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April Lee / Advance-Titan

Women's basketball played in Kolf Sports Center Monday to empty bleachers as the WIAC banned spectators from sporting events until further notice.

Athletes play to empty stadium

By Cory Sparks sparkc21@uwosh.edu

Oshkosh sports are back, but they've had an entirely different look and sound without spectators at the events.

As a commentator myself, I speak from experience that calling a basketball game without any fans is one of the most peculiar atmospheres that I have ever been a part of.

Every little sound can be heard by everyone at the sporting event. When the Wisconsin Inter-

collegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) made the announcement on Dec. 11 that sports, without spectators, would return for the winter, a variety of reactions came from those in the Titan TV and WRST sports departments.

"I was kind of expecting there to be limited or no fans at games," Radio-TV-Film senior sports announcer Johnathon Samp said. "When I saw that there was going to be a season for winter sports I was shocked just because the coronavirus is still so prevalent."

Leadership in the Titan TV

and WRST departments were relieved to have sporting events back, but they acknowledged that there'd be some adjustments for the spectator-less atmosphere.

"My initial response was kind of mixed. I was excited we had basketball," Radio-TV-Film senior sports director Billy Piotrowski said. "[I was] obviously excited for sports, but also thought how is that going to be different for commentary."

In terms of the experience from a commentator's perspective, a lot more caution comes along

with the word and volume choices made on a play-by-play basis and in certain situations.

Unlike in a normal sporting environment where the sound of the crowd would drown out the words of a play-by-play or color commentator, everyone at the game can hear the words that people can usually only hear on-

Players and team personnel are likely to hear what a commentator is saying now more than ever.

Jump to Vacant / Page 6

Evers proposes major boost in UW System funding

By Sophia Voight voighs33@uwosh.edu

tions to its Nursing and Education million, in the 2021-23 biennial Building while the UW System tui- budget, but Evers' proposed budget tion freeze may remain in place due for the UW System nearly doubles to a major increase in state funding that. under Gov. Tony Evers' 2021-23 state budget proposal.

"I had requested [around] \$100 million to the university increase and he gave us \$190," UW System interim President Tommy Thompbefore."

Evers proposed an increase of UW System campuses through

2023 at his biennial state budget address Feb. 16.

The UW System requested to in-UW Oshkosh may see renova- crease its budget by 3.5%, or \$95.7

> Included in Evers' budget is a has been delayed." recommendation of \$26 million for the completion of the second phase of UWO's Nursing and Education Building.

Oshkosh representative Gordon son said. "That's never been done Hintz said in a statement Monday that he applauds Evers for recognizing the importance of renovat-\$190 million in state funding for ing UWO's Nursing and Education Building and Clow Social Science Center.

"I have worked hard for many training," he said. years to renovate Clow Hall, starting with getting the project approved in 2011 and approving funding for Phase I in 2013, which was completed in 2016," he said. "The need for the Phase II reno- UW-Madison's "Bucky's Tuition in need. vation has only grown as approval Promise," which provides free tu-

Hintz said the building's renovation will give future nursing and education students the technological advancements needed in their training

"The investments made in Clow Phase II not only honors our state and UW Oshkosh's strong commitment to education, but also recognizes the important, technological advancements needed in teacher

freeze on tuition increases for undergraduate students from Wisconsin will continue.

families, to the rest of the UW Sys-

Under Bucky's Tuition Promise, students from families making \$60,000 or less receive four years' worth of free college.

During his address, Evers said we have to make higher education "accessible, affordable and therefore attainable to all those who choose to pursue it."

Thompson said in a statement Under Evers' proposal, the that this budget will allow the UW System to tackle some of Wisconsin's most pressing challenges, including expanding online educa-Evers also requested to expand tion and opportunities for students

"The budget shows that the Govition to students from low-income ernor recognizes the value we can deliver to all Wisconsinites, as we have during the COVID-19 pandemic," he said.

Evers' budget increase for the UW System still has to pass through the state legislature.

The State Building Commission will meet on March 17 to vote on the governor's budget proposal where it will then move on to the Committee on Joint Finance.

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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.



Courtesy of Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin

Big Brothers Big Sisters in need of volunteers

By Sophia Voight voighs33@uwosh.edu

Providing guidance and companionship to someone can have a profound impact on their confidence and aspirations in life. This is what the support program Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) provides for youth in its communities.

BBBS is a mentorship program that helps children realize their potential and thrive in life through one-on-one mentoring with volun-

BBBS of East Central Wisconsin is currently in need of volunteers to serve as role models, or "Bigs," to youth in the area, or "Littles."

BBBS currently has 88 kids in need of mentors right now, with a large need for male mentors.

"Just by being yourself and hanging out with a child or teen in your area can have such a big impact on both Littles and Bigs," Amanda Knueppel, Marketing Manager for BBBS of East Central Wisconsin,

BBBS offers different mentorship programs from community-based mentoring where matches do activities out in the community, site-based mentoring where volunteers hang out with their Little at their school and Mentor 2.0 which is a partnership with Oshkosh North High School to help students develop a plan for after graduation.

Those interested in volunteering with BBBS can visit their website at bbbsecw.org to read more about the program and fill out their application to become a Big.

Knueppel said mentors are matched with their Little based on their common interests and availability.

"If you're a volunteer and you're really interested in doing crafts or you want to be artsy, we're going to match you with somebody who has similar interests as you," she said.

Knueppel said volunteers are asked to follow the Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for COVID-19, which includes wearing a mask.

"Otherwise, if [volunteers] are not comfortable meeting in person right now we are allowing matches to meet virtually through Zoom,"

Knueppel said BBBS sees a lot of improvement in the lives of children and their ability to succeed after having a mentor.

"With that one-to-one mentoring relationship, we see increased graduation rates of our Littles and we see increased self-esteem," she said.

She said becoming a mentor not only has a positive impact on the kids' lives but has a profound impact on the volunteers' lives.

"We have a ton of our Bigs who will tell us that having a Little changed their lives more than it changed a life of a Little," she said.

