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SPORTS, 8B

Oshkosh Northwestern

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021 | THENORTHWESTERN.COM

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'BAND OF BROTHERS'

Updated statue signage approved

Katy Macek

Oshkosh Northwestern
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

OSHKOSH - Tuesday night marked a new era in the relationship between the city and the Menominee Nation, who had been working to update signage at the Chief Oshkosh statue in Menominee Park.

With the city council's approval on five additional plaques, Menominee Tribal member Arnold Chevalier feels optimistic.

"This is the start for both communities to heal, to come together and do things in a collective way," Chevalier said after the meeting. "I didn't expect the unanimous support that we garnered tonight, and that's a good thing."

The council voted 6-0 to pass the resolution. Council member Bill Miller was absent during the vote, though he joined the meeting shortly after.

Before voting, council member Lynnsey Erickson voiced her support and thanked the tribal members for making the trip from the Menominee Reservation in Keshena.

"I know this has been a long and sometimes difficult process, but I think it's important we're finally coming to terms with our history as a city and the land we occupy," Erickson said. "The Menominee people are here, and it's about time we recognize contributions to the city."

The vote came on the night Mayor Lori Palmeri declared November to be Native American Heritage Month in Oshkosh.

Chevalier, Menominee tribal historic preservation officer David Grignon and University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh English professor Pascale Manning co-authored the language for the five plaques.

Nine people voiced support for the resolution, including Menominee members, Oshkosh residents and two of the three co-authors.

"I couldn't believe all the support that was said in there," Grignon said.

Manning, standing next to him, added that it spoke to the city's willingness to embrace the conversation.

"There's a sense of a groundswell in the community of excitement about this, of support and openness," she said. "It's difficult, but these are conversations we have to have."

The city Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee endorsed the wording

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Manitowoc Air Force veteran is 91 and still flying airplanes

Patti Zarling Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter | USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MANITOWOC - Leon Sigman doesn't much like to talk about his time in the military. • He never served overseas or in combat, the modest 91-year-old Manitowoc man said about being in the United States Air Force for four years, starting in 1951. • "We all did what we had to survive," he said quietly, wishing to turn the spotlight on bigger military heroes.

Instead, Sigman's eyes light up when asked about his love for flying airplanes, an avocation and vocation that has sustained him through the decades. He recalls the chance to fly military planes while in the Air Force with a big grin.

They flipped and twisted in magnificent ways, he says, using his hands and arms to mimic the movement, surrounded by pristine planes in the hangar of the Manitowoc County Airport.

He pauses when asked why he loves to fly. It's almost akin to looking at a beautiful woman, "You can't help yourself," he said, paraphrasing a line from a favorite novel, "The High and The Mighty," from a favorite author, Ernest Gann.

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Leon Sigman stands by a Renegade Sport at the Manitowoc County Airport on Monday. The 91-year-old pilot has been involved in aviation for many years.

PHOTOS BY GARY C. KLEIN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

"I was fortunate in that I had parents who were very supportive. When I had taken the lessons and earned the license, my dad said, 'Now you can learn.'"

Leon Sigman

Sigman looks over his recently published book at the Manitowoc County Airport.

STREETWISE

City, developers enter agreement for Smith School Lofts project



Streetwise

Katy Macek
Oshkosh Northwestern
USA TODAY NETWORK - WIS.

Northpointe Development Corp. to convert the former Smith Elementary School, 1745 Oregon St. to Smith School Lofts, a low-income housing project.

Northpointe Development's Andy Dumke is working with Tim Hess of In-vista Analytics and Wesenberg Architects to complete the 31-bedroom apartment complex with 44 garage spaces and additional off-street parking.

The agreement, approved unanimously by the city council on Tuesday, centers on "pay-as-you-go" tax incremental financing, the city's preferred form of funding TIF districts that is dependent on the developer's ability to pay their taxes and create additional property value.

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OSHKOSH - The city has entered into a development agreement with

USA TODAY

Consumers battered: Americans suffer as prices rise 6.2% in October over a year ago; wage gains eroded. 4A

Big hair, bigger crowds

How The Glam Band went from 'a goof' to one of Green Bay and Fox Valley's biggest blasts. Weekend, 1B

Weather

High 53° | Low 33°
Winds subsiding, rain.
Forecast, 7A

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Mexico leader: World's richest should pay to help poorest

Edith M. Lederer
ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS – Mexico's president warned Tuesday that the world is sliding from "civilization to barbarity" and called for the thousand richest people, the thousand largest private corporations and the 20 major economies to improve life for the 750 million people now existing on less than \$2 a day.

