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Jail overflow options weighed

Milwaukee County looks to send inmates to Racine

Vanessa Swales

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

In an effort to alleviate ongoing overcrowding at the Milwaukee County Jail, the county has opted to consider re-

housing the jail's overflow in Racine County.

The controversial move among board members won a crucial 6-1 vote at Milwaukee County's Committee on Finance on Thursday. Some committee members, as well as Milwaukee residents and incarceration reform advocates, questioned how much oversight and accountability Milwaukee County would have, including in the event of a

death at the Racine County Jail.

"The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office can investigate the jail on demand," Milwaukee Corporation Counsel Margaret Daun told the Journal Sentinel. "Depending on the facts of a particular case, either Milwaukee or Racine County would bear more relative responsibility."

The Sheriff's Office will end the year with a projected \$5.8 million overtime

deficit - which has gone up \$1.2 million since May - as the jail faces plummeting staffing levels.

Following a court-ordered consent decree reached in 2001, there is a maximum capacity of 960 people that can be housed at the Milwaukee County Jail. As of Sept. 15, there were 958 individuals housed there, with 88% of the indi-

See **JAIL OPTIONS**, Page 12A

PIGSKIN PILGRIMAGE



"I'm just trying to absorb it all," said 36-year-old Josh Nikitin of Fresno, Calif., who was at Lambeau Field for the first time Sunday, having his photo taken under the statue of Packers legend Curly Lambeau before the Green Bay Packers played the Chicago Bears. "This is definitely an experience of a lifetime." For game coverage, go to jsonline.com/packers. MIKE DE SISTI / MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Center is asset for Holocaust education

Rory Linnane

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Some Wisconsin students could be learning about the Holocaust for the first time this school year.

State legislation taking effect requires all Wisconsin schools to teach students about the Holocaust and other genocides at least once in grades 5-8 and again at least once in grades 9-12.

While some schools were already doing so, for others it's new ground. And many schools are taking the op-

See **HOLOCAUST**, Page 10A



Rachel Kaschak shows materials she is using for new lessons about the Holocaust for her middle school students at St. Anthony on the Lake Catholic School in Pewaukee. RORY LINNANE/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Bidens among thousands paying respects to queen

Funeral largest gathering of world leaders in years

Mike Corder, Jill Lawless and Danica Kirka
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON - President Joe Biden paid his respects at Queen Elizabeth II's coffin on Sunday as thousands of police, hundreds of British troops and an army of officials made final preparations for the queen's state funeral - a spectacular display of national mourning that will also be the largest gathering of world

leaders in years.

People across Britain paused for a minute of silence at 8 p.m. in memory of the only monarch most have ever known. At Westminster Hall, where the queen is lying in state, the constant stream of mourners paused for 60 seconds as people observed the minute of reflection in deep silence.

In Windsor, where the queen will be laid to rest on Monday after her funeral at Westminster Abbey, rain began to fall as the crowd fell silent for the moment of reflection. The rain stopped as the crowd erupted in applause.

Biden and first lady Jill Biden were



Members of the public file past the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Hall in London on Sunday.

VADIM GHIRDA/POOL/AP

among thousands of mourners - from locals and tourists to royals and world leaders - to pay their respects at Westminster Hall, where the queen is lying in state. The president made the sign of the cross and put his hand to his heart as he stood quietly near the casket in the ornate 900-year-old hall with his wife and U.S. Ambassador Jane Hartley.

Biden then signed the official condolence book and attended a reception Sunday at Buckingham Palace hosted by King Charles III. Biden is one of 500 world leaders and royals invited to the

See **QUEEN FUNERAL**, Page 6A

Marijuana in governor's race

Gov. Tony Evers wants to legalize marijuana in Wisconsin and challenger Tim Michels wants it to stay banned. **3A**

Brewers fall in slugfest

Both teams combine for eight home runs as the Brewers are denied a series sweep of the Yankees, 12-8. **1B**

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Holocaust

Continued from Page 1A

portunity to expand their curriculum on the subject.

In the last year, about 550 teachers from 232 school districts in Wisconsin have started, or bolstered, their Holocaust curriculums with training from the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center, a program of the nonprofit Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

“We went to a more rural area of Wisconsin recently, and we were really bringing Holocaust education to that district for the first time,” HERC Executive Director Samantha Abramson said.

“They really weren’t doing it, not because they didn’t want to, but because they just they don’t have as many teachers, their school is small, and it just hadn’t been a priority.”

The center reached out to every district in Wisconsin, Abramson said. They hope to provide training for all by the end of the school year.

What are schools teaching?

The legislation doesn’t specify how schools should teach about the Holocaust or how long they should spend on it. Districts don’t need to report anything to the state about how they are complying, a spokesman for the Department of Public Instruction said.

