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Biden will be 46th president, end of Trump era in sight



Courtesy of Wikimedia

The Associated Press, along with other national news outlets including the New York Times, CNN and Fox News, called the 2020 Presidential Election for Democrat Joe Biden based on vote tallies. Despite a lack of evidence, President Donald Trump has alleged mass voter fraud as the reason for his defeat.

UW Oshkosh students react to historic election

By Lexi Langendorf
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Former Vice President Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were unofficially declared president and vice president of the United States on Saturday.

College students, who played a substantial role in the election, have expressed mixed reactions as a result.

Jackson Turner, a sophomore at UW Oshkosh, said he was upset Trump didn't dominate the election, and that he believes absentee ballot votes threw off the accuracy of the election results.

"I do feel that this election was in some way unfair due to the absentee ballot votes," Turner said. "I feel like everyone should have voted in person rather than on an absentee form."

Turner said he therefore supports Trump's decision to bring the election results to the Supreme Court.

"I think that each state and the Democratic Party should've been real with the votes they counted,

because that's what this country needs," Turner said. "They need to face facts with reality and not nonsense."

Another sophomore at UW Oshkosh, Cole Steinhoff, said that he wished voting could've been done in person to ensure 100% accuracy and reduce uncertainty.

"I've heard a lot of things about President Trump still being able to win through the Supreme Court if evidence allows it," Steinhoff said. "Hopefully it turns out the way I want it to, but I don't think we will know for sure for another few weeks."

Hunter Ward, a senior, said that although he didn't vote for Joe Biden, he still agrees with the election process.

"We're a democracy for a reason, and if the American people think Joe Biden is the better candidate, then I'll support that," Ward said.

In the upcoming weeks, Ward said he predicts that the Trump administration will undergo multiple investigations regarding voter fraud and whether or not it oc-

curred.

"With that, I think Joe Biden is gonna really get prepared so that once he's officially president, he can attempt to follow through with his campaign promises," Ward said.

Jackie Goldman, a junior and member of Alpha Xi Delta, said that she was happy to see the projected outcome of the election after casting her vote for Biden.

"I believe that president-elect Joe Biden will protect and support human rights, combat climate change and treat all people with respect," Goldman said. "I do not agree with every single one of his views, but I am looking forward to his restoration of compassion and justice in the United States."

Goldman added that she was extremely proud and excited to see Kamala Harris announced as the 46th vice president of the U.S.

"This is a huge feat for women of color and women in general," Goldman said. "I hope this is a gateway for more women to be a part of this system."

Goldman said that she believed

it was wrong and immature of Trump to declare himself the winner of the election before a large majority of key votes were counted.

"However, his actions do not surprise me one bit in looking back at his presidency," Goldman said. "I hope that both sides of the political spectrum can come together to unite this country, and the hate toward one another will cease one day."

Alyssa Reinke, a senior, said she was excited by the predicted win for president-elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, as they have many policies and views that align directly with hers.

"Even without the official election results, Biden has already started making a taskforce to combat COVID-19," Reinke said. "He understands that it is a serious issue that needs to be handled immediately."

Additionally, Reinke said that Biden has made plans to give equality to the LGBTQ community in the first 100 days of office and combat climate change.

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Latest Awards
First Place Best of Show Newspaper, Associated Collegiate Press (ACP), 2020
Third Place Best of Show Website, ACP, 2020
Fifth Place Best of Show Special Edition, ACP, 2020



Courtesy of Jasmin Floyd

Jasmin Floyd was diagnosed with Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva when she was 5 years old in January 1999.

Oshkosh native growing second skeleton and fighting for a cure

By Kaitlyn Scoville
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Imagine growing a second skeleton inside your own body. Imagine painful flare-ups when new bone is forming within you. Imagine having this happen since you were 5 years old.

That’s exactly what Oshkosh native Jasmin Floyd has been going through. She was diagnosed with Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva, or FOP, over 20 years ago, in January 1999.

She and her family moved from Oshkosh to Connecticut in July 1998 due to her father accepting a new job. They didn’t know anybody in Connecticut or even the rest of New England.

Jasmin, now 27, was beginning kindergarten that same year. One fall morning, she complained of a stiff neck on the way to school. But she and her parents shrugged it off, thinking it was just stiff from having slept wrong the night before.

However, Jasmin’s neck was abnormally tilted when she left school the same day. So her parents started looking for the reason why, which led to consultations with four different doctors before a final diagnosis.

“One thought it was torticollis, they thought it was Lyme disease, they thought it was ankylosing spondylitis,” Jasmin’s mother, Ro-Jeanne Doege, said. “I just know that it was very unsettling that we went to the doctors and they just didn’t know. It left us feeling kind of lost.”

Jasmin’s parents were left asking questions like “What’s wrong with our daughter?”, “Why is she having a stiff neck?” and “Why does she have these bumps on her back?”

A rheumatologist in Hartford, Connecticut finally diagnosed her with FOP, or “stone man syndrome.”

According to the International FOP Association, or IFOPA, FOP is “one of the rarest, most disabling genetic conditions known to medicine. It causes bone to form in muscles, tendons, ligaments and other connective tissues. Bridges of extra bone develop across joints, progressively restricting movement

and forming a second skeleton that imprisons the body in bone.”

Jasmin is one of less than 300 people in the United States with FOP, and one of about 800 in the world. It is said to affect 1 in 2 million individuals worldwide.

“It was very emotionally gripping for her dad and I,” Doege said. “There was a lot of fear, a lot of scared thoughts about the future and what was happening. It was a very dark time for our family.”

