

# The Advance-Titan

INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH CAMPUSES

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# WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!



**Monday:** What a start to the week. The news we knew would eventually hit campus struck hard. Chancellor Andrew Leavitt made the announcement that 140 employees were issued a layoff, effective at the end of the fall 2023 semester.

It was announced in August that layoffs would be necessary to address the university's \$18 million budget deficit. Earlier in the semester, many faculty and staff were told they had to take furlough days to cut back on their salaries to save the university money. *Go to Page 2 to read more on the layoffs.*

Also on Monday, Leavitt shared that Assistant Chancellor for Access Campuses Martin Rudd had died over the weekend. *Go to Page 4 to read more on Rudd.*

**Tuesday:** Leavitt announced that the UW Oshkosh-Fond du Lac access campus will close its doors and stop in-person teaching by June 30, 2024.

This decision came after Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman directed him to do so. *Go to Page 2 to read more on the Fond du Lac campus close.*

**What we think:** The Advance-Titan staff felt as if it was important to include their opinion on the issues at hand. *Go to Page 12 to read more on how students are deeply impacted by the layoffs, despite administration claiming it wouldn't affect students.*

Page design by Katie Pulvermacher



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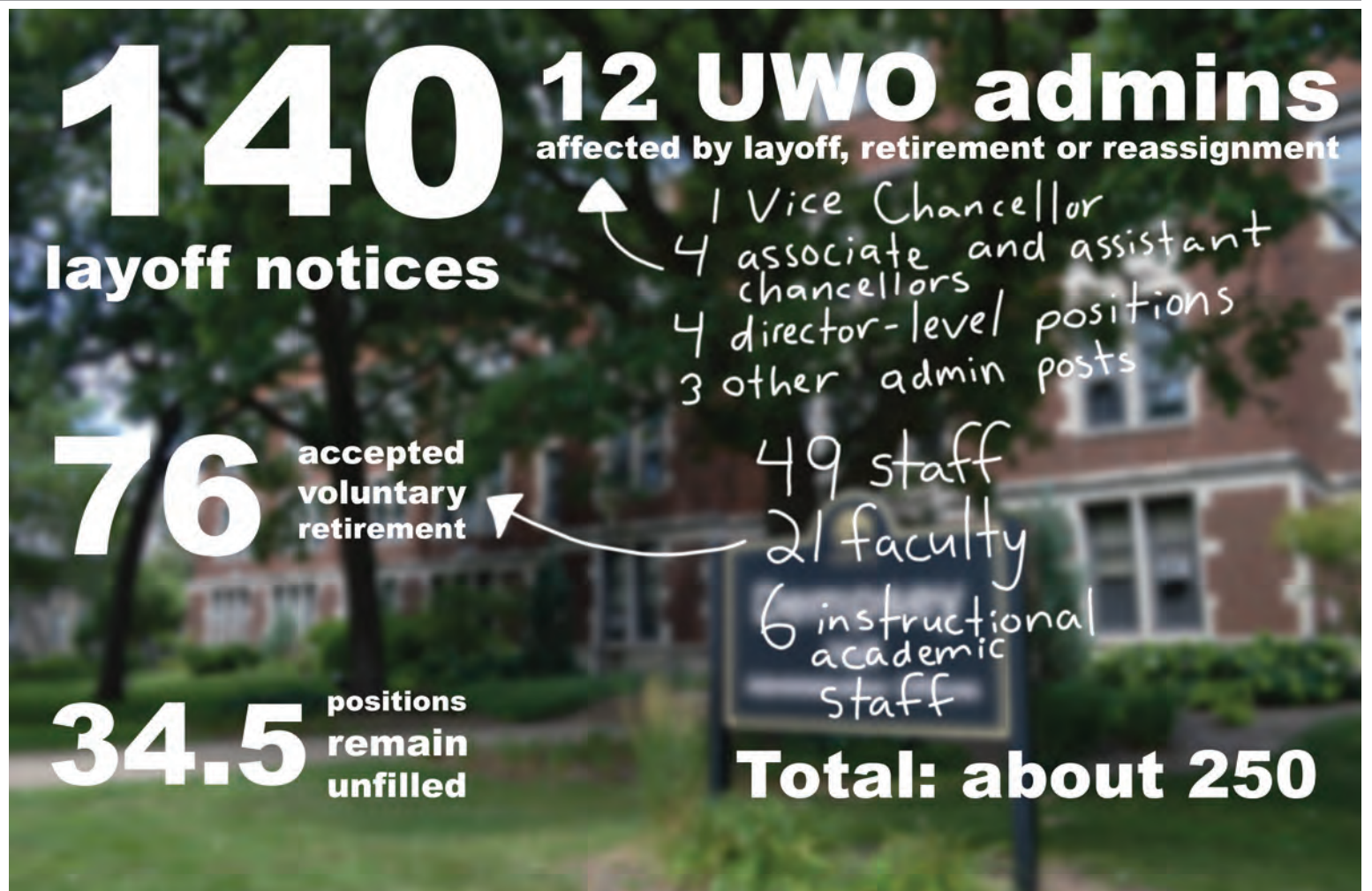
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## About the Newspaper

The Advance-Titan is an independent student newspaper published on campus since 1894. The paper is written and edited by students at UW Oshkosh who are solely responsible for content and editorial policy. Any UW Oshkosh student from all three campuses is welcome to work on the newspaper staff. The paper is published on Thursdays during the academic year.

## Correction Policy

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



Josh Lehner / Advance-Titan

# Staff layoffs stun campus

By Josh Lehner & Anya Kelley  
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A total of 140 UW Oshkosh employees received layoff notices on Monday in an effort to curb the university's \$18 million deficit. The layoffs are part of the university's realignment plan, which also has 76 employees accepting voluntary retirement offers.

UWO Chancellor Andrew Leavitt added that 12 UWO leaders serving in 10 administrative positions are being affected by layoffs, retirement or reassignment — 22% of the positions in the ad-

ministrative organizational chart.

These include the elimination of a vice chancellor position, four associate and assistant chancellors, four director-level positions and three other administrative positions.

The Advance-Titan reached out to Leavitt's Chief of Staff Alex Hummel for a list of the administrators' names. That email was forwarded to Chief Communications Officer Peggy Breister who denied further comment.

"UW Oshkosh is not providing names or positions of those who have been laid off," Breister wrote in the email.

By cutting one in every six employees, the university expects to save about \$14.7 million: about \$8 million from layoffs, \$4.76 million from voluntary retirements and \$1.9 million from open positions.

The total number of layoffs plus voluntary retirements is 216 but 34.5 vacant positions will remain unfilled, bringing the total number of positions affected by layoffs, voluntary retirement and open positions to about 250.

The final day of employment for laid off staff is Jan. 20, 2024; no faculty have been laid off so far, Leavitt said Monday.

The university's administration

has not released a master list of everyone affected and has denied a request for comment.

All of the full-time staff in the Office of International Education (OIE) have been laid off, leaving two part-time employees who are paid outside of the university.

The Testing Center has one employee left, the University Studies Program (USP) took a large hit, Reeve Union is losing many employees, and the LGBTQ+ Resource Center is losing its leadership.

The Advance-Titan also reached  
*Turn to Layoffs / Page 3*

# Fond du Lac campus to close

By Katie Pulvermacher  
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UW Oshkosh's access campus in Fond du Lac will discontinue in-person education by June 30, 2024, Chancellor Andrew Leavitt announced Tuesday. This leaves students unsure of where to go next with such short notice.

"Demographic trends, declining enrollments and the rising costs of providing an education continue to challenge us," Leavitt said. "What is immediately clear is that our focus on supporting UWO Fond du Lac students, their journeys and their success will only intensify. Our commitment is to honor students' plans and investments as they stand today. Their educational home may change; their tuition will not."

Fond du Lac's enrollment was projected to be 243 students this fall, but fell short to 238. Its peak enrollment was in 1975, and the campus is currently at 30% of its Fall 2010 enrollment.

UWO Marketing and Communications Executive Direc-

tor Peggy Breister said they are not doing further interviews at this time and referred the Advance-Titan to Leavitt's statement.

In an email from Leavitt in Fall 2022 after the closing of UW-Platteville's Richland Center access campus, he said UWO remained committed to keeping its Fox Cities and FDL campuses open.

"I want you to know that UW Oshkosh remains committed to the access missions and the continued operation of UWO Fox Cities and UWO Fond du Lac," Leavitt said. "We do this in collaboration with valued partners and public stewards in Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Winnebago counties. There are no plans or directions to alter course at UWO's access campuses."

A year later, with the university in a budget deficit, Leavitt said he received a letter from Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman this week who directed him to discontinue teaching at the FDL campus.

Leavitt, Provost and Vice

Chancellor for Academic Affairs Edwin Martini and Chief of Staff Alex Hummel went to the Fond du Lac campus Tuesday morning to tell faculty, staff and students the news.

