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SPORTS, 1B

Oshkosh Northwestern

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Oshkosh Area Humane Society executive director Joni Geiger will retire April 1 after 32 years. Geiger has worked tirelessly over the years to improve animal, and human, lives. DAN POWERS/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Oshkosh humane society director, founder to retire

Organization grew over 32 years under Geiger

Katy Macek

Oshkosh Northwestern
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

OSHKOSH – It's hard to find a person more passionate about helping animals than Joni Geiger.

Geiger is one of eight founders of the Oshkosh Area Humane Society, and she has been saving animals and finding them homes since 1990. After 32 years leading the organization, she announced she will be retiring from her role as the shelter's executive director on April 1.

"It has truly been my life's work," Geiger said.

"Letting go is healthy, but it's hard. Thirty years went by like the blink of an eye."

Under Geiger's leadership, the Humane Society grew from an eight-person group of volunteers in a 2,600-square-foot building on Dempsey Trail to a 46-employee nonprofit organization in a 13,000-square-foot space designed specifically to meet its needs.

Geiger's involvement with the shelter goes back even further to her childhood, when she visited with her dad to get the family dog. Back then, the shelter was owned by the Oshkosh Police Department and was, she said, "by all intents and purposes, a pound." She remembers it being an overwhelming and devastating place, with dogs barking and cats

covering in the backs of cages.

When she returned as an adult, she recalled, not much had changed. So she wrote a letter to the editor of the Oshkosh Northwestern voicing her concerns and demanding something needed to change. She received phone calls from folks who agreed and that, she said, is how the Oshkosh Area Humane Society was born.

"We got all fired up and we started this group and then we became a nonprofit and that's kind of how it snowballed," she said. "The need has always been there, it still is. Once you made a difference for an animal and for a person, you're hooked."

See **GEIGER**, Page 2A

Gableman touted as speaker for Utah event

Vos says costs for such trips won't be covered

Molly Beck

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MADISON – Assembly leaders plan to claw back taxpayer-funded reimbursements paid to a former Supreme Court justice overseeing a review of the 2020 election for trips he made to partisan events.

A spokeswoman for Assembly Speaker Robin Vos said Friday the reimbursements that were improperly approved by Assembly officials will be deducted from future payments to former Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman, who is paid \$11,000 per month by taxpayers.



Gableman

Vos' spokeswoman Angela Joyce also said taxpayers won't cover a trip Gableman is scheduled to make later this month if he ends up going.

Gableman is listed as a featured speaker at a March 25 event hosted by a group known as the Utah Patriots that is advertised as "exposing Utah elections," according to a Facebook post about the event. He plans to discuss the impossible and illegal idea of decertifying the 2020 election, according to the post.

Gableman did not respond to questions about the event.

He is said to appear alongside Tina Peters, a Colorado election clerk who was indicted for election tampering and accused of breaching her own county's voting machines.

Peters, a Republican county clerk from western Colorado, was indicted by a grand jury this week over accusations she improperly permitted someone to copy access passwords and other files from a secure voting system and post them online, exposing the machines to hackers.

See **GABLEMAN**, Page 2A

Oneida Nation Pow Wow to return after 2-year hiatus

Frank Vaisvilas

Green Bay Press-Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

ONEIDA – After a two-year hiatus because of the pandemic, the Oneida Nation Pow Wow is scheduled to return this summer.

"Everybody's missing the pow wow,"

said Tonya Webster, chairwoman of the Oneida Nation Pow Wow Advisory Council. "Our last one was in July of 2019."

The pow wow that had been scheduled for 2020 would have been the 48th annual. This year's pow wow is scheduled for July 1-3.

"It's more or less a gathering for all nations to come together," Webster said.

"Dancers will be showcasing their styles of dance."

The three-day dance contest will still be done with COVID-19 safety protocols.

"Our theme is community healing, and we hope this event will bring people together, while standing 6 feet apart," Webster told the Oneida Nation's newsletter, Kalihwisaks. "We hope everyone

will mark their calendar and come home."

She said it may be a hotter-than-typical pow wow because organizers are not setting up any tents to keep the entire festival in the open air and reduce or eliminate the spread of COVID-19.

See **POW WOW**, Page 2A

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USA TODAY

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