

# The Advance-Titan

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April Lee / Advance-Titan

Fans were seen on the bleachers at a UWO athletic event for the first time since the winter season of 2020. The change comes following an update in WIAC spectator policy.

## It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's spectators in stands!

By Cory Sparks  
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For the first time since the winter season in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic stopped everything in its tracks, UWO athletics will be allowing spectators to sporting events, but in a limited fashion.

On March 16, the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) announced its spectator policy for regular-season competitions during the spring 2021 season.

The WIAC stated that each school and sport will have slightly different spectator policies, but that all conference competition must abide to the following rules:

Each WIAC member will create procedures to govern spectator attendance in accordance with state and local health and safety guidelines and their campus visitor policy.

All guests must wear a mask or face covering that is covering

the nose and mouth at all times.

Guests must remain socially distanced at all times when in the competition venue.

Guests must observe the institution's seating policies, must remain socially distant and may not interact with any student-athlete while in the competition venue, including bench areas, dugouts, warm-up areas, etc.

Guests are asked to depart the competition venue as soon as the contest is over and will not be permitted to meet with any student-athletes at the athletic competition venue.

Each UWO athlete had their own reaction to the spectator policy announcement, but there's a general sense of gratitude in being able to perform in

front of a live crowd again.

"When I first heard that we had limited fans at our meets I was kind of disappointed because it's nice having people cheer for you and support you throughout any sport," freshman track and field sprinter Valerie Seeley said.

"I think having a crowd helps you through any sport because it's the people you care about cheering for you, like your family and friends."

Most sports are allowing two people per home athlete to come and watch the events, but the UWO track and field team is not scheduled to have any track meets as a whole this year.

This means that UWO track and field athletes are expected to travel to other meets, and while

their competitors may bring supporters, they cannot bring anyone to watch their meets.

"So far we haven't been allowed to take any of our own fans. It's just the home teams that's allowed fans," Kyra Huber said. "For us we are allowed to have fans for home meets, but only throwers have a home meet. We don't have much of a [live] fan base right now."

Nonetheless, UWO athletes as a whole, regardless of the sport they play, have learned to lean on one another for support since it's evident that events with full stands are not a guarantee in the near future. Athletes have used this peculiar circumstance to become more acquainted with one another and to support each other's performances as each other's "cheerleaders."

"UWO has a great team of people that are always there for one another," Seeley said. "I think that having a good connection with [the team] helps since we can't have as many fans or

supporters as we would like."

For those who will be playing matches at home, there's a lot of excitement knowing friends and/or loved ones will be able to watch them compete again.

"I am very excited to have spectators this season," freshman tennis player Mattie Beck said. "I have friends and family coming to watch which makes me very excited that they are able to do so, as it will be amazing to have their support."

As of now, the WIAC is still yet to address the spectator policy for postseason games.

In order to view the policies for each individual UWO sport, go on the UWO athletics page and select the "Spectator Policy" hyperlink next to the future event of interest.

**UWO baseball finds its footing with victories over Eau Claire and Whitewater**

Read more on page 4

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**About the Newspaper**  
The Advance-Titan is an independent student newspaper published on campus since 1894. The paper is written and edited by students at UW Oshkosh who are soley responsible for content and editorial policy. Any UW Oshkosh student from all three campuses is welcome to work on the newspaper staff. The Advance-Titan is published on Thursday during the academic year.

**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 OSA

OSA election winners President Jacob Fischer and Vice President Caprice Swanks plan to focus their campaign goals on student involvement and mental health.

# OSA election results

By Katie Pulvermacher  
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When Jacob Fischer and Caprice Swanks first met up to talk about campaign goals, it was clear they both wanted to encourage students to get more involved in the clubs and organizations that UW Oshkosh has to offer.

The Oshkosh Student Association (OSA) recently had elections on March 9 and 10 to elect president, vice president and senators for each of the UWO campuses.

The student body known as the Elections Commission administers the elections and reviews and reports on the outcome of the OSA election to the OSA Senate.

Every spring, students have the opportunity to elect new representatives of OSA and to vote on referendum questions concerning student life.

President Fischer is a junior majoring in political science and public relations, minoring in advertising.

“As Student Body President, I plan to listen to UWO students,” Fischer said. “Often, student governments can get disconnected from the people they represent. I was elected by my classmates and plan to act on behalf of my classmates.”

Fischer currently serves as an OSA Senator at Large, has previously served as the IFC Director of Fraternity Life (2019-2020) and the Vice President of Sigma

Pi Fraternity (2019-2021).

Vice President Swanks is a sophomore majoring in sociology with an emphasis on social equity and diversity and double minoring in African American studies and women and gender studies.

“I plan to lead the university alongside President elect Jacob Fischer by engaging, inviting and celebrating those who may not feel heard, valued or appreciated here on campus,” Swanks said. “I believe inclusion is very important on campus, and as we continue to strive for inclusivity, I believe OSA in the coming year will make great strides in doing so.”

Prior to running for Vice President of OSA, Swanks has been involved in Black Student Union, African American studies program club, Chi Alpha, Divine Voices of the Valley Gospel Choir and was the Diversity and Inclusion Program assistant last school year.

Fischer and Swanks decided to run as they both felt they were in a great position to make change at UWO.

“I strongly believe that UWO should be regarded as one of the best schools that Wisconsin has to offer,” Fischer said. “We, as students, need to start embracing UWO, and we should be proud to be Titans. I feel that Caprice and I have what it takes to really reshape the attitude students have about UWO.”

Another big factor to their campaign is mental health.

“We are humans, and we live in a fast-paced world, and sometimes it feels we cannot take a break,” Swanks said. “My goal is to help students learn how they can put their mental health first while attending a college.”

Fischer believes our campus and student body are in a great spot currently. Unlike many of the UW System schools, UWO was able to stay open without any big risk of shutting down last semester, and he said that is something that UWO students should be proud of.

He is excited to be a part of the administration that hopefully “reopens” our great campus and is happy working around Swanks who he says has great energy and is a great listener.

Fischer believes his background and communication abilities will allow him to represent the student body.

Many people have told Swanks just how approachable she is, and that was a big factor in her decision to run for election.

“I want to be that safe person people can come to when they have questions or concerns,” Swanks said. “I believe Mr. Fischer and I will be great leaders because we both care about the students.”

If anyone reading this would like to have Swanks or Fischer attend any of their clubs’ meetings, you can reach Swanks at swankc63@uwosh.edu.

# MMUN holds 61st conference

By Megan LaFond  
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In the past year, college organizations have faced many obstacles when it comes to how to hold competitions.

But that did not stop the Midwest Model United Nations (MMUN) Conference from putting their best foot forward during this years’ competition.

The 61st MMUN Conference was held virtually from Feb. 18-21 where UW Oshkosh’s Model United Nations (MUN), working from Sage Hall, took home 32 awards.

Freshman Kallena Pluemer said the online format of the St. Louis competition made everything more challenging.

“Not only were there connectivity errors, but making connections and talking one on one was more difficult than ever,” she said. “However, I felt as if I still utilized a similar set of skills that come in handy everyday.”

Sophomore Sami Christiansen also had this to add about her experience on how COVID-19 affected their team.

