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WEATHER



83 / 70  
Partly sunny  
Map, details  
back of Sports



Views of a Hall of Fame quarterback  
Columnists Bob McGinn and Pete Dougherty look at Favre's career  
Sports



Outdoor foods  
8 spots to check out before summer has vanished  
Tap Weekend

# Soldiers Home getting new life

## Veterans housing to be built on site

**TOM DAYKIN**  
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Six historic buildings at the former Milwaukee Soldiers Home grounds will be redeveloped into around 100 apartments for veterans and their families under a \$40 million proposal announced Thursday.

The buildings are on or near Mitchell Blvd., between I-94 and W. National Ave., on the grounds of the Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center. They include Old Main, the Soldiers Home completed in 1869, and other historic buildings that are unused and in danger of falling apart.

The Soldiers Home grounds were declared a national historic landmark by the National Park Service in 2011, with the National Trust for Historic Preservation adding the buildings to its list of most endangered historic places.

Since then, the VA has repaired Old Main's roof and made repairs to other buildings. But public funds to fully restore the buildings weren't available.

Thursday's announcement amounts to "a turning point" in efforts to restore Old Main and the other buildings, said Genell Scheurell, senior field officer for the trust.

"It would have been a great tragedy not to find a good use for the buildings,"

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# Trump visits amid feud

**BY CRAIG GILBERT AND JASON STEIN**  
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

When Donald Trump last campaigned in Wisconsin four months ago, he clashed openly with the state's leading Republicans on his way to a resounding primary defeat.

"It worked so well for him last time, he decided to do it all over again," said Mark Graul, a GOP strategist in Green Bay, where Trump and running mate Mike Pence will hold a Friday night rally. "It's impossible to understand what the strategy is."

Trump arrives here after picking a fight with Wisconsin's most popular Republican politician, House Speaker Paul Ryan of Janesville.

In doing so, he has antagonized other GOP leaders in the state, few of whom are attending the Green Bay rally.

Even some of his more enthusiastic supporters in Wisconsin say Trump is making his own task tougher in this tough battleground state, where Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine is also campaigning Friday.

"He did the same thing in the Republican primary (when) he went after Scott Walker," said U.S. Rep. Sean Duffy in an interview on CNN Thursday.

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- Paul Ryan: Endorsements aren't 'blank checks' **8A**
- Milwaukee's Muslim female leaders speak out. **9A**
- Clinton surges ahead of Trump in new poll. **10A**

Cheers to State Fair's 165 years



Wes Hotchkiss of Beaver Dam holds ears of corn during the opening day of the 165th Wisconsin State Fair at State Fair Park in West Allis on Thursday. See more at [jsonline.com/photos](http://jsonline.com/photos).



MIKE DE SISTI / MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

A group of friends walks through the Wisconsin State Fair during its opening day Thursday with their new cow-spotted hats purchased near the Original Cream Puff Pavilion. The group, all of Milwaukee, is John Flores (from left), Nikki Gucciardo, Josh Bierce, Kara Gucciardo and Travis Riesop.

## Obituary

# Nicholas generous to others

## Philanthropist remained humble

**KATHLEEN GALLAGHER**  
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Albert O. "Ab" Nicholas, a prominent philanthropist and nationally known Milwaukee money manager, died Thursday.

Nicholas, who was 85, donated millions to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, his alma mater; to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee; to Brightstar Foundation for investment in the state's emerging growth companies; and to many other causes.

But his kindness went beyond the financial.

"He was generous with his interest in other people, generous with his friendships, generous with his laughter and generous with his family," said Gary Manning, rector at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wauwatosa, Nicholas' long-time parish.

A tall man with a long gait, Nicholas often left his downtown Milwaukee office for lunch, nodding and smiling at his many acquaintances as he strode down Water St.

He was a standout basketball player in college, but Nicholas chose an investment career over professional basketball. He formed Nicholas Co. in 1967 and built it into a firm that manages

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# Olympic club failed to report abuse

## USA Gymnastics shelved complaints

**MARISA KWIATKOWSKI, MARK ALESIA AND TIM EVANS**  
THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

Top executives at one of America's most prominent Olympic organizations failed to alert authorities to many allegations of sexual abuse by coaches, relying on a policy that enabled predators to abuse gymnasts long after USA Gymnastics had received warnings.

An investigation by the Indianapolis Star uncovered multiple examples of children suffering the consequences, including a Georgia case in which a coach preyed on young female athletes for seven years after USA Gymnastics dismissed the first of four warnings about him.

In a 2013 lawsuit filed by one of that coach's victims, two former USA Gymnastics officials admitted under oath that the organization routinely dismissed sexual abuse allegations as hearsay unless they came directly from a victim or victim's parent.

Legal experts and child advocates expressed alarm about that approach, saying


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### To Our Readers

The Journal Sentinel will be converting its presses over the next month to fit the newspaper industry's new standard page size, which is slightly narrower.

During this conversion process, some readers in the Milwaukee metro area might not get all the late-night sports scores and breaking news they're accustomed to receiving.

We hope to minimize this impact by keeping our deadlines as late as possible and appreciate your patience during the transition, which is scheduled to end by Aug. 22. Thank you.




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# Soldiers Home revived

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said Robert Cocroft, a retired brigadier general and president of the Center for Veterans Issues.

The Milwaukee Soldiers Home is one of the nation's three original Soldiers Homes. The homes were built for Civil War veterans with physical and mental disabilities, and later served other military veterans.

