

# The Advance-Titan

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Josh Lehner / Advance-Titan

A group of students, staff, faculty and community members chant slogans in front of Sage Hall during Tuesday's walkout protest. The protest, which began at the Culver Family Welcome Center, worked its way to Sage Hall before ending in front of Polk Library.

## 'Chop from the top!'

*Faculty, staff, community members hold walkout protest*

By Josh Lehner  
lehnerjo70@uwosh.edu

UW Oshkosh staff and faculty, as well as community members and people from other UW System schools, participated in a walkout protest Tuesday over the university's response to its \$18 million deficit.

The protesters criticized the university's decision to lay off around 200 staff in the coming weeks as well as the effects that furloughs and department restraints have on the quality of education.

An online petition garnering over 500 signatures states that the university's plan to curb the deficit "was developed with minimal input from faculty and staff, the frontline workers that carry out the university's mission of providing quality education for the people of northeast Wisconsin."

The petition also laid out eight expectations for the university, with the option for signees to forward the list of expectations to UWO Chancellor Andrew Leavitt.

The expectations included cutting administrative position salaries over instructional and student support position's salaries, increased support for instructional academic staff, more clarity regarding future workloads and working conditions and "viable part-time options" for faculty who want lower than full-time status.

In a response letter, Chancellor Leavitt and Provost Edwin Martini stated that increased teaching loads should only be seen as a temporary measure.

"It is my expectation that we will have our academic structure and workload fully reset and realigned no later than the end of the spring 2025 semester," the letter stated.

But Sociology and Environmental Studies Professor Paul Van Auken said that, while the administration responded to all of the points listed in the expectations letter by the deadline, he is still skeptical.

"There's no way to know whether most of what they say will actually be followed through on," he said.

In their response letter, UWO's administration denied the possibility of student and faculty government getting a seat in the administration cabinet.

Tony Palmeri, a professor of communication studies at UWO, said he went to the protest to ensure that current students have the same quality of education that past students have had.

"School is getting more expensive, and students have a right to know that they've got the best instructors and staff," he said. "I've had a great career here for 34 years

and I want to do what I can to ensure that the teachers coming after me have the same opportunities that I've had."

The protest began at noon on Tuesday at the Culver Family Welcome Center. Protesters then walked along Pearl Avenue and Wisconsin Street, chanting slogans such as, "put students first," "education and not administration," "chop from the top" and "save our staff," among others.

Stopping afterward in front of Sage Hall, a handful of students and staff spoke, including the journalism academic department associate Cindy Schultz, who will be taking early retirement through the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Options Program after the fall 2023 semester.

"I've been on this campus for 40 years and have worked my tail off, as have other university staff

members," she said. "The sad thing about the irresponsibility of our administration is they have driven our budget right into the ground. If I were as irresponsible with my department budget as this administration has been with the university budget, I wouldn't have a job today."

Schultz also said that the university is deliberately targeting lower-level positions, such as staff members, and said that "it's time to chop from the top" — quoting one of the slogans chanted by the protesters.

"They are targeting the lower-level employees and the top administration — the people who have created this problem — are going to be able to keep their cushy jobs, and the rest of us are worried about how we are going to pay our mortgages," she said.

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## Day by Day addresses unhoused population

By Aubrie Selsmeyer  
selsmeyer72@uwosh.edu

Homelessness is not a new problem in Oshkosh. However, for a number of citizens, the problem has recently become more apparent and troubling.

Oshkosh has the Day by Day Warming Shelter, which provides overnight housing to 50 people per night, but does not provide daytime shelter for guests. The shelter

moved from the basement of the Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic Parish on High Avenue to a larger, new facility on Ceape Avenue in May of 2023.

A handful of community members have expressed concern about the unhoused gathering during the day on Ceape Avenue near the Leach Amphitheater and Riverside Park.

"If a person sees all these people sitting there and they don't notice that the building across the street

is a shelter, then all they see is that Oshkosh has a lot of homelessness and doesn't do anything about it," Brook Besant, resident of Oshkosh, said. Besant responded to a request for comments via the Nextdoor local neighborhood app. "I know we can't move a building, but it's unfortunate that the location of it is right next to [the Leach, which] draws in people from outside of Oshkosh."

Another resident, Machaela Jack-

son said, she likes the idea of the shelter, but has her own concerns.

"It's a great concept, but I have walked or driven past several times with my children and been yelled at by individuals outside the shelter," she said. "They yelled anything from 'hi' to 'help' to 'stop the car.'"

Day by Day Executive Director Molly Yatso Butz said the mission of the shelter has always been to "provide basic overnight shelter." She said that the shelter does, how-

ever, offer daytime programs that the guests are encouraged to partake in.

"Where, or how, or what people choose to do during the day is really not, unfortunately, in our control," Yatso Butz said. "So, we are trying to incentivize and motivate people to take advantage of our programs, because we do have so many things happening during the day in the shelter that are so

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The Advance-Titan

**Phone:** 920-424-3048  
**Email:** atitan@uwosh.edu  
**Website:** www.advancetitan.com  
**Facebook:** @theadvancetitan  
**Twitter:** @atitan  
**Instagram:** @theadvancetitan

**Editor-in-Chief**  
**Katie Pulvermacher**  
pulvek45@uwosh.edu

**Managing Editor**  
**Kelly Hueckman**  
hueckk24@uwosh.edu

**Advertising Manager**  
**Luke Bussey**  
busseylu85@uwosh.edu

**News Editor Anya Kelley**  
kelleyan55@uwosh.edu

**Assistant News Editor**  
**Joshua Lehner**  
lehnerjo70@uwosh.edu

**Arts & Entertainment Editor**  
**Mattie Beck**  
beckm88@uwosh.edu

**Opinion Editor**  
**Aubrie Selsmeyer**  
selsmeyau72@uwosh.edu

**Sports Editors**  
**Jacob Link**  
linkj13@uwosh.edu

**Nolan Swenson**  
swensonno56@uwosh.edu

**Photo Editor Willem Flaugher**  
flaugw05@uwosh.edu

**Web Editor**  
**Cassidy Johnson**  
johnsonca51@uwosh.edu

**Assistant Web Editor**  
**Ella Rider**  
riderell4@uwosh.edu

**Social Media Specialist**  
**Claudia Zeamer**

**Copy Desk Chief**  
**Kyiah Nelson**  
nelsok45@uwosh.edu

**Graphic Designers**  
**Michael Buckner**  
cobbbr32@uwosh.edu

**Ella Sasse**  
sasseel96@uwosh.edu

**Reporters**  
Brandon Cobb, Frankie Kerkof,  
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**Copy Editors**  
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**Photographers**  
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Meagan McDowell

**Distribution Manager**  
**Douglas Newhouse**  
newhousedo78@uwosh.edu

**Faculty Adviser Barb Benish**  
benish@uwosh.edu

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

# Protest: Palmeri speaks to protesters

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The protesters then moved across campus to Polk Library, where a slew of individuals gave speeches including students, UW System professors and Vice President of the Higher Education Council for the American Federation of Teachers-Wisconsin John Shelton.