“We learned that we needed to communicate better as a team and rely on each other more,” she said. “Some members held extra responsibilities that they wouldn’t have normally held. Due to the online format, the days felt longer and screen fatigue is a real thing.”

UWO’s MUN will be competing in the National Conference, which normally would be held in New York City but due to COVID-19 will be held virtually April 5-8.

The National Conference is the biggest MUN competition in the world.

They will be competing with teams from all over the world, including Cairo, Egypt and countries from Latin America.

Although the national competition will be held virtually and they wish they could be there, that doesn’t take away what Christiansen enjoys most about the competition.

“I love getting to work with everyone,” she said. “We are an incredibly diverse group of students, all coming together around a shared common interest and goal.”

# This week in UWO history

**April 8, 1991** — The opening festivities of a five-day celebration of honoring the inauguration of Chancellor John E. Kerrigan began. This marked the first time the school had undertaken such an endeavor in welcoming a new school president or chancellor.

**April 9, 1948** — Four Oshkosh students begin participating in an imitation United Nations session in the state capitol’s Assembly Chamber. All state colleges and universities were invited, with Oshkosh selected to represent Belgium. The Oshkosh students first broke into separate committees that address a specific problem. Later, they all rejoined for a full assembly meeting. A United Nations representative also spoke to the participants.

**April 10, 1986** — Ruth Whitney,

editor-in-chief of Glamour magazine since 1968 and Oshkosh native, spoke to more than 250 attendees at Reeve Memorial Union. She discussed the changes in women’s attitudes and accomplishments between 1986 and 1976, when she last spoke at the university. The speech was a part of the University Day for Women.

**April 11, 1962** — “National Review” editor and conservative spokesman William F. Buckley spoke to about 2,400 people at Albee Hall. Among other things, Buckley said the West was retreating from the march of Communism and that intellectuals were falling for a “bankrupt liberalism.”

**April 12, 1932** — Eminent geographer Harlan H. Barrow addressed a large audience in the Little The-

atre. The professor of geography at the University of Chicago stressed conservation and argued that resources should not be withheld from the present generation.

**April 13, 1982** — Former President Jimmy Carter spoke to over 3,000 at the Kolf Sports Center about human rights. The former president stated justice is the highest possible standard for any government to uphold. He also criticized the Reagan administration, saying it had abandoned the Middle East peace initiative, arms control and the promotion of human rights.

**April 14, 1994** — Famous Taycheedah Correctional Institute 1990 escapee Lawrenceia Bembenek – “Bambi” – spoke at Reeve Memorial Square about prison reform and signed copies of her new book.

In 1990, Bembenek made national news when she escaped into Canada from the prison where she had served 10 years of a life sentence. She was sentenced for murdering her former husband’s ex-wife, a crime she says she didn’t commit. After being returned to the United States, Bembenek had a reduced charge of second-degree murder against her, and she was later paroled.

**April 15, 1997** — Psychosexual therapist Ruth Westheimer spoke at Albee Hall. Presenting from a specially placed, extra-high stepping stool, the two-time “College Lecturer of the Year” spoke about the promotion of sexual literacy, burying sexual myths and the prevention of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.



# Supreme Court strikes down mask mandate

By Sophia Voight  
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The Wisconsin Supreme Court struck down Gov. Tony Evers’ statewide mask mandate on March 31, blocking the governor’s effort to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

In a 4-3 ruling, the state Supreme Court declared that Evers exceeded his authority by issuing multiple emergency orders to extend the mask mandate.

Under state law, a single state of emergency can only last 60 days unless the legislature votes to prolong it.

The Republican-controlled Legislature ended one of Evers’ mask orders in February, but Evers quickly reinstated it. However, Wednesday’s decision declared orders exceeding 60 days without legislature approval invalid.

A similar state Supreme Court decision in May 2020 struck down the stay-at-home order, declaring former state health department secretary-designee Andrea Palm lacked the authority to extend the order without the legislature’s approval.

“The question in this case is not whether the governor acted wisely; it is whether he acted lawfully. We conclude he did not,” Justice Brian Hagedorn wrote for the ma-

jority.

Liberal Justice Ann Walsh Bradley wrote in minority that this ruling hinders the governor’s ability to save lives during the pandemic.

“We are in the midst of a worldwide pandemic that so far has claimed the lives of over a half million people in this country,” she wrote. “And with the stakes so high, the majority not only arrives at erroneous conclusions, but it also obscures the consequence of its decision.”

Local city and county governments are still free to impose their own orders to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Earlier in March, the Oshkosh Common Council passed a city-wide mask order that requires residents to continue wearing masks indoors.

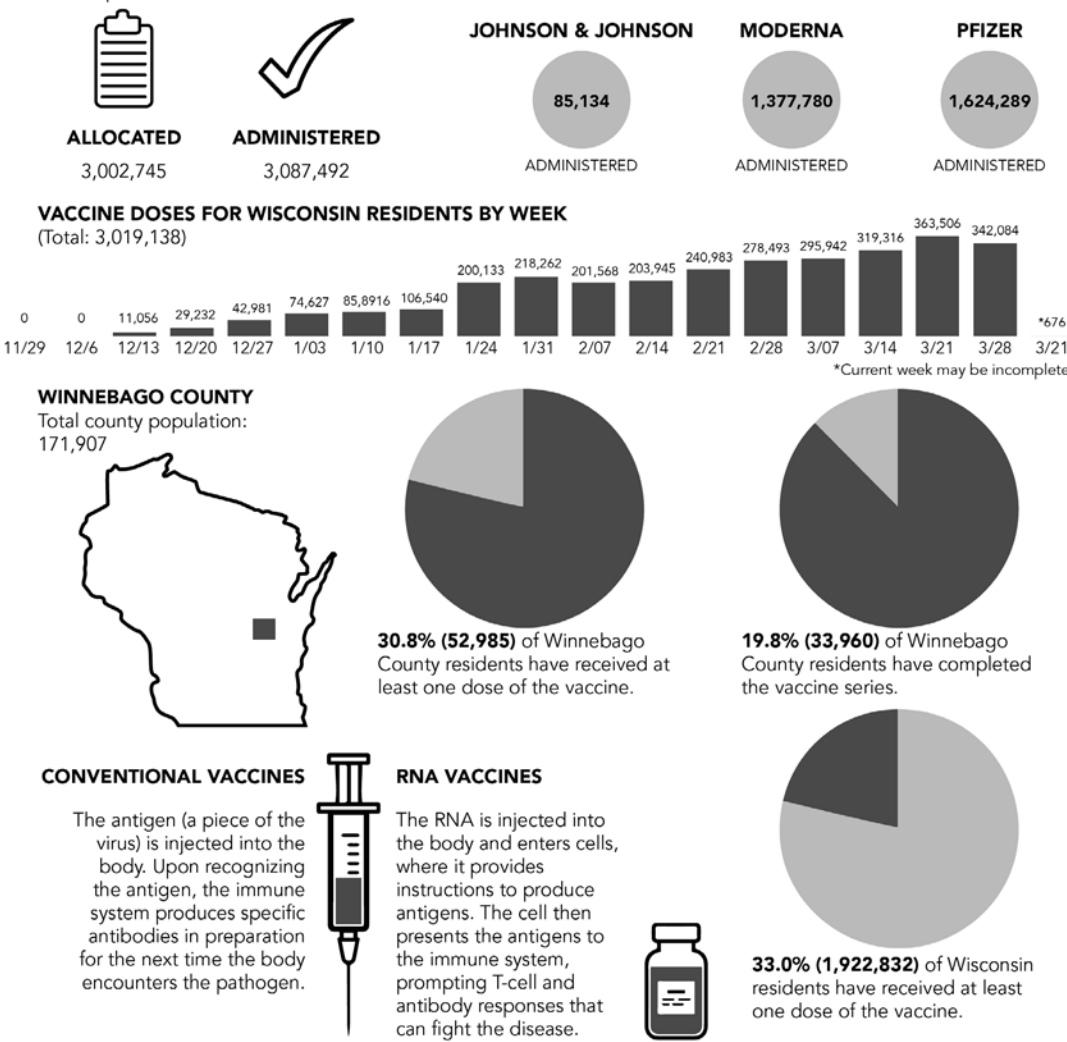
The citywide order was passed to go in effect if this exact situation of the state order being overturned occurred and will now be in place until April 30.

