



Sweet season: Halloween is all about the candy

LIFE, 1B

Oshkosh Northwestern

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“They don’t want to pay us. I feel like they just pushed us under the rug.”

William Cesare, former defensive back with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers



Former Green Bay Packers player Camillo Capuzzi, 89, rests inside his Fallbrook, Calif., home along with his wife, Dolores Capuzzi, left, in March. “It sounds to me that the NFL is waiting for him to die,” said Pat Tighe, an attorney who represents hundreds of players. Camillo Capuzzi died in April. TAYA GRAY/THE DESERT SUN

Menominee Tribe members speak out after panel opts to rewrite plaque

Delay in changes to Chief Oshkosh statue creates frustration

Katy Macek
Oshkosh Northwestern
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

OSHKOSH – Members of the Menominee Indian Tribe stood before a city committee advocating for the right to write their own history and correct the misrepresentations of their leader — Chief Oshkosh — in the city that bears his name.

Many traveled from the Menominee Reservation in Keshena on Oct. 13 in support of the Chief Oshkosh Monument Project, an effort begun in 2018 to correct and add cultural context to their tribal leader’s statue in Menominee Park.

They left the meeting frustrated after the Oshkosh Landmarks Commission tabled that effort. Four commissioners objected to the language in one of the five plaques intended to be placed around the monument.

The Chief Oshkosh statue’s current plaque, describing the Menominee leader’s greatest contribution as giving Oshkosh its name, was written by the descendants of white settlers who moved onto land under the stewardship of Indigenous nations.

The effort to add historically accurate signs gained momentum in late 2018, when a University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh professor began working with two tribal members on the project. This happened as a wider conversation was beginning across the country about Confederate monuments and other historical markers for people involved in the slave trade. Since then, the three co-authors worked with Landmarks Commission to finalize language on what turned into five plaques.

See **STATUE**, Page 6A



The Chief Oshkosh monument at Menominee Park. The Menominee Tribe has been working to add more signage to the monument, but it’s been met with resistance from the city’s Landmarks Commission.

DAN POWERS/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

DELAY, DENIAL

NFL’s landmark concussion settlement leaves some former players struggling for relief

Ryan Wood Green Bay Press-Gazette | USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

GREEN BAY — Decades after a football career that included two seasons with the Green Bay Packers, Camillo Capuzzi’s body was tattered. • His hips and knees were ruined. Three vertebrae were cracked. He walked hunched over, unable to stand upright. • A quarterback and defensive back for the Packers in 1955 and ’56, Capuzzi played when plastic helmets were in their infancy. When chronic pain met him later in life, making menial tasks difficult, it was no surprise. • What Capuzzi and many contemporaries might not have anticipated was their football careers potentially giving them brain damage. • In the 1990s, Capuzzi’s family says they saw their father’s mind start to slip. Not yet 60 years old, he owned 14 used-car dealerships in Southern California, but a string of uncharacteristically haphazard financial decisions led to insurmountable debt, stripping him of his businesses. • “That,” his son, Jim, says, “was the beginning of the end. Never recovered mentally. Never recovered at all.” See **RELIEF**, Page 8A

Iceberg lettuce or spinach? Feeding America tackles food insecurity with healthy pointers

Daniel Higgins
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

When your grocery budget is down to its last few bucks, you buy the foods you know you like. It’s not a time to buy new foods you might hate.

If iceberg lettuce is your go-to salad base and sandwich topper, sorry, spinach — maybe you’ll make it into the cart next week.

While lettuce hardly qualifies as junk

food, spinach dominates iceberg nutritionally, most notably in protein, vitamin A and iron.

And dropping \$4 on a 10-ounce tub of hummus isn’t even a consideration if you’ve never tasted the beige creamy chickpea blend. It doesn’t matter that hummus packs a one-two punch of fiber and protein that can replace a nutritionally devoid dill dip for veggies or add a nutrient boost in a tortilla wrap.

It’s easy to leave healthier foods on

the shelf when struggling to put any food on the table. Yet for those battling type 2 diabetes or other chronic health issues, eating healthier can’t always wait until getting a higher-paying job or paying off medical bills or resolving any unexpected financial hardship.

