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Thursday, February 12, 2026

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1956 JUMP CHAMP RETURNS



ANGELA CINA PHOTOS, RIVER VALLEY MEDIA GROUP

Spectators watch the athletes competing in the 103rd annual Snowflake Ski Jump Tournament on Saturday afternoon.

Eau Claire man visits Westby ski tournament

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A ski jumper who won the National Class A Championship held in Westby 70 years ago, was recognized as a special guest during opening ceremonies at Saturday's 103rd annual Snowflake Ski Jump Tournament.

Keith Zuehlke, 93, of Eau Claire, was 23 years old in 1956 when he won the championship and continued to jump into his 40s. Master of ceremonies Matt Keuler said in 1956, the ski hill in Timber Coulee was located across the road from the current hill.

Zuehlke told the crowd that he came early in the day to watch the junior tournament and see the "extension of the sport." "That's our future."

In an interview after the opening ceremonies, Zuehlke said it was "fantastic" to be back in Westby. He said he lived in Steamboat Springs, Colorado for 20 years, moved to Florida for a time and recently returned to Wisconsin.



Keith Zuehlke, center, of Eau Claire, shares a few words during the opening ceremonies of the 2026 Westby Snowflake Ski Jump Tournament. He won the 1956 National Class A Championship held in Westby. Looking on are master of ceremonies Matt Keuler, left, and Westby Mayor Danny Helgerson.

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WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

Competing wake surfing bills introduced

PAUL A. SMITH
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Republican legislators on Feb. 9 introduced competing bills on wake-enhanced boating in Wisconsin.

Assembly Bill 1033 would require wake surfing take place at least 200 feet from shore, docks or other boaters. It includes

no depth requirement or mention of local control ordinances.

It was authored by Rep. Rob Brooks, R-Saukville, and Sen. Dan Feyen, R-Fond du Lac. It is supported by the Water Sports Industry Association.

The other proposal, LRB 6333, was not yet assigned a bill number but was "direct

introduced" Feb. 9, said one of its authors, Rep. Nate Gustafson, R-Omro. It would require wake surfing take place at least 500 feet from shore as well as in water at least 20 feet deep. It would also provide legal immunity to towns or other local entities if they enacted wake surfing ordinances more restrictive than state law.

State Sen. Rachael Cabral-Guevara, R-Fox Crossing, is co-author of LRB 6333. It is supported by a coalition of 89 Wisconsin groups advocating for added restrictions on wake boats, including founding member Lakes At Stake Wisconsin.

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