Winnebago County also issued a health advisory Wednesday to require everyone five and older to wear a face mask in enclosed public spaces or on public transportation.

Winnebago County Public Health Officer Doug Gieryn said in a statement that it is still crit-

## COVID-19 Vaccine Summary

(As of April 5th, 2021)



Sources: Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Graphic by Amanda Hollander

# Student documents mental health through pandemic

By Sophia Voight  
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The pandemic has had drastic impacts on almost every area of life, from forcing people to work and attend school from home to moving social interactions online.

One of the major impacts the pandemic has had is the one on people’s mental health.

It has forced people into isolation, cut them off from visiting loved ones and instilled a sense of anxiety from the possibility of being exposed to the coronavirus and not knowing what the future holds.

It has worsened people’s mental health, increased substance use and elevated suicidal ideation.

That’s why when the pandemic hit last year, UW Oshkosh senior Abby Bullard immediately thought about how quarantine and the coronavirus would impact her mental health.

At the beginning of the pandemic, Bullard began documenting how quarantine was affecting her emotional wellbeing, academics and time spent on social media for a sociology course.

Bullard said her mental health was fine at the beginning of the pandemic because the warmer weather allowed her to stay busy with outdoor activities.

“When the weather got colder during the pandemic is when I noticed a decline in my mental health,” she said. “I was staying inside often and was extremely unmotivated.”

Bullard found that a major de-



Courtesy of Abby Bullard

Bullard adopted two cats, Maui and Miles, to help improve her mental health during the pandemic.

terrent to her mental health was the amount of time the pandemic had caused her to spend on social media.

Bullard said her social media use nearly doubled during the pandemic.

“Whether I was listening to music, scrolling through social media, finding recipes on Pinterest or shopping online, the percentage of time I was spending on my phone was going up,” she said.

Bullard said the more time she was stuck at home, the more time she spent on social media.

“Snapchat is one of the first things I check when I wake up in the morning; it has been a way for my friends and me to share memories, moments and our daily lives with each other while we cannot be fully present in each other’s lives,” she said.

While social media allowed her

to stay connected to friends and family while in quarantine, Bullard said social media became a big distraction during the pandemic.

“My social media usage made me feel even more isolated and alone,” she said.

Bullard said it started to take away focus from her classes, and her grades started to suffer from it.

She said she became more careless with her courses and less eager to participate in class discussions.

“I felt more comfortable behind a computer screen,” she said.

UWO Counseling Center director Sandy Cox said loneliness has been a hard aspect of the college experience during the pandemic.

“Students have had to learn new ways to connect, enjoy college life and cope with life’s challenges, and it hasn’t been easy,” she said.

Cox said it can be stressful for

students who are missing out on developing close friendships and interacting with people in classes because of the pandemic.

Students report missing many of the normal activities of day-to-day life, she said.

“However, they have consistently reported to us their gratitude for continuing to have the opportunities and services available to them to successfully continue their education,” she said.

Bullard said online courses during the pandemic decreased her willingness to learn.

“I am extremely extroverted and love being present with my professors and peers in the classroom,” she said.

She misses interacting with her friends on campus, and when the pandemic took that away from her, she lost interest in her coursework as well.

“As a Radio-TV-Film major, I was used to being around my friends and other students every day doing hands-on learning,” she said.

Cox said the pandemic has fortunately made us pay a lot closer attention to our mental health.

“There have been so many different challenges and changes that it is normal for individuals to struggle this past year,” she said.

Cox said a lot of students struggle with anxiety, depression, loneliness and irritability because of the pandemic.

“Anxiety and depression have long been the top challenges of college students,” she said. “The pandemic experience has increased the symptoms and the increase in number of people affected.”

Cox recommends students dealing with mental health issues seek counseling services through the UWO Counseling Center.

Through documenting her own wellbeing and researching how the pandemic negatively affected people’s mental health, Bullard adopted two kittens to cope with the struggles of COVID-19.

“They helped me practice my creativity and forced me to get up and be active when I didn’t feel like it,” she said.

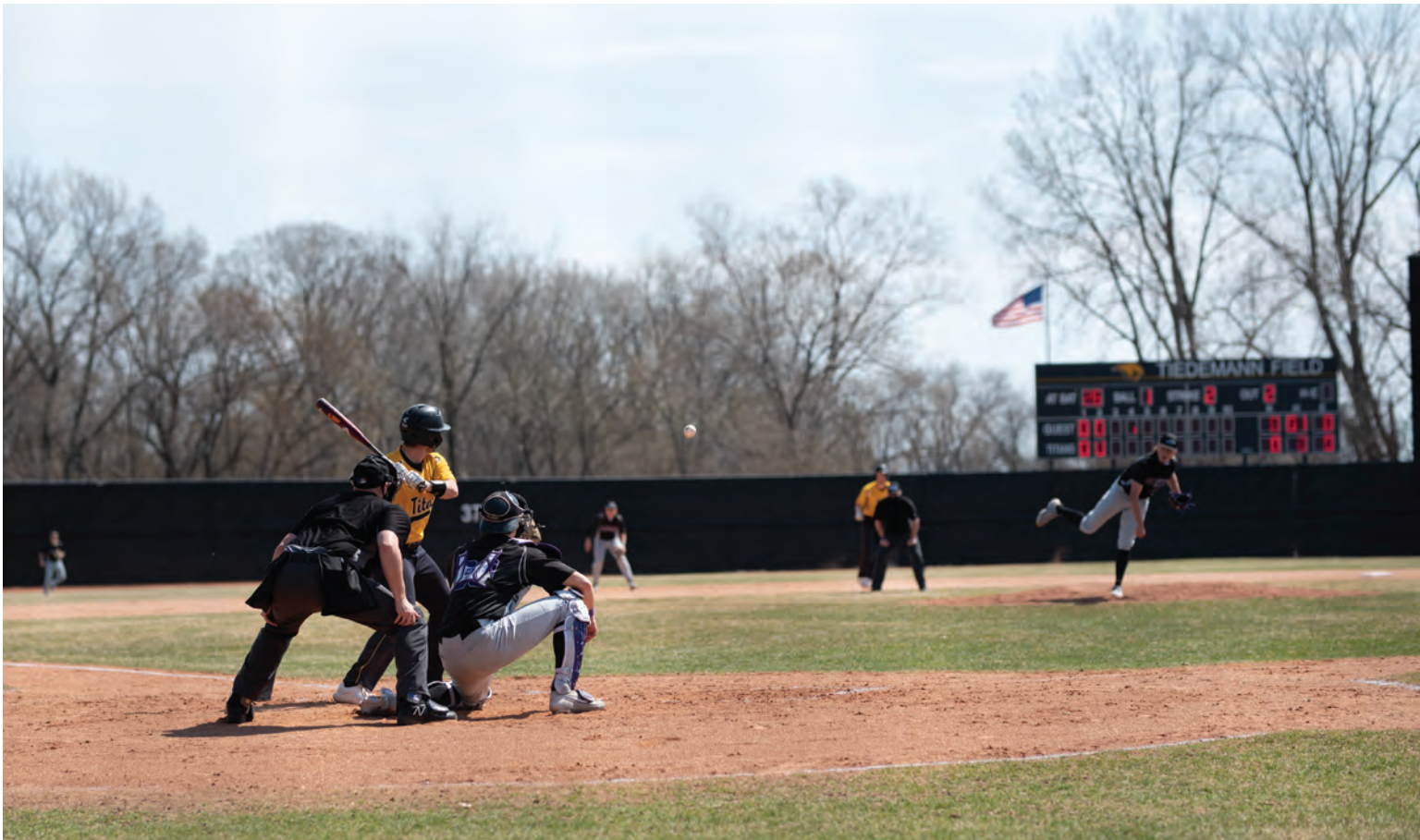
Bullard said her kittens also helped her get away from social media and the negative impacts it had on her mindset.

