

The Advance-Titan

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April Lee / Advance-Titan

Gov. Tony Evers spoke at a press event days after UW Oshkosh's COVID-19 vaccination center opened. UWO's COVID-19 vaccination center is one of several other UW System schools to serve as vaccination sites.

UWO opens vaccination facility

By Sophia Voight
voighs33@uwosh.edu

UW Oshkosh joined the vaccination effort that could help get Wisconsin past the pandemic with the opening of its community vaccination site at the Culver Family Welcome Center

(CFWC) last week.

"The University of Wisconsin's new way of doing things is not only to educate all people in the state," UW System Interim President Tommy Thompson said. "I've added a new twist that the University of Wisconsin also wants to be at the forefront of problem-solving."

The community COVID-19

vaccination center opened on the UWO campus Feb. 16 in partnership with Advocate Aurora Health of Oshkosh and the Winnebago County Health Department.

The vaccine center at the CFWC is one of four on UW System campuses.

Wisconsin is currently vaccinating those in Phase 1a, which includes healthcare workers, essen-

tial workers and those age 65 and over.

Eligible members of the community may request a COVID-19 vaccination appointment on the UWO Titans Return website at uwosh.edu/titans-return/vaccination/

"This is a really important day,"

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OSA elections for 2021/2022 weeks away

By Carter Usalabar
uslabe78@uwosh.edu

The Oshkosh Student Association election voting will be held March 9-10, beginning at 8 a.m. on Tuesday the 9th and will run until Wednesday the 10th at 8 p.m.

The window to announce candidacy for president, vice president and senate positions in the Oshkosh Student Association has officially passed.

As of the 3 p.m. Feb. 23 deadline, the OSA had received paperwork for just one presidential and vice presidential ticket, and paperwork for four senate bids.

While it's now too late to officially run, there's still a write-in option on the ballot. OSA office manager Tyler Klaver said in the OSA assembly Tuesday that if students get the word out, they can still be elected through the write-in option.

After Ian McDonald and Sydney Devitt's campaign last spring, this will be the second consecutive year that a ticket is running for the president and vice president position unopposed.



Clery Report:

By Sophia Voight
voighs33@uwosh.edu

UW Oshkosh's annual campus security report revealed that alcohol law violations remain the most reported crime on campus, while the number of burglaries and drug arrests is down in recent years.

Alcohol violations, which include citations and warnings for

the possession, consumption and distribution of alcohol under the legal drinking age, made up over 80% of reported crime on the UWO campus in 2019, according to the 2020 Annual Security Report.

Also known as the Clery report, the report is required annually by colleges nationwide and is named after Jeanne Clery, who was raped and murdered in her

Pennsylvania dorm room in 1986. In 1986, standards for campus crime reporting did not exist.

The UWO report showed that there were 619 alcohol referrals on campus in 2019, a 24% increase from 499 in 2018.

UWO Captain of Police Chris Tarmann said it's unfortunate how much underage drinking is expected on college campuses, but it doesn't remove the importance of tackling the issue.

One thing the University Police (UP) does to address the issue is partner with the Women's Center for the Red Zone initiative by providing an increased presence in vulnerable areas on campus.

The red zone refers to the six weeks at the beginning of the fall semester when a distance

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Phone: 920-424-3048
Email: atitan@uwosh.edu
Website:
www.advancetitan.com

Editor in Chief Carter Uslabar
uslabe78@uwosh.edu

Ad Manager Jon Woodall
woodaj30@uwosh.edu
414-519-6639

Distribution Manager Chris Gajdos
gajdoc89@uwosh.edu

Managing Editor Cory Sparks
sparkc21@uwosh.edu

News Editor Amber Brockman
brocka24@uwosh.edu

Assistant News Editor Sophia Voight
voighs33@uwosh.edu

Sports Editor Cory Sparks
sparkc21@uwosh.edu

Opinion Editor Owen Peterson
petero84@uwosh.edu

Arts & Entertainment Editor Lexi Langendorf
langel29@uwosh.edu

Copy Desk Chief Heidi Docter
docteh72@uwosh.edu

Graphic Designer Amanda Hollander
hollaa43@uwosh.edu

Photo Editor April Lee
leep39@uwosh.edu

Web Editor Olivia Ozbaki
ozbako81@uwosh.edu

Social Media Manager Grant Hunter
hunteg39@uwosh.edu

Copy Desk Editors: Kira Moericke, Aaron Beecher

Staff Writers: Andrew Hansen, Lexi Wojcik-Kretchmer, Jonathan Samp, Cassidy Kennedy, Katie Pulvermacher, Megan LaFond

Faculty Adviser Barb Benish
benish@uwosh.edu

About the Newspaper
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Correction Policy:
The Advance-Titan is committed to correcting errors of fact that appear in print or online. Messages regarding errors can be emailed to atitan@uwosh.edu.



April Lee / Advance-Titan

Gov. Tony Evers celebrates the opening of the Culver Family Welcome Center vaccination site. The community COVID-19 vaccination center opened on the UWO campus Feb. 16 in partnership with Advocate Aurora Health of Oshkosh and the Winnebago County Health Department.

COVID-19: Vaccine site opens at Culver Center

From Page 1

Gov. Tony Evers said at the Friday press conference celebrating the opening of the vaccine center.

“I look forward to continuing to work with the University of Wisconsin System and health systems across the state of Wisconsin to make sure that we do get adequate vaccines,” Evers said.

Oshkosh Chair of Infection Prevention at Aurora Health Brian Temple said this community vaccine site is focused on vaccinating groups who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

This includes frontline healthcare workers and communities of color that have been hit the hardest by the pandemic.

“We are determined to use every avenue we can to help engage individuals around the importance of vaccines,” Temple said.

Evers said the community clinic is also intended to help vaccinate those without health insurance.

“Because it’s a community clinic, we’re hoping that we will reach out to people that are disenfranchised from the healthcare world,” he said.

The center currently vaccinates around 250 individuals a

day, according to UWO vaccination site operations leader Tracy Miller, but the site has the capacity to administer 1,000 a day if they are allotted enough doses.

Patients of the center will receive either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines, depending on supply, both of which require two doses.

Winnebago County health officer Doug Gieryn said it’s important for county residents to continue social distancing and wearing a mask while vaccines roll out.

“By continuing our current efforts we will prevent hospitalizations and protect our most vulnerable citizens,” he said.

Gieryn said cases have fortunately trended down in recent weeks, but relaxed behavior before the majority of the county is vaccinated will cause more spikes in cases.

Over 10% of Winnebago County’s population has tested positive for COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic, according to Gieryn, with over 16,000 total probable or confirmed cases of the virus in the county.

“Right now the vaccine is flowing slowly — I ask you to be patient,” he said. “We have more vaccines on the way.”

By continuing our current efforts we will prevent hospitalizations and protect our most vulnerable citizens.

-Doug Gieryn, Winnebago County health officer

WI progresses on vaccine distribution

Educators slated to receive vaccine beginning next week

By Andrew Hansen
hansea31@uwosh.edu

State health officials said they expect to move into the second half of Phase 1B next week, meaning that educators will be the next group to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

UW Oshkosh Director of Risk and Safety Kim Langolf says that Phase 1B will also include some students.

“So we’re in Phase 1A right now and phase 1B starts on March 1st, which is really for educators and other essential

employees,” Langolf said. “So if you’re a student and meet any of the listed criteria, you would be eligible. But for a typical student that doesn’t fall into one of those categories, they would not be eligible yet.”

Vaccines are currently being distributed to the community at the Culver Family Welcome Center through a partnership with Aurora and Winnebago County Health Department.

Langolf said that while a vaccine for the general population won’t be available until later this year, UWO health officials are

actively preparing.

“Once the vaccine is for the general population, where a majority of our students will be eligible, there’s going to be two ways you can get the vaccine,” Langolf said. “One will be through the community vaccination site, and the other way is that the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh has applied to be a vaccinator itself and we will get an allocation of vaccines at some point.”

Given that both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two doses to work effectively, UWO would need over 20,000 doses to fully vaccinate the entire campus population.

“We do request an amount, and that request has to be made on

what we will use the following week,” Langolf said. “I would love to get 1,800 a week in the beginning.”

Due to the high demand of the vaccine, many vaccine requests have not been able to be matched by the state.

“99% of people have been getting a much lower allocation than they requested,” Langolf said. “So we may only get 50 vaccines, for example, because of the supply and demand.”

According to a federally-backed policy change announced by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid services in October 2020, the vaccine will be free to all who receive it, regardless of their health insurance plan.



April Lee / Advance-Titan

UW Oshkosh’s annual security report reveals that alcohol violations made up 80% of reported campus crime.

Clery: Alcohol violations still UWO’s most reported crime

From Page 1

-proportionate number of campus sexual assaults take place.

