

The OREGON OBSERVER

August 3, 2023 • Vol. 139, No. 5 • Oregon, WI • OregonObserver.com • \$1.50

"Our family will take good care of your family."

Family Owned, Family Operated, Celebrating Over 100 Years Of Service

Gunderson (608) 873-4590
Funeral and Cremation Care www.gundersonfh.com

East Madison/Monona • West Madison/Middleton • Mt. Horeb
Stoughton • Black Earth • Oregon • Cross Plains • Fitchburg • Lodi

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Community

'Mini' Tin Man coming to life

Page 2

News

Former OPD officer charged with child molestation

Page 3

Sports

Successful seasons for softball squads

Page 5



Photos by Jolene Wochenske

Lumiere (Esperé Eckard-Lee), Babette (Caroline Hanson), and Cogsworth (Erik Sherpe) welcome Belle (Danielle Bullock) as their guest at the castle.

Oregon Straw Hat Players to Perform Beauty and the Beast

Community theater group brings classic Disney film to the stage

BY AVA MCNARNEY
Observer correspondent

The Oregon Straw Hat Players (OSHP), a volunteer-run community theater group based in the Oregon area, is in the final leg of rehearsal for its upcoming production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast.

The musical is set to run at the Oregon Performing Arts Center, 456 N. Perry Pkwy., for six shows: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5; 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 6; 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10 and Friday, Aug. 11; and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12.

Founded by a group of Oregonians in 1984, OSHP takes its name from the "straw hat circuit," which refers to the long-standing tradition of smaller theaters putting on summertime productions outside of mainstream art centers. Since its creation, OSHP has kept its roots in summer theater but expanded into the other months as well, producing up to three shows throughout the year.

Putting on household-name shows such as Titanic in 2019 and West Side Story in 1990 in addition to theatrical adaptations of offbeat titles like Miracle in Mudville in 2017, OSHP has covered lots of ground in its nearly 40 years of existence.

Summer 2023 marks the group's first-ever production of Beauty and the Beast: the romantic tale of a beautiful princess and an arrogant young prince who is magically turned into a hideous monster.



Gaston (Kyle Kapusta) and Lefou (John Unertl IV) continue their search throughout the realm for Belle.

Director Sarah Karlen said that OSHP is licensed by Disney to present a musical adaption of the film through a contract with Music Theatre International, meaning that while the group credits and follows the plot of the original film, it can take creative liberties throughout the movie-to-musical transformation.

Turn to **Beauty**/Page 10

Village of Oregon

Stop the threat, save the injured

Oregon Police Department joins area departments for active threat response training

BY MADDIE BERGSTROM
Staff reporter

Throughout the past two weeks, officers from the Oregon Police Department spent time training for a seemingly unimaginable situation: shots fired and mass casualties in a church.

As a member of the Suburban In-Service Training Association (SITA), Verona

Turn to **Police**/Page 7

Village of Oregon

A vest for Archie

Community comes together for K-9 fundraiser

BY SCOTT DE LARUELLE
Managing editor

If he could, you know Archie would thank you with a big, wet smooch.

Because everyone who helped buy him a protective vest is helping keep safe a loyal K9 - and good boy - who's been keeping the community safe.

Archie's human partner since 2022, Oregon Police officer Alex Koratko, recently applied for a fundraiser through "Keeping K9's in Kevlar," a non-profit organization that raises money to fund police K9s new Kevlar vests.

Koratko said many people in the community came together to help raise the \$2,784 needed for the vest

Turn to **Archie**/Page 10



The OREGON OBSERVER



Our Family Serving Your Family For Over 70 Years

We are Hiring!

Residential • Commercial • Industrial • Municipal



Inspection Service, Septic Pumping, Pipe & Tank Locating, Jet-Vac Service, Sewer Cleaning

Serving Dane & Rock Counties Since 1948!

Terra Herale Owner **608-256-5189**