DOJ will serve as a resource to the Wisconsin Election Commission, law enforcement, and district attorneys. DOJ will be communicating with law enforcement and prosecutors regarding relevant election laws.

Voter Intimidation

Voter intimidation is a crime. Wisconsin law prohibits anyone from using or threatening force to compel someone to vote, to keep them from voting, or to influence their voting decision.

Wisconsin law also prohibits anyone from using duress or fraud to impede or prevent someone from freely exercising their right to vote.

The law not only prohibits individuals from taking any of these actions personally, but it also pro-

hibits individuals from having a third party take these actions.

Voter intimidation can take many forms and determining if any action is voter intimidation is dependent on the facts of the incident. Examples of voter intimidation could include:

- Brandishing or displaying firearms in an intimidating or threatening manner in or near a polling place;
- Engaging in disorderly behavior in or near a polling place; or
- Preventing access to a polling place by making threats or engaging in intimidating behavior.

Additionally, it is illegal for private groups to conduct law enforcement or military activities under state and federal law.

What to do if you witness voter intimidation

If you witness or are subject to voter intimidation, alert an election official and call local law enforcement immediately. If you are being threatened with violence, call 911.

Applications open for We're All In Grants

Applications opened to Monday for the second round of We're All In Small Business Grants, which will distribute an additional \$50 million to small businesses hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program aims to provide 10,000 businesses around the state with \$5,000 grants that can be used for any purpose.

The first phase of the program provided more than \$65 million in grants to over 26,000 businesses statewide this summer. Despite the infusion of federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds distributed by Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, however, many Wisconsin small businesses continue to struggle.

"With the increase in COVID-19 cases and the uncertainty it has created, many of Wisconsin's small businesses tell us they're already stretched to the limit and are concerned what the next few months will hold," WEDC Secretary and CEO Missy Hughes said. "As we did with the first round of We're All In Grants, we want to provide aid that can help these businesses carry on."

Applications for the grants opened at 8 a.m. this morning, and will close at 11:59 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2. As with the previous round of We're All In Grants, awards will not be made on a first-come, first-served basis.

The grants are available to all eligible small businesses, including those that have previously received the first round of We're All In Grants from WEDC. Priority will be given to businesses hardest hit by the pandemic, such as restaurants and taverns, hair and nail salons and barber shops, and other services.

The grants will be administered by the Wisconsin Department

of Revenue in partnership with WEDC. Learn more about the program and apply at revenue.wi.gov.

To be eligible for the second round of We're All In Grants, an applicant must:

- be a Wisconsin-based, for-profit business;
- in 2019, have had 75% or more of company labor costs in Wisconsin and 75% of their assets in Wisconsin;
- earn more than \$0 and less than \$1 million in annual revenues (gross sales and receipts);
- have started operating prior to Jan. 1, 2020 (seasonal businesses should use the highest total FTEs employed during the season); and
- have filed their 2019 taxes.

For this round, applicants will not be required to obtain a letter of support from a local business group and will not have to submit tax information. This phase of We're All In Grants will be administered by the Department of Revenue in partnership with WEDC.

This information, along with the grant application, can be found at revenue.wi.gov. If you cannot apply online, you may request assistance by calling the Wisconsin Department of Revenue at 608-266-2772.

The second round of We're All In Grants is the latest effort by WEDC to assist small businesses in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WEDC distributed more than \$65 million in CARES Act funding to nearly 26,000 businesses under the first round of We're All In Grants this summer.

Additionally, WEDC provided \$2 million in state funds to diverse businesses under the Ethnic Minority Emergency Grant initiative and \$5 million to microbusinesses through the Small Business 20/20 Program.



Courtesy of Wikimedia

More than half of all businesses responding to the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh's sixth monthly survey to monitor the COVID-19 impact in Wisconsin shows access to broadband internet is limiting employees' ability to work from home.

Internet access impacts work-from-home options

More than half of all businesses responding to the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh's sixth monthly survey to monitor the COVID-19 impact in Wisconsin shows access to broadband internet is limiting employees' ability to work from home.

Responding businesses pointed to internet bandwidth (53%) and availability (29%) as significant barriers, even though only 15% indicated lack of access limits their ability to offer online services. And only a quarter of respondents have added new online services since the beginning of the pandemic.

