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VOLUME 3, ISSUE 23

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Medical staff show their windowed masks.

Special masks don't impede communication

By Jack Tierney OSHKOSH HERALD

For some deaf and hard of hearing, standard face masks obstruct lip movements and make communication nearly impossible. Those with even a mild hearing impairment will notice a significant decrease in their ability to understand someone speaking with a mask on.

"The reason is because we all use facial cues to help us understand speech sounds that we may not be able to hear," said Dr. Katie Armatoski, audiologist at Audiology and Hearing Aid Center at 515 S. Washburn St.

"Human brains are designed to use visual cues — like watching one another's lips move — to help understand speech. Wearing a mask eliminates this vital visual information."

Armatoski partnered with Dave Alban

SEE Windowed mask ON PAGE 14

Arena denied on stimulus funds

Owner challenges SBA for rejecting aid access

By Miles Maguire HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The owner of the Menominee Nation Arena has run into another obstacle in its efforts to pull itself out of bankruptcy - the refusal of the federal government to provide access to COVID-19 stimulus funds.

Fox Valley Pro Basketball Inc., which has been in bankruptcy court since August, is asking a federal district judge to issue a temporary restraining order against the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

If the order is granted, the SBA would have to set aside \$305,310 for Fox Valley under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and would be enjoined from denying a loan solely based on bankruptcy

"Absent those funds the plaintiff may

not be able to reopen and the plaintiff would be forced to definitively close its business without sufficient funds for an orderly wind-down," Fox Valley's president, Gregory B. Pierce, said in a court filing last week.

Pierce said his company applied for the federal money April 8, sizing its request so "that the funds would be treated as a grant and be forgivable."

Three days later an official at Associated

See **Arena lawsuit** on Page 13



Among the 20 new mini murals dotting the Main Street area after Saturday's art opening is Carli Idhe's illustration titled "Farmers Market" seen on the Verner Parkway Corner East building.

Downtown draws more visual art displays

Oshkosh Herald

The downtown area expanded its visual appeal through artistic imagination with Saturday's unveiling of the Oshkosh Mini Mural Project featuring 20 installations on outside wall locations.

Property owners were encouraged by local partners who formed the Oshkosh Arts and Beautification Community to coordinate creative works on exterior spaces for semi-permanent installations. Art City Wraps, the Oshkosh Convention & Visitors Bureau, Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and the city's Public Arts and Beautification Committee, which curated the outside gallery, were among the entities working together to draw the interest of businesses and artists to join the creative process.

The city' associate planner Alexa Naudziunas said there were 35 submissions received for the 20 available walls that are situated either on or within a few blocks of Main Street. A map of the locations is available at www.visitoshkosh.com/



A mural creation at 407 N. Main St. by Michael Gelhar is titled "Friends."

mini-mural-project.

"We held a public meeting and reviewed each piece anonymously," she said. "Committee members did not have access to

artist names to prevent any bias." Naudziunas said the project was funded

SEE Mural project ON PAGE 17

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Publisher

Karen Schneider, 920-858-6407 karen@oshkoshherald.com

Editor

Dan Roherty, 920-508-0027 editor@oshkoshherald.com

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United Way names campaign leaders

The Oshkosh Area United Way named UW Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt and Oshkosh Corp. Senior Vice President Bryan Brandt as co-chairmen of its 2020 fundraising campaign.

Leavitt returns as co-chair for his second year after he and his wife, Karen led a record-breaking 2019 campaign.

"It is important to me to continue working to make an impact in the community," he said. "Oshkosh is a special place full of friends and neighbors ready and willing to

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assisting OAUW in a campaign that works to positively impact all of our community members."

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Brandt is new to the campaign after serving on the United Way board of directors since 2017.



Brandt



Leavitt

"At Oshkosh Corporation, our purpose is to make a difference in the lives of our team members, our customers, our shareholders and our communities where we live and work," Brandt said. "One of our core values at Oshkosh Cor-

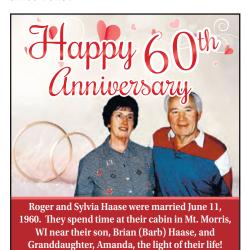
poration is that we are better together, and this directly aligns with the United Way's theme of Live United.

"In light of COVID-19, there is an even greater need and the funds generated by the campaign will directly impact our community."

Mary Ann L. Dilling, United Way president and chief executive, praised the se-

"Now, more than ever, we all need to strive to make a difference for our community. Having change-makers like Andy and Bryan will truly benefit the Oshkosh area," she said.

The campaign begins in August.







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Congress/Oshkosh bridge reopens this week

State 21 span project gets finishing touches

Oshkosh Herald

The State 21 detour signs will be disappearing as the Oshkosh/Congress Avenue bridge was expected to reopen by Tuesday morning this week.

Public Works Director James Rabe said the consultant working for the state Department of Transportation reported the contractor was ahead of the original June 18 completion date pending weather conditions

Rabe said in late May that with the help of favorable weather the work was being completed ahead of schedule.

"This is Wisconsin weather we are talking about after all," he said.

Workers finished applying a polymer overlay on the bridge's concrete paving last Tuesday that helps prevent corrosion, and Rabe said the bascule lift spans would get their final balance tests as one of the last steps before the barricades are removed.

Extensive repair work started Feb. 20, later than the original schedule, as the city and DOT set detour routes while affected businesses used temporary signage and online notifications to help customers find their way. GO Transit's bus Route 5 (UW Oshkosh, Westowne Avenue) was altered during the closure with Route 3 (FVTC, New York Ave.) as an alternative for High Avenue transportation.

Most work on the movable portions of the bridge was finished in April to ac-



Oshkosh Herald photo

Adam Gaugh from Ayres Associates, engineering consultant for the State 21 bridge project, takes measurements last week ahead of a polymer coating to be applied.

commodate Fox River navigational traffic. Omega Coatings and Construction's contract includes repairs to the concrete bridge deck with an epoxy overlay, replacement of bridge approach slabs, and blasting and painting of the lift span, flange areas and bearings.

Additional information about the project can be found on the state DOT's project website.





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Protesters challenge police chief's response

By Jack Tierney OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Police Department had planned to march with protesters downtown last week in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, but that didn't happen.

Protesters led the march without Oshkosh police after discussion between themselves and police administrators stirred impassioned disagreement and left officers behind.