The Eat Well for Life in the Fox Valley program aims to help people manage their diabetes while struggling with

See **FOOD**, Page 12A

USA TODAY

Iran nuclear program: Biden meets with leaders of Germany, France, UK to discuss diplomatic resolution. **5C**

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Statue

Continued from Page 1A

On Oct. 13, Landmarks Commission was set to vote on a resolution finalizing language on four of the plaques. The resolution also authorized the commission to rewrite the fifth one that explains how colonialism influenced the misrepresentation of Chief Oshkosh in both his appearance and language in the inscription at the base of the statue dedicated in 1911.

When members of the Menominee Tribe and commission spoke against the resolution, the commission decided to vote to adopt all five plaques. After that motion failed, the commission voted to reconvene once more with the authors to finalize language for the fifth plaque.

Guy Reiter, executive director of the Menominee Community Rebuilders nonprofit located on the Menominee Reservation, said it was “overwhelming” to be in a city named after their leader and still have to explain why the language was necessary.

“Then we have to come down here and almost defend our own language and what we want on the plaques, the way we want to be represented,” Reiter said. “All the things we’ve been through, we would ask that you at least listen to us.”

Project designed to correct, challenge history

The Chief Oshkosh Monument Project plaques were co-written by David Grignon, a tribal historic preservation officer for the Menominee Tribe; Arnold Chevalier, former chair of the Wisconsin Humanities Council and a member of the Menominee; and Pascale Manning, a UW-Oshkosh English professor specializing in Indigenous literature and history.

The plaques explain the history of Chief Oshkosh, the Menominee Tribe and their ancestral land, which later became the city, incorporating their language and traditions.

The biographical plaque, statesman plaque, steward plaque and land plaque represent the four cardinal directions. A meta-plaque — the fifth one — is proposed to be placed below the original inscription to explain the significance of adding these plaques to the monument and how the statue is misrepresenting the chief’s history.



Menominee Indian Chief Oshkosh is shown in this posthumous portrait that was painted in 1888 by Samuel Marsden Brookes.

COURTESY OF WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For example, it includes an image of Chief Oshkosh and highlights the differences between him and the statue, saying the misrepresentation depicts him “according to white stereotypes of the primitive and exotic ‘noble savage.’”

The plaque also states how the original wording from 1911 exemplifies the “colonial tendency to reduce and erase Indigenous strengths and achievements.”

“Taken as a whole, the monument stands as a testament to the long history of misrepresentation and misunderstanding of Indigenous peoples ... and serves as a reminder of how far we have yet to go to properly recognize the real contributions and presence of Indigenous peoples,” the proposed language states.

Commission chair Shirley Brabender-Mattox drafted the resolution that would approve the four plaques and give the commission the authority to rewrite “a potential fifth plaque addressing the original 1911 plaque.”

“It’s our city’s atonement that has to be on the fifth plaque,” Brabender-Mattox said. “We still need the city to recognize and acknowledge what we have learned in our history.”

Around 20 people showed up to support all five plaques as written, including around 10 members of the Menominee Tribe; Chief Oshkosh’s great-great-great-great grandson, Mitchell Oshkosh; David Overstreet, an anthropologist from Madison who has studied the Me-

nominee Nation; Rebecca Comfort, a member of the Lake Superior Ojibwe and former American Indian curriculum services consultant for University of Wisconsin-Madison; Aaron Sherer, executive director of Paine Arts Center and Gardens; several members of the city’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee; Mayor Lori Palmeri, who had proclaimed Oct. 11 Indigenous Peoples Day just two days earlier; and some concerned residents.

Many spoke in support of the plaques and against approving the resolution. Several held paper signs that read, “I support the wording on the five proposed plaques. We need to respect all histories, not just our own.”

The statue was a gift from Col. John Hicks, the former owner of the Oshkosh Northwestern and ambassador to Chile.

Process delayed by COVID-19, resurfaces with new question

Manning, Grignon and Chevalier finalized language for all plaques in January 2020 and sent it to Landmarks Commission. Shortly after, COVID-19 hit the country, and Manning said they didn’t hear from the commission again until fall.

Since then, the language has been revisited with feedback from the commission. So, when the draft resolution appeared on the Oct. 13 agenda, Manning said she was surprised. She had thought the meeting would be voting on the five plaques, which language they had already discussed.

The three co-authors produced a four-page letter denouncing what Manning called a “flawed” resolution, asking the commission to table it and pass the project.