Tarmann said students who consume alcohol are often vulnerable to being victims of assault, especially during the red zone, so the UP has more strict enforcement of alcohol violations during this time.

“We know that some of those activities are going to happen regardless, so if we’re in the area then we’re also letting people who are going to prey on our vulnerable students know that we’re out there,” Tarmann said.

He said that the behaviors that come with drinking are often linked to the likelihood of sexual harassment or assault occurring.

“Our presence and our ability to reduce those under-age activities actually reduces the potential for sexual assaults,” he said.

The number of reported sexual offenses, including rape and fondling, on campus have remained low with only six reported offenses in 2019, up from three in 2018.

However, Tarmann said he thinks those numbers don’t reflect the actual number of sex offenses on campus since those crimes are likely underreported.

According to a report from the Journal of American College Health, 50% of sexual assaults on college campuses occur in August, September, October and November. Students are most at risk for sexual assault in their first or second semester of college.

UWO has seen a decrease in the number of drug arrests and

drug abuse violations in recent years.

Drug arrests decreased by nearly 50% in the past three years. According to the report, 74 arrests were made for drugs in 2017, while 40 arrests were made in 2019.

Drug abuse violations have consistently decreased over the past five years, the study shows. There were 152 drug violations on campus in 2015 and 92 in 2019, nearly a 40% decrease over five years.

Tarmann said the decrease in drug arrests and violations is because the UP has changed how they manage drug calls in recent years.

A large number of drug arrests are for marijuana, and Tarmann said the UP previously apprehended all incidents where the smell of marijuana was present or reported.

Tarmann said the UP recently chose to only address situations where the smell of marijuana is present if the people involved are causing problems.

“If you smell like marijuana but you’re not causing a problem, that’s not really something that we’re gonna address,” he said. “But if you are causing a problem and you smell like marijuana — that we address.”

The Clery report showed that UWO’s burglaries have decreased since 2017, when 14 were reported. Burglaries have gone down about 78% since then with three reported in 2019.

Tarmann said the decrease in burglaries is likely due to the UP’s “Busted” initiative that be-

gan in 2018 as a way to give students burglary prevention tips.

Under the Busted initiative, officers check residence halls for unlocked doors and leave a flyer with tips on how to prevent burglaries if they find rooms open and unattended.

Burglaries on campus went down 14% after the initiative was implemented, according to crime statistics.

Tarmann said the initiative was created after the UP found that the majority of burglaries on campus were happening inside residence halls.

“Our strategy was to have our people in residence halls walk down the hallways and if they see a door open ... and if nobody was there and the door was open, they would put a plastic card in front of the door and close it,” he said.

Tarmann said the UP expanded the Busted initiative to other campus buildings where students will receive information cards if an officer finds their property unattended.

“We figured out a way to communicate with our community members so that they can receive information on burglaries in a non-threatening way,” he said.

Tarmann said the UP’s strategy on burglaries is to share their crime data with the community to keep them informed.

“When your police officers have good relationships with people in their community then they will share information which helps us resolve crimes faster as well,” he said.

Chancellor addresses vaccine, state budgets

By Katie Pulvermacher
pulvek45@uwosh.edu

UW Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt acknowledged community concerns with COVID-19, budget proposals, the fall 2021 semester and things to be looking forward to at a town hall meeting last week.

“We’re off to a great start in this semester,” Leavitt said. “If you happen to be on campus, you notice students, you notice people. It’s my sincere hope that we’ll be back to some reasonable new normal as quickly as possible.”

Gov. Tony Evers’ proposed 2021-23 state budget

Gov. Tony Evers proposed his 2021-23 biennial budget, regarding funding of higher education.

The tiers include \$40 million in cost to continue funding UW colleges, \$50 million to cover the tuition freeze and \$40 million in general block grant funding, which would help the UW System apply funding where it sees fit.

“The \$50 million [for the tuition freeze] is predicated on the notion of ‘funding the freeze,’” Assistant to the Chancellor Alex Hummel said. “This would essentially lean on GPR to make us whole and keep us going, because we do not have the ability to raise tuition and cover a lot of the associated costs.”

Evers has also integrated a tuition promise program, which mirrors Bucky’s Tuition Promise program that was launched at UW-Madison. \$39 million would go toward allowing and supporting students from families whose gross income is \$60,000 or less to attend any UW System institutions.

The Freshwater Collaborative, a constellation of universities working on freshwater technology, conservation and related disciplines throughout the state, is directly invested with \$9 million.

The prison education initiative is funded \$5 million, \$10 million to student behavioral health, \$5 million toward foster youth support, nurse educator funding and more.

The governor’s budget would allow the UW System to establish credit markets for operational modeling, which ultimately is designed to help support universities through difficult periods.

There are some other provisions to allow the UW System to establish a working capital program, re-address Minnesota-Wisconsin reciprocity and allow DACA students to receive in-state tuition.

“Clearly, Gov. Evers wants to invest in the UW System,” Leavitt said. “And that’s something we’re very grateful for.”

To learn more about Evers’ 2021-23 Biennial Budget, visit doa.wi.gov.

Plans for access and tech campuses

According to the Wisconsin State Journal, the relationship between the technical college system and the UW System created a lot of uncertainty as to what individual plans are for the access and tech campuses.

“I want to reassure everyone that UW Oshkosh is and remains committed to fully developing our two access campus,” Leavitt said.

The main purpose is still that UWO-Fox Cities campus and

UWO-Fond du Lac’s educational attainment rate is raised.

“We’re not interested in speaking of any kind of changes to the arrangements we already had made,” Leavitt said.

Performance evaluations

Performance evaluations are due on March 1. These evaluations include identifying, measuring and developing job-related employee performance of UWO staff.

Evaluations must occur for all employees on an annual basis. A performance evaluation form must be completed and submitted to human resources after each review.

“We have an awful amount of employees at this university who have obligations at home,” Leavitt said.

These obligations include child-care or parent care, which have increased due to COVID-19.

Leavitt asks that supervisors, as they are evaluating employees at the university, put some level of grace into consideration as everyone is under a great level of stress.

Vaccines

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has approved educators for becoming eligible for the vaccine posed March 1.

The DHS website’s eligibility standards state that faculty and staff and higher education settings who have direct contact with students are eligible.

The Culver Family Welcome Center on the UWO campus is currently open for those 65 years or older to get their vaccines via the uwosh.edu website, and educators are anticipated to be added to the site next week.

At that point, people can sign up to receive an email from Aurora to receive a vaccine appointment.

“Our student health care clinic has been working tirelessly to also be licensed as vaccinators,” Chair of the Department of Economics Chad Cotti said.

As of now, UWO is uncertain if their health care clinic will be able to receive doses of the vaccine to distribute from that site as well.

To schedule a vaccination appointment, visit one of the following links: walgreens.com, uwosh.edu, co.winnebago.wi.us, foxcitiescovidvaccine.com.

Marching band coming to UWO

Leavitt made a request to UWO’s strategic enrollment team looking into the possibility of starting a marching band.

“Since the day I stepped on campus, I’ve always wondered where our marching band was,” Leavitt said. “I certainly have great interest in beginning one.”

Marching band is the number one activity asked for by students that UWO does not offer.

“We’re the only institution [of the eight teams in the WIAC] to my knowledge that does not have a marching band,” Leavitt said.

Marching bands will attract students to the campus and will give students a fun opportunity to join an organization on campus.

Students on all three campuses will be eligible for the marching band. Leavitt hopes the marching band will kickstart in fall 2022 after fundraising.

What is gerrymandering?

By Sophia Voight
voighs33@uwosh.edu

Congressional representatives, state senators and assembly representatives will be subject to the redistricting process over the next year.

With the collection of the census data every 10 years, states redraw the boundaries of their electoral districts in order to balance shifting population among districts. This includes any legislative districts for the House of Representatives, state Senate, and state assembly.

The purpose of redistricting is to create districts of equal population to ensure every voter has an equal say — but that is not typically the result. What instead tends to occur is the manipulation of maps to give one party political advantage over another, also known as gerrymandering.

What is gerrymandering?

Gerrymandering is a term used when one political party redraws the legislative maps so that the voters in that district favor their party over their opposition.

Electoral districts are usually drawn by state legislatures and if one party holds a majority in both houses of the legislature, they can essentially draw district lines in their favor. This typically results in oddly shaped districts intended to include or exclude certain voters.

The goal of gerrymandering is to secure one party a majority of the seats in the legislature and as few seats as possible for their op-

posing party.

This kind of political tactic is oftentimes used to protect incumbents during re-election by grouping all of their supporters together, thus minimizing competition.

Gerrymandering tactics have been used by both Democrats and Republicans, although Republicans were able to control the redistricting that took place in 2010 because they controlled the majority of state legislatures that year.

How is gerrymandering done?

Mapmakers manipulate districts in one of two ways, either “packing” or “cracking.”