Jeff Sachse, interim director of UWO's Center for Customized Research and Services, suggested the broadband findings are especially interesting when considered with findings from last month's survey.

"Given that a large majority of businesses have continuously ex-

pressed some level of concern regarding adopting work-from-home policies, we now know that a lack of high-speed broadband is one of the barriers that likely feeds this concern," he said. "This factor also has impacted businesses' ability to pivot into new markets and services as it is likely that business owners are not confident they can manage these services remotely."

The 453 Wisconsin companies responding to the Sept. 1-18 survey represent 20,677 employees, with 92% completing each of the past six surveys. The response rate is similar to recent months at a +/- 3% margin of error.

Respondents reported renewed losses in August, including:

- \$1.4 million in inventory losses
- \$4.2 million in lost income
- \$804,000 in lost wages and productivity

- \$23.9 million in other financial losses

Responding businesses also continue to face a difficult labor market, adding only 70 net employees over the month.

"The renewed downturn in August is connected both to the end of the summer tourism season and the continued increase in COVID-19 cases. This is reflected both in the losses identified and the priority that businesses continue to express for increased customer contact," Sachse said.

In addition, less than 30% of businesses applied for financial assistance — the lowest level observed over the six months. "This is likely due to an ongoing lack of resources as Congress continues to consider new stimulus measures," Sasche explained.

The September survey also fo-

cused on supply chain issues. One-third of businesses have been forced to find alternate suppliers this year, with 62% of those businesses indicating they found a Wisconsin-based supplier to meet their needs.

Similarly, 38% of the businesses reported exploring or expressing interest in reshoring—the practice of moving manufacturing back from other countries to the U.S.—at least some level of production. Sachse noted that it is unclear whether such interest will increase as the pandemic persists

The survey is a partnership of UWO, the state's nine Regional Development Organizations and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. The October survey will launch to the survey panel of more than 4,000 unique businesses on Oct. 1.

Smart on crime not tough on crime

By Leo Costello
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"I started [working as a judge] in January of 2004 and I quickly learned that the majority of the people that came in front of me were here with



Woldt

drug and alcohol-related issues, so I knew there was a problem with drugs and alcohol. Before I became a judge, you think it is [a problem], but you really don't know how prevalent it is in our society. Our sheriff and I got together and we were brainstorming about what we could do to try to help this problem, and we started talking about drug court." "The thought is drug court is being soft on crime, and it's not soft on crime — it's smart on crime. Judges typically motivate people by, 'I'm telling you not to do this, and if you do this, you're going to go to jail.' It's a punishment.

"We've found out from doing that for hundreds of years — it doesn't really work. Jail did not motivate any of them. A guy said to me today, one of the graduates, Nick, 'I can do four months in jail standing on my head. It's easy.' So if someone's going to use, and you want to throw them in jail, you're giving them a free vacation.

"We're trying to do positive reinforcement instead of negative reinforcement. These people are motivated by things such as family, occupation — it can be a little thing. I started giving people Tootsie Pops. When I would give them to people, I would hold them so they would look back at me. And just the eye contact, showing someone that you care for them as opposed to wanting to throw them in jail, makes an impact on people."

— Scott Woldt, Winnebago County Judge, Circuit Court Branch II

Scott Woldt co-founded the Winnebago County Safe Streets Drug Court Program in 2006 to help alleviate drug issues in the county. His arms are tattooed, wrists to shoulders, of images that have inspired him to be a judge. Woldt has been a judge for the Winnebago County Circuit Court since fall 2004. All interviews took place in fall 2019.

(For those struggling with addiction and seeking help, dial 2-1-1 or visit www.211.org to be connected to resources and services in your community. You can also text your zip code to 898211. 2-1-1 is a 24/7 confidential service that will connect you to substance abuse treatment and resources free of charge.)

Editor's note: All interviews took place in fall 2019.

14th Amendment lawsuit against UWO drags on

By Joseph Schulz
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A hearing in a year-long legal dispute between UW Oshkosh and a former student over the constitutionality of a Title IX proceeding that followed an alleged sexual assault set for Oct. 29 has been canceled.