Knueppel said being a mentor is an experience where you not only feel good for helping a child or teen in the community, but you also start to feel better about yourself.

"It's a very rewarding experience to know that you're making a difference and changing a life," she said.

Nursing students receive credit for giving vaccines

By Katie Pulvermacher pulvek45@uwosh.edu

In late January, the UW System announced a tuition credit reimbursement of \$500 for nursing students working at COVID-19 vaccination sites to help encourage the distribution of vaccines as well as further support nursing students.

"Nursing Deans across the UW System met with system leaders in November 2020 to identify ways nursing students could be involved in assisting with the pandemic," UW Oshkosh Dean of the Nursing College Judy Westphal said. "Two initiatives were developed."

The first initiative provided bedside assistance in Wisconsin health care organizations from certified and registered nursing individuals, while the other initiative provided assistance during the vaccine roll-

"2020 was the year of the nurse, and the pandemic has certainly highlighted the importance of nursing," Associate Professor Bonnie Nickasch said. "It is exciting for students to see that what they are learning is already useful to their community."

Nickash has enjoyed volunteering at vaccine sites throughout Wisconsin. Depending on one's background and training, students and or licensed nurses may be used in many different capacities at vaccine

The main roles being staffed include registration, vaccinators and monitoring roles.

UWO senior nursing student Chloe Jostad volunteers at local clinics in Oshkosh as well as ones in Menasha.

"Each clinic looks much different than the next, from the layout, timing of appointments to which vaccine manufacturer we are using," Jostad said. "However, all the clinics have been extremely successful thus far and I look forward to helping out at as many as I am able to."

A typical day at a vaccine site for Jostad is being oriented to the space, being shown the supplies and emergency kits and ultimately being paired up with registered nurses to administer vaccines to the commu-

Prior to providing patient care, all nursing students have to demonclassroom setting learning about the vaccine and how they can best educate patients.

The nursing students administering the vaccines are overseen and monitored by licensed individuals. This is usually a registered nurse employed by the local healthcare organization or a UWO faculty member who is a licensed RN with a minimum of a masters degree.

If an allergic reaction occurs, these licensed individuals are prepared to keep the patient safe.

Jostad explained that in the nursing program, there is a specific semester that students learn how to administer intramuscular (IM) injections. IM injections are how a vaccine is administered. This training occurs in the second semester of the program, also known as "Junior

After students have been checked off on administering IM injections, they are then able to volunteer at vaccine clinics, such as the flu clinic on campus or COVID-19 clinics in the community.

Director of Pre-Licensure Program and Associate Professor Jason Mott stated that UWO has had about 250 undergraduate students who are involved or will be involved in this program.

"I think it's great [students are volunteering]," Mott said. "They will get a lot more public health experience than most people before them have had."

To be eligible for the tuition credit, students must present a letter verifying the hours worked to their campus financial aid office no later than March 31, 2021. Students must work a minimum of 16 hours, or two days as a COVID-19 vaccinator between January 1, 2021 and March

Students who qualify will receive the \$500 tuition credit at the end of the Spring 2021 semester.

"This tuition reimbursement is an amazing opportunity, and I am so thankful to Dean Westphal of the College of Nursing and UW-System President Tommy Thompson for making this possible for so many nursing and other college students in the state of Wisconsin," Jostad said. "Because of this reimbursement, I can begin to pay back some of the interest on my student loans and take out a smaller loan amount strate safe and competent care in the for my last semester here at UWO."

Fischer, Swanks to run unopposed for OSA

By Carter Uslabar uslabe78@uwosh.edu

OSA election next week

Next week, the UW Oshkosh student body will vote for new Oshkosh Student Association leadership.

UWO students Jacob Fischer and Caprice Swanks will be the only official candidates on the ballot Tuesday and Wednesday. It will be the second year in a row that the OSA election has been uncontested.

Additionally, Tim Torgerson and Steven Schlosser are both running for at-large OSA senate positions, Liz Jacobson is running for the Women's Advocacy Senator position and Daniel Barker is running for the Student Veteran's



Advocacy Senator position.

While the deadline to officially declare and file to be on the ballot has long since passed, students who aren't on the ballot can still be elected. In the OSA Assembly meeting Tuesday night, OSA office manager Tyler Klaver announced the minimum number of write-in votes needed for a candidate to be considered has been lowered to 12 write-ins for senate positions and 25 write-ins for presidential and vice presidential

Voting in the OSA election will

open on March 9 at 8 a.m. and will I'm very much opposed to that." run until March 10 at 8 p.m. A link to the ballot on Titan Connection will be sent to all UWO students on March 9.

Resolution seeks to provide clarity for tech use in classrooms

The OSA senate has begun working on a technology policy to solidify and make clear exactly what technologies may be used in classrooms.

"There's nothing that definitively, specifically talks about whether or not you can or cannot use your computer in the classroom to take notes," OSA president Ian Mc-Donald said. "You'll sometimes run into professors who will say, 'there's a technology policy in my classroom to not use a computer.'

"It's time to put something down so that, as a student, you can be protected against a professor who might not allow technologies in the classroom," McDonald said.

McDonald specified that the resolution would only cover laptops and tablets being used for note-taking purposes, and would not offer the same protections against cell phone usage.

"It can't be a distraction, and it can't be a safety hazard," McDon-

Under the resolution, technologies would be allowed in lecture halls and classrooms, but would not have the same protections in lab environments where they may be exposed to dangerous sub-

What food do you wish Blackhawk Commons would serve more?



Riley, freshman "Just plain, boneless chicken."



Estee, freshman "They need to expand the noodle section."



Qadar, junior "Lasanga, I guess."



Max, junior "When's the last time they served burritos here?"

"Whatcha Think?" Picky eaters, it's time to try more food

By Katie Pulvermacher pulvek45@uwosh.edu

"Try it; it's good for you" is a phrase quite commonly said in households. Lots of people struggle with trying new foods, leading them to eat the same foods over

According to The Washington Post, 26% of American adults identify as picky eaters. But what is considered a so-called "picky eater"?