“They provided me with the hope I needed but could not produce myself,” she said.



# Sports

## UWO baseball bounces back big Softball stays hot



By Cory Sparks  
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The UW Oshkosh softball team split a doubleheader with UW-Platteville on April 6, winning game one 4-0 and dropping game two 10-5.

In game one, senior Claire Petrus and sophomore Maddie Fink pitched a combined seven-hit shut-out.

Petrus started the game and pitched four innings while striking out one batter, giving up four hits and a walk to get her first win of the season. Fink came into the game in the fifth inning, and she slammed the door on UWP with a three-inning save (her first) where she struck out four batters and gave up three hits.

Petrus also helped UWO out on the offensive end with a two-run double, sending senior shortstop Natalie Dudek and freshman pitcher Mia Crotty home to bust the game wide open at 4-0 in the top of the fifth inning.

Game two looked as if it would go a similar way, as sophomore outfielder Gabby Buikema, freshman catcher Hannah Ritter, junior outfielder Kailee Garstecki and senior infielder Amanda McIlhany all had runs batted in (RBI) to put the Titans up 4-2 going into the sixth inning, but the relief effort blew the sweep for UWO.

Crotty got the start on the mound, and pitched four and a third innings while striking out four batters and giving up an earned run on five hits and a walk.

Sophomore pitcher Sidney Budzinski came in, and the UWP bats came alive. Budzinski gave up four earned runs on four hits in an inning and two thirds of work, and Petrus, coming in on just a couple hours of rest, gave up five more runs on five hits.

UWP infielder Angela Laabs led the team with three RBIs.

With the split series, UWO's record slid to 8-4 and put them right behind UW-Whitewater in the WIAC standings.

UWO will come home and play UWP in another double header Thursday with games starting at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. The games' live feed and results will be available on the UWO athletics website.

UWO currently sits in fourth place in the WIAC standings with a 6-6 overall record and a 4-2 conference record. The top four teams in the conference will make the WIAC tournament.

By Cory Sparks  
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After dropping four straight games, the UW Oshkosh baseball team found their footing and went 4-2 in six games played against UW-Eau Claire and UW-Whitewater between March 21 and April 6.

UWO has been a streaky baseball team to say the least, as they started their season out with two wins, followed those performances up with four straight losses and then won four of their next six games.

In the four-game series against UWEC, UWO outscored the Blugolds by a combined score of 53-20 in some impressive offensive performances.

"I think we had a chip on our shoulder from the previous games going into the first game. We wanted to prove that we are one of the top teams in the WIAC and get much needed wins in conference," junior infielder Hunter Staniske said.

Freshman pitcher and infielder Matthew Scherrman led UWO's offensive effort, going 6-for-18

from behind the plate with two home runs and 13 runs batted in (RBI) over the four-game stretch, including a 2 home-run, 8 RBI performance in the Titans' 18-5 walloping of the Blugolds on April 2.

Scherrman himself sees the team's struggles early in the season as part of the trials and tribulations that all teams encounter in the long spring season. The team is focusing on its season one game at a time.

"We know there are a ton of ups and downs in a season," he said. "Nobody panicked, we just had to forget about it and have some good practices before we played Eau Claire."

Staniske also put together an impressive stretch behind the plate, batting 9-for-18 with 6 runs and 9 RBI in the series against UWEC.

The series as a whole uplifted the team's morale, and it has everyone feeling encouraged as UWO prepares for 16 straight Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) games before the conference tournament toward the end of the year.

"I think everyone is happy after sweeping Eau Claire last week. This is a tough conference and sweeping someone is always fun," Scherrman said. "A lot of people played well, trying to keep that momentum into our games against Whitewater this week is our biggest focus."

In the doubleheader against UWW, UWO lost game one by a score of 6-5 in 11 innings, and the team dropped game two against UWW 9-5.

UWO has been one of the best teams in the WIAC behind the plate, leading the conference in home runs (14).

UWO also managed to score in the double digits in five out of its first 10 games, and the team has three mercy rule wins so far, one against UWEC and two against Finlandia University.

The Titans have a total of seven different players with home runs just 12 games into the season.

"I expect that number to keep going up as the season continues. So far our offense has been our strongest aspect," Scherrman said. "Our pitching is one area that needs to improve moving

forward."

UWO is a middle of the road pitching team, as their earned run average (ERA) through 10 games was 4.71, fourth in the WIAC behind UWW at 2.00, UW-Stevens Point at 3.60 and UW-Platteville at 3.87.

The lack of competition being played in the last year has prevented the underclassmen pitchers from getting any in-game innings under their belts, which is something the team also acknowledges as a possibility for its struggles on the bump.

"With COVID postponing our season last year, most of our younger starters haven't had the experience they should have had playing at this level of competition," Staniske said.

UWO (6-6) will face UWW (11-2) four more times this week, with a road double header on April 9 and a home double header on April 10. The first pitch times for both double headers will be at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. , and the live stats feed can be found on the UWO athletics page.

## Gymnastics team finishes year 2-2

By Cory Sparks  
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The UW Oshkosh Gymnastics team went 1-1 in their last two competitions against Winona State University (won 188.100-181.900) on March 18 and UW-Whitewater (lost 188.050-186.975) on April 3.

UWO finished with a 2-2 record and had conference representation with sophomore Trinity Sawyer being named best Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) specialist of the week between March 15-21.

The team is pleased with their performance in what has been a peculiar season plagued with

safety restrictions and changes to accommodate for the pandemic.

"We have faced a lot of adversity this year due to the pandemic and numerous injuries on the team," senior Paige Mayhew said. "However, we have worked hard and have given our all. I would say we started out strong with a lot of potential. It is safe to say we had a great deal of confidence."