However, a status conference has been set for Thursday at 11 a.m. via telephone conference.

Additionally, a recent legal brief filed by the university says administrative proceedings wrapped up last December. The Sept. 25 status report from UWO's legal representation said the student could file an amended legal complaint, making the current motion to dismiss "moot."

The case stems from a March 16, 2019 off-campus party sponsored by the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, after which the lawsuit's plaintiff — who is referred to in court documents as John Doe — allegedly sexually assaulted a sorority member.

UWO held non-academic student misconduct hearings on Sept. 26 and Oct. 15, 2019 "to hear the university's case against John Doe," court papers say. The hearing examiner found Doe "responsible for non-academic misconduct" on Oct. 28, 2019.

According to court documents, Chancellor Andrew Leavitt sustained the findings and sanction of suspending Doe with no-contact with the university for two years on



Courtesy of Getty Images

A hearing in a year-long legal dispute between UW Oshkosh and a former student over the constitutionality of a Title IX proceeding that followed an alleged sexual assault set for Oct. 29 has been canceled.

Dec. 11, 2019.

Doe's Sept. 11, 2019 lawsuit aimed to cast doubt over the allegations and poke holes in the university's administrative process, claiming it violated his 14th Amendment right to due process and equal protection.

Court papers alleged that the investigation into the potential sexual assault was unconstitutional because Doe's lawyer, Peter Culp, was forced to cross-examine the woman via notecards and was barred from bringing witnesses into the student nonacademic misconduct hearing.

In various court filings, Culp argues the investigation was biased from the beginning because Joann "Buzz" Bares wore multiple hats after filing the initial Title IX complaint, serving as an investigator and witness in the formal hearing on the

complaint.

Doe was further denied due process, Culp states, because he was denied access to the investigator's report, which impeded his ability to prepare a defense to the allegations of sexual assault.

Meanwhile, the university's legal counsel — composed of state Attorney General Josh Kaul as well as Assistant Attorney Generals Anne Bensky and Gesina Carson — argued last year that Doe's due process claim was invalid because he has not properly pled a loss of property nor exhausted procedures already provided by the state.

A property interest is paramount in a due process case because the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution says that the state can't deprive someone of life, liberty or property without due process.

In previous court filings, Culp argues that Doe facing suspension from all UW institutions for one year and from UWO for two years constitutes a loss of property.

However, in a Nov. 20 legal brief, the university's legal counsel said Culp's argument ignores state precedent by citing cases from other states and that case law dictates that a college education by itself is not a property interest.

The filing argues that Doe has not been constitutionally deprived of anything and that he is trying to avoid the "inconvenience of having to go through the administrative process."

Additionally, court papers say Doe did not appeal Leavitt's Dec. 11, 2019, decision to the UW System Board of Regents, which could further complicate his due process

Opinion

Why stay on campus?

By Sami Christiansen
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With spring semester registration opening this week, many students are, for the first time, presented with the opportunity to register for a full load of on-line classes entirely by choice. As classes have adapted to supposedly provide equal instruction and opportunity for both online and in-person sections of the same class, it begs the question of why all students are not just living at home or off-campus to avoid the high costs of room and board. Given the current financial situation of the University of Wisconsin System, it seems that if every student moved off campus, the university would undoubtedly just fall further into the hole. However, there must be more than just some sense of moral obligation that makes students want to stay on campus. I believe that two nonacademic things saving universities during the pandemic are friends and the idea of moving back with your family for the next ten months. With on-campus activities and off-campus parties very limited or obsolete, the opportunities to make new friends have drastically diminished. This is a big blow to students, as friendships are one of the most important factors in making the decision to continue attempting to take in-person classes that require

living on campus. Even without friends, another driving factor for students to continue to pay the high costs of room and board for many is the idea that the alternative means they have to move back in with their families and give up all the newfound freedoms of independent life. Your mom nagging on you to get out of bed, your little sister stealing all of your clothes and returning to a substance-free lifestyle may seem like an awful alternative, but is it really worth spending over \$4,000 to avoid that for three months? A more likely alternative that could be pressuring students to pursue in-person classes is the fact that the delivery styles may not yet be as equal as we want to believe. In two of my classes, I have been told that the students who opt for online-only instruction receive more work as an attempt to make up for the lack of participation and feedback they receive in class, even if they are watching the exact same lectures. In other classes, I have had professors tell me that there is just no efficient way to give us feedback that they are aware of, so they simply opt not to. In my mind, feedback is one of the most important tools in learning. Seeing mistakes allows me to understand what I can work on and what I may need more help with. Another way online learning isn't up to par with in-person