But they tried to keep Jasmin’s life as normal as possible.

“We did whatever we could, but there was always in the back of our mind what the future may hold for her. There was grieving for what her future may not hold. But that’s been changed because she’s really come into her own – she has this disease, but it hasn’t defined who she is.”

In fourth or fifth grade, according to Jasmin, her teachers wouldn’t allow her to participate in some activities in class or during recess.

“As I got older, I was more isolated and I think that’s when I realized the difference and started to understand that I had to be cautious,” Jasmin said. “Every year, my mom and I would talk to my classmates. Even at age 8, I was able to say what it was doing [to my body].”

Though there is no official treatment, Jasmin takes the steroid pill prednisone to help with flare-up pains.

Jasmin described flare-ups as “a certain type of sharp pain,” and throbbing. Her most recent flare-up was in her arm, and she could tell that it felt different after the pain subsided.

Jasmin also explained that flare-ups are sporadic; they can come at any time and at any rate.

“It might be more active when you’re young and then it might take a break, or it could be very mild,” she said. “The most flare-ups I’ve had was last year, and that was the most life-altering. Before then, there were a few flare-ups, but nothing major.”

That life-altering flare-up happened in February 2019, when Jasmin started experiencing pains in her right thigh.

“Throughout that first month,

it was gradually getting more and more swollen,” she said. “It wasn’t until April that it started to affect my breathing, because the pain had moved into my lower back on the right side, because that muscle is all connected to your upper leg.”

She was brought to the hospital on April 13, 2019, for three weeks, trying different medicines to stabilize the pain.

“I had never had anything that major before, so that was all new for us,” Jasmin said.

After getting discharged from the hospital, Jasmin went to a skilled nursing facility for 17 months because the apartment they were living in wasn’t adaptable for her increased physical limitations.

Jasmin has been back at home in a new apartment since Oct. 14.

“I ultimately lost pretty much all of the mobility in my leg joints,” she said. “My hips, knees and ankles I can’t bend either; I can’t straighten them fully. Since I’ve been home, I now have caregivers that come in every day, which is quite a bit different than how my life was two years ago.”

Today, Jasmin is an unofficial spokesperson and ambassador for FOP through her writing. Sharing her story and raising awareness to help people with FOP gives others with it someone to look up to, someone to relate to.

She also actively participates with IFOPA, and has taken part in panel discussions and other events in previous years.

“They know that I’m very willing to do anything I can to raise awareness, and they are also very supportive of my writing; they’ve shared some of my things too,” Jasmin said.

Additionally, Jasmin is part of a close-knit community of people who have been diagnosed with FOP. Though they may not have all met before, they all know of each other.

“I know it can help other people, which really makes me feel even more empowered,” she said.

The largest part of her advocacy work for FOP is through her writing. She has a blog and several other social media accounts where she

shares her story with people worldwide.

“I think there’s always the hope that someone will stumble upon it, and that will help someone else get diagnosed, which I know that’s happened to several people,” Jasmin said. “The only reason certain parents were able to find a diagnosis was because they saw maybe a video or an article or something, and then they approached their doctor with it and then got the diagnosis earlier than they would have.”

In 2006, scientists found the faulty gene that was causing FOP to happen. However, there is still no treatment or cure for it.

“I would want [a treatment] that is realistic for me,” Jasmin said. “I would want it to be something that I felt very confident about and that I could commit to. And hopefully even if I weren’t able to gain my mobility back, it would be incredible just to have that peace of mind I don’t have to fear anything getting worse.”

“I used to be mad at my body, that it hates me,” she added. “Now, I’m able to turn it around and appreciate my body for the abilities I still do have. I have learned that it’s a waste of energy to really be mad at something like FOP that you just in no way can control. It’s better to try to surrender as much as possible.”

Jasmin hopes that one day, people will realize that just because she functions differently than able-bodied individuals, she is still human.

“I feel like a lot of people that aren’t affected by anything medically, they have a different perspective that’s not always as hopeful or positive. I just would hope that they’re able to read my writing and it would help them in some way that would affect them,” she said.

“I would hope for people that they’re able to look at someone with any type of physical difference and really get to know them, not have that assumption that people seem to create in their head that, ‘Oh, I don’t know what to say, so I’m not going to say anything.’ It just means so much when they don’t allow that to put a wall between us.”



Sophia Voight / Advance-Titan

UW Oshkosh opened a new COVID-19 testing site in the Culver Family Welcome Center that is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

UW Oshkosh opens new COVID-19 testing site

By Sophia Voight
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UW Oshkosh opened a new COVID-19 testing center at the Culver Family Welcome Center Nov. 9 with new Abbott BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests that provide results in 15 minutes to help combat the surge of cases in the region.

UW System campuses will serve as the first “surge testing” sites in the nation for the new rapid-results COVID-19 tests, UW System President Tommy Thompson announced at a press conference Nov. 6.

Federal surge testing provides additional temporary federal support to areas that are experiencing a spike in coronavirus cases.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is partnering with UW schools to set up new COVID-19 testing centers.

This is the first time a testing center will be utilizing rapid Abbott BinaxNOW tests, U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams said at the press conference.

The UW System received 250,000 BinaxNOW antigen tests, Chancellor Andy Leavitt said in a campuswide email.

“The testing centers on the UW campuses will be the first of their kind in the country to conduct free surge testing with the BinaxNOW tests,” Leavitt said in the email.

The new Culver Center testing

site will be operated by eTrueNorth under contract with the federal government.

