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Photo illustration by Josh Fannin. Photo by Amazon.

‘Alexa’ name leads to harassment

By Kyra Slakes
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What’s in a name?

Evidently, a lot if you are named Alexa and you’re constantly being asked what the weather is like.

In 2015, Amazon’s virtual assistant technology Alexa became available and skyrocketed in popularity. By 2019, Amazon announced it had sold more than 100 million *Alexa*-enabled devices that play music, make to-do lists, provide weather, traffic, sports and other real-time information and more.

But while the Alexa virtual assistant technology was becoming more and more popular, the number of people being named Alexa was declining significantly.

According to Statista, *Alexa* was the 32nd most popular name for girls born in 2015, but it dropped to 139th in 2019. This is the lowest it’s been since 1992. There are 23 *Alexas* enrolled at UW Oshkosh, according to the UWO directory, and the Washington Post reports there are nearly 130,000 people named *Alexa* nationwide.

In recent years, there has been an onslaught of girls and women across the United States who have changed their names legally because they have been bullied, teased and harassed by people.

So, afraid that the publicity from this story would make the teasing worse, all *Alexas* interviewed asked to remain anonymous.

One *Alexa* said she worked at Walmart while she was in high school, and people would come up to her and ask, “*Alexa*, what’s the weather?” along with other tacky questions. She also said she had matched with a guy on a dating site, and he questioned her if she had the same perks that the “real” *Alexa* had. Even members of her own family have made jokes by saying that the “other” *Alexa* listens better.

Another *Alexa* said her siblings have teased her relentlessly by saying things like, “Why aren’t you smart like the other *Alexa*?” or “At least the other *Alexa* actually responds when you talk to her.”

When she worked at a restaurant a few years ago, customers

often teased her about her name and they would ask her a number of questions that they would ask the *Alexa* program. She and her roommate also have an *Alexa* in their apartment, and everytime her roommate calls her name, the *Alexa* virtual assistant goes off. It has gotten on both their nerves, she said.

A third *Alexa* said she dated a guy a while back who would poke fun of her in front of their friends and he asked why she couldn’t be obedient like the “other” *Alexa* and only speak when she’s been spoken to. When she asked him what he meant, he would brush off her concerns and tell her to be quiet. Needless to say, they’re no longer dating.

She also wore a necklace with

her name on it, and random people at the grocery store would make comments and, again, ask her questions.

Amazon has remained quiet about the *Alexa* virtual assistant’s name. But last July in an interview with the BBC about a story regarding bullying and harassment of children named *Alexa*, they gave this statement: “Bullying of any kind is unacceptable, and we condemn it in the strongest possible terms. We designed our voice assistant to reflect qualities we value in people — being smart, considerate, empathetic and inclusive. As an alternative to *Alexa*, we offer several other wake words customers can choose from, including *Echo*, *Computer*, *Amazon* and *Ziggy*.”

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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.



Kyra Slakes / Advance-Titan

The “Big Brother/Big Sister” Mentorship Event with Oshkosh North High School Black Student Union took place at UWO.

Critical race theory teachings in peril

By Cory Sparks
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Black History Month is being celebrated in February nationwide as a variety of states place restrictions on diversity topics in educational spaces. Topics like critical race theory, a teaching that hones in on systemic racism in past and current times, are under fire from state legislatures.

According to EducationWeek.com, a K-12 news and information resource with over 1.6 million readers, 37 states have either introduced bills or have taken alternative steps to reduce teachings of critical race theory.

In Wisconsin, the GOP-controlled Assembly approved a bill 61-37 in September that would have created a civics curriculum that all schools, public and private, must follow, while also prohibiting critical race theory and systemic racism from being taught in the classroom. The Senate later passed the same bill before Gov. Tony Evers vetoed it on Feb. 4.

Nationwide, bills and other proposals have the intent to reduce discussions regarding racism and sexism in educational spaces.

UW Oshkosh African American Studies Club President Ene Idoko said that by removing these topics from the curriculum, UW Oshkosh students’ ability to understand what African Americans deal with on a daily basis would be significantly reduced.

“I believe this will make students be even more narrow-minded,” Idoko said. “They will become even more oblivious to issues mostly affecting the African American people and people of color in general.”

Justice and Race Reporter Russell Contreras cited different groups around the country that have been attempting to eradicate content related to critical race theory before any bills were passed in their area.

Last year, a group called Moms for Liberty in Tennessee filed a complaint asking the state to review numerous children’s books about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Ruby Bridges. The state rejected this request.

However, just last month, the book “Dear Martin” was removed from a North Carolina high school after parents complained about the usage of expletives.

This isn’t the first time a book was removed from a North Caro-

lina school’s curriculum due to a progressive topic. According to the James Sprunt Community College Library site, one of the reasons “The Color Purple” was removed was for homosexuality depictions.

Not everyone sees these removals as a poor choice, though.

According to Contreras’s article, Alabama conservative activist James Henderson claimed that schools have veered far from teaching the morality that Dr. King vouched for.

“The teaching of morality is a good thing in public education,” Henderson said. “And unfortunately, we’ve largely gotten away from it.”

Idoko said she believes lawmakers are attempting to remove teachings of critical race theory so that fewer people stand up against possible racially motivated flaws in the legal system.

“I believe they do not want people to be aware of the issues and biases in the legal system,” she said. “The more people are aware, the more they do things to make a change.”

Teachers who have attempted to teach these lessons have faced kickback in both legal and illegal manners.

One of the legal strangleholds

being forced over critical race theory is the use of fines in order to silence opposition voices, as Thomson Reuters Foundation reports that Arizona school districts are putting in place fines of \$5,000.

Currently, many teachers feel under threat, not simply from a legislative standpoint, but a public opinion one, that can have unwarranted and often illegal responses.

Another article from Thomson Reuters Foundation suggests the public misunderstands the intentions of critical race theory, which drives it out of the curriculum.

While there’s a strong attempt in over two-thirds of the country to eliminate teachings of critical race theory, some instructors still intend to recognize Black History and all that it entails.

According to Contreras’s article, Tracey Lynn Nance, a fourth-grade teacher in Decatur, Georgia, said at least half of the teachers she knows plan on continuing Black History Month lessons as planned.

Idoko said that critical race theory is an important component of the curriculum because it motivates students to make a difference by informing them of the flaws that still need addressing.

Bolt Band adds to game hype

By Nolan Swenson
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The UW Oshkosh touts not just athletes, academics and some avid drinkers, but also an exceptional group of student musicians who comprise the university’s new pep band called Bolt Band.

The idea of a UWO pep band is not a new one, as there was a student-run pep band about a decade ago. But there is no doubt that this band and its members have brought back more enthusiasm and excitement — in short, pep — to basketball games.

The Bolt Band began making appearances this winter sports season at Kolf Sports Center, with the musicians performing several genres of music. When they’re not playing, they’re stomping their feet, cheering on the Titans and, most importantly, having fun.

All those attributes would be impressive in a long-standing band with great tradition. However, due to the exceptional efforts of

its performers and its director, Joseph Scheivert, they were able to start the Bolt Band in only a few months, with auditions being held in mid-November.

Scheivert was hired last summer to start the pep band, as well as a marching band named Titan Thunder, the latter which will debut next fall. Scheivert not only picked out uniforms, but also the songs the band perform, scheduled practices and more.

With two decades of band directing under his belt, Scheivert said he used all of his accumulated experiences to create the new bands.

“There are elements of all of my previous schools worked into this,” he said. “Some programs were over 100 years old, some were five years old. When I was starting from scratch, I saw how old programs have operated and new programs were started up.”

Scheivert said he plans to continue to grow the new UWO bands, beefing up his roster of mu-



Kyra Slakes / Advance-Titan

UWO Bolt Band performs before a recent men’s basketball game.

sicians and increasing the number of songs they perform. For those interested in becoming part of the Titan Thunder, the next Zoom information session will be held from 8-9 p.m. March 3.

The Zoom link and future information sessions can be found at <https://uwosh.edu/marchingband/event/info-march-3/>. At each session, they will talk about what the band will be like, how to apply and more.

Bolt Band member Sean Lawrence, who plays the trombone, said he was incredibly appreciative of the opportunity to be a part of a college band, as he had been

in band throughout high school. He said being in the band was both fun and challenging, especially during the first few days of practice.

“We had two five-hour rehearsals in December, and our third rehearsal ever was two hours before our first home game against the UW-Whitewater men’s basketball team,” Lawrence said.

He said he plans to stay involved in Bolt Band and is extremely happy with what it has become with everyone’s efforts in such a short time.

Climate change forecast is dreary

By Mackenzie Seymour
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In nearly every region of Wisconsin, the effects of climate change are impacting people, communities and the environment.