is when participation is supplemented with discussion posts. It is a fundamental trait of college students to be procrastinators. Many professors have opted for discussion posts; which are open for a week at a time, but the majority of the class does not make posts until 10:00 on Sunday night, leaving two hours for actual meaningful discussion. Even if one student wants to get ahead, there may not be any actual opportunity when the rest of the class procrastinates. There seem to be some gaps that still need to be filled before we can really say that online learning provides equal educational opportunities to in-person instruction, but there is no doubt that this semester's opportunities were leaps and bounds ahead of last. This improvement is exemplified by professors engaging in much-overdue Canvas training and a majority of the initial technical difficulties have been addressed. Factors such as the disparity between online courses and in-person format, friendships and the opportunity for an independent lifestyle contribute to students' choices to make efforts to live in the dorms. There is sure to be more progress in the coming semester as we learn more about what online formats work and don't, but I would not yet be eager to jump into a semester of fully online learning by choice.

Ode to Barb — My One True Love

By Dan Benish
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It was 20 below
And I was out on the town
A not unhandsome young man
Just making the rounds

I walked in from the street
And stepped up to the bar,
And there she was
Just standing thar'

Her eyes were shiny
her smile bright,
And when she spoke
The words came out right.

What more can I say
She was my kind of girl,
And the romance that followed
Was a dizzying whirl.

I sparked that woman
For over eight years,
And when she said yes
I couldn't hold back the tears

We married in October
And three kids soon followed,
And we was plain happy
Like hogs in a wallow.

30 years have passed
Since she became my bride
And she's still here
Right by my side.

Forrest Gump had Jenny
and John Lennon had Yoko,
If I didn't have Barb
I'd probably go loco.

I ain't much of a poet
Can't rhyme like Bill Shakespeare,
But I want everyone to know
That I still hold her dear.

Happy Anniversary Barb.



Letter to the Editor

Save the Blue Lights

By Ava Tryon
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The fall semester has begun. Leaves crinkling under the eager footsteps of students on their way to classes. The sun dipping behind the horizon earlier than normal. Chattering students walking back to their dorms after a campus event. Students should feel safe on campus. They should feel safe walking to their classes during the day and to their dorms or simply around campus at night. The first six weeks at the beginning of the school year is when a disproportionate number of campus sexual assaults take place, known as the "red zone." There are many events and programs organized every fall semester to bring awareness to and prevent sexual violence. One thing on campus that makes me feel safe, especially during these first six weeks, is the Blue Lights. The Blue Lights are emergency telephones stationed throughout campus that connect students, staff, and faculty to the police department with a push of a button. However, the univer-

sity has made it aware to the Oshkosh Student Association that there is a discussion to phase out the units due to expenses and minimal use of serious emergencies. I am the Women's Advocacy Senator on campus for OSA and I feel that this is a huge disrespect to the concern for the safety of students, especially women, on campus. To justify this, OSA passed the resolution that I wrote last spring which created a call to action. The university has come up with an alternative option, a "Mobile Blue Lights" on the UWO Mobile App, which acts in a similar manner to contact campus police in an emergency. However, many students agree that this is not enough to ensure campus safety. Some students don't have the resources to own a phone, which violates inclusivity to student safety for everyone. While the students on OSA believe that this is a great addition, it should not and cannot be in replacement of a physical presence of student safety. An internal survey was sent out in the past year to students asking their opinions on the Blue Lights. Around 89

out of the 117 comments argued against the Mobile Blue Lights, making comments such as "what if the victim doesn't have a phone on them," or "it's nice knowing there is another option for me in case my phone dies." One student even commented "As a female who takes all night classes and has to walk to my car in the dark afterward, I already feel very unsafe during that walk. Taking away the blue lights would only increase that fear. Please don't take away the blue lights for the safety of all students." When asked "As the lights break, the university will not be repairing the Blue Lights due to cost. Instead, they will be using the UWO Mobile app for emergencies. How do you feel about the university not having Blue Lights anymore?" 14% responded "I like this idea," 63% responded "I would like the Blue Lights to stay," and 21% responded "I don't have an opinion. Many students on campus want the Blue Lights to stay, and their voices should be heard.

