



Schauer Arts
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stars ▶ 2A



Bucks
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to take 3-0
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DAILY NEWS

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Lawn games for Blue Lotus

West Bend West senior brings adaptive outdoor games to retreat center



Submitted photos

Adelina Korcari, a senior at West Bend West High School, created and fundraised for outdoor games for guests at Blue Lotus Farm & Retreat Center. Her project included a giant Connect 4 game, Tic-Tac-Toe Toss, a modified baseball lawn game and gnome homes.

By Kendra Lamer
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WEST BEND — For Adelina Korcari, her capstone class project was all fun and games. The West Bend West High School senior fundraised and created outdoor games for those visiting Blue Lotus Farm & Retreat Center through her Project Lead the Way Capstone Biomedical Innovations Class.

Blue Lotus offers various outdoor activities, such as hiking, fishing and swimming, to those with disabilities. Korcari was inspired to create activities that individuals could use regardless of their abilities.

"I've seen how it is for others to not be able to participate because of their abilities that they have," she said.

Korcari, along with classmates and her teacher's friend, constructed gnome homes using pine cones, sticks and other natural materials. They created scavenger hunts and characters with the houses, which the campers were directed to find. She also gathered donations for a giant Connect 4 game, a Tic-Tac-Toe Toss game and a modified baseball lawn game with a larger ball and bat.

"It really showed me that even a small change — those couple of donations — went a long way to spread happiness to those campers. If it was a day, a few hours, whatever it could've been, it brought a positive impact to the community and that's what stuck with me," said Korcari.

The project was completed as part of the Project Lead the Way Capstone Biomedical Innovations class, taught by Patty Noonan, at West Bend East and West high schools.

The research projects were required to have biomedical facets and include a research, project or experiment compo-



Adelina Korcari, along with a classmate and friend of her teacher, created gnome homes to hide at Blue Lotus Farm & Retreat Center. Several homes are hidden for guests to find.

nent, while also getting the information from the community in some form.

Korcari and her classmates began researching projects at the beginning of the year.

"At first, I was overwhelmed with how many things I could bring into this. I didn't know what I wanted to bring into Blue Lotus, but I knew I wanted to create something for the campers and the kids that go there," said Korcari. She was also inspired by the adaptive playgrounds donated for those with disabilities.

Once she settled on the games, she began to raise funds. Walmart donated \$50 for the projects and an anonymous donor provided her the opportunity to acquire the giant Connect 4 game.

"Individuals have already enjoyed playing with the yard games, especially the Connect 4," said Jackie Janz, executive director of Blue Lotus, in a press release. "The creative and special gnome homes are adorable

and I'm sure many will enjoy them throughout the summer as they hike on our trails. The staff at Blue Lotus are thankful for Adelina's time and effort to bring additional fun to our grounds."

Korcari also collaborated with the adaptive physical education teacher, who told her having larger game pieces and toys are more ideal for those with other abilities as they are easier to handle and manipulate in the way they want.

Korcari stated that she has always wanted to help kids.

"Having activities to keep your mental health at a good state is important because you're preventing poor mental health by actually going out and being out with people, and enjoying activities while you're still able to," she said.

Following high school, Korcari is attending Moraine Park Technical College for nursing and eventually plans to become a nurse practitioner specializing in orthopedics.

Summer schools prepare for fewer students, less restrictions

By Kendra Lamer
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WASHINGTON COUNTY — The end of the 2021-22 school year is quickly coming to a close, but some students are preparing for summer learning without a mask requirement. However, schools are expecting fewer students this summer than the last.

Recently, several school districts in Washington County have dropped required face coverings, which will continue into summer school, which will continue into summer school using guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Washington Ozaukee Public Health Department.

The Germantown School District made masks optional for student attending summer school.

"We will continue to contact trace when there is a positive COVID case and let the parents know," said Superintendent Brett Stousland. "At that point, the parent can decide to quarantine their child or continue to send them to summer school. The caveat is, if a close contact is showing two or more COVID symptoms, we would ask the child to have a negative test before returning."

He said summer school numbers have been down, "even before the

change in masks."

"We are attributing the lower registration numbers to students/families looking for a break since it has been a longer than normal school year related to all things COVID-19," said Stousland.

Summer school classes at the West Bend School District are scheduled for June 14-July 9 for grades K-7, and June 14-July 18 for grades 8-12. The classes will be held at Green Tree Elementary School, Silverbrook Intermediate School and East and West high schools.

On Wednesday, the West Bend School District made face coverings optional, but highly recommended, for students, including those in summer school. Physical distancing of 3 feet will also be required everywhere possible.

As summer approaches, both the Germantown and West Bend school districts reported few COVID-19 cases to none. The Germantown School District reported just one positive COVID-19 test Thursday at Germantown High School, as well as one student in quarantine. The West Bend School District reported zero positive COVID-19 investigations, with less than five students absent for contact tracing at Jackson Elementary School, McLane Elementary School, Silverbrook Intermediate School, Badger Middle School and East and West High Schools.

County commission to discuss speed study for Highway 144

By Melanie Boyung
Special to the Daily News

WASHINGTON COUNTY — The Traffic Safety Commission will meet next week to discuss the results of a speed study for Highway 144 in Boltonville, and the

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Wisconsin Department of Transportation's recommendation that the speed limit remain 55 mph.

The Washington County Traffic Safety Commission will meet Wednesday at 9 a.m., in room 249 on the upper floor of the vehicle maintenance and storage facility at 900 Lang St. in West Bend.

The WisDOT speed study of Highway 144 from Bolton Drive to Jay Road was requested in March by Washington County Sheriff Martin Schulteis, after the March 3 meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission. It was done in response to area residents asking for a review on the heels of a crash involving a vehicle going around a school bus.

"This meeting was attended by numerous area residents who voiced concern about excessive speed, and specifically related to how speed impacts school bus safety and violations on STH 144," Schulteis wrote in his request for the speed study.

The findings, included in the county packet for the Traffic Safety Commission meeting, were that

the study results "do not support a change in the existing posted speed limit."

A letter from WisDOT safety engineer Dan Dedrick stated the finding was because safety data showed crashes in the area were primarily due to inattentive driving and driving violations not related to the posted speed limit; roadway design being found adequate to accommodate the current 55 mph speed limit; and the operating speed study showing that the 85th percentile for driving speed there — the speed at which 85 percent of drivers are at or below — being about 61 or 62 mph.

"Posted speed limits should be set within 5 mph of the 85th percentile operating speed," Dedrick wrote.

"Nationally, the most recognized practice is to post the speed limit as near as practical to the speed at which 85% of the drivers are traveling. Most people choose a reasonable speed in which they feel comfortable and safe," according to a WisDOT guide document on setting speed limits.

The Traffic Safety Commission will also a verbal report from WisDOT on a review of vehicle crashes on Interstate 41 between Lannon Road in Germantown and the split of Interstate 41 and Highway 45. The Traffic Safety commission requested WisDOT review accidents on that road for the last 6 months to a year to determine whether there has been an increase in the crash rate.



INDEX

Business	3B	Lottery	6A
Classified	5B	Obituaries	5A
Commentary	4A	Sports	1B
Crossword	4B	Weather	6A

WEATHER



Tomorrow:
Sunny
High 62 / Low 41

See complete forecast on Page 6A

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