

AQUANUT WATER SHOWS

2023



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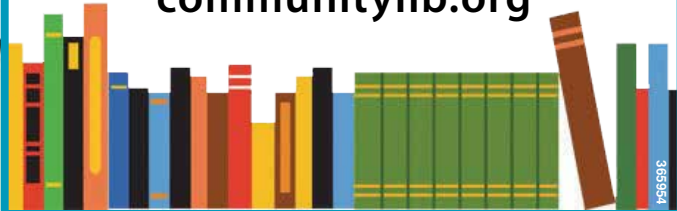
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Welcome TO OUR TOWN



Western Kenosha County experienced many triumphs, ranging from personal to team achievements, in 2022.

The Twin Lakes Aquanut Water Ski Show team collected both state and national titles, while the Wilmot Academic Decathlon team experienced a similar result in its competitions.

These achievements are highlighted in this year's annual Our Town.

Additionally, the Westosha Central High School athletic program had another banner year, with the girls golf team collecting its second consecutive WIAA Division 1 state championship, while the boys basketball and baseball teams each advanced to the state tournament in their respective sports.

While some people absorbed these accomplishments, others continued to experience the area's many attractions, including the Richard Bong State Recreation Area, Wilmot Mountain, Silver Lake Park and Fox River Park.

Other attractions consist of Lance Park Beach, where the Aquanut Water Ski Show team performs weekly between Labor Day and Memorial Day weekend, Bristol Woods County Park.

Aside from area attractions, Western Kenosha County delivers many annual events, such as the Kenosha County Fair, Bristol Progress Days and Libertyfest in downtown Twin Lakes.

Western Kenosha County, home to nearly 40,000 people, has something to offer any resident looking for recreational opportunities and activities.

Some of the qualities are highlighted in this annual Our Town edition, produced by The Report, which spent time reviewing hundreds of items and achievements within the last year.

This annual edition is packed with vital community information, including contact details for municipalities, school districts, and places where people can explore the area. Looking ahead, The Report will continue to make a concerted effort to highlight community events, residents, and give well-deserved recognition to students and people who call Western Kenosha County home.

I'm always willing to listen to what community members have to say.

We look to serve residents in multiple communities, from as far west as the towns of Randall and Wheatland as well as the village of Twin Lakes, to the Village of Bristol and town of Paris near the Interstate 94 corridor.

But we shouldn't forget about the village of Salem Lakes and town of Brighton.

All of you are welcome to email me at jarndt@southernlakesnewspapers.com.

– Jason Arndt
EDITOR

Western Kenosha County

OUR TOWN

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1102 Ann St., Delavan, WI 53115
(262) 728-3411

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above: Cooper Happ, of Brighton, enjoys a ride on the carousel at the 2022 Kenosha County Fair in Wilmot. **on the cover, top left:** Kailey Koehler works on a swivel ski routine in the summer Aquanut Water Ski show in Twin Lakes. **top right:** Ethan Shulda finishes off a trick ski during a Water Ski show in Twin Lakes. **bottom:** The Aquanuts ballet line performs before a large crowd on last summer at Lance Park Beach in Twin Lakes.

JASON ARNDT *Our Town*

OUR GOVERNMENT

TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD

Town Board meets the second Monday of the month at the Bloomfield Municipal Center

at 5:30 p.m.

N1100 Town Hall Road

P. O. Box 704

Pell Lake, WI 53157

262-279-6039

FAX 262-279-3545

Email: townclerk@

townofbloomfield.com

Hours: Mondays from 10 a.m.

to 4 p.m.; Tuesdays and from

8:15 a.m. to noon.

Chairperson:

Daniel Schoonover

Clerk/ Treasurer:

Lori Domino

Supervisors:

Tom Sullivan

Sue Leedle

Assessor:

Associated Appraisal Consultants 920-749-1995.

Building Inspector:

Joe Mesler 262-215-3711

Municipal Judge:

Michael S. Brittain

262-279-3556

Police Chief:

Wilbert Kennedy

262-279-3454

Fire Chief:

Fred Schalow 262-279-2033

TOWN OF BRIGHTON

Town Board meets second Monday of each month at the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

25000 Burlington Road

P.O. Box 249

Kansasville, WI 53139

262-878-2218

FAX 262-878-5489

www.brightonwi.org

Email: clerk-treasurer@

brightonwi.org

Hours: Monday through

Thursdays from

1 until 4 p.m.

Chairperson:

Susan Crane

Supervisors:

Mark Schmidt

Dave DeVito

Clerk Treasurer:

Linda L. Perona

262-878-2218

Assessor:

Rocco Vita 262-925-6707

Building Inspector:

Justin Border 262-749-8777



Celebrating Independence



The Twin Lakes Area Chamber and Business Associations, Inc. annually presents the first Independence Day celebration in Western Kenosha County with the Libertyfest parade in downtown Twin Lakes. The event, which is held the Saturday before Independence Day, also features activities at Lance Park along with an Aquanauts Water Ski show presentation followed by a fireworks

presentation. **top:** Fire trucks from multiple agencies proceed down the Libertyfest parade route on last July.

bottom: Kenosha County Sheriff's representatives showcase the flags during the annual Libertyfest parade in downtown Twin Lakes last year.

opposite: Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman tosses candy to visitors of the Libertyfest parade.

JASON ARNDT PHOTOS
Our Town

TOWN OF PARIS

Town Board meets fourth Tuesday of each month at the Paris Safety

Building at 7 p.m.