Some might offer multiunit courses, Abramson said; others might only do two days, or two hours.

Merrill High School in northern Wisconsin has a semester-long course devoted to teaching kids not only about the Holocaust, but also the psychology involved so they can understand how it swept society.

“Every day I have to think about everything these people went through and I have to make sure I am doing justice by telling their stories,” said Merrill High School social studies teacher Alison Krohn, in an email. “Even though it can be difficult, I don’t know if I could have a more rewarding job. I help students to be able to recognize prejudice and hatred, I help them be able to understand bias and human behavior, and develop an understanding for valuing human life that I hope stays with them forever.”

Milwaukee Public Schools asked HERC in August to provide a two-week



Rachel Kaschak stands at her desk in her classroom at St. Anthony on the Lake Catholic School in Pewaukee. State legislation taking effect requires all Wisconsin schools to teach students about the Holocaust and other genocides at least once in grades 5-8 and again at least once in grades 9-12.
RORY LINNANE / USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

curriculum on the Holocaust for this fall, Abramson said. A spokesperson for MPS didn’t answer questions from the Journal Sentinel about the new requirement.

At St. Anthony on the Lake Catholic School in Pewaukee, Rachel Kaschak is entering her second year of teaching, and ramping up her curriculum about the Holocaust after attending a training session.

She said she expects her middle school students to be drawn to the personal stories beyond the facts and figures. She found materials focused on such stories from the resource center and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The students “relate more to, ‘Whoa, this happened to an 11-year-old kid my age?’” Kaschak said.

At St. Anthony on the Lake, Kaschak said, the Holocaust gets taught through literature in sixth grade, European history in seventh grade, and U.S. history in eighth grade – including the lack of action from the U.S. during much of the genocide.

“I think that’s important to mention,” Kaschak said. “You have to be able to confront that.”

After attending a HERC workshop specifically for Catholic schools, Kaschak said, she picked up ideas for discussing actions taken, and lack of action taken, by the Catholic Church.

“Sometimes sixth graders will have the most deep questions. There will be one kid who asks, well, as Catholics, why didn’t any Catholics do anything, or

who did do things?” Kaschak said. “We need to understand that in some places, the world didn’t help or the world didn’t acknowledge what was happening, and that’s not good.”

Kaschak said she also encourages her students to apply the lessons to other events and their own lives.

“Discrimination against one group can feed into discrimination against another, and festers if no one’s pushing back against it,” she said. “And you can bet at (age) 11, you can push back against it. They can start grappling with that question of: What behaviors have I noticed that I haven’t stopped?”

What about other genocides?

Wisconsin is among 20 states that have reported Holocaust education requirements to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

While the state requirement includes the phrase “other genocides,” HERC is focusing their training specifically on the Holocaust because it is the organization’s area of expertise, Abramson said.

It is also providing training about genocides as a general concept, and the stages of developments that tend to precede a genocide. It also partnered with other groups, such as the Burmese Rohingya Community of Wisconsin, to teach about other genocides.

The overarching goal, Abramson said, is encouraging students to reflect on “their own roles as citizens of this world.”

“It allows students to get beyond themselves and think about ways they can be acting as as upstanders, people who make the world a better place through their actions, through their words, rather than being a bystander, which was the case for much of the Holocaust – a case of ordinary people doing nothing,” Abramson said.

Over the years, Wisconsin lawmakers have voted to enshrine social studies guidelines on a few other subjects.

In 1989, Wisconsin lawmakers passed Act 31 establishing “goals and expectations” for schools to provide “an understanding of human relations, particularly with regard to American Indians, Black Americans and Hispanics.”

Beginning in 1991, schools were required to “teach about the history, culture and tribal sovereignty of federally recognized American Indian tribes and bands located in this state” at least twice in elementary school and once in high school.

Recently, the Asian American Pacific Islander Coalition of Wisconsin has pushed for a new law that would require instruction on Asian American history.

Kaschak said she thought that was a good idea, noting that many people are unaware of how the U.S. incarcerated nearly 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry in the country during WWII.

“There are plenty of people who don’t know that that happened. And I think it is important that we’re learning not just the history of the “victor,” but we’re also learning the histories and the stories of those that were impacted negatively,” Kaschak said.

“All parts have to be told and talked about, or else it does get forgotten. And once it’s forgotten, behaviors can happen again.”

How districts can get trained

Workshops with HERC are nearly free. Teachers have to pay \$25 to reserve a spot, and the rest is covered with help from the Department of Public Instruction, community donations, and grants from the Claims Conference, a nonprofit that has won financial reparations from the German government to disperse to Holocaust survivors and related organizations.

The Holocaust Education Resource Center has also developed a free online resource, teachholocaust.org, which allows teachers to search for lesson plans by subject, grade level and class time.

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