"According to what the chancellor and provost said, they didn't find out about this until late yesterday afternoon from President Rothman's office," said associate English professor Alayne Peterson, who teaches at the Fond du Lac campus. "Rothman's office held off on announcing this to let our chancellor do this. We had a two-hours notice. They did what they could."

Peterson said she usually isn't on campus Tuesdays and Thursdays due to teaching online classes those days. Same goes for many other staff members. She made it to the meeting in time after a colleague notified her of the email.

"When the provost came to our fall kickoff at the end of August, I asked him point blank if there was a decision that was going to be made (on the future of the Fond du Lac campus), to

please tell us face-to-face," Peterson said. "There's no good time for bad news. I appreciate them coming down to tell us face-to-face."

Fond du Lac Student Government Association Public Relations Director Hannah Gruening attended the meeting and felt the announcement was too abrupt.

She said the meeting started with Leavitt, Martini and Hummel expressing their sadness in the passing of Assistant Chancellor for Access Campuses Martin Rudd, who unexpectedly died over the weekend, and then jumped straight into closing the doors at the Fond du Lac

*Turn to Fondy / Page 4*

## Correction

In a story "How will UWO rebuild trust," which appeared in the Oct. 12 newspaper, the incorrect cost of launching the UWO Marching Band was given. The correct price is \$2.1 million. In addition, according to the UWO Foundation, donors have given more than \$156,000 for the Titan Thunder Fund and Titan Thunder Scholarship Fund.



# Oshkosh residents named Hometown Heroes

By Kelly Hueckman  
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Wisconsin representatives Lori Palmeri and Michael Schraa announced Mee and Lee Yang of Oshkosh were recipients of the 2023-24 Hometown Hero Award last week on behalf of the Wisconsin State Assembly.

They recognized Mee and Lee Yang for their service and community advocacy in Oshkosh, where they run the Hmong Service Center.

Mee Yang was elected the first female president of the group in 2016, four years before they opened a physical center on Main Street. Here, the Yangs help educate about Hmong culture and support Hmong youth through counseling, scholarships and other resources.

Palmeri, who first met the Yangs after being elected to the Oshkosh Common Council, said she saw how much they helped Oshkosh and the Hmong community as a whole after attending a Hmong Memorial Day festival.

"I ... saw first-hand the impact they were making on the Oshkosh community through their service on community boards, commissions, soccer tournaments, teen pageants, raising scholarship dol-



Courtesy of Lori Palmeri

Mee Yang (left center) and Lee Yang (right center) hold their 2023-24 Hometown Hero awards. The Yangs were recognized by Wisconsin representatives Michael Schraa (back left) and Lori Palmeri (far right).

lars for students and providing financial counseling, all at a great sacrifice to their time, talent and money," she said.

The Yangs were inspired to help others in the Hmong community after living in refugee camps in Thailand before they moved to the United States, Palmeri said.

"The Yangs' passion for helping others is deeply rooted in

their life experiences as refugees from their homeland of Laos, their time in refugee camps in Thailand and their experience immigrating to the United States which has motivated them to help others and give back to the community that welcomed them and provided a new home and future," she said.

The support of the Oshkosh

Hmong community and dedication to improving life in the area from the Yangs are influential for many, Palmeri said.

"I continue to be inspired by their commitment to a greater good and their passion for operating the Hmong Service Center on Main Street in Oshkosh, which continues to be a labor of love."

## About the Hmong Service Center

- The Hmong Service Center, Inc., is a non-profit organization located in downtown Oshkosh, and is home to the Hmong national memorial and labor day festivals, along with other Hmong support services.
- Though it existed since 1984, the organization finally established a physical building in late 2020.
- At the time, Mee Yang, who has served as president since 2016, said she hopes to turn the center into a community resource, as well as continuing to provide scholarships and educating everyone interested in learning the Hmong language and culture.
- More info, including details on events, can be found on their Facebook page, [facebook.com/OshkoshHmongServiceCenterInc/](https://facebook.com/OshkoshHmongServiceCenterInc/).

# Layoffs: Staff and faculty respond

From Page 2

out to Project Success and the Career and Professional Development directors; both of those inquiries were also forwarded to Breister, who denied a request for comment.

## Responding to the layoffs

On Tuesday, a "comfort event" was held to support staff affected by the layoffs. The event was organized, in part, by Misty McPhee, a professor of environmental studies and biology, who said that she orchestrated the event because "nothing had been organized for staff to provide support."

McPhee said that her department will be impacted by the layoffs, as she heavily relies on staff members.

"The assistant that runs our environmental studies program as well as women and gender studies, African American studies and Hmong studies ... the whole interdisciplinary studies program ... one person has been supporting all of those groups, and she just lost her job," McPhee said. "One of the things that is abhorrent to me is the lack of understanding of people's knowledge and the expertise they bring to these jobs, and what we're losing by letting them go without thinking of who we're letting go."

One of the "comfort event" attendees, who agreed to speak anonymously, said that the university's decision of who to lay off should have been based on different factors, such as seniority and expertise.

"I started working here in 2006 and have been here 17 years and was just let go," they said. "I don't believe that they did stuff by seniority, because there are people here who have been here for less time than me and their job is not affected."

They also said that staff supervisors were not contacted on who they thought should stay and be let go, leading to experienced and integral individuals being cut.

"(The university) used an outside source that doesn't know us," they said. "I know that they were trying to make it fair but in a sense that does hurt us, because then this person (from an outside source) is just looking at numbers; they're not looking at who provides what services. I don't think that was the right way to go about it."

Shrinking programs and departments have already raised concerns about the ability for teams and programs to operate. One such individual is Dale DeVries, a web designer within university marketing and communications who also received a layoff notification.

"This is my dream job; that's gone," he said. "I'm an alumnus here and I love this job."

DeVries said that his department, which had 16 members when he started a couple of years ago, has shrunk to seven people: three marketing staff, two designers and a photographer on the creative team and one communications person.

With a diminishing team, DeVries said that he and his colleagues have been trying to make do; however, with the most recent cuts, he is skeptical about his team's ability to fully function.

"Me and (my boss) were trying to formulate a great web strategy to make all of our sites coherent and easy for anyone to use, and that's all gone now," he said. "I don't know how he's going to pick up the pieces with just one person for all of the web for the university. It doesn't seem possible — to me at least."

Michelle Bogden Muetzel, who works within the university's of-

fice of compliance, risk and integrity, said that the layoffs will affect her office, too, when it comes to experience and knowledge.

"A lot of my responsibilities are required by the UW System to be done to help us comply with a lot of state statutes and to help keep our campus safe," she said. "I'm really concerned with how that's going to be handled and how that transition is going to happen."

In addition to Bogden Muetzel being laid off in her department, the environmental health and safety manager is also retiring.

"We have somebody else who is going to fill that position, but all of that historical knowledge for how we've been doing risk and safety for six, seven years or so is going to be gone," she said.

## Beyond the position

Meghann Krueger has a unique backstory at UWO. She started college at Oshkosh in the '90s and has been in some way associated with the university since.

She started as a full-time employee in July of 2002 working in financial aid, but left in 2016 as the associate director of financial aid.

"I returned to UWO in February 2017 as a Limited Term Employee (LTE) in the Budget Office," Krueger said. "I stayed a Financial Specialist LTE until Aug. 31, 2023."

In April 2023, her life changed as her husband lost his job as president and chief operating officer of a manufacturing company.

"Our family now needed health insurance," Krueger said.

Krueger applied for her current job, department assistant for sociology and public administration in early August and was offered the full time employee position with a start date of Sept. 1, 2023,

when Mike Ford of Public Administration was the chair of the hiring committee.

"He emailed HR on Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023 informing them of my verbal acceptance of the offer," Krueger said. "On Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, HR emailed Mike to inform him there is a hiring freeze and they would hold off until Friday to inform me they are rescinding my offer. That email also explained the process for an exception (or appeal)."

Paul Van Auken, chair of the sociology department, and Ford worked through the exception process for Krueger and received an email on Aug. 23 at 4:08 p.m. from Provost Edwin Martini stating he was working through the process and would update them the next day.

At 8:42 p.m. Aug. 24, the hiring committee received an email from Martini saying, "Just an update to let you know that VC (Robert) Roberts and I agreed to an exception today on this request."

"You can let her know that we will be moving ahead with the offer you all agreed on; it might take a day or two to get everything processed, but it will all be approved," Martini said in the same email.

Krueger started her new position on Sept. 1, and just six weeks later, received notice that she would be laid off.

"You can see that I have many years experience working at UWO," Krueger said. "Those years helped me build a unique skill set. I was surprised and frustrated by the layoff notice because Paul and Mike went through the process of the exception and it was approved."

Krueger is left wondering why administration bothered granting her an exception.

"Why would I be hired, knowing they would be doing layoffs?" Krueger said. "It doesn't make sense."

Krueger, like many others, feels the deficit was handled poorly by the administration.

"There is no way to convince me that an \$18 million deficit came out of left field," Krueger said. "If the chancellor and VC Roberts were clueless UWO was going to have this deficit, they are inept and should not be holding senior administrative roles."