The Gothic Revival-style Old Main was designed by Milwaukee architect Edward Townsend Mix, who also designed the Mackie Building. The VA used Old Main until 1989.

The buildings will be redeveloped by the Alexander Co., a Madison-based development firm, and managed by the Milwaukee Housing Authority.

Planned financing for the \$40 million project includes federal affordable housing tax credits, federal and state historic preservation tax credits and grants.

Work is anticipated to begin in fall 2017, with all buildings completed by April 2019, according to Alexander Co.

The 133,730-square-foot Old Main, completed in 1869, is the largest of the buildings. It sits on a hill overlooking Miller Park, and its tower can be seen from I-94.

The project will help preserve historic buildings while also serving veterans, according to VA and city officials.

"The Soldiers Home is a local and national treasure," said Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett in a statement. "This partnership and project is a perfect way to preserve the history of the Soldiers Home while meeting the needs of today's veterans."

Along with Old Main, the



RICK WOOD / MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL  
A VA employee walks past the closed and fenced-in historic Old Main on the Milwaukee Soldiers Home grounds.

restored buildings will be the Administration Building (also known as Building 1), built in 1896; the Catholic Chaplain's Quarters (Building 14), built in 1899; and three duplexes (Buildings 18, 19 and 62).

The apartments will include support services for veterans and their families who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless.

Alexander Co. and the Housing Authority were among the developers who responded to a 2015 request for proposals from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Alexander Co. will lease the buildings from the VA, and will pay for renovating them. The Housing Authority will operate the buildings after they have been restored.

Support services, including education, job training and counseling, will be managed by the Center for Veterans Issues.

Project architecture will be led by Uihlein Wilson Architects, with Quorum Architects designing the Administration Building. Beyer Construction will manage construction on all six buildings.

The VA uses several other

## Veterans will get more housing

Old Main and other historic buildings on the Milwaukee Soldiers Home grounds will be converted into apartments for homeless vets.



historic buildings on the 90-acre grounds for offices, a library and other purposes. The agency also might eventually redevelop the vacant Ward Memorial Theater as a conference and training center for its employees.

# Policies debated

Continued from Page 3A

codes.

Verona School District Superintendent Dean Gorrell said its board debated whether it should take up the policy or wait until a decision was reached in the lawsuit, but decided to move forward.

"We have transgender students in our school district and we want to do right by them," he said.

According to Juchems, about 80 districts around the state have at least some kind of policy in place regarding transgender students. But only a handful would comply with the new federal guidelines, he said.

He points to Shorewood and Menasha as among the districts that would clear that hurdle.

Shorewood's policy, for example, clearly explains that transgender students may use any bathrooms or locker rooms they choose. Its policy was highlighted by the Obama administration when it announced the new directive in May.

The Menasha School District revised its policy in May 2015 after a transgender student complained to the administration that its policy discriminated against her. The student wanted to use the female restrooms, but at that time transgender students used only the unisex bathrooms that were offered. Superintendent Chris VanderHeyden said it was time for them to "do their homework" and come up with a new policy that would let the student use the female restroom.

"If we tell this student that they have to use a unisex bathroom, that's discriminating," VanderHeyden said. "We presented the board two options — they could dig in and discriminate or amend their policy. Our board, being smart, agreed to make a policy change."

Such decisions in some cases have drawn pushback from the community and beyond.

"I had people from other states calling me saying 'what the hell are you thinking?'" said Vander-

Heyden.

Much of the opposition stemmed from the fear that male students would claim to be transgender so they could sneak into the girl's bathrooms.

"I didn't have any kids come forward who were concerned," he said. "It was all parents and people from out of town."

Since implementing the new policy, VanderHeyden said the district has not had any problems.

The Sparta Area School District, east of La Crosse, also faced a strong backlash when it tried to create a policy to protect transgender students.

Superintendent John Hendricks called the ensuing dispute "ugly" and "a flash point for the district."

"It was a lost opportunity to be proactive and supportive of transgender students," Hendricks said. "I felt it was morally the right thing to do."

He said school board members received dozens of phone calls from people opposing the policy.

"My board took a lot of abuse, from local (residents), but a lot of abuse came from people around the state who had no real ties to the district," Hendricks said. "People were concerned if we adopt a policy for transgender students, other districts will follow."

One Wisconsin district already has been sued over its treatment of transgender students.

In early July, 16-year-old transgender student Ash Whitaker and his mother filed a federal lawsuit against the Kenosha Unified School District and its superintendent in federal court, alleging they discriminated against him on the basis of his gender identity.

"The district has been reviewing its policies to determine how to address the unique issues raised by a student's transgender identification," said district spokeswoman Tanya Ruder. "The district expects the process to culminate in new policies before the end of the year."

Juchems said districts need to update their policies, not just to avoid a lawsuit, but to best serve their students.

"There are many wonderful educators in Kenosha who are doing the right thing, but there is an absence of clear policy and procedure," he said. "All students benefit from a school that has a gender-inclusive environment."

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11:00AM TO 12:15PM	<b>1968: The Extraordinary Events of a Memorable Year</b> Leonard Steinhorn / American University <i>Graduate Mentoring Award</i>
LUNCH BREAK - 12:15PM - 1:30PM	
1:30PM TO 2:45PM	<b>What Do Economists Really Know?</b> Ed Skelton / Southern Methodist University <i>Undergraduate Award for Teaching Excellence</i>
3:00PM TO 4:15PM	<b>Four Films That Changed America</b> Marc Lapadula / Yale University <i>Winner, Outstanding Teaching Award</i>

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