One such professor was David Siemers, political science professor and United Faculty and Staff of Oshkosh (UFSO) president, who said that UFSO “can’t stand what’s happening here (at UWO).”

Siemers said that he sympathizes with the staff who are at risk of losing their jobs, adding that, “[the staff] deserve better.”

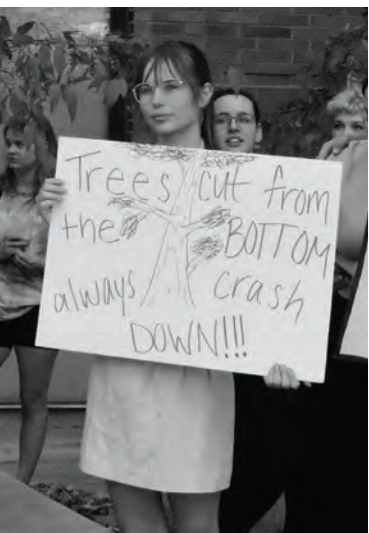
“For our university staff, you make the buildings run,” he said. “You advise our students and help them do so many things. Many of you are on the chopping block; you deserve better.”

Siemers also said that instructional academic staff have been treated unfairly and have been given “the short end of the stick,” especially in regards to increased teaching loads that have gone into effect to remedy cuts and furloughs.

“You make a lot less money for teaching more classes; that’s headache enough,” he said. “But the fact that you might lose your job after 10, 15 or 20 years, that’s the unkindest cut of all.”

UWO alumna and state representative Lori Palmeri also made an appearance, speaking to protesters about her experience at UWO versus the current experience.

“Let’s demand excellence and let’s demand opportunity to meet the needs of this community,” she said, paraphrasing UWO’s Titan tagline, “where excellence and opportunity meet.” “When we learned in August



Josh Lehner / Advance-Titan

about the plans for furloughs and layoffs, it felt like a gut punch. I think many of us are still in disbelief that it has come to this. This is personal.”

Lori Palmeri said that, as a UWO

alumna, she had excellent experiences and opportunities. Still, she said she was lucky to finish her degree because of program cuts that occurred when she attended the school.

Lori Palmeri said that the university’s realignment plan is personal for students, staff and faculty because it will have lasting impacts for decades to come on the student experience and on the community broadly.

She also criticized the state legislature, which has been reducing funding to the UW System, forcing schools to rely more heavily on funds from enrollment.

“This legislature is killing the UW System,” she said. “The legislature could, with one little stroke of the pen, solve this problem. We have to demand re-funding of the UW System immediately. I want to see UWO thrive now and for future generations.”

## Day by Day: The solution to a growing problem

From Page 1

beneficial to people living in crisis.”

Yatso Butz says Day by Day is working to be a part of the solution to the growing homeless population and reminding Oshkosh residents that the nation is stricken with this problem, not just Oshkosh. Yatso Butz hopes Day by Day will continue changing one life at a time.

“I know that every day, we make a difference,” Yatso Butz said. “And even if we’re changing just one life, it’s one less person who has to sleep on the street. So yeah, I see it; I see what happens here. And I know that we’re helping people out of really hard situations. We are trying to be part of the solution, but we are not the whole solution. Going back to our mission, we can help 50 people a night, and that keeps 50 people off the streets.”

to get in. I would see everything that is now seen on Ceape.”

Leal encourages people to treat the unhoused with compassion. She reminds us that these are people who, a lot of times, have education past high school. “We have no idea when something bad will happen,” Leal said.

“I can tell many of them have an education beyond high school,” Leal said. “I look at people and I think, ‘You were once someone’s little baby.’ I’m blessed because my kids are going to have a better life than I did. That’s the American dream; your kids will be better than you were in terms of getting through life. These people were somebody’s dream. No one has a kid and wishes they grow up homeless.”

Ben Bernier, 37, and Brianna Zarling, 19, are guests at Day by Day.



Aubrie Selsmeyer / Advance-Titan

**Ben Bernier (front) and Brianna Zarling (back) are both guests at Day by Day homeless shelter. Ben Bernier (37) is wearing a Packer hat he crocheted himself. He is self taught and passes his time making clothing items from yarn for other members of the shelter, staff and children of staff members.**

She goes on to say that “hiding” these people will not do the community (or those experiencing homelessness) any good. Rather than stowing away this issue, it is best to get down to the root of it and fix it from the inside out.

Community member and volunteer at the Day by Day Shelter Carmen Leal explained that she hasn’t noticed any drastic changes in the unhoused population of the city and says she doesn’t feel her safety is at risk; however, she acknowledges community member concerns about the unhoused being on main streets of the city.

“I think there are problems with any location,” Leal said. “There’s always going to be people who say ‘It’s not in my neighborhood, we think it’s great,’ and I do think it’s great, but I did not foresee that the homeless would camp out on Ceape Avenue. I think that’s a problem – as pro shelter as I am.”

Leal added that the problem with homelessness in the public eye is not new, it’s just more noticeable at the Leach Amphitheater — a huge source of entertainment and tourism in the city — and Riverside Park.

“I do not feel unsafe at all. I walk my dog daily and stop and chat with the group on Ceape, and there has not been any violence to my knowledge,” she said. “When they were at the church on High [Avenue], I would drive by and I would see lines of people waiting

“I’ve been in Oshkosh for about a year now. I’ve been homeless for about maybe two, three months,” Zarling said. “I fled from my domestic abuser. I was in a mental facility for about three weeks, and then once I got out of that facility, I went over to Harbor House in Appleton. When I got to Oshkosh, I stayed with a friend and she kicked me out. That’s how I ended up in this situation.”

Bernier has been at Day by Day for approximately two and a half months. He is over half blind and diabetic which he said resulted in him not being able to continue to work. Seeking more help than his family could provide, Bernier has been at Day by Day since July.

Both Bernier and Zarling said the bond they’ve created with other guests of the shelter and the staff has been a tremendous comfort, going as far as referring to members of the shelter as “family.”

“It’s nice having, you know, other people around out there going through the same thing that all can relate to,” Bernier said. “We all help each other with everything, even if we’re trying to get stuff filled out for housing or something like that. If we don’t know how to do it, somebody will always help out that’s trying to do the same thing.”

“I just want to say that Day by Day staff, everybody here, has been amazing when it comes to support,” Zarling said. “If it wasn’t for them I wouldn’t have

gotten to where I am now. I’m so, so happy that there is a place like this for people to come to get back on their feet. There’s not enough words for me to say how happy I am and how much I appreciate it. You know, Day by Day really, really means a lot to me. They’re my chosen family.”