The pandemic is not the only instance where the Titans have had to overcome some obstacles, as the team lost a few of its athletes early in the season due to injury.

"Unfortunately, we had a lot of girls go down with injuries in

a very short amount of time in the beginning of our season, and it affected us," Mayhew said. "It took some extra work and support from all of our teammates to persevere and regain our confidence"

Sawyer set a season record on the vault, scoring 9.775 to win that event for the defending WIAC champions.

Against Winona State, Emily Buffington took first place in three separate categories. She won the uneven parallel bar event with a score of 9.625, the balance beam event with a score of 9.575, and had the best all-around score at 37.850.

Against Whitewater, Oshkosh had first place individual finishes

by Rahdea Jarvis on the vault (9.575), Buffington on the uneven parallel bars (9.575) and Olivia Keller on the floor exercise (9.675).

UWO's 2-2 finish in a shortened season is a slight step down from their 8-1 performance in 2019-2020 when they won the WIAC championship, but they're already looking ahead to a year with more competitions next year as the spread of COVID-19 becomes more contained.

UWO will still go into the 2022 season as the defending conference champions, as there was no WIAC championship this year due to the pandemic.



April Lee / Advance-Titan  
UWO is 10-3 in the last two years.



# Sports

## Titans face Warhawks in unscored event

By Jalen Dixon  
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The UW Oshkosh Titans returned from their meet at UW-Whitewater on April 2. None of the team's scores were kept, but the Titans still competed and fought hard.

One member of the team was ecstatic with the way the Titans represented the school.

"I believe without a doubt that we won the meet, but we have the utmost respect for every team we battle against," sophomore Amitai Wheat said. "We come into every meet thinking that we are the best team on the track, and it shows regardless of the circumstances."

The throwers for UWO also had a great day on Friday in Whitewater.

"For throwers, this past meet was a great day for us," freshman thrower Tay'Jion Johnson said.

The Titans have been perform-

ing well over their last two meets and want the success to continue at their future meets.

This will be the third consecutive week the Titans have competed in a meet, and for some it can be difficult. The rest week between meets comes with different obstacles.

"Some weeks we feel fresh all around, some weeks we feel beat up, and other weeks there may be other pros and cons, but we know that every Monday that comes around means that it is another meet at the end of the week," Wheat said. "Yes, of course sometimes we want to have more rest, but coach gives us enough rest and preparation to be ready for the next meet. Too much rest can harm us and throw us off our focus."

The Titans understand that if they want to be the best, they have to be ready every single day and they know that can mean some

short weeks or days of rest.

"We've only been focusing on getting better every week," Johnson said. "We just want to continue to grow throughout the season, so we are ready for Nationals."

This is a strategy that will surely lead to success for the Titans in the near future to help them continue their hot streak of great performances.

Head coach Justin Kinseth does all that he can to keep his players motivated for the next meet as well.

"He constantly brings up teams that either are ranked higher, have the same potential, or are chasing us," Wheat said. "Coach plays a major part in preparing us for the next meet each day."

A coach that has the connection that coach Kinseth has with his players will make a great addition to the success that the Titans continue to have. The Titans next meet is April 10th at UW-Platte-



Allie Russo / Advance-Titan

There are six more track meets before the WIAC Outdoor Championship begins on May 7.

## UWO golf finishes in third place after 18-month hiatus

By Cory Sparks  
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The UW Oshkosh women's golf team opened the season finishing in third place out of six teams at the Carthage College Firewood Invitational on Saturday.

Held at the Red Tail Run Golf Course in Lakewood, Illinois on a rather windy morning, the UWO team competed in their first meet since the fall of 2019 with sophomore Megan Footit earning their best individual score with an 89 (+17) on 18 holes. Footit had the sixth lowest round of the meet.

"The winds were some of the strongest winds I've ever played golf in, which made course management very difficult to address the entire round," junior Margherite Pettenuzzo said. "The greens were much faster than what we have been practicing on, so it was an adjustment for all of us."

The postponement of the women's golf season from fall to spring still came as a disappointment to UWO golfers, as they had spent their offseason preparing to excel during the fall season.

"In the fall when we found out our season was going to be postponed to the spring, I was so bummed," Pettenuzzo said. "I was working really hard during the previous off season on my game and was excited to see what I was capable of in the fall. However, golf was one of the few fall sports that got their season postponed instead of canceled, which is something I am grateful for."

Nonetheless, the women's golf team got out on the course together and had some rust to shake off after an 18-month hiatus.

The Midwest winter months, which once again came with countless feet of snow and numerous sub-zero temperature days, made practicing for the postponed season a hefty obstacle for UWO to over-

come.

However, thanks to golf simulators in accessible areas and the ability to travel as the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to lessen, the team was able to prepare in some form for their season.

"It is always somewhat difficult to stay in golf shape over the winter months, but something that myself and my teammates did was practice twice a week in the simulators so our bodies could stay familiar with our golf swings," said Pettenuzzo, who shot 93 (+21) on Saturday. "I was also fortunate enough to travel to Florida to get some rounds in."

As the team heads into the next four meets before Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) championship competition, it sees chemistry and understanding between players as a strong suit. Despite the many restrictions that have come with safety protocols regarding COVID-19, the golfers have made time to get to know one another so they can establish a greater sense of team identity.

"The team's strengths this year are familiarity. We made an effort in the fall and over the winter months to stay in contact and meet up to practice," Pettenuzzo said. "This allowed us to become comfortable with everyone so at our first meet we will know who we are playing for."

The next meet that UWO will be competing in is the Marian University Invitational at the Whispering Springs Golf Club in Fond du Lac, and with plenty of golf ahead, UWO has a very specific goal to pursue.

"We have the ability to produce good scores so if we believe in ourselves, we could have the ability to go into tournaments and win them," Pettenuzzo said. "I think that is a goal for everyone on my team this year – go out and win a tournament."

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# Are vaccine incentives ethical?

By Katie Pulvermacher  
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As COVID-19 vaccines are becoming available for more people across the U.S., a few businesses are giving out free things to those with proof of vaccination cards.

Krispy Kreme is giving out a free donut every day for the rest of the year, Chagrin Cinemas in Cleveland is giving out free popcorn through the end of April, Market Garden Brewery in Cleveland is offering 10-cent beers to the first 2021 adults who bring their card and a marijuana dispensary in Walled Lake, Michigan called The Greenhouse of Walled Lake is giving anyone over the age of 21 with proof of vaccination a free pre-rolled joint.

NBC said that when the 2021 NFL Draft is held in Cleveland in late May, selected vaccinated fans can view the action in the exclusive area the NFL calls the “inner circle.”

