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local needs

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Fab Lab grant

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begin 53rd
season

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Area resident presents granddaughter at tribal Homecoming

Tim Vanderhoef, of Salem Lakes, experienced a proud moment late last year when he presented his granddaughter Caysen Grace Vanderhoef to the Brothertown Indian Nation at a Homecoming event in Fond du Lac.

Caysen Grace Vanderhoef, 5 at the time, is the daughter of Brian and was presented last fall.

Tim and Brian are descendants directly from the Narragansett Tribe of Rhode Island.

The Brothertown Nation was formed from six parent tribes of New England which were decimated by war, disease and famine, according to Tim.

By 1775, the Oneida Indians of New York gave them land in Upstate New York but soon there was encroachment by white settlers so they

made an agreement for land with the Menomonee in Wisconsin, and the Brothertons then settled on the Eastern shore of Lake Winnebago arriving 1832 to 1845.

In early 1980, at the urging of Tim's mother, Ruth Verbeten Vanderhoef and his aunts, he made calls and found the tribe active in Fond du Lac.

Tim's brother Dan and mother became Tribal Council members, and he accepted the job of newsletter editor called the "Brotherton Messenger."

Tim became newsletter editor again from 2008 through 2015.

His sister Roberta, a screen printer by trade, created hats and T-shirts to sell as fundraisers and made a Brothertown banner that hung in downtown Racine as Gov. Lee Dreyfus proclaimed 1982 to 1983 as

the "Year Of The Brotherton Indians."

In addition to Caysen's presentation - Tim's brother, Rick, presented his own grandchildren to the Nation a few years back.

Tim said his proudest moment was at the 2011 Homecoming when he and four of his fellow veteran tribesmen were each presented an eagle feather for their service to the nation as veterans as well as to the tribe.

Only Native Americans may own or possess an eagle feather.

The tribe presented Tim with a Brothertown Veteran vest and cap to wear at events and he wears a quail feather in his hat representing his Eagle Feather.

Tim, in his 44th year actively working with the Brothertown Tribe, hopes to present his two grandsons at the tribal Homecoming this fall.



Brian Vanderhoef (left) and his father, Tim, gather with Tim's granddaughter, Caysen, at last year's Homecoming event in Fond du Lac presented by Brothertown Indian Nation.

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Meals on Wheels fulfills critical need

With an aging population that is expected to see seniors surpass those 18 and under within the next few years, Ron Tatum is certain the need for programs like Meals on Wheels is only going to increase.

It is essential for the resources needed to support the program to keep up with rising demand, said Tatum, the executive director of Kenosha Area Family and Aging Services, Inc.

It is with that backdrop that KAFASI – the administrator of Meals on Wheels in Kenosha County – hosted community awareness events last week.

These “March for Meals” events, part of a national campaign in support of Meals on Wheels, are an effort to build awareness of the need for nutrition support for elders and people with disabilities, while also spotlighting the work of the many volunteers who deliver meals daily.

“This campaign is so important for so many seniors, seniors with disabilities, and families who are struggling with food insecurity, and we cannot do what we do without each and every one of you – our community,” said Tatum, at the campaign’s kickoff at the Westosha Senior Community Center in Bristol.

“We have the best volunteers in the world. Many don’t know we have the largest volunteer base in all of Kenosha County. We could not do it without you,” he added.

At the kickoff, Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman presented a



County Executive Samantha Kerkman, Kenosha Area Family and Aging Services Inc. staff and volunteers, and other dignitaries kick off the event at the Westosha Senior Community Center in Bristol.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Breeze*

proclamation celebrating March for Meals Month in Kenosha County.

“Kenosha County is proud to partner with KAFASI to ensure our seniors have access to the nutrition they need,” Kerkman said. “Kudos to the many

volunteer drivers who are the backbone of the Meals on Wheels program, delivering meals to people who need them and also showing caring concern and attention to their health and welfare.”

City of Kenosha Mayor David Bogdala headlined a March 19 event at the KAFASI headquarters, 7730 Sheridan Rd., giving his thanks to the organization and its dedicated volunteers.

“As our community continues to grow and our senior population expands, it’s clear that programs like Meals on Wheels are not just important, but essential,” Bogdala said.

“The dedication of these volunteers and support from organizations like KAFASI help ensure that our seniors, many of whom face challenges like food insecurity, receive the nutrition and care they deserve.”

Bogdala said he was “proud to stand alongside this incredible team of volunteers and community leaders as we continue to work together to meet the rising needs of our most vulnerable residents.”