The shelter offers men’s and women’s health classes, job programming and financial classes, individual and/or group counseling sessions, Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous support, and fun opportunities for guests to partake in – like “crafty corner.”

In addition to daytime activities and resources, Day by Day offers a 30-60-90 day program, teaching guests how to be financially independent as well as develop important life skills. If guests choose to enroll in this program (limited to 35), they are guaranteed a bed each night until they complete the 90-day period. They must, however, complete all required tasks by each 30 day milestone in order to

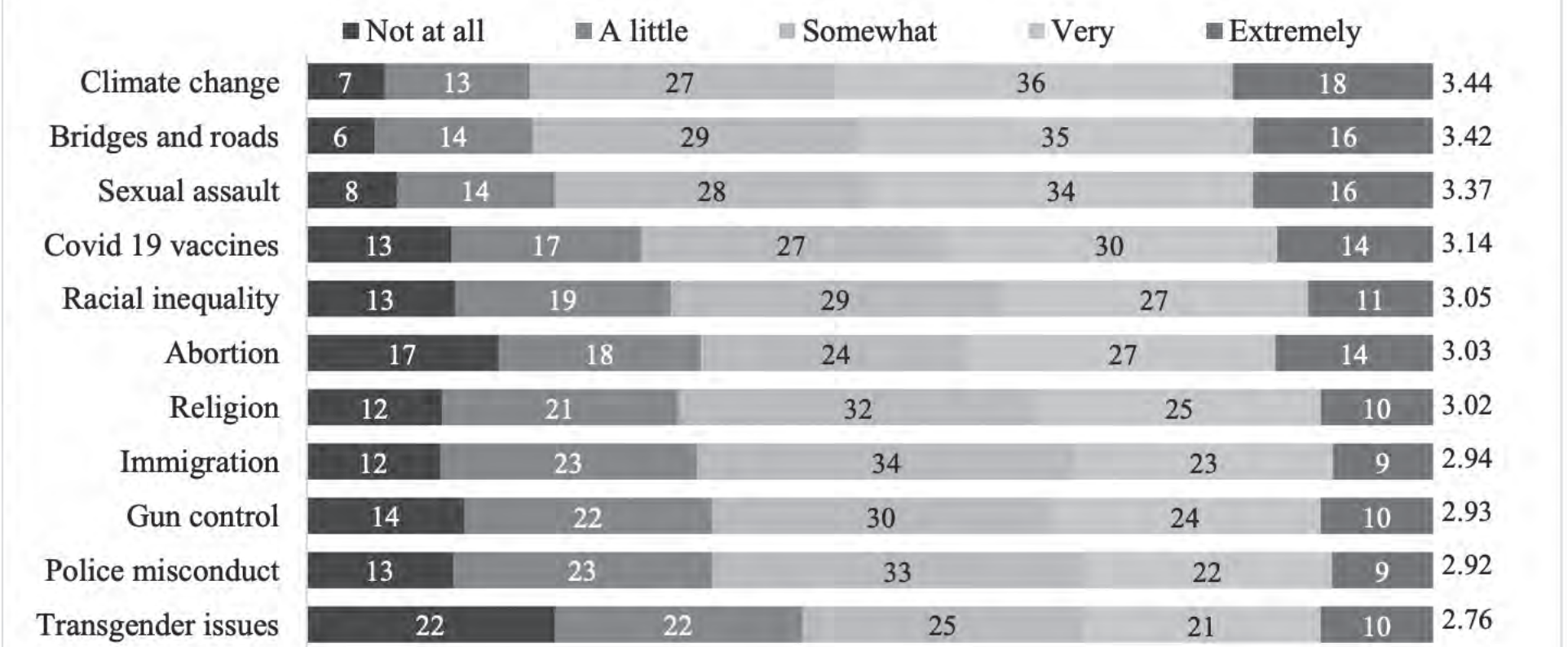
maintain their guaranteed bed at the shelter. Tasks include (but are not limited to) completing housing applications, 10 job applications, Rent Smart classes, attending Men’s and Women’s Health series that emphasize mental health and healthy relationships and 30-day check-ins with social workers.

Day by Day helps roughly 90 unique individuals secure housing, employment and/or education annually. On a monthly basis, the shelter serves over 1,500 meals and does about 1,200 loads of laundry.

Bernier is grateful for Day by Day Shelter. “I think a lot of people don’t understand how hard it is being on the street every day not being able to have a home to be in and sleep in or to just have a secure spot for yourself,” he said. “When you’re on the street you don’t have a lot of options.”

For more information on how you can get involved, visit dayby-dayshelter.org.

How comfortable do you feel expressing your views on each of the following topics? (Percent giving each response, with mean rating off to the right)



Courtesy of UW System Student Views on Freedom of Speech

Students largely feel uncomfortable discussing sensitive political and social topics. Many faculty and administrative members at UW Oshkosh and across the UW System believe that engaging in difficult conversations benefits students’ education.

# UW calls for civic engagement

By Kelly Hueckman  
hueckk24@uwosh.edu

After a 2022 survey found only 12% of students in the UW System said they were interested in having their views challenged, a panel discussed on Sept. 27 about the ways students can engage in difficult conversations.

“Universities are places where people should be challenged,” UW System President Jay Rothman said during the discussion in Reeve Memorial Union. “Their views should be expressed and questioned.”

Along with Rothman, the panel included UW Oshkosh Associate Dean of Social Sciences Sara Hansen, UW Oshkosh communications professor Tony Palmeri and Zach Greenburg from the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression.

The panel was moderated by UWO Associate Professor of Public Administration Michael Ford.

The discussion was sparked by

the UW System Freedom of Speech survey, which found that not only was a small portion of students interested in having their views challenged, but 70% of students avoid talking about controversial topics.

There are several reasons students are so hesitant to engage in difficult conversations about religion, abortion, LGBTQ issues and other similar topics, the panel said.

“Students reported that they were worried about what other students would think,” Palmeri said. “They thought they didn’t know enough about the topic, that what they said would be viewed as offensive.”

The UW Student Views on Freedom of Speech study found that students who are female, non-cisgender, non-heterosexual and/or had left-leaning views were more likely to think that expressing offensive views can cause harm to those they offend.

The panel said that poor examples from higher ups can also discourage

students from participating in difficult discussions.

Palmeri said one example of this is Republican legislators threatening to cut funds from Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs without conversing with the UW System.

“That, to me, is bullying,” he said. “That sets a terrible example, regardless of your views on DEI. That is not a way to go about solving a major contentious issue in our society.”

Rothman said avoiding civic engagement is dangerous for the university and that students should address controversial topics.