The surge testing site will be open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

The center will be open for a minimum of four to six weeks and administer about 800 tests per day to combat the surge of cases in the area.

The surge testing will be available to everyone in the area but will primarily serve first responders, the Oshkosh school district and the university, Leavitt said at the press conference.

“The first place we would like to target is K-12,” Leavitt said. “We are going to be testing faculty and staff from the Oshkosh Area School district and their families once a week.”

BinaxNOW tests will be available at no cost to students, staff, faculty and their families by appointment through doineedacovid19test.com.

You will not need to be experiencing symptoms or have had contact with someone who has COVID-19 to get the BinaxNOW test at the new rapid testing center.

People who receive a rapid test will be asked to wait outside or in their car until the results come in.

Those who test positive for COVID-19 will be asked to take a PCR test to confirm the results of the rapid test.

This kind of surge testing is being implemented across the county to help areas that are experiencing high positivity rates of COVID-19 target their cases and begin to drive down the spike.

The U.S. has reported over 100,000 new COVID-19 cases every day since Nov. 4.

One in every 462 people in the U.S. tested positive for COVID-19 last week, according to the COVID Tracking Project.

The Oshkosh-Neenah area was listed by the New York Times as having one of the worst outbreaks in the nation for several weeks.

Winnebago County currently has a 17% positivity rate of COVID-19 with 1,310 positive cases, according to the county health department’s weekly COVID-19 data summary.

COVID-19 deaths in the county remain on the rise as a quarter of the 67 deaths in the county occurred over the last two weeks.

Hospitalization for the coronavirus also at a record high with 154 COVID-19 patients hospitalized in the Fox Valley.

However, cases at UWO have remained consistently low over the past weeks. The university has a 3.4% positivity rate as of Tuesday.

“Wisconsin has unfortunately seen one of the worst spikes in the nation,” Adams said. “But if we can extrapolate the 3% positivity rate to the rest of the state, the rest of the

nation, then we can reopen.”

Leavitt said the low positivity rate on campus is thanks to the students taking the virus seriously.

“You don’t have a 3% positivity rate without them masking, social distancing and doing all the things that we’re asking them to do.”

Secretary-Designee for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Andrea Palm said surge testing will help communities get a better understanding of the spread in their area.

“Testing alone doesn’t stop the spread, it is the action that you take to understand what to do next,” Palm said. “What you do after you receive that result of that test is really what helps stop the spread.”

Having the ability to turn around rapid results is an important part of Wisconsin’s strategy to slow the spread of the virus, and Palm said with the new help from the federal government, Wisconsin now has the capacity to test anyone who needs a COVID-19 test.

Palm added that increasing testing and quarantining positive cases will help get the state on track to stopping the spread of the virus.

“It is how we turn the corner on this outbreak and get us back to a place in the state of Wisconsin where we are not breaking daily records for new cases and hospitalizations,” she said.

Adams said an aggressive test-

ing plan for symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals is the most effective way to slow the spread of the virus.

“By identifying the positive individuals and taking appropriate measures to isolate them, we can contain the virus and stop the spread in its tracks,” he said.

The Culver Center testing site will complement the testing site in the Albee Hall gym. UWO residence hall students will continue mandatory weekly testing at the Albee testing center.

The Albee Hall testing center is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. by appointment through the MyPrevea app.

The Albee testing center will expand its hours Nov. 23 and 24 to 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The testing center will be open 8 a.m. to noon on Nov. 25 to expand testing the week before Thanksgiving break.

The Albee testing center will be closed Nov. 26 and Nov. 27.

“From the moment students started to move-in to our residence halls in early September, UW Oshkosh has been testing for COVID-19 on the Oshkosh campus,” Leavitt said in the email. “I am proud of the work so many of you have done to ensure the success of our testing program and to assist in the quick setup of the new site.”

President-elect: Biden wins the White House, beating Trump

From Page 1

“Biden understands that climate change is a real thing and already has plans to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement,” Reinke said.

Reinke added that she predicts President Trump will desperately

try to get recounts from states and attempt to create as many lawsuits as possible to try to be reelected.

“The election margins in swing states are too large to be overturned,” Reinke said. “I think many people both in the U.S. and leaders of other nations are ready

to wipe their hands of him, as he showed less than professional responses to election results.”

Brianna Turner, a UWO junior, said that she believes that Biden and Harris will be the official President- and Vice President-elects.

“President Trump has no merit

behind his accusations of fraud, and, as a country, we have to accept those voted [into office]. That is, regardless of your political affiliation,” Turner said. “I honestly don’t think the recount will be concluded until well past Thanksgiving.”

U.S. election results are not yet official, as several states will recount due to tight margins.

States have until Dec. 8 to settle any disputes over the election results, and Congress will then meet Jan. 6 for a final tally and certification.

Horizon Village to go open-gender for 2021-22

By Carter Uslabar
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The UW Oshkosh Department of Residence Life announced Tuesday afternoon that the Horizon Village residence hall will offer mixed-gender suites for the 2021-2022 academic year.

According to the email, this means that groups of mixed genders will be considered for four-bedroom suites in Horizon Village, but not two-bedroom suites.

Groups of the same gender will still have the opportunity to choose between either a four or two-bedroom suite, while mixed gender groups will only be able to select

four-bedroom suites.

All UWO campus residence halls are open to any gender identity, but some halls have wings or floors segregated by gender.

Horizon Village is the only suite-style residence hall on campus. Built in 2010, it was the first new residence hall to be built on the UWO campus since 1967. No other residence halls will be offering the mixed-gender suites, as other residence halls primarily consist of utilitarian two-person suites, with the exception of Fletcher Hall, which has some three-person rooms.