The National Center for Biotechnology Information shares that common traits of picky eaters include "eating a limited amount of food, refusing food (particularly fruits and vegetables), being unwilling to try new foods, accepting only a few types of food, preferring drinks over food and having strong food preferences."

Sound familiar? Maybe a few people come to mind.

One of my best friends is quite a picky eater. Most of the time she sticks with plain foods. No sauce. Everything plain. Burgers, chicken nuggets, fries, rice, pizza you name it.

An overly extensive list of foods she dislikes includes chocolate, cheese, spicy foods, beans, fish, beets, avocado, onions, mushrooms, milk, peppers, olives and

A combo of genetics and environment are to blame for picky eating, which most commonly develops in childhood.

Hildy S. Lipner, chief of pediatric speech pathology at Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital in Hackensack, N.J., said that the children she sees with picky eating problems are usually between 18 months and 3 years old.

Already at this age, children have their eating patterns well established. These patterns are deeply reflected by the way parents navigate feeding their children as toddlers between the ages of one and three.

Once babies are able to start eating solid foods, incorporating a variety of foods into their diets decreases the chances of being picky. With a greater variety of foods consumed comes a balanced diet.



Katie Pulvermacher / Advance-Titan

The much-revered Reeve Marketplace sushi will be served again on March 18, April 15 and May 13.

As much as not being picky and having a balanced diet is important, one's willingness to try new foods is also beneficial to one's cultural awareness.

This past week at UW Oshkosh, professional chefs came in and served some fantastic dishes. On Wednesday night, there was "Premium Night, BBQ."

The barbecue layout included brisket, pulled pork, chicken quarters, smoked barbecue beans, coleslaw, potato salad and vegetarian kabobs. Chef Fritz Niebergall was in charge.

Fritz is a common name at UWO. He is the Resident Dining Manager and hosted the Fritz-a-Que celebration for seven years in a row in the summer in Oshkosh.

He told me while I waited in a long line that his brisket was cooking for 14 hours, and let me tell you, it was worth the wait.

Barbecues, the way that Americans know them now as meat cooked over a grill or pit, covered in spices and basting sauce, originated in the Caribbean.

According to the book "Planet Barbeque!" written by award-winning grill expert Steven Raichlen, the word barbecue comes from the language of a Caribbean Indian tribe called the Taino. Their word for grilling on a raised wooden grate is barbaçoa.

Across the world is a whole different culture of food: Japanese

On Thursday, Reeve Marketplace brought in Mr. Pak's sushi. After finally getting up to the front of the line, there were eight or nine sushi rolls to choose from.

Never having eaten sushi before, I let the man serving me choose any six for me to try. The sushi was served with spicy mayo, soy sauce and, of course, chopsticks.

I am not too sure of what I ate, but I enjoyed it nonetheless, and it seems like other students enjoyed it as well since Mr. Pak's will be back March 18, April 15 and May

While most people think sushi originated from Japan, sushi traces

its origins back to the rice fields of China. According to Roka Akor, Japan is certainly the sushi capital of the world and is responsible for introducing the dish to travelers, but sushi traces its origins back to a Chinese dish called narezushi. This dish consisted of fermented rice and salted fish.

Sushi is an especially difficult dish for picky eaters to eat as it contains raw fish and multitudes of vegetables with condiments on the side to dip in.

Pediatrician Tanya Altmann, MD, states that "if a picky eater isn't getting enough good nutrition because of being too selective, in individual cases, picky eating (especially extreme picky eating) can lead to both short- and long-term nutrient deficiencies and other problems."

To picky eaters: don't worry about having to try all new sorts of foods you are uncomfortable with, but every once in a while, try to test out a new food. It will only benefit you.

Can I get some burger with that lettuce?

By Megan LaFond lafonm54@uwosh.edu

Dinner time... If you're like me, dinner is the second most important meal of the day, for those of us that skip breakfast anyways.

After a day's work of meetings and homework, nothing sounded better than grabbing dinner from Clash Burger located in Reeve Union. Clash Burger, on a scale from one to 10 on the allergen friendly scale, would rank as a five. I have lived the gluten-free lifestyle for more than five years due to allergies.

As someone who is on campus frequently, it's important that I'm able to eat, especially because I'm incapable of being able to consume Ramen noodles like the average college student. It's easily becoming more com-

mon to encounter someone who has omitted gluten from their

From the perspective of someone who is gluten-free, Clash Burger isn't all that accommodating. I ordered a barbecue bacon burger with all of my favorite toppings, like lettuce and mayo, but to my surprise there wasn't a gluten free bun option, so I opted to order it wrapped in lettuce. The definition of "wrapped in lettuce" is really "let's add two more giant pieces of lettuce to the top of the burger and call it

Upon my meal being served to me, I went on a search for a knife and fork, knowing it would be impossible to eat my burger without it, because who would want to end up with a pile of barbecue sauce on their lap?

Of course it's not common for



Carter Uslaber / Advance-Titan

At Clash Burger, you can opt for a lettuce or brioche bun with your burger/chicken sandwich.

a burger place to offer a knife, but I finally succeeded in my endeavor and then went to enjoy my dinner.

My fries were cooked to crispy and oversalted perfection, exactly how I like them. But my burger, well that's another story. Finding my burger under all the lettuce was like trying to find honesty in a political race or a teardrop in the ocean. Eventually I did, and it wasn't a terrible burger, but it makes all the more difference when you don't have to scavenge for the actual burger.

I am thankful that we have access to the dining services that we do, but I also wish that our school would be more accommodating to those who can't eat what everyone else can. It may seem like a minor problem, but being nourished and not going through class hungry is a key factor to succeeding.

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Is the Monobloc good design?

By Carter Uslaber uslabe78@uwosh.edu

If you consider these elements of design — appearance, affordability, quality and ease of manufacturing — the Monobloc chair might be one of the best products ever designed.