“If we aren’t courageous enough to simply address these issues head-on, understanding that we need to listen and compromise, I don’t know where we end up,” Rothman said. “We deserve better than that and we have to do better.”

Engaging in controversial conversations benefits students’ education,



Rothman

he said. “It is absolutely essential to the creation of knowledge, because if we don’t question the conventional wisdom, we’re not going to grow.”

Hansen said students can help universities become spaces for difficult conversations by engaging with professors.

“I think we (professors) need to be talking more with all of you about what you are thinking and hearing,” she said. “We’re telling you right now the importance of free speech and how we are trying as professors to have that in the classroom.”

Palmeri urges students interested

Rothman said.

“You’re going to hear things you don’t like, you’re going to hear things you disagree with, but that’s all part of the educational process,”

in getting involved in civic engagement to start small.

“I always tell students to start at the most local possible level,” he said. “When was the last time you asked your roommate, or your parent or a co-worker what they actually think about something? Start having some meaningful dialogues in your own inner circle; that’s where it all starts.”

Palmeri said he urges students to make this first step by engaging with professors, which can intimidate many students.

“This semester, pledge to visit your professors at least once,” he said. “If you can bring down that wall between you and your instructors, that goes a long, long way.”

The panelists said that while controversial topics can be awkward and difficult, they can benefit students’ education.

“If you’re not uncomfortable at some point in the university, you’re not learning,” Rothman said.

# Phishing scam email sparks concern

By Josh Lehner  
lehnerjo70@uwosh.edu

A scam email claiming that a UW Oshkosh staff member tested positive for an unnamed virus circulated last week, resulting in numerous concerned calls and messages sent to UWO’s information technology department and the Student Health Center.

In an email announcement, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Information Technology Mark Clements said that “the message implores the reader to follow a link to a website to learn who that person is and to report any contact with them.”

The scam email specifically mentioned UWO and provided

a fake university email address to send questions to, though the email came from a UW-Eau Claire address.

“This message was particularly tricky, since it was designed to look like it came from our Student Health Center,” Clements said.

IT administrators have been working to automatically block the message and the website it links to. Still, some people may still see the message on their mobile devices.

Student Health Center Director Angela Hawley said that in a situation where the health center needed to communicate with the university body, the email would be sent through an account affiliated with the Student Health Center.

“If we want to create awareness alone about an infectious disease concern, we could send an email to students, staff and faculty with general knowledge,” she said.

“The email would come from myself.”

Hawley also said that other resources, such as the health center’s website, can be consulted for further information about a health situation on campus.

“To confirm the legitimacy of the person sending the email, individuals can check our webpage



Hawley

to verify the current employment of the sender as well as other tips sent by information technology in previous emails,” she said.

In the case of more serious and personal concerns such as the one posed by the fake email, Hawley said that the health center will not send emails directly to individuals.

“The Student Health Center will not send an email directly to a student, staff or faculty member noting a personal medical concern,” she said. “If needed, we would communicate via telephone or through secure messages in our electronic medical record.”

Clements said the scam email sent last week was especially deceptive because it had an immediate call to action.

“The attacker threatened the safety of the reader and wanted to take ‘immediate steps,’” he said. “Be very careful with any message that warns you of a bad thing that may happen if you do not follow their instructions.”

Additionally, Clements said the link in the email to a “dedicated webpage” directed readers to a website for Virginia traffic laws.

“Hovering over the link shows the URL,” he said. “Make sure the site referenced in the message makes sense.”

In the event that you receive a phishing message, Clements said to use the report function in Outlook. Doing so notifies the IT department and helps others by blocking the message.

Sports

Tennis  
wins 4th  
straight

By Emily Buffington  
buffie63@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh women’s tennis team brought home its third consecutive shutout victory in a dual meet at UW-River Falls on Sept. 30.

The Titans (6-2, 1-2 WIAC) swept all three doubles matches with Olivia Pethan and Alysa Pattee starting the No. 1 doubles off with a score of 8-1 to defeat Falcons’ Sydney Wiener and Chloe Stress. In the No. 2 doubles, Ella Nguyen and Courtney Carpenter outscored Sarah Baker and Alicia Langbehn with a score of 8-3. In the No. 3 doubles, first-time partners Jenna Noble and Hannah Stitt brought home an 8-1 victory against Grace Aerts and Kennedy Ziefert.

In the singles contests, Pethan shutout Wiener (6-0, 6-0) in the No. 1 singles, while in the No. 2 singles Pattee overcame Struss (6-4, 6-0). Nguyen beat Baker (6-1, 6-0) in the No. 3 position, and in the No. 4 singles, Nolde outscored Langbehn (6-2, 6-2). Kayla posted a winning score (6-1, 6-2) against Aerts in the No. 5 singles while Stitt defeated Ziefert (6-2, 6-0) in the No. 6 singles.

The UWO claimed its second win of the day against UW-Superior on Sept. 30.

The Titans claimed all three doubles sets over UW-Superior (3-1,) starting with Pethan and Pattee in the No. 1 doubles beating Yellowjackets Andrina Tejada and Giulia Araujo De Barros 8-5. In the No. 2 doubles, Nguyen and Carpenter outscored Maya Haupt and Stella Harris 8-6. Finishing in the No. 3 doubles, Stitt and Gibbs claimed the victory against Jesi Kukowski and Daylyn Drew (8-3).

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Morgan Feltz / Advance-Titan

UWO defensive specailist Amelia Hust dives for a ball in a match against UW-Stevens Point at the Kolf Sports Center Sept. 26.

Unbeaten streak reaches 20

By Nolan Andler  
andlernof63@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh volleyball team traveled to Chicago Sept. 30 for a doubleheader against the University of Chicago (Illinois) and Hope College (Michigan).

The American Volleyball Coaches Association’s No. 3 ranked Titans (20-0, 2-0 in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) faced off against the Maroons (5-11, 1-2 in the University Athletic Association) to start the day, winning 3-2 with set scores of 25-18, 21-25, 23-25, 25-17, and 15-9.

Riley Dahlquist, Robyn Kirsch and Sami Perlberg each recorded double digit kills. Dahlquist recorded 19, Kirsch recorded 13 and Perlberg recorded 11. Izzy Coon and Kali Mau led the way in assists, with Coon recording 28 and Mau recording 19.

UWO jumped out to an early 6-2 lead in the first set thanks to

three kills by Perlberg. The Maroons made it close a couple times in the set but were never able to get the lead as the Titans cruised to a 25-18 win.

In sets two and three, UWO was able to jump out to early leads before Chicago came back and won by 21-25 and 24-25.

The Titans jumped out to a 9-5 lead in set four thanks to the aid of two kills from Kirsch and multiple Maroon errors. UWO was able to keep the lead just like in the first set and won 25-17.

In the winner take all fifth set, both teams played to a 6-6 tie until the Titans went on a 9-2 run to cruise to the 15-8 set and match win.