At one time, organizers instructed protesters to lay face down on the ground around four officers who stood by. Protest organizer Imani Ware spoke Floyd's last words as protesters surrounded officers who stood with their hands behind their backs and a crowd of protesters laying at their feet.

"If they're not going to lay with us, they're not going to march with us," Justin Waters, a protester from Milwaukee who had spent the previous six days in Appleton and Green Bay protesting, said as the group proceeded down North Main Street chanting, "Say his name — George Floyd."

Floyd died May 25 under the knee of a white Minneapolis police officer. The officer has since been charged with second-degree homicide and manslaughter. Three officers who stood by during the incident also were charged with aiding and abetting the crime.

Oshkosh Police Chief Dean Smith made a statement on Floyd's death Wednesday, joining other police chiefs around the nation and UW Oshkosh Police Chief Kurt



Oshkosh Police Chief Dean Smith (center) speaks at a protest rally downtown June 3 where he spoke on racial issues with those gathered, which led to an impassioned discussion.

Leibold, condemning the actions they witnessed by the Minneapolis officers.

Smith said the officers' actions go against Oshkosh police ethics and standards. He said he showed the disturbing video around the police department as a clear example of excessive use of force and something they would not tolerate.

At Opera House Square, protesters asked Smith why officers Aaron Achtenberg and Kyle Roberts remained on the force after their involvement in a case that led to the death of 28-year-old Isaiah Tucker in 2017. Smith responded that the Winnebago County District Attorney's

office did not charge either officer in connection to Tucker's death. Protesters also asked how many complaints were made against OPD last year and Smith said 26 — with 20 of them coming from him.

Supporters of Black Lives Matter Oshkosh movement have counted over 1,300 virtual signatures on a change.org post by Alicia Johnson to established a previously developed ordinance. The ordinance would create a nine-person diversity, equity and inclusion committee. The committee would report to the Common Council and City Manager once a year.

Discussed at the June 9 common council meeting, members of the new committee would advise the city on strategies to promote a positive community environment of equity and inclusion.

Also discussed at the council meeting was a future agenda item to "eliminate racism in Oshkosh," by Mayor Lori Palmeri.

Palmeri said she has been in discussions with Smith about the police department following Floyd's death, as well as City Manager Mark Rohloff and other council members who spoke about the death of Floyd for the first time since the incident occurred at their recent meeting.

Smith cited ongoing department policies at the protest, including:

- Annual training on conflict resolution, de-escalation, impartial strategy, ethics and use of force in line with the Wisconsin Department of Justice Training and Standards Bureau.
- Body cameras for officers since 2016 with "few exceptions to privacy."
- · Screening OPD applicants to determine prior racial bias along with psychological screenings — this was pressed at the protest for clear examples and a more thorough vetting.
- 720 hours of police academy training, 15 weeks of field training in Oshkosh and 24 hours of annual training to maintain state certification.

According to a 2018 annual report, OPD had 156 employees, with 101 sworn officers, 15 full-time civilians and 40 parttime employees. The department's budget in 2018 was \$13,742,400 for the city's nearly 67,000 residents and 25 square miles.









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Bethel Home deals with virus deaths, cases

By Miles Maguire
Herald Contributor

Five residents of the memory care unit of Bethel Home have died from COVID-19, 13 others have tested positive and infections have spread to another part of the building, officials of Miravida Living said.

"There are contributing factors to the rapid spread of the virus," said Theresa M. Bertram, the head of Miravida, which serves about 700 residents in a range of settings from apartments to nursing homes in Oshkosh.

"Research indicates people living with dementia are genetically two-times more susceptible to the virus. It is also challenging for residents living with dementia to understand and comply with isolation measures."

At Bethel Home:

• Eighteen residents of the 20-bed memory care unit, Serenity Garden, have tested positive.

• Seven residents have tested positive on Sunshine Terrace (Bethel Home 2-West).

- Sixteen staff members have tested positive.
- One staff member was hospitalized but has been discharged.
 - Seven residents have recovered.
- "Several" staff members have recovered and are beginning their return to

In addition Bertram said one part-time worker at Eden Meadow tested positive while being asymptomatic. That worker is in isolation, and there are no known cases at that site.

Bethel Home has started weekly testing that allows it to catch cases before residents or staff members have become symptomatic, said Dave Merkley, the facility's administrator.

"The weekly testing helps us to identify people earlier," he said. This approach has slowed transmission of the disease by keeping staff members who are sick without having symptoms from coming to work. In addition residents in early stages of infection can be isolated and quarantined to limit their contact with others.

Bertram warned about the need for the community to "remain vigilant" now that restrictions have been eased.

"As businesses reopen and individuals

return to work and their routines, people are broadening their contact circles which increases the chance of exposure for everyone in that circle," she said.

The number of deaths in the county stands at seven, all of them in long-term care. Six of the deaths have happened in Census Tract 11, which is the neighborhood south of Oshkosh West High School, the county said.

Cases reported in the city of Oshkosh have risen to 213 as of Monday morning.

Miles Maguire is editor of the Oshkosh Examiner at www.oshkoshexaminer.com.

Winnebago County's COVID-19 cases surge in younger age group

Oshkosh Herald

Winnebago County has seen a significant jump in confirmed COVID-19 cases over the three weeks since Safer at Home orders were lifted that has put it at No. 10 among Wisconsin counties for number of positive cases.

The largest jump in coronavirus cases was reported in the 20- to 29-year-old population, according to the Winnebago County Health Department. On May 17, there were 12 confirmed positive cases in this age range; that number rose to 110 by last week.

As of Friday there were 301 reported positive COVID-19 cases, which tripled the 103 cases reported May 17. The data does not include portions of Appleton or Menasha that are in Winnebago County but outside the department's jurisdiction.

County health officials called the uptick in cases "especially troubling" as they are seeing increased cases in community settings such as nursing homes and day cares, where the virus has potential to spread quickly to residents in a high-risk category.

"People in their 20s are more likely to get through COVID-19 with less severe symptoms, but when they pass it on to family, co-workers, patients, residents, children or customers, those individuals will likely have a harder time fighting the virus and may suffer a harsher fate," the health department stated.

Health officials said many of the new cases are linked to gatherings and social settings that included Memorial Day gatherings, and ask that residents reconsider plans that include gathering with people outside of their household.