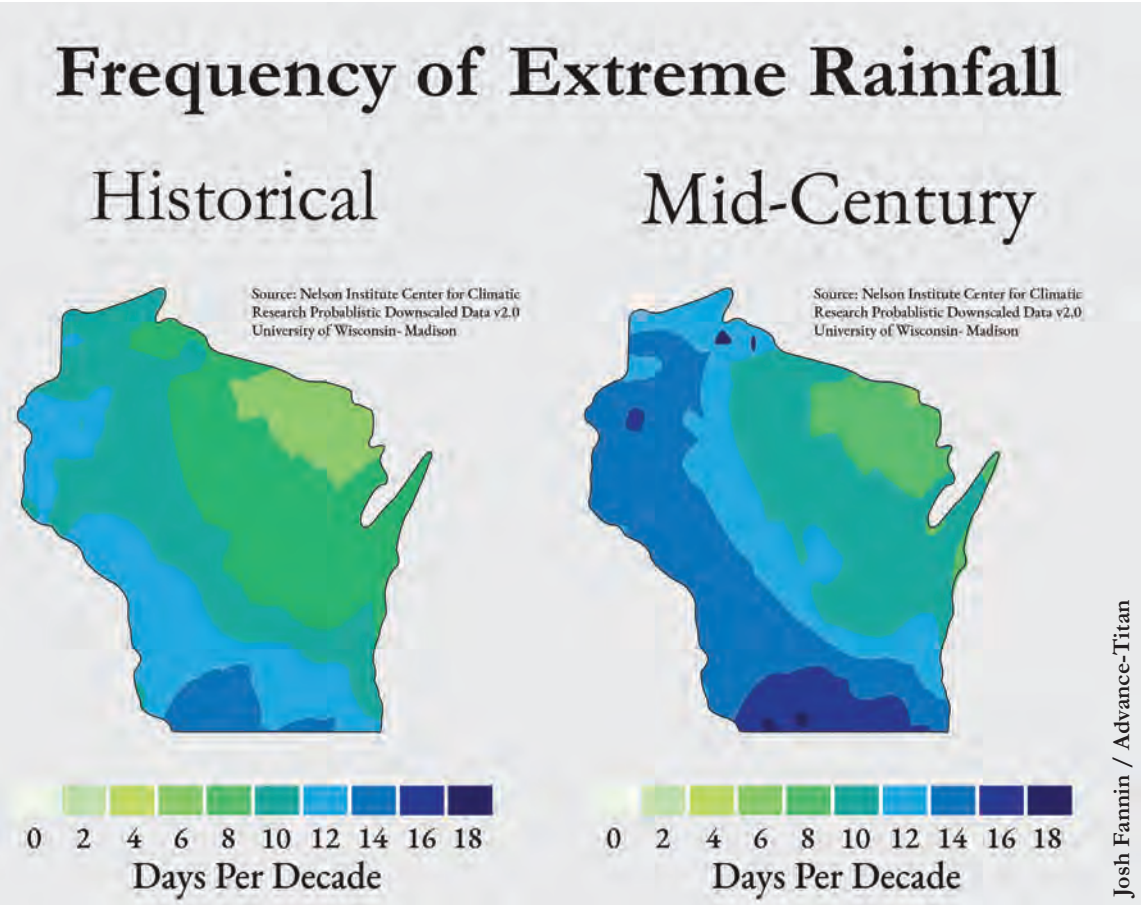
The 2021 Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI), a project led by UW-Madison's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), is an assessment that analyzes the impacts of climate change in the state.

Since the last WICCI Assessment Report in 2011, "new data show continued warming, increases in rain and snow and more frequent extreme rainfall events," the latest report stated.

"Statewide temperatures have warmed by about 3 degrees Fahrenheit, and precipitation has increased by nearly 20% since 1950," the assessment affirmed. "New analyses reaffirm previous projections indicating that many of these trends will continue, with wide ranging consequences throughout Wisconsin's natural and built environments."

The report also showed:

- The last two decades have been the warmest on record, and the past decade has been the wettest.



- Warming is happening fastest in the winter and at night.
 - Warmer and wetter conditions, extreme storms, summer droughts, milder winters and longer growing seasons are amplifying non-climate stressors to the point where diverse native habitats are simplified, associated wildlife species are diminishing or disappearing and species extinction rates are accelerating.
- The report emphasizes the need to take action against climate change throughout all levels of government and stresses "the need for large and rapid reduction in

greenhouse gas emissions."

The negative impacts of climate change on air, water, land, built environment and people are highlighted throughout the report, as well as solutions on how to respond to the damaging effects on both a local and state level.

"Human health and safety in all Wisconsin communities are increasingly at risk from climate impacts like flooding, the spread of disease, extreme heat and exposure to pollution," the report stated. "Support for climate resiliency education, planning and projects will help local governments protect their businesses, residents, economy and infrastructure."

The report also suggests solutions such as fully embracing clean energy, providing state funding for climate resilient infrastructure, conserving water, advancing effective conservation practices to make agriculture more resilient and promoting environmental and climate justice.

Overall, the WICCI report is the most comprehensive evaluation to date of climate change and its impact on Wisconsin, and it hopes to "help communities become more resilient to climate change impacts" through awareness, education and research."

You can read the full report at <https://wicci.wisc.edu/>.

OSA discusses fall break

By Liam Beran
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UW Oshkosh students surveyed about implementing a two-day fall break for the 2023-2024 school year preferred beginning fall semester classes on Sept. 1.

The survey results were shared at the Feb. 14 meeting of the Oshkosh Student Association (OSA) Assembly.

The survey, which was sent out by the OSA via a school-wide email, presented two options for students to make up the instruction days used in the 2023-2024 fall break, which will occur Oct. 21-24. The first option would have students start the fall semester on Tuesday, Sept. 5, in contrast to the usual start date, which occurs on the first Wednesday proceeding Labor Day. The second make-up day would occur on Wednesday, Nov. 22, a day before Thanksgiving break.

In contrast, the second option would have students begin fall semester classes Friday, Sept. 1, and attend classes on Tuesday, Sept. 5, after which the schedule would remain the same as prior years, disregarding the new break in October. Thanksgiving break would remain unaffected.

At the meeting, the OSA announced that 67% of students preferred the second option and 33% preferred the first.

"OSA will be meeting with the provost this week to discuss the results of the fall break survey," OSA Student Body President Jacob Fischer said via an email to the Advance-Titan Monday. OSA will discuss the survey results and will raise the concerns that some



students raised about the idea of a fall break.

The OSA also reviewed the possible implementation by Postal Services of "intelligent lockers" for package delivery. The lockers, which are being proposed for a Reeve Union location, are intended to increase security and make deliveries contactless and more accessible, Fischer said in a message included with the fall break survey results email.

The Postal Services's proposal would have student packages delivered to a common university address. Postal Services would store these packages at the proposed lockers in Reeve Union, which students could unlock with an integrated screen or separate phone app. Packages would no longer be delivered to residence halls, and would have to be picked up by students during Reeve's normal hours of operation. The proposed implementation would only affect packages; food and grocery orders would remain the same.

"The only drawback that I can see with the lockers is the initial cost. We hope to find multiple revenue sources to keep the cost to students at a minimum," he said.

In an email to students, Fischer said illegal parking and security issues are two concerns with the current delivery system. The OSA estimates the cost of the lockers to be \$5 a year per student at maximum, Fischer said.

A student survey gauging opinion on the lockers was sent out on Feb. 16. Results will be available sometime this week and will be sent out to students via email, Fischer said.

Inflation soars into 2022

By Cory Sparks
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U.S. inflation rates are historically high and rising.

You can't help but notice higher prices every time you go to the grocery store. If you've had to recently purchase a new or used car, you likely paid more than you would have paid just a year or even months ago. The rising prices are the result of inflation.

According to marketwatch.com, U.S. inflation climbed to 7.5% in January, the highest rate the country has experienced since February 1982.

Some markets experiencing an uptick in inflation compared to December of 2021 are shelter (4.1% to 4.4%), food (6.3% to 7%), new vehicles (11.8% to 12.2%), used cars and trucks (40.5% to 37.3%) and medical care services (2.7% to 2.5%).

While these individual markets contribute to the national inflation rate, a deeper dive is needed to find the underlying reasons for the highest inflation rates witnessed in the last 40 years.

UWO Associate Professor of Economics David Fuller said inflation is caused by a culmination of factors. The main causes are the public's growing money supply and supply and demand forces at work. For example, scarcity in stock will cause prices to spike.

"Inflation is generally the result of increases in the supply of money. This is controlled by the Federal Reserve Bank; the Fed has maintained very low interest rates, which is accomplished by increasing the supply of money," Fuller said. "Large supply chain disruptions have reduced supply of many goods, leading to an increase in price."

Supply chain disruption comes in a variety of forms, but one disruption is unemployment. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, unemployment skyrocketed to as high as 14.7% in April of 2020.

Unemployment has since tapered off, partially due to business-



Kyra Slakes / Advance-Titan

A cashier at University Books & More checks out apparel.

es converting to remote work, but areas such as supply chain management are still understaffed.

Fuller said less staff working in these supply chain sectors has a hand in inflation, but the multiple stimulus checks being given out have increased the money supply as well. Both factors have further driven up the U.S. inflation rate.