Krueger believes "in any other business world, these people would no longer be employed."

"I strive for efficiency and believe there are ways to make UWO run more efficiently, but the decisions on who to lay off has been kept secret and further diminishes trust in administration," Krueger said. "I doubt the people making the decision to send me a layoff notice know my skill set and how I could help in several areas of the institution. They don't know because they didn't ask."

Krueger doesn't know what's next for her or her family.

"Unfortunately, the layoff notice is still sinking in," Krueger said. "I hope my husband finds employment so there is some pressure taken off of me to find another job that I may not actually want."

Amid the confusion and worry following the layoff notices, Leavitt called for community and solace.

"My hope is we will support each other today and in the days to come," he said. "There is a long road in front of us as we restructure and rebuild, and we do so with fewer of the valued colleagues who have shared their expertise and talents with us for many years, and in some cases, decades."





Courtesy of UWO Flickr

Low enrollment, accompanied with decreased state funding, has led to cuts across nearly all of the Universities of Wisconsin campuses. The Fond du Lac campus' enrollment this semester is 238 students.

# Fondy: Dealing with the closure

**From Page 2**  
campus.

"Our dean passed away unexpectedly this weekend, and then you throw this at us?" Gruening said. "You should've waited until next week at least. They just told us what's going to happen. They had no plan. It's black and white right now."

She said the atmosphere in the meeting room was somber.

"A lot of people were hurt," Gruening said. "I'd say 90% of the room was crying. One hundred percent of the room was upset. They were angry, then they were sad and just disappointed."

Gruening said she wasn't born in Fond du Lac, but has lived there most of her life.

"I can't just pick up my life and move," Gruening said. "I'm a non-traditional student. I've lived here; I have my place. Being able to have this access campus has been able to make my education successful. I'm not sure what my plan is. I think it's taking it day by day."

Gruening said the campus had a preview day for incoming students set to attend in Spring 2024

and Fall 2024 about 30 minutes after the announcement was made.

"What do we tell them?" Gruening said. "The timing is all very poor."

She said she did appreciate the fact that they came to talk on the matter face-to-face and that the administration said they will honor Fond du Lac's tuition for the first 60 credits students earn, the equivalent to what they would earn at Fond du Lac, if they choose to transfer to UWO.

"They screwed up, so now this is happening," Gruening said. "The doors are going to be closed and this beautiful facility is not going to be used to its fullest potential. The county will probably take it over."

UWO Associate Dean of Social Science Sara Steffes Hansen teaches journalism 141 on the Fond du Lac campus this semester.

"The access campus mission is important and I am sad that closure is happening," Steffes Hansen said. "(I) talked with my students about it shortly after the announcement. They

too expressed sadness, and had thoughtful concern for their instructors."

She said she has enjoyed teaching at the access campus this semester, which was her first time teaching there.

"I attended the Fond du Lac campus for one year as an undergrad and appreciated its many opportunities," Steffes Hansen said. "We will get through all the changes this week has brought at UWO, but it's been a tough go and will be for awhile."

Some students on the Fond du Lac campus said they are concerned that if they transfer to UWO, cuts will continue to be made and they may have to transfer elsewhere.

"Why should I have to have a backup plan in case my school gets shut down?" UWO-Fond du Lac first-year student Olivia Kent said. "That shouldn't be something I have to be worried about on top of being a full-time student. I feel like all of this was just thrown onto us and we're all expected to stay afloat with no support."

Kylie Klawitter, another first-

year student at Fond du Lac, said she chose to go there because she wanted to save money, keep her job and be close to family. She doesn't have a backup plan for what to do next.

"I've heard a handful of people say that they're considering just not going to school next year," Klawitter said. "I've heard a bunch of people talking about how they won't be able to commute to the Oshkosh campus and don't know what they're going to do."

UWO-Fox Cities will continue with in-person education under direct advice of Rothman.

"We will work with Outagamie and Winnebago County leaders to renegotiate our memorandum of understanding and engage in renewed discussion about that campus's regional educational needs and use," Leavitt said.

UW-Milwaukee at Washington County in West Bend is also ending its classes under direction by Rothman. These are the second and third campuses to lose local access to a UW education.

Ethan Schuh, social media and

digital marketing specialist in the Universities of Wisconsin Office of Public Affairs & Communications, declined to comment and referred the Advance-Titan to their news release.

"I realize that these developments raise immediate questions for students and faculty and staff at each location," Leavitt said in the statement. "Having just received President Rothman's directive, we need time to consult with our many stakeholders, including shared governance leaders."

Leavitt said the administration was very deliberate in their efforts to join the three campuses – UWO, Fond du Lac and Fox Cities – five years ago in an effort to reduce costs and benefit students.

"We were not perfect, but there was an unmistakable oneness in our work," Leavitt said. "I ask us to remember that spirit and resolve as we support learners and colleagues through this next transition at UWO. You can expect consistent updates from me as we move forward."

# UWO assistant chancellor dies

**By Anya Kelley**  
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The death of the Assistant Chancellor for Access Campuses Martin Rudd was announced in an email sent out by UW Oshkosh's Chancellor Andrew Leavitt on Oct. 16.

Rudd, age 53, passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 14 in Conover, Wisconsin where he owns a cabin.

In Rudd's obituary, he was described as a "lifelong learner." He graduated with a degree in chemistry in 1991 and received his doctorate in inorganic chemistry in 1994.

Rudd is survived by his wife and four children who described him as a "kind-hearted and loving husband, father, teacher and role model."



Martin Rudd

In the initial announcement, Leavitt said, "Martin was not just a colleague, but a friend and an integral part of students' and our organization's success."

According to Rudd's Linke-

dIn account, his bachelor's and doctoral degrees were both granted by the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom. Rudd worked as a post-doctoral fellow at Baylor University in 1996-97, and as an assistant professor of chemistry at Northwestern State University of Louisiana from 1997-2002 and UW-Marathon County in Wausau from 2002-2003.

For 15 years, from 2003-2018, he worked as the regional executive officer and dean and professor of chemistry at UW Colleges in Menasha. In July 2018, obtained his current role at UWO.

Leavitt encourages people who are struggling to reach out to counseling services. Faculty and staff have access to employee assistance program sup-

port services and students can go to the Counseling Center on campus or reach out to the Dean of Students team.

A memorial service for Rudd will take place on Oct. 20 with visitation from 1 to 4 p.m. and a service to follow at

Brettschneider Trettin Nickel-Funeral Chapel and Cemetery.

The family is asking that people donate to any humane society instead of sending flowers.

"In the meantime, please keep Martin's family in your thoughts," Leavitt said.

## Memorable quote

“When we blame people, we tend to look back at the past, whereas, when we look for accountability, we look to construct the future.”

- Martin Rudd





Eli Yonder / Advance-Titan

Pub Crawl, like Oktoberfest in La Crosse and Miffin in Madison, draws students from all of the Universities of Wisconsin for a weekend of debaucherous fun. Eli Yonder took all unattributed photos on this page.

# UWO's semiannual Pub Crawl

## Uniting students, one sip at a time

By Jessica Duch  
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College students from around Wisconsin traveled to Oshkosh last weekend to participate in the Oshkosh Pub Crawl celebration. The semiannual event has been happening for years and is a gathering for students to drink and socialize.

Many students who attended said they thought pub crawl was a great way to bring people from the community together.

"It's like the one event of the year that brings people from other colleges back to Oshkosh to visit their friends," said UW Oshkosh senior Andrew Kaminski.

Another student agreed that pub crawl was a nice way to meet new people.

"Honestly, go talk to anyone because you're all just vibing at

this point," said UW-Milwaukee sophomore Lilly Mayer.

While attendees agreed on the social benefits of pub crawl, they had mixed opinions on the effect of police presence around the event.

University of Minnesota senior Malia Pattison said, "There's a difference between like patrolling everything, versus like coming and trying to be vindictive and like ruin it all."

An anonymous UW Oshkosh senior agreed.

"I don't think it helps that much," the student said. "I think it just gives people public intoxicants and underages. I don't think it stops bad things from happening. I think fights and other stupid stuff will happen no matter what."

Fox Valley Technical College student Noah Dixon had different views. He felt the police helped

with the pub crawl atmosphere.

"It gets pretty loud between college kids and there's always butting heads and that's why the police need to step in and other than that, you know they're just doing their jobs," Dixon said.

Kaminski felt similarly to Dixon and said that the police were doing their job to stop any incidents that might arise well.

Luckily, the students being interviewed were not involved in any incidents. Their advice to students who wanted to attend pub crawl: be safe, smart and have fun.

"As long as you're not like doing anything stupid like having an open intoxicant on the sidewalk, you guys will be perfectly fine," Dixon said. "And if the police show up, move to the back of the party — you'll be perfectly fine."