Cracking is the drawing of electoral districts in a way that spreads into opposing party voters across districts so that they never make up a majority in the electorate. This gives the mapmakers majority of the vote in most, if not all, electoral districts.

Packing occurs when as many of the opposing party’s voters are jammed into as few districts as possible. This gives the opposing party a landslide victory in a specific district but affords that party very few wins in legislature as a whole.

Packing is used in conjunction with cracking to shovel as many minority voters into as little districts as possible, while thinly spreading out the remaining supporters into districts with plenty of majority party voters.

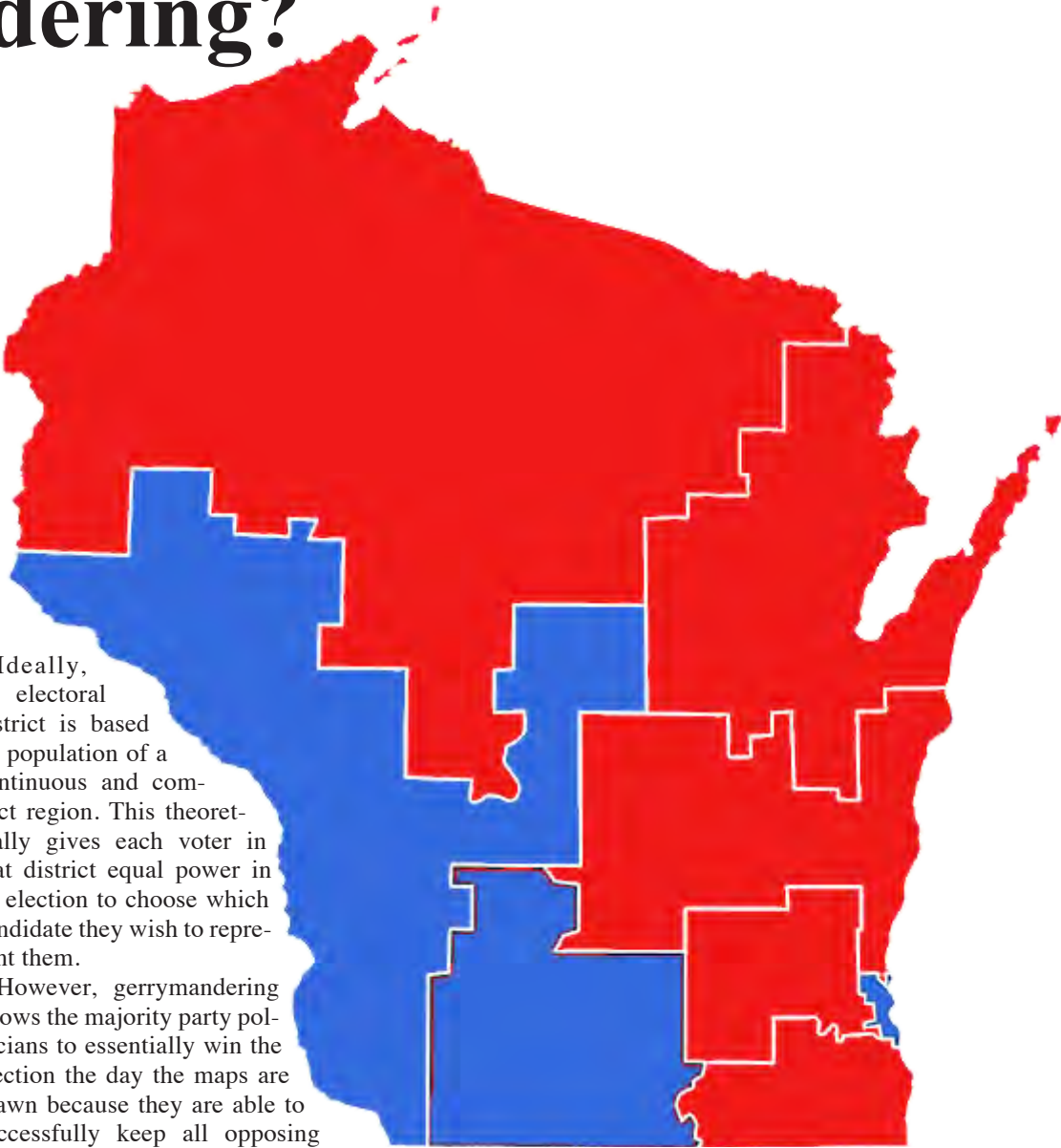
How does gerrymandering affect our elections?

Ideally, an electoral district is based on population of a continuous and compact region. This theoretically gives each voter in that district equal power in an election to choose which candidate they wish to represent them.

However, gerrymandering allows the majority party politicians to essentially win the election the day the maps are drawn because they are able to successfully keep all opposing party voters in the minority.

When politicians are able to strategically manufacture their victories, they don’t have to reach out to their constituents as much, as they know they have already secured re-election.

Even if the majority of state voters are opposed to an issue,



Graphic by Sophia Voight
Wisconsin’s eight congressional districts by Democratic or Republican control for 2021.

politicians are able to disperse those voters out among districts, so they won’t make up the majority opinion in the legislature.

Similarly, when politicians ar-

en’t worried about losing re-election or seats for their party, they are less likely to compromise with opposing party politicians.

How algorithms assist in gerrymandering

By Sophia Voight
voighs33@uwosh.edu

Gerrymandering is the drawing of representational districts to create an unfair political advantage for one party, but how do legislators know who you voted for or what party you belong to when drawing those districts in order to create a political advantage?

Today, political mapmaking is a multimillion-dollar enterprise that uses big data and computer algorithms to predict who people will vote for with almost surgeon-like precision.

The U.S. Constitution requires congressional apportionment to be based on population and by law states must redistrict after each decennial census to account for population shifts, but there are few laws stating what data is to be used when redistricting.

Only 21 states explicitly require the use of census data for legislative and congressional redistricting. Wisconsin typically practices the use of federal census data for redrawing electoral maps but has no law requiring its use.

State legislators can use property records, political affiliations of registered voters, previous election results and the address of incumbents to effectively adjust political lines to ensure incumbents win reelection in races following redistricting.

But the new age of access to big data has made partisan mapmaking far more accurate at determining the trends of voters to secure

one party a majority of the seats in the legislature.

The data people create and share every day from apps, Google searches and social media can be used to create algorithms that categorize who is more likely to be a Democrat or Republican.

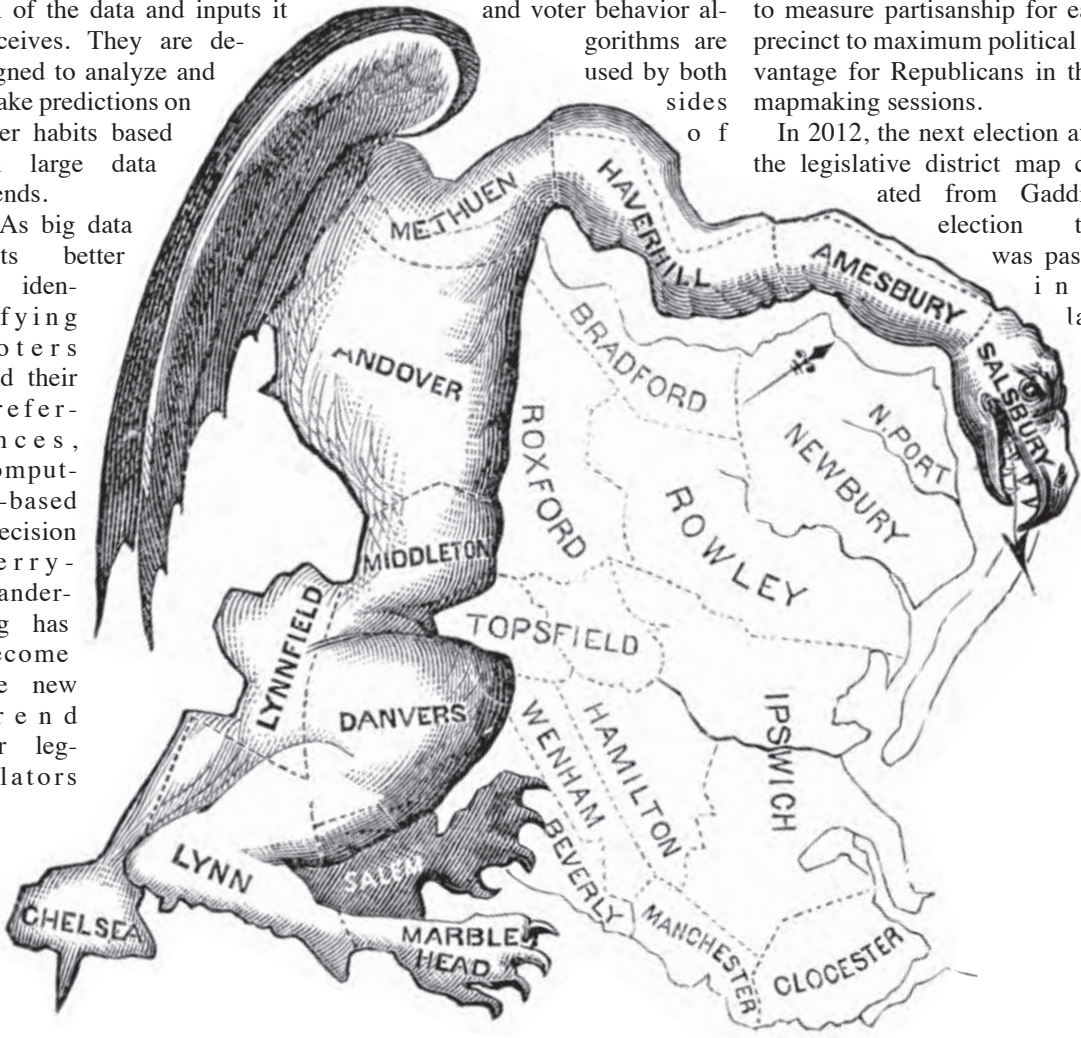
Algorithms are instructions that tell a computer what to do with all of the data and inputs it receives. They are designed to analyze and make predictions on user habits based on large data trends.