"COVID-19 has been the source of most of the supply chain disruptions, which has likely contributed to the general rise in prices," he said. "In addition, the federal government has run large budget deficits to provide stimulus to the economy. If these deficits are paid for in part by additional money creation by the Fed, this can be inflationary."

This predicament becomes an issue for businesses unable to raise employees' wages while offsetting the difference with higher prices to adjust for inflation. However, an increase in money supply demands this adjustment.

In this market, Fuller says smaller businesses are more likely to feel the brunt of the inflation's re-

percussions if they cannot bring in a desired amount of revenue with adjusted prices.

"Not all businesses have the ability to pass on an 8% price increase to consumers on a regular basis," Fuller said. "This is likely to affect smaller businesses whose customers are more sensitive to price changes."

This puts mom and pop shops in Oshkosh at the most risk if they cannot retain customer loyalty during these times.

Service industries, or ones that do not lean as much on manufactured goods as much as they provide a certain skill, may also suffer from customer loss if they cannot effectively explain the cause of their raised prices.

Fuller said it's on the Federal Reserve to mitigate this by raising interest costs in order to offset the increasing money supply.

However, this can negatively affect people who want to begin a payment plan for an expensive item. Over the course of months or years, their interest will accumulate at a higher rate than usual.

Chang: Need for more women, girls in STEM

By Katie Pulvermacher
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A doctoral candidate in electrical and computer engineering highlighted her work in the STEM field and the opportunities it has given her despite adversity, as part of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

“You can see adversity as a bridge to something greater, or you can choose to see it as a weight that weighs you down,” Mai Lee Chang said at the UW Oshkosh presentation on Feb. 11. “We have that choice.”

Since 2015, the United Nations has recognized Feb. 11 as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. This highlights the work that has been done and the work that remains to remove the many barriers women and girls face in STEM.

“It’s important for us to remember [women in STEM and] their stories and realize how far we’ve come,” Chang said. “A part of that is realizing how much we still need to go because the STEM field is still heavily dominated by men.”

Chang was born in Ban Vinai Refugee Camp, Thailand. Her family later immigrated to the U.S. as refugees of the Vietnam War to California.

“I look [at photos of my family] from time to time because it reminds me about the resilience of the generations before me, and just how much they had to persevere for my siblings and me to have experiences like this,” Chang said.

It was hard for Chang as a child because of the language barrier. She did not know English besides the word “restroom.” Besides the language barrier, she faced culture clashes.

After moving around throughout her life, she ended up gradu-

ating from Oshkosh North High School.

She received a bachelor’s degree in engineering mechanics and astronautics in 2010 and a master’s in industrial and systems engineering in 2012, both from UW-Madison.

“My perspective [while choosing a major freshman year] was that UW-Madison, that campus, is not bounded by UW-Madison,” Chang said. “My campus is the world. I took opportunities to study abroad to learn more about the international component.”

Prior to joining the University of Texas at Austin as a Ph.D. candidate, she worked as an engineer at the NASA Johnson Space Center. She was the first Hmong person to be employed at NASA.

She took part in the NASA Pathways internships while at UW-Madison and got a job there soon afterwards. At NASA, she worked on human-robot interaction and human-automation interaction research. She assisted the Orion Spacecraft, whose goal was to “carry man to Mars and beyond,” by helping software “meet human systems requirements.”

She also worked with Engineers Without Borders by helping build a water storage tank for a village for 200 people in Thailand.

“The most rewarding part is to see the positive impacts,” Chang said. “The goal is to empower the villagers ... to give them hope that tomorrow will be better.”

In her current work toward a Ph.D., Chang’s topic is human-robot teamwork.

She is advised by Dr. Andrea Thomaz in the Socially Intelligent Machines Lab where she creates algorithms that enable robotic teammates to reason about task performance and fairness to achieve long-lasting human-robot partnerships.



Courtesy of UWO Flickr
Mai Lee Chang speaking to UWO students for International Women and Girls in Science Day. Chang is a Ph.D. candidate in electrical and computer engineering at the University of Texas Austin.

The robots from their lab have been featured in the MIT Tech Review and recently in National Geographic.

Chang said a robot is made of a computer, which is essentially its brain. It also needs sensors like microphones and cameras, in a sense representing eyes and ears and actuators such as arms and wheels so it can move around.

“For you and I, when we see a situation, it’s really easy for us to adapt and to be helpful right away,” Chang said. “For a robot, this is a challenging environment [to be in] and to understand what’s going on.”

Chang said for a successful human-robot interaction, it is necessary to have perception, planning, communication and to learn from people and real-time experiences.

This led to her asking the question: “How do we design valuable robotic teammates?”

“If you reflect on the teamwork you’ve been a part of and the types of teammates you’ve had, I’m sure you can think of all these multiple factors,” Chang said. “Robotic teammates must be able to reason about multiple dimensions of teamwork. Research shows people treat robots as other people too.”

In the lab, Chang and others try to simplify interactions with robots. Various tasks and trials are done between the robots and participants to help the robot prioritize efficiency or effort in what they do.

“There are plenty of other people who may need help [from robots],” Chang said. “For me,

what’s exciting is the potential for robots to be able to help us in various ways in our daily lives.”

Chang predicts more robots will enter the food industry, healthcare and maintenance soon.

“Your starting point doesn’t automatically determine your destination,” Chang said during her presentation. “As a child I didn’t envision being an engineer, working for NASA, being a roboticist or pursuing my Ph.D. I’m really excited to see the amazing things that you’re going to be doing and that we really need each of you.”

The UWO Women’s Center is working on creating a version of the full video of her talk with spoken Hmong language interpretation they will post on their YouTube page when complete.

Professor takes on new cold case

By Chandler Brindley
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A University of Wisconsin Oshkosh anthropology professor and his students will be taking on a cold case from 1992 revolving around the disappearance of a Fox Valley woman.

Jordan Karsten, an associate professor of anthropology at UW Oshkosh, hosts the Cold Case: Frozen Tundra podcast with Matt Hiskes, a friend and communications and media specialist.

Karsten and Hiskes’s podcast will feature the Laurie Depies case that is nearing 30 years unsolved after receiving permission from both the Depies family and Wisconsin Department of Justice.

“I think what we’ve already done with announcing the podcast has helped with publicizing the case,”



Depies

case, it allows for people who are paying attention to be more familiar with what happened.”

Depies, then 20, disappeared on Aug. 19, 1992, after driving to her boyfriend’s apartment in what is now Fox Crossing after leaving the Fox Valley Mall where she

was working.

Depies’ friends reported hearing her drive into the parking lot of the apartment, but never saw her, only to find a cup on the top of the locked car that she was driving.

About 18 years later, there was a possible breakthrough in the case when Larry Hall confessed to killing Depies and said he buried her body in a remote place in southern Wisconsin. But investigators could never prove Hall, a suspected serial killer who is currently incarcerated at a North Carolina federal prison for a 1993 kidnapping and murder, killed Depies.

Karsten said research has begun again on the case, which is very complex.

“It’s a complicated case,” he said. “She basically disappears after pulling into a parking lot and never comes to the door of the apartment.”

In the first season of Karsten and Hiskes’ podcast, they concentrated on the Starkie Swenson case from 1983. In September 2021, hikers found Swenson’s remains in High Cliff State Park.

Karsten said he was very happy that he was able to help with the Swenson case, even if it was a small part.

“I think people were interested in what happened to Starkie Swenson,” he said. “I think that people are very much interested in what happened to Laurie Depies.”

Although the Depies case is nearing 30 years old, Karsten is hoping that the podcast can generate some thought and provoke information from a possible source of information.

“You don’t know how or if that might hit home with somebody in a way in which they might remember something that they never turned in or never told anybody about back when it happened,” Karsten said. “They might realize now that it might be pertinent information and the publicity will generate some kind of usable lead for law enforcement.”

The case has gotten a lot of coverage in local radio, TV and newspapers, but Karsten thinks that the podcast will be helpful because of its longer form in contrast to broadcast media.

“I think that the podcast is useful because it is longer form,” Karsten said. “You can present a lot of information over a series of episodes that really gets into the details, in one place and in order, with a set of details that hopefully will be useful for people who just might come forward with information.”

Similar to the Swenson case, Karsten will also have interested students assist him with this case. Some will be volunteers, although Karsten said he will likely also have some students helping out through independent study.

“Right now we’re trying to get organized and have some ideas for students to get involved,” Karsten said. “I have a group of students who want to get involved in research. I have some areas where they’ll be able to help out.”

The podcast will be available this summer at <https://www.frozen-tundrapodcast.com/>.



Courtesy of UWO Flickr
Associate Professor Jordan Karsten is looking into a new cold case from 1992 about Laurie Depies.