That may seem like a bold statement on its face, but read along and I think you'll see things are not as clear as you might think.

The Monobloc refers to those white plastic lawn chairs. Their ubiquity is such that even a description as vague as that probably was enough to conjure their image in your head.

The original Monobloc plastic chair was designed by Canadian architect and designer D.C. Simpson in 1946. Since Simpson's pioneering design, multiple variations were made on the plastic chair, including such notable examples as the ever-stylish Panton chair (Verner Panton, 1968), and the Grosfillex Resin Garden Chair (Grosfillex, 1983), this latter being the most recognizable today.

The 1968 Panton chair and it's feature of stackability was a predecessor to the Garden Chair, which we recognize as the modern Monobles

But once the Monobloc comes up, so too does the question, 'what makes design good?' What specific features or attributes are emblematic of skillful design? Is it simply a matter of beauty and functionality? Or should we also account for features such as quality, ease of manufacturing and affordability? These are important questions for designers to ask when they're creating new products, for it's rare to see beauty, functionality, affordability, quality and ease of production present in one product. Usually at least one must be sacrificed.

For example, the Monobloc itself is a highly utilitarian piece of design. It's optimized to be mass produced, affordable and sturdy—well, sturdy enough. By way of appearance, the Monobloc isn't even on the same plane as the hopeful

and futuristic look of the Panton chair, emblematic of space-age optimism. However, the Monobloc does fulfill other roles of functionality much better than its conspicuously-colorful counterpart.

The Monobloc's birth coincided with a relatively new process of plastics-manufacturing in the post-World War II era: injection molding. Injection molding is a process in which plastic beads are heated to the point of melting then shot through what's essentially a large syringe into a mold. The plastic then cools and the mold splits apart, dropping out a freshly produced plastic piece.

Although injection molding systems themselves are wildly expensive and cost-prohibitive to most niche or artisan designers (the Panton chair being a rare case, although the Panton chair originally wasn't manufactured by injection molding), their highly-industrious nature lends itself to mass manufacturing. Today, many single-use plastics, like forks, plates and cups, are manufactured by injection molding. Such is the process used to create the Monobloc.

Since its inception, the Monobloc has spread through the world with the same swift efficiency as the coronavirus. The chair quickly reached a point of global ubiquity, making it what one scholar has called "a context-free object." Most objects such as electrical outlets or kitchen utensils' designs have temporal anchors or markers that cue a viewer in as to when it was designed or manufactured. It's easy to identify a car as having been built during either the space race or the late 90s, but with photos of the Monobloc, you can't tell whether they were taken in the late-80s or yesterday.

The affordability of the Monobloc and its simplicity in manufacturing give it distinct and unparalleled advantages over many other chairs. No other chair is so readily accessible and easy to procure several of for the purpose of an event, gathering or stand-in furniture.

The Monobloc's squared legs of-



fer not only increased stability for plastic, which is a fairly flimsy material overall, but also stackability. The Monobloc is just as commonly seen standing alone or discarded at the side of the road as it is in large stacks awaiting use. Stackability is a high-value design feature for chairs, especially as it relates to eventful spaces. While some chairs may look better or be more comfortable than the Monobloc, they take much more space to store, not to mention their cost. The feature of stackability is something that designers still optimize for today.

Slits in the Monobloc's back and seat allow for easy drainage, making the chairs perfect for outdoor use, as they can simply be left out in the rain without being damaged. (The third most-common sighting of the Monobloc is a few leaned against a table in a yard.) The slats also mean less plastic is used in the manufacturing process, which might not be a huge deal for artisan furniture makers, but when it comes to an industrially-produced chair like the Monobloc, the savings compound quickly.

Of course, the Monobloc has its criticisms. I don't think I will get anybody's dander up if I call it ugly; it's cited as eroding local cultures and homogenizing design throughout the world, and they are generally fragile pieces of furniture. Still, the Monobloc's affordability positions it as a symbol of upward mobility in developing nations

Today, with increased pressure on manufacturers to find alterna-

tives to plastics and to shift away from the single-use variety, the Monobloc is left in a peculiar place. While chairs generally aren't thought of as single-use or disposable, if one is, it's the Monobloc.

So is the Monobloc good design? Of course it is. And of course it isn't. Verily, it's a matter of perspective depending on what features any given person is optimizing for, but one thing's for sure: whatever you think of it, and whatever its impact, the Monobloc has revolutionized design. You would be hard-pressed to find a product as ubiquitous and instantly recognizable or a product that has so profoundly shaped how we think about what makes design good.

Letter to the Editor Financial literacy and COVID-19

By Anthony Behnke behnka34@uwosh.edu

Financial literacy is a critical, yet extremely overlooked, branch of education in the current U.S. education system. You could argue that most schools offer some form of "Personal Finance" class that can be taken as an extracurricular however none (or very few) are a requirement of the curriculum. These classes will touch base on the barebones basics of taxes, balancing checkbooks, budgeting, saving and managing a checking account. These types of real-life courses, and particularly finance courses, should be required for graduation. Finances will be apart of your life from beginning to end, so you should get as accustom to them as you can.

Too many people are often thrust into adult life with little

knowledge of their own finances. At a bare minimum, we should hope that the above listed points will be required and taught.

In addition to that, classes going into specifics such as retirement savings and investments, proper budgeting, insurance information and homebuying process and requirements are rare. All these things will be encountered by everyone in their life except for possibly purchasing a home. None of these are topics where you simply want to sign on the dotted line without having a baseline understanding of what you're signing or doing; that being said, nothing is really stopping you from doing that so it's in your best interest to

COVID-19 has impacted many peoples' finances in some regard. This brought into play the ability to tap into emergency funds if they

had them and how to handle and

deal with possible job loss.