Photo courtesy of Joey Endres (above)





# Arts & Entertainment



Willem Flaughter / Advance-Titan

Ella Rider picks from different fresh fruits and vegetables at the farmers market, this was held alongside the tote bag and basket decorating at Fall Fest.

## First ever Fall Fest successful

By Mattie Beck  
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The first ever Fall Fest, an event that featured live music, crafts, a farmers market and a chalk walk, was held on Oct. 11 outside of Reeve Memorial Union and the newly dedicated Leffin Family Terrace.

Students were able to pick from a variety of fruits and vegetables at the miniature farmers market and even decorate tote bags and baskets provided by Reeve Union Board (RUB).

Olivia Klessig, the crafty adventures chair for RUB, helped pull the craft together with the Fall Fest.

"I planned to bring back tote bag decorating this year," she said. "This year, I wanted to do something more with it though, so I asked if it was possible to do a small farmers market on the side, and then Fall Fest fell into place."

Klessig said the craft portion of the festival was a hit with students.

"Students absolutely loved this craft. They loved it last year and they loved it even more this year," Klessig said. "Tote bag decorating is such a unique idea and it goes over really well with the students."

New this year to the tote bag decorating craft was iron-on patches to go along with the usual paint, which was Klessig's idea.

"It was a last-minute idea of mine, and it worked out to be a hit, especially since some students were in a rush to get somewhere else or were not up to painting," she said. "It definitely helped to give the students options for designing their tote bags."



Willem Flaughter / Advance-Titan

Students and staff participated in the first ever Fall Fest outside of Reeve Memorial Union and the Leffin Family Terrace.

Plenty of students attended the event even though it was during a chillier time of year.

"The turnout was great for an outside event," Klessig said. "The brisk cool air definitely helped to set everyone into the fall mood, especially while getting to create a fall or Halloween-inspired tote bag and basket."

One of Klessig's favorite parts of the event was the Halloween-inspired theme.

"I really liked everything about the event from the theming to the Halloween and fall iron-on patches, the farmers

market and the live music," she said.

Klessig also thought this helped students get into the spirit of the month.

"It all really helped to get students out and involved while getting them excited for the fall season," she said.

The event also featured a performance by Brady Lee, a Milwaukee native, up on the Leffin Family Terrace.

Casie Frentzel, the live music chair for RUB, decided to bring him back for the event since he is a UW Oshkosh alumnus.

"It was an easy decision," she

said. "He also played at Titan Nights last year (and was a hit) so it was unanimous to want to bring him back."

Frentzel said the live music at the event helped with the atmosphere.

"For this event, to have Brady singing while students were shopping at the farmers market or designing a tote bag was great and made the atmosphere more welcoming," she said. "Students were then able to stick around and listen to him sing."

The event itself was a success, with many students attending and participating in the different

aspects of the event.

"Fall Fest was a new event that RUB was trying out and it was very successful," Frentzel said. "We had roughly 200, if not more, students attend this event."

Fall Fest is one of many RUB events this semester, with many more to come.

"There are tons of fun and exciting crafts coming up in the next few weeks and throughout the rest of the school year, so be sure to come on out, enjoy yourself and have some fun," Klessig said.





A-T File Photo

The Nutcracker exhibit opens soon for the holidays at the Paine.



Courtesy of Bergstrom-Mahler Museum

Taylor Moeller-Roy demonstrates glass blowing at the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass.

# Museums launch art collaboration

By Kelly Hueckman  
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Executive Director of the Paine Art Center and Gardens Aaron Sherer announced the launch of Wisconsin Art Destinations, a collective effort among in-state art museums last week.

"The Paine is thrilled to be coming together with our fellow art museums around the state to highlight the truly remarkable artistry that is around the corner in Wisconsin," Sherer said. "We're proud to be sharing the power of art and elevating the vitality it brings to our communities and state."

Wisconsin Art Destinations includes 13 visual arts museums in Wisconsin. Several locations are

in the Fox Valley, including the Paine Art Center and Gardens, Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass in Neenah and the Trout Museum of Art in Appleton.

The idea for Wisconsin Art Destinations was formed over two years ago, and was inspired by virtual meetings between local art directors while social distancing, Sherer said.

"The directors of Wisconsin's art museums started meeting by Zoom during the pandemic," he said. "This experience motivated us to continue working together. Ultimately, the goal of the collaboration is to encourage people to visit Wisconsin's art museums as well as explore the communities we're located in."

Sherer said another goal of the program is to encourage people

to raise the profile of Wisconsin as a destination for the visual arts.

"Wisconsin is well known for several things, like the Packers, our state parks and natural areas and beer and cheese," he said. "However, people may not realize that Wisconsin also has a strong tradition of community-based art museums, big and small."

However, people often don't have to travel too far to experience different art locations, Sherer said.

"We hope to show people that our museums are located pretty close to one another, and that it would be easy to visit one, two, three or more of us on a single trip," he said.

For example, a drive from the

Paine Art Center to Neenah's Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass and then to Appleton's Trout Museum of Art takes less than 45 minutes.

Although Wisconsin Art Destination museums are located relatively close to each other, they each have something different to offer through their buildings, exhibitions and educational resources, Sherer said.

"There's so much great art to see right now," he said. "You can enjoy exquisite crafts down at the Racine Art Museum, and all the way up in Wausau, you can experience the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum's celebrated 'Birds in Art' exhibition. In between, there's contemporary African Art on view at the Chazen Museum of Art in

Madison, and there's the John Michael Kohler Art Center's mind-blowing new Art Preserve in Sheboygan. And, these are just four of the art destinations!"

To follow the Wisconsin Art Destinations motto, "Travel Beyond Your Horizon," museum visitors should do two things, Sherer said.

"First, while it may not originally be something you thought of, we encourage you to travel to a museum that probably isn't too far away from where you already are or plan to be," he said. "Second, once you arrive at an art museum, you will probably have a learning and growing experience that expands your thinking."

## 'America's Best Restaurants' to feature The Chalice

By Kelly Hueckman  
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One of Oshkosh's most iconic restaurants, The Chalice, will be featured on an upcoming episode of "America's Best Restaurants" after being filmed on Tuesday.

"We obviously hope to gain recognition around the area," owner Joe Ambrose said. "This place has always been well-known around Oshkosh, but there's still new people every week, every day that come in who don't know about us."

Ambrose, an Oshkosh native and UWO alumnus, started working at The Chalice when he was 15. Now, he's been the owner for over three years.

He said he worked throughout high school and college, and though he explored other career options, he always came back.

"I went through high school and college working here and then when I got done with college I tried things with my degree, but I always kept time here," he said. "From there, with jobs that didn't work out I always had this as a backup plan. I never thought I could be the owner."

Just because Ambrose had the experience at The Chalice doesn't mean that taking over was smooth sailing, though.

Kelly Hueckman / Advance-Titan  
Owner Joe Ambrose's family dines at The Chalice while "America's Best Restaurants" films on Tuesday.

As Ambrose assumed his new role as owner, COVID-19 hit restaurants in a way no one had experienced before.

"I took over about six weeks before COVID shut everything down, so that was a big learning experience for me," he said. "I mean, I was closed and I didn't know what to do."

However, people's time away from The Chalice left them wanting it even more; business was exceptional after social distancing laws were lifted, Ambrose said.

"We opened back up from COVID, and it just boomed from there," he said.

Ambrose said it's The Chalice's welcoming environment, iconic menu and friendly staff that keeps customers coming.

"We try to keep the roots the same as from back in 1977; a lot of the things that were on the menu back then are still on the menu now," he said. "We pride ourselves on good service, good food and a good drink and a nice, warm, cozy atmosphere."

What truly sets the restaurant apart from others in the area is that not a single deep fryer is found at The Chalice.

"One thing that really stands out to people is that we don't have deep fryers," Ambrose said. "We make mostly everything from scratch."

Instead of being dunked in grease, all of the food at The Chalice is grilled to order.

"All of our food comes off of a six-foot flat top grill," Ambrose said. "That's kind of the thing that stands out the most, because it's not greasy deep fried food."

Cindy Smitz, who dines at The Chalice every Wednesday with her mother, said Ambrose has created a space customers keep wanting to come back to.

"It always had the same charm, but since he took over, the friendliness and the service are phenomenal, and the drink specials and food specials are all fabulous," she said. Smitz said that although there are many guests rotating through The Chalice, she's always treated kindly.

"It's kind of like 'Cheers,' where everyone knows your name," she said. "You come in and they say 'Hello, ladies!' and whisk you away to sit down at the table. We don't even order (our drinks). They just bring it to us; they just know."

Jackie McDorman, who was serving Smitz, said working at The Chalice is equally as enjoyable.

"It's fun," she said. "It's the camelot of restaurants to work at."

Jackie Challice, a guest who is coined as "The Chalice's first customer," said she has been dining at the restaurant for 46 years.

As for what kept her coming back?

"The people," she said.

Challice said that although The Chalice is well-known in Oshkosh, having the restaurant featured on "America's Best Restaurants" could help bring in business from other areas.