Calendar



Scoreboard

Wednesday, Feb. 16

Women’s Basketball

UW Oshkosh - 60

UW-La Crosse - 57

Men’s Basketball

UW Oshkosh - 48

UW-Whitewater - 46

Friday, Feb. 18

Gymnastics

UW Oshkosh - 191.900

UW-La Crosse - 190.150

Saturday, Feb. 19

Swimming and Diving

Men’s - 5/5, 205

Women’s - 5/5, 267

Track and Field

Men’s - 1/15, 210

Women’s - 3/14, 71.5

Monday, Feb. 21

Women’s Basketball

UW Oshkosh - 65

UW-La Crosse - 50

Upcoming Events

Friday, Feb. 25

Women’s Basketball

TBA

Track and Field

at UW-Platteville 11:30 a.m.

Baseball

at Birmingham-Southern College

4 p.m.

Wrestling

Regional at UW-Eau Claire

Saturday, Feb. 26

Women’s Swimming and Diving

Diving Championship at Calvin

University 12 p.m.

Track and Field

at UW-Platteville 10 a.m.

Wrestling

Regional at UW-Eau Claire

Gymnastics

at Gustavus Adolphus College 1

p.m.

Men’s Basketball

WIAC Final TBA

Baseball

at Hoover Metropolitan Complex

V.S. Adrian college 12 p.m.

Softball

at Maverick All-Sports Dome

V.S. College of Saint Benedict

4:30 pm.

V.S. Gustavus Adolphus College

6:45 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 27

Baseball

at Hoover Metropolitan Complex

V.S. Dominican University 11 p.m.

Softball

at Maverick All-Sports Dome

V.S. Hamline University 11:30

a.m.

V.S. Bethany Lutheran College

1:45 p.m.

A tale of two seasons

By Nolan Swenson
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The main season of women’s basketball showed intense grit that carried into the last second of possession of the ball in a difficult win over UW-Whitewater’s Warhawks on Fed. 16. This game was the last of the main season.

The game against UWW was neck-and-neck game, with Whitewater carrying a small lead in the first three quarters. However, the game resulted in a 60 to 57 win for the Titans. Although the UW Oshkosh women’s basketball put in great effort, Assistant Coach, and Director of Development, Matt Kelliher believes that the resilience shown was great, and their score of 23-11 in the fourth quarter was impressive; but it wasn’t their best basketball. He feels that they still have yet to truly play their best basketball, as he still feels there is room for growth and improvement, especially in the do-or-die run of postseason.

The second game of the week against UW-La Crosse showed massive improvement in comparison to their previous game against the Falcons, as the previous game was a win of 55-49 in comparison to 65-50. The game

was not all success, as at times the win was not exactly a pretty one. Head coach Brad Fischer, though proud of the team’s victory, does not plan to overlook sloppiness that took place in the game.

“The types of mistakes we made at times were things I think we had already discussed,” he said. However he understands that despite some mental mistakes the effort put in by the women’s basketball team is astonishing. He sees this through their constant fight despite the injuries they have sustained over the season.

“We’re beat up injury wise, everybody’s got a wrap or a brace, and I love the kids’ toughness,” he said.

This win has set the Titans on a collision course with UWW who has received two byes in a row, giving them both the ability to recover and focus on who they could be competing against in the semi-finals. Undoubtedly, this is a tough team which we have to fight tooth and nail in order to advance to the finals.

Scores and statistics of Wednesday’s game against UWW are available on the UWO athletics website.



Kyra Slakes / Advance-Titan

Ava Douglas pushes past UW-Whitewater defenses to the net.

Titans top team in conference

By Jacob Link
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Levi Borchert had his league-leading 12th double-double of the year as the UW Oshkosh men’s basketball team defeated UW-Whitewater 48-46 on Feb. 16 to become the 2022 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) regular season champions.

“It feels incredible to be WIAC champs. To be able to win the WIAC regular season is a huge accomplishment for us considering it’s one of the toughest leagues in Division III,” Borchert said. “Now our focus is winning the WIAC Tournament.”

Borchert, a preseason All-American, scored a game high 16 points and grabbed 15 rebounds in the regular season finale. He would also score the game-winning basket for the Titans with 54 seconds left in the game.

“It feels great. It’s one of the toughest things to do in college basketball, I don’t care the level,” Head Coach Matt Lewis said. “Just to win this league and the regular season championship outright [feels great]. I’m really excited for our guys, it’s an awesome thing.”

UWO (20-3, 10-2 WIAC), ranked third in the D3hoops.com Top 25 rankings, earned the top seed in the WIAC Tournament and have won two of the last four regular season titles.

“The ultimate goal for any team is to be the national champion but you can’t do it by looking that far ahead. We are trying to take it one game at a time and focus on winning the next game on our schedule,” Borchert said.

After a tight first 13 minutes of action, the Titans went on a scoring run and led 32-24 at halftime. UWO stretched their lead to 10 at one point, but the Warhawks pulled back to 38-36 with just under 13 minutes to play. Oshkosh kept Whitewater at bay until UWW tied the game at 43 with 3:45 left.

Guard Eddie Muench retook the lead for the Titans after he knocked down a three with just under 3:30 in the game. With 66 seconds to go, Whitewater’s Gage Malensek drove through the lane and made the ensuing layup. After the play, UWO’s Cole Booth was called for a technical foul and Malensek would convert the free throw as UWW tied the game at 46.

The Titans responded nine seconds later as Borchert made the game-winning layup with 54 seconds left to put the score at 48-46. UWW had a chance to tie the game at 48 with two seconds to go, but Malensek missed the layup. The Titans grabbed the rebound and held onto the ball as time expired.

“Whitewater is a really good team, just like every other team in the WIAC. I think because we’ve played in so many close games this

season against tough opponents, that prior experience helped us get it done against Whitewater,” Borchert said. “[There is] no question our team has a lot of fight and passion. That game was a good example. It was a physical game and we were able to close it on the road against a tough opponent.”

The Titans shot 33.3% from the field, 27.3% from deep, and was 0-4 at the line. UWO had 13 steals in the game, matching a season high.

On the other side of the ball, UWW shot 38.9% from the floor, just 16.7% from the three-point line, and 2-3 from the charity stripe. The Warhawks came into the contest shooting 49.4% from deep, the best in the WIAC. Oshkosh ranks second in the country in three-point defense, limiting opponents to 26.2% shooting.

“If you read the stats we did some pretty historic things in terms of defending them. I think it was one of their lowest three-point field goal percentages of the year,” said Coach Lewis. “They are one of the leaders in the country in field goal percentage and we held them to their season low. Our guys de-

fended at a championship level and made just enough plays offensively to get it done.”

With the win, UWO splits the season series with the Warhawks (14-10, 7-6 WIAC) after the Titans lost at home in overtime 82-78 on Jan. 5. Oshkosh will also receive the double bye in the WIAC Tournament as the top seed, automatically placing them in the semi-finals.

“I think just by sticking to our routine we will stay sharp. We play live drills quite a bit in practice which keeps us in the flow of things,” Borchert said. “This double bye is a great opportunity for us to get our bodies right and puts us physically in the best place possible.”

The WIAC Tournament semi-finals will take place tonight. La Crosse will take on Platteville in the first WIAC semi-final match-up. Whitewater will take on UWO at the Kolf Sports Center at 7 p.m. This will be the second time in eight days that the Titans take on UWW.

“Our plan is to just focus on each day. The nice thing is that we have some time here to really focus on ourselves,” said Coach Lewis. “We don’t know our next opponent until Tuesday night, so we’re spending a lot of time focusing on ourselves and seeing how we can get better.”

The highest remaining seed after tonight’s games will host the WIAC Championship game on Saturday at either 3 p.m. or 7 p.m. Check the WIAC website for the official start time. The winner of the WIAC championship game will earn an automatic bid into the NCAA Division III men’s basketball tournament.



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

Track steps up to the Titan challenge

By Nolan Swenson
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The UW Oshkosh women's and men's track and field teams placed third and first, respectively, at the home meet dubbed the "Titan Challenge" on Saturday.

The meet was the last to be hosted at home for both the women's and men's teams and was incredibly telling of the skills present in both teams.

Two records, one longstanding, were broken at the meet. Jaylen Grant beat men's 60-meter dash with a time of 6.72 seconds. Alexandria Demco had a time of 2:52.85 in the 1,000-meter run, beating out the previous 1991 record by just under six seconds.

Grant is a junior who specializes as a sprinter. His time in the 60-meter dash equated to a speed of 19.95 mph. He beat two UW Oshkosh records in that single event; one being his previous run that day at 6.76, and the other his freshman teammate Davian Williams who ran 6.74 seconds.

"My team brings a competi-

tive atmosphere to practice and makes it a team you would like to be a part of," Grant said.

While Grant was thankful for the great performance, he said he's not satisfied with just patting himself on the back. He wants a team title.

"I'm very confident in my abilities so this is a long time coming, but we have conference this week and I'm not trying to celebrate until we get a title," he said. "What's on my mind is conference and national titles."

Grant said coach Justin Kinseth is the unspoken hero of the program. He attributes Kinseth to both his own and the team's successes, and he said that he had plateaued in his events until he became involved with the UWO men's track and field team. The newer and tighter regimen allowed him to grow and develop to be his best as an athlete, he said.