In the most tragic cases, COVID-19 taught people what to do and how to handle the passing of a loved one who also may have been a breadwinner for the household. As awful as all these situations are, finances will come into play for all of them. It is entirely possible that with the proper planning, the finance aspect will not have to take a precedent and will be taken care of.

which everything can be done today in terms of purchasing and flow of money makes it very easy to quickly lose track of your budget. Things like Amazon 1-click purchases and Apple or Samsung pay that allow you to use your smart watch for payment, which makes spending even more tempting. When you're not actively seeing cash leave your hands, it becomes much easier to overspend and that's not even including the

use of credit cards

There is no doubt in my mind that improvement of personal finance and money management courses implemented during high school would show a tangible and valuable overall increase in more well-prepared young adults entering the "adult" world. With the broad range of life skills that that should taught in school, personal finance is certainly one of them.

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.

Sports

Titans move on, Porath sets school record

By Cory Sparks sparkc21@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh women's basketball team defeated UW-River Falls in the first round of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) tournament by a score of 79-59 at the Kolf Sports Center on March

Senior guard Leah Porath had an explosive performance and led the way with a WIAC-high and UWO school record of 30 points on 12-for-18 shooting, 14 rebounds (fifth best WIAC performance) and six assists (second best WIAC performance).

"She was sensational. Sometimes you get the stat sheet, and it's quiet. Tonight it wasn't that quiet," head coach Brad Fischer said. "To get six assists and no turnovers is great for anybody, but to put that with 30 [points] and 14 [rebounds] is one of the better performances that we've seen since I've been at Oshkosh."

UWO's defense also dictated the outcome of the game, only allowing UWRF to shoot 21-for-60 from the field (35%) and 8-for-26 from behind the three point line (31%).

UWO, who was 6-2 in a regular season that featured them splitting their last two games against UW-Eau Claire, has had their fair share of troubles with performance in the third quarter, but that was not a problem in this game. UWO outscored UWRF 28-20 in the third quarter before preserving the lead for the duration of the fourth quarter.

"Throughout this season we have typically been ahead at halftime, but our third quarters have been a little rough," senior guard Nikki Arneson said. "If we are able to come out strong after half-



April Lee / Advance-Titan

Leah Porath's 30 point performance against UWRF on March 1 broke the UWO school record of 29 points .

time, our team will be very tough to beat."

Arneson left the second of UWO's two games against Eau Claire on Feb. 26 with an injury, but she came in off the bench in the team's game against UWRF with 11 points, the second most of any bench player on the team behind sophomore guard Jenna Jorgensen, who had 14 points.

The bench as a whole had 33 points, accounting for roughly 40% of the team's total scoring

"[Jenna] has just done such a good job of picking the right shots. Nikki coming off of the bench after having to miss the second half against Eau Claire was a big boost for us obviously," Fischer said. "To be able to go up and down the roster a little bit and get shots from different places makes us a little bit tougher to guard going forward."

UWO could not get it going from behind the 3-point line, shooting only 1-for-13 (7.7%) to UWRF's 8-for-26 (31%), but the team adapted and took high percentage shots while out-rebounding UWRF 45-34 and beating them in the assists category 18-8

Sophomore guard Macy Nilsen led UWRF in scoring with 16 points on 6-for-13 shooting with eight rebounds, and freshman guard/forward Bethany Vasecka led the team in rebounds with nine off of the bench.

At this point in the season, the coaches and players are really pleased with how they've performed given the odd circumstances that have come with adapting to a pandemic-shortened

"Our team has performed very well this year. Every day and every game our goal is just to take a step forward and get better," Arneson said. I'm proud of our team, especially in an odd year like we have had. Everyone has stuck with it and trusted the pro-

On Wednesday, UWO played UW-La Crosse, who went 5-4 in the regular season, in the WIAC semifinals. Results can be seen on the UWO Athletics page. If UWO won that matchup, they will play either UW-Whitewater or UWEC in the WIAC championship on Feb. 5 with a tip-off time that is

We're talkin' about playoffs!

By Cory Sparks sparkc21@uwosh.edu

The Titans Men's Basketball won their first game of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) playoffs against UW-Stout in an offensive showcase winning 98-89.

The Titans, ranked ninth, shot a phenomenal 60% from the floor. A big chunk of the

offense came junior guard Hunter Plamann, who scored 27 points in the contest. Plamann credits his teammates for scoring success on such a hot night say-

Credit to my

teammates, on any night anyone on our team could have the hot hand," Plamann said.

Plamann was not the only hot hand of the game as sophomore forward Levi Borchert tallied 21 points in the game, Will Mahoney added another 17, Eddie Muench had 15 and Eric Peter-

Credit to my team-

mates, on any night

- Hunter Plamann

anyone on our

the hot hand.

team could have

The Titans head on the road Wednesday to take on UW-La Crosse in La Crosse. Plamann made it very clear that if the team can maintain their identity, they'll come out on top.

"We just need to be ourselves and do what we have to do to win," Plamann said.

In typical years, WIAC playoff games would be loud and

rowdy ues and places like La Crosse would not be an ideal place to play a game for the Titans.

Plamann stated that with no fans at games, there is a streetball vibe each time.

"Playing on the road with no fans to me personally doesn't really make a difference because in a way it just feels like a pick up basketball game,' Plamann said.

As the season nears closing, the Titans have their eyes focused on the top prize which is the WIAC crown. Plamann, ,along with his teammates have been preparing for the WIAC Tournament since long before the WIAC announced that there would be a season.

"It would be awesome, we have been practicing for about 5 months now and winning the WIAC right now is the goal,' Plamann said.

This is do or die time for the Titans as they look to take on the no. 14 ranked Eagles in a true WIAC show down. The Eagles are led by the dynamic duo of Ethan Anderson who averaged 17.2 points during the regular season and Wyatt Cook who averaged 17 points per game in the regular season. Anderson was a key scorer in the Eagles first win of the WIAC Tournament as he put up 31 in a 76-68 victory over UW-Stevens Point.

The Titans will have a hill to climb Wednesday night, but as we've seen in the past they have overcome challenges time and time again. Plamann and his teammates will take the court in Mitchell Hall at 7 p.m. for the WIAC semifinal.