As big data gets better at identifying voters and their preferences, computer-based precision gerrymandering has become the new trend for legislators

looking to draw partisan district lines.

Today, partisan lawmakers can use algorithms to design hypothetical boundaries and get instantaneous results of voting behavior, racial composition and population distribution that could tip the scales in their favor.

Partisan gerrymandering and voter behavior algorithms are used by both sides of



trum, but since Republicans controlled a majority of state legislatures while redistricting after the last census, they were able to successfully draw maps in their favor.

This happened in Wisconsin when Republican legislators hired University of Oklahoma elections professor Keith Gaddie to measure partisanship for each precinct to maximum political advantage for Republicans in their mapmaking sessions.

In 2012, the next election after the legislative district map created from Gaddie’s election tool was passed into law,

Republicans won less than half the votes, but more than 60 percent of assembly seats.

The creation of the Redistricting Majority Project, or REDMAP, in 2010 also helped Republicans successfully seize control of representational districts in swing states.

REDMAP was a project of the Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC) created to increase Republican control of congressional and state legislative seats during 2010 redistricting. The project utilized sophisticated mapping software to determine electoral boundaries that would guarantee Republican wins.

The initiative was incredibly successful in gerrymandering districts in favor of Republicans. Republicans were able to score nearly 700 additional legislative victories in 2010 state legislative races, including in Wisconsin.

According to REDMAP’s summary report, the RSLC spent \$1.1 million to successfully flip both chambers of the Wisconsin legislature in 2010 through the help of REDMAP’s algorithms.

Now because everything we do can be tracked and recorded into algorithms, determining the likelihood and strength of political leaning is easier than ever. Computer-based gerrymandering has been around for decades, but as algorithms get smarter at analyzing our data it will likely increase the effectiveness of partisan gerrymandering in the decades to come.



Wisconsin’s effort to create fair electoral maps

Congressional redistricting virtual public hearing tonight

By Sophia Voight
voighs33@uwosh.edu

With the collection of census data every 10 years, states redraw the boundaries of their electoral districts in order to balance the shifting population among districts.

This includes any legislative districts for the House of Representatives, state Senate and state assembly.

The purpose of redistricting is to create districts of equal population to ensure every voter has an equal say, but that is not typically the result.

The demographics of a district often determine who its citizens elect as their representatives, which leaves redrawing districts vulnerable to gerrymandering as politicians along party lines want to hold as many seats as possible in the legislature.

In an effort to prevent partisan gerrymandering during the 2021 mapmaking, Gov. Tony Evers established the People’s Maps Commission by executive order in early 2020.

According to a Marquette Law School poll, 72% of the public prefer redistricting of legislative and congressional districts to be done by a nonpartisan commission.

The People’s Map Commission

is a group of nine nonpartisan individuals tasked with conducting hearings and gathering input from experts and citizens across the state on how to create fair maps for Wisconsin.

Under the executive order, the commission members may not be elected officials, public officials, lobbyists or political party officials. Instead, the commission is made up of experts in nonpartisan redistricting, members from communities of interest and residents of each of the state’s eight congressional districts.

The idea of the commission is that the people of Wisconsin, instead of politicians, should make the decision about their representational districts.

Their goal is to assist in drawing fair, nonpartisan maps in a transparent and participatory manner.

The maps created by the commission will only be used as recommendations for state legislatures, which will inevitably be the ones to draft official district lines. The Legislature will then choose to accept the commission’s maps or ignore their maps to draft their own.

All commission members had to apply for the position and were then selected by three retired state judges. The resulting nine members were chosen from a

pool of 270 applicants.

The commission’s redistricting hearings have already begun around the state, starting back in September. In total, there will be eight hearings — one for each congressional district — for Wisconsinites to give their input on the importance of fair mapping and how partisan maps affect their communities.

Due to COVID-19, the People’s Maps Commission will host virtual public hearings in each congressional district. All members of the public are encouraged to give their input on how electoral lines impact you and your community and how you think the commission should approach drawing the new district lines.

The commission members will also hear from experts about the importance of fair maps, the computer systems and statistics that help draw the maps, and new ideas and theories on the best way to draw maps.

The 6th Congressional District hearing will be held on Feb. 25 from 5:30 - 8:45 p.m.

You can find more information on how to get involved in the hearing at govstatus.egov.com/peoplesmaps/hearings-meetings.

Once all hearings are conducted and the 2020 census data for Wisconsin has been made available, the commission will draw up electoral map proposals.

Under the executive order, the People’s Maps will need to:

- Be free from partisan bias and advantage

- Avoid diluting or diminishing minority votes, including the practices of “packing” and “cracking”
- Be compact and contiguous
- Avoid splitting wards and municipalities
- Retain the core population in each district
- Maintain traditional communities of interest, and
- Prevent voter disenfranchisement

This method for approaching mapmaking is derived from Iowa’s redistricting system, where nonpartisan staff draws the lines with a nonpartisan approach.

The difference between the commission’s maps and Iowa’s system, however, is that Iowa’s nonpartisan mapmaking carries the force of law, while the Wisconsin commission relies on an executive order, and any maps developed by the commission will be recommendations and won’t carry the force of law.

In his State of the State address in January, Evers said nonpartisan redistricting legislation has been introduced for years but hasn’t been able to pass the Republican-controlled Legislature.

The governor said the Legislature’s choice to not move forward on issues like medical marijuana and expanding background checks on gun sales when they are heavily supported by Wisconsinites is proof lawmakers aren’t accountable to voters.

Gov. signs bill expanding vaccine administration

Gov. Tony Evers today signed Assembly Bill (AB) 4, now 2021 Wisconsin Act 3, which would allow pharmacy technicians and students to administer COVID-19 vaccines under certain conditions.

“While we work to get shots in arms as soon as we have supply available, we also want to make sure we’re maximizing our capacity by expanding the number of people who can administer those doses once we have them,” Gov. Evers said. “Getting vaccine doses to folks across our state continues to be our top priority so we can recover and bounce back from this pandemic.”

Evers signed AB 4 today at UW Oshkosh following a tour of the campus’ COVID-19 vaccination clinic that opened this week in partnership with Advocate Aurora Health of Oshkosh and the Winnebago County Public Health Department.

AB 4, now 2021 Wisconsin Act 3, allows a pharmacy student who has completed two years of pharmacy school to administer a vaccine under the supervision of

a healthcare provider who is authorized to administer vaccines. Additionally, under AB 4, additional persons would be allowed to administer vaccines under certain conditions, including the following:

The person has completed at least two hours in a course of study and training, approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education or the board, in hands-on injection technique and the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines;

The person acts under the direct supervision of a pharmacist who has completed a course in study on topics relating to vaccination;

The person holds a current certification in basic life support or cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and

The person holds a certified pharmacy technician certification from either the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board or the National Healthcareer Association.



Gov. Evers signed a bill expanding COVID-19 vaccine administration to pharmacy technicians at a press conference Friday.

This week in UWO history

Feb. 25, 1996 — The Oshkosh men’s basketball team earns its first-ever bid to the NCAA Division III tournament. The 22-3 Titans — the team’s best record since 1968 — receive a No. 3 seed in the West Region of the 64-team field, squaring off against Simpson College. They receive an at-large bid largely in part to their 13-3 Wisconsin State University Conference record, the Titan’s best conference finish since 1978.

