

# Kewaskum speed skater Stolz wins his first gold at Olympics

SPORTS, 1B

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER: 2008, 2010, 2011

## MILWAUKEE ♦ WISCONSIN JOURNAL SENTINEL

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# \$13M MPS project gets committee OK



Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association President Ingrid Walker-Henry testifies during a Milwaukee Public Schools board meeting regarding a budget proposal on Feb. 10 at the MPS central office. JOVANNY HERNANDEZ/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

# Feds fund immigrant liaison position

### Whitewater job to link to resources, education

Hope Karnopp

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Two years after Whitewater leaders asked federal officials to help them respond to an influx of migrants – thrusting the city into a political debate – they finally got the funding they wanted.

Tucked into the latest federal government spending bill is an \$85,000 earmark for an immigration liaison, a position that will build relationships with newcomers, connect them to resources, educate them on local laws and provide bilingual support, among other roles.

In his request for funding from Congress, Whitewater Police Chief Dan Meyer wrote the position would “give us the ability to focus resources, deliver what our immigrant population needs, and ultimately build the trust that is needed to ensure they are successful here long term.”

There are a few more administrative boxes to check, Meyer told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, before the city receives the funds and can post the position for interested candidates. Officials haven't determined whether the role will be housed within city government or the Whitewater Police Department.

“Initially, the goal was to have some separation from the police department to bridge the trust gap that tends to exist,” Meyer wrote in an email to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Marjorie Stoneman said she and other members of the Immigrant Support Coalition have met with Meyer regularly as he gathers input from the community about the greatest needs the position can fill.

“Our city is working is working hard to try to integrate – people have taken Spanish classes, they're working hard to build relationships within the community,” Stoneman said. “This position will help expand that even more.”

She's researched other cities with similar liaison roles to find models for Whitewater. San Antonio, St. Louis and Chicago are among the cities with dedicated offices that connect immigrants and refugees to resources.

Dane County launched an Immigration Affairs Office in 2017 to respond to a growing immigrant community with “complex situations and language

See **WHITEWATER**, Page 2A

# Renovations would ease mergers if other schools close

Rory Linnane

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel | USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Four north side schools, which could ultimately welcome more students if neighboring schools are shuttered, are on track to get \$13 million worth of renovations by this fall, under a plan approved Feb. 10 by a Milwaukee School Board committee.

The investments don't mean the district will necessarily move forward with the closure proposal, which came from a consultant and hasn't been endorsed by Milwaukee Public Schools officials.

MPS Superintendent Brenda Cassellius has said she wants more time before recommending any closures, though she does ultimately expect to call for closures over multiple years to contend with declining enrollment. No closures have been proposed for the next school year.

The framework from consultant Perkins Eastman suggests MPS could close five under-enrolled schools and merge the student populations into four other schools in the same area:

- Auer Avenue and Keefe Avenue would merge into Douglas
- Hopkins Lloyd Community School would merge into Jackson
- Siefert would merge into Brown Street Academy

See **PROJECT**, Page 5A



Brown Street Academy, 2029 N. 20th St., is pictured April 28, 2025, when the school had to close for lead hazards. The school is one of four that could receive renovations in 2026. RORY LINNANE/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

**“This board should not allow students, families and workers from these schools to be abandoned and ignored by administration.”**

Ingrid Walker-Henry

Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association President

# Cougar, found dead, was latest to move eastward



Outdoors

Paul A. Smith  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WIS.

A cougar was found dead Feb. 9 on a railroad track in the Town of Friendship, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

While cougars are not known to have a breeding population in Wisconsin and only about a dozen sightings are con-

firmed in the state each year, the life history of the animal found dead this week was better known than most.

The cougar was a 2-year-old male collared and ear tagged by wildlife officials in Nebraska, according to Randy Johnson, Wisconsin DNR large carnivore specialist.

And even though the cougar's GPS collar had stopped transmitting location data in recent months, biologists were able to document the animal's move-

See **COUGAR**, Page 6A



A cougar was captured in late January on a trail cam in Marathon County, Wis. The animal was collared in Nebraska and found dead Feb. 9 in Adams County. PROVIDED BY CHAD OLDHAM

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