In the letter, the three point out errors of fact in the resolution, including the implication that only four of the five plaques were developed with the Menominee Nation’s input, which they state is not true; all five were.

“It just speaks to ... an insincerity in those who are on one side of this conversation,” Manning said. “It bothers me that we had to write a four-page letter in response to a draft resolution that is willing to traffic in misrepresentations and innuendo and implication. It’s very frustrating that we have constantly had to defend what we were asked to do.”

In April, Manning, Chevalier and Grignon presented the project to the city’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Committee, which unanimously passed a resolution in support of all five plaques in May.

Angie Lee, a member of the DEI committee, spoke at the Oct. 13 meeting in favor of the plaques, saying while the fifth could cause “discomfort,” it pales in comparison to the mistreatment of the Menominee people.

“Our city was complicit in those atrocious acts,” she said. “The meta-plaque begs to begin a conversation of our city’s and country’s need to rectify the wrongs committed against the original inhabitants of this land and hopefully engage deep dialogue toward healing.”

Tribal members, community voice support for five plaques

Pershing Frechette, a member of the Menominee tribal legislature, said he didn’t understand why the language was still being debated.

“The question I have is, why are we afraid of educating people on the truths?” He asked the commission. “That’s what I struggle with. I can’t understand that.”

Overstreet, the anthropologist who was asked to do fact checking on the plaque language, said he found the plaques to be accurate.

He also felt that if members of the tribe drafted the language, their wishes should be honored.

“Deep change and healing is possible when we give voice to the storytellers with authentic lived experiences,” he said. “The Menominee people have clearly stated their collective desire to see these proposed changes.”

Sherer, the Paine director and former member of the Landmarks Commission, said at the meeting that he valued the work the commission does on historic preservation but added the perspective has always been of the “white, western European immigrants and the impact they’ve had on this land.”

“This might be ... one of the first times the commission has had the opportunity to look at an issue that affects the Indigenous people whose ancestral lands are Oshkosh,” he said. “And to think about how our landmarks, our signage in the community, will reflect the perception of these Indigenous people.”

He highlighted the sheer number of people in the room, especially members of the Menominee Tribe who made the

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drive to support the project.

“The legacy of Chief Oshkosh is the right and responsibility of the Menominee people, and they’ve told us very clearly how they would like (his) legacy to be represented on the signage,” Sherer said. “They have that right and we should honor that.”

No guest in attendance spoke against the five plaques.

Commissioners argue city needs to have its say

Brabender-Mattox said the original project started as a conversation between the city and the tribe that led to an agreement on four plaques. Though she’s not opposed to a fifth plaque, she felt the city needed to be the one to write it.

“I’m still thinking of the people of the city of Oshkosh, when do they have the chance to express their atonement for what their city leaders neglected to say over 100 years ago?” Brabender-Mattox said. “We want to atone for this. Nobody else can do it for us.”

Commission member Kristopher Ulrich expressed his support of the Menominee people writing their own history. He said he was instead concerned about the precedent approving these plaques would set for the commission, worried that “emotional annotations” could be added to other plaques in the city.

Commission member Gerald Jacklin said he was concerned about the tone of the fifth plaque, worrying that those visiting the city might not find it pleasing.

However, commissioner Nikki Stoll-Olthoff disagreed and said she was surprised to see the draft resolution included in the meeting materials, saying it was written without input from the entire commission.

Commissioner Andrew Smith seemed to feel similarly, asking, “who wrote this?” after the resolution was read aloud.

“It’s not our story to tell,” Stoll-Olthoff said of the Menominee Tribe’s history. “There is absolutely no need for the Landmarks Commission or some city staff member to re-write the fifth plaque.”

She said the Landmarks Commission already provided feedback on an initial draft of the fifth plaque, which the co-authors used to further edit the language, so she doesn’t understand why it

still wasn’t approved.

“I’m worried the attempt to further edit the language will continue to go in circles, without making any real progress,” Stoll-Olthoff said.

Ultimately, Ulrich said though he was worried the project would “open a can of worms” for future landmarks, he voted to support the five plaques as written.

“We need to move beyond this,” he said. “We can read the room and see society as it is today. Times are changing.”