Katie Pulvermacher / Advance-Titan

Sophomore forward Levi Borchert (pictured) put up a career high 21 points behind junior guard Hunter Plamann's season high 27 points in UWO's 98-89 victory over UWS.

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VACANT: Broadcasting keeps families updated

From Page 1

"All of the players and coaches can hear what you are saying, especially in a court side setting like in basketball," Samp said. "Typically if there is a player that isn't shooting well but continues to shoot I may say something like, 'this kid couldn't heat up if he had a blanket around him'. Now that everyone can hear what you say I am a little more cautious.'

This isn't to say that the arena is completely quiet, but there are certain times in the Kolf Sports Center

where the commentators' voices are in danger of being the loudest noises there.

"It's really weird sometimes, especially with free throws and timeouts," Piotrowski said. "It's quiet enough sometimes you can hear a pin drop, so on commentary you're used to talking loud because you're trying to talk over the fans and general arena commotion, [but] then it gets to free throws and it's dead quiet."

The commentators aren't alone in having their voices amplified, though, as the voices of players and personnel can be heard by just about everyone. Player-referee arguments also ring throughout the arena instead of being drowned out by crowd commotion.

"Some things that I hear during a broadcast is what the coach is saying or a player is saying especially if they are calling a play," Samp said. "I [also] hear cursing from players and I can hear when they try to argue their point when a foul is called which can be interesting."

While the 30-something card-

board cutouts at each basketball game seem to provide some comic relief, the people, typically family members, of whom those cardboard cutouts represent must rely on broadcasters to hear a live reaction of how their family member's team is doing against its opponent.

"Both radio and TV [are] very important because in our case the parents of these athletes are not able to attend events that they normally would, and we are still able to broadcast their son or daughter doing what they love," Samp said.

This also goes without saying that basketball is the only winter sport where families get this luxury. Families of those in track and field, swim and dive, wrestling and gymnastics have to resort to watching the score updates or final results on the UWO athletic page.

While broadcast does play a crucial role in updating loved ones on how their family member is doing, this does not dismiss the absence of home field/court advantage that has loomed throughout WIAC games

Porath lights up scoreboard, motivates others

By Cory Sparks sparkc21@uwosh.edu

Leah Porath is a star point guard on the UW Oshkosh women's basketball team who has made her name known as one of the best Division III players in the country. But her peers say she is also one of the best people in her community.

Porath's basketball roots are deep, as she's been playing the sport since early elementary school. She started playing basketball at 7, before becoming the accomplished D-III hooper she currently is as the leading scorer on a 6-2 Titans team.

Basketball has played an extremely important role in her life.

"Basketball has been more than just a sport to me," Porath said. "Basketball brings joy and excitement into my life. It gave me a reason to set goals and strive for accomplishments."

Porath came to UWO as a 2017 New London High School graduate and a four-sport athlete with four varsity letters in basketball and softball and two in swimming and vol-

As a freshman, peers quickly noticed Porath's humble composure and hard-working intellect.

"Leah was very quiet at first, but when you got to know her, you quickly found out that she wasn't the quiet one at all," said fellow teammate and senior Nikki Arneson. "I would best describe Leah as that teammate who is always the hardest worker on the floor. She is always setting the bar high with her effort and determination.'

Porath's combination of assertive play and constant humility was noticed by her coaching staff, and she became a household name in her conference, as well as in the country, by the time her junior year rolled around. Her ability to freeze defenders and routinely score in the double digits was on full display throughout



Courtesy of UWO Photosehlter

Porath has played at UWO for four years, but with this year not counting towards eligiblity, she will be playing as a Titan for one last year in the 2021-22 season.

"My first impression of her was that this is a player who works extremely hard on her game, but does so very quietly," said assistant coach Matt Kelliher, who has known Porath since her junior season. "She plays very aggressively, without arrogance. Her skills are something that any coach would love to have on their team.'

Porath has come a long way since her basketball debut in second grade, as she was named as the 2020 NCAA Division III Public School Women's Basketball Player of the Year by the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association, was named as a 2020 third-team all American by D3hoops.com, was voted to the all-Central Region first team by D3hoops.com, was named the 2020 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Player of the Year, was named to the five-player D3hoops.com Women's Basketball Team of the Week in November 2019 and February 2021 and led the WIAC in points per game in 2020 with 17.5.

Porath's individual success comes so frequently that as this story was being written, she scored a school-record 30 points against UW-River Falls in the first round of the WIAC tournament on March 1.

Even with all of these individual accolades, Porath identifies her biggest accomplishments as ones that she has achieved with her team.

"During my time here at UWO, I would say the biggest accomplishments I have been a part of would be winning the WIAC conference tournament twice and making it to the sweet 16 twice," Porath said. "Being a part of those postseason runs is and work hard at the game of basket-

something I will never forget."

Porath's consistent optimism is something that has also caught the attention of those around her, as she always seems to find a way to put a positive spin on every situation.

"When it comes to basketball and life-related things, Leah will always try to look at it from the bright side," Arneson said. "You rarely see or hear Leah talk or act in a negative way. She is always looking [on the] positive side of things."

Along with her optimism comes some humor. Even as a hard-worker who takes the process of perfecting her craft seriously, it's not beyond Porath to make a situation comical.

"Even though she's quiet, Leah has got a great sense of humor, dry humor," Kelliher said.

Porath said she continues to play

ball because of the life lessons that the game offers, but she also credits her family's support for motivating her to continue to better herself.

"I have learned that in order to become your best self you have to set goals and push yourself to achieve them," Porath said. "My parents have encouraged and pushed me to become the person I am today. But my support system doesn't end there. My grandparents, aunt and uncles, cousins, friends, teammates and coaches have always been there for me."

Kelliher has noticed Porath's persistence to improve, and he believes that her greatness will extend far beyond the success that she has enjoyed as a collegiate basketball athlete.

"Leah is someone who has the drive and determination to be great at whatever it is she is doing, and after her playing days are over, she will do more incredible things," Kelliher said. "Everyone should know that Leah is much more than a basketball player; she's a great person."