United Way takes community investment funding applications

Oshkosh Area United Way is accepting applications for 2021 Community Investment Grants from organizations in its service area with these focus areas:

- Mental health: Programs that connect residents to health and human services, provide healing and crisis intervention, and promote positive social relationships.
- Childhood development: Programs that provide parents and children with tools to encourage early childhood development and overall school and career readiness.
- Steps toward a living wage: Programs that improve skills to successfully gain employment, reduce transportation barriers, and provide basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter.

Oshkosh United Way service area ZIP codes for eligibility can be found at oshkoshunitedway.org/funding. The deadline to apply is 11:55 p.m. June 30.

Interested organizations are asked to email candice@oshkoshunitedway.org to take part in a virtual training before submitting an application.



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Propp elected chairwoman of city Plan Commission

By Tom Ekvall HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Kathleen Propp was elected as chairwoman of the Oshkosh Plan Commission at its June 2 meeting, replacing Tom Fojtik, who stepped down from the planning body after more than 15 years of service.

Propp was elected over John Hinz, who was also nominated for the position, by one vote. Hinz was later elected vice chairman.

During the meeting, commission members recommended approval of a zoning change for a property on High Avenue owned by the Most Blessed Sacrament Church/St. Peter's parish.

The property is at 471 High Ave., where applicant Acquest Property Group LLC requested a zoning change from institutional with a university transition overlay to urban mixed use with a UTO so that the owner could offer rental units to the public at market rates.

Greg Kost, of New Berlin, represented



change. He said no further subdividing of the interior units would be needed.

Some commission members raised questions dealing with the need for lower rental prices and units for people with disabilities. Mike Ford, who is also a Common Council member, said he would raise the issue at the next council meeting. City Planning Services Manager Mark Lyons said the issue of rent affordability is not an issue the commission can deal with at present.

Hinz said the proposal provides an opportunity for quality rental housing near the university campus.

The commission also endorsed approval in city authority over extraterritorial platting for property at Ormand Beach Heights First Addition in the Town of Omro involving 21 single-family lots. Through a consent agenda is also approved easements for street, sidewalk, storm sewer and electrical work to be done this year as part of the capital improvements plan requested by the Department of Public Works.



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Photo by Michael Cooney

Spartan celebration

Oshkosh North High School seniors organized a car parade Wednesday in tandem with virtual graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2020. West High students held a similar ceremony and celebration last Monday.



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UW Oshkosh officials respond to Floyd impact

By Joseph Schulz
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

As protests erupt across the country demanding an end to systemic racism, the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Police Department and campus administration are taking steps to deal with the issue.

In response to the May 25 killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer, which triggered a national movement calling for criminal justice reform, UW Oshkosh Police Chief Kurt Leibold on Friday announced passage of a resolution that aims to increase input from underrepresented community members.

"We felt that a resolution was the appropriate way to share our thoughts, offer our apology, promise to serve our community to the best of our abilities and recommit to being a police department with the highest ethical and professional standards accountable to people whose lives we are sworn to protect," Leibold wrote in a campus-wide email.

The resolution says the department will increase community feedback and "thoroughly review every use of force incident" to determine if an officer's actions were necessary to resolve the situation.

Additionally, the department will take proper disciplinary action after an officer takes inappropriate police actions, the resolution stated.

Also on Friday, UWO Chancellor Andrew Leavitt announced that the university is investigating racist Instagram posts from a female that is identified as a UWO student. Leavitt says the university is working to verify the authenticity of the posts, account and its potential connection to UWO.

"This much is clear: The content of these posts is disgusting and an outrage. It is against everything we stand for at UW Oshkosh," Leavitt said in a statement. "We do not tolerate expressions of racism and hate."

Leavitt also denounced anyone who would use "appropriated images and imposter social media accounts to spew such bigotry in attempts to disgrace and divide us."

He added: "Black lives matter and must always matter. As we speak out, we also listen and look within, searching for the systemic change that UWO can help make to achieve justice and lasting equality."

The investigation comes after Leavitt and the Oshkosh Student Association (OSA) issued statements last week responding to Floyd's death. Leavitt wrote that he was saddened by Floyd's death, calling it the latest example of "explosive accounts of bigotry around the nation."

He noted racism needs to be stopped, and that UWO has a crucial role to play in raising awareness and building understanding.

ing.
"We also commit to the never-ending work of making our campuses safer places in which to learn, live and serve," Leavitt wrote. "That requires personal reflection and responsibility. And it demands just, transparent and accountable systems, be they higher education or law enforcement."

The OSA released a joint-statement in opposition of systemic racism, and offering support to students struggling with bigotry.

"We believe that everyone is worthy of dignity and respect," OSA wrote. "Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, socioeconomic status and any other factor, our diversity makes us stronger — it's who we are."

Recent events aren't the first time campus officials have responded to racism. During student government elections in March, a member of the college Republicans used derogatory language on Snapchat toward two OSA candidates.

The Snap displayed a picture of two white male candidates with a caption that read: "UWO Vote for these guys today unless you want a lesbian or a Hmong to win."

Then in April 2019, a UWO student Tweeted photos from inside another student's house. One photo showed a whiteboard that read: "No... liberals, Jews, Muslims, Queers or Hmongs." The other pictured UWO students partying in front of a handmade Nazi swastika.

After those images surfaced, campus administrators held an open forum and Leavitt released a statement condemning the images.

"To anyone who brings hate into the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh community, I invite you to leave," Leavitt said.

While university officials continue to condemn racism, bigotry continues to appear at campuses across the UW System.

In March, The Capital Times reported that UW Madison saw 81 bias incidents during the spring semester, 47 involving Asian or international students.

At UW-Milwaukee, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported in February that Almond Moone, a 20-year-old African-American from Janesville, was wrongly charged out-of-state tuition after receiving in-state tuition at UW-Rock County.

The school only waived Moone's debt af-

ter the Journal Sentinel report.

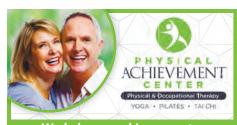
Also in February, a former UW-Milwaukee student's discrimination lawsuit against the UW System Board of Regents was recently dismissed by the 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Cherakei Griffin, a female African-American student, initially sued the Board of Regents and UWM in April 2019 for allegedly charging her out-of-state tuition despite her being a Wisconsin resident.