Bogdala, Kerkman and other local dignitaries joined KAFASI volunteer drivers to ride-along on their Meals on Wheels routes, offering them a firsthand look at the needs the program fills.

“The Meals on Wheels program is a vital program for those who need these services not only for the nutritional benefits, but it helps residents to maintain

independent living conditions, instead of requiring assisted living or nursing facilities,” said City Administrator and County Board Supervisor John Morrissey, who helped deliver meals.

“The individuals that receive these benefits normally have better health and well-being due to the nutritional value they receive, thus reducing healthcare costs,” Morrissey added.

Meals on Wheels is available to people over 60 who are unable to prepare their own meals or are at risk of going to a nursing home. Volunteer drivers staff routes throughout the city and county, delivering meals between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Meals on Wheels Manager Rhonda Beucher said more than 100 volunteer drivers deliver 480 of hot meals each weekday.

“The nutrition of our seniors and the social aspect of our deliveries really do help combat malnutrition and social isolation,” Beucher said.

Tatum said the volunteer drivers also serve as a wellness check for the meal recipients, and they are sometimes the only human contact that the program clients receive on a given day.

Those interested in becoming a volunteer for Meals on Wheels or any of the other programs that KAFASI facilitates may contact the organization at 262-658-3508, or find more information online at www.kafasi.org.



Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman (left), Twin Lakes Police Detective Austin Sobczak and volunteer driver Phil Eriksson prepare to deliver meals to a residence in Twin Lakes during the start of the Kenosha Area Family and Aging Service Inc. 2025 March for Meals celebration.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Breeze*

Westosha Central awarded Fab Lab grant

The Westosha Central High School District received a \$25,000 Fab Lab grant, according to Gov. Tony Evers, who made the announcement alongside the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.

The early May announcement coincided with a Fab Lab Day proclamation from Evers.

Westosha Central, one of 20 Wisconsin school districts, will use the funds to train students in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics to prepare them for careers using advanced technologies through establishing or expanding local fabrication laboratory facilities.

"During the Year of the Kid, it's more important than ever to invest in the future of Wisconsin's kids and give them every opportunity to develop valuable skills that they can use to become the

leaders and innovators tomorrow," said Evers.

"Thanks to our partners at WEDC, school districts across the state will be able to equip their students with state-of-the-art laboratories for learning, ensuring our kids have the education and resources necessary to become the workforce of tomorrow," he added.

A fabrication laboratory, or Fab Lab, is a high-technology workshop equipped with computer-controlled manufacturing components such as 3D printers, laser engravers, computer numerical control routers, and plasma cutters.

Through the Fab Lab grant program, WEDC is supporting the purchase of fab lab equipment for instructional and educational purposes for K-12 students across the state.

"WEDC has invested over \$5.5 million over the past 10 years to provide

133 schools across the state with the equipment necessary to help students learn high-demand skills, including technology, manufacturing, and engineering," said WEDC Secretary and CEO Missy Hughes.

"Fab Labs benefit not only the students themselves with important technology and career skills, but they also benefit Wisconsin employers, who will be able to find workers with the right skills to allow their companies to grow and thrive," Hughes added.

A total of \$497,199 in Fab Lab grants from WEDC will be distributed to 20 public school districts across the state.

Individual school districts were eligible for grants of up to \$25,000, and consortiums of two or more districts were eligible for up to \$50,000. The program requires matching funds from each district.

In addition to Westosha Central, 19 other area school districts received Fab Lab Grants, including the Elkhorn Area School District (also \$25,000).

WEDC received 29 applications for Fab Lab grants. The grants were awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, with applications evaluated based on readiness and long-range planning, curriculum, business and community partnerships, financial need, and previous awards.

In addition to the grants, WEDC and the University of Wisconsin-Stout developed a Fab Lab resource page that provides districts with information on how to set up and equip a Fab Lab, how to implement best practices to ensure a successful Fab Lab, and more.

For more information on the state's Fab Labs, including resources for teachers, visit wedc.org/fablabs.



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on the cover: Now that warmer weather is here, lake residents and visitors alike can expect to see an increase in all kinds of lake activity. Among those who will be out on the water is the Aquanuts Water Ski Show Team, which is kicking off its 53rd season. Learn more about the team on page 5.