Feb. 26, 1942 — Lt. William J. McGowan becomes the first Oshkosh student to die from the World War II conflict. McGowan’s parachute malfunctioned when he was forced to eject from his plane during a flight exercise over Mississippi. He had just recently completed flight training school and received his wings

Feb. 27, 1985 — G. Gordon Liddy, a former FBI agent who also served time for his role for the Watergate break-in, speaks to about 800 people at Albee Hall. Liddy believes Americans are living a life of illusions. The former Nixon administration aide predicted a military draft, the collapse of Social Security and the eventual military supremacy of the Soviet Union. About a dozen protestors, many representing the student group Mobilization for Survival, hand out pamphlets for about 30 minutes before Liddy’s speech protesting the cost of \$4,800 to bring the convicted felon to campus.

Feb. 28, 1866 — The Board of Regents of Normal Schools votes to establish the first state normal school in the 5th Congressional District and third such school overall in Wisconsin at Oshkosh.

Feb. 29, 1996 — The Oshkosh men’s basketball team defeats Simpson College 79-74 at Kolf Sports Center in its first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division III tournament. The Titans, who shoot 62.5% from the field, are led by Dennis Ruedinger’s 24 points. Their season ends two days later on March 2, losing to Adolphus College 61-60 in double overtime.

March 1, 1962 — Nels Peter Nelson, a longtime secondary education director and associate professor of education, dies at 67. The Neenah native served as the director of the division of secondary education from 1925 until his death. The Oshkosh Normal 1920 graduate was also a World War I veteran. Nelson Hall was named for him. The hall was torn down in 2010 to make room for Horizon Residence Hall.



Sports



April Lee / Advance-Titan

After UWO swept UWSP, they jumped up to 13th in the NCAA Division III by D3hoops.com. Sophomore forward Levi Borchert was then named to the five-member D3hoops.com Men’s Basketball Team of the Week after averaging 18 points and 13 rebounds in the two game sweep against UWSP.

By Jonathon Samp
sampj98@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh men’s basketball team had another successful week on the hardwood last week winning both of their games against UW-Stevens Point in dominating fashion.

The Titans beat UWSP 76-62 on Feb. 17 in Stevens Point and then came home and won 86-66 on Feb. 19. In Wednesday’s game, senior guard Eddie Muench led the charge with 23 points, but sophomore Levi Borchert was also in the mix as he tallied on 16.

Borchert led the way in the scoring column on Feb. 19 as he put up 20 points, but scoring was spread across the board for the Titans as sophomore guard Will Mahoney had 17, junior guard Eric Peterson contributed 15, junior guard Hunt-

er Plamann put up 13 and Muench added 11.

Borchert scored in numerous ways, shooting 9-for-12 from the floor and also going 1-1 from 3 point land in the win.

“I’ve been working to expand my range to the 3-point line on the offensive end, and on the defensive end just overall becoming a better defender because with our somewhat smaller team this year, my defensive role is slightly different,” Borchert said. “Beyond that I’m always trying to improve all aspects of my game.”

Mahoney hopes to use this season to improve his strength for next season.

“My last year as a freshman I was about 173lbs and now I’m hovering around 190lbs and still trying to gain weight,” Mahoney said. “All that helps with defend-

ing and rebounding, so that’s the skill I am working in this season to prepare for next season.”

Both games scheduled for this week against UW-Eau Claire have been cancelled this week due to a positive COVID-19 test on the UWEC team, meaning the Titans will head right into the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) playoffs.

The Titans have been preparing for the playoffs, which will begin on March 1.

“We’re preparing for the WIAC playoff just like we always do by going all out in practice everyday, staying focused in film and going to workouts,” Mahoney said. “It is a little more meaningful this year because we know we don’t have a NCAA tournament.”

The Titans were not able to play against every team this regular

season due to COVID-19 causing the WIAC to split into the East and West Divisions. This means that the Titans could potentially face a team they haven’t seen yet. The team considers everyone a threat in the WIAC playoffs because they haven’t played all of them in the regular season.

“I know we aren’t going to get a chance to play every team in the WIAC, but just based off returning talent from every team and based off the teams we already played, I think every team can do damage,” Borchert said.

“I don’t think there is just one team that we need to focus on; we have to be prepared for any team on any given night.” Head coach Matt Lewis said. “The WIAC is incredibly competitive from top to bottom. The tournament will be a challenge and we look forward to

competing in it.”

The Titans get a week off from game play, but will head right into the WIAC playoffs starting next week Monday with the quarterfinal game. Coach Lewis is thankful to have team-oriented leaders on the team heading into the playoffs.

“We are fortunate to have a roster full of selfless, great teammates,” Lewis said. “Each guy has sacrificed an incredible amount this year to keep us on the court. Heading into the WIAC Tournament, our goal is to play physical, tough basketball and enjoy the week as much as possible.”

The Titans will look to repeat as WIAC champions for the second year in a row. Quarterfinal games will be played on March 1, semifinal games on March 3 and the WIAC Championship game will be played on March 5.



April Lee / Advance-Titan

Junior guard Hunter Plamann (5) is averaging 13.0 points per game while shooting 40.8% from the field and 42.9% from behind the 3-point line. He is also a perfect 100% from the free-throw line this season.



April Lee / Advance-Titan

Senior guard Eddie Muench (3) is averaging 19.4 points per game while shooting 56.9% from the field and 48.7% from behind the 3-point line. He has improved in all three of those statistical categories from last year.

Women's basketball atop WIAC East

By Cory Sparks
sparkc21@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh women's basketball team swept UW-Stevens Point in a pair of blowouts on Feb. 17 and 19 by scores of 75-45 and 67-40.

UWO's 30- and 27-point wins were the team's largest margin wins of the year, and the only time the team trailed was an 0-2 deficit in the first couple of minutes of the second game.

After the second bout against UWSP, UWO sits atop the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) East Division with a 5-1 record and two games left to play in the abbreviated regular season.

"These games were always essentially non-conference games as our seeding was determined by just division games," head coach Brad Fischer said. "Our players didn't get the normal progression of a year where they, especially the newcomers, get to go out there and get their feet wet in games that don't have as high of stakes."

Leah Porath led UWO in scoring in the first game at home against UWSP with 22 points on an 8-for-14 shooting effort from the field and a 1-for-3 shooting effort from behind the 3-point line.

Other notable scoring efforts came from junior forward Abby Kaiser, sophomore guard Jenna Jorgensen and freshman forward Kayce Vaile, who all had 10 points each.

UWO's defense allowed UWSP to shoot just 15-for-45 from the field (33%), while scoring only 45 points.

There have been a couple of recent standouts who have stepped up their defensive game.

"I think Julia Silloway and Abby Kaiser have set the tone for us with their ability to help pressure the ball and affect the other team's better perimeter players," Fischer said. "I also think others who haven't been known for their



Freshman guard Lydia Crow surveys the court as she prepares to pass the ball in the Feb. 17 matchup against UWSP at the Kolf Sports Center. UWO went on to win the matchup by a score of 75-45, making the game thier largest blowout win of the year.

Katie Pulvermacher / Advance-Titan

defense, like Jenna Jorgensen and Karsyn Rueth, have taken a little bit more pride on that end of the floor."

UWSP didn't help themselves either, as they only shot 11-for-22 (50%) from the free-throw line; this was significantly less than UWO, who shot 19-for-30 (63%) from the line.

The second game took place in Stevens Point, but UWO showed no signs of homesickness as they pushed the game out of reach early by exploding on a 21-1 run for the remainder of the first quarter after being down 0-2 just four minutes into the game.

"We actually didn't feel like we

got off to a good start. I think it was 5-2 at the media time out. I felt like we did a decent job ratcheting up the pressure early, but honestly our offense was not very good," Fischer said. "It was really those last four minutes of the quarter that saved us from a pretty ugly start."

UWO's defensive effort was shown through the 13 steals that the team accumulated throughout the game, and Porath led all players with three steals of her own.

Even with significant leads of upwards of 20 points, UWO never let up on defense and was able to keep UWSP uncomfortable and making poor decisions with the

basketball.

"That's been a different element for us this year that we've tried to play around with," Fischer said. "I think with Stevens Point the pressure had them always feeling a bit uncomfortable, even in our moments of breakdowns where things opened up."

Fischer added that this aggressive defensive style is different from the more conservative approach that UWO has been known for in the last couple of years, but thus far, it seems to be working.

UWO's last pair of matchups will be against arguably their toughest competition yet in UW-Eau Claire, who is currently 6-0

and in the lead of the WIAC West Division. The Feb. 24 results, which were not available by our press deadline, are posted on the UWO athletics page. The Feb. 26 game will tip off at 7 p.m. in Eau Claire, and it can be viewed through the 'video' option in the game's tab on the UWO athletics page.

"It's a great challenge getting to play the other division champion to kind of see where things are at," Fischer said. "At the same time, we have some other things we'd like to work on and see, and I think we have to continue to look at what the uniqueness of this year presents."