"The whole town knows about it, but being on the show, you might get people from out of town," she said.

Ambrose said reaching people who have never heard of The Chalice before is his biggest hope for the "America's Best Restaurants" episode.

The air date for the "America's Best Restaurants" feature on The Chalice will be announced on the "America's Best Restaurants" Facebook page and on their website at [americasbestrestaurants.com/rests/wisconsin/chalice](https://americasbestrestaurants.com/rests/wisconsin/chalice).



# Sports

## Titan runners place 12th

By Brandon Cobb  
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The UW Oshkosh women's and men's cross country teams placed 12th overall at the Augustana College Interregional Invite on Oct. 14.

In the women's 6,000-meter race the Titans placed 12th out of 42 teams with the effort being led by junior Cyna Madigan who placed 53rd with a time of 23:05.8. Junior Amelia Lehman placed 68th with a time of 23:23.9 while sophomore Josophine Makurat placed 83rd with a time of 23:36.4 and freshman Gracie Buchinger placed 131st with a time of 24:06.4. Sophomore Jamie Catania placed 144th with a time of 24:13.8.

In the men's 8,000-meter race the Titans placed 12th out of 43 teams with sophomore Paul Proteau leading UWO with a 56th place finish at a time of 25:34.0. He was followed by junior Jake Krause in 57th place with a time of 25:35.8 and sophomore Cameron Cullen in 59th with a time of 25:37.6. Senior Joe Kehoe placed 99th with a time of 25:55.0 and fellow senior Jason Ford placed 138th with a time of 26:14.1.

Sophomore Cameron Cullen, who passed his previous personal best by seven seconds, said he was happy about the way he ran despite the course conditions.

"It was a very flat course, definitely the flattest we have run on this year, it also got very muddy as well because of the rain that happened the previous day, but overall it was a really good course," Cullen said.

Cullen also spoke on some of the runners that have been recovering from injuries earlier in the season starting to come back in the races at the end of the season.

"One of our top guys who we lost earlier in the season ran last week and he is definitely on the come up," he said. "We are hoping to get him back and healthy, along with a few other runners we are recovering so we are definitely getting the pieces back together."

Turn to *Cross-country* / Page 9



Morgan Feltz / Advance-Titan

UWO setter Izzy Coon bumps the ball over the net in Oshkosh's 3-1 win over UW-Eau Claire Oct. 11 at the Kolf Sports Center.

## UWO's win streak reaches 26

By Nolan Swenson  
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The UW Oshkosh volleyball team continued their winning streak by sweeping four non-conference teams over the weekend, upping their current record to 26-0.

The Titans opened the Washington University in St. Louis's WashU Invitational Oct. 13 against Simpson College (Iowa) and against Washington University in St. Louis, winning the matches by scores of 3-0 and 3-2, respectively.

Oshkosh swept Simpson with little resistance in the first set, scoring 25-7. In the following sets, Simpson improved their point totals but never came within eight points of the Titans in the remaining two sets.

The Titans then faced off against

Washington University, a team the Titans were 0-15 against in their program history. Starting the match, Oshkosh suffered a two set deficit, endangering their current season record, but UWO was able to win the final three sets to win its 24th straight match.

In the first two sets, UWO lost 27-25 and 25-23, not escaping a 5-point deficit in either of the sets.

Oshkosh followed with three winning sets of 25-19, 27-25 and 15-8 against the Bears.

Head coach Jon Ellmann credited the comeback after the second set loss to the team not expecting every match to be perfect.

"We have no illusions of perfection when we walk on the court," he said. "The whole team will spend hours and hours on and off the court to create the outcomes that will happen in a 60-120 minute match."

On the next day of the tournament, UWO took on DePauw University (Indiana) and Illinois Wesleyan University, winning both matches 3-1.

Oshkosh lost the first set to DePauw, but won the following sets 25-14, 25-11 and 25-22.

Against the Tigers, UWO hit .347, while holding DePauw to just .156 and held leads in kills (58-36), assists (50-33) and digs (61-42).

In the final match of the WashU Invitational, Oshkosh bested Illinois Wesleyan University 3-1 in a clash of the Titans, leaving UWO on top.

Against the Titans of Illinois Wesleyan, Oshkosh took the first set of the match, lost the second, and recovered the third and fourth set to close the tournament 4-0.

At the end of the tournament, Riley Kindt and Riley Dahlquist

were each named to the All-Tournament Team and were joined by Emily Williams from Simpson, Olivia Karwin from DePauw, Taylor French from Illinois Wesleyan and both Sam Buckley and Jasmine Sells from WashU.

The 26-0 Titans will hit the road for their next match when they take on UW-River Falls (17-7) on Oct. 20.

### WIAC Standings

UW Oshkosh	4-0
UW-Whitewater	3-1
UW-Stevens Point	3-1
UW-Platteville	3-1
UW-River Falls	2-2
UW-Eau Claire	1-3
UW-Stout	0-4
UW-La Crosse	0-4

## Football defeats Eau Claire 35-7 at home

By Jacob Link  
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Quarterback Kobe Berghammer threw for 382 yards and scored every touchdown in UW Oshkosh's 35-7 victory over UW-Eau Claire Oct. 14 at J.J. Keller Field at Titan Stadium.

Berghammer finished the game 25-36 with four passing touchdowns, a rushing touchdown and two interceptions as the Titans took the lead in the first half and never looked back en route to a 28-point win.

UWO (4-2, 2-1 in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) earned its fourth straight win over the Blugolds (2-4, 1-2 WIAC) and the Titans have won their ninth game in the last 10 meetings against Eau Claire.

UWO head coach Peter Jennings said that any time you get a win in the WIAC it's an accomplishment.

"You have to tip your cap to the team, the preparation, the coaching staff, and I'm very pleased with this victory," Jennings said. "I think we have to continue to focus on starting fast, it's something that's plagued us the last couple weeks and I feel confident that we will emphasize that and that our guys will respond."

On the defensive side, Jacob Mandella recorded a career-high three sacks on the day and totaled six tackles. The Titans, who combined for 78 total tackles, were led by defensive back Carson Raddatz and linebacker Kyle Dietzen who both finished the contest with seven tackles.

Mandella said he was proud of the way the defense was able to put

pressure on the Blugold offense.

"We were just more physical upfront, and we wanted to shut them out like we did last year," he said. "They got one score on us and we shouldn't have allowed that but the defense played a great game."

Jennings said the defense played lights out against Eau Claire.

"I love to see them playing with confidence," Jennings said. "When we fly around and play fast, we're tough to move the ball on and that's what I saw from us today and that's what we will continue to focus on for the course of the next four weeks."

UWO's offense was unable to move the ball into the red zone in the first quarter, but with a 21-mile an hour wind at their back in the second quarter the Titans were able to get on the board.

Turn to *Football* / Page 9



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

Oshkosh defensive lineman Jacob Mandella sacks the UWEC quarterback in UWO's 35-7 win Oct. 14 at Titan Stadium.



# Sports

## Football: UWO bests Blugolds



### Scoreboard

#### Friday, Oct. 13

##### Volleyball

Game 1:  
UWO - 3  
Simpson College - 0  
Game 2:  
UWO - 3  
Washington University - 2  
**Tennis**  
UWO - 6  
UW-Stevens Point - 3

#### Saturday, Oct. 14

##### Volleyball

Game 1:  
UWO - 3  
DePauw University - 1  
Game 2:  
UWO - 3  
Illinois Wesleyan University - 1

##### Football

UWO - 35  
UW-Eau Claire - 7

##### Soccer

UWO - 0  
UW-Eau Claire - 1

##### Cross-Country

Men's - 12/43, 387 pts.  
Women's - 12/42, 446 pts.

##### Swimming and Diving

Men's:  
UWO - 73  
UW-Eau Claire - 158  
Women's  
UWO - 86  
UW-Eau Claire - 148

#### Sunday, Oct. 15

##### Tennis

UWO - 9  
UW-Stout - 0

### Upcoming Events

#### Friday, Oct. 20

##### Volleyball

at UW-River Falls at 7 p.m.

##### Cross-Country

at UW-Whitewater Warhawk Open,  
Men's at 4 p.m. & Women's at 4:45

#### Saturday, Oct. 21

##### Football

at UW-La Crosse at 1 p.m.

##### Volleyball

at UW-Stevens Point vs. North Park  
University at 4 p.m.

##### Soccer

vs. UW-River Falls at 4 p.m.

##### Swimming and Diving

at Schroeder Aquatic Center at 1 p.m.

##### Tennis

at Madison at WIAC Conference  
Tournament at 12 p.m.

#### Sunday, Oct. 22

##### Tennis

at Madison at WIAC Conference  
Tournament at 12 p.m.

#### From Page 8

With just over six minutes until halftime, UWO took a 6-0 lead after Berghammer dumped a pass off to Kaio Harn who ran into the endzone for a 6-yard score. Oshkosh was unable to convert on a two-point conversion attempt, keeping the Titan advantage at six points.