FILE PHOTO The Breeze

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Still riding the waves

Twin Lakes Aquanuts to kickoff 53rd season and again 'wow' crowds on Lake Mary

By Sandra Landen Machaj
CORRESPONDENT
By Jason Arndt
STAFF WRITER

For many, sitting along the shore to watch the local, award-winning waterski team perform is a favorite activity throughout the summer. The Aquanuts Water Ski Show team will soon start its 53rd season once again impressing guests with performances on Lake Mary.

The team, which is based in Twin Lakes, has a trio of team members who were chosen by Team USA to represent the U.S. in the 2025 World Championships: Kailey Koehler, Maggie Kelly and Ethan Schulda. Team USA won followed by Australia, Belgium and Canada.

Also competing for a world title in individuals was the Aquanuts' strap doubles team of Zeke Tiet and Makayla Bazeley. They finished third at the competition.

Last year was a successful one for the team on many levels including the following finishes at the Wisconsin State Show Ski Championships: Aquanuts Team, third place overall; Kailey Koehler and Gabbie Taschwer, first place, swivel pairs; Maggie Kelly, second place, swivel; Zeke Tietand and Makayla Bazeley, second place in doubles; Amy Laughlin, special outstanding award in the singer/announcer category.

Other honors the team earned at the 2024 state championships included third place in pyramid, ballet, barefoot, tow boat driving and pick-up boat crew.

The Aquanuts perform twice weekly at Lance Park Beach on the shores of Lake Mary in the Village of Twin Lakes.

Note that there is a time change this year. Senior shows will be at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday and Saturday from Memorial Day through Labor Day. There will be some junior shows as well.

History of the Aquanuts

Fifty-one years ago, a group of water skiers gathered and formed the Aquanuts. Little did they know that this tightly knit group would band together and become a premier waterskiing group, participating in a variety of competitions and winning hundreds of awards over the years.

In 2021, the team won the Wisconsin state title for the first time in 35 years and finished second in national competition. In 2022, the Aquanuts finished off its 50th anniversary season by winning the 47th annual Indmar Marine Ski Show National Championship in Loves Park, Illinois. The past two years, in 2023 and 2024, the team earned third place overall at the state championships.

The Aquanuts are known for their daring stunts, ballet lines and innovative show themes. Each year more difficult and daring stunts are added to their routines. The clowns were introduced in the early days and have remained a symbol of the Aquanuts, highlighted prominently on their logo.

Weekly shows

While the skiers are the showpiece, they alone are not responsible for the longstanding success of the team. The boat drivers, spotters, equipment managers, marketing managers and the local



businesses, especially the marinas, which help support them are as necessary as the skiers for success.

The Aquanuts have a strong partnership with the Village of Twin Lakes, which allows Lance Park to serve as the team's home.

Practice each year begins long before the skiers are ready to hit the water. Members of the team work on the three-, four- and even five-high pyramids – and numerous other formations – on dry ground first.

The Aquanuts have two teams – a junior team and a senior team – but at times they overlap.

The younger skiers, who range in age from 8 to 14 years old, make up the junior

team. They train to learn the more intricate moves and formations and sometimes a younger skier will advance to the senior team if they have the skills required. Members of the senior team are 15 years old to skiers in their 50s.

The weekly programs, which are open to the public, begin on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, and are presented Saturdays and Wednesdays each week through Labor Day, other than weekends when they're at competitions.

Admission and parking are free and while there are some seats, there is room to accommodate attendees who bring lawn chairs and blankets.

There is a snack shop on site that opens about an hour before the show starts and has a variety of items available for purchase.

Along with providing shows for the public, each year the team supports an adaptive skiing program to bring the sport to those with disabilities.

For more information visit aquanutwatershows.com.



The Aquanuts will begin their 53rd season Memorial Day weekend. The team continues to be successful and in 2024, in addition to finished third at the state championship as a team and in several categories, three team members represented Team USA – which took first place – at the world championships, and the Aquanuts strap doubles duo competed, bringing home third place.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AQUANUTS *The Breeze*



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Upcoming events

Water Ski Shows

Aquanut Water Ski Shows will kick-off the season on Saturday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m. (note the new start time.) Shows are held Wednesday and Saturdays, Memorial Day through Labor Day (except when they're at a competition.)

Memorial Day Parade

On Monday, May 26, the annual American Legion Memorial Day Parade will travel from Lance Park to Legion Park, stepping off at 11 a.m.

Rock the Lake

Kick off the summer season with food, beverages, live music, and fun at Rock the Lake. It will be 1 p.m. to 10 p.m., at Lance Park on Saturday, June 14.

Put on by the Twin Lakes Area Chamber & Business Association and the Twin Runners, it includes three bands, and a ski show by the Aquanuts.