The teams will next compete Friday afternoon at UW-Platteville for the WIAC tournament.



Kyra Slakes / Advance-Titan

Jaylen Grant broke his indoor 60-meter record with a time of 6.72. He is 0.04 seconds shy of the D-III record.

Borchert leads red hot Titans by example

By Cory Sparks
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UW Oshkosh men's basketball forward Levi Borchert is going on a tear in what has been a dominant season for himself and the team.

Borchert's historic accumulation of accolades has helped set the tone for a Titans team that is currently ranked No. 3 in the country, according to D3hoops.com.

In April 2021, Borchert was named to the D3hoops.com All-America Third Team, meaning he was ranked in the top 15 of all Division III basketball players in the country. He was also named the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) player of the week as recent as Jan. 25 after averaging 27.5 points and 12 rebounds in a two-game stretch against UW-Platteville and UW-River Falls.

Now averaging a collegiate career-high in points (18.4) and rebounds (10.7) per game, Borchert is leading the charge for a UWO team that's attempting to defend its 2019 national championship run.

While Borchert is currently playing for one of the top D3 programs in the country, his roots in basketball extend back to simpler days.

He said his passion for basketball stemmed from playing with his grandpa in the driveway, and it all took off from there.

"I started playing basketball when I was young, like 5 or 6," Borchert said. "I would always shoot hoops in the driveway with my grandpa and then that transitioned into being a regular at the YMCA."

From the YMCA to organized basketball, Borchert worked his way up to playing for Kimberly High School.

Borchert said once he came over to UWO, he identified that his passion for the game rooted



Katie Pulvermacher / Advance-Titan

Borchert shoots a free throw in front of teammate Cole Booth.

from building bonds with others and competing with guys who play and work as hard as he does.

"Playing college basketball is a lot about relationships and being able to compete at a high level in something that keeps me inspired and into it," he said. "Every year getting to grow relationships with my team, become better as a group and compete at a high level with those guys is something special."

When Borchert first arrived at UWO, the team was just a few months removed from winning the national championship.

Head Coach Matt Lewis, who was entering his second season at the helm at the time, said Borchert was someone who was quiet in dialogue, but impactful in play from the moment he joined the team.

"When Levi began at Oshkosh,

he was a quiet kid that was trying to fit in with a talented group of upperclassmen," Lewis said. "He battled every day in practice and tried to complement the older players in games."

In Borchert's first season, he put up 9.0 points, 6.1 rebounds and 1.2 assists per game. There was no tournament in his freshman season or his sophomore season, as the COVID-19 pandemic canceled NCAA tournament competition until just this year.

Borchert said even though the tournaments stopped, the team's relentless desire to get better didn't. He said the team was putting work in at all times, and they were constantly preparing for the opportunity to play for a national championship again.

"Losing last year to COVID

has really made me appreciate a full season," he said. "Last year, despite not having a full season, our team still practiced six days a week, invested in our game and got lifts in."

Like the team, Borchert has improved certain aspects of his game in the last few years since competing nationally.

One category he has vastly improved in is rebounding, as he's averaging 4.6 more rebounds per game this season (10.7 in total) compared to his freshman year (6.1).

Lewis said he refused to take credit for Borchert's rebounding ability. He praised Borchert's instincts and ability to time and track the ball after a missed shot.

"If you go back to his high school career, he has always been an elite rebounder," he said. "His ability to read the ball off the rim is remarkable. Levi also has great hands and always seems to get a hand on the ball."

Coming in at 6'5" tall and 210 pounds, Borchert typically plays the center position in a small-ball-style lineup that pushes the ball down the court quickly.

Borchert acknowledged that most centers are taller and weigh more, so putting on muscle became a huge priority for him. The junior also said he has worked on his shot more toward the perimeter and being able to spread the floor.

"Throughout the summer, I tried to put a lot of work in the weight room," Borchert said. "Making sure I was physically strong enough to be able to compete with other players who are taller or weigh more than me was important. Also, I tried to improve my post game and my outside shooting ability."

Lewis has taken notice of Borchert's improvement over the years, and he said he commends the WIAC's leading rebounder for knowing when to take a shot and

when to pass the ball one more time.

"His performance this year has been huge for us," Lewis said. "Levi's teammates do a great job of getting the ball to [him] in spots where he can be successful, and Levi does a great job of knowing when to be aggressive and when to share the ball."

While Borchert is having his best year yet, the man with 12 double-doubles even has his down days.

He said that when he does have a rough outing on the court, he learns from the experience and moves on to the next opportunity.

"I just try to flush it and have a better day the next day," he said. "Everybody is going to have bad days, no matter who you are. Knowing that one bad day isn't going to define me keeps me motivated."

Lewis said he's pleased with Borchert's receptiveness to coaching. He also said he appreciates having a player who is both talented and willing to learn.

"Levi loves to be coached," he said. "It's awesome to get to work with a talented player like Levi that just wants to improve and help the team win."

Borchert said his family, coaches and teammates are all responsible for helping him improve on and off the court, and have helped him become the player he is today.

"My family has been unbelievable in supporting me since I first joined basketball when I was little," he said. "I've had amazing coaches at every level of basketball ... who have pushed me to be my best. And I've also played alongside great teammates."

Borchert and the Titans will play in the WIAC semi-finals as the No. 1 seed following a double bye. Following the conference tournament, Borchert will look to make his first deep postseason run in college.

UWO gymnastics sets a new program record

By Jacob Link
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The UW Oshkosh gymnastics team established its highest overall score in program history en route to defeating UW-La Crosse 191.90-190.150 on Friday at the Kolf Sports Center.

The Titans, ranked second in Division III by RoadToNationals.com, had two gymnasts that set personal records at the meet. Sophomore Emily Buffington set a new personal best in two events, as she finished first in the vault with a score of 9.725 and in the uneven bars with a score of 9.750. Junior Trinity Sawyer set a personal best in the floor exercise with a score of 9.725, finishing first in the event.

“I think today was really big,” Buffington said. “Those were some of the best routines that I’ve done, and the team really hit everything. We all did really well.”

UWO won the vault with a score of 47.900, with Buffington finishing first and Emily Gilot finishing third with a score of 9.650. UWL had a second-place finisher in Alex Wood who received a 9.675 for her routine. Six Oshkosh gymnasts finished in the top eight of the vault.

The Titans also won the uneven bars with a score of 47.625. UWO took the top two podium spots behind Buffington’s personal best and Rahdea Jarvis’s 9.700 score. Kerrie Legault finished third for UWL with a score of 9.675.

“I think we can rely on the close-knit family that we have become,” Sawyer said. “We didn’t start off all that close, but now as the season has progressed, we have become really close and can rely on one another.”

Buffington added: “[The team] is amazing. Everyone is so supportive



Jacob Link / Advance-Titan

Junior Trinity Sawyer set a new personal record in the floor exercise with a score of 9.725 as the Titans defeated UWL 191.90-190.150.

of each other. You can just tell that we are always there for one another.”

Oshkosh dominated the floor exercise 48.325-47.225 and had the top three finishers in the event. Jarvis tied for second with teammate Olivia Keller, who was chosen as the Kwik Trip Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference gym-

nast of the week, with a score of 9.700.

“Honestly, I was just trying to get a really high score, because I knew that the judges were kind of giving away the points so I wanted to finesse it as best I could,” said Sawyer, who finished first. “I was just trying to fix those little things I have been working on in the gym,

and it played out.”

The only event that UWL won was the balance beam, where they received a 47.975 team score. Emma Grant finished first in the event, receiving a 9.750 from the judges. The Eagles also took second and third places in the balance beam. Cate Sandvik scored a 9.725, and Kayla Dickson scored a 9.675.

“I think this team has so much potential and that we can be national champions,” Buffington said.

UWO, the reigning WIAC Champions, will take on Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota on Saturday in the final meet before the WIAC championship.

Titans’ Yineman wins WIAC Title at 197 pounds

By Trent Allaback
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The UW Oshkosh wrestling team placed fourth in the annual Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championships on Feb. 12 at the Kolf Sports Center.

The top finishers for the Titans included Beau Yineman, who was the champion at 197 pounds, Luc Valdez and Jordan Lemcke, runners-up at 125 and 285 pounds, respectively. Preston Morgan, who defeated teammate Connor Welker, won third place at 165 pounds. UWO had five additional wrestlers make the podium.

Yineman, who is ranked number one nationally at 197 pounds, picked up his second conference championship and defended his title by going 3-0 with one pin, a decision 8-3 and a 5-2 decision in the finals over Tyler Hannah of UW-Platteville. After receiving a bye in the first round, Yineman made short work of Jackson Schichel from UW-Eau Claire with a first period pin in 2:19. In the semifinals, he recorded another victory over Marcus Orlandoni of UW-La Crosse. In the finals, Yineman wrestled a hard-fought match against a technically sound and tough defensive opponent in Hannah. After struggling to score early on, Yineman successfully defended two throw attempts from Hannah to score two takedowns and win 5-2.