That motion, to approve all five plaques as written, failed 3-4. Ulrich, Stoll-Olthoff and Jacklin voted yes. Brabender-Mattox, Paulette Feld, Bill Miller and Sara Stichert voted no. Commissioner Smith had to leave the meeting early and Steve Cummings was absent.

The resolution to approve the first four plaques didn’t pass at the meeting, either. Instead, Ulrich moved to reconvene with the co-authors to finalize language before the next council meeting. That workshop happened Tuesday at City Hall.

Co-authors, commission to reconvene on fifth plaque

Grignon, Chevalier and Manning met Tuesday with Landmarks Commission and several Menominee members as well as Comfort, who facilitated the meeting. The nearly two-hour discussion resulted in some minor language changes that commissioners thought were more positive, such as changing “misrepresents Chief Oshkosh” to “reimagines Chief Oshkosh” and “Euro-American stereotypes” to “white stereotypes.”

Language for all five plaques will be sent to council for review at its Nov. 9 meeting, said Mark Lyons, the city’s planning services manager. City staff is now working with the Parks and Finance departments to identify next steps, including funding for the project.

Tribal members and the co-authors are hopeful all five plaques will eventually adorn the statue, reminding people everything their chief stands for.

“Chief Oshkosh’s legacy is not giving his name to the city of Oshkosh,” Grignon said. “His legacy is us, all 8,948 Menominee who live on the reservation and the land he fought for, and the some 235,000 acres of which we have today.”

19 states file suits over COVID vaccine mandate

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Eighteen states filed three separate lawsuits Friday to stop President Joe Biden’s COVID-19 vaccine mandate for federal contractors, arguing that the requirement violates federal law.

Attorneys general from Alaska, Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming signed on to one lawsuit, which was filed in a federal district court in Missouri. Another group of states including Georgia, Alabama, Idaho, Kansas, South Carolina, Utah and West Virginia filed a lawsuit in federal district court in Georgia.

Texas filed a similar lawsuit Friday in a federal district court in a federal court in Galveston, Texas, seeking to block enforcement of the mandate.

The states asked a federal judge to block Biden’s requirement that all employees of federal contractors be vaccinated against the coronavirus by Dec. 8, arguing that the mandate violates federal procurement law and is an overreach of federal power.

“If the federal government attempts to unconstitutionally exert its will and force federal contractors to mandate vaccinations, the workforce and businesses could be decimated, further exacerbating the supply chain and workforce crises,” Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt, a Republican, said in a statement. “The federal government should not be mandating vaccinations, and that’s why we filed suit today – to halt this illegal, unconstitutional action.”

New Hampshire’s Republican Attorney General John Formella said in a statement that COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and encouraged but that the benefits “do not justify violating the law.”

Florida sued on Thursday, bringing to 19 the number of states challenging the Biden administration mandate in four federal courts.

Biden has argued that sweeping vaccine mandates will help end the deadly pandemic, but Republicans nationwide

have opposed the vaccination requirements and have threatened to bring similar legal challenges.

“The Biden Administration has repeatedly expressed its disdain for Americans who choose not to get a vaccine, and it has committed repeated and abusive federal overreach to force upon Americans something they do not want,” said Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, a Republican, in a statement. “The federal government does not have the ability to strip individuals of their choice to get a vaccine or not. If the President thinks his patience is wearing thin, he is clearly underestimating the lack of patience from Texans whose rights he is infringing.”

A number of states have also said they will challenge Biden’s plan to have the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration issue a rule that would mandate vaccines for all private businesses with 100 or more employees.

“We will not allow the Biden administration to circumvent the law or force hardworking Georgians to choose between their livelihood or this vaccine,” Republican Gov. Brian Kemp of Georgia said in a statement.

The Democratic Party of Georgia called the lawsuit a “dangerous political stunt.”

All the suits argue that the president doesn’t have the authority to issue the rule and that it violates procurement law. The suits also argue that the rule violates the 10th Amendment reserving power to the states, illegally uses federal spending to coerce the states, and that 60 days of public comment wasn’t properly allowed.

The states argue that large number of federal contract workers will quit, meaning states will have to choose between breaching the contracts because of a reduced labor force that can’t do all the work, or breaching the contracts by retaining unvaccinated employees in violation of federal rules.

All but two of the states that have sued trail the national average in vaccination rate. Only New Hampshire and Florida exceed the nationwide rate.

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