



WISCONSIN NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

Carlos Herrada (right) consults with team captain Seth Mayrer during the state Civic's Games competition held in Madison on Friday. Medford was one of 11 teams to qualify for the state tournament after advancing through regional competition earlier this year. The team took sixth place overall.

Medford has strong state showing

Medford team places sixth overall in state at inaugural Civics Games

BY BRIAN WILSON
NEWS EDITOR

The Medford team of Seth Mayrer (captain), Brendan Borman, Emma Ellis, Carlos Herrada and Josh Fredrikson took sixth in the state finals for the inau-

gural Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation's Civics Games held Friday in Madison.

Medford was one of 11 teams to advance from regional competitions to the state finals. The teams faced off head-to-head to answer questions about the state budget, local elections, legislative term limits, quorums and other civics-related issues.

Medford coach Corey Nazer praised the competition and that Medford would be back to compete in the 2020 games.

The Civics Games were launched in

an effort to address a decline in civic education and engagement. Organizers say they hope the competition will inspire a new generation of leaders to become involved in the political process.

Before competition began Friday, Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Roggensack provided opening remarks, addressing the importance of civics education in preparing young adults for participation in the democratic process.

See MEDFORD on page 3



Medford has strong showing at state finals of Civics Games

Continued from page 1

“Maintaining democracy requires that we be knowledgeable about democratic practices,” Roggensack said. “We need to remember those practices that were required to begin our democracy and are required now to sustain it.”

Gov. Tony Evers also stopped by mid-morning to commend the students.

“I believe that civics education is frankly more important than ever, and the newspaper association’s work to make this opportunity available to the school districts in this state is a great step forward,” Evers said.

“The fact of the matter is it’s a much more complicated society to engage in civically. And having this competition is a good reminder that our young people are ready to be good citizens in the state of Wisconsin and in our country.”

State Reps. John Macco (R-De Pere), Travis Tranel (R-Cuba City) and Lisa Subeck (D-Madison), who were among the judges at their respective regional competitions, returned to serve as judges in Friday’s final competition.

WNA Foundation board member Eve Galanter, who spearheaded the Civics Games effort in 2018 after reading about a lack of public service and civic engagement in Wisconsin, also made brief remarks.

“As a proud member of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation Board of Directors, I’m so very excited that we’re holding this inaugural year of the Wisconsin Civics Games in our state Capitol,” Galanter said in her remarks before reading a letter from U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor congratulating the students on their “admirable showing.”

The games are done in partnership with WisconsinEye, Wisconsin Policy Forum, the Girl Scout Councils of Wisconsin, and the five UW campuses: UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Green Bay, UW-Platteville and UW-Eau Claire, Barron County.

Civics Games sponsors include the Evjue Foundation, Center for the Study of Institutions & Innovation, League of Wisconsin Municipalities, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Local Government Institute of Wisconsin, Polco.us, Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership, Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

First place winners was the team from Platteville High School. Second place went to Muskego High School and third place went to Memorial High School of Madison.

WNA Foundation president Scott Peterson presented Platteville with the championship trophy and each member of the top three teams with Civics Games medals.

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