Fireworks Raffle

The Twin Lakes Area Chamber & Business Association will be selling raffle tickets to help fund the annual fireworks display. The drawing will be held at 7 p.m., July 6, at Lance Park before the fireworks.

Tickets are available from the Chamber Office, Board Members, and local businesses. This raffle is open to the public.

Libertyfest

Celebrate Independence Day at Libertyfest, on July 6, in Twin Lakes.

Festivities begin Saturday morning at 11 a.m. with the annual parade from St. John's to Lance Park. The chamber encourages community participation in the parade including floats in honor of our independence – contact the chamber office staff or visit the website for details.

At Lance Park beginning at 4 p.m., there will be DJ music (before and after the Aquanut Water Ski Show), and food, beer, soft drinks available for purchase.

At dusk, the fireworks display will light up the sky over Lake Mary.

Country Thunder

The Country Thunder Music Festival will make its way to the area July 18-21.

Scavenger Hunt

The Chamber plans to continue its tradition of scavenger hunts to give residents and visitors a chance to get to know local businesses and have fun at the same time.

On July 20, a Monkey Around Town Summer Scavenger Hunt will take place. For details, contact the chamber or visit the website.

Golf Outing

The 35th Annual Chamber Golf Outing will be Sept. 17 at Twin Lakes Country Club. It features 18 holes of golf, lunch, one-hour open bar, dinner, a raffle. There will also be ball toss, mega putt and contests on the course.



Showcasing their talents

Music students busy between competitions and honor band events

The Westosha Central High School music program has had a busy few months with a couple levels of competition, attendance at an honors band festival and selection to another honors band.

Most recently, on Feb. 22, Westosha Central hosted the District and Solo Ensemble consisting of students performing solos, duets, trios, quartets, and small ensembles for adjudicators.

Adam Scheele, Director of Bands at Westosha Central, said about 70 students from the school earned a top "1" rating and moved onto the State Solo and Ensemble, which took place in April.

Qualifying groups from Westosha Central included Jazz Central, Brass Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Saxophone Choir and Trombone Choir.

Individual students consisted of Gavin Burnett (piano solo, tenor saxophone solo), Karen Pisano (trumpet solo), Noah Burnett (piano solo), Jon Schiller (piano solo, alto saxophone solo, tenor saxophone solo). Lucas Roynon and Brady



Pahl (trumpet duo), Aubrey Reeves (tuba solo), and Selah Hill (clarinet solo).

On the road to Platteville

Earlier in February, several Westosha Central band students attended the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Tri-State Honors Band Festival.

Students included Jessica Ronan, Micah Wolff, Kenny Broadway, Jack Zirkelbach, Beth Nickolette, Reeves, Cameron Schepker and Reid Hansche.

They were nominated and selected based on several criteria, according to Scheele.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

from top: Westosha Central High School students perform during the District Solo and Ensemble competition in February. Westosha, which hosted, had several students advance to state; Students from Westosha Central students attend the UW-Platteville Tri-State Honors Band Festival in February. From the left: (front row) Jessica Roynon, Micah Wolff, Kenny Broadway and Jack Zirkelbach; (back) Beth Nickolette, Aubrey Reeves, Cameron Schepker and Reid Hansche.

These kids know their math

Wheatland Center School students challenged themselves early in the year at the Regional Math meet. It was held on the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater campus and a team from Wheatland advanced to the State Mega Meet.

Fifth through eighth grade students competed against their counterparts from seven different schools in the division based on 2024-25 enrollment figures.

Students participated in multiple events, including Problem Solving (without calculator), Consumer Math (with calculators), Geometric Reasoning (with calculator), Mental Math (without calculator), and Team Problem (with calculator).

"Every member of the team worked diligently to solve the complex problems within each event," Wheatland school officials wrote in a news release.

The seventh and eighth grade team of Jaena Baumeister, Aaron Crane, Austyn

Madaus, Addison McCann, Mila Coe, Shane Day, Mattaline Konrad and Tyson Meracle finished second overall.

They were set to participate in the May 27 State Mega Meet at Madison College.

Members of the fifth and sixth grade team consisted of Maximus Borre, Tyler Epping, Charlie Wisneski, Abigail Zavacke, Jack Cavanaugh, Kaydence Novak, Gursevak Toor and Sawyer VanDommelen.

Wheatland's top scorers included Wisneski (fifth grade), Toor (sixth grade), Madaus (seventh grade), and Miracle (eighth grade).