16607 Burlington Road

Union Grove, WI 53182

262-859-3006

FAX 262-859-3008

townofparis.org

Email: info@townofparis.org

Hours: Monday, Wednesday,

Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Chairperson:

John Holloway

Supervisors:

Ron Buttke

Kenneth Monson

Clerk/Treasurer:

Diana Coughlin

Assessor:

Associated Appraisal

Consultants 800-721-4157

Building Inspector:

Justin Border 262-749-8777

Fire Chief:

Colin Hennessey

262-859-3006

TOWN OF RANDALL

Town Board meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month at the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

34530 Bassett Road

Burlington, WI 53105

262-877-2165

FAX 262-877-9032

www.townofrandall.com

Email: clerk@townofrandall.com

Hours: Monday through Friday

from 9 a.m. to noon

and 1 to 5 p.m.

Chairperson:

Robert Stoll

Supervisors:

Paula Soderman

Randy Kaskin

Tim Gaffron

Julie Horbach

Clerk:

Callie Rucker

Treasurer:

Amy Hookstead

Assessor:

Rocco Vita 262-925-6707

Building Inspector:

Ellis Border

Enforcement Officer:

Thomas Huffine

TOWN OF WHEATLAND

Town Board meets second and fourth Monday of each month at the Town Hall at



6:30 p.m.
 34315 Geneva Road
 P.O. Box 797
 New Munster, WI 53152
 262-537-4340
 FAX 262-537-4261
 www.townwheatland.com
 Email: smsiegler@townwheatland.com
 Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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Supervisors:
 Andrew J. Lois
 Kelly A. Wilson
Clerk:
 Sheila M. Siegler
Treasurer:
 Deborah K. Vos
Municipal Judge:
 Terry M. Simmons
Assessor:
 Associated Appraisal Consultants, Inc.
 920-749-1995
Building Inspector:
 Tim Popanda
Constable:
 Robert Santelli, Jr.
Fire Chief:
 Louis Denko

villageofbloomfield.com
 Email: clerk.kinsch@villageofbloomfield.wi.gov.
Village Administrator:
 Lloyd Cole
Village Clerk:
 Candace Kinsch
Village Treasurer:
 Brittany Tripp
President:
 Dan Aronson
Trustees:
 Natalie Alvarez
 Susan Bernstein
 Kevin Conlon
 Rita Marcinkus
Assessor:
 Associated Appraisal Consultants, Inc.
 920-749-1995.
Building Inspector:
 Joe Mesler 262-215-3711
Municipal Judge:
 Michael S. Brittain
 262-279-3556
Police Chief:
 Wilbert Kennedy
 262-279-3454
Fire Chief:
 Fred Schalow 262-279-2033

VILLAGE OF BRISTOL

The Village Board meets second and fourth Monday of each month at the Bristol Municipal Building at 7 p.m.
 19801 83rd Street
 Bristol, WI 53104
 262-857-2368
 FAX 262-857-2136
 www.villageofbristol.org
 Email: clerk@villageofbristol.org
 Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Village Administrator:
 Randy Kerkman
Clerk/Treasurer:
 Amy Klemko
President:
 Mike Farrell
Trustees:
 Chris Leker
 Ruth Atwood
 Kris Kordecki
 John McCabe
Assessor:
 Assoc. Appraisal Cons., Inc.
 920-749-1995
Building Inspector:
 Don Fox
 Phil Petroski
Fire Chief:
 John Niederer 262-857-2711

VILLAGE OF GENOA CITY

Village Board meets the second Thursday of each month at the Village Hall at 7 p.m.
 755 Fellows Road,
 P.O. Box 428
 Genoa City, WI 53128
 262-279-6472 FAX 279-6618
 vi.genoacity.wi.gov.
 Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Village President:
 Ken Parker
Trustees:
 Beth Wydra
 Jim Krause
 Duane Gallo
 Paul Jargstorf
 Pamela Larson
 Phillip Traskaski
Police Chief:
 Joseph Balog 262-279-6252

Fire Chief:
 Fred Schalow 262-279-2033
Clerk/Treasurer:
 Kate Dennis
Assessor:
 Associated Appraisal Consultants, Inc.
 920-749-1995
Building Inspector:
 James DeLuca

VILLAGE OF PADDOCK LAKE

Village Board meets third Wednesday of each month at the Municipal Building at 7 p.m.
 6969 236th Avenue
 Paddock Lake, WI 53168
 262-843-2713
 FAX 843-3409
 www.paddocklake.net
 Email: villagehall@paddocklake.net
 Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Village Administrator:
 Tim Popanda
President:
 Terry Burns
Trustees:
 Barbara Brenner
 Renee Brickner
 Scott Garland
 John Poole
 Michael Rayniak
 Robert Spencer
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 Michelle Shramek
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer:
 Marla McIntyre
Municipal Judge:
 Robert E. Brenner
Assessor:
 Associated Appraisal Consultants, Inc.
 920-749-1995
Building Inspector:
 Tim Popanda

VILLAGE OF SALEM LAKES

The Regular Village Board meets the second Monday of each month at the Village Hall at 6 p.m.
 9814 Antioch Road
 Salem, WI 53168
 262-843-2313
 FAX 262-843-4432
 www.villageofsalemlakes.org
 Email: eanderson@voslwi.org
 Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Village Clerk:
 Eileene Anderson
Village Treasurer:
 Christine Lamb
Board President:
 Diann Tesar
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 Mike Culat
 Dennis Faber
 Ron Gandt
 William Hopkins
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Municipal Judge:
 Michael Langel
Court Clerk:
 Christine Kniep
Building Inspector:
 Ellis Border
Assessor:
 Rocco Vita 262-925-6707
Fire Chief:
 Jim Lejcar
Fire and Rescue Departments:
Trevor Station:
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 262-862-2431 or 911

VILLAGE OF BLOOMFIELD

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 N1100 Town Hall Road
 P. O. Box 704
 Pell Lake, WI 53157
 262-279-6039
 FAX 262-279-3545

Oktoberfest in Paddock Lake brings another large turnout

Jacob Fell, of Racine, had many car shows under consideration before deciding to bring his father's 1955 Chevrolet pickup to Old Settlers Park in Paddock Lake.