‘Hubie Halloween’ fails to be funny

By Nolan Fullington
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“Hubie Halloween” is a Netflix “Halloween” “comedy” starring “Adam Sandler” and all of his friends who I’m sure all got nice paychecks.

Hubie Dubois (Sandler) is a devoted citizen to the town of Salem, but has become a figure of mockery due to his overprotectiveness and oddball personality, essentially an amalgamation of every other character Sandler has portrayed. However, Salem needs Hubie more than ever when two subplots that have absolutely nothing to do with the rest of the film become a huge threat that isn’t actually a threat.

Over the years, I’ve been mean to Adam Sandler and I promised to stop long ago when I wrote on “The Week Of” because there isn’t much else to say at this point. However, Sandler then starred in “Uncut Gems,” which was a phenomenal film. Without a doubt, a career-best performance.

Unfortunately, Sandler did not get nominated at the Academy Awards in the “Best Actor” category, so he vowed to make a film that was “so intentionally terrible.” I just wanted to see if this was the film he was talking about. This probably wasn’t, seeing that this film was far into production before the nominations were even announced; however, this film does feel like a punishment.

There is so much to unpack about this film, and I have no idea where to begin, because it’s a comedy where everything in the film is so unfunny that it comes back around to being funny again because the attempts at comedy were so pathetic that it was laughable. The word “pathetic” was going through my mind a lot while watching this film.

The reason why I don’t shrug something like this off as “an-

other Adam Sandler film” is because we all know he can do better. We’ve seen “Punch Drunk Love,” “Uncut Gems” and even “Funny People.” So that means he knows when he’s making something awful, but he continues to do so anyway.

This entire film just felt so weird because the comedy is just so bad. It’s like they tried as hard as they could to make it as bad as possible. There are fart jokes, people falling down, puking, poop jokes, pee jokes; all things we’ve seen before from Happy Madison Productions — nothing new there. Just the execution of it all was so odd, and I was never sure when I was supposed to be laughing.

In terms of story, this is about as clever as an episode of “Scooby-Doo” from, like, fifty years ago. This film also thinks it’s like “The Usual Suspects” throwing red herrings around. Two characters in particular are only there so they can be red herrings and have no impact on the plot at all, but at least Adam Sandler’s friends got paid — one of which I suspected was Rob Schneider or David Spade. Then there was an off-putting cameo from Ben Stiller, who also seemed to be acting horrible on purpose.

Speaking of Adam Sandler’s friends, let’s talk about Kevin James who shows up in a comically bad wig and beard that was so awful-looking, it made me laugh so hard that I had to pause the film. James was also in a somewhat serious film recently called “Becky.” And like Sandler in “Uncut Gems,” they blew any prestige they received from those films at the same time by being in “Hubie Halloween.”

James is a part of this subplot with the Mayor where the Mayor doesn’t want to acknowledge that people are disappearing because he wants to keep parties going and keep people spending money? It doesn’t make sense

and it’s hardly brought up. It’s literally the subplot from “Jaws” and, again, it was a pathetic attempt at “homaging.”

The amount of horror film references in this film was also revolting. Not just “Jaws,” but “A Nightmare on Elm Street,” “Halloween,” “Creature from the Black Lagoon,” “IT” and a whole bunch more. They even play the “Ghostbusters” theme, which gave me uncomfortable chills. It’s the fact this film fails to be its own thing while constantly “paying homage” to much better horror films I’d rather be watching that I found to be problematic. Also, why was there a poster of “Smokey and the Bandit” in Hubie’s room?

This entire film also feels like one season of a television show, because, like a television show, there are, like, twenty characters we follow in this film and every single one has a subplot. It was so messy and mishandled. The film’s pacing and structure issues made it even harder to watch.