In a Feb. 27 filing, Griffin wrote that Moone received "over 90 percent of the same discriminatory profiling" as she did, which is "indicative of a serious pattern and practice of racist and sexist discrimination against minority female students."

In a media briefing Thursday, Gov. Tony Evers called racism a public health crisis and called on Wisconsin to begin working against systemic racism.

"We must fix what we know is broken in our society," Evers said. "We must intentionally address and dismantle individual and systemic racism, discrimination and bias."



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920-236-1200 2020 Jackson St. Oshkosh, WI 54901 Page 8 | oshkoshherald.com JUNE 10, 2020

Reptile menagerie introduced at new venom lab

MToxins offers public open look at its lab

By Bethanie Gengler HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

With a reticulated python wrapped around his neck, Oshkosh business owner Nathaniel Frank cut a yellow ribbon Friday to officially open the only venom laboratory in Wisconsin.

MToxins Venom Lab, 717 Oregon St., hosted a large crowd at its Friday grand opening, which featured a reptile zoo of 56 venomous and non-venomous animals on display, some of which visitors were able to interact with. From the safety of a glass viewing window, visitors were also invited to watch live venom extractions from scorpions and snakes, including king cobras.

The venom extractions took place in a separate laboratory room, filled with dozens of plastic racks housing the venomous animals. Using a metal snake hook, Frank demonstrated venom extraction by removing a snake from its enclosure, pinning its head down, and then placing its fangs on a vial covered with plastic. As the snake bit into the vial, drops of venom were extracted.

The venom is then processed and stored before being shipped all over the world and used to make medications and lifesaving antivenoms, which reverse the effects of potentially fatal bites or stings.

The venom is also used in medical and scientific research. Frank recently extracted venom from a Vietnam Giant Centipede, an aggressive species known for a painful and potentially lethal bite. The



Nathaniel Frank demonstrates venom extraction from a snake as it bites into a vial.

centipede venom will be used for evolutionary research.

MToxins is one of only eight licensed venom labs worldwide and has been operating since 2011 but only recently began renovating the former Kossel's appliance store for its new facility.

Director of operations Megan Villand was gratified to be opening to the public.

"We've moved to a bigger building, we've expanded to do more public education," she said. "I'm really excited to get to talk to people about what I do here."

Food assistance expands

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services announced Monday that more households will be able to get food through the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

Households with incomes below 300 percent of the federal poverty level are now eligible to receive a monthly share of locally grown foods that include meat, vegetables, fruit and juice.

UW Oshkosh senior Meg Olson is an intern there and said a visit to the facility can help people overcome their fear of snakes and other reptiles.

"Anybody who has some anxiety about being bitten by anything ... this is a good place to learn about them," she said.

MToxins has partnered with other reptile organizations such as Roaming Reptiles, which specializes in public outreach, and the Madison Area Herpetological Society (MAHS), a nonprofit reptile group with chapters in Milwaukee, Madison and the Fox Valley, that works to educate the public and help change the perception of reptiles. MAHS Fox Valley chapter plans to hold monthly meetings at MToxins.

MAHS Milwaukee chapter president Bill Stewart works for Zilla, a reptile supply company that donated all the display cages in MToxins reptile zoo.

"Education is at the core of what we do," he said. "This is another opportunity for people to learn about animals they might not experience, animals that are not native to Wisconsin. Learning hands-on is probably the best way to learn about animals."

MToxins has also partnered with the Asclepius Snakebite Foundation, an international nonprofit organization that works to provide antivenom to developing nations seriously impacted by snakebites, and Frank is a board member.

"I fly to Africa and give training and treat snakebites," Frank said. "We help with research to improve antivenoms there."

MToxins is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday each week with an entrance fee. Frank said he has worked hard to make it an all-encompassing, family-friendly place to visit.

"We're here to help educate and better the community," he said. "We just want to give back in every way we can."

Library to restore services in phases

The Oshkosh Public Library announced a phased-in approach to expanding its services using public health data to determine a safe approach for the community and staff.

The library building remains closed to the public with curbside pickup of materials and virtual programs continuing. Staff is available to answer questions via phone, email and chat during regular hours. Resources for reading, learning and entertainment are at oshkoshpubliclibrary.org.

Library director Jeff Gilderson-Duwe

outlined the first phase for moving forward into expanded service.

"When public health data for our state shows a significant and sustained downward trend in COVID-19 cases, we will begin to offer limited services, with an emphasis on helping people who are recovering from the impact of COVID-19," Gilderson-Duwe said.

Expanded services will include computer and Internet access inside the building, available by appointment only.

"We know you miss browsing for materials and can't wait to welcome you back when public health data indicates it can be done safely," Gilderson-Duwe said.

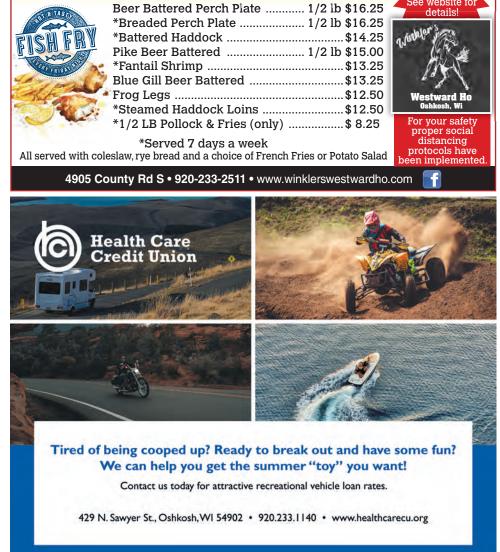
The library is doing intensive cleaning, ordering supplies and reconfiguring public spaces and work areas to accommodate social distancing.

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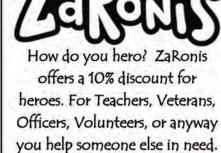
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June 10, 2020



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8-Count Package





All-American Pies

3-oz. Package Ore Ida **Just Crack an Egg**



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June 10, 2020



June 10, 2020 OSHKOSHHERALD.COM | PAGE 13

Arena lawsuit

FROM PAGE 1

Bank in Appleton notified Fox Valley that it was not eligible because it had disclosed the bankruptcy case in its application, court papers state.