By **Jason Arndt**
EDITOR

The deciding factor, he said, primarily related to the incentive of joining last year's annual Old Settlers Oktoberfest sponsored by Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman, Kenosha County Park and the nonprofit Old Settlers Oktoberfest, Inc.

"We were actually at a car show a few weeks back and we got a flyer for this, so we have the car in the car show over there; that is what we came for," said Fell.

"We just picked this one because it was an Oktoberfest as well."

In addition to the car show, Oktoberfest activities included authentic German food and beverages, live music and dancing, children's games, activities such as the popular Dachshund dash, a stein-hoisting competition and silent auction.

Fell, meanwhile, said he enjoyed participating in multiple activities and even savored some authentic German beer while attending Old Settlers Oktoberfest for the first time.

"It is a nice park for it," he said of Old Settlers Park. "There are lots of different food options."

While Fell enjoyed Old Settlers Oktoberfest for the first time, many area residents such as Trevor's Heather Breiling return annually, noting the event serves as a family tradition.

Breiling, who brought her dog, Dexter, to participate in the dog races, said Old Settlers Oktoberfest always brings fun activities for people of all ages.

"Every year it is a blast. It is a tradition for me and my family," Breiling said. "There are lots of fun things for the kids to do, and we absolutely love the wiener races, because we love dogs and we love it here."

Aside from traditional activities, Breiling believes the event allows the community to come together.

"It brings all of the locals together. Everyone just loves to have a good time here," she said.

Community camaraderie

Old Settlers Oktoberfest began in 2011 when late business owner Heidi Schuerstedt envisioned an event tailored to bringing a community together.

Mindy Cooling, a board member of nonprofit Old Settlers Oktoberfest, said in



top: The D'Oberlanders Dance Crew, sponsored by Westosha Floral and Hartnell Chevrolet, begin a dance routine during the 12th annual Old Settlers Oktoberfest in Paddock Lake. **above right:** Ally Biel, of Pinot's Palette of Pleasant Prairie, paints the face of Hazel Beesch, 4, of Silver Lake during last year's Old Settlers Oktoberfest. **above left:** Heather Breiling, of Trevor, enjoys time with her dog, Dexter, a Chiweenie, at Old Settlers Oktoberfest.

JASON ARNDT PHOTOS *Our Town*

a news release she always found the event amazing.

"It is an honor to continue the tradition our dear friend Heidi Schuerstedt started with the first Old Settlers Oktoberfest in 2011," said Cooling. "It is always amazing to look around at the peak of our event and see our friends, neighbors, and family together, celebrating and enjoying a day in our beautiful park."

Proceeds from the event support the eventual construction of a permanent band shelter in Old Settlers Park, which had been a vision for Schuerstedt, who wanted to see community members gather for musical events in Kenosha County Park.

"I know (Heidi) is smiling down on us today," Kerkman said at last year's event.

Kerkman, meanwhile, felt uplifted by the pleasant weather as well as favorable turnout of the 12th annual Old Settlers

Oktoberfest held annually in September.

"It is great to see everyone out here," Kerkman said. "It is just wonderful. It is great to see everyone enjoying our parks."

Kerkman commended the community, including Cooling as well as Oktoberfest president Rebecca Lancour, for continuing the tradition.

"The weather could not be better, this is one of the best turnouts we have ever had. Our car show is huge, people are loving our new food vendors. I think it is a record year," she said.

"The reason that we have so many great things for people is that we have a great group of volunteers. People take the reigns on so many of the things that we have."

As for the permanent band shelter, officials have since broken ground on the new structure, which sits in front of Paddock Lake at Old Settlers Park.

Jackson crowned Fairest of the Fair

CENTRAL GRADUATE TO REIGN OVER 2023 KENOSHA COUNTY FAIR

Wylie Jackson first became exposed to the Kenosha County Fair at just 3 months old.

By **Jason Arndt**
EDITOR

Since then, the former Paris Happy Workers 4-H Club member has maintained involvement, often returning to exhibit animals and other projects.

Jackson, however, never sought the title of Kenosha County Fairest of the Fair until last year and earned the crown on her first try during an August coronation ceremony at the Creekside Stage.

"It's a great opportunity that I'm really looking forward to," said Jackson, a 2018 Westosha Central graduate. "I think when you think of the fair, you think mainly livestock animals, but we have so much more to offer here in Kenosha County."

Jackson, who earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and communication studies as well as master's in school psychology from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, began her tenure as Kenosha County Fairest of the Fair earlier this year.

The Fairest of Fair, who succeeded Katelyn Hannah, recalled exhibiting animals and spending time in the barns while a member of Paris Happy Workers 4-H Club.

With the new title, Jackson will represent the Kenosha County Fair in a different way, which she finds exciting.

"I have so much passion for the Kenosha County Fair," she said. "I attended my first fair at 3 months old and I have been every year since."

Jackson will spend time

promoting the Kenosha County Fair with Fair Royalty Summer Zilisch.