In their second match of the day, the Titans turned their sights to No. 2 nationally ranked Hope College (14-1, 2-0 in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association). It was not only the second time the Titans faced off against the second-ranked team in D-III volley-

ball this season, but also the second win over the second-ranked team (then-ranked No. 2 Trinity University (Texas) on Sept. 7). UWO beat the Flying Dutchmen 3-1 with set scores of 15-25, 25-21, 25-19 and 25-22.

Matching her mighty effort in the upset over Trinity, Perlberg again led UWO on the attack with 18 kills. Hannah Moe also had a productive match, recording nine kills. Mau and Coon again led the team in assists at 22 and 16.

Set one was close early, until the Flying Dutchmen jumped out to a 20-13 lead on their way to a 25-15 win.

The first set was all Hope would win against UWO, as the Titans went on to control the rest of the match.

In set two, UWO turned a 9-9 score into a 15-9 lead thanks to three kills from Riley Kindt and three attack errors from Hope. The Flying Dutchmen were able to tie it back at 19-19 but UWO went on

a 6-2 run to close out a 25-21 win.

Set three was dominated by the Titans, as UWO cruised to a 25-19 win. In set four however, the Flying Dutchmen made the Titans earn it. It was a back and forth set, and the Titans did not lead until an attack error by Hope gave the Titans a 21-20 lead. UWO closed the set on a 5-2 run behind kills from Perlberg and Moe. Amelia Hust sealed the victory with an ace.

The Titans will travel to UW-Stout on Oct. 6 and then will return home the following Wednesday (Oct. 11) for a match against UW-Eau Claire.

WIAC Standings

UW Oshkosh	2-0
UW-Platteville	2-0
UW-Whitewater	1-1
UW-Stevens Point	1-1
UW-River Falls	1-1
UW-Eau Claire	1-1
UW-Stout	0-2
UW-La Crosse	0-2

No. 4 Whitewater bests Titans 37-21

By Jacob Link  
linkj13@uwosh.edu

A late fourth quarter comeback came up short as the UW Oshkosh football team dropped its Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference opener to UW-Whitewater 37-21 Sept. 30 at J.J. Keller Field at Titan Stadium.

The Titans, ranked No. 20 in the nation by d3football.com, trailed No. 4 UWW 37-6 with under 12 minutes to go in the game before quarterback Kobe Berghammer tossed two touchdown passes to bring UWO within two scores. Oshkosh (2-2, 0-1 WIAC) looked poised to score once again with under five minutes to go in the contest, but Berghammer (4-0, 1-0 WIAC) threw his third interception of the day to seal the Whitewater victory.

UWO head coach Peter Jennings

said he was very proud of the way the team played in the second half.

“I had no doubt that we would turn it on in the second half,” Jennings said. “I had no doubt that we would be able to play a very competitive game against UW-Whitewater and any team in the country. I was just hoping there would be enough time in the game for us to make that comeback. It was obviously not the result we wanted but I am very proud of this group and I told them that in the locker room. Failure is a great teacher, and what we went through today and what we were able to do in the second half, I think, is going to be able to create something special for this program.”

Berghammer finished the game 14-27 with 209 passing yards, three touchdowns and three interceptions.

Turn to **Football** / Page 5



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

UWO’s Trae Tetzlaff dives for the pylon against Whitewater at J.J. Keller Field Sept. 30.

Sports



Scoreboard

Friday, Sept. 29

Cross-Country  
Men's - 8/30, 235 pts.  
Women's - 10/25, 231 pts.

Saturday, Sept. 30

Volleyball  
Game 1:  
UWO - 3  
University of Chicago - 2  
Game 2:  
UWO - 3  
Hope College - 1

Football  
UWO - 21  
UW-Whitewater - 37

Soccer  
UWO - 1  
UW-La Crosse - 3

Tennis  
Game 1:  
UWO - 9  
UW-River Falls - 0  
Game 2:  
UWO - 6  
UW-Superior - 2

Sunday, Sept. 24

Women's Golf  
UWO - 8/9, 202-383 585

Upcoming Events

Friday, Oct. 6

Volleyball  
at UW-Stout at 7 p.m.  
Women's Golf  
vs WIAC Championship at Reeds-  
burg Country Club

Saturday, Oct. 7

Football  
at UW-Stout at 2 p.m.  
Tennis  
vs. UW-Eau Claire at 12 p.m.  
Soccer  
vs. UW-Stout at 4 p.m.  
Swimming and Diving  
UW Oshkosh Alumni Meet at 1 p.m.

Women's Golf  
vs. WIAC Championship at Reeds-  
burg Country Club  
Cross-Country  
at Lawrence University Gene Davis  
Invitational Women's at 11 a.m. &  
Men's at 12 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 8

Women's Golf  
vs WIAC Championship at Reeds-  
burg Country Club

Wednesday, Oct. 11

Volleyball  
vs. UW-Eau Claire at 7 p.m.

A-Trivia

When was the last time the  
UWO football team defeat-  
ed Whitewater?

Answer: On Nov. 16, 2019, the  
Titans took down UWW 27-20.

A-Trivia

How many undefeated  
volleyball teams remain in  
D-III?

Answer: As of Oct. 3 there are  
four undefeated volleyball teams  
in D-III.

Football: UWO drops WIAC opener

From Page 4

Berghammer also finished as the team's leading rusher, gain- ing 40 yards on the ground on 10 attempts. UWO was outgained 231-63 in rushing yards during the contest, with Oshkosh run- ning backs Kaio Harn and Doug Burson combining for 23 yards on eight carries.

Wideout Dan Fynaardt finished as UWO's leading receiver, catch- ing three passes for a game-high 98 yards and a touchdown. Trae Tetzlaff caught five passes for 43 yards and two touchdowns while Clayton Schwalbe caught two passes for 29 yards, snapping his streak of three consecutive games with a touchdown reception.

Defensively, UWO defensive backs Carson Raddatz and Jus- tin Tenpas both had a game-high eight tackles while Raddatz also recorded a forced fumble and two pass breakups to lead the team. Oshkosh recorded 89 tackles as a team and had three tackles for loss, one from Jacob Mandella and one from both Bryce Edwards and Tijs Santiago. Linebacker Kyle Diet- zen recorded six tackles and an interception for the Titans.

Raddatz said he was definitely frustrated at how easy it was for the Warhawks to move the ball in the first half.

"In the first half they came out hot, got up 23 on us by halftime but in the second half we were able to execute plays a little bet- ter and got some stops," Raddatz said. "Call-wise, we didn't really change a whole lot — we played a bit more man coverage but that was about all we changed."