Sandler himself in the film is utterly grading. His entire performance feels like mumblecore. I don’t mind Sandler just playing himself in movies and acting bored, but when he does that weird voice and dumb faces, it’s the most annoying thing to me. I’m really tired of talking about Sandler like this, but he keeps making these kinds of films.

The number one rule of comedy is juxtaposition. What this film screws up most is not having a contrast to Sandler’s wacky character. In the film, Hubie is supposed to be the “weird one,” but everyone in the film is wacky and odd, which makes for zero contrast. Having everyone be funny leads to nobody being funny. That’s the foundational issue here.

And along with every other Happy Madison film, the movie ends with an overly-sentimen-



tal scene that hits you over the head twenty times with its message. However, this film does have the message of just being nice to people, which I’m totally contradicting here, but it is a nice message.

The cinematography also looks good. This is not “Jack and Jill” where everything is evenly lit. It’s a shame that the cinematography is in service to a comedy where nothing is funny. But I can’t imagine being a director on a Happy Madison production. That’s the equivalent of directing traffic.

This film was utterly grading. Probably the worst film I’ve seen so far this year, but for the cinematography and the message of being kind, it just saved itself from pure hatred.

However, I can see how some people may enjoy this film and that’s okay. My opinion is not right or wrong, it’s an opinion. I just found it to be so unfunny, which comedy is very subjective. If you enjoy it, that’s fine. Don’t let my opinion hinder your experience.

Supplemental reasons to wear a mask

By Owen Peterson
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At this point, we should all be accustomed to having to wear a mask just about everywhere we go, and it doesn’t seem like this is a reality that will be changing anytime soon.

Since it seems like we will be stuck wearing masks for quite some time, I think it is time to look at some of the unappreciated and overlooked benefits of having to wear a mask.

Here are five reasons why you should keep wearing your mask. Besides, you know, keeping yourself and others safe, preventing the spread of COVID and trying to put an end to this public health crisis, but I digress.

1. To keep your face warm during the winter

Once the spring semester starts, everyone is going to need all the covering they can

manage to wear to be able to survive the frigid and dreadful winter walk to morning classes. Honestly, a face mask was the missing piece of the puzzle to achieve ultimate warmth.

The combination of woolen socks, a thick pair of pants, a winter coat, a hat, a scarf and a face mask will help students stay warm this winter.

Unfortunately, though, wearing a mask will not prevent you from inevitably slipping and sliding on the UWO sidewalks for a few months.

2. To keep your breath in check

Look, it happens to the best of us.

Everyone is guilty of occasionally having bad breath, but this should no longer be an issue thanks to masks. Putting on a mask essentially traps your nose with your mouth, so there is no longer any excuse to be unaware of the smell of your breath.

This should also save us all from one of the absolute worst circumstances a human can encounter: wondering whether or not to tell the person that you are talking to that their breath smells awful.

And at the very least, this may make people more conscious of how many onions they get on that wrap from Blackhawk Xpress.

3. To shield the smell of dumpsters by Blackhawk

If you’ve ever walked past Blackhawk Commons on the High Avenue sidewalk, you have probably also had the displeasure of smelling the Blackhawk dumpsters.

It’s not particularly surprising that the discards of a day’s worth of cafeteria food smells so awful, but that doesn’t make it any less painful.

While wearing a mask in this area helps soften the blow of the nauseating smell, I can attest from personal experi-

ence that it does not go away completely. I doubt that any number of masks could fully protect you from the smell of all the rotting buffalo chicken pizza that probably resides in that dumpster.

4. To hide your identity in public

Do you ever just want to go outside without getting recognized?

I know I do. Luckily, while wearing a mask, you’re about halfway to being virtually unrecognizable. Just throw on a hat, and maybe a pair of sunglasses if you’re really committed, and you will feel no shame as you make a late night run to the Corner Convenience Store for a bag of gummy bears.

Also, the partial anonymity protects your identity from being revealed when doing embarrassing things such as dropping your entire tray of food in the middle of a crowd

at Blackhawk.

5. To hide the fact that you haven’t shaved/done your makeup

During a normal semester, there’s some expectation to look your best for your classes and social gatherings, but now that most classes or online and everyone is confined to their dorms, who cares?

Now anytime you will be seen in public, the lower half of your face will remain a mystery to all.