While students challenged themselves, school officials noted the event served as a learning experience, particularly related to working together.

"Students had the opportunity to showcase their teamwork by delegating responsibilities in order to successfully complete a variety of math challenges during the Team Problem Solving event," officials said.



The Wheatland Center School Math Team participated in a Regional Math Meet at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. (front row, from left) Maximus Borre, Charlie Wisneski and Tyler Epping; (middle) Aaron Crane, Jack Cavanaugh, Kaydence Novak, Gursevak Toor, Sawyer VanDommelen and Abigail Zavacke; (back) Tyson Meracle, Shane Day, Austyn Madaus, Mattaline Konrad, Addison McCann, Mila Coe and Jaena Baumeister.

SUBMITTED PHOTO The Breeze

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Wilmot tabs new district administrator

The Wilmot Union High School District has appointed Christy Weinstock as its new district administrator.

Weinstock, who previously worked at Wilmot, will begin her tenure on July 1 and replace a departing Michael Plourde.

Plourde took a position as an administrator in an Illinois school district.

According to an announcement, the Board of Education formally approved Weinstock as the newest leader at a meeting on April 21 following



Christy Weinstock

a comprehensive search and interview process involving staff, students, and community stakeholders.

Weinstock brings over two decades of experience in public education, with a strong background in student achievement, collaborative school culture, and strategic district leadership, the district wrote in a news release.

She has held a variety of roles throughout her career, including school psychologist, special education supervisor, summer school

principal, assistant principal, and substitute teacher.

Most recently, she served as principal and director of pupil services at Salem Grade School.

Wilmot isn't a new environment for Weinstock.

From 2018-2022, she served as chief academic officer and associate principal at the school.

The Board of Education recognized Weinstock's diverse experience and dedication to educational excellence.

"We are excited to welcome Christy Weinstock to the Wilmot community," School Board President Wayne Trongeau said.

"Her vision, leadership, and deep commitment to public education make her the right choice to lead our district into the future," he added.

Weinstock expressed enthusiasm for her new role.

"I am truly honored for the opportunity to serve the students, staff, families, and community of Wilmot Union High School in the District Administrator role," Weinstock said.

"I look forward to partnering with all of you as we build on the strengths of the district and continue to move in a positive direction. I am eager to get started and proud to be a Wilmot Panther."

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along the 10.2-mile trail through Kenosha County. The scenic trail runs along points of interest including three National Register Historic Districts, Lake Michigan, two historic lighthouses, recreational opportunities, and Poerio Nature Center. 262-653-4050

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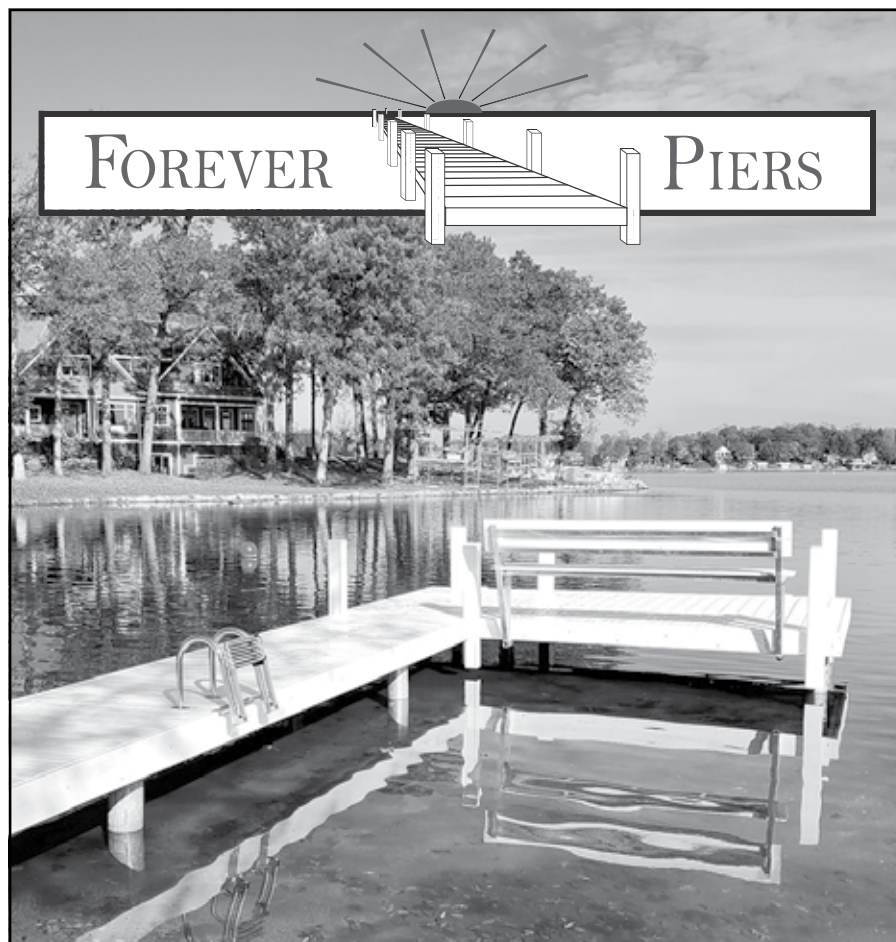
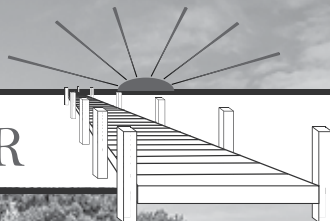
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Local schools excel at state forensics festival