UWW quarterback Alec Ogden went 18-28 for 262 passing yards, a touchdown and an interception. Whitewater running back Tamir Thomas dominated the ground game, rushing for 117 yards and a touchdown on 23 carries. Ali Maher-Parr rushed 16 times for 91 yards and a score while Ogden finished with 18 yards and a touch- down.

Tommy Coates caught a game- high six passes for UWW, finish- ing with 86 receiving yards and a touchdown. Nick Wind caught three passes for 59 yards while Steven Hein caught four passes for 53 yards for the Warhawks.

On the defensive side, UWW



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

UWO defenders Jhe'veon St. Julien (0) and Connor Lund (28) tackle a UWW wideout on Sept. 30.

combined for 40 total tackles, three tackles for loss and three interceptions. Roy Panthier and Etha Gallagher led the team with five tackles apiece while Ky Koel- blinger, Braede Barrett and Caden Naselli all recorded tackles for loss. Egon Hein finished the game with two interceptions while Joe Antonietti finished with a pick-six.

Whitewater dominated Oshkosh in the 115th all-time meeting be- tween the two teams, outgaining the Titans in total yards 493-272, acquiring 17 more first downs, converting on 50% of third down tries and dominating in time of possession 39:37-20:23.

UWW opened the contest with a missed 47-yard field goal from Jeff Isotalo-McGuire on White- water's opening drive. After a quick three-and-out from UWO, the Warhawks found the endzone in their next drive when UWW capped off a 14-play drive with a 3-yard touchdown pass from Og- den to Coates. Isotalo-McGuire missed the ensuing extra point, giving Whitewater a 6-0 lead.

A failed surprise-onside kick gave the Titans good field posi- tion, but Oshkosh couldn't capital- ize and punted the ball right back to the Warhawks to begin the sec- ond quarter.

UWW marched 87 yards on its

next possession and added another touchdown, this time on a 12-yard rush from Maher-Parr to put the Warhawks on top 13-0.

With less than a minute left in the half, Whitewater scored on its third consecutive drive when Ogden scrambled outside of the pocket and rushed for a 9-yard touchdown. UWO received the ball with 27 seconds left in the half and attempted to score before halftime, but Berghammer's first pass of the drive was intercepted, giving UWW prime field position. The Warhawks were able to capi- talize on a field goal at the end of the half, giving Whitewater a 23-0 lead going into halftime.

After stopping the Warhawks on fourth down early in the third quarter, the Titans finally found the back of the endzone when Ber- ghammer found a wide open Tet- zlaff in the endzone for a 5-yard touchdown. UWO attempted a two-point conversion after the score and it seemed that the Titans had converted the try after a catch from Jon Mathieu, but after a long discussion the referees ruled Mathieu out of bounds when he made the catch.

UWW began the fourth quarter with a nine play, 84-yard drive that resulted in another touchdown for the Warhawks after Thomas broke

out a 17-yard run for the score. A minute and a half later, UWW added another touchdown when Berghammer was intercepted by Antonietti, who ran 45 yards for a pick-six.

Just two plays later, the Titans responded with a touchdown when Berghammer aired out a deep pass and connected with Fynaardt, who ran for a 71-yard touchdown. Diet- zen picked off Ogden on UWW's next drive and the Titans scored once again after Berghammer con- nected with Tetzlaff for a 7-yard passing touchdown. Berghammer found Schwalbe on the two-point try to pull the Titans to within two scores.

UWO forced a Warhawks punt on Whitewater's next possession, but as the Titans were driving down the field looming to pull to within a touchdown of UWW, Berghammer was picked off for the third time of the afternoon. The interception ended any hopes of an Oshkosh comeback, and the Titans fell 37-21 on Hall of Fame Day at Titan Stadium.

UWO will look to rebound with a win over UW-Stout (2-2, 0-1 WIAC) as the Titans head to Don and Nona Williams Stadium to take on the Blue Devils Oct. 7 at 2 p.m.

Tennis: UWO defeats Superior, UWRF

From Page 4

In the singles contest No. 1 Peth- an and Tejada made it through the set, however the match was ended due to an injury. In singles No. 2, Haupt defeated Pattee (1-6, 4-6), in No. 3 singles, Nguyen defeated Kukowski (6-3, 6-2), and Gibbs claimed the No. 4 singles against De Barros (6-3, 6-4). In the No. 5 singles, Stitt and Harris posted scores of 6-4, 3-6 but did not finish. In the No. 6 singles, Carpenter made her first singles appearance of the season and outscored Drew (6-2, 6-4).

The Titans are currently 5-2 on the season and will return home to face off against UW-Eau Claire at the Kolf Sports Center outdoor ten- nis courts on Oct. 7. The first serve is scheduled for noon.



Morgan Feltz / Advance-Titan

Alysa Pattee volleys the ball in a home match at the Kolf Sports Center earlier this year.

# Sports



Morgan Feltz / Advance-Titan

From left to right: UWO head gymnastics coach Lauren Karnitz encourages her team before a match last season. Karnitz hugs one of her gymnasts after a performance.

## From last place to national champion

### *How Karnitz led UWO to multiple D-III titles*

By Mattie Beck  
beckm88@uwosh.edu

UW Oshkosh alumna Lauren Karnitz evidently doesn't like losing. After taking over the position of head gymnastics coach at UWO in 2008, Karnitz helped the Titans to the top of D-III gymnastics, winning back-to-back national championships in 2022 and 2023. Competing on the team from 2003-06 as a student, Karnitz, who enters her 16th season at the helm of the Titans, was completely new to the world of coaching when she joined the staff at a time of need. "I just knew that they needed someone to come on at the last minute," she said. "The first year was more of an interim position and emergency type of hire, and then they kept me on after that." Karnitz continued to learn and grow throughout her time in the position, leading her to be appointed head coach in 2014. "I think things started to shift around 2014 when [the] chancellor made me full-time because I was part-time for eight years prior to that," she said. "Having that be my sole focus and priority, it was really nice to see the shift in the talent level." This past season the team was able to claim its second national championship in a row, which Karnitz acknowledged was difficult. "It was a lot more stressful than you would imagine," Karnitz said. "I mean, when you win a national championship for the first time that's exciting, and no one expects much from you, and then it's kind

of like everybody expects it." Winning the second straight national championship was a rewarding experience for the team and Karnitz herself. "It's really cool when I sit back and look at these last couple of seasons as a whole, and how grateful we are that we're in this position right now," she said. The team currently holds the conference and national championship titles from 2020 through today, which Karnitz said is an amazing achievement. But, the team is always looking forward to their next goals. "It's just a surreal experience to sit back and take that all in, but obviously once one championship is done, you're looking forward to the next season," she said. "Every now and then I have to sit back and reflect, but [then] it's on to the next." While the team has won many awards under her leadership, Karnitz herself has won many individual coaching awards, including coach of the year. She received her National Coach of the Year award in the years that the team went to the championships. Now, the pressure is high. "We were underdogs, so it's very interesting to see that people want to see an underdog [but] they still want to see you bring them to a championship," Karnitz said. "But once [you've won] two [national] championships, they somehow think that you're not coaching anymore." But Karnitz is proud of her accomplishments and what they represent in the coaching community.