"SBA exceeded its authority to administer the PPP loan program by requiring applicants like the debtor, a qualifying business under the PPP, not be 'presently involved in any bankruptcy,' even though no such prohibition exists in the PPP law," lawyers for Fox Valley said in a court filing.

In its application, the arena operator

said it had 111 employees and a monthly payroll that averages \$122,124.

"The plaintiff is at a critical juncture in its reorganization," Pierce said, citing an upcoming hearing on its plans for moving

"A key issue is the plaintiff's ability to continue to make payments for expenses, including payroll, during the pandemic. The PPP loan will provide a significant source of funds."

Shirah Apple, a spokesperson for the regional office of the SBA, said the agency is "unable to comment on a pending legal

"The Paycheck Protection Program is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive

for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll," the SBA states on its website. "SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest or utilities."

The case has been assigned to Judge William C. Griesbach, who scheduled a hearing for Tuesday, according to online court records.

Miles Maguire is editor of the Oshkosh Examiner at www.oshkoshexaminer.com.

Regional jobless services offered

The Fox Valley Workforce Development Board is urging those laid off through no fault of their own to visit foxvalleyjobcenters.com to begin the process of finding their next job.

"Our job centers remain closed because staff has been transferred to the unemployment insurance telephone lines to serve a record number of claims and most employers have stopped filing layoff or permanent closure notices," said Anthony Snyder, board chief executive. "We've lost the two primary ways we connect with unemployed workers so we're asking those individuals to reach out to us."

Besides the website registration at foxvalleyjobcenters.com, calls are being taken at the job centers in Menasha at 997-

The local boards and job centers conduct skills assessments, a resume update, creation of a job search strategy and possible retraining for a new job. Funding is also available for child care while in school, mileage from residence to the classroom and costs of necessary tools or uniforms.

3272 and Fond du Lac at 929-3900.

City Hall to stay closed to public into July

City Hall will remain closed to the public until at least July 6 as staff continue to work toward preparing for its reopening, according to communications coordinator Andy Radig.

Health and safety measures being put into place will ensure a safe environment when facilities reopen, Radig said, noting a recent increase in COVID-19 cases for Winnebago County that will be evaluated in the meantime.

Municipal departments continued to offer online alternatives to conduct business with the city that can be accessed at www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us. Departmental updates and resources will be posted as they become available.

Public meetings will continue according to the safety measures approved by the Common Council. The public can attend meetings but input is encouraged through indirect methods.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

June 9, 1961

Pollock Pool Opens: Pollock Pool attracted its first enthusiastic, eager swimmers when it opened for business on Thursday, June 8 at 1 p.m. Pool manager Brian Kelly said more than 300 youngsters and adults swam and splashed at the pool despite intermittent sun during the afternoon and a cool evening. Forty-five persons have already signed up for swimming lessons. A corps of lifequards will be on hand to supervise patrons. The lifeguard corps includes Cathy Karr, Judy Brink, Kay Stry, Ross Ranzau, James Fiedler, Larry Didlo, David Meyer and David Gerlach. Basket attendants will





man the admission window and store the clothing of swimmers. These duties will be performed by Janice Cowen, Thomas Keefe, Cheryl Rasmussen, Robert Dahl, Judy Esser and Tom Llewellyn. The cost to erect the three-pool facility was \$250,000. The pool is open to the public from 1 to 5 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. daily.

> Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, June 9, 1961











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June 10, 2020

Windowed mask

FROM PAGE 1

of Alban Ltd., a fashion design house at 617 Knapp St., to make protective masks with a see-through vinyl window designed at the center. The window allows individuals to read lips and gather visual cues necessary to understand soft consonant "sh" or "t" sounds.

"Although consonant sounds are weak, they are easy to read on lips," she said.

The two are hoping their efforts can raise enough money to meet the goal of 150 face masks to supply frontline health care works, first responders and community volunteers.

In a given situation, Armatoski said a police officer could pull someone over who is hard of hearing and begin a conversation. If that conversation is obstructed because of the mask, the officer might have to remove it and potentially expose his or herself to the virus. Armatoski and Alban, who supervised a medical clinic for over 42 years, are looking to prevent that situation.

"My hope for these masks is that they get in the hands of those who are required to wear masks and interact with those in our community," Armatoski said adding that some masks were donated to the Oshkosh Police Department last week and to medical workers before that.

"We are truly all in this together," Alban said. "Making these masks is my part."

The bond started when Armatoski needed her and her daughter's dresses altered for her brother's wedding in May. The wedding was canceled due to COVID-19, as was the altering, but Armatoski noticed how designing a windowed mask could help her patients through the quality of

work that Alban was producing.

While realizing the potential loss of business for Alban, Armatoski asked him to make 50 masks for her patients, but Alban refused to take money for the work. Armatoski was surprised but asked for more to be made after seeing the positive response to the first batch, and she is now asking for donations to support the need.

The goal is \$1,500 in donations — \$225 had been raised by last week. Individuals can donate what they can, and Armatoski said all of it goes toward windowed masks for nurses, physicians, emergency responders and relief volunteers. The masks are reusable and washable.

Alban is using his mother's "stash" of sewing materials to make the masks. She taught him how to hand-sew in preschool, machine sew after that and guided him down his 29-year career of making award-winning gowns for Miss Wisconsin and Oshkosh beauty pageants.

If people cannot access windowed masks, Armatoski said communication can be improved for people with hearing loss when the person speaking rephrases some statements. For example, Armatoski said if you ask a person with a hearing loss, "Have you ever been to our location before?" and the question is not understood, rephrase the question to say, "We are located on Smith and Vine. Have you ever been a patient here?" She said the added context makes the question easier to understand.

"As an audiologist I see firsthand how many people in our community struggle with hearing loss," she said. "These masks will help those in Oshkosh with hearing loss as well as our frontline workers so they can better communicate with those they are trying to help."

Donations can be sent to gofundme. com/f/clear-face-masks-for-oshkosh.



Submitted ph

Dr. Katie Armatoski shows her windowed masks that improves communication between herself and people hard of hearing.



Submitted photos

These windowed masks were made by Dave Alban.

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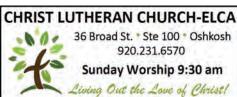


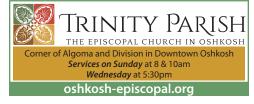
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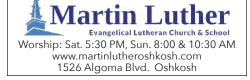
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Oshkosh Herald photo

Market returns

The Downtown Oshkosh Farmers Market looked a little different in its first offering of the year. Though the coronavirus added distances among vendors, customers still showed up to mull around and support small businesses.