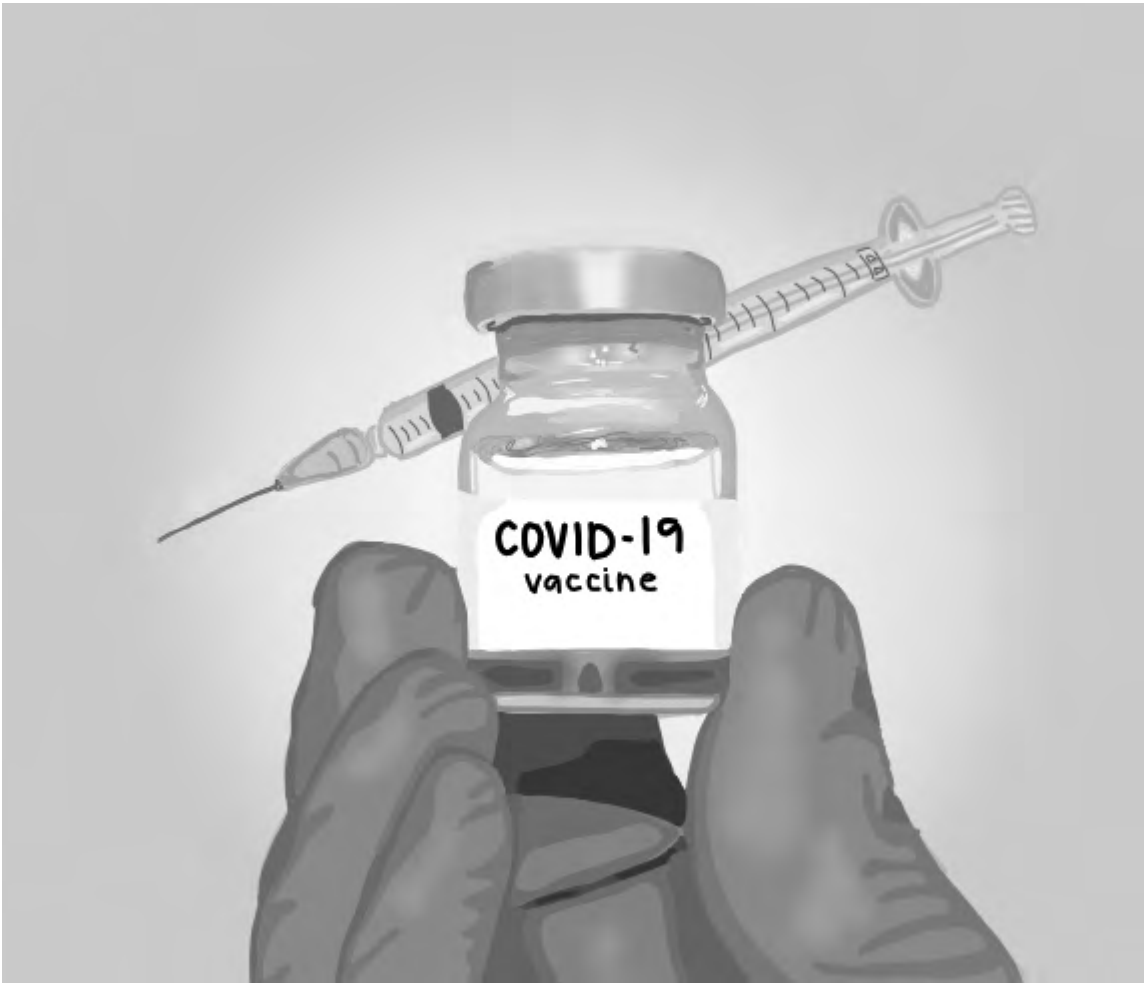
Besides businesses giving out free items and experiences, some popular employers are paying their workers to get vaccinated.

According to AARP, grocery stores, some of the first to implement COVID-19 safety measures, were also early leaders in offering to compensate hourly workers for the time it takes to get vaccinated.

Most employers are not providing vaccinations to employees. Instead, employees are signing up at outside places to get vaccinated.

The Aldi chain is offering its hourly employees up to four hours of pay; two for each dose of the vaccine. Amtrak is offering to pay workers the equivalent of two hours regular wages once they show a vaccination card.

Target is offering its hourly



Katie Pulvermacher / Advance-Titan

employees up to four hours of pay to compensate for the time they take off to be vaccinated and will reimburse up to \$15 each way for its workers who take Lyft to their vaccination appointments.

Other employers such as McDonald’s, Trader Joe’s, Kroger, Lidl, Chobani and Dollar General are all doing similar measures to the ones described above.

UWO sophomore Autumn Banchik-Lesniak received a vaccine through her job at Winnebago Mental Health Institute in Oshkosh.

“Since I work with COVID patients, I think that that was my main [reason for getting the vaccine],” Banchik-Lesniak said. “If I didn’t work with

COVID patients, I still would have gotten it.”

Banchik-Lesniak has met some family members outside wearing masks, but has not been able to go home for over a year due to some family members having weaker immune systems.

Senior Lecturer of the math department Mike Skowronski received his first vaccine dose last week through UWO. He said the process to get it was very easy.

“I was going to get [the vaccine] anyway,” Skowronski said. “Krispy Kreme is a nice deal, but that wouldn’t have made me run and get [a vaccine]. It’s a nice incentive.”

Skowronski’s wife has asthma and other immunity issues,

so he got the vaccine to protect her and to get things back closer to “normal.” He and his wife also want to visit in-laws who live in Madison that they have not seen in over a year.

Skowronski is looking forward to the day where we do not have to wear masks, all businesses open back up, concerts start back up and Milwaukee can have full stadium capacity again.

While most people I have talked to on- and off-campus are getting the vaccine for their job or to keep them and their families safe, some people still remain hesitant to get the vaccine.

Vaccine hesitancy, according to The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health, is a “delay in ac-

ceptance or refusal of vaccines despite availability of vaccination services.”

This makes it harder to contain a disease. In order to have better disease control, populations have to reach herd immunity in which the majority of people cannot get sick or spread the disease to others.

Some people refuse to get the vaccine for health and/or religious reasons.

According to the Society for Human Resource Management, if an employer provides incentives for employees to get vaccinated as part of an employer’s wellness plan or program, incentives may cause a state of conflict with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission proposed wellness plan regulations that would require an employer to provide only minimal incentives for employees to participate in a wellness plan.

Incentives should be minimal in order to not be coercive. Employers can continue to give paid time off to employees for as long as it takes them to go out and receive their doses, but any greater amount of money surpassing this starts to become questionable.

Businesses can continue giving out free incentives, and companies can continue paying employees to get vaccinated ethically, but it is still unknown whether it is ethical or not for employers to mandate employees to get vaccinated.

To look into the 1905 Jacobson v. Massachusetts case where the Supreme Court addressed mandatory vaccinations in regard to smallpox, which is similar to what we are facing with the COVID-19 pandemic, view: [supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/197/11/](https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/197/11/).

# Minnesota Supreme Court ruling is terrifying

By Mattie Beck  
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The Minnesota Supreme Court recently enacted a new ruling that mainly affects women, putting another fear into drinking and sexual assault.

The Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that if an individual voluntarily drinks and puts themselves into a state of intoxication, it is no longer considered rape if someone takes advantage of them sexually.

The ruling occurred when a case from 2017 was overturned, which decided that due to the woman involved being intoxicated, under the new law, she was not ‘mentally incapacitated’.

Christina Morales, a writer for the New York Times, explains in her article “Court Overturns Sex Crime Convic-



Courtesy of Flickr

Minnesota is just one of 40 states that do not explicitly prohibit sex with a voluntarily intoxicated victim, according to an article published by the Brooklyn Law Review.

tion,” what the court considers incapacitated.

“The woman, the court said in a unanimous decision, was

“voluntarily intoxicated” at the time because she had made the decision to drink,” Morales said, “and therefore

did not meet the threshold for mental incapacitation under state law.”