"It's validation from your peers because of what your team is doing. So ultimately, a coaching award is because of the results of your team," she said. "It is cool to have your peers recognize you for the successes because that's ultimately who's voting on those awards." Beyond the awards, Karnitz is proud of many of the teams she has coached. "There were some athletes who came in that never saw team success like others did," Karnitz said. "But I thought that they deserved it; they came in trying to help me develop [the program], but they never got the opportunity to see what a successful team fully was." Karnitz is proud to be able to tell these girls that the team is successful now because of their efforts. "Being able to tell them that like where we're at now is because they took a chance on us ... and I could build our team off their successes. They chose to continue because they believed in what we were doing, and I think that that's bigger than winning an award." Kerrie Turner, the current head gymnastics coach at Bowling Green State University (BGSU), coached Karnitz during her time as an undergrad and saw the same belief in Karnitz when she was in school. "As an undergrad, Lauren was a very hard worker and she had a great attitude," she said. "She wanted the team to win together and she understood the importance of being a great teammate." Turner is happy to see Karnitz coaching now due to the spirit

Karnitz brings to the program. "She cares so much about UW Oshkosh gymnastics and it really shows," she said. "She has been incredibly successful and I think she was always meant to be a great coach, and she is making such an impact in her student-athletes' lives." The two will be competing against each other this upcoming season, which Turner is looking forward to. "We are excited to welcome UW Oshkosh to BGSU this season," Turner said. "I can't wait to see Lauren and the team. [It's] such a special opportunity when we have the opportunity to compete together." With Karnitz and her coaching, she said it was her belief in the program that brought her back to coach after competing for the university. "I'm doing this to make these athletes the best they can be and make the school the best," she said. "I don't do this because I want to climb up the ladder." Rather, she said she likes to give back to the university, as well as call up her former teammates when the team wins nationals. She said being married to another UWO alumnus (he was a pitcher on the baseball team) also makes it fun to give back to the university and gives her a different mindset as a coach. "I tell my athletes the reason why I care so much is because I was [them]," she said. "I literally stood there in [their] shoes in this gym." Emily Buffington, a junior on

the team and a national champion individually, has felt a positive impact from Karnitz's coaching. "I have been fortunate to have Karnitz as a coach," Buffington said. "She has also never given up on me or my abilities in the gym and out of the gym." Buffington is thankful for Karnitz and her coaching throughout her gymnastics career. "She allowed me to do college gymnastics and I will always be grateful for that," she said. "Obviously, like any other coach, she can be tough, but I wouldn't be the athlete or person I am without her." Karnitz has been recognized for her coaching not only through many different awards from different conferences, but also throughout the community. One of the things Karnitz has gotten to do as coach this past summer was throw out the first pitch at a Milwaukee Brewers game, which was a special experience. "I think what made that even more special for me is [that] I got to do it because of the accolades that the UW Oshkosh Titans achieved," she said. "For my husband ... to watch me do that it's kind of like this whole full circle type of thing." Karnitz said she also had fun interacting with one of the players at the game. "It was really nice when Christian Yelich told me I did a good job," she said. "So I figure if the franchise player of the Brewers thought I did a good job, I feel like I'm good to go."

Arts & Entertainment

Planet Perk opens ‘Planet Purrrk’

By Suna Vang  
vangsu07@uwosh.edu

In May, faced with stiff competition and declining business, Planet Perk owner Ken Osmond considered closing his cozy cafe in downtown Oshkosh that had served as a meeting place and restaurant for 27 years, the last 15 years under his management.

Mainstream coffee giants began to draw away the audience that Planet Perk relies on. Additionally, many of the neighboring employees of other local businesses had left or transitioned to remote work. Both led to a significant 30% decrease in business.

Rather than giving up, Osmond was approached by his employees, who suggested that he move forward with the idea that had been percolating in the back of his mind for nearly a decade: opening up a cat cafe. An idea that now promised the potential to reignite the spark at Planet Perk.

Behind the cafe building sat an empty space with untapped potential. That is where Osmond saw an opportunity to bring the cat cafe to fruition. He approached the Oshkosh Area Humane Society (OAHS), speaking with Executive Director Jeff Miller, who was more that excited to further develop the plans. Eventually, Planet Perk and OAHS agreed to collaborate in the creation of the “Planet Purrrk” Club – a co-working space featuring a cat lounge with all felines available for adoption.

Planet Perk has not only welcomed dozens of cats since the collaboration began, but they also adopted a “Humane Society Plus One” philosophy. Osmond said, “Whatever the Humane Society does, we will go at least one step further...we always try to go one level of quality better, one extra step better.”

Staff at Planet Perk receive certified training to become volunteers and adoption counselors through OAHS, which ensures their readiness to care for the cats. Moreover, this allowed Planet Perk to offer valuable input on adoptions based on their first-hand interaction with the animals.

The Planet Purrrk Club also operates as a large foster home for adoptable cats sent over from OAHS’s main shelter. Cats can roam freely in the main lounge, sleep on sofas or climb the various mounts available to them.

“We provide an environment that they (OAHS) just can’t have,” Osmond said. “For example, you get to see our cats play with other cats. You get to see our cats interact with other humans, you get to see our cats play. You get to see them actually as a cat and not as an animal inside of a cage or a cat condo at the humane society.”

However, the benefits of Planet Purrrk go beyond the cat lounge. Osmond said he wanted to improve community mental health, drawing from personal experience with his children



Suna Vang / Advance-Titan

Top left: Planet Perk owner Ken Osmond cuddles with one of the cats available for adoption at Planet Purrrk Club. Bottom left: A wall gives the cats plenty of places to climb and explore. Right: Planet Perk welcomes college students to the cafe to visit the cats available for adoption.

who had animal interaction programs through their universities. These programs provide soothing and calming effects on students, which help those with anxiety. Thus, Osmond added a study hall component that is open to high school and university students. Students are welcome to study there seven days a week for no fee, but must make a purchase in the cafe.

Osmond also reached out to local retirement homes, inviting elderly residents to visit free of charge, as he recognized the

positive impact that animals can have on individuals with dementia and Alzheimer’s disease.

If you’re worried about the level of cleanliness, Planet Purrrk is one step ahead of you. Air purifiers run 24/7 to cycle in fresh air and filter any smell from litter boxes that are scooped every two hours. Staff work hard to sweep and mop floors twice a day, and a robotic vacuum cleaner runs at night to keep down on cat dander.