In the email, Residence Life said it is very excited to move in a more progressive housing direction.



Advance-Titan file photo

Beginning next academic year, Horizon Village will offer mixed-gendered housing. Groups of mixed-gendered students will be able to live in the four-bedroom suits, but not the two-bedroom suites.

Campus voting down

By Carter Uslabar
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Students vote on campus

Roughly 850 student voters turned up to vote at UW Oshkosh’s in-person polling station in the Nov. 3 election, Oshkosh Student Association co-adviser Missy Burgess told the assembly on Tuesday.

Burgess said that was about half of the votes cast in 2016 in Oshkosh.

“There was a higher percentage of mail-in voting and there’s also a significantly smaller percentage of students living on campus at this point, compared to where we were four years ago,” she said.

Young voters were expected to be an important voting bloc in this election; according to Tisch College’s Youth Electoral Significance Index, Wisconsin’s youth vote was expected to be one of the most influential in the nation, as an estimated 17% of the state’s population is between 18-29 years of age.

From 2012 to 2016, there was a significant shift toward the right among young voters in the state, although President Donald Trump carried the state by less than 1% of the vote. Trump’s 2016 victory in Wisconsin was the first time a GOP candidate had won the state since 1984; he won by a margin of just over 22,000 votes. Biden’s win in Wisconsin shows the state realigning itself with the last four decades’ trend of support for Democratic candidates. Biden is projected to have carried the state by a margin of just over 20,000 votes.

OSA Senate passes resolutions

The OSA Senate has passed two resolutions heard in the Assembly last week. One seeks to make each presidential election an academic holiday, affording students ample time to cast their vote.

The resolution, written by OSA vice president pro-tempore Austin Hammond, says voting, being one of the most tangible and simple ways for students to participate in democracy, should be encouraged by the university. The second resolution puts the OSA’s support behind a petition seeking to restore the blue safety lights around UWO’s campus. Several of the blue lights were installed over two decades ago — meaning they’ve been around longer than much of the student body. As they’ve aged, they’ve become expensive to replace.

In lieu of the blue lights, the UWO Mobile app offers a mobile blue light, as well as other functions such as “Chat with UP,” in which users can keep in constant contact with a dispatcher as they travel throughout campus. But according to OSA chief of staff Patrick Caine, there’s good reason to keep the lights around.

“Obviously there are issues that arise with [the mobile app],” Caine said. “What if your phone goes dead? What if you don’t have a phone?” Caine and Ava Tryon will be pursuing the petition to save the blue lights from being gradually removed from the UWO campus.

What was on the OASD referendums?

By Sophia Voight
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Oshkosh residents voted in favor of \$115 million in funding for the Oshkosh Area School District to build two new schools and maintain educational opportunities for its students.

The ballot contained two school referendum questions: an operational referendum to renew educational operations, and a capital referendum to build a new elementary and middle school along with an increase of safety and security. Both referendums passed by over 5,000 votes.

The first referendum question asked residents to renew \$7.95 million in annual funds that were already approved in two previous referendums passed back in 2014 and 2016.

The second referendum question requested \$107 million in capital funds to begin the OASD’s long-range facilities plan that includes building a new elementary school where the current Webster school is and a new middle school adjacent to the current Merrill middle school.

Here are five things you need to know about the two school funding referendums that just passed.

The operational referendum consolidates funding from two

previous referendums.

The first referendum question asked residents for a renewal of \$7.95 million in annual funds that were already approved in two previous referendums passed back in 2014 and 2016.

The two previous referendums were a part of the school district’s “Learning Without Limits” plan that involves “retaining educational opportunities, protecting academic programs, providing staff with technology and security improvements.”

The 2014 learning composition referendum that implemented the “Learning Without Limits” plan approved \$3.95 million in annual funds while the 2016 referendum approved \$4 million in annual funds.

These referendums were set to expire in the 2021- ‘22 school year and 2022- ‘23 school year, but the OASD referendum that passed this election consolidated the funding from the two into one stream and pushed the expiration date to the 2029- ‘30 school year.

The operational referendum will have no additional impact on taxpayers.

The operational referendum was simply asking for a renewal of the two previous learning composition referendums.

This means that the property tax

increase needed to support these referendums were already apportioned into residents’ annual taxes from when they passed in 2014 and 2016.

The 2020 operational referendum alone will not cause any additional increase to Oshkosh residents’ taxes, however, with the passage of the capital referendum will slightly increase property taxes.

The capital referendum will cause an increase in Oshkosh property taxes.

The second referendum question requested \$107 million in capital funds to begin the OASD’s long-range facilities plan that includes building two new schools.

To support this facilities plan, residents will experience a property tax increase over the next 20 years.

Taxpayers will spend an extra \$48 in 2021 per \$100,00 home value. The tax hike will then jump to an extra \$70 per \$100,000 value in 2022 and then to \$85 per year for 2023 until 2040.

The capital referendum will fund the construction of two new school buildings.

The biggest project of the capital referendum is the construction of a new elementary school and middle school for the Oshkosh school district.

Title IX lawsuit fizzles out

By Joseph Schulz
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A year-long legal dispute between a former student and UW Oshkosh regarding the constitutionality of a Title IX proceeding concluded last week Friday with a judge dismissing the case.

The dismissal came after the former student — referred to in court documents as John Doe — and his legal counsel, Peter Culp, failed to appear at an Oct. 22 hearing.