This temporary suspension of social expectations will give us all a chance to stop worrying and dedicating time to appearing “good” for people who probably don’t even care.

I would say use that time to go do something fun, but to be completely honest, there isn’t much to do given the current circumstances, so... read a book.

Sports

Time to vote.



Courtesy of the Green Bay Packers

Major sports stadiums used as polling stations

By Cory Sparks
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Voting season has arrived and this time, it is under very unusual circumstances. Due to the rise of COVID-19 cases — more than 8.1 million nationwide as of Monday, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — many people have opted to cast their votes by sending in an absentee, or mail-in, ballot.

However, there are still in-person polling sites that are taking the appropriate social distancing precautions in an attempt to ensure that all voters are safe. Professional sports stadiums are just some of those sites.

According to ESPN’s Kelly Cohen, there are four MLB stadiums, 19 NBA arenas and 12 NFL stadiums (including the Green Bay

Packers’ Lambeau Field) using their properties as polling sites.

Some UW Oshkosh students have mixed feelings regarding professional teams, including the one roughly 50 minutes north of Oshkosh in Green Bay, that are using their facilities as polling sites during a pandemic.

“I guess I’m a mix of concerned and impressed,” UWO sophomore Bailey Laird said. “I’m impressed with the idea and the actual good that could come from it, but in a pandemic, I don’t think it’s great.”

According to Axios’ Fadel Allassan, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell led this effort with the suggestion that teams try to use their facilities as polling areas as a way to make voting more accessible in various communities.

In Green Bay, the Johnsonville Tailgate Village, a 13,432 square-

foot building on-site, will be utilized as a polling location on Nov. 3 for Green Bay residents (according to Cohen).

Other UWO students are all for the ideas put forth by these professional sports organizations as long as the correct precautions are taken into consideration.

“As long as the sites are safe, it seems like a good idea,” UWO sophomore Joe Hopefl said.

In terms of how the state polling sites being located in or near stadiums will impact the voting numbers, students at UWO believe that the voter turnout, which was a mere 60.1% in 2016 according to fairvote.org, should increase with the efforts.

“I may not agree with [what these sports teams are doing], but I do believe that it will positively impact the amount of people that

will go out and vote,” UWO sophomore Connor Bukoski said.

Judging by how many people are faithful to their favorite sports organization, there could definitely be an uptick in voter turnout based on brand identity alone.

With these sports facilities being used as polling sites, widespread concern regarding manipulation that could occur with mail-in ballots may be extinguished considering there are now more in-person options with larger capacities that can allow people to be spaced out to a greater extent.

Laird acknowledged that many people who are afraid of their mail-in ballots being tampered with may benefit from these sports stadiums being used as other locations for in person voting. He stated that as a result of this, more people may end up voting.

Others even suggest that the priorities of Americans may serve as an explanation as to why voter participation could rise due to these organizations taking such a step this election year.

“It’ll help because people care more about sports/entertainment than their own rights,” Hopefl said.

With COVID-19 and many accounts of social injustice occurring throughout the country in what has been a year of chaos for many, some students see this year’s election as one of the more important ones.

“It is always important to vote, but even [more] now. With how the last four years have been handled, we need a new approach,” Laird said.

Some students also view this election year as one that is on the same level of importance in comparison to past ones.