“I knew he was going to try to throw me late in the match, and I’m pretty good at defending throws, so I was ready for it,” said Yineman. “The first one was a bit scary and



Courtesy of UWO athletics

Titans Junior Beau Yineman won the WIAC Championship in the 197 pound weight class on Feb.12.

he almost got me, but the second one was a last ditch effort, so I was feeling pretty comfortable.”

125 pound junior Valdez defeated UW-Platteville’s Nolan McKittrick 7-2 in his semifinal match in order to advance to the finals against UW-Platteville’s Issac Wiegell, where he dropped a closely contested defensive battle 4-1.

UWO’s second runner-up was

the fourth-ranked Jordan Lemcke at 285 pounds. Lemcke had a record of 21-2 upon entering the tournament and won a close 3-1 decision in the semifinals to wrestle sixth-ranked Ben Kawczynski of UWL in the finals. Lemcke had previously beaten Kawczynski at the regular season dual meet, but they lost with a last second takedown 6-4.

Teammates at 165 pounds Preston Morgan and Cody Welker met in the third place match with Morgan coming out on top 17-7. Morgan made it to the semis before losing to eventual champion Seth Brossard 5-2, and Welker fought his way back from a first round loss to the third place match.

At 157 pounds, Stokhaug and Issac Ortegon also wrestled each

other in the consolation semifinals with Stokhaug coming out on top 9-0. Both wrestlers were defeated in the final round.

With the addition of three more sixth place finishes from Murphy, Curran, and Hanke, the Titans compiled a team score of 89, placing them at fourth in the tournament.

The team had high hopes going into the tournament coming off a 3-2 conference dual season and a 12-2 overall season, including a recent win over number 3 ranked UW-La Crosse. However, their performance was not what they had hoped for. 285 pound wrestler Guyon Cyprian spoke of the performance of the team.

“As a team we felt that our performance at conference was not where we wanted it to be,” he said. “We know what our guys are capable of but we just did not display it well.”

Yineman says that the tournament has given the team new goals heading into the postseason. “The starting lineup has been training a lot harder to get our conditioning to the best it can be,” he said. “We’re also working on things like mat awareness and being solid in our technique.”

“As far as the mindset of the team, we are really fired up for regionals because we have really been working hard to prepare and can’t wait to see how our hard work will pay off,” said Cyprian.

The UWO wrestling team will kick off the postseason this Saturday at the NCAA Division III Upper Midwest Regional in Eau Claire.

Arts & Entertainment



Liam Beran / Advance-Titan

The Beadwork exhibit opens March 3. This is the largest piece in the beadwork exhibit, entitled The African Crucifixion, it was created by seven Ubuhle Women artists.

The Paine opens new exhibits

By Liam Beran
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The Paine Art Center and Gardens reopened on Friday following a temporary closure that allowed the facility to create two new exhibits: one showcasing South African glass bead art, and another showcasing glass paperweights.

The exhibits are titled Ubuhle Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence and Paperweights in Bloom, and are meant to serve as companions to each other and an upcoming Rooms of Blooms floral arrangement event. The Paine Center’s Curator of Exhibitions and Collections, Laura Fiser, worked with Exhibition Committee members and Executive Director Aaron Scherer to select the exhibits.

“It just all came together really naturally and nicely,” Fiser said. “I think it’s a wonderful pairing of the two exhibitions.”

Ubuhle Women will serve as the artistic inspiration for floral arrangements to be produced and displayed during the Rooms of Bloom event debuting in March while Paperweights in loom is meant to be a companion to both.

“I think both exhibitions show

that nature is inspiration, beautiful color and form, but also that meticulous, virtuoso technique in glass,” Fiser said.

Ubuhle Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence came about as a collaboration between Ntombephi “Induna” Ntobela and Bev Gibson in the South African province of KwaZulu-Natal, during 1999. Ntobela and Gibson imagined rural women using skills in beadwork, often inherited from mothers or grandmothers, as a way to help local women and their families achieve financial independence. These women began to call themselves ubuhle, which translates to “beauty” in Xhosa and Zulu languages.

These days, the Ubuhle women’s artwork has been displayed in various states across the country as part of a traveling exhibit organized by International Arts and Artists, a nonprofit arts service organization.

The exhibit depicts large-scale displays of glass beadwork; the beads are carefully arranged onto black fabric sheets treated like canvases. The Ubuhle women refer to these finished works as ndwangos, roughly translating to rag or cloth, according to the International Arts and Artists web-

site.

Often depicted in the ndwangos are various motifs and symbols meant to represent the lives of the Ubuhle women. Many of the pieces depict bulls, a symbol of wealth in Xhosa and Zulu culture, or trees, which Ntobela utilizes to depict spiritual connections to ancestors, as well as the living world.

Many ndwangos also serve as memorial pieces meant to honor Ubuhle women who have died, particularly from HIV/AIDS.

“Some of the panels are tributes to Ubuhle women, or relatives who have passed away, many from HIV/AIDS and it shows how art can be a powerful tool, almost a form of therapy for many of the artists as they work through their memories and their feelings of loss,” Fiser said.

Fiser said the artwork of the Ubuhle women offers compelling life stories, in addition to intricate, grand displays of beadwork.

“It’s great to be able to look beyond just the intricacy of the beads and the beautiful bold patterns and colors to realize that there is a more significant, meaningful story that the artists are sharing, right alongside the beautiful beads and shimmering



Liam Beran / Advance-Titan

A glass paperweight on display at the Paperweights in Bloom exhibit.

qualities.”

Paperweights in Bloom is an exhibit of glass paperweights from the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass and local collector Rosann Baum Milius that’s being held in conjunction with the biannual meeting of the Paperweight Collectors Association, according to the Paine Art Center website.

“We typically will have another exhibition complementing whatever is in the main gallery. So that’s where the paperweights come in,” said the Paine’s Marketing Manager Noell Dickmann.

The paperweights feature floral designs and elements, which are

meant to complement elements of nature found in Ubuhle Women and the upcoming Rooms of Bloom.

“We have all the way from antique paperweights and vintage styles through contemporary art forms, and really, they’re so much more than paper weights. They’re really small art glass sculptures,” Fiser said.

Flower arrangements complement artwork.

Both exhibits are meant to complement the upcoming Rooms of Bloom event, which will see artists create floral arrangements that draw inspiration from pieces displayed in Ubuhle Women.

“Every single room of this mansion is bursting with flowers. So [when] you walk in, you’re gonna smell all the flowers, your eyes might water a bit if they’re, you know, tickling your senses. It’s a really wonderful way of kind of getting some ... spring-like air,” Dickmann said.

The event will take place during March 3-6 and March 10-13; Ubuhle Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence and Paperweights in Bloom will be on display until May 22.

Oshkosh welcomes back Restaurant Week

By Kelly Heuckman
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Twenty-five Oshkosh restaurants will have the chance to show off their culinary skills as they participate in the 3rd annual Oshkosh Restaurant week March 3-13.

Oshkosh Restaurant Week is a 10-day local event that highlights the most popular restaurants in the city with special menu items alongside regular menus.

Guests will have the opportunity to get a full taste of Oshkosh with \$10 breakfast, \$15 three-course lunch and \$27 three-course dinner options.

Visit Oshkosh Community



Partnership Coordinator Caitlyn MacWilliams shares her enthusiasm for the return of the event after its cancellation last year due to COVID-19 outbreaks.

“We are thrilled to be welcoming Restaurant Week back — it will be great to see a boom in

business for these restaurants,” MacWilliams said.

MacWilliams describes Oshkosh Restaurant Week as an opportunity for participating restaurants to share specialty items that aren’t found on their regular menus.

One participating restaurant, Ground Round at River’s Edge, will offer all three meal options while providing patrons with a stunning panoramic view of the Fox River.

Ground Round’s service manager Nikki Pieczynski shared some of the featured items on the restaurant’s event menu, including a maple bourbon pork chop for dinner and a banana crème brûlée.

“We are excited about Restaurant Week,” Pieczynski said. “We try to promote anything going on in the community.”

The restaurant often relies on weekly specials and events like Restaurant Week to bring in crowds of people hoping to try new menu items.

“We are still rebuilding,” Pieczynski said about business still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. “We have a lot of regulars that haven’t come back yet.”

Still, Pieczynski stays busy at work while remaining positive about an influx of business, and for a good reason.

MacWilliams says that in pre-

vious years, Oshkosh Restaurant Week has brought in over \$500,000 from thousands of people.

In addition to its economic impact, she says that the event motivates visitors and locals alike to explore new parts of the community.

“We encourage people to spend the night and make a weekend out of it,” MacWilliams said.

The event’s special menu and price offers will begin Thursday, March 3 and will continue through Sunday March 13. A full list of participating restaurants and their menus can be found on the Visit Oshkosh website.