Track makes huge strides in unscored event

By Cory Sparks
sparkc21@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh track and field team competed against UW-Whitewater at Whitewater in an unscored event as the national teams inch closer to outdoor season.

This was UWO's third track event of the year, and, at this point, the men are ranked second nationally while the women are ranked seventh nationally.

During UWO's second event of the year, and their first against UWW on Feb. 13, they had three runners crack the top 10 national times.

Sophomore sprinter Jaylen Grant recorded the best 60m dash time of any D-III athlete in the nation at 6.88 seconds after cracking UWO's school record with a 6.81 second time last year.

Junior sprinter Denzel Thomas ran the fourth best 60m dash time in the nation, and second best in the event, with a time of 6.90 seconds.

Junior distance runner Andrew George clocked the nation's 10th

best 3000m time of 8:36:02.

Consistency and improvement have both been key components to UWO's success and national recognition thus far.

"I feel like my performance this season has been pretty good," Grant said. "My times have been consistent, and that was one of my goals coming into this season."

Along with those components, UWO's persistence in the off-season that if they worked hard enough they'd shine when they got the chance is also paying dividends to a successful start to the indoor track season.

Among the UWO individual women winners from Feb. 19 are Mikayla Jackson at 8.02 seconds (60m), Alaina Wagner at 26.87 seconds (200m), Zanzie Demcoe at 2:15.58 (800m), Lauren Urban at 19:35.44 (5000m), Riley Kindt at 9.06 seconds (60m hurdles), Kindt at 1.63m (high jump), Kindt at 11.05m (triple jump), Sydney Thompson at 13.59m (shot put) and Thompson at 16.90m (weight throw).

The UWO individual men

winners from Feb. 19 are Jaylen Grant at 6.88 seconds (60m), Rashaad Henderson at 22.54 seconds (200m), Amitai Wheat at 50.43 seconds (400m), Reid Marquard at 2:00:57 (800m), Andrew Muskevitch at 15:84.84 (5000m), Eli Tranel at 4.70m (pole vault), Jamyle Brantley at 7.11 (long jump) and Jonathan Wilburn at 14.91m (triple jump).

The men's and women's team, despite the event being a non-scoring one, dominated the dual meet and have made a theme of winning a ton of events in all three meets thus far.

"Both the women's and men's side have performed amazingly well," Grant said. "We have been training since last fall for the opportunity to finally compete and it definitely shows up in our results."

The ability for some athletes to take on versatile roles by running in multiple events has also pushed them in ways that they have not been pushed before.

"I've had opportunities to run other events this indoor season," Grant said. "This means a lot to

me because I'm the type of athlete that wants to contribute to the team as much as possible. Doing other events allows me to do so."

Grant, who usually runs in the 60m dash, ran in the 200m and was the anchor for UWO's 4x400m relay team in the Feb. 19 meet against UWW.

Although it doesn't look like there will be a national competition for the indoor track season, the likelihood seems greater for a national championship for outdoor season.

If that does happen, UWO feels confident that they'll be ready to take on high competition.

"Assuming that we have conference and/or outdoor nationals meets, I believe that my entire team can do well at both levels," Grant said. "We compete every weekend in one of [the toughest] conferences in the nation."

The team gives partial credit for its success thus far to the head coach, Justin Kinseth, for pushing everyone even when there was uncertainty about whether there would be a 2021 season or not.

"I want to thank Coach Kinseth

for believing in our team and lifting us up when we were down. He instilled this mindset in all of us to train in the dark until we can finally compete," Grant said. "We are a better team because of him and our other coaches."



Carter Usalabar / Advance-Titan
Sophomore sprinter Jaylen Grant currently holds the best Division III 60m dash time at 6.88 seconds. Grant was an indoor national qualifier last year, but the COVID-19 pandemic cancelled the event.

Arts & Entertainment

Museum presents “Star Wars” toy exhibit

Display is the largest in state

By Lexi Langendorf
langel29@uwosh.edu

The Oshkosh Public Museum is currently showing the largest public display of vintage “Star Wars” toys in Wisconsin at its “Nostalgia Awakens: Star Wars Vintage Toys” exhibit. The exhibit continues through June 20.

When “Star Wars” hit the movie theaters in 1977, it instantly became a box office hit and quickly became widely popular among both kids and adults alike.

After the movie was released, fans immediately looked to miniature-sized toys with their favorite heroes, villains, creatures and spaceships to harness the legendary action and excitement that “Star Wars” embodies.

From 1978 to 1985, Kenner Products manufactured hundreds of action figures, vehicles and playsets based upon characters and items featured in “Star Wars,” “The Empire Strikes Back” and “Return of the Jedi”.

The owner of the toys, Jarrod Roll, has been a huge “Star Wars” fan since he was 4 years old and developed the idea to put together the exhibit in 2015 when “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” was about to hit theaters and people had renewed interest in the franchise.

Throughout his childhood, Roll’s family had gifted him

It’s an exhibit that will appeal to all generations, so families can come together to see where the billion-dollar franchise all began.

-Tammy Malewski,
Oshkosh Public Museum

“Star Wars” toys on many holidays, so over the years, he accrued quite an impressive collection.

A colleague suggested he show off his collection, giving Roll the confidence to put together his first display at the Monroe County Local History Room and Museum in Sparta, where Roll serves as the director.

Roll said he encourages people to bring their families and friends to the exhibit because “Star Wars” spans generations.

“It’s something we can all share,” Roll said.

Tammy Malewski, marketing coordinator at the museum, said while it’s not a typical museum exhibition, the toys are still a part of history.

“It’s an exhibit that will appeal to all generations, so families can come together to see where the billion-dollar franchise all began,” Malewski said. “Children can see what their parents grew up playing with before newer characters like Rey and Poe were introduced.”

Due to COVID-19, the Oshkosh Public Museum asks that interested visitors purchase tickets in advance to attend.

Reservations, which are required, will allow visitors easy check-in when they arrive and



Advance-Titan

The 1978 Death Star by Palitoy is the most sought after by “Star Wars” toy collectors as it’s available only in the United Kingdom and Canada. Jared Roll, owner of the largest “Star Wars” toy collection in Wisconsin, has been collecting toy sets like these since he was 4.



align with safety precautions for the ongoing pandemic.

The museum is not offering refunds or exchanges, so make sure to reserve a date and time that will work for you.

See more information at oshkoshmuseum.org or call the museum at 920-236-5799.



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The Hoth Ice Planet Adventure Set, Turret and Probot Playset and Darth Vader’s Star Destroyer Action Playset all from the 1980s can be viewed at the Oshkosh Public Museum until June 20.



Advance-Titan

Toy collector Jarrod Roll (left) and his brother Kevin (right) playing with their toys as children.

UWO alumnus writes childrens book

P.E. teacher hopes to be role model for kids

By Cassidy Kennedy
kennec21@uwosh.edu

Former UW Oshkosh Ben Lancour has written an illustrated children’s book containing an important message to individuals everywhere.

Lancour graduated from UWO in 2011 with a bachelor’s degree in physical education, minoring in adaptive phy ed and now works in the Green Bay Area School District teaching elementary physical education.

His work in special education prior to his current position was a big inspiration for the creation of his book, “Henry and The Gym Monster.”

Lancour said that being a physical educator definitely played a role in writing his book, which is predicted to be published sometime this summer.

“I wanted to combine my passion for working with dysregulated children and the gym setting,” Lancour said. “For some of those dysregulated children, physical education may be the only class they enjoy, which was the case for me growing up. This book is for them.”

Lancour said he was also inspired by his own passion for P.E.

as a child. “Growing up, physical education felt like another recess,” Lancour said. “I enjoyed the competitiveness of the activities we were playing and always looked forward to it.”

However, Lancour said that his P.E. teachers growing up often yelled in order to get the attention of the “little ones.”

“I want to be a role model that kids will respect, not fear,” Lancour said.

“Henry and the Gym Monster,” written by Lancour and illustrated by Emily Bennett, is about a boy named Henry who wants to play games with his friends in gym class, but Manny the “P.E. monster” tricks him into playing games his way.

Eventually, Henry needs to figure out how to defeat his monster before Manny gets out of control and grows too big to handle.

Manny the monster is a crucial part of the story because he represents something we all struggle with: self-control, Lancour said.

The lesson that Lancour wants children and educators to understand is the importance of taking responsibility.

“The more you push it off, the more you blame others and do not



Author Ben Lancour reading a book with his daughter, Harper.

hold yourself accountable... the more your ‘Manny’ grows,” Lancour said.

Lancour said it’s OK to make mistakes, but blaming others for things that you did will only hurt you more in the long run.

“The only way around it is to be honest with yourself and the people you care about,” Lancour said. “This is the only way to get

rid of Manny.”

Lancour said parents and children will enjoy this book because it’s a unique story that focuses on important values within many young kids’ favorite class, physical education.

