



DOGGONE ARTWORK

Murals painted by Emily Gonnering and Quinn Wood now adorn the small building next to the Oconto Falls Dog Park. The park is now in its first full season of operation after Gonnering cut the ribbon to dedicate the park a year ago.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

Downtown planning grant gains support

The city of Oconto Falls will apply for a consultant to help with the community's empty downtown.

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Suring parade marshals announced

Phil and Elaine Fischer have been chosen to lead this year's Suring Labor Day Parade.

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Oconto Falls senior facility to get a facelift

The Oconto Falls Senior and Community Center is due for an upgrade.

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Oconto County COVID positives continue to rise

Nearly 200 new cases, and one death, during August

By **WARREN BLUHM**

News Editor

The number of positive tests for coronavirus in Oconto County continued to spike through the month of August, county Health & Human Services Director Mike Reimer told the County Board during its regular monthly meeting Aug. 20.

From March 27 to May 1, the county recorded 15 positive tests, Reimer said. That figure grew by 23 to 38 on June 1 and by another 23 on July 1, to 61.

Oconto County experienced a jump of 117 positives by Aug. 1, when the total stood at 178, and another 139 positive tests had been recorded by

Aug. 20, when Reimer reported to the board.

Of the 317 cases, 80 percent or 261 patients were considered recovered. A person who died with COVID-19 in early August was the county's first death, "although that number is probably likely to increase," Reimer said.

By Monday, Aug. 24, Oconto County was listed as having 372 positive tests. A total of 6,874 county residents with symptoms had tested negative for the coronavirus.

Oconto and Marinette counties have been among the hottest of "hot spots" for COVID-19 this summer. As of Monday, Marinette County had recorded 565 positives and six deaths.

County officials continue to recommend washing hands, staying home when sick, wearing a face mask, and maintaining social distancing in an effort to contain the spread.

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Mike Reimer, director of the Oconto County Health & Human Services Department, briefs the County Board on Aug. 20 regarding the sharp increase in positive tests for COVID-19 in the county.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

Support seen for downtown plan

Oconto Falls seeks federal grant for plan covering about 50 parcels

By **WARREN BLUHM**

News Editor

A plan to hire a consultant to draft a downtown Oconto Falls revitalization plan drew general support at a public hearing Aug. 18.

The City Council, the city Main Street Committee and Oconto County Economic Development Corp. are working together to apply for a \$75,000 planning grant from the Community Development Block Grant-CLOSE program, so named because the money comes from the now-closed revolving-fund loan program that CDBG once funded.

Paul Ehrfurth, executive director of OCEDC, said downtown Oconto Falls has lagged economically since an extension of Highland Avenue in the 1970s created a de facto bypass for travelers using state Highway 22 to get from east to west.

The consultant would be asked to develop strategies to revitalize an approximately 50-parcel area of downtown Oconto Falls that has seen better days, he said.

An attempt to spark redevelopment around 1986 faltered because organizers didn't achieve much buy-in from the business community, Ehrfurth said.

"When the last study was done, it really didn't involve enough of the business owners and the general public and the residents in that area," he said. "Consequently really not much evolved out of that study ... What's going to make this successful, or at least have a chance of being successful, is being involved on an ongoing basis between the consultant, the committee, property owners."

A strategic plan might involve programs to improve storefront facades, microloans and similar efforts to "get some synergy growing," Ehrfurth said.

In response to a question, he said that although the plan itself would not provide funding for business improvements, a number of tools are available to help implement any proposals, such

as grants, loans or even creating a tax-increment funding district.

"It's important to do it right this time; it's important to do it in concert with the business community and property owners," he said.

The city of Oconto Falls returned about \$1.7 million to the state Department of Administration when its revolving-fund loan program was closed. The Aug. 18 hearing covered two projects totaling about \$1.2 million — the other being a renovation of the senior and community center — so the city and OCEDC are working to develop a third application for the other \$500,000 that is potentially available.

During his monthly report to the Oconto County Board on Aug. 20, Ehrfurth said the third project may involve street reconstruction.

"We have to be able to demonstrate very clearly through income surveys that 51% of the projects served low- to moderate-income families," he said, citing one of the key components for CDBG eligibility.

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Baraboo man charged in Star Lake shooting death

By **WARREN BLUHM**
News Editor

A Baraboo man was being held in the Aug. 21 shooting death of his sister at their mother's home near Mountain.

Christopher G. Halase, 29, is charged in Oconto County Circuit Court with second-degree reckless homicide, homicide by the negligent use of a dangerous weapon, and a misdemeanor charge of operating a firearm with a controlled substance.

The victim, a 31-year-old Reedsburg woman identified in the criminal complaint only as AH, was pronounced dead on arrival at Langlade Memorial Hospital in Antigo a short time after the 12:52 a.m. incident at a residence on Heller Lane in the Town of Doty, at Star Lake northwest of Mountain.

According to the complaint, AH and her husband were sitting with her mother in a bedroom while Halase was outside shooting a pistol. A short time later Halase appeared in the doorway, pointed the gun at AH and



CHRISTOPHER HALASE

it went off, striking her in the neck.

All witnesses said there were no arguments or disagreements before the incident occurred, and Halase apparently did not realize there was a bullet in the gun's chamber, the complaint said.

Halase was coming to visit his mother and arranged for AH, her husband and her children, ages 3 and 5, also to come to the home for a family get-together. The group had drinks and food at the Halfway Bar before the incident.

A distraught Halase had to be wrestled into a squad car and was screaming about how his sister had been shot when deputies arrived, the complaint said.

Halase had not yet made an appearance in court, and authorities had not released AH