2017 Lincoln Continental AWD Reserve Burgundy velvet, Cappuccino Lthr, 2.7L Twin Turbo V6, Dual Panel Moon Roof, Technology Pkg., 30-Way Perfect Positions Seats, 23,854 Miles #18P7A

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2017 Lincoln MKC AWD Reserve

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2017 Lincoln MKX AWD Reserve

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2017 Lincoln Navigator AWD Select

Ruby Red, Ebony Lthr, 3.5L Twin Turbo V6, Moon Roof, THX Surround Audio, Navigation, BLIS, 2nd Row Buckets, Tow, ONLY 22,764 Miles #19P23A

2017 Lincoln MKZ AWD Reserve

Diamond Black, Ebony Lthr., 400HP 3.0L Twin Turbo, Panoramic Moon Roof, Climate Pkg., Luxury Pkg. w/Revel Ultima Audio, Multi-Contour Seats, ONLY 18,354 Miles

2017 Lincoln MKZ AWD Reserve

Ruby Red, Cappuccino Lthr., 2.0L Turbo 14, Moon Roof, Climate Pkg., Navigation, Blind Spot, Polished Wheels, 28,908 miles, #20P10A

2016 Lincoln MKX AWD Reserve

Ruby Red, Cappuccino Lthr., 3.7L V-6, Panoramic Moon, Driver's Assist Pkg, w/Adaptive Cruise, Climate Pkg., Blind Spot, Cargo Accessories Pkg., 38,773 miles #20P14A

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June 10, 2020

GO-EDC helps get state relief for small businesses

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corp.'s We're All In grant, designed to help small businesses get back on their feet while encouraging best practices to keep employees, customers and communities safe, is open for applicants starting Monday through June 21.

Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corp. is offering letters of support to businesses as part of the application process. Contact Tricia.Rathermel@great-

eroshkosh.com or 920-230-3326 with questions.

"Small businesses have been hit especially hard by the pandemic," Missy Hughes, WEDC secretary and chief executive, said in announcing the program. "The We're All In Small Business Grants are intended to provide the 'starter fluid to get these economic engines running again."

Funded by the federal CARES Act, the \$75 million grant program will provide

\$2,500 to 30,000 small businesses to assist with the costs of business interruption or for health and safety improvements, wages and salaries, rent, mortgages and inventory.

Those eligible must be a Wiscon-

sin-based, for-profit business employing 20 or fewer full-time equivalent employees, earn less than \$1 million in annual revenues and started operating before Jan. 1 and was still operating in February. More details at wedc.org.

Regional business survey continues The third observation period of a statewide survey measuring the economic "WEDC will be incorporating the re

wide survey measuring the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Wisconsin is underway with a Saturday deadline for past and new participants.

With the state in the early stages of a

reopening phase, this version of the survey will measure business reactions and projections, according to Jeffrey Sachse, director of the UW Oshkosh Center for Customized Research & Services (CCRS).

The survey is a partnership among CCRS, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. (WEDC) and the state's nine regional economic development organizations, including New North. Its purpose is to collect data on the level of economic hardship being experienced by businesses due to the pandemic. The current survey is at uwo.sh/covid-19-econ-

"WEDC will be incorporating the results of this survey into its upcoming report to the state Legislature," Sachse said. "It is an effective platform for companies to share their comments on what they need to recover coming out of the unprecedented disruption of the pandemic."

"We value this information, especially on a rolling basis through several observation periods, to help us make better data-driven decisions as we lead regional recovery efforts," said Barb LaMue, New North president.

During the second sampling period of May 4-17, almost one-third of responding businesses reported they would likely survive beyond 10 months under current conditions, pointing to a "greater sense of resilience." Past results are found at uwosh.edu/ccrs.



Oshkosh Herald photo

Rock USA, shown last July, will have to wait for 2021 to resume along with Country USA.

Rock, Country USA festivals canceled

Organizers of Rock USA and Country USA announced last week that both music festivals have been canceled for this year at Ford Festival Park.

The Hypervibe team organizers said they had been in steady contact with artists, vendors, partners, and local government and health officials since the outbreak of COVID-19, and that the Winnebago County Health Department advised against holding the festivals based on current safety restrictions and the upward trending of virus cases locally.

Country USA had already been moved from its regular June dates to mid-August, and Rock USA's July 16-18 dates had held up before most June events statewide were being canceled or postponed.

"We wanted to celebrate the 25th anniversary of CUSA and the 10th anniversary of RUSA, but always, the safety of our entire festival and local community comes first," organizers said in a Facebook post.

Rescheduling the concerts for next June and July is planned, Hypervibe said, and credits will be offered to those who purchased tickets, campsites and other services that will be valid for 2021 shows though no dates have been set yet.

Other outdoor music events such as Lifest and Waterfest are holding to their adjusted schedules in hopes that safety conditions improve in order to go forward in August. Lifest moved its mid-July dates at Sunnyview Expo Center to Aug. 13-16.

Elderly Abuse Awareness Day marked

Monday is the annual commemoration of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, at least one out of 10 adults over age 65 suffers from either physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, abandonment, financial exploitation, and psychological or emotional abuse.

In Winnebago County last year, the Adult Protective Services unit received 169 reports of abuse and neglect that were investigated. Self-neglect cases continue to be the county's highest percentage of

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Winnebago County's Aging & Disability Resource Center reports that the quickest growing percentage of abuse referrals are financial exploitation, which is also the national trend, often perpetrated by family members, caregivers or someone known to the victim.

Anyone with concern or suspicion that someone they know may be experiencing abuse or neglect are urged to reach out and make a report at 877-886-2372 or adrc@co.winnebago.wi.us.



Museum moves Titanic exhibit opening

The Oshkosh Public Museum's "Titanic: The Wisconsin Connection" exhibition, originally scheduled to open Aug. 12, has been rescheduled for July 2021 in consideration of pandemic safety con-

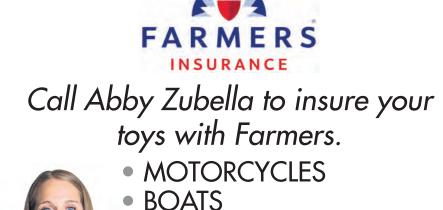
The enduring story of the ill-fated White Star liner RMS Titanic will be retold through its many state connections. Over two years in the making, the exhibition is based on extensive research of Wisconsin passengers conducted by museum staff and Experiential Media Group.