To break that down, the state considers that when an individual is mentally incapacitated, they can no longer consent to sex and hence making any sexual acts that occur to be classified as rape.

With this new ruling, unless an individual was forced to drink by someone, if they voluntarily consume alcohol, they are no longer mentally incapacitated.

This means that if sexual acts happen to someone, even if clearly against their will, it is no longer considered rape under the court system, and is technically the victim’s fault.

This new ruling is terrifying, as rape affects many individuals, specifically women, daily in large amounts.

“One out of six American

women have been the victim of rape or an attempted rape, according to RAINN, the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network,” Morales said.

This is a scary statistic, and even scarier is that while knowing this, the Minnesota Supreme Court still enacted the ruling that a woman takes the fault now for something that once brought justice for misconduct.

There is hope that a new ruling may be in place to redefine the idea of mental incapacitation, but the ruling is still newly in place that action is yet to take place.

The new ruling put in place by the Minnesota Supreme Court is a slap in the face, and put into terms, essentially blames the woman for her drunken state that allowed her to be sexually assaulted.



# Arts & Entertainment

## Oshkosh outdoor dining spots

By Lexi Langendorf  
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Temperatures are rising in Oshkosh as summer gets nearer, and restaurants are embracing it as they open their outdoor dining areas to customers once again.

Throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, people have certainly had their reasons for avoiding indoor dining and defaulting to takeout.

However, the transition to outdoor dining, while still presenting risks, provides individuals with a slightly safer approach to eating out at their favorite restaurants.

With the proper safety precautions, outdoor dining can be a great way to enjoy a meal with your friends, family or significant other.

Some of the best spots to dine are often those with a view. Becketts and Fox River Brewing Company are two great restaurants, both with a stunning view of the Fox River but different types of cuisine.

While Becketts on Jackson Street offers more exquisite dishes at a slightly higher price, Fox River Brewing Company on Arboretum Drive specializes in more inexpensive bar food like sandwiches and pizza.

Both restaurants have plenty of outdoor seating available with umbrellas on each table to block the sun.

Both restaurants have extensive taplists, but Fox River Brewing Company offers specialty drinks, wine, margaritas, martinis and old-fashioned in addition to their beer selection.

Fox River Brewing Company also has “River Domes,” which seat up to eight people for 90 minutes, in addition to traditional outdoor seating.

You can find more information about reserving the private seating option and food and beverage minimums on Fox River Brewing Company’s website.

Becketts also has information



Advance-Titan

Becketts on Jackson Street does nightly specials, happy hour, live music and weddings and serve a variety of mid-priced dishes.

available on its website including its menu, taplist, live music, specials and more.

If you’re in search of another riverside option, Ground Round at River’s Edge on Main Street is for you.

Ground Round, located just a walk away from Becketts, offers breakfast, lunch and dinner options, as well as a gluten-free menu.

The menu offers everything from burgers to seafood, chicken, steak, pasta, salads and flatbreads at a comparable price point to Becketts, all of which can be enjoyed while looking upon the Fox River.

However, sometimes, a view isn’t always necessary to have a good time. Although Becketts,

Fox River Brewing Company and Ground Round each have a lot to offer, Mahoney’s and Chalice have unique environments that are worth checking out too.

Mahoney’s, located just across the street from campus along Wisconsin Street, has a cozy outdoor fire pit, perfect for cooler nights out with friends.

With two out of three dollar signs on Google, Mahoney’s offers a variety of dishes including wings and tenders, tacos, flatbreads, sliders, salads, sandwiches, burgers and more.

Fletch’s Local Taphouse in downtown Oshkosh is also a great spot for live music, pool matches and wings.

Food is available at the Varsity Club, which is connected to

Fletch’s outdoor patio and side yard.

TJ’s Harbor Restaurant, a rotisserie-inspired restaurant, uses meat slow roasted in a rotisserie oven for all of their sandwiches, pastas and salads.

The restaurant has beautiful views of Lake Winnebago from its outdoor patio and has a variety of beer and wine.

Another great restaurant option is Chalice, located on North Main Street.

Chalice has a charming interior, but it also has a lovely, refreshing fenced-in outdoor seating area adorned with flowers and other botany.

Chalice offers a simple selection of fish, poultry, sandwiches, burgers and even vegetarian-friendly

dishes.

Like all of the other restaurants mentioned above, you can find more information about what they have to offer on their site.

There are lots of restaurants to explore in Oshkosh, but not all of them can provide you with the unique outdoor experience that Becketts, Fox River Brewing Company, Ground Round, Mahoney’s, Fletch’s and Chalice can.

If you can only go to one, Fox River Brewing Company is probably your best bet, with a solid 4.3 out of 5 overall rating out of 1,260 total reviews and only one out of three dollar signs on Google.

Happy dining, and remember to stay safe!

## ‘The Bachelor’ concludes 25th season

### A journey of romance, drama and controversy

By Lexi Langendorf  
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ABC’s popular reality TV show, “The Bachelor,” welcomed its first bachelor of color, said goodbye to host Chris Harrison and changed “Bachelor” culture forever all in one season.

No Bachelor fanatic could have predicted this season, which premiered Jan. 4, to be so pivotal, unraveling into something much more complex than a journey to find love.

Sure, there were moments of comedy. Matt James, the season’s bachelor, notorious for kissing women with his eyes wide open, quickly became an internet meme.

Victoria, MJ, Serena C. and Anna all courted their fair share of

vengeful fans as they were quickly thrown into the “mean girls” bucket.

Katie inspired audiences with her maturity and strong character, while Serena P. shocked them, abruptly leaving Matt after he met her family.

Abigail moved viewers with her story of living with a hearing impairment, and Michelle stunned them with her words of wisdom.

In season 25, there were plenty of cliffhangers and surprises, but none were as shocking as the controversy involving the last woman standing: Rachael Kirkconnell.

James always held a smile whenever he was with Kirkconnell throughout his journey on the show.

However, a little over halfway

through the season, news emerged that Kirkconnell had attended an Old South antebellum plantation-themed party back in 2018 as a college student.

Shortly after those rumors surfaced, former bachelorette Rachel Lindsay interviewed the show’s host Chris Harrison who quickly defended Kirkconnell, ultimately leading to his suspension from the show.

James, the bachelor, also spoke out to defend Kirkconnell, saying that everyone has a story and he wants to be receptive of that.

However, in response to the interview coordinated by Lindsay, James flipped a switch, and instead took to Twitter saying that both Harrison and Kirkconnell’s actions were devastating and heartbreaking.

Both Harrison and Kirkconnell have since apologized, saying that they were wrong to act the way they did.

Despite the requests of thou-

sands of angry fans, it has recently been announced that former bachelorettes Tayshia Adams and Kaitlyn Bristowe will take over the upcoming season in place of Harrison.

In the season finale, which aired after the news surfaced, James deferred from proposing to Kirkconnell, and the couple instead agreed that they’d continue to see each other and not rush into anything.

But it wasn’t until after the finale that the controversy was addressed in the “After the Final Rose” episode, hosted by Emmanuel Acho, a former Philadelphia Eagles linebacker.

In this episode, Kirkconnell apologized again not only to the BIPOC community, but also to James directly, who remained uncomfortable and quiet sitting next to her.