Zilisch, a Kenosha Tremper graduate, attends Carthage College and studies biology with a focus on genetics.

"I am just excited to share my passion with everybody else," said Zilisch, of Kenosha. "I think it is a big responsibility. I am excited to work with Wylie for the rest of the year."

Michelle Edmonds, the third finalist of five applicants, earned third runner-up from a panel of three judges.

The judges – Sue Crane, Heather Richter and Horace Staples – evaluated candidates based on their radio commercials and impromptu question and answer forum.

As for Jackson, the middle child to Shelly and Keith Jackson of Paris, she will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and lifetime membership to the Kenosha County Fair.

Jackson will promote the 2023 Kenosha County Fair before representing the fair at the State of Wisconsin Fairest of the Fair competition in 2024.

Jackson, along with Zilisch, will mainly promote the Kenosha County Fair at community events such as the Bristol Progress Days parade, Libertyfest parade in Twin Lakes, Kenosha County Breakfast on the Farm, among other activities.

"It is very exciting that I get to represent the fair in a new way," Jackson said. "We are going to be a great team through this next year."

Jackson plans to continue her education with hopes of becoming a school psychologist.



Wylie Jackson delivers an acceptance speech after she earned the crown of Kenosha County Fairest of the Fair last August at the Creekside Stage. Jackson began her tenure in January.

JASON ARNDT Our Town

OUR GOVERNMENT • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Salem Fire and Rescue:
8339 Antioch Road
262-843-2170 or 911
Wilmot Station:
30400 Wilmot Road
262-862-2801 or 911

VILLAGE OF TWIN LAKES

The Regular Village Board meets on the third Monday of each month at the Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole meets first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

105 E. Main Street
P.O. Box 1024
Twin Lakes, WI 53181
262-877-2858
www.villageoftwinlakes.net
Email: info@twinlakeswi.net
Hours: Monday through
Friday, 8:30 a.m.
to 4:30 p.m.

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Village President:

Howard Skinner

Trustees:

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Bill Kaskin
Kevin Fitzgerald
Aaron Karow
Ken Perl
Barb Andres
Clerk:
Sabrina Waswo
Deputy Clerk/Building

Assistant:

Colleen Hoyt

Municipal Judge:

Bruce Goodnough

Assessor:

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Building Inspector:

Justin Border

Police Chief:

Adam Grosz

Non-emergency

262-877-9056

Fire Chief:

Stan Clause, Jr.

Deputy Fire Chief:

Don Schemenauer

Non-emergency

262-877-2373

OUR SCHOOLS

BRIGHTON NO. 1 SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brighton School
1200 248th Avenue
Kansasville, WI 53139
262-878-2191
FAX 262-878-2869
www.brightonschool.net
District Administrator:
Carrie Reid
School Board:
*Meets in the Library at
6:30 p.m. on the second
Wednesday of the month.*
President:
Paul Craven
Treasurer:
Doug Shulski
Clerk:
Judy Uhlenhake

BRISTOL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

Bristol School
20121 83rd Street
Bristol, WI 53104
262-857-2334 FAX 857-6644
www.bristol.k12.wi.us
District Administrator:
Jack Musha
Principal - Curriculum/
Instruction:
Keri Heusdens
Principal School Safety/
Culture: Thomas Blair
School Board:
*Meets at the school in
the library on the second
Wednesday of the month.*
President:
Adam Scheele
Vice President:
Corie Bies
Treasurer:
Stephen Grimm
Clerk:
Susan Kratowicz
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer:
Tina Elfering

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WESTOSHA

Westosha Central High School
24617 75th Street
Salem, WI 53168
262-843-2321
FAX: 262-843-4069 www.westosha.k12.wi.us
District Administrator:
John Gendron
Principal:
Kevin Kitslaar
Assistant Principals:
Peter Haubrich

Tom Neave
School Board:
*Meets at 5 p.m. on the
second Tuesday of each
month.*

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Steve Richter
Vice President:
Cheryl Baysinger
Clerk:
Bill Watson
Treasurer:
Jeff Kinzler
Members:
Bonnie Felske
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Jay Nutting

GENOA CITY JOINT 2 SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Office
1020 Hunter's Ridge Drive
Genoa City, WI 53128
262-279-1053
FAX 279-1052
www.genoacityschools.org
Superintendent:
Drew Halbesma

Brookwood Elementary
630 Kossuth Street
Genoa City, WI 53128
262-279-6496
Principal:
Luke Braden

Brookwood Middle School
1020 Hunter's Ridge Drive
Genoa City, WI 53128
262-279-1053
Principal:
Tori Franz

Lake Geneva Star Center Elementary School
W1380 Lake Geneva Highway
Lake Geneva, WI 53147
262-348-7000
FAX 262-279-7938
sces.badger.k12.wi.us
Principal:
Katherine Stanton

PARIS CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT JOINT #1

Paris Consolidated School
1901 176th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53144
262-859-2350
FAX 262-859-2641
www.paris.k12.wi.us
District Administrator/
Principal:
Roger Gahart

School Board:
*Meets in the school library
at 6:30 p.m. on the third
Wednesday of every month.*

President:
Deanna Krumm
Vice President:
Dennis Hrupka
Treasurer:
Colleen Belmont
Clerk:
Kristine Kordecki
Member:
Curt Nikula

RANDALL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL JOINT DISTRICT NO. 1

Randall Consolidated School

37101 87th Street
Burlington, WI 53105
262-537-2211 F
AX 262-537-2280
www.randall.k12.wi.us

District Administrator:

Robert Antholine
Principal:
Ron Rivard

Associate Principal:
John LaFleur

School Board:
*Meets at 6 p.m. on the third
Wednesday of the month in
the school library.*

President:
Mary Thornton
Vice President:
Richard Petska

Treasurer:
Steven Calderwood
Clerk:

Randy Nolan
Member:
Jeffrey Swanson

SILVER LAKE SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT

Riverview School
300 E. Prosser Street
P.O. Box 69
Silver Lake, WI 53170
262-889-4384
FAX 262-889-8450
silverlakejt1.k12.wi.us

District Administrator:

Jon Schleusner
Principal:
Andrea Zackery
School Board:

*The School Board typically
meets on the fourth Monday
of each month.*
James Walker
Amy Regnier
Cheryl Masnova

Michael Gentile
David Van Kampen
Mike Gentile
Joe Hurst
Cheryl Masnova
Amy Regnier
Dave VanKampen

SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT

Salem Grade School

8828 Antioch Road
P.O. Box 160
Salem, WI 53168
262-843-2356
FAX 262-843-2506
www.salem.k12.wi.us

District Administrator:

Vicki King
Principal (4K-5):
Patty Fitzgerald
Principal (6-8):
Ryan Sandberg
School Board:
*Meets fourth Tuesday of
the month at 7 p.m. in
the school's large group
instruction room.*

President:
Dana Powers
Vice President:
Nick Pauloni
Treasurer:
Ted Goergen
Clerk:
Steve Brown
Deputy Clerk:
Jack Niccolai

TREVOR-WILMOT CONSOLIDATED GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Trevor-Wilmot School

26325 Wilmot Road
Trevor, WI 53179
262-862-2356
FAX 262-862-9226
www.trevorwilmotschool.net

District Administrator:

Michelle Garven
Principal:
Jon Kamlager
School Board:
*Meets at 7 p.m. on the
fourth Tuesday of the month
in the library.*

President:
Eric Themanson
Vice President:
Matthew Connor
Treasurer:
Jennifer Youra
Clerk:
Cole Marshall
Member:
Sandra Quaintance

WILMOT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Wilmot Union High School

11112 308th Avenue
P. O. Box 8
Wilmot, WI 53192
262-862-2351
FAX 262-862-6929
www.wilmothighschool.com

District Administrator:

Michael Plourde

Principal:

Rob Kreil

Associate Principal:

Dan Bender

Associate Principal - Pupil

Services:

Katrina Runkel Seewald

Associate Principal

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TWIN LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT 4

Lakewood School

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FAX 262-877-4507
www.twinlakes.k12.wi.us

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Principal - Director of

Student Services:

Bronwyn Knapp

School Board:

*Meets the third Monday of
the month at 6 p.m.*

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Vice President:

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Wheatland Center School

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Burlington, WI 53105
262-537-2216 F
AX 262-537-4059
www.wheatland.k12.wi.us

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Principal:

Kandi Horton

School Board:

*Meets at 7 p.m. on the third
or fourth Wednesday of the
month in the Community
Center room #164.*

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Director of Development:

Georgean Selburg

Athletic Director/ Dean of Students:

Tom Aldrich

Shoreland Lutheran High School

9026 12th Street
Kenosha, WI 53144
262-859-2595
www.slhs.us

President:

Paul Scriver

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St. Mary's Campus

www.stmb.org
225 W. State St., Burlington
262-763-1515

St. Charles Campus

www.mystcharles.org
449 Conkey St.
262-763-2848
Principal: Emily Berg

Wilmot decathletes win ninth consecutive state championship

The Wilmot Union High School Academic Decathlon entered last year's state competition ranked third after regionals.

However, the squad overcame the odds, and came away with its ninth consecutive Wisconsin Academic Decathlon title in February 2022 behind a collective effort from all team members.

An academic decathlon is a competition composed of ten categories: art, economics, essay, interview, language and literature, math, music, science, speech and social science.

WIAD, in conjunction with the United States Academic Decathlon, selected "Water: A Most Essential Resource" as this year's theme.

Don Serkowski, Wilmot coach, said this was the first time a team ranked third following regional competition won the state title in Wilmot history.

"After analyzing their scores, it's exciting as a coach to know every single decathlete can claim that they significantly contributed to this team victory," he said.

Isaac Keen, competing in the honors division, captured gold medals in literature, music, science, art, economics, social science and super quiz as well as a silver medal in mathematics to become the overall top honors scorer in the state. He received a gold medal for his accomplishment.

Keen's accomplishment earned him a \$650 cash scholarship from WIAD.

Additionally, Sydney Fontaine, also competing in the honors division, received a silver medal for being the second highest scorer in the state. She earned silver medals in music, science, art and super quiz as well as a bronze medal in economics.

Mary Catherine Slagle, another honors competitor, picked up a bronze medal in super quiz.

Emilee Olenick, who joined Fontaine and Keen on the all-state team, earned the top score in the scholastic division.

Olenick received gold medals in social science and science, silver medals in music, art and super quiz as well as bronze medal in economics to become the top scholastic scorer in the state.

Isaac LaRose, Wilmot's most improved decathlete, picked up silver medals in literature and economics as well as bronze medals in science and art competing in the scholastic division.

Andrue Dasilva rounded out to the scholastic division contributors with a bronze medal in super quiz.

In the varsity division, Charlie Fielder won gold medals in music and science as well as bronze medals for art and super quiz while junior Devon Hall notched a bronze medal for super quiz.