After Doe failed to appear before the court, U.S. District Judge Brett Ludwig ordered Culp or Doe’s other counsel to “show cause in writing on or before Nov. 5.”

Culp filed a legal brief on Nov. 6, but it was too late and the case was dismissed by Ludwig that day for “failure to prosecute.”

Ludwig’s ruling marks the end of a legal fight that began with a Sept. 11, 2019 lawsuit from Doe against the university, alleging UWO had violated his 14th Amendment rights to due process and equal protection.

The case stems from a March 16,

2019, off-campus party sponsored by the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, after which Doe allegedly sexually assaulted a sorority member.

UWO held nonacademic 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 nonacademic 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 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. Con-

stitution 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, further complicating his due process claims.

Ultimately, the lawsuit ended before a judge could make a ruling regarding Doe’s argument and UWO’s response.

Sports

Porath uplifts teammates, terrifies opponents

By Cory Sparks
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From January to the beginning of March, star point guard and now senior Leah Porath was leading the UW Oshkosh women’s basketball team on an absolute tear as they entered the round of 16 in the Division III NCAA tournament.

Unfortunately, just as Porath was scoring 17.5 points per game, the coronavirus expanded to the point that sport competition across the country had halted.

Porath, who was the only Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference player to have seven games where she scored 20 points or more, was very hopeful about the remainder of what was turning into a magical season for the Titans before it was cut short.

“Based on how well our team was playing together at the end of the year, I really saw no end for us,” Porath said. “I felt, with the right game plan, we could’ve beat anybody.”

In comparison to her sophomore year, Porath took a huge leap forward during the 2019-2020 season, and it was very evident in her 27-point performance against Bethany Lutheran College (Minn.) in what was a round of 32 victory, and the last game of the season, for the Titans. From her sophomore to her junior year, Porath improved her points per game total from 7.2 to 17.5, her 3-point field goal percentage from 20.9 to 40.8 and she increased the amount of free throws she got per game from 1.6 to 4.0.

“Leah went from a strong rotation player to an All-American, so there’s not really a phase or two that improved,” head coach Brad Fischer said. “Her consistency from the 3-point line helped open everything up, but she was one of the most efficient players in the country. She found different ways to score every night and, I think, became a huge match-up problem for people because of it.”

Porath felt that all of these aspects of her game were unlocked when she improved her mental approach to basketball.

Being able to break the other team down before the tip-off even occurred gave Porath a sizable advantage over her competitors.



April Lee / Advance-Titan

Porath is currently a business major whose 3.65 cumulative GPA made her a member of the 2017-18 and 2018-19 WIAC Scholastic Honor Rolls. After three years as a Titan, Porath is averaging 10.5 points per game, is shooting 48.1% from the field and is shooting 36.7% from behind the 3-point line.

“I became more knowledgeable about shot selection, understanding the strengths of my teammates, being able to read the defense, etc.” Porath said. “That summer I worked a lot on how to read the defense and being able to read what move was most effective based on how the defense was playing.”

While Porath was a nightmare for matchups on opposing teams, having WIAC game highs of 12 field goals made against Alma (Mich.) and a 90% field goal percentage against Augustana (Ill.), she is praised by her fellow teammates for the relentless effort that she puts in and the positive impact that her play style has on everyone.

“She is someone you can look up to and strive to be like. She puts 100% into everything she does, and you can always count on that,” junior forward Abby Kaiser said. “She is [also] someone who draws a lot of attention and teams revolve their defense around her. Because of this, Leah is able to set our offense up by setting screens

and getting her teammates open, even if she is not the one taking the shots.”

Porath gives credit to her teammates for taking their competitiveness and overall execution to the next level, and this jump in both of those categories showed considering the team won their last six contests. Among those last six games was a win against UW-Whitewater, who is ranked 14th in the nation according to D3hoops.com, in order to solidify their bid into the 2020 March Madness tournament.

Along with her fellow teammates, Porath credits her coaching staff for planning accordingly for each opponent that the team took on.

“Our defense definitely improved at the end of the season,” Porath said. “This is because our coaches did an amazing job preparing us for each game, and as players, we executed that game plan and understood how to guard specific personnel.”

Along with those broadened team components being fired on

all cylinders, Porath heated up when the game mattered most. In the team’s 67-60 win against Bethany Lutheran (Wis.), Porath scored nine of the team’s last 10 points, including two crucial 3-pointers in the last four minutes of the game to solidify the Titans’ win.

“Down the stretch, Leah just continued to get better,” Kaiser said. “As we moved down the stretch, every team knew who Leah was and knew all of her strengths. However, she did not let this affect her game. Instead, she continued to show up every game and give it her all.”

In order to perform at a high level when it mattered most, Coach Fischer pointed to the emphasis that was put on team effort in order to preserve Porath, their most valuable player, for those crunch time moments at the end of high-stakes games.

“One of the biggest things about our late season run is we didn’t put everything on her shoulders,” Fischer said. “She carried us early in the year, and we were asking her

to do a lot in that middle portion of the season. At the end, we had a lot of people step up and give her some help.”

As for how Porath is seen as a player from a coach’s perspective, Fischer had a very specific answer when describing her style of play.

“Leah is tenacious,” Fischer said. “She has a tremendous work ethic paired with a competitive edge that makes her tough to handle every single day. She doesn’t just show up on game day. She is a seven-day-a-week competitor.”

In preparation for a season with an up-in-the-air status, Porath has made one thing very clear about her goals and the team’s goals if they are able to play against competition.