There were more than 50 people on the

ship, in all classes, who were either from Wisconsin or journeying here as immigrants. The story of 20 of those passengers will be told during the exhibition and its three-month run.

Also postponed was the museum's planned powwow and official opening of the Menominee Clans Story in the second-floor gallery, referred to as the Winnebago Room. The exhibition of the wood figures carved by Menominee traditional artist James F. Frechette Jr. had been scheduled to open this month but is now set for June 5, 2021.





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State's rental assistance plan taking applications

Oshkosh Herald

Residents who are having trouble covering their monthly rent due to the financial impact of COVID-19 can apply for state assistance being administered through the local ADVOCAP agency.

A Wisconsin Rental Assistance Program (WRAP) initiative announced last month will provide rent and security deposit assistance for those who have significant loss of income due to COVID-19 and meet income qualifications. The effort is funded by \$25 million from the CARES Act.

A statewide moratorium on housing evictions ended May 26 and about a dozen local organizations have been working on other assistance strategies to prevent any surge in evictions amid widespread job loss and reduced wages for residents.

Lu Scheer, ADVOCAP's affordable housing director, described the agency's early

efforts in becoming a manager for the program at an emergency meeting of the Rental Housing Advisory Board on Wednesday. She said they will have \$890,000 to distribute to Winnebago, Green Lake, Fond du Lac and Calumet counties — more than 400 having already applied — until that assistance fund runs out.

The application process uses the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP), which requires tenants to have a current signup status, and can be submitted for previous months during which the pandemic shutdown was enacted. Landlords also need to sign up to the program as vendors to be part of the assistance process.

Qualified people can receive up \$1,000 per month for rent and security deposit help, or \$3,000 total, provided the landlord is willing to work with the tenant.

non-promotional works by regionally local artists who were given an opportunity to showcase their work and introduce more art downtown that can attract more

"Our goal is to distribute the money as fast as possible," Scheer said, adding that there is no assets test to qualify, other than being at or below 80 percent of county median income.

"We have staff ready to assist renters," she said. Besides being qualified through the energy assistance application, residents must also provide proof of eligibility such as loss of job due to the coronavirus, a statement from an employer as to loss of job, and a willingness from the landlord to work on repayment plans.

Scheer said tenants being evicted can use that security deposit and rent help to move into new housing. She praised the collaboration of agencies working together to help make the program work.

When asked about private donations for rent help, she said the agency will know more as they determine the extent of need and can provide ongoing reports to the city on the numbers applying, status of funds and other information requested.

Scheer noted that the agency has been making contacts with local landlords to explain the program to them, and encourage their participation now that the eviction prevention order has been removed statewide.

Advisory Board member Donn Lord, who is also president of the Winnebago Apartment Association, said there are other groups working on rental payment issues and their impact. He has emphasized that most housing providers don't want to evict tenants, which is a costly, last-resort option as they also struggle to pay expenses when rent isn't coming in.

"There's a lot of data yet to be gathered to figure out the extent of the issue," Lord said. "We're still at the primary stage on this to know how big the program will be."

Details on the WRAP program can be found at doa.wi.gov or by contacting ADVOCAP at 920-922-7760.

Mural project

FROM PAGE 1

by Art City Wraps and the CVB without any taxpayer dollars, with Art City also paying each artist \$100 in compensation.

The original work of the artists was printed on durable vinyl sheeting with maximum 52-by-52-inch dimensions that could be adhered to walls and cleanly removed after at least a three-year commitment. Most were placed at eye level with accompanying artist information for visitors. Art City Wraps led the printing and installation work.

"I hope this creates a dialogue, awareness and exposure to these artists and I'm

thrilled the building owners allowed us to help create opportunities for these artists to have an outlet and stage to present their work to the public," Art City Wraps owner Joshua Marquardt said.

Mural submissions were limited to visitors.

"Little did we know when the project started in November of 2019 that we would be in the middle of a pandemic when the project was set to be completed," Naudziunas said. "The project team is excited to offer a safe activity to the public that can be enjoyed from a distance and outside."



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June 10, 2020

Herd season ends with G League announcement

The remainder of the 2019-20 NBA G League season, which was suspended March 12, has been officially closed, league president Shareef Abdur-Rahim announced Thursday. The NBA G League's regular season was scheduled to conclude March 28.

"While canceling the remainder of our season weighs heavily on us, we recognize that it is the most appropriate action to take for our league," said Abdur-Rahim. "I extend my sincere gratitude to NBA G League players and coaches for giving their all to their teams and fans this season. And

to our fans, I thank you and look forward to resuming play for the 2020-21 season."

As one of only two teams to win 30 or more games, the Wisconsin Herd concluded its third season with a 33-10 overall record, which served as the top mark in the G League. Aside from owning the league's best record, the 33 wins matched the franchise's win total from its first two seasons combined.

"We understand canceling the remainder of our season was a very challenging decision and will be tough for all Herd fans," said Herd President Steve Brandes. "We're coming off the most successful season in Wisconsin Herd history, and we can't wait to get back into the community. We are extremely excited to work with our partners and season ticket members as we ramp up for next season."

The Herd led the league in rebounds (52.5) and opponent field goal percentage (42.9%), while posting the second-highest scoring average (120.9). Of the 28 G League clubs, the Herd was the lone team to finish in the top five in both scoring average and opponent field goal percentage. In addition, Wisconsin won 15 games by

double figures and joined the 2014-15 Rio Grande Valley Vipers as the only teams in league history to average 120 points and 50 rebounds in the same season.

The Herd also garnered several individual awards and accolades. During the 2019 NBA G League Showcase in December, Rayjon Tucker signed with the Utah Jazz and became the fourth Herd player to make the jump from the G League to the NBA.

In coming weeks the league will announce season award winners, including most valuable player, coach of the year and rookie of the year.

UW Oshkosh sports

Titans Hall of Fame event postponed

The UW-Oshkosh athletic department's 2020 Hall of Fame event, which was scheduled for October, has been postponed indefinitely.