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info@twinlakeschamber.com

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1 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Lance Park

LIBERTYFEST
Saturday, July 1
11 a.m. Parade
St. John's to Lance Park
4 p.m. Food, Beer,
DJ Keith, Aquanut
Water Show
6 p.m. Fireworks
Lance Park



TREES ON PARADE & HOLIDAY SHOPPING
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Dec. 2, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
St. John's Community Center
Crafters, Vendors, Tree Decorating,
Gingerbread & Ugly Sweater Contests

VILLAGE TREE LIGHTING
Saturday, Dec. 1
Central Park by
Caboose
4 p.m. Local schools
caroling
5:30 p.m.
Tree lighting
by Santa &
Village Board
Member

ELF SCAVENGER HUNT
Saturday, Dec. 8
Find the hidden elves
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GOLF OUTING
Wednesday, Sept. 20
18 holes with
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Country Club



433862

The best of the best

Wheatland teen wins grand champion steer at State Fair

Riley Runkel, at times, admits she wanted to give up showcasing steer at multiple fairs. **By Jason Arndt**
EDITOR

The Wheatland teenager who began her senior year at Burlington High School experienced scrapes, sprained ankles and even got slammed to the gates while caring for both of her steers.

In spite of the struggles, Runkel persevered, showing a grand champion steer for the fourth time at the Racine County Fair before winning a similar title at the Wisconsin State Fair last August in West Allis.

Runkel, who showcased a 1,339-pound Crossbred steer she called Sosa, fetched the highest bid in the Governor's Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction with Meijer Supermarkets paying out \$35,000.

Exhibiting grand champion steer at the State Fair, however, isn't new for Runkel and her family.

In 2019, one year after her older brother, Reid, showcased a grand champion steer, Riley captured the title.

"It is definitely an awesome feeling because of how it came about," Riley said. "I know that my family thinks about it, too."

The State Fair victory came week after she showcased a different steer, Hot Fudge, which won at the Racine County Fair.

Juggling two steers, especially with challenging personalities, did not come easy for Riley.

Hot Fudge, a 2,290-pound Crossbred, exhibited a spunky attitude and required patience since the steer was born on the family farm.

"I would say my steer, personality-wise, (Hot Fudge) is pretty spunky. He is really lovable, but he also has quite a bit of an attitude, so it is hard to work with him," Riley said. "His personality is quite different from the ones I had before."

Hot Fudge, meanwhile, was brought to the State Fair alongside Sosa with Hot



Riley Runkel stands beside her grand champion steer, Sosa, at the Wisconsin State Fair in West Allis.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Our Town

Fudge capturing the title in the Grand Champion Bred and Owned Show held on Aug. 9.

As for Sosa, who has his own unique personality, the Crossbred earned the title of Grand Champion Market Beef before yielding the high bid.

"I was super excited and I immediately started crying," said Riley, a member of Burlington Back 40 4-H Club and Burlington FAA. "It was such a relief. It was just a good feeling to know that it finally paid off."

"I was glad that I didn't give up."

SCARY YEAR

When Sosa arrived to the family farm, according to Riley, the steer exhibited some angry behavior and oftentimes attacked her in the barn.

She became inspired to name her steer, Sosa, based on a rap song called Love Sosa by Chief Keef.

"In the song, he is talking about this guy named Sosa, who has an attitude, like he is very angry," Riley said. "I thought was funny because my steer has kind of an attitude."

The attitude, she said, certainly showed while she cared for him.

"He has stepped on my foot, hit me in the gates, he has come running at me with both feet up in the air, he has kicked me in the face, sprained my foot," Riley said. "A lot of times, I was scared, but I was thankful that my dad was there."

In addition to her father, Ron, Riley said

both victories would not have been possible without the unwavering support of mother, Gail, and brother Reid.

While her mother kept her composed, even amid challenging times, Reid and Ron has assisted her with some work inside the barn.

"They have all mentally supported me and physically," said Riley. "My mom is always there to keep me mentally supported, but my dad and my brother are definitely there to help me with the work that it takes, especially my dad — my brother has been working a lot lately."

MAKING SACRIFICES

Becoming a grand champion takes dedication, including making sacrifices, such as spending time with friends.

Ron previously said Riley rarely, if ever, takes a night off.

"It is a lot like a full-time job, it is really really a lot of work," he said. "I am just really proud of her, she has given up a lot as a teenager to do this."

Riley, meanwhile, acknowledged she has had to make tough decisions on when she can step away from the barn.

"Showing cattle as a teenager, you have to give up fun things that teenagers do, like going out with your friends and what not," she said, "Every morning, I will wake up early and do chores, wash and whatever and I will have to come back a few hours later and work on it some more."

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

A banner year

AQUANUTS CAPTURE STATE, NATIONAL TITLES

The Aquanuts, of Twin Lakes, finished off its 50th anniversary season by winning the 47th annual Indmar Marine Ski Show National Championship held last August in Loves Park, Illinois.

It is the Aquanuts first national title since 2015 and the first time since 1984 that the team won both the Wisconsin State Title and the national title in the same year.

The tournament featured 14 teams and more than 1,500 athletes.

In competitive show skiing, each club has one hour to present a theatrical performance on water skis. Judges score acts by awarding points based on originality, presentation, and execution. Elaborate costumes and staging intermixed with music and fast action on the water as an announcer leads the audience through the show.

The Aquanuts were the second team to ski on Saturday, Aug. 13 arriving at 6:30 a.m. for safety meetings followed by skiing about three hours later.

Results were not announced to the anxious crowd until Sunday evening around 8:00 p.m.