“My goal is to get farther than the sweet 16. I believe we have the talent and discipline to be able to achieve that,” Porath said. “Our team is going to continue practicing like there will be an NCAA tournament in order to get the most out of this year as well as already start preparing for next year.”



Courtesy of the UW Oshkosh women’s basketball twitter

At this time last year, the women’s basketball team had a 1-0 record after defeating Saint Mary’s University (Minn.) to open their regular season.



Courtesy of Leah Porath

Over the course of the 2019-20 season, Porath led the WIAC in points per game (17.5), points totaled (524) , 3-point percentage (40.8%), was third in rebounds per game (6.7) and was third in field goal percentage (48.9%).

Arts & Entertainment

Allen Priebe Gallery opens ‘Bridge Work 2020’ exhibit

By Carter Uslabar
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Allen Priebe Art Gallery
The Allen Priebe Gallery opened their most recent exhibition, “Bridge Work 2020,” featuring works by Phoenix S. Brown, Vaughan Larsen, Emily Leach, Will Santino and Reed Skocz on Nov. 5. The gallery is a mix of styles, but is marked by a consistency of quality.

Larsen’s photographs fea-

ture soft lighting and a set that suggests a regal, almost Renaissance-like quality, Brown’s paintings seek to subvert the window of Western painting and Skocz’ paintings are playfully colored, with both abstract and deconstructed images within.

Annex Art Gallery
In the Annex Gallery, located on the second floor of the Arts and Communication Center, a

new exhibit features work by Leach. The piece, which Leach titled “Reminder series,” showcases three projectors, shining images from three magic lantern slides onto the walls of the gallery.
Viewers can walk in front of and through the projected images, creating a highly immersive art experience.

The galleries are open through Dec. 3.



TOP: Vaughan Larsen’s portraits feature intimate moments and materials punctuated by a presence of tech. BOTTOM: Reed Skocz’ painting “Congregation” features playful colors and a palette reminiscent of Edward Hopper’s work.

Upbeat tunes for downbeat weather

Your Soul

Forrest, Biskwiq
Warm
2018



Free Pizza For Life

Ghost Mice
Death and Hatred to Mankind
2014

Superstar

Therapie Taxi
Hit Sale
2018



Skeleleleltons

SNCKPCK
Lava Pal
2015

Heatwave

Ryan Leahan
Platinum Green
2019



The Fox, The Crow And The Cookie

mewithoutYou
It's All Crazy...
2009

Back Pocket

Vulfpeck
Thrill of the Arts
2015



Sole food: A portrait of our footwear

By Carter Uslabar
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In fall, there’s an obvious change in seasons, marked by a change in the colors of our surroundings. Colors drain from the trees as they shed their leaves, and students’ white shoes change from blinding whites to spotty grays.

White shoes. Why do we buy these? They get dirty so easily, quickly losing the sparkling, unadulterated pureness they have fresh out of the box. To understand white shoes, let’s take a trip back to where else but Victorian England.

White, of course, is often associated with purity. “Cleanliness is next to godliness,” that whole gambit. But it wasn’t necessarily associated with wealth, as the colloquialism of a white-collar job would induce you to believe.

Interestingly, this initial white of white collar professions didn’t refer so much to the fact these clerical professions were less messy, but to the stiff white collars which literally restricted movement. Hatred ensued, of course. It’s much easier to look down your nose at another man if your neck is actually braced upright by your collar.

Sedentary, nonphysical labor was the mark of wealth during the Victorian era,

but fast forward to the early years of the 20th century, and white shirts had been democratized by the industrial process. Around the same time, rubber started to enjoy employment as the choice sole for shoes.

America’s burgeoning consumer culture and growing obsession with the aesthetics of athletics necessitated the purchase of all the proper equipment for such activities. Suddenly white shoes were everywhere.

White shoes are like ever-increasing responsibilities: the longer you stare, the more of them you see. UW Oshkosh’s campus is like a cornucopia of Air Force 1’s, Yeezys, Ultraboosts and Vans Eras.

These shoes are all renowned for their silhouettes, which are arguably the definitive characteristic of white shoes. Unadulterated by excessive branding or color, the shoes conjure an image of the relaxed or the athletic. Why be those things when our shoes can simply project an image of them?

White shoes seem like such a delicate sartorial choice. They give off an air of the bourgeois, for who else could be so willfully reckless regarding their shoes, or at least be unbothered by their increasingly soiled state? But it’s actually not bourgeois at all. Just like white shirts in

the early 20th century, white shoes are cheaply manufactured and replaceable.

Still, it begs the question why so many people — and all of the students I asked — prefer their white shoes slightly scuffed up, tarnished or not quite clean.

Joshua Vue, a UWO student, said he thinks people who keep their white shoes super clean might be insecure or concerned about what people think of them.

“I don’t care what people think of me,” Vue, whose white shoes were clean, but well worn and obviously scuffed, said.

On a scale of one to ten, one being brand new, ten being filthy, UWO sophomore Alexis Pyrchalla said she prefers her white shoes around a three.

“They don’t look too new,” Pyrchalla said. “[If they’re too new], it throws off your outfit. You’ve got to look like you’ve worn them a couple of times.”

But Pyrchalla, like every other student I asked, said she wouldn’t deliberately soil her shoes to achieve this broken-in look.

“It wouldn’t be authentic,” Pyrchalla said.

But what’s the difference between something being soiled deliberately or ‘authentically,’ by neglect? Pyrchalla didn’t know. Neither do I, but one might argue that deliberate destruction is better

than the attrition of neglect.

