

## Ozaukee goes to Washington

### Capital: Grafton pastor to co-lead state trip to march

### Some residents heading to inauguration, but for different reasons

By Alison Henderson

News Graphic Staff

OZAUKEE COUNTY — As the country prepares to inaugurate its next president, Ozaukee County residents are flocking to the nation's capital. While some packed for the inaugural ball, others packed for a march that is expected to fill the streets in the days that follow.

Donald Trump and Mike Pence will be sworn in as president and vice president Friday during the 58th Presidential Inauguration. Many visitors from the area view it as an important experience, but it may be for different reasons. Both Thiensville Village President Van Mobley and Ozaukee County Board Chairman Lee Schlenvogt said this may be their first and only chance to attend a presidential inauguration.

Mobley arrived at DuPont Circle Wednesday morning and plans to attend a number of the week's official events, including Thursday's welcoming ceremony, featuring country singer Toby Keith, and the swearing-in ceremony, inaugural parade and inaugural ball Friday.

"I'm very excited because I've never been to an inauguration, for one thing," Mobley said. "The other thing, I really expect him to say the same things he did during his campaign."

Mobley said this includes jobs, trade deals, "foreign policy that works and is realistic, and really reach out to people in rural communities and cities that have been left behind."

Schlenvogt and his wife, Pamela, also have tickets to the inauguration and parade. In addition, they will attend the Wisconsin Victory Celebration Reception featuring Speaker Paul Ryan and Gov. Scott Walker and visit an open house at U.S. Rep. Glenn Grothman's office.

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Alaina Knier, Grafton, is pictured at the airport in Milwaukee Tuesday before flying to Washington, D.C.

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"I've never been to an inauguration, but I worked on the campaign. It's always been a bucket list kind of thing, something I may never get to do again. I've heard numbers of upward of 700,000 are going to be in D.C. (for the

inauguration), so we're excited," he said. "I think Trump is not your typical candidate. I think he's a businessman and he's going to start running the country like a businessman would run it."

Alongside Mobley, Schlenvogt and other representatives from Ozaukee County's Republican Party will be 31 youth from Wisconsin 4-H through the University of Wisconsin-Extension, two of whom are from Ozaukee County. Alaina Knier, Grafton, and Ella Hoerchner, Cedarburg, were selected to join more than 500 4-H youth from across the country for the Citizenship Washington Focus Presidential Inauguration Program that aims to develop knowledge of America's electoral process and gain valuable citizenship and leadership life skills.

"I think offering kids the opportunity to see the world beyond their own is such a unique experience," said Knier's mother, Ellen Knier, "especially this one when they're at the age when they're going to be voting and thinking about the issues that impact their lives. It's definitely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

The group is being chaperoned by four advisors from University of Wisconsin-Extension 4-H Youth Development, including Brianna Welch, who is from Cedarburg. During their trip, the 4-H youth are touring museums and memorials, attending workshops and participating in Inauguration Day events.

"It means a lot that I was given the opportunity to attend and chosen as one of two from Ozaukee County," said 18-year-old Hoerchner. "I'm excited to see what (Trump) will do and looking forward to hopefully a good four years."

But the president-elect's victory has also been met with resistance, best demonstrated in Wisconsin by the call for a recount and by Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Madison, joining upward of 50 Democratic lawmakers who said they will boycott the inauguration.

It may also be demonstrated by a Women's March on Washington, expected to bring hundreds of thousands of participants to the capital Saturday and an estimated 1.4 million "sister marchers" at concurring events around the world.

While Perry Duman, chair of the Ozaukee County Democratic Party, said he is not aware of any party members attending the inaugural events, he does know of at least 20 people from the area who will be going to Washington for the march and another handful who will attend a sister march in Madison.

"There is some alternative energy that's going to be spent there," he said.

With the OCDP's monthly meeting held Wednesday, just days before the inauguration, Duman said the party's focus will be on its commitment to filling local positions with Democratic candidates.

"It's about taking care of our corner of the world," he said. Pastor Ashley Nolte, of Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Grafton, will bus out to the march with roughly 15 others from the area and 35 more from across the state as the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ. She and two other Wisconsin clergy are leading the "Listening and Witnessing in Washington, D.C." trip.

For her, the trip to Washington is important in standing up for her children and others who will be affected by the president's policies.

"I know that I'm going to walk past the White House on the first day of our president's full day in office to remind him that there are people these laws will affect directly. I have children who will be affected by these policies," she said. "I want to remind him that there is a large portion of this society that will not remain silent if certain things that people rely on get called into question."

She said she has found that participating in marches and demonstrations as a pastor helps others feel like they belong. "I believe that at this time and place it's appropriate for me to go because even if it's not a comfortable part of my job there are times when I have to stand up for what's right. I'd much rather stay at my home in Grafton," she said, "but I can't this week."

Inaugural events kick off Thursday with a wreath-laying ceremony and wrap-up Saturday with a national prayer service. The march will also take place Saturday.

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A group of 4-H students from around the state will attend the inauguration to learn about the executive branch of government.

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