A 10-yard punt from UWEC gave Oshkosh prime field position on their next drive, and the Titans scored again when Berghammer threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to Jon Mathieu.

The Titans drove into the red zone with 27 seconds to play before halftime, but Berghammer misplaced a pass in the endzone that was picked off by Landon Tonsager and UWO went into the break leading 13-0.

Berghammer said he thought UWO's offensive struggles in the first half were his fault.

"I was kind of rushing things, or I wasn't putting the ball where I was supposed to and I think that I should take the blame for our slow start," he said. "I don't think I played my best game today. I pride myself in getting better next week so I'll take that blame and we're just going to move on and get better."

Berghammer threw a home run ball on UWO's first play of the second half, connecting with Trae Tet-



Morgan Feltz / Advance-Titan

UWO quarterback Kobe Berghammer (3) hands the ball off to Doug Burson (23) earlier this season.

zlauff for a 70-yard touchdown that put the Titans up 20-0.

Jennings said he called the deep pass to begin the second half because he wanted to show that the team wasn't afraid to throw a deep ball into the wind.

"It was one of those things where it wasn't just for us, it wasn't just for coach (Rob) Erickson on the other side of the field, it was to make a

statement that the wind is not going to affect our play calling and it's not going to affect our aggressiveness," he said. "We were showing that we are going to go after you no matter what the weather is."

Oshkosh increased its lead to 28 points with just over two minutes remaining in the third quarter when a scrambling Berghammer backhand pitched a 6-yard touchdown pass to tight end Clayton Schwalbe.

Berghammer said he was lucky that Schwalbe was able to haul in such a wild throw.

"I saw Clayton (Schwalbe) open up and coach Jennings popped into the back of my head and said, 'don't throw it, don't throw it' but I didn't listen," Berghammer said. "I threw it and luckily Clayton (Schwalbe) made a great play, and it was awesome to see him get a touchdown and make that catch. It wasn't the smartest play on my end, but it worked out because we have great receivers on the team."

The Blugolds got on the board on their first possession of the fourth quarter after Harry Roubidoux threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to Hayden Goodman.

The Titans crushed any hope of an Eau Claire comeback on their next drive when UWO went on a 92-yard, 12-play drive that was capped off with a Berghammer 10-yard rushing touchdown to help Oshkosh cruise to a 28-point victory.

The Titans will hit the road to take on UW-La Crosse, ranked No. 4 in the nation by d3football.com, at Veterans Memorial Stadium Oct. 21 with kickoff scheduled for 1 p.m.

### By the numbers

#### Passing leaders

Kobe Berghammer (UWO): 25-36, 382 yards, 4 TDs, 2 INTS  
Harry Roubidoux (UWEC): 18-29, 114 yards, 1 TD

#### Rushing Leaders

Ivan Ruble (UWEC): 29 ATT, 128 yards  
Kobe Berghammer (UWO): 9 ATT, 45 yards, 1 TD  
Kaio Harn (UWO): 9 ATT, 22 yards

#### Receiving Leaders

Trae Tetzlauff (UWO): 4 REC, 89 yards, 1 TD  
Jon Mathieu (UWO): 4 REC, 77 yards, 1 TD  
Londyn Little (UWO): 3 REC, 55 yards  
Isaac Garside (UWEC): 7 REC, 49 yards

### Up next for UWO football:



Oct. 21  
at UW-La Crosse



Oct. 28  
VS UW-Stevens  
Point



Nov. 4  
at UW-Platteville



Nov. 11  
VS UW-River  
Falls

## Cross-country: UWO runs at Augustana

#### From Page 8

Coach Eamon McKenna also showed the same sentiment and commented on the effort the team has been making in dealing with those nagging injuries.

"We have had to be creative and flexible in dealing with some of the injuries," McKenna said. "Most of our injured athletes have done a great job of being consistent and aggressive with cross-training to help them stay aerobically fit while they rehab and incorporate the running volume they are allowed. It is always frustrating to deal with injuries, but we are managing it as best we can."

Looking ahead, only one race remains until the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship and for the next race McKenna plans to rest some of the top runners and allow for the back half of the team to compete with some pressure.

"This Friday we are sitting out our top 10 runners of each gender," McKenna said. "We are racing off for 1-2 conference spots, as each team gets to enter 12 runners at the WIAC championships. It will be a nice opportunity for our back half of the teams to compete with a little pressure."

The next race for the Titans is the UW-Whitewater Warhawk Open on Oct. 20. The men's race begins at 4 p.m. followed by the women's race at 4:45 p.m.



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

Cyna Madigan ran the Augustana College Interregional in 23:05 for 53rd on Oct. 14.

### A-Trivia

How many passing touchdowns does Kobe Berghammer need to break the program record?

Answer: Berghammer needs six more passing TDs to break Brett Kasper's record of 89 TDs.



# Sports

## UWO Hall of Famer Tom Taraska dies

By Jacob Link  
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Tom Taraska, UWO alumnus and arguably one of the most successful high school football coaches in Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association history, died Oct. 15 at the age of 71 after a single-vehicle car crash in Hartland.

According to the Washington County Medical Examiner, Taraska died after the car he was driving hit a tree alongside Rybeck Road in Hartland around 4:40 Sunday afternoon.

Taraska, who graduated from UW Oshkosh in 1975 with an education degree, transformed Arrowhead Union High School into a perennial powerhouse in Wisconsin high school football.

He won four Division I WIAA titles with Arrowhead in 1993, 1994, 1996 and 2007 while finishing runner-up five times with the Warhawks (2000, 2002, 2003, 2006 and 2008). In 23 years of coaching in the WIAA Taraska built an overall record of 265-96, making him the 16th winningest coach in state history for any division.

UWO defensive coordinator Craig Stenbroten said Taraska was always really sound schematically as a coach.

"He always wanted you to be really sound and not try to run schemes that your kids couldn't do," Stenbroten said. "He wasn't just going to drop a wild blitz; he was about the basics and the fundamentals."

Taraska, who was inducted into the UW Oshkosh Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008, played football for the Titans in 1973 and 1974 under legendary UWO head coach Russ Young. Taraska served as the first president of the College of Education and Human Services Alumni Association from 2006-2007 and remained on the board of the organization until his death. A lifetime member of UWO's National "O" Club, he was named a UWO distinguished alumni award winner in 2011.

After his time with Arrowhead, Taraska was an assistant coach for

the UWO football team for two seasons, helping the Titans to a second-place Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference finish in 2014 and first place finish in 2015.

Stenbroten said when Taraska was a part of the Titan coaching staff, he cared a lot about coaching the coaches.

"We had a really young staff at the time and he was really trying to get us to the next level of where we were at in the coaching world," he said. "He really instilled a lot of confidence in a lot of people on our coaching staff. He didn't coach a position for us, but he did a lot with the film breakdown and things like that. He was always at practice and made sure we were crossing our t's and dotting our i's."

Stenbroten said that he was amazed at his attention to detail the first time he met Taraska.

"The first time I saw him, he was at a coaching clinic and I remember I was watching a clinic speaker talk and he was just taking these crazy ass notes," Stenbroten said. "I was like 'what could this guy possibly learn from this clinic that he doesn't already know?' It really just stuck with me that someone like that, with the accomplishments he had, just had such a detailed approach to coaching."

Taraska began his coaching career in 1978 where he was the head coach at Franklin High School for four years before moving to Arrowhead in 1982 where he coached for the next 29 seasons before resigning in 2010. He remained a part of the program as an assistant coach for one year before officially stepping away from coaching and teaching at Arrowhead in 2011.

Former Arrowhead Athletic Director Dave Balmer hired Taraska to turn a struggling Warhawk football program around, and he did not disappoint. Taraska won 11 conference championships and won 47 playoff games while at Arrowhead, leading the Warhawks to a state record nine WIAA championship game appearances from 1993 to 2008. Arrowhead has not



Courtesy of Arrowhead Union High School

Legendary high school football coach Tom Taraska led the Arrowhead football program for 29 years.

missed the postseason since the 1995 season.

UWO alumnus and former Arrowhead assistant coach Paul Pulvermacher said Taraska had an unmatched knowledge of the game.

"He was a great motivator and was able to get the most out of his student athletes and staff," Pulvermacher said. "He remembered everything. He knew every sport and athletic achievements of his players and opponents. During my initial interview with him for an assistant coaching job, he discussed his defensive strategies used against the teams I played on 12 years prior."

Taraska, who coached three undefeated and nationally ranked teams, mentored 12 All-American players while 34 of his former players earned All-State honors. The most successful pro player Taraska coached was former Dallas, Baltimore and Tampa Bay center Mike Solwold who won Super Bowl XXXVII with the Buccaneers in 2003.

"We started from scratch, and things fell into place," Taraska

said in 2011 when he announced he was stepping down from coaching the Warhawks. "I was very fortunate to house many outstanding assistant coaches that share all of this success. Plus you need great kids to win. Those guys bought into our system and that's how it all came together. The administration always backed us up, and the entire Arrowhead community helped make it happen. I was lucky, I had a lot of help."

