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Vouchers may expand statewide

Sources say deal reached for school program

WADEKON (AP) — Wisconsin's private school voucher program would expand statewide, and spending in public schools would be allowed to increase by \$120 per student in each of the next two years, under a deal being worked on by Gov. Scott Walker and Republican leaders.

Details of the agreement were provided to The Associated Press on Thursday by two people involved in the negotiations. They requested anonymity because they didn't want to compromise progress on a deal. Whether to expand voucher schools beyond

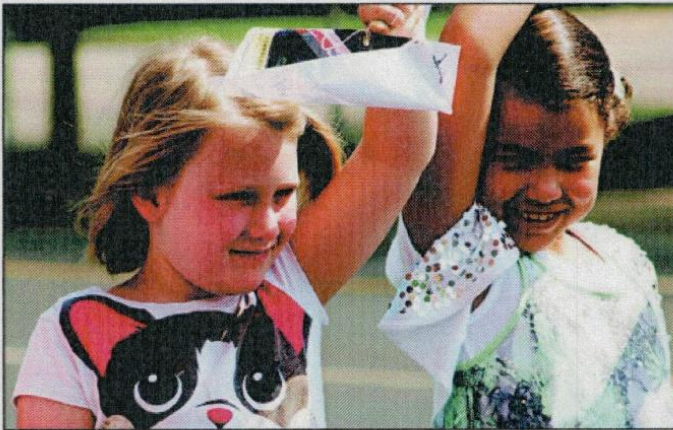
Wisconsin and how they currently operate has been one of the most contentious issues facing the Legislature this year. Walker and voucher proponents say the program needs to grow to offer parents more choices for where to send their children to school. But opponents, including public school advocates, say the program lacks accountability and more resources should go toward public schools. Walker, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos and Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald all

and other were opposing and working on legislation. "Gov. Walker is continuing to work with legislators on a plan that will increase school funding and give students and parents access to quality education choices, while protecting local taxpayers," said Walker's spokesman Tom Evenson. Former Assembly Speaker John Gard, one of three former Republican speakers lobbying to expand the program, also insisted that talks were ongoing and no deal had been reached.

Walker's spokesman said the deal would allow the program to expand to all public schools in the state. The program would allow parents to send their children to private schools, including religious schools. The program would also allow parents to send their children to out-of-state private schools. Walker's spokesman said the deal would allow the program to expand to all public schools in the state. The program would allow parents to send their children to private schools, including religious schools. The program would also allow parents to send their children to out-of-state private schools.

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Early lesson in kite flying



Abigail Johnson, 7, left, and Amalya Diaz, 7, shade their eyes as they prepare to fly the kites they just made. Scott Fisher, the man behind this weekend's Outta Sight Kite Flight in Kennedy Park, came to their first-grade classroom at Kenosha School of Technology Enhanced Curriculum on Thursday to help them make kites.

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KENOSHA NEWS PHOTOS BY JANINE ANDERSON

Let's soar: Outta Sight event creator helps students make their own kites



Aaron Dorr, 7, prepares to fly the kite he made Thursday with Outta Sight Kite Flight event creator Scott Fisher.

Two days before the Outta Sight Kite Flight takes over Kennedy Park, the man behind the festival helped students make their own kites and then test them.

Scott Fisher visited classes at Kenosha School of Technology Enhanced Curriculum on Thursday. In Darrilyn Mathson's first-grade class, he was greeted by kites. The students have been reading books about kites and making their own.

"I am so impressed," Fisher said. "I walk into your classroom and see beautiful kites hanging from the ceiling."
This weekend's festival is a great time to share their love of kites with family and

friends, he said. "At the festival this weekend we'll try to launch 500 to 600 kites all at the same time," he said. "You should try to come and bring your parents and friends and help get as many kites in the air as possible at 12 noon."

He helped them build simple kites out of a sheet of letter-size paper, a piece of tape, a staple and string, and he encouraged them to bring those kites to the festival.

Fisher started the Outta Sight Kite Flight 12 years ago, and owns Gift of Wings kite store in Milwaukee. The festival will feature kite-flying lessons, competitions, stunt kites, as well as a 150-foot-long octopus kite that has to be staked to the ground or tied to a tree to keep it from blowing away.

If you go

- **What:** Outta Sight Kite Flight
- **When:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
- **Where:** Kennedy Park, 4051 Fifth Ave.
- **Activities:** Kite flying lessons and competitions. Parade of kites and massive launch of hundreds of kites at noon. Kids Mad

- **More information:** Schedule of events is available at www.giftofwings.com by clicking on "Events" and then "Outta Sight Kite Flight."
- **Inside today:** Read more on the Outta Sight Kite Flight in today's Get Out section.

New retail plaza coming to Prairie Ridge center

BY JENNIFER HARRIS

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A new multi-tenant retail building will be built this summer at Prairie Ridge shopping center in Pleasant Prairie.

The Pleasant Prairie Plan Commission gave final approval to site and operational plans for The Plaza at Prairie Ridge, a 9,000-square-foot building that will include space for three to five tenants.

The building is at the southeast corner of Highway 50 and 10th Avenue, between the existing Olive Garden restaurant and a new restaurant, Cheddar's Casual Cafe, which is under construction.

Jean Werble-Harris, community development director for Pleasant Prairie, said the project is filling in one of the few lots left in the larger shopping center, which includes Target, Al's Pharmacy and Dick's Sporting Goods as anchor stores.

"We are very excited," Werble-Harris said. "We are approaching, if we're not already there, 100 percent occupancy of what has been built, and that is always very motivating for new building activity."

Developer John Holbrooke, president of EVO Development, said he had been hired by the bank that owned 5 acres in the retail development to help with the sale of the property. The bank had taken ownership on the property after the past property developer defaulted.

Holbrooke said he worked with the village on getting the 10th Avenue in place that would make the property saleable as outlets for the shopping center. In doing the work, he said, he found the property so attractive that he purchase a little over an acre of the land himself. He will be building The Plaza on that property.

"Every retailer's dream is to be on Highway 50 over here — just back the demand for smaller centers is to be able to feed off that traffic."

He said he already has letters of intent signed on three of the spaces in his building, and is working to finalize leases. He plans to break ground in late 2012 or early 2013.