Club Spotlight: UW Oshkosh Fishing Team

Students can compete in local, national tournaments

By Mattie Beck
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There are 183 organizations here on campus, one of them being the Fishing Team.

The Fishing Team is a sports club that offers students the opportunity for club outings, tournaments and meetings that are all centered around fishing.

“I joined the Fishing Club so that I could expand my skills and knowledge in fishing,” said club president Joe Birschbach.

Birschbach first got involved in bass fishing tournaments through the club.

Birschbach also said that the club has allowed him to travel to different parts of the country for fishing tournaments.

“I’ve been competing since my freshman year of college. Where I competed on the Mississippi River in La Crosse and on Toledo Bend in Louisiana,” Birschbach said.

Along with competing, the club also goes out on outings around Oshkosh to give members

an experience close to home, according to Birschbach.

“We occasionally do club outings as well,” Birschbach said. “Recently, we had a club ice fishing outing on Puckaway Lake.”

The Fishing Team is not just about going fishing, as it also provides members with the opportunity to talk with others about the topic.

“We do seminars, too,” Birschbach said. “We’ll have professional fishermen come in and do seminars on all types of fishing.”

The Fishing Team on campus is open to all fishermen to join, and it comes with some benefits as well.

“We love to get together and talk fishing,” Birschbach said, “We have sponsorship deals and really cool jerseys that anyone can order.”

To learn more, go to <https://uwosh.presence.io/organization/osh-titan-fishing-team>.

The Fishing Club is one of the many organizations that are on campus and it is open to those interested in fishing.



The UW Oshkosh Fishing Team regularly attends competitions, outings and also hosts seminars. Courtesy of Joe Birschbach



Photos Courtesy of Satori Imports

Satori Imports locally owned since 1969

By Kylie Balk-Yaatenen
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Satori Imports is a downtown store that incorporates that ‘60s feel in 2022. Locally owned since 1969, there’s something for everyone.

According to their website, Satori Imports was started in 1969 by Jeff Pyfer, a UW Oshkosh alumnus. In 1975, the store moved into what is now its current location, 411 N. Main St., and it has been there ever since.

The website also talks about the story behind the logo. In between the word “Satori” and “Imports” there is a winged bird-like creature. The store says that it is the mythological figure Icarus who flew too close to the sun despite his father’s warning not to, and melted his wax wings.

The website says that the sto-



Colorful dreamcatchers are just some of the items featured throughout the store.

ry inspires them to “Listen to the wise, find your way out of the maze, soar to new heights, live on the edge and don’t be afraid to take a few chances.” The store has continued to adapt with the times and brings that peace and

love feeling into the modern age.

Courtney Vanden Heuvel, who has worked there since 2017, said she thinks the store has been there so long because it has a wide assortment of items that you can’t find anywhere else.

“We have a large assortment of things, and we have been around for such a long time that people just have this expectation of what they are going to find here,” she said. “There’s this reliability; you know you can get a tapestry, and you know you’ll always find good gifts for everybody.”

Stephanie Kerstner, a student at UW Oshkosh, said she thinks that Satori Imports is a unique place that has many different items to choose from.

“It’s such a different store. When I went in there I was shocked at how much stuff they have, like all the T-shirts.”

Kerstner also said she likes that Satori Imports offers a lot of different deals.

Katie Pulvermacher said that part of the experience is the staff. “Walking into the store the staff were very friendly and helpful,” she said.

Vanden Huevel said that one of their most popular items are incense sticks that you can use to make your space feel more peaceful.

She said that college students should really check out the store because there are many different items you can use to spruce up your space.

“We have tons of really cool decorative items that you can put in your dorm to cover up those plain white walls,” she said. “We have tapestries that you use to make your dorm feel like more of a zen space.”



Pulvermacher said that she thinks the decor items are her favorite thing about the store.

“I really love decorating my dorm with the cool stuff I find in there,” she said. “They have so many colorful items like the dreamcatchers.”

Satori Imports is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and on Sundays from noon-5 p.m.

Opinion

Student journalism must not be censored

By The Advance-Titan Staff
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Over the years, the UW Oshkosh Advance-Titan has broken stories about important topics such as plagiarism and misconduct by professors, sexual harassment cases and theft by students and staff. All of these stories demonstrate the significance and informative capabilities of student journalism.

On the national stage, student journalists reported on important topics such as elections, the pandemic, racial justice and civic engagement over the last two years alone, providing invaluable insight and perspective to the larger, national discourse.

Despite all of its accomplishments and capabilities, student journalism enjoys much less freedom than regular press outlets, and is constantly facing the threat of censorship. Student journalists are real journalists, and deserve protection from the censorship they face from their administrations.

Student Press Freedom Day, celebrated annually on Feb. 24, marks a day to both celebrate the work of student journalists and bring attention to the threats they face. This year's theme is "Unmute Yourself," and it seeks to inform student journalists about the dangers of censorship. Student journalists must be empowered to tell stories that are important to their communities and be able to withstand the pressures that lead to self-censorship.

As recently as 2019, the North Star, Oshkosh North High School's student newspaper, was the victim of administrative censorship when the school took down a factually accurate story regarding the suspension of the assistant principal. On top of this, the school pressed the student to reveal an anonymous source and subsequently established a prior restraint process on the paper, two further blatant violations of the publications First Amendment rights.

While the student ended up winning the case against the school (after widespread opposition to the decision around the state), it shows that there is still fighting to be done to ensure the utmost protection for student journalists, as there will always be people wishing to regulate the flow of information.

Just this month, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) sued Tarleton State University in Texas for withholding public documents regarding how they censored (and attempted to take independence from) a student newspaper that looked into the "inappropriate behavior" of a for-



Advance-Titan File Photo

The Advance-Titan has been informing UW Oshkosh faculty, students and the community at large since its creation in 1894.

mer professor.

While issues like this are easy to spot, student journalists also face another, lesser-known form of censorship: self censorship. The Student Press Law Center (SPLC), the founders of Student Freedom Day, defines self censorship as "when student journalists choose not to pursue a story out of fear that their story will not be allowed to be published, or they will experience retaliation from administrators or those who hold a form of power over them." Student publications censor themselves when they fear repercussions from administrators such as budget cuts and other indirect forms of censorship. Self-censorship is usually applied regarding the coverage of topics that reflect poorly on the school, as they are likely to receive pushback from the institution who wish to save face.

These kinds of stories, however, are perhaps the most important that a student publication can run, as they fulfill the journalistic promise of informing the public about events and information that would otherwise be hidden. Often times, the most "sensitive" or "controversial" material is some of most important, as it breeds widespread discussion of topics and brings awareness to important societal issues, just as journalism has to in order to fulfill its role in a functional, information-driven democracy.

It is the job of University of



Marketing and Communications (UMC) to promote UW Oshkosh and put happenings in a positive light, but it is the job of student media to tell the truth. And on Student Press Freedom Day, there is no better time to remind students, faculty, staff, administrators and the community at large of the important role student media plays.

The Advance-Titan has taken that role seriously, telling a variety of stories in recent years that some university administrators likely wished we didn't tell.

Some of the stories resulted from Freedom of Information requests, such as professors accused of or found guilty of plagiarism, misconduct and threats, and a former volleyball coach who was fired after an investigation found evidence to support a student's sexual harassment allegations.

Other stories, however, resulted simply because our reporters were paying attention. For instance, reporters listened to rumors of missing IT equipment and started making inquiries. Later, a UW Oshkosh IT specialist would be found guilty of stealing between \$10,000 and \$100,000 of movable property.

Another story about a basketball player who left UW Oshkosh came about when the Advance-Titan's sports reporter noticed the star player was no longer playing and his picture had disappeared from the athletics website. That player was later charged with two counts of theft for stealing and reselling merchandise from the university bookstore, and he signed a Deferred Adjudication Agreement and pleaded no contest or guilty to both counts of theft.

We are thankful that UW Oshkosh administrators understand the importance of press freedom and have not fought for prior review or overt censorship. UMC some-

times makes it difficult for student reporters to get sources to talk in a timely manner, or just gives reporters a list of responses from our questions. This is because, in order to contact staff members, Advance-Titan reporters (and all media) are required to go through UMC. According to Executive Director of Marketing and Communications Peggy Breister, the size of the university demands that the media relations are coordinated through a team.

Despite this, Advance-Titan Editor-in-Chief Cory Sparks said that the Advance-Titan is able to pursue important stories and report the truth without any fear of censorship.

"At UW Oshkosh, I feel protected from censorship," he said. "The Advance-Titan is able to pursue breaking stories on and near campus with conviction and truthful intent via the First Amendment, and I don't feel that the university infringes upon that right."

Sparks also said that student journalism fulfills an essential role in preparing students for their future lives.

"Student journalism is the bridge that all collegiate student bodies need," he said. "Without this exposure from a publishing and consuming standpoint, many will be 'thrown into the fire' once they leave college and live their everyday lives."

UW Oshkosh's students who comprise WRST Radio and Titan TV also take that role seriously.

Titan TV Sports Director Eric Krueger said that freedom from censorship is essential to providing fair and informative coverage.