The nearly 36-hour wait for results was 'exhausting' said co-show directors Justin and Lisa Mushel from Burlington.

"The Aquanuts persevered against not only the 13 other teams but also the elements and conditions", said Justin. This was Mushel's second National Title as he was show director back in 2015 with Ken Meyer.

A fast current from the north and winds of 15, gusting to over 20 mph, from the south made the show execution not only difficult but intimidating for even the most experienced skier.

Co-Announcer Mark Gurda

referenced that the Aquanuts theme this year was Mary Poppins and featured 'gusts of winds' as part of their theme.

"Maybe Mary Poppins herself sent us some good luck" with the conditions," said Gurda.

Within the team victory was the highest scoring Jump Team act as well as the Most Valuable Male Skier, Cody Coffey.

Coffey, a former Tommy Bartlett Show skier, and multi-time Team USA member is a crowd favorite and performed in more than half the ski acts.

The margin of victory was razor thin as the top three teams were separated by only a few points.

Team President and Boat Driver Bob Koehler said 'that this is one of the rare circumstances where every member of the team, on and off the water, can take pride in knowing that what they did right made the difference in winning'.

The national title came a month after the Aquanuts captured its second consecutive Wisconsin State Water Ski Show Championship at Lake Wazeecha in Wisconsin Rapids.

Many of the Aquanuts did not get to immediately celebrate, however, since some Team USA members from the squad needed to practice for the World Ski Show Competition.

The World Ski Show Competition was held last October in Winter Haven, Florida and will be the first time the United States has served as host country since 2016.

The Aquanut team has six Team USA members.

For more information, including celebration details, visit Aquanutwatershows.com or call 866-754-7469.



Aquanuts show directors Lisa and Justin Mushel showcase the Division 1 National Championship trophy following competition in Loves Park, Illinois last year.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Our Town*

WHEATLAND TEEN • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Even if she does opt to participate in activities with friends during the evening, Riley recognized she must return to the barn bright and early the next day.

"You don't get done with chores until 10 p.m. and at that point, it is kind of hard if you do want to go somewhere, because you are going to have to go back out there at 6 a.m."

Riley, meanwhile, still has three more years in her show career.

While she has collected multiple accolades, even as a 17-year-old, Riley still

plans on continuing as exhibitor until her eligibility expires.

"It is my thing. People do sports and this is what my family does," Riley said.

DOMINANT COUNTY

Racine County representatives, in recent years, have been dominant at the Wisconsin State Fair.

Since 2016, the top selling steer at the Wisconsin State Fair has come from Racine County on five occasions, including two repeat winners.

Winners consist of Tori Crisp, 2016; Reid Runkel, 2018; Riley Runkel, 2019; Crisp, 2021 followed by Riley Runkel.

Riley acknowledged Racine County has seen success in recent years, however, she cannot pinpoint a precise reason why.

"There has been a lot of success in Racine County, but I think that it is mostly coincidental that we all are close to each other," she said. "But, I think with being close to each other, our knowledge has rubbed off on each other a little bit."

OUR RECREATION

BICYCLING

Pike Bike Trail

Hike or bike along the 10.2-mile trail through Kenosha County. The scenic trail runs along three points of interest including three National Register Historic Districts, Lake Michigan, two historic lighthouses, recreational opportunities, and Pooerio Nature Center.
653-4050

Kenosha County Bike Trail

Converted rail bed offers a flat, traffic free path to connect Kenosha to communities to the North and South. The trail follows the old North Shore railbed North-South through Kenosha County. There are two separate segments on either the north or south side of the city of Kenosha. The sections can be bridged with the separate Pike Bike Trail through Kenosha along the lakefront, creating a seamless trail through Kenosha county.

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HIKING

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26313 Burlington Road
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Kansasville
878-5600
www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/richardbong

Bristol Woods Park

9800 160th St., Bristol
262-857-1869

New Munster Wildlife Area

344th Ave., Burlington
888-936-7463

Fox River Park

9521 304th Ave., Burlington
262-889-4710

KD Park

8530 352nd Ave., Twin Lakes
262-857-1869

PARKS

Bong State Recreation Area

Prairie conservation site includes areas for hiking, swimming, horse trails, bike paths, controlled hunting, cross-country skiing, specialty areas, and natural history museum. \$25 (in-state) one-year pass includes entrance to all state parks.
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Bristol Woods County Park

(Home of Pringle Nature Center)
Highway C and County MB
Bristol • 262-857-8008
www.pringlenc.org

Fox River Park

9521 304th Ave., Burlington
857-1869
www.co.kenosha.wi.us/publicworks/parks/locations.html

Lance Park

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Legion Park

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Twin Lakes
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Kenosha • 653-4140
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Kenosha County Cross Country Ski Trails

Different cross-country ski trails are located throughout four county parks, as well as Richard Bong State Recreation Area. Call Kenosha County Parks Department (857-1869) or Richard Bong State Recreation Area (878-5600) to confirm conditions.

Wilmot Mountain Inc.

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Wilmot • 862-2301
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Commemorative benches dedicated at Kenosha County Veterans Memorial Park

Regulars at the American Heroes Café at Festival Foods in Kenosha wanted to pay tribute to their group's founders, and they went above and beyond in their fundraising quest.

Meanwhile, another area veterans' organization was looking to show its support for the relatively new Kenosha County Veterans Memorial Park.

The end results of these efforts came together on Friday, Aug. 26, 2022, with the dedication of three commemorative benches that will serve as permanent tributes in the park.