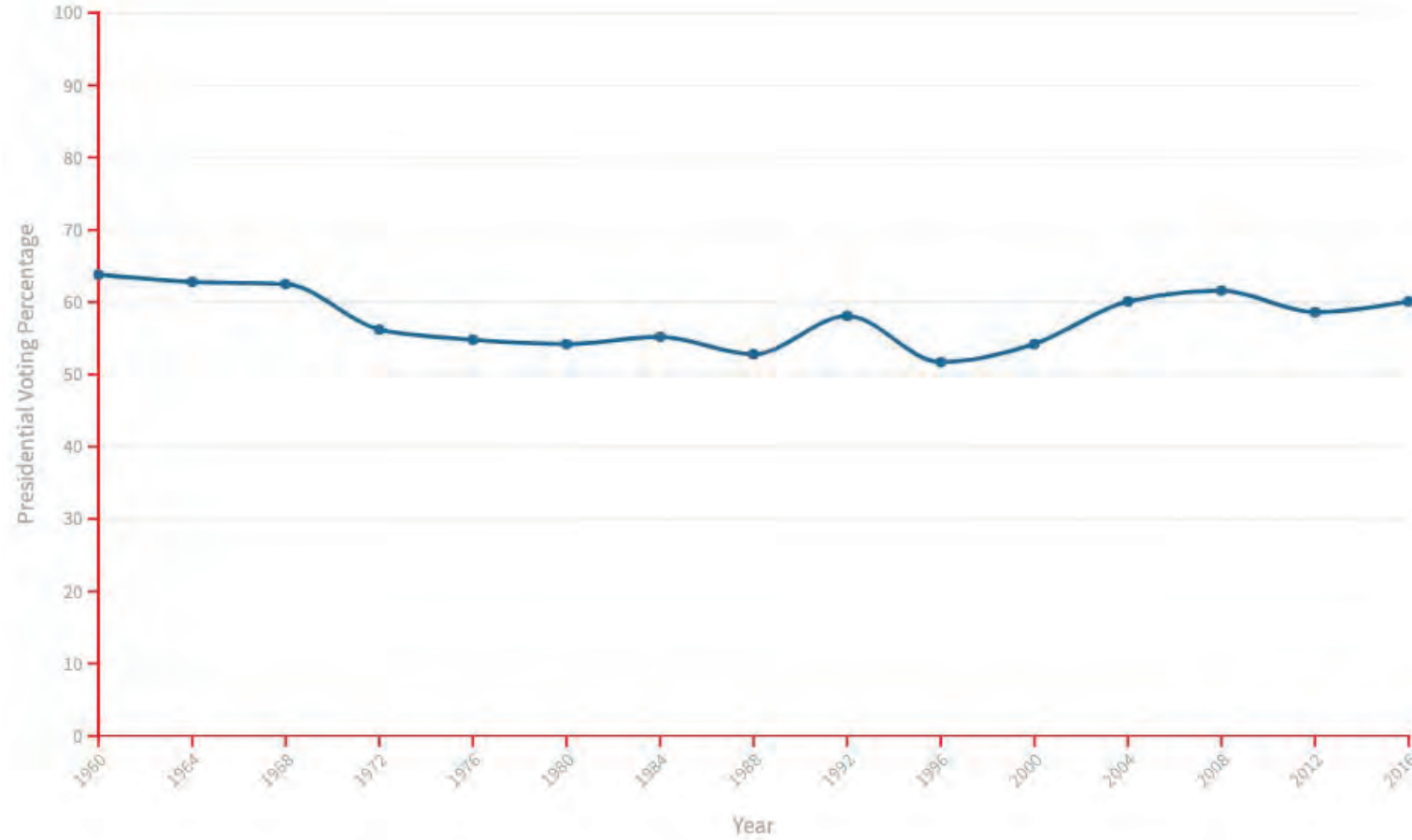
“I’m in the middle [in terms of the] importance of voting, as nothing really changes all too much [that is] life-threatening in each election,” Bukoski said.

Whether someone votes using an absentee ballot, goes to a usual polling site or tries their hand at a modified sports facility polling site, voter education is always an essential component of the election process.

“Educate yourself about the candidates and what their values are,” Hopefl said.

The online voter registration deadline for Wisconsin was Oct. 14, but the in-person voter registration deadline is not until Oct. 30. The in-person registration is consistent with both regular polling sites and the sport-stadium version. In addition, people in Wisconsin can register and vote at their polling station on Election Day.

With voter turnouts failing to eclipse 61% in 2012 and 2016, according to fairvote.org, the fact that professional sports teams are using their facilities as polling sites just adds another variable to what will be a very different 2020 election day on Nov. 3.



Cory Sparks / Advance-Titan

Presidential election voting turnout has not eclipsed 65% since 1908. In 2016, the voting turnout of 60.1% was a 1.5% increase over the 58.6% voter turnout seen in the year 2012 (according to fairvote.org).

You can register
to vote now
using your
campus address.

You can vote early.

You can vote by mail.

You can vote
on Election Day.

Go to voteamerica.com/students

Vote
America

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