Stenbroten said that he hopes that as younger coaches grow in the coaching profession, they give back as much as Taraska did.

"The knowledge he had was amazing and he was always willing to share with a coach and always willing to help you out if you were trying to adjust a drill or a scheme or anything like that," Stenbroten said. "He always would take the time to look at it. He was looking at our film just last year and was helping us out a ton with different suggestions of what we should do or could do and that part of him will really stick with me."

The Associated Press named

Taraska State Coach of the Year in 2007 and the West Allis High School graduate was named The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel coach of the year in 1993, 1996 and 2002. Taraska, inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association (WFCA) Hall of Fame in 2004, was named WFCA Regional Coach of the Year in 1991, 1996 and 2002. In 2009, Arrowhead named its football field "Taraska Stadium" to honor the legendary coach.

Pulvermacher, who taught at Arrowhead from 2001-12 and coached alongside Taraska from 2000-2006, said the little things that Taraska did meant a lot to him.

"His accomplishments speak for themselves," Pulvermacher said. "To me the little things mean more. My contribution to the program was small and insignificant but on the sidelines before a Friday night game, he would always search out my father. Tom would tell him I was such a valuable staff member for the program. He didn't have to do it, but he did. To me that is his legacy — the little things."

## UWO soccer falls to UWEC on the road

By Owen Larsen  
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The UW Oshkosh women's soccer team traveled to Eau Claire on Oct. 14 to play in a Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) match this week, losing to UW-Eau Claire 1-0.

The Titans (2-9-3, 1-3-0 WIAC) had just ended a seven game winless streak in their last match with a 1-0 victory over UW-Stout.

The Blugolds (7-3-3, 2-1-1 WIAC) have had more positive fortunes this season heading into their match versus the Titans. However, the Blugolds had only won one of their past four matches.

After one half of action the two teams seemed to be very even. Deadlocked at 0-0, the Blugolds got off seven shots to the Titans' five.

The Blugolds would eventually open up the scoring in the 62nd minute when forward Megan Hansen scored an unassisted goal, giving the Blugolds a 1-0 lead.

Following Hansen's goal, the Titans proceeded to get six more shots off to finish the half. However, only one shot would be on goal, and a shot by Kate Whitney hit the top of the woodwork in the 78th minute.

Unfortunately for the Titans, the match ended in a 1-0 defeat despite outshooting the Blugolds 9-3 in the second half.

The Titans hosted UW-Stevens Point on Oct. 18. Visit the UWO athletics website at uwoshkoshtitans.com for results.

UWO will take on UW-River Falls for Senior Day for their last home game of the year Oct. 21 at Titan Stadium at 4 p.m.



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

UWO goalkeeper Emma Sauriol blocks a shot on goal in a game earlier this year at Titan Stadium.



# Is Taylor Swift ruining football?

By Mattie Beck  
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Is Taylor Swift ruining your NFL experience? The short answer is no, not at all. Swift is actually doing a lot for everything surrounding football, and here's why.

The first game she attended was on Sept. 24, when the Kansas City Chiefs played the Chicago Bears. According to an article in *Variety*, Swift's appearance raised the audience of the game to 24.3 million viewers and was the most-watched telecast of the week.

Swift started appearing at games after rumors started of her dating the tight end of the Chiefs, Travis Kelce.

To give some context, apparently Kelce attended Swift's tour this summer at Arrowhead Stadium and made a friendship bracelet with his number on it to give to her. While he wasn't able to get it to her, it still got her attention and it continued from there.

Since then, they've been spotted together on multiple occasions out in public. But back to the point, Swift has brought a lot of attention to the NFL and football in general.

According to statistics by the New England Sports Network, anything involving Kelce has skyrocketed.

As reported on Sept. 29, Tra-

vis Kelce jerseys saw a 400% increase in sales after Swift's appearance at the game.

Kelce's social media also gained 400,000 followers, which is even more than when his team won the Super Bowl this past year.

To further the point, the female audience of 18 to 49-year-olds saw a 63% increase in viewership.

Since that first game, Swift has attended a few more Chiefs games and continued to raise viewership and sales.

But here are other reasons that flat-out prove Swift is not ruining the NFL experience but rather helping it.

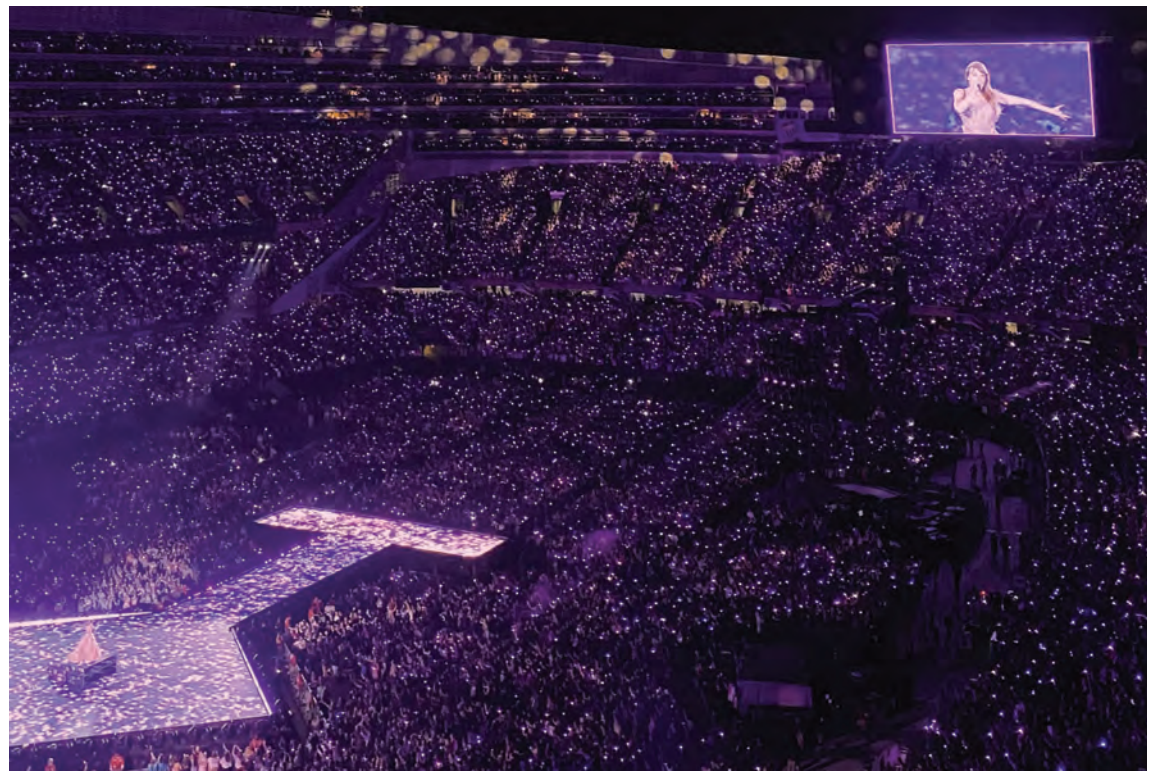
As stated above, more women are starting to participate in the NFL. They're buying NFL merchandise, watching games and even attending games in person.

Attention is being brought even more to the NFL, which is a positive. Widening the audience and getting more exposure to the sport will help it continue to thrive.

It's also opening people to new experiences they never would have looked into before seeing their favorite celebrity there.

Girls all across TikTok have been stating that they never would have thought they enjoyed football until they had the games so they could see Swift.

Kelce himself has embraced



Mattie Beck / Advance-Titan

According to an article in *Variety*, Swift's appearance at the Kansas City Chiefs v.s. Chicago Bears game on Sept. 24 raised the audience of the game to 24.3 million viewers and was the most-watched telecast of the week.

the new viewership, as he addressed it on the podcast he shares with his brother, Jason Kelce, who plays for the Philadelphia Eagles.

The two brothers have a segment in their podcast, *New Heights*, titled "not-so-dumb questions." On one episode, they said it was the "Swiftie edition"

in reference to Swift's fans tuning in.

Lastly, in reference to Swift being shown during the games, any celebrity who attends a sporting event gets shoutouts during the broadcast.

While Swift may be shown slightly more, the broadcast networks are most likely inten-

tionally catering to the women in their audience to signal they know they're watching, and they appreciate it.

So no, Swift isn't ruining your football experience. Rather she's actually enhancing it and creating a whole new audience for the sport.

## Letter to the Editor

### *UFS call for more state funding, administrative transparency*

By United Faculty and Staff of Oshkosh American Federation of Teachers, Local #6506

This has been a devastating week for us at UW Oshkosh, as 140 of our colleagues were informed that they no longer have jobs. Along with 76 voluntary retirements, and the non-renewal of contracts for many instructional staff, including those who have taught here for decades, this means the loss of more than 20% of our workforce.