Christina Stefenhagen, an intellectual disabilities teacher and a parent, said that she loves the story.

“As a parent and a special education teacher, I love the way this book addresses responsibility in a way that is relatable to children of all types,” Christina said. “It’s a fun and effective way to help children with a topic so vital to their growth and development.”

Gary Wondrash, a former special education teacher of seventeen years and former elementary physical education teacher of eighteen years, said that Lancour’s book hits the nail on the head.

“I have seen the exact behaviors described in this book manifest in my class,” Wondrash said. “Ben’s functional behavioral assessment of Henry’s actions is a real behavioral response I have seen as a teacher.”

Wondrash said he has no doubt that there are students who will identify with Henry, which will benefit their growth as a result.

“The Gym Monster is a book I would recommend for any elementary aged child,” Wondrash said. “It would especially benefit special needs students and students who are impulsive.”

The book will be available this summer in hardcover, paperback and e-book formats.

Check out Lancour’s website, www.benlancourbooks.com, for more information and subscribe to his email list for updates. You can also follow him on Instagram @ben_lancour_books, Facebook @BenLancourBooks, and Twitter



Ben Lancour, author of “Henry and the Gym Monster”, with his wife Stephanie and his daughter Harper. Lancour’s book will be published sometime this summer and will be available in hardcover, paperback, and e-book formats. The message Lancour wants children and educators to understand is the importance of responsibility.

Looking to get involved this semester?
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email atitan@uwosh.edu for more information

make friends • build your portfolio • open to students of any major • learn meaningful skills

“Whatcha Think?”

What is your favorite and least favorite spot to study on campus?



Mara, sophomore

Favorite: My favorite study spot would be in Sage, in those little study rooms.

Least favorite: Probably Reeve.



Xavier, junior

Favorite: My favorite is Reeve, right in the front because of the windows and the sunshine, it’s just the vibe.

Least favorite: My least favorite spot would be my room because I’m always tempted to just lay down and not do work.



Riley, freshman

Favorite: I normally just study in my dorm room, otherwise when it was nice out in the fall I would sit outside, but I can’t do that anymore.

Least Favorite: Not sure.



Lauren, sophomore

Favorite: My favorite is probably the second floor of the library. I like when I can get in one of those study rooms and you can just sit by yourself.

Least favorite: Probably my dorm, honestly.

Smelly situation in Stewart Hall

By Katie Pulvermacher
pulvek45@uwosh.edu

At the start of the fall 2020 semester, plates in Blackhawk Commons were replaced with reusable green to-go containers. While these containers are beneficial and convenient, issues have arisen, and they are not pleasant.

Whenever I leave or return to my dorm in Stewart Hall, whether going to or from a class or grabbing some food on campus, I get a big whiff of rotten food in the front lobby.

Stewart does not have a designated cart for used containers, yet at one point in the past couple weeks, someone placed a used container in one of the rolling carts intended for moving students’ belongings out of their room for COVID-19 reasons or a room change.

After one student placed their container in the cart, others followed along, and this week, the pile has grown monstrosly high and the smell of rotting food is repulsive.

Sophomore Kya Young works as a residence hall front desk worker and has to deal with the smell whenever she comes in to work.

“It smells disgusting all the time,” Young said. “Having to smell [the old food containers] while working sucks.”

North and South Scott have designated carts for their used containers. These carts can be easily pushed back to Blackhawk, which is right next to the Scotts, unlike Stewart, Evans and Fletcher, which are all a bit more of a trek across campus.

Personally, I do not have an issue walking back to Black-



Katie Pulvermacher / Advance-Titan

Since Blackhawk Commons started using trays as part of the university’s COVID-19 protocols, some residence halls have utilized carts for students to drop off their trays. Stewart is not one of them.

hawk to drop off my used containers as we are supposed to, but Stewart and Evans have had prior issues dropping off containers in the fall semester as well.

Specifically in Stewart, tall stacks of used containers have been left in our dishroom and insects were found in many of them. You read that right. Insects.

As unpleasant as it is to walk to drop off a container in the cold weather, it is surely not worse than the whole first floor smelling like a landfill.

With everyone’s bad habits in

Stewart, I am fearful when these students get houses of their own in future years if they cannot pick up after themselves here.

There is not necessarily a better option regarding the containers besides dropping them back off at Blackhawk. If we were to have a cart specifically for containers, it would have to be cleaned out at least every two days.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture states that food left out of the fridge for more than two hours should be thrown away.

At room temperature, bacteria grows incredibly fast and can

make you sick. Knowing this, the amount of bacteria sitting and rotting away at the food for weeks in Stewart is concerning.

There is no doubt that the staff at Blackhawk do a great job to keep our containers clean and sanitary, but it is not fun to think about the amount of rotting food or insects that may have been sitting in them days prior.

Next time you let a container sit in your room, think about how much bacteria has already started to grow in it after two hours. Avoid a smelly dorm and return your containers.

Don’t fall victim to election fatigue

By Peter Herrmann
herrmp16@uwosh.edu

“Did you vote?” This question on its surface may seem to be a few months late. Yet, this question is actually right on time, as there was a spring primary election throughout Wisconsin on February 16th.

After the state of Wisconsin saw a near record turnout rate of 72% in the November presidential election, many were not even aware that there was an election occurring this month.

This election had one statewide race, the Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction, with Oshkosh having two local races, one for the Mayor of Oshkosh and the other for three City Council positions. The Superintendent has general supervision over the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and by extension, public schools in general.

They have many different and difficult issues they need to address including: the state education budget, racial disparities in the education system, COVID-19 and remote teaching, increasing amounts

of public funds going to private schools through the use of voucher systems and a drastic teacher shortage that is impacting both educators and students alike.

According to the Wisconsin Election Commission, the last time there was a state Superintendent race, in 2017, the voter turnout rate was 8.3%. Clearly this is not ideal. Why would we want less than 10% of Wisconsinites to choose a person who is crucially important? Similarly, why would we want such a small percentage of voters to choose our Mayor and City Council members?

A common misconception I have heard is that state and local governments don’t matter. Why would they? They don’t create sweeping policy change like Congress. They can’t influence policy or issue executive orders like the President. They aren’t in charge of the massive federal budget. State and local governments spend roughly \$2.9 trillion in comparison to the federal government’s roughly \$4.3 trillion in expenditures.

Yet, roughly two-thirds of

the federal budget money goes directly to state and local governments, effectively doubling the amount of money that state and local governments spend. The money that comes from the federal government is not spent and budgeted by Congress or the president, but by governors, superintendents, mayors and city councillors. This is why it is so dismaying to me that so few people were even aware of the election or the one that follows it on April 6th.

The vast majority of us UW Oshkosh students came from a public school with a large number of us either living in Oshkosh full-time or planning on living here full-time as we progress through our education. We should all care about who the next superintendent will be. We should all care about who the next mayor will be. We should all care about who the new city councillors will be.

Letting those choices be made for us by a small amount of people is simply not okay. Less than 10% of Wisconsin voters should not be the ones who make this decision for the entire state. I understand that

we just had an election. I understand that this last election left many disillusioned with our democratic electoral system. However, I refuse to believe that each and every one of us should not be participating in this election.

I beg of you to fight through your election fatigue and remember this date: April 6th. You can register to vote online, through the mail or even in-person at the City Clerk.

You can even register to vote here in Oshkosh without having a permanent address, e.g. you live in a dorm, through the Voter ID Enrollment Verification program provided to all UW-Oshkosh students through the University TitanWeb. We cannot allow less than 10% of Wisconsin voters determine our futures. We must vote and be heard!

Voter registration information and absentee ballot request information can be found online at myvote.wi.gov and the Voter ID Enrollment Verification can be found under the Personal Information tab in TitanWeb.

An open letter to letters

By Carter Uslabar
uslabe78@uwosh.edu

The French philosopher Voltaire (François-Marie Arouet) is estimated to have written over 20,000 letters during his lifetime. That’s a lot, but a mere fifth of the estimated 100,000 letters penned by the reclusive American author H.P. Lovecraft. And I? Not many. But some. And in the future, many more, because writing letters is a lost art form we desperately need.

Now, to be clear, this shouldn’t be taken as an anti-tech-or-what-ever piece. Each form of communication has clear advantages and disadvantages, but here I’ll be exploring exactly why sending a hand-written letter is, in some instances, superior to text or email.

Compared to text or email, letters have notable advantages in three domains: subjects they’re conducive to, the overall communication experience, and its affordances to customization and formatting.

Different venues, different subjects

The most obvious reason sending letters isn’t a common form of communication today is because it’s wildly inefficient. However, for truly connecting with a person, speed isn’t the most important element. Unless you’re talking about Bumble, where arbitrary time restrictions are the name of the game, there’s no limit for how long a relationship needs to be built.