UWO sophomore Acelyn Forster said she’s washed her shoes a couple times.

“They’ve been through some things,” Forster said. “They got really muddy one day, and I think when they look too dirty I like to make them look somewhat clean at least.”

But Forster said the level of effort she puts toward keeping her shoes clean diminishes the longer she has them.

“When I first got them, I liked to try to keep them as clean as possible,” Forster said. “So I’m walking around puddles and not trying to go anywhere off the path, but now I’m kind of like, ‘eh, they’ve been through some stuff.’”

Aside from Forster’s remarks being an uncanny metaphor for romantic relationships, I can’t help but wonder why people like their white shoes to be somewhat dirty. It’s hard to imagine someone holding the same position when it comes to a shirt.

Regardless, white shoes have become a ubiquitous, steadfast vessel in the sea of ever-changing fast fashion. For better or for worse — whether they serve as a simple article to punctuate a stylish outfit, or to signal one’s perfectionism — white shoes, like jeans and leather jackets, appear unlikely to be going anywhere any-



Do UWO students know where Wyoming is?

By Owen Peterson
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Do UW Oshkosh students know where Wyoming is?

I could not tell you what made me want to know the answer to this question, nor why I thought the answer would be of any value to literally anybody, but I felt that it needed to be answered.

To find out if UWO students could find the great state of Wyoming, I conducted an abhorrently unscientific survey.

For the survey, students around the UWO campus were presented a blank map of the United States and simply asked to point at which state they thought was Wyoming.

In the end, 83 students gave their best shot at locating Wyoming, and only 47 were able to correctly identify its whereabouts.

In other words, just over half, or 56.6%, of the surveyed students successfully answered the question.

In all honesty, this was a lot better than I expected, but still disappointing.

During the interviews, it was evident that everyone immediately knew to look toward the Western U.S, but that is where the struggles began.

The states most commonly misidentified as Wyoming were Colorado and Montana, which made up 10.8 and 9.6% of the overall guesses each. In all fairness, these guesses were not too far off.

Most of the other wrong guesses were also for states that are very close to Wyoming. Idaho made up 6%, Oregon and South Dakota made up 4.8% each, Kansas made up 3.6% and Utah made up 1.2%.

In terms of answers that were significantly further off, Missouri and Arkansas each got one vote.

Also worth noting, the sophomore who guessed Arkansas started off their answer with “I know it has to be somewhere on

the East coast” before guessing one of the most central states in the contiguous U.S.

When doing the survey, the grade of the participants was also tracked, allowing for some further “analysis.”

The vast majority of the respondents (73.5%) were either freshmen or sophomores, which can be explained by the fact that they are more likely to be on campus, where the surveying was done.

The freshmen and sophomores each had an almost perfect split between right and wrong, with 51.6% of freshman finding Wyoming and 50% of sophomores doing the same.

The upperclassmen performed much better, with juniors being right 77.8% of the time and seniors being right 69.2% of the time, but the lower sample sizes of this group does mean these results could be very skewed.

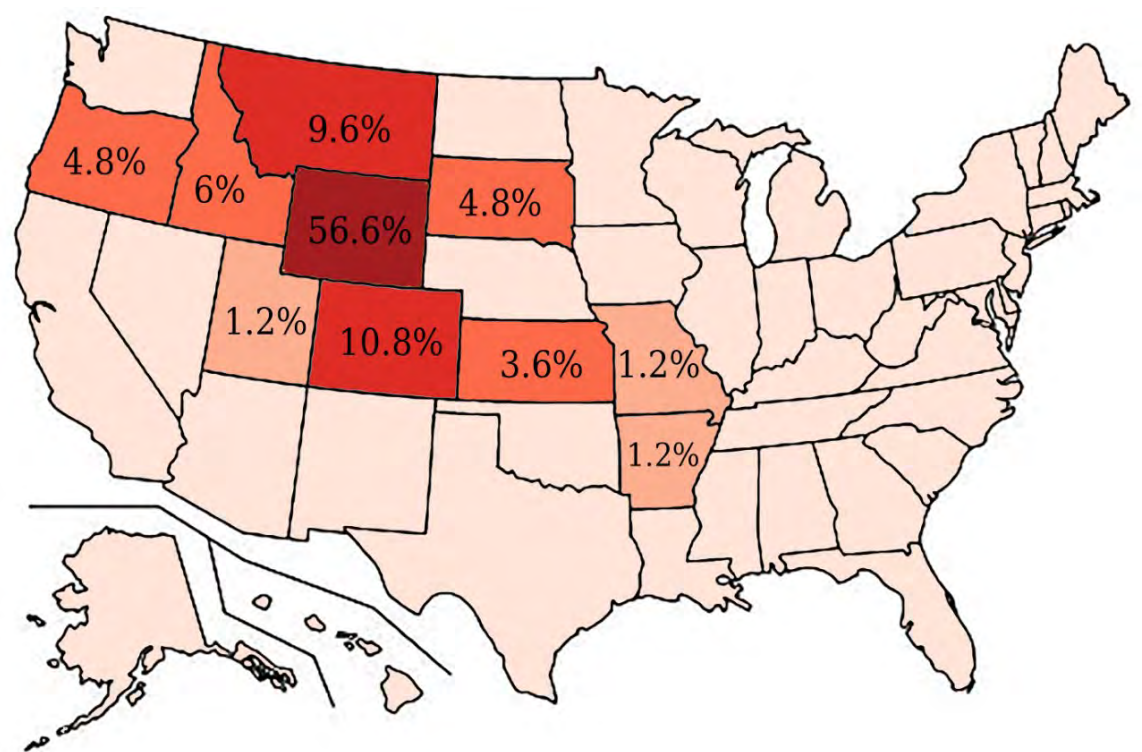
I suspect that if I did have a larger sample of upperclassmen, the percentage of those who correctly identify Wyoming would be closer to 53-60%, based on the law of large numbers.