As a senior, Porath is beginning to reflect on the parts of college basketball that she will miss most. Her flashy, high-scoring talent has made it clear that she will miss those around her more than anything else as her college career comes to a close.

"I will miss the people at UWO the most. The friendships that I have made these last four years is something that I am truly grateful for," Porath said.

But, she's not done yet. With the 2020 basketball season not counting toward player eligibility, UWO's star has unfinished business to at-

"I am fortunate to be able to come back and play one more year," Porath said. "Hopefully, I will be able to cut down a few more nets and be a part of another NCAA postseason

Track gets mixed results against Eau Claire

By Johnathon Samp sampj98@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh track and field team had another big weekend as the team took on UW-Eau Claire for their second scored event of the indoor track season. The men's team won 85-64, but the women's team didn't have the same luck, losing

The men's team came into the meet at no. 2 in the nation, while their opponents, the Blugolds, came into the meet sitting at no. 14. The UWO women's team came into the meet against UWEC at no. 5 in the nation and their opponents were ranked no. 8 in the nation.

The Titan men's track and field team sits at no. 2 in the nation for another week, but other WIAC rivals are right on their tail as UW-Whitewater is no. 3, UW-La Crosse at no. 4, UWEC at no. 6, UW-Stout is no. 7 and UW-Steven Point closes out the top 10 at no. 10 in the nation.

The Titan women's Track and Field team is ranked no. 4 in the nation this week. They do, however, sit behind the no. 1 ranked UWL team and the no. 2 UWEC team and behind UWO is the no. 9 ranked

The track and field team has been working hard even with a season

where there will be no championships. Senior wCara Volz mentions how she is using this season even with no championships.

"For me personally. I'm doing my best in improving my jumps,' Volz said. "As a current jumper, I have been lacking speed in my jumps throughout my phases."

Volz also mentions she is graduating in December of 2021 and will have another season of indoor track in her future at UWO.

Andrew George, a distance runner on the team, also explains how he is adapting to this season with no championships.

"I am currently trying to improve

my times and my racing strategies this year," George said. "My goals were mainly focused on performing at the national meet, but with the meet being cancelled, I am trying to find the most enjoyment I can from this year."

George also mentions how the cancellation of the championships impacted him and his track success.

"Having no championships is very disappointing," George said. "I put myself in a great position to be a threat at the national meet this March "

The track and field team has qualified for the "Last Chance Meet" which will happen this weekend at UWW beginning at 12pm CST.

For many this will be their final indoor meet representing UWO as a track and field team member.

Volz explains how tightly knit this team is.

"A team is a second family that you can fall back to when you maybe couldn't perform up to your best," Volz said. "We're there for each other and always ready to have each other's back."

This team will also get a chance to compete in outdoor competition this spring given the weather holds up, but for now their eyes are focused on this weekend at the "Last Chance Meet" in Whitewater.

Arts & Entertainment

UWO art galleries present new exhibits

By Kylie Balk-Yaatenen balkyb22@uwosh.edu

The Allen Priebe and Annex Art Galleries are currently showing two exhibitions called "Confluence" by Kathryn Hunter and Kate MacDowell and "Somewhere" by Debbie Kupinsky.

"Confluence" is located in the Allen Priebe art gallery in the main lobby of the Arts and Communications center on campus.

Kathryn Hunter, artist of "Confluence," said that her exhibit takes a deeper look into the values of America and its freedoms while also looking at how destructive its

people can be both physically and metaphorically.

Hunter said that she uses multiple materials to explore subjects through symbolism and visual narration.

"Animals are characters, like those in the folktale tradition, reflecting on false prophecy, violence and pacification, truth and deception, cultural and wealth idolization and the erosion of our surroundings," she said.

The other artist of "Confluence," Kate MacDowell, said she uses her hand-built porcelain pieces to show environmental stressors such as climate change, the use of

ile es to show environmental stressors such as climate change, the use of

Kylie Balk-Yaatenen / Advance-Titan

"Feral" by MacDowell from hand built porcelain and glaze.

pesticides and clear-cutting.

"In each case, the union between man and nature is shown to be one of friction and discomfort with the disturbing implication that we too are vulnerable to being victimized by our destructive practices," MacDowell said.

She said that her pieces also borrow themes from myths, art history and figures of speech.

"In each piece, aspects of the human figure stand in for ourselves and act out sometimes harrowing, sometimes humorous transformations, which illustrate our current relationship with the natural world," MacDowell said.

Debbie Kupinsky's exhibit "Somewhere" can be found on the second floor of the Arts and Communication building.

"Somewhere" explores the ordinary with its use of common, everyday items such as wood, curtains, wires and found objects.

According to Kupinsky's website, her work looks at the role of objects and images as a way to show meaning while also exploring the role of layered images to show metaphorical landscapes.

She said that meaning is created within hidden layers of the pieces.

"The relationships in the work between sculptural pieces and found objects are meant to leave space for the viewer and allow them to find themselves, their memories and associations," Kupinsky said. "Through the tactile replication of objects and forms, the viewer is able to create their own connections between seemingly disparate images."



Kylie Balk-Yaatenen / Advance-Titan "Regret/Nostalgia" by Lipinsky using wood, cast porcelain, cast beeswax, copper wire and other found objects.

She said that her goal is to create a visually playful experience for the viewer and that her works are meant to take time for the viewer to see and understand them.

The exhibits will both be open until March 18 during gallery hours from 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. on weekends.

Both of the galleries have virtual museums available on the UWO website.

See more information at uwosh. edu/priebegalleries.

Menasha planetariums celebrate anniversary

Feb. 4 marks 60-year diamond anniversary

By Lexi Langendorf langel29@uwosh.edu

With the original 1961 Menasha planetarium open for 37 years and the newer Barlow Planetarium open for 23 years, Feb. 4 marked the 60th anniversary of a planetarium in Menasha.