However, I’d say when it comes to developing relationships, sending letters actually rivals the efficiency of text. When you text, the receiver’s ability to immediately respond enables conversations to slide into the rapid-but-empty niceties of ‘how’s it going,’ ‘how’s work,’ and so forth. Letters, by their snail-like nature, don’t afford this kind of ephemerality. Conversations need to trend toward ever-

green topics, which tend to lead to deeper connection. Both participants understand it’s a waste of time to merely communicate some sort of ‘update,’ so the subject matter can easily depart from the countless interactions without substance.

Texts can be reproduced by the thousands in no time at all, whereas each letter must be individually crafted. They take time and intent. Sending a text compared to sending a letter is like taking a photo on an iPhone compared to taking a photo on a Hasselblad. On an iPhone, you can take photos indefinitely. On the Hasselblad, you’ve got 24 shots, and they cost money to develop. If you have a limited venue to convey your message, you’ll be much more purposeful in crafting it—you don’t see the person with the Hasselblad shooting pictures of their dog all willy-nilly. A letter demands significantly more attention, and it shows in the conversations’ depth.

In addition, the delay in response natural to mail correspondence graciously removes the onus of an immediate reaction from the receiver. How often are conversations derailed or the mood ruined by a moment’s reaction to something said, or the pace ruined by an uncertainty as to what to say back? The absence of this pressure grants the writer some freedom, too. It accommodates more intimate subjects because you don’t have to bear the God-forsaken ‘typing’ dots, or an unexpected facial expression.

This is the same reason therapists often have art on their walls and things for patients to look at around their offices: it’s easier to broach intimate, vulnerable, meaningful topics if you don’t have to look the person in the eye. Of course, if you conjure the cynic within, you can boil this down to cowardice. But I don’t think it matters how something is conveyed so long as it is conveyed.

Tactile and permanent

A letter’s intimacy isn’t just due to its contents, but also to its very nature as a physical object. Texts barely exist. They appear as small images on a screen, indistinguishable from literal thousands of others like it on any given phone. After anywhere from one-to-five messages later (each of equally little value), the text disappears below the person’s name in a messaging app, and is gone forever unless a person scrolls back and views it again.

Letters are not so negligible. They can be put on a fridge, folded into a pocket and carried around for the day and left out on the kitchen table. They are physical objects that must be handled directly. You must interact with them more than is required by swiping to open a message and tapping a sleek screen to respond. A letter must be torn open and removed from its envelope or packaging, at which point you have a piece of paper. You can turn it over in your hands, feel the thickness or flimsiness of the paper and observe the person’s script and the ink’s richness. Where the text message demands only one or two senses’ use, a letter engages them all.

Beyond that, a response must be written. You feel the pen in your hand, gliding over the paper, until you pause — the pen’s tip hovering imperceptibly over the paper’s surface — considering exactly what to say. You’re more thoughtful, as ink only flows out of the pen (there’s no backspace). As you fold, package and drop the letter off, the whole experience takes on a ritualistic aspect to be reveled in.

Mail’s affordance of customization

If there’s one thing that text really fails at compared to mail correspondence, it’s the customization and personalization of a message.

On a phone, we use our fingers to tap the same buttons everyone else taps. Each message comes through, fitted to the screen, using a standardized font at a standardized size. It’s despotic in uniformity. But still, we cling to this standardized mode of communication for unique human relationships.

Letters are much more accommodating to personalization. Each person’s script is different, flowing sometimes in curlicues or sharp, jagged spikes. You have to squint to make out what they’re saying. It’s all good fun. But you can also change the format, write in the margins, draw, underline for emphasis—the possibilities are endless. With text, the best affordance for personality we have is the addition of emojis.

There is also the issue of packaging. A text really has no packaging. It has a notification, but that too is just as depersonalized and silent as the text itself. Letters, on the other hand, have an envelope, which affords just as much creativity and personalization as the letter itself.



activity and personalization as the letter itself.

What makes a letter special isn’t simply its contents. It has an aura; something rare in physical objects today. A phone is a mass-produced, impersonally ubiquitous device. A letter is unique. It’s just for you. It’s a private message, a proxy for the author’s presence. It’s a physical manifestation of their thoughts and feelings which you are able to carry and hold onto, as though they carved out a small piece of their mind just for you.

Send it

If you want to recapture the juvenile thrills of Christmas morning, the closest you will come is by sending and receiving letters. The anticipation is delicious, and, unlike when receiving a gift, the joy lasts long after receiving a letter. Letters are emblematic of meaningful relationships, as they are built not off speed and quantity, but quality and trust.

Letter to the Editor

Keep supporting your local businesses

By Olivia Osterbrink
ostero34@uwosh.edu

The existence of COVID-19 has created an existential crisis for the lives of all globally, in more ways than one. Focusing locally, many businesses are in a difficult time period, and are struggling to meet ends.

The importance of locally owned businesses tends to go unrecognized. Supporting local businesses comes to be important for those living in individual communities, as it enhances the local economy. Small businesses provide opportunities for entrepreneurs, creates jobs for those not employed by large businesses and it brains innovation along with growth of the community.

Moreover, when compared to national chains, products and services are created to meet

community needs.

Due to COVID-19, many businesses have had to make many changes to their operation system, in order to follow social distancing protocol. With that being said, some have also been obligated to temporarily or permanently shut down.

While we are in an unprecedented time of our lives, it is so important to support each other, and I can’t think of a better way to benefit all than by following some of the ways you can help your friends and neighbors who own local businesses, while still following safety protocols. Listed below are some of the ways to support, if you’re able to during these times:

1. Online shopping

While online shopping, take the time to check out if one of your local stores has an online

website. If so, before buying from a chain store, see if they have the products you’re looking for and consider buying from them instead.

2. Tipping well

If ordering or picking up take-out, tipping the crew members well shows an act of kindness and recognizes appreciation.

3. Leaving reviews

If you can think of a time or

recently have come across one of your local businesses where you had a good experience, one of the easiest ways you can support them is by leaving a nice review of your experience on their company website.

4. Interact through social media

Follow, like and share your favorite local businesses social media content. By doing this, you’re helping them get their

name and brand shown by new people and potential customers.

5. Stay home

It can’t be stressed enough, if you’re feeling unwell, having COVID-19 symptoms, or have come in contact, it is important to take care of yourself and the others around you by staying home. You’re helping small businesses by protecting employees from getting sick and running short staffed.

Letter Guidelines

The Advance-Titan welcomes and reads all letters. Timely, well-written, provocative opinions on topics of interest at UW Oshkosh are given first preference.

All letters are subject to editing; not all letters can be published. Letters exceeding 300 words may be edited at the discretion of the Advance-Titan staff. Name, position, address and daytime phone number are required, although only name and email will be published along with the article.

The Advance-Titan does not publish anonymous or open letters and letters printed elsewhere.

If your letter is chosen for publication, we may attempt to contact you for verification via email or phone. To submit your letter, email atitan@uwosh.edu.

500,000 deaths

Quantifying the tragedy

This week, the United States COVID-19-related death toll surpassed 500,000. This tragic milestone comes just over a year since the first case in the U.S. was reported. Considering that it was only a month ago, on Jan. 19, that the 400,000th death was reported, it is much too easy to lose a grasp on just how many people have lost their lives over the course of the last year.

Humans are inherently bad at interpreting large numbers of this sort, especially when it comes to the loss of human life, so it can be beneficial to aid this comprehension by putting them into comparisons that help quantify the massive loss.

Presented here is a localized way of quantifying 500,000 COVID-19-related deaths.

500,000 is:

30.5 times the student population of UW Oshkosh

21.7 times the student population of UW-Milwaukee

11 times the student population of UW-Madison

3 times the total enrollment of the UW System

78 times the capacity of Kolf Sport Center’s main gym

51 times the capacity of Titan Stadium

28.8 times the capacity of the Fiserv Forum

12 times the capacity of American Family Field

6.14 times the capacity of Lambeau Field

41,666 deaths a month for a year

1,368 deaths a day for a year

57 deaths an hour for a year

1 death for every minute of a year

140 times the population of Omro

19.3 times the population of Neenah

7.5 times the population of Oshkosh

6.7 times the population of Appleton

2.5 times the population of the Fox Valley area

1.96 times the population of Madison

Enough caskets to cover the length of the Fox River 3.3 times

Enough caskets to span from Oshkosh to Washington, D.C.

Enough caskets to cover the farthest length of Wisconsin twice

Enough caskets to make 120.5 stacks as high as Mt. Everest

42 times the amount of mailmen in Wisconsin

2.4 times the amount of McDonald’s workers in the world

8.7 times the amount of public school teachers in Wisconsin

Over half of the number of public school students in Wisconsin

8.6 times the amount of names on the Vietnam War Memorial

3.7 times the combined U.S. combat casualties of World War I, Korea and Vietnam

Too many