"I believe that every single subject matter is entitled to an equal amount of coverage," he said. "Censorship in the media takes away the integrity of journalism, and more and more these days we see this occurring."

Krueger also said that he has always felt enabled to do his job without any interference at UW Oshkosh.

"I believe that as a student journalist here at UW Oshkosh, we can cover

stories to their extent and not feel any censorship that takes the integrity out of the story or job," he said.

Overall, however, self-censorship is on the rise, making the efforts of organizations such as the SPLC, the FIRE and, of course, students themselves all the more important. A 2021 study done by the FIRE revealed that 83% of college students feel that they engaged in self-censorship on campus, representing a drastic increase from the 60% who reported the same in the 2020 study.

One of the ways that the SPLC is working to protect the rights of student journalists is through the New Voices movement, a piece of legislation that seeks to protect students from the censorship that has become so common since the ruling of Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier in 1988. The legislation, which is already in effect in 15 states, reverses the standards set by Hazelwood, and gives student journalists the freedom they deserve. Wisconsin, however, is not one of the states that has adopted these protections. Despite having a New Voices campaign in 2016, nothing was ever put into place.

Even so, there are resources that student journalists can utilize in order to protect themselves. Organizations like the SPLC and the FIRE offer student journalists everything from legal hotlines, training seminars, toolkits for reporters and a plethora of guidebooks so that student journalists can know their rights and do their job without fear of unjust consequences.

While Student Press Freedom Day is only celebrated once a year, the lessons it teaches must be remembered every day in order to protect students' First Amendment rights. Student journalism represents an amazing opportunity for young journalists to form critical thinking and questioning skills while simultaneously providing vital information and perspective to the public, and deserve freedom from censorship when doing this.



Cory Sparks / Advance-Titan

The student-run Titan TV was created in 1968 to provide news broadcasting, sports coverage and other original programming.

Acknowledging suicides is crucial

By The Advance-Titan Staff
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School systems across the country always preach how important mental health is and why you should reach out to someone if you feel like you’re going to hurt yourself or if you are feeling depressed.

According to The University of Michigan’s Counseling and Psychological Services page, suicide is the No. 2 leading cause of death for college students. According to the same site, 25% of all students know somebody who has committed suicide.

This shows the branching impact of one suicide and just how many people are hurt when it occurs.

According to the CDC and Prevention, 47,500 people died by suicide in 2019 alone. That equates to about 1 death every 11 minutes. In the same year, more than 12 million people have thought about committing suicide, 3.5 million people have actually made plans, and about 1.4 million have attempted suicide.

Sometimes a person can feel depressed, or even suicidal, and the thought of reaching out for help can be especially terrifying if they don’t know how people will respond. That feeling of not knowing how people will react to a person’s depression or suicidal thoughts can make those thoughts even worse and can cause a person to spiral downward quickly. Many people also fear that by reaching out for help they’ll only be seen as complaining or even ungrateful for what they do have.

There are times when people feel like they are lost in a hopeless situation or feel like they are drowning. To them, ending everything seems like the only way out. So if someone reaches out to you and says they want to hurt themselves or worse, take them seriously. Don’t call them dramatic or an attention seeker or tell them to get over it because doing that will only push them closer to the



Kyra Slakes / Advance-Titan

According to The University of Michigan Counseling and Psychological Services page, 25% of all students know somebody who has committed suicide.

edge.

There are signs and posters placed throughout the UW Oshkosh campus about getting help when you need it and what resources are available to students. However, what can UWO do after the fact if someone on campus takes their own life?

Just over a year ago, a UW Oshkosh student took his own life, and life on campus carried on as if it was business as usual.

While preventative measures are promoted by the campus via email and through resource tabs in Canvas class portals, when a student does take their own life, there have been no widely known moments of silence across campuses or memorials for the life that was lost. The idea that such a loss of life wasn’t mourned or acknowledged on such a wide scope just doesn’t sit well at all.

Offering campus resources and placing messages like “it’s okay to not be okay” may help some students, but it is just as important for this campus to directly address the instances where someone still felt the need to end their time on earth.

According to the American Psychiatric Association, seasonal affective disorder (SAD), known as seasonal depression, impacts 5% of all adults for roughly 40% of the calendar year surrounding the winter.

As seasonal depression affects many, we believe that the campus should continue doing the phenomenal job that it has done with providing resources at the Counseling Center and with the signs that have depression-related quotes for suicide awareness around campus.

Preventative measures are an

important aspect of acknowledgment when it comes to subjects regarding depression and suicide.

However, as the winter months continue, and as the days remain relatively short until daylight savings time begins, it is important that this campus acknowledges those who it has lost and the heartbreak that such incidents have caused.

For anyone who is out there feeling down on themselves, we encourage you, as UWO does, to utilize the campus Counseling Center for help. While we believe that signing up online should be an option for those anxious to call over the phone, the resource is still there nonetheless. Medicine, one-on-one help and many other forms of aid are offered with the intention to be utilized.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, counseling

appointments are offered remotely, but they have since opened up to in-person options, too. Support groups are also available with in-person and online options.

We are sure that these resources have already saved so many lives, but we need the campus to directly acknowledge the ones whose lives were not saved. No system is perfect, but UWO’s response to student suicides could be improved through direct acknowledgement of those who have been lost.

For anyone who has suicidal thoughts, please call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 800-273-8255, or contact the UWO Counseling Center at (920) 424-2061 at <https://uwosh.edu/counseling/emergency-services/> for same-day crisis appointments.

Winter Olympics end in drug scandals

By Lexi Wojcik-Kretchmer
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The 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, which ended Feb. 20, was tainted by yet another doping scandal from the Russians, this time in the women’s figure skating events.

15-year-old Kamila Valieva tested positive for a performance-enhancing drug called trimetazidine, which increases blood flow and endurance and is banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), as well as two other non-banned heart substances.

Her test was taken on Dec. 25 for the Russian national championships, which she won, but the results weren’t announced until Feb. 7 (right after the Russian Olympic Committee, including Valieva, won the team skating competition).

After complex hearings, the Court of Arbitration for Sport allowed Valieva to compete in the singles event, where she was expected to win gold, although there

wouldn’t be a medal ceremony if she placed. Ultimately, Valieva lost to Russians Anna Shcherbakova (gold) and Alexandra Trusova (silver).

The 2021 Tokyo Summer Olympics, pushed back from 2020, also had a drug scandal in the qualifying for U.S. women’s 100-meter dash when 21-year-old Sha’Carri Richardson won with a time of 10.86 seconds, qualifying her for the Olympics.

However, shortly after her win, it was announced she tested positive for marijuana, also a banned substance by WADA, and she accepted a month-long ban that would’ve ended in time for her to compete in the 4x100 relay if she was put onto the team.

However, Richardson did not compete at all at the Tokyo Games and she accepted her fate with grace.

“I greatly apologize if I let you guys down, and I did,” Richardson said to her family, fans and sponsors

in an interview with NBC in 2021. In that same interview, Richardson said the reason she tested positive was because she was trying to cope with the death of her mother while she was at the trials.

These two athletes have very different stories, yet one came up with an excuse that she accidentally took her grandfather’s heart medication known to improve endurance and challenged her ban. The other accepted her ban and owned up to her actions for using a drug that is banned, yet legal in many states including the state the trials were in.

“Can we get a solid answer on the difference of her situation and mine? My mother died and I can’t run and was also favored to place top three,” Richardson tweeted on Feb. 14. “The only difference I see is I’m a black young lady.”

While Valieva’s test result wasn’t immediately released because it took so long to flag it in Sweden, once it came out, it came out slowly in bits and pieces. When Rich-

ardson’s results came back, it was almost immediately announced to the public.

“My name and talent was slaughtered to the people,” Richardson tweeted.

These two athletes do have some similarities outside of the fact that they were both supposed to place in at least the top three for their respective sport; they were both failed by the people around them.

Valieva was failed by the adults around her and especially her coach, Eteri Tutberidze, who has been known to be extremely tough on her athletes and make them retire from skating far too soon.

I think if Valieva did take the drug of her own volition, it was to impress a coach that was cruel and wouldn’t stop until Valieva was the best.

I believe that Valieva may have been coerced into taking this drug by her coach or other authoritative figures so that ROC could win another gold medal.

In Valieva’s story, the other Olympic figure skaters were also failed by the countless organizations that didn’t hold her accountable; their successes were taken away from them because of a scandal that gained attention due to her ability to compete.

For Richardson, she was failed by the WADA for keeping marijuana/THC on the list of banned substances after so many states have legalized it. She was also failed by the prejudice in the United States around Black women and drugs.

Richardson’s circumstance was exceptional, a word that was used to describe Valieva’s case after her hearing, because of her mother.

Both situations are extremely unfair and upsetting to a multitude of people, but if there is a silver lining, it is that Tutberidze could be held accountable. Many hope the WADA will review the marijuana ban as its stigma and legality has changed since it was added to the list.



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