

Carl Walser
Town Board Chairman
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A Voice for All Town Residents
 Town of Oregon

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Paid for by Carl Walser for Town Board

Boys hockey

Panthers shine at state



Photo by Jack Miller

Oregon' Andrew Jicha celebrates his goal during the Panthers' WIAA Division 2 state semifinal against Mosinee on Thursday, March 2, at Bob Suter's Capitol Ice Arena in Middleton. Read the full story on page 5.

Village of Oregon

Pagenkopf warns of staffing shortages at police department

Officers struggle with burnout, low pay

ALISYN AMANT
 Staff Reporter

The Oregon Police Department (OPD) hasn't been able to escape the nationwide staffing crisis affecting law enforcement agencies across the country. A Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) survey that tracked data from 2019 to 2021 found key statistics that illustrate the issue: hirings within police departments decreased by 3.9%, resignations increased by 42.7% and retirements increased by 23.6%.

As PERF's findings were

being broadcast to national audiences by media outlets like CBS, The New York Times and more, Oregon Police Chief Jennifer Pagenkopf was dealing with the reality of the numbers firsthand.

Only one month into 2023, the OPD had lost two officers.

Cassidy Ruchti, who joined the department less than a year ago, took another position with the Middleton Police Department because she "felt there was more opportunity there," Pagenkopf said. Detective Sergeant William Jansen "left the profession completely."

With Ruchti and Jansen gone, the department

Turn to **Police**/Page 10

Village of Oregon

Sculpture garden organizers escorted from village meeting by police

Trustees condemn 'bully tactics,' raise ethics concerns

ALISYN AMANT
 Staff Reporter

Two members of the Friends of the Oregon Sculpture Garden organization were escorted from the Oregon Village Hall by police on Tuesday, Feb. 28 after showing up to an invite-only focus group unprompted and causing a disturbance.

Village Administrator Martin Shanks, Director of Community Development Elise Cruz and other staff members had been meeting with pre-selected

community stakeholders to discuss the village's upcoming park and recreation plan update, part of a multiple-step process that will offer numerous other public input opportunities. The Oregon Village Hall was closed to the public.

According to a formal statement of condemnation made by Village Board Vice President Amanda Peterson at the Village Board meeting on Monday, March 6, Rae Vogeler had contacted her to vouch for the sculpture park group and secure a spot for one of their representatives in the focus group.

Vogeler is a lead organizer for the Friends of the

Turn to **Village**/Page 10

Randys to the rescue

Area Fire/EMS department receive donated 'manikins'

ALISYN AMANT
 Staff Reporter

The Freemasons of Oregon Masonic Lodge #151 donated Rescue Randy manikins to the fire and EMS departments of Oregon, Brooklyn and Verona on Tuesday, Feb. 28.

Each municipality received one Rescue Randy, which is used to train for rescue operations and provide a lifelike simulation in doing so. On the market, the manikins can cost anywhere from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Dakota Latimer, the Freemason who made the donation possible, was able to secure the manikins through his work with Madison's CrossFit Games. The Rescue Randys were previously used for events in the

Turn to **Donation**/Page 3



Photo by Alisyn Amant

From left: Denny Erfurth, Brooklyn Fire Chief Mason Barber, Brooklyn EMS Director Justin Wicik, Verona Lt. Marc Lindquist, Oregon Fire Chief Glenn Linzmeier, Dakota Latimer, John Graham, Scott Magnusson and Dave Huston at the donation event, complete with a "Rescue Randy" manikin.



The OREGON OBSERVER



Re-Elect
Deana Zentner
 for Rutland
 Town Chairperson!



I'm proud to be a member of the Dane County Broadband Task Force sharing our ongoing rural voices!

Please see our initial report:
<https://board.countyofdane.com/initiatives/Broadband-Task-Force>