In addition to interviewing UWO students, I also got a small sample of elementary school students to answer the same question as a point of reference.

In the sample of elementary school students, which was made up of third and fourth graders, only one out the 25 students was able to find Wyoming. That means only 4% of the elementary schoolers were only able to find Wyoming compared to 56.6% of UWO students.

Needless to say, this doesn’t really prove anything, but at least we have some indication that the education system isn’t a complete failure.

Unfortunately for the UWO students who picked Arkansas and Missouri, they were in a like mind with the 8- and 9-year-olds, who also often misidentified Wyoming as one of those two states.



In the survey, 47 UWO students found Wyoming, nine guessed Colorado, eight guessed Montana, five guessed Idaho, Oregon and South Dakota got four guesses each, three guessed Kansas and Utah, Missouri and Arkansas got one guess each.

While this study lacked nearly every element of a legitimate study, the results aren’t too far off the results of more professional surveys.

A 2006 National Geographic study on geographic literacy among Americans ages 18-24 presented participants with a map of the U.S. and had them try to identify seven states. The study found that, while the likes of Texas and California were correctly identified 92% of the time, the likes of Ohio and New York were only guessed correctly 43% and 50% of the time, respectively.

In that study, it is also noted that participants with college experience were more likely to identify all of the given states, which, for the purposes of my survey, would help explain why the success rate is comparatively high for finding a less popular state like Wyoming.

Another reason why the UWO numbers could be higher is because the surveying was done

| Percentage of correct answers by grade | | | |
|--|-------|-------|------|
| Grade (#) | Right | Wrong | % |
| Freshmen (31) | 16 | 15 | 51.6 |
| Sophomores (30) | 15 | 15 | 50 |
| Juniors (9) | 7 | 2 | 77.8 |
| Seniors (13) | 9 | 4 | 69.2 |
| Total (83) | 47 | 36 | 56.6 |

the week after the election, meaning that a good chunk of students had spent time examining a map of the U.S. at some point within the last week.

That being said, the fact that 43.4% of the UWO students could not identify one of their own 50 states is not exactly something to celebrate.

Sure, this survey may not have been the most conclusive study ever done, but I think it helps give some insight into just how geographically illiterate we

are as a country.

The fact that U.S. citizens not only rank very poorly among citizens of other developed nations in identifying countries of the world, but are also poor at finding the states in their own country, is kind of disappointing.

I really wanted to end this piece on a high note, but to be completely honest, I’m not sure there is one.

Letter to the Editor

What could an election result mean for an Oshkosh student?

By Morgan Goeden
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Most college students dream about having no college debt after attending a four-year university. This is achievable under the power of Joe Biden as president, under one condition...

As the 2020 presidential election nears its results in favor of Joe Biden, we can see the future of an economic uprise.

General economic knowledge allows us to accept the idea that providing more education to the people results in those same people providing their work to advance our economy. This idea is what motivates Joe Biden’s future education policies, ones that will satisfy the dreams of college students.

A major aspect of future stu-

dent loans is under the control of Joe Biden’s student loan policies. Specifically, Biden has key plans to make 4-year public colleges and universities tuition-free for some students.

Which students, you may ask?

In order to qualify for this benefit, a student’s family must make less than \$125,000 annually.

Now, what does this mean for UW Oshkosh students and Oshkosh’s economic future?

In the beneficial result of the unofficial election of Joe Biden as president, Oshkosh students may be eligible to attend college, specifically UW Oshkosh, tuition-free. Now, students may be able to feel a sense of financial relief when making the decision to continue their education into college or not.

Money may no longer be a deciding educational factor for families with an income of \$125,000 or less. Future UW Oshkosh students may be able to receive the benefits that this college has to offer without the drawback in their pockets.

When money no longer becomes a deciding educational factor, economists have proven that a positive increase in the surrounding economy is bound to happen. The City of Oshkosh lists their future economic goals under their Economic Development Division.

One of these goals includes the new construction of an addition to the Oshkosh Corporation. This 190,000 square foot addition will add more open job positions to the Oshkosh area, and specifically to the Oshkosh Corporation,

which is already Oshkosh’s largest employer.

When an economy adds more open job positions, they need skilled laborers to fill those positions. This is where more educated people are beneficial.

If Joe Biden successfully launches his student loan policy, the number of skilled laborers in the area is bound to rise exponentially. This rise in educated people is what is going to help fill open job positions in the Oshkosh economy.

When more people are educated and able to make more money, they tend to spend more money within the economy. When more students are gaining an education at UW Oshkosh due to free tuition, there is going to be more consumer spending.

General economic knowledge

tells us that there is a direct correlation between income and consumer spending. As the number of educated workers is on the rise, so is the income that those people are making. This rise in income will cause them to spend more of it within the Oshkosh area.

This consumer spending will benefit other businesses in Oshkosh and show a start to an economic rise.

So, we can see the benefits of Joe Biden’s policies and how well they may impact UW Oshkosh students and the surrounding area. Joe Biden’s policy will start a chain of positive effects starting from the rise in educated people, to increased job opportunities, to more income, to more consumer spending and finally to a result of an economic uprise.