Central earns high marks in annual contest

By Chris Bennett
CORRESPONDENT

The forensics teams at three local high schools each earned an Excellence in Speech Award from the Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech and Dramatic Arts Association after outstanding achievement at WISDAA's state festival.

The forensics teams at Burlington, Waterford Union and Westosha Central high schools each received the award after finishing in the top five percent of the roughly 300 teams to compete at WISDAA's State Speech and Debate Festival April 11 and 12 at the University of Wisconsin.

The distinction puts each school among the top 15 teams in the state – 14

schools earned an Excellence in Speech Award.

Forensics is a blanket term for competitive speech and debate. The term "forensics" is Latin in origin, and means public discourse in search of the truth.

According to WISDAA, from February through mid-April about 6,000 students participate in the speech festival series.

Approximately 4,500 students from more than 340 schools participate in 16 different categories ranging from original speeches to performance of literature at the State Speech and Debate Festival on the UW campus each April.

Competitors at the state festival earn medals on a scale of 25 points. A Gold medal is a perfect score of 25. A Silver medal is awarded for a score of 23 or 24. Bronze is awarded for a score of 20 through 22 and Copper is awarded for anything below 19.

Burlington's Excellence in Speech



The Westosha Central High School forensics team recently earned an Excellence in Speech Award from the Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech & Dramatic Arts Association.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Breeze*

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Award is the team's 20th in the previous 22 years. Robbie Twohig and Matt Nie are the team's co-coaches.

"It takes a special young person to give up a Saturday morning for a public speaking competition," Nie said. "The fact that the forensics program builds self-confidence in a way that is truly enjoyable for all involved is something remarkable."

"It has been an incredible run of continual excellence throughout the years," Nie added.

Waterford won the award for the third consecutive season. The Wolverines have 23 members on the team. Two seniors – Alivia Nathan and Christian Jimenez – earned Gold medals at state for four years.

"I am proud of our team," Waterford coach Kelly West said. "Their commitment to each other and drive for

excellence is inspiring, and our goal for next year is to again make the top five percent for the Excellence in Speech Award."

Westosha Central, which is the defending Southern Lakes Conference champion, earned an Excellence in Speech Award for the fourth straight year.

Coach Brenda Bursek-Krekling attributed the team's success to a strong group of team captains and officers who organized practices and served as mentors. Bursek-Krekling also said the majority of team members are involved in Central's drama club, which helps keep skills sharp.

"We are losing some terrific speakers this year due to them graduating," Bursek-Krekling said. "We believe our team next year will be just as strong, and we are already looking towards an awesome 2026 season."

MUSIC STUDENTS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

"Approximately 75-80 students are selected for the Honors Band from high schools in Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa," Scheele said. "They rehearse for two days and work with the UW-Platteville faculty."

William Owens served as the guest clinician for the event.

What an honor

In January, seven Westosha Central students earned selection to the 2025 UW-Parkside Honors Band.

The students consisted of Jessica

Ronyon (flute), Wolff (trumpet), Schepker (trombone), Hansche (trombone), Zirkelbach (trombone), Reeves (tuba) and Broadway (tuba).

Scheele said the seven WCHS representatives rehearsed with about 60 other band students from Wisconsin and Illinois.

The UW-Parkside Honors Band featured an evening concert performance at the Rita Tallent Pickens Center for the Arts conducted by the university's Director of Bands Laura Rexroth.

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