It’s important to note that Planet Purrrk isn’t a “cat cafe”

per se, but a co-working space/study hall with a cat lounge as an addition to the space. This decision allows for a welcoming environment for those who are allergic to cats or are seeking a feline-free experience, Osmond said.

In the cat lounge, there are bookable meeting/office spaces that are kept cat-free. Osmond viewed co-working spaces as rooms that were cold and devoid of life, but cats could bring life into these spaces.

If studying isn’t your cup of

tea, perhaps the nightly events held weekly by Planet Perk and local businesses may resonate with you. These events are held on specific days of the week and are open to all interested. More information can be found on the Planet Purrrk section of the website, but some examples include “Wine, Words and Whiskers,” a social hour for bookworms, “Adventure Game Nights” for those interested in games such as DnD, and Friday art classes.

Planet Perk offers memberships that include private parking, access to five private offices, high-speed internet, copier/printer machines, office supplies, and discounts in the cafe. Membership prices vary, but are priced so that the longer your membership is, the better the deal you receive. People can also purchase an hourly cat pass.

All cats living in the cat lounge are microchipped, vaccinated, spayed or neutered, and available for adoption. The number of adoptions varies; you can walk into the cat lounge where there’s a full house one day and all of the cats will be adopted out the next!

Less than two months after opening, 16 cats had already found forever homes. Despite the wonderful success and opportunity provided to him, Osmond remains humble and community-focused. It’s something that he implores the younger generation to do.

If he could talk to every college student or young person, he would tell them to invest back into their communities, he said. “You have to ask yourself, what type of community, what kind of future am I investing in?”



Kelly Hueckman / Advance-Titan

Students are able to study with the cats that are around the “Planet Purrrk” cat cafe.

# What’s in a name? Naming babies is an art

By Katie Pulvermacher  
pulvek45@uwosh.edu

Decades ago, you wouldn’t have been able to guess that “X Æ A-Xii” and “Methamphetamine Rules” are names. Baby names have always been creative, but some people have ventured into outlandish names, whether for the better or for the worse.

According to University of Michigan Evolutionary Biologist Mitchell Newberry, parents picking unusual baby names is an evolutionary trend. He found that the more popular a name becomes, the less likely future parents are to follow suit.

Newberry studies frequency-dependent selection. This is a kind of natural selection in which copying stems from popularity, regardless of what the content being copied is.

If people stay on trend and copy, almost everyone does the same. If people don’t copy, variety occurs.

Newberry used this information to research the Social Security Administration baby name database, started in 1935, to analyze first names in the United States.

According to the Michigan news, “He found that when a name is most rare – 1 in 10,000 births – it tends to grow, on average, at a rate of 1.4% a year. But when a name is most common – more than 1 in 100 births – its popularity declines, on average, at 1.6%.”

He concluded in his studies that conformity is necessary to society, but so is anticonformity. An example of this being that if we all had the same immune system, we’d all be susceptible to the same diseases.

Looking into peculiar names, Australian journalist Kirsten Drysdale put the Births, Deaths and Marriages register to a test.

With the birth of her third child, she submitted her son’s name as “Methamphetamine Rules” to the New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.



Courtesy of A-T Editors

Parents often stress over choosing a baby name. Some names follow trends, while others are unique. Above are the baby photos of The Advance-Titan editors. Can you guess who is who?

“We thought we would submit the most outrageous name we could think of, assuming it would be rejected,” she said. “But it didn’t turn out that way – unfortunately Methamphetamine Rules slipped through the cracks.”

Elon Musk and Grimes are a good example of parents who chose unusual baby names. Their kids are Techno Mechanicus, or “Tau” for short, Exa Dark Sideræl, or “Y” and X Æ A-Xii, or “X.”

Musk and Grimes aren’t the only celebrities who opted to name their children unique names. Cardi B and Offset named

their child Kulture Kiari, Kanye West and Kim Kardashian named their kids North, Saint and Chicago and Ed Sheeran and Cherry Seaborn named their daughter Lyra Antarctica.

While The Advance-Titan staff doesn’t have the most atypical names, they still have stories behind how they got their names.

Co-Sports Editor Nolan Swenson is the only political science major on the A-T staff.

“I was the only child [in my family] not named after a president,” Swenson said. “Ironically, as I am the only one politically inclined.”

It’s rumored that Co-Sports Editor Jacob Link spent up to three days in the hospital without a name until his grandma walked in and said “He looks like a Jacob.”

Copy Desk Chief Kyiah Nelson’s name comes from a variation of Kia, a name of African origin.

“The name means ‘season’s beginning,’ which is relevant because I was born on the first day of fall,” Nelson said.

Arts & Entertainment Editor Mattie Beck said she got her name after her dad had a dream where his grandmother told him to name his daughter Madeline – her full name.

News Editor Anya Kelley was named after an Aveda model. The name Anya means grace and a gift from God, which felt special to her mom when choosing a name.

My words of advice, be a bit cautious about what you name your child. If you had that name, would you like it or hate it? Kids are ruthless and bullying is no fun.

Kindergarten might be a struggle if they can’t spell their own first name. While it’s good to be original, don’t make your kid’s life too difficult.

# Lord Sko’s United Palace is a diverse, yet modern classic

By Tony Balboa  
balboaan49@uwosh.edu

Lord Sko is a rapper dedicated to bringing that authentic ‘90s New York City feel in his music while also throwing in his own style to it.

Ever since his first album, “Museum,” released last year, Sko has shown more growth in his abilities.

Fast forward to now and Lord Sko released his second official project, “United Palace.”

Taking a look at the cover, you’ll find a homage to one of New York’s most infamous rappers, the late Big L, in the form of a replication of his most popular record, “Lifestylez ov da Poor & Dangerous.” It perfectly states what the album is all about, bringing a nostalgic sound and modernizing it.



Lord Sko brings this raw vibe and throws punchlines and references so seamlessly, as well as flowing perfectly on the instrumentals he raps over. Let me just say first off that the beats on this album are insane. The samples, the drums, the transitions between songs, everything about it is amazing.

The producers on this album crafted amazing beats for the album. Producers such as Arlo

Walker, GRAYMATTER, Kirti Pandey, Liam Taylor, ewonee, James Burns and even Sko himself provided nothing but ear candy.

As for the songs, they feel diverse and have their own style too. You have songs like “Kush & OJ,” “Firestarter,” and “Riddles in the Sand” that feel very similar to late-90s East Coast hip-hop, as well as other songs like, “Fivehunnid,” “Yellow Tape” and “Mescaline Leaves” that give off a more modern vibe but still contain that early influence.

Lord Sko really brings his all in this album and at such a young age as well. Sko has undoubtedly brought us a modern classic, which in my opinion seems very fitting for this record. “United Palace” by Lord Sko has gained my seal of approval.

## Letter Guidelines: Submit a letter today!

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

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

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

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