These losses seriously impact crucial units at our university and will make it difficult for us to offer the same programs and services we provided in the past. Those of us who remain will be asked to

pick up the slack, and although we remain committed to providing a high quality educational experience, we fear we will not be able to serve our students as well moving forward.

Along with UW Oshkosh's administration, we lament that declining state spending has led us to this point and call for renewed state investment in higher education. The legislature has a \$4 billion budget surplus; they could choose, as states like Minnesota and New Jersey have, to reinvest in public higher education.

More than 75% of the current state legislature hold a bachelor's or associate degree, many from UW schools, earned at a time when state support per-pupil was higher.

Yet, the majority of this legislature refuses to release the funding necessary to support the same affordable, high-quality education for today's students. Being 43 among the 50 U.S. states in per-pupil funding at our main campuses is simply not good enough.

Every UW employee now also faces a declining salary because Robin Vos doesn't like the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives that fulfill our mission. He has cut funding and refused to provide approved raises until we eliminate DEI programming. Despite this, we will continue to do our best to welcome and to educate every student, of all backgrounds. That is what they deserve.

Locally, our Faculty Senate

unanimously passed a resolution that called on Chancellor Andy Leavitt to be fully transparent about the university's finances and to take more seriously the input of faculty and staff in how the university operates. Over 600 students, staff, faculty and community members signed a petition demanding the same. Our Faculty Senate has so far received only limited budgetary data, and Leavitt has refused to more fully include faculty and staff leadership in decision making. He insisted that he does respect faculty and staff views — but when the workforce says you don't with a unified voice, it is time to listen to them.

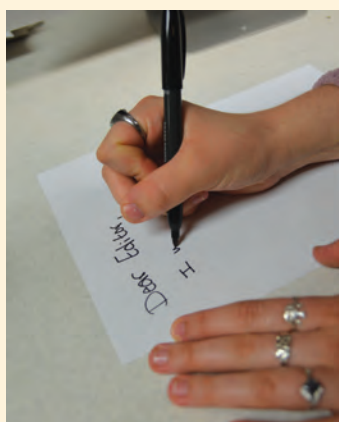
We will keep trying to engage positively with UWO's adminis-

tration, so that we can make better decisions together.

But when they won't even admit that they are forcing instructors out of their long-term jobs or include these very real job losses in the numbers they release to the press, it is clear why their words are met with our skepticism.

UW Oshkosh's economic contribution to the state of Wisconsin is more than \$500 million annually. The students, staff and instructors who make up this university drive that economic impact.

Our graduates make the state better in myriad ways. It's time for the state of Wisconsin to invest in our future by investing in us.



### Letter guidelines

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

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

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

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



## Opinion

# Minimal impact on students?

## What students and staff have to say about recent layoffs

By Aubrie Selsmeyer  
selsmeyer72@uwosh.edu

On Oct. 16, the chancellor's office sent out an email explaining the layoffs of 140 employees. Later in the email, Chancellor Andrew Leavitt said, "The actions we are taking are structured with stewardship: to support UWO's core academic mission, and to have minimal impact on students and student success."

However, this isn't true. Purging these positions at the university will have an immense impact on the lives and success of students.

Campus has turned into a desolate, post-apocalyptic ruin waiting for help that isn't coming. It's been weeks of quiet mumbles exchanged between faculty in the hallways; weeks of speculation; weeks of asking for clarity and not receiving it.

We feel this as a student body. We know this means increased workload with decreased pay for our teachers. We know this means certain programs will face defunding. We know our direct person-to-person resources will be reduced and our emails will take longer to be answered.

These layoffs are not a numbers game. Real people are being impacted. People with mortgages to pay, kids to feed, monthly bills, people living paycheck to paycheck. Staff who have served our university for years are being removed and everyone else is expected to carry on like normal.

Students are losing mentors who have assisted their academic and personal lives. Faculty and staff are losing close friends and colleagues. Many remaining faculty have no idea where they will be in a year, because as far as they know, information is announced by email with no notice.

Cutting a big chunk of the Project Success program staff is not my idea of ensuring a student's positive campus experience. Letting go of all full-time staff members of the Office of International Education (OIE), which operates the study abroad program, isn't upholding the promise of preservation of the student experience.

How are we expecting these programs to stay running for students to take advantage of? Realistically, we can't. These programs require a team; how can we expect one staff member to manage the responsibility of an entire office and not get paid for this increased workload? It's unfair.

An academic department associate (ADA) who chose to remain anonymous from the College of Letters and Science said she had been with the university since 2011 and earned her degree here. She said she was told directly from upper administration that there was a "very slim chance" her position at the university would be threatened.

Come to find out Monday afternoon she had lost her job. She is

now paying off student loans for a university that just laid her off.

"If this is how they treat their graduates, who the hell wants to work here?" she said.

"I felt like a family member died," she said in response to losing her position. "We're so invested in this campus community; they're taking our families away from us. It's not just our livelihoods."

She went on to say that her role as an ADA makes her the first point of contact for students. This is absolutely affecting the student experience.

"I have students that come in and just talk to me on a daily basis," she said. "They feel safe enough, it's a safe place. A lot of us ADAs are safe people to talk to; we're not family and we can keep what's going on with students confidential. I was a student, so I know. I needed somebody to go to."

She said, "One of my students yesterday came and said 'I had no idea this was going to happen.'"

"When they say that cuts like these don't affect students, that's not true," professor Vincent Filak of the advertising, multimedia journalism and public relations department said. "You're losing all of this infrastructure that helps students on a daily basis."

"I heard there were cuts to Project Success, which really does make a difference in the lives of students who have important needs that, when met, can be just as successful as any other student without those needs," Filak said. "To cut staff from Project Success, while opening the door to more students from a wider array of backgrounds, is almost criminal, because you're setting people up to fail."

University-wide, professors are unsure what classes they will be teaching next semester; therefore, students are unsure what classes will be offered. No one seems to know what's going on and it has felt like a hellfire of bad news.

"It was ridiculous to think that students wouldn't be touched by this," Anya Kelley, Advance-Titan news editor, said. "The morale is so low, professors don't have the time or the energy to get back to us, students are worried about the class offerings, everyone is so confused and no one is giving us answers."

Caprice Swanks, Women Advocacies Senator for the Oshkosh Student Government (OSG), said that as a result of losing adjunct professors, tenured professors will be forced to teach subjects they may know very little about, which will overall impact student learning.

"Starting next semester we're going to have a lot of our professors that are staying having to learn about a certain area while we're also learning," Swanks said. "That's really going to affect how we learn, because we're just learning together at this point."



Michael Buckner / Advance-Titan

The chancellor's office announced in an email that many UWO employees have accepted the voluntary retirement offer and over 30 vacant positions will remain unfilled. This brings the total number of positions affected by layoffs, voluntary retirements and open positions to about 250.

In addition to being a member of OSG, Swanks is closely involved with the Titan Captains on campus and fears the uncertain future of the program, another resource for students who will feel the effects of layoffs.

"Knowing that one of my bosses from last summer has lost their job is really hard," Swanks said. "Seeing them lose this job that helped get so many students to come here this school year is really frustrating since we've talked about how we really want enrollment numbers to get up."

Kelly Hueckman, managing editor of the Advance-Titan, said, "At this point, it's not a matter of whether or not these layoffs will affect students, but to what degree."

"Whoever said that students would not be impacted by these layoffs is completely detached from student life at UWO," Hueckman said. "Laying off 140 people is cutting 140 resources for students. Entire departments and offices dedicated to helping students succeed are being dropped; meanwhile, our tuition has gone

up. We should be upset and we are."

UWO student and communications major Olivia Wingender lost her internship with the OIE. She is allowed to finish out the rest of the semester but was told the OIE would no longer exist past January.

"We just got a new website up and a new application process going – literally last week I was testing it out," Wingender said. "I hope the administration tries to do their best, but it's very frustrating that there's all these things that have to be figured out now. I'm sure they're not going to be canceling any trips, but it is affecting students more than they thought it would. You can say it's not going to affect us all you want, but it's canceled my internship."

"Why do you think cutting out the OIE is going to solve our \$18 million debt? Because it's not," Wingender said.

We as students are pissed off because we care about the people who fill these positions. We don't want to see them go. These staff members have helped a lot of us

navigate our careers and lives as college students. For the university administration to be so nonchalant about the severity of this entire situation is unsettling. It truly makes you question authority at this school. How do we know that faculty members are protected come spring? What unexpected financial crisis will come forth in the foreseeable future and put our professors in jeopardy?

"These people didn't have anything to do with the problem that we're in," Filak said. "I can't find a single custodian I can blame for us being \$18 million in the hole; I can't find a single person who worked with a student at the advising center who is responsible for making us have fewer students, and I can't find a single person who is an administrative assistant who got us into debt over a certain number of years."

"This is not their fault, but they have become the cannon fodder for fixing the problem and to that end it's heartbreaking. It's like the death of a thousand cuts," Filak said.