Since the controversy began, ratings for “The Bachelor” season 25 dropped by over 1 million viewers per episode, an all-time

low for the series, according to The Sun.

The Hollywood Reporter said that the finale of James’ season was down 25% in total viewers from a year ago, perhaps due to the complaints of many fans regarding the “cancel culture” that the show encouraged.

However, in hopes of restoring their ratings, ABC has announced that two women from James’ season popular among the show’s remaining audience, Katie Thurston and Michelle Young, will be the next bachelorettes.

Thurston’s season is set to premiere summer 2021, and Young’s season will premiere in the fall of 2021.

Bachelor in Paradise, a counterpart of the show where former “Bachelor” and “Bachelorette” cast members search for love in a group setting, is currently set to air in late summer after Thurston’s season.



# Oshkosh Library LEGO contest closed

By Lexi Langendorf  
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The Oshkosh Public Library closed its LEGOMania design contest and announced its winners on April 2.

“We’re excited to announce the winners of our 2021 LEGOMania Design Contest,” the library said on its Facebook page. “Kudos to everyone who submitted an entry. Your imagination and creativity never cease to amaze!”

The contest, which opened at the beginning of March, asked children ages two to 17 to unleash their imaginations by designing and constructing their own original LEGO creations.

The library also allowed children to request a WonderLab LEGOmania Kit online, which contained a small amount of LEGO bricks, in case they didn’t have access to them at home.

The rules of the contest dictated that all creations had to use LEGO, DUPLO or MEGABLOCKS bricks, no other materials were permitted in the creation of each entry and entries must be one’s own creation.

The library asked that entries be no bigger than 18 by 18 inches and no taller than two feet.

Entries were due on March 31, and only one entry was allowed per participant or team.

The library awarded first and second place winners in six age categories: 2-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 and 13-17.

Prizes were also awarded to the top two places in several age cat-



Courtesy of Oshkosh Public Library  
“Tropical Outpost,” the first place winner for ages 9-10.

egories.

Judges also granted two Judges’ Choice awards in two categories: Vehicles of the Future, sponsored by Oshkosh Corporation and Superhero Hideouts and Supervillain Lairs, sponsored by House of Heroes Comics and Games.

Following the children’s contest, the Oshkosh Public Library said on its Facebook page that

there was potential for an adult LEGOMania contest to be held in the near future.

Photos of all entries will be posted on the library’s website through May 2021.

You can also check out the entries for this year’s Helen Farnsworth Mears Art Contest in a slideshow in the library’s lower level through April 18.

# Mineshaft Restaurant and Game Room review

## A new spot for a night out with family or friends

By Cassidy Kennedy  
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Looking for a fun night out with family or friends? Go check out the Mineshaft Restaurant and Game Room.

Mineshaft is located at 2041 S. Koeller St. in Oshkosh and is open every day of the week, with varied hours depending on the day.

“The Mineshaft seats over 500 people and serves over 10,000 guests weekly, which brings the total served to over half a million people annually,” Tom Masters, the owner of Mineshaft, said.

This unique venue is themed like a mineshaft and has a variety of features, including a restaurant, bar area and game room, which makes it fun for all ages.

The restaurant has a wide variety of food for everyone and has special features for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Mineshaft also has daily specials that include family night pizza, all-you-can-eat Mexican

buffet, build your own burger or chicken sandwich, buy one pizza get one free, all-you-can-eat fish and a rib dinner.

Mineshaft is very family friendly because it allows kids to go play in the game room while parents can sit and enjoy a nice meal and drink.

Mineshaft is not just for families, but it also makes for a nice date night out.

Madison College sophomore Quin Logan took his girlfriend to Mineshaft on a date night and said it was super fun because they got to play trivia while eating and then played in the game room after they finished.

“It was a very fun experience because I have never been to any place like this that has both a restaurant and game room in it,” Logan said. “I was happy I got to take my girlfriend there because we can’t stop talking about how much fun it was.”

The game room is filled with endless fun for everyone.

The newly remodeled 5,000

square foot game room cost \$2 million, but it added dozens of new games.

Anyone who is interested in the game room will first want to purchase a swipe card, where they obtain credits that they use for each game.

The number of credits put on the card depends on the amount a person wishes to pay for, and the credits vary between games.

They have games for all skill sets for everyone to enjoy.

“My favorite game was probably the basketball connect four because I beat my girlfriend each time and it was super fun to play,” Logan said. “I also enjoyed the racing games as well as mini bowling.”

One fun option is the game room special, which includes one large pizza, one-hundred credits and a pitcher of soda or beer for \$37.

There are tons of different prizes depending on how many tickets you win, and you are able to cash the tickets in for any prize of your choice at the end.

Mineshaft is definitely worth a trip if you are looking for something fun and new to experience with a little competition and good company.

# Sick vibes for spring

By Carter Uslabar  
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Spring. It’s in. In what? Everything. Mostly the air, but you can feel it everywhere. You can feel it in the smiling faces walking down the sidewalk, in people’s shoulders, no longer shrinking from the oppressive cold of winter, and the frat guys’ socks/sandals combo, as clear a sign of spring as flowers blooming. This week’s picks are complementary to all the aforementioned signs of spring. They aren’t sad; they’re not anything to get worked up about; they’re strictly vibes.

Beginning with the French psych-rock group La Femme’s latest album “Paradigmes,” “Foutre le bordel” is a high-energy road-tripping song that will make your head bob with unequivocal pleasure.

Moving down the line, we come to Vulfpeck’s “Cory Wong,” featuring no other than Cory Wong, of course. This song’s guitar riffing is exceedingly delightful — after all,

‘Vulfpeck’ is an anagram for ‘pure vibes.’ Just kidding. But only kidding a little.

“Pays Imaginaire” is a song so peaceful and sweet, with a bouncing beat and gentle vocals, it could lure a Siren to her demise.

“Am I High Rn?” beautifully combines its many features. Beginning with a heavenly sounding organ riff before transitioning to a pop-rap song, Quinn XCII and blackbear truly bridge the sacred and the profane with this track.

The level to which bo en’s “sometimes” is underrated is plainly criminal. This song has a paltry 2 million listens on Spotify, far less than is deserved by a song which is the sonic equivalent of waking up fully energized.

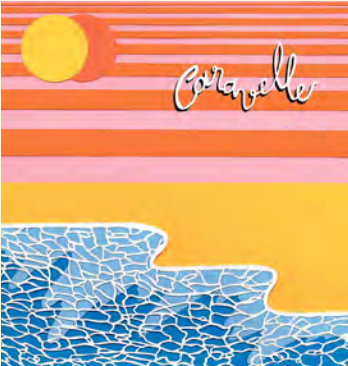
So go ahead. Listen, breathe in the warm scent of thawing soil and nod your head. Before we know it, we’ll be complaining about the heat, so let’s enjoy this while we can.

**Foutre le bordel**  
La Femme  
Paradigmes  
2021



**Cory Wong**  
Vulfpeck  
The Beautiful Game  
2016

**Pays Imaginaire**  
Polo & Pan  
Caravelle  
2017



**Am I High Rn?**  
Quinn XCII (ft. blackbear)  
A Letter to My Younger Self  
2020

**sometimes**  
bo en  
sometimes  
2016