In trying to raise money to purchase a bench in honor of Sharon Janusz and the late Mary Domes – the American Heroes Café founders – friends of the group raised enough money to purchase two benches. The second one honors the memory of U.S. Air Force veteran Paul Fredericksen, an active veteran and café attendee who passed away earlier this year.

The third bench dedicated Friday bears the logo of the Korean War Veterans Association S.E. Wisconsin Chapter 227, honoring the veterans of that war.

"When they dedicated this park last fall, they put out a flyer for bench donations," explained Bob Blodgett, Chapter 227 quartermaster. "Our commander brought it to a meeting, passed it out, and we said, 'OK, we'll buy a bench if they put our logo on it. One thing led to another, and here it is."

The American Heroes Café had a similar thought process – along with the desire to memorialize its founders.

"We wanted to be a part of this park and get our name out there," said Anne Wasilevich, veteran support leader at the American Heroes Café. "This is a great park for the veterans, and today gives them a day to come out and see the park and the benches."

In her brief remarks, County Executive Samantha Kerkman asked for a show of hands from those who were visiting the park for the first time. Many arms went up.

"I hope that this today gives you incentive to come back," Kerkman said.

"Mary and I were friends," Kerkman said, of the late Heroes Café cofounder, "so when Annie approached me about the bench, I was so honored to help in any way that I could."

Kerkman said she also knew Fredericksen, whom she called "truly just a great hero, just like many of you are."

Barry Domes said the park is the perfect place to honor his late wife.

"I think it's an honor," Domes said.



top: Members of the Korean War Veterans Association S.E. Wisconsin Chapter 227 and County Executive Samantha Kerkman pose around the bench that the organization purchased for the Kenosha County Veterans Memorial Park. (top row, from left) Kerkman, Tom Linden, Jim Drascic and Don Milkie. (front) Bob Blodgett and club Commander Julius Mianiecki. **above:** Kenosha County Veterans Services Director Ali Nelson speaks during an August 2022 event to dedicate three new commemorative benches at the Kenosha County Veterans Memorial Park. Standing beside him are, from left, Kenosha County Parks Director Matthew Collins, Korean War Veterans Association S.E. Wisconsin Chapter 227 Commander Julius Mianiecki and County Executive Samantha Kerkman.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS *Our Town*

"She was extremely patriotic."

A former gravel pit that was purchased by the county more than 20 years ago, the park was long known informally as KD Park before it was rechristened as the Kenosha County Veterans Memorial Park in 2019.

Situated on 335 acres, the park includes the 39-acre Freedom Lake and eight miles of hiking trails. A Veterans Honor Plaza, where Friday's event was held, was dedicated in October 2021.

Future planned improvements include six memorial shelters — each one honoring a branch of the Armed Forces. The first of which, the Army shelter, is to be constructed later this year.

The park is located on Highway KD (352nd Avenue) just north of Highway F (Bassett Road) in the towns of Randall and Wheatland. Access to the Veterans Honor Plaza is from a separate entrance on Highway F, west of Kaskin Park on Highway F.

New Kenosha County Center arboretum showcases tree diversity

Extension Kenosha County marked Arbor Day on April 29, 2022, with the debut of a new feature on the Kenosha County Center grounds, aimed at educating the public about the importance of tree diversity and the many species that can survive and thrive in the regional climate.

The Kenosha County Prairie and Arboretum lines the one-mile walking trail loop in the prairie area just north of the County Center building, located at highways 45 and 50 in Bristol.

Open to the public, it is most easily accessed from the northeast corner of the parking lot on the west side of the building.

Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman and others — including Extension and county staff and Racine/Kenosha Master Gardener Association volunteers — kicked off the celebration with the ceremonial planting of a Spring Snow Crabapple tree near the beginning of the walking loop.

“Preserving and enhancing our natural environment is so important, and this new arboretum will be a useful resource for years to come,” Kerkman said. “It is educational and just a beautiful place to go for a walk in the heart of our county.”

Extension Kenosha County Horticulture Outreach Specialist Vijai Pandian then led a guided tour of the arboretum, explaining the ins and outs of its development and the many types of trees that it showcases.

Pandian said 91 trees have been planted since the project began in 2020, representing 26 different families and nearly 70 species. This richness in biodiversity is at the heart of the project’s mission, he said.

“We want to promote tree diversity,” Pandian said, noting that with the demise of ash trees due to the emerald ash borer, many people are defaulting to planting another local staple: maples. “We want to show people there are more trees besides maple, so we don’t repeat the same history of doing the monoculture in our landscape.”

Pandian said the tree varieties in the arboretum were also selected taking into account the changing climate.

“We want to better prepare our landscape now, selecting good urban species that can be adaptable to the changing climate,” Pandian said.

Visitors to the arboretum can take a guided tour, via a brochure that is available at the Extension office in the County Center, or by download at kenosha.extension.wisc.edu/kcc-arboretum. The trees are also marked with placards that include a QR code, linking smartphone users to more information about them on the Extension website.

For more information about Extension Kenosha County and the various education programs it provides, visit kenosha.extension.wisc.edu.



top: Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman and county Planning and Development Director Andy Buehler shovel dirt around the trunk of a Spring Snow Crabapple Tree during an Arbor Day tree planting ceremony last April at the new Kenosha County Center Prairie and Arboretum. **above:** (from left) Extension Kenosha County Director Terri Ward, Kenosha County Planning and Development Director Andy Buehler and County Executive Samantha Kerkman participate in an Arbor Day tree planting ceremony on last April at the new Kenosha County Center Prairie and Arboretum.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS *Our Town*

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