Andrés Manuel López Obrador told the U.N. Security Council that this proposal could generate about \$1 billion annually, which should go directly to the world's poorest people "without any intermediaries, through a card or personalized electronic wallet."

In a scathing speech to the U.N.'s most powerful body, the Mexican leader sharply criticized the world's nations for

not addressing corruption in all its forms – political, moral, economic, legal, fiscal and financial – which he called "the main problem of the planet."

López Obrador, on only his second foreign trip since taking office in December 2018, was presiding over the council, where Mexico is serving a two-year term and holds the presidency this month.

The country chose the topic of Tuesday's meeting: "Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Exclusion, Inequality and Conflicts."

As an example of exclusion and inequality, he pointed to the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, where pharmaceutical companies sold 94% and only 6% went to the U.N. World Health Organization's COVAX program for distribution to poor countries.

He said the proposal can be financed

"The spirit of cooperation is losing ground to the desire for profit, and this is leading us to slide from civilization into barbarity," López Obrador said. "We are moving forward, alienated, forgetting moral principles, and turning our backs on the pain of humanity."

"If we are not able to reverse these trends through specific actions, we will not be able to resolve any of the other problems affecting the peoples of the world."

López Obrador said in the coming days Mexico will propose to the U.N. General Assembly "a world plan for fraternity and well-being" to guarantee the right to a decent life for 750 million people trying to exist on less than \$2 a day.

with money from three sources: an annual voluntary contribution of 4% of the income of the world's 1,000 richest people, a similar 4% contribution from the 1,000 largest private corporations according to their market value, and 0.2% of the GDP of nations in the Group of 20 largest global economies.

López Obrador accused the United Nations, with U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres listening, of failing to help those at the bottom of the economic ladder, saying: "Nothing really substantial has been done to benefit the poor in the history of this organization."

"But it is never too late to ensure that justice is done," he said. "It is time to act today against marginalization, dealing with the causes and not just the consequences."

Statue

Continued from Page 1A

for all five plaques in May.

The Landmarks Commission in September supported four of the five plaques that represent the cardinal directions and offer more context on Chief Oshkosh's history as a statesman and steward for sustainable forestry as well as the Menominee Tribe and its ancestral land. The fifth plaque, which offers context on why the plaques have been added to the statue more than 100 years later, had been at the heart of the debate.

After several workshops and meetings with the commission and the co-authors, the commission supported updated language, including adding two new sentences.

"The five plaques now surrounding the monument celebrate the life and culture of an important chief of the Menominee Nation," the plaque language reads. "They have been placed here in the hope of promoting the forms of education and dialogue that are necessary steps in the process of healing."

Landmarks Commission Chair Shirley Brabender-Mattox voiced her support at Tuesday's meeting.

"I believe it (the fifth plaque) will provide



Menominee tribal historic preservation officer David Grignon, left, UW-Oshkosh English professor Pascale Manning and Menominee Tribal member Arnold Chevalier have been working on language since late 2018 for new plaques that better tell the tribe's history. The council voted Tuesday to add the signage to the monument. KATY MACEK/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

hope and healing and provide a chance for dialogue and education between the people that live here now and those whose land was here for thou-

sands of years," she said.

The Landmarks Commission began discussing updates to the monument with the Menominee Tribe, UW-Osh-

kosh and the Wisconsin Historical Society in 2015. Those were tabled and gained momentum when Grignon, Chevalier and Manning came on board in 2018, drafting the language that was reviewed at Tuesday's council meeting. Efforts were made slowly through the years and stalled by the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020.

With the council's approval, Manning said the next steps are working with city staff and the Parks Department to determine funding for the project as well as its design. A timeline has not been determined.

Chevalier pledged his support for raising funds with the city. Manning said they've previously met with the Parks Department and submitted ideas for plaque designs, and she's hopeful the process will move quickly.

But for now, they're enjoying a moment of triumph.

"I was really close to tears," Chevalier said. "It's been a long time coming. We've had some ups and downs, lots of downs, but it has paid off. We can now put that behind us ... (and) make this come to fruition to the physical plaques so we can start planning a celebration."

Contact Katy Macek at kmacek@thenorthwestern.com or 920-426-6658. Follow her on Twitter @KatherineMacek.

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