"The UW-Oshkosh Hall of Fame Committee prides itself in providing our inductees the best possible experience," said Darryl Sims, chair of the Hall of Fame committee and UW-Oshkosh assistant chancellor and director of athletics. "We have an obligation to adhere to the traditions and standards that make our Half of Fame events special. We also look forward to celebrating and honoring our outstanding former Titan student-athletes and coaches in the future."

The event was going to include nomination and selection periods, press releases,

awards and inductee recognition during a home football game in early October.

Comprised of over 200 members, the Hall of Fame was established in 1974.

Academic All-District Six team picks Keene

Ashton Keene was recently named to the 2020 NCAA Division III Academic All-District Six Women's Track and Field/ Cross Country team.

A graduate this past spring, Keene won the 3,000-meter run in the WIAC Indoor Championships, becoming the third Titan to win that event in four years. She finished in 10:18.71.

This past fall, she earned All-America honors in the D3 championships with a 39th-place finish in the 6,000-meter race.

24 Titans receive academic awards

Twenty-four UW Oshkosh student-athletes were recently announced as recipients of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Award for Academic Excellence.

The award recognizes academic achievement of UW Oshkosh student-athletes is based only on academic merit. They must have at least a 3.50 GPA and a minimum of two seasons of participating in their respective sport. The student-athletes are eligible once they apply for graduation.

Those honored include: Jared Benson (men's indoor and outdoor track & field), Jessica Bernardo (gymnastics), Olivia Campbell (women's basketball), Sydney Challoner (women's swimming and diving), Lindsay Denu (women's indoor and outdoor track & field), Jessica Galason

(women's soccer), Caitlin Hoerning (softball), Jacob Homan (baseball), Ashton Keene (women's cross country, indoor and outdoor track & field), Corey Knudsen (wrestling), Samantha Koppa (women's tennis), Alyssa Leffler (women's tennis), Jason Lopez (wrestling), Nathan Nozzi (men's cross country, indoor and outdoor track & field), Katelyn Malcheski (volleyball), Emily Miller (women's basketball), Daniel Pomeroy (football), Allison Rueger (volleyball), McKenna Scott (volleyball), Melissa Srnka (women's cross country, indoor and outdoor track & field), Baylee Tkaczuk (gymnastics), Tayler Weber (football), Matthew Wells (baseball) and Morgan Windau (volley-

Spirit of Aviation Week presented by EAA in July

The Experimental Aircraft Association's Spirit of Aviation Week set for July 21-25 will celebrate the aviation community with streamed and on-demand programs with a focus on educational, informational and entertaining content.

EAA's special interest groups will be heavily involved, bringing highlights that include homebuilts, warbirds, vintage, aerobatics and ultralights.

"Nothing can replace the Oshkosh experience in-person during AirVenture week, as that event personifies the common passion we have for flight, in all its wonderful ways," said Jack J. Pelton, EAA CEO and chairman. "As unfortunate as it was that the cancellation of AirVenture 2020 took away that personal experience, countless people and groups have stepped forward to ask what they could do to virtually create something from Oshkosh that brings us together as aviators and avi-

ation enthusiasts."

Highlights of Spirit of Aviation Week:

- Presentations, forums and discussions with leaders in aviation.
- Historical and archival content that highlights aviation legends.Homebuilding workshops, discus-
- sions and educational tips.

 Content centered on pilot proficiency
- Content centered on pilot proficiency and learning to fly.
- A virtual exhibit that showcases products, show specials, videos and services from hundreds of AirVenture exhibitors.
- Features from air show performers to military and space programs.
 Stories from the EAA community
- Stories from the EAA community through Hangar Flying segments.

EAAtogether.org will be the home of the entire five-day event. The schedule is expected to launch in the coming weeks under the theme and hashtag #EAAtogether.



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Rock the Block projects target Congress Field neighborhood

A Rock the Block initiative for revitalization projects in the Congress Field neighborhood will be spread out over several weeks in July and August with small volunteer groups working in shorter shifts with staggered times while using personal protective equipment and supplies.

The effort sponsored by Habitat for Humanity of Oshkosh, Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods and the city is planned for the east side of the Congress Street

Neighborhood Association boundaries July 10, 16 and 24 and the west side Aug. 6, 14 and 20.

Detailed project schedules will be mailed with a deadline to sign and return by residents, who are asked to note any projects that were discussed but no longer required after the spring delay.

Rock the Block will post new volunteer opportunities on its website and share the link on its Facebook page.

New Recreation Department director named

Kabel Helmbrecht has been named the new director of the Oshkosh Recreation Department, succeeding Albert Wenig who announced his retirement in February.

Helmbrecht was recommended by Superintendent Vickie Cartwright after an extensive interview process and unanimously approved by the Board of Education in late April. The Recreation Department is a division of the school district.

Helmbrecht, who earned a bachelor of science in recreation management from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, has been a recreation programmer for the Appleton Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management since 2002.



Listen to 106.3 Wednesday morning at 8:35am as Josh Dukelow and Karen Schneider discuss local Headlines from the

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Oshkosh history book to be released

Arcadia Publishing and The History Press, publishers of local and regional history books, announced the pending release of "Oshkosh" by Michelle Lokken.

Part of Arcadia's Postcard History Series, the images in "Oshkosh" include former sites such as Electric Park, Alexian Brothers Hospital and Northern Hospital Zoo. Iconic sites that still stand are also featured, including the Oshkosh Public Library, Grand Opera House and Oshkosh Public Museum. Lokken is a local history enthusiast whose maternal grandfather, Harold E. Helm, was an avid collector of Oshkosh memorabilia and postcards. A history student at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Lokken curated this volume from her family's private collection along with the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society's Harold E. Helm Postcard Collection.

League presents its border program online

The first-ever League of Women Voters of Winnebago County Food for Thought lunch program via Zoom will be held at noon today (Wednesday).

"Witness at the Border: a program of compassion and urgency" will be presented by Marijke Van Roojen, Marie Luna and Kat Griffith, who returned to the



Hometown Broadcasting Stations

U.S.-Mexico border in February as a follow-up to their trip in December 2018. An overflow crowd heard their LWV lunch presentation in February 2019.

Contact Margy Davey at wcLWVinfo@ gmail.com or 920-233-5055 to obtain the Zoom meeting link. Log-in begins a few minutes before the program.



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