The original Menasha planetarium, which served the communities of Northeast Wisconsin from 1961 to 1997, was the second of its kind in Wisconsin and is currently the longest running planetarium program in the state.

According to reports, it was one of the most publicly accessible planetariums in Wisconsin with programs for the public as well as for the area's school children.

However, when the UWO-Fox Cities Campus decided to add a science wing in the late 1990s, the Barlow Planetarium became included in the project.

The Barlow Planetarium at UWO-FC opened to the public on March 20, 1998 and was

considered among the most state-of-the-art planetariums in the United States at the time of its opening.

Today, the Barlow is the second largest and second most attended planetarium in Wisconsin.

The Barlow serves approximately 35,000 visitors annually from Northeast Wisconsin.

In just the past 23 years, nearly 900,000 guests have visited the planetarium.

When combined with the 36 years of the original Menasha planetarium, it is estimated that probably well over a million people have encountered the Menasha planetarium experience in the last 60 years.

Alan J. Peche, director at the Barlow Planetarium, said that for the entire 60 years, the planetariums offered a way for the people of Northeast Wisconsin to experience the nighttime sky while gaining a lifelong appreciation of astronomy and science.

"Astronomy is one of those



Courtesy of Alan Peche The Menasha planetarium, open for 37 years, served Northeast Wisconsin communities from 1961 to 1997. It was the second of in the state and is currently the longest running program in Wisconsin.

topics that can bridge multiple age groups," Peche said. "The youngest will get their first experience of how science can answer their questions about the world around them."

The Barlow is currently open at reduced capacity with 16 seats available per show.

Ticket sales are online only and masks are required for all guests aged three and up. Visit uwosh.edu/barlow for more information and follow Barlow Planetarium on Facebook for upcoming events and other updates. 8 | AdvanceTitan.com March 4, 2021

Gaming gains popularity

Staying busy during COVID-19

By Mattie Beck beckm88@uwosh.edu

Quarantine has been a time for many to find new hobbies, and a fair number of people have taken up gaming in both the traditional and non-traditional sense.

With all the extra time found during the world shutdown, many people turned to creating lives in fictional worlds where COVID-19 was not present.

A popular game has been Animal Crossing: New Horizons, released right at the peak of quarantine exclusively to Nintendo Switch, where many escaped reality by creating their own island.

Other games, while not as recent but still popular, such as Stardew Valley and Minecraft, came back into style as well, with people enjoying the theme of creating their own worlds.

Hunter Ward, a senior at UW Oshkosh, said that his favorite games over the duration of the pandemic have been Rainbow Six Siege and Rocket League on Xbox.

"Rainbow is higher intensity and more competitive, while Rocket League is more casual," Ward said.

Rainbow Six Siege, a tactical shooting video game, and Rocket League, a vehicular soccer game, rank you based upon your skills, which are determined by your win-loss ratio among other factors.

"Both have ranking systems, which is why I like those types of games," Ward said. "It's cool seeing your rank get higher the more you play and the better you get."

Alyssa Hagen and roommate Sarah Berens, both sophomores at UWO, said that they both go back to classic video games, mainly Mario Kart.

"It's fun to be able to sit down and play the classic game together with our other roommates," Hagen said.

Mario Kart is a classic game that has gone through many forms of upgrades, but Hagen and roommates still enjoy the classic version made for Wii years ago.

"Even though it's a little outdated technology wise, we always have fun playing the game when we need to relax after a stressful week," Hagen said.

While video gaming is ever popular in today's media, some



Lexi Langendorf / Advance-Titan

UWO senior Hunter Ward plays Rocket League, a vehicular soccer game that is ranked based upon a player's skills. The more an individual plays, the better they get, and therefore, the higher their rank becomes. Rocket League is a free game that anyone can download and play on a device of their choice.

still find the classic style of board games to be equally entertaining.

University of Minnesota student Lucas Flom said that board games are still in style for him because he loves "being able to play it with people and all of the little pieces associated with it."

In times like these, there is a certain comfort that can be found in being able to safely gather with others and play in person with classic board games and video games alike.

One classic game that has seen a comeback in recent years is Dungeons and Dragons, a fantasy role-playing game that dominated in the late 70s and 80s.

This may be due to the game being featured in the Netflix original "Stranger Things," where most of the monsters are named after creatures from the game itself.

Another reason could be that,

like many of the video games mentioned above, it is a fantasy world that players can create themselves to escape the harsh reality.

Flom himself plays Dungeons and Dragons, and mentioned that he still has been able to play throughout COVID-19 with online servers that connect players together.

Even older games have been reinvented digitally, allowing their popularity to increase with the digital world of today.

Quarantine brought about many changes that led to the creation of digital worlds to live out fantasies that are not found in the real world with the help of gaming, video and board alike.



Upcoming events

March 10

Speaker Series: Simon Gray "Suck it Up or Go Home! A True Story about Courage..." 7-8 p.m., Virtual careerspeakerseries.org/uwo

Through March 18

Allen Priebe Art Gallery
Located in the main lobby of
the Arts & Communication
Center

Kathryn Hunter & Kate Mac-Dowell, "Confluence" Annex Gallery Located on the 2nd floor of the Arts & Communication Center

Debbie Kupinsky, "Somewhere"
Priebe Gallery
Located in the main lobby of
the Arts & Communication
Center

Priebe and Annex hours: 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon., Fri. 7-9 p.m. Wed., Thur. 1-4 p.m. Sat., Sun.

A-T Editors' Favorite Games

Cory, Sports Editor

Rocket League

"You can play with your friends and there's also a chat bar so you can trash talk."

Owen, Opinion Editor

Catan

"A lot of my friends like it, so I play with them a lot."

Lexi, A&E Editor

Mario Kart

"It's easy to play with friends and it's fun in larger groups. Plus it gets really intense if you're competitive."

Carter, Editor in Chief

Mario Kart Shine Thief

"You're on teams and it gets really intense and fun."

Amber, News Editor
Goat Simulator

"It's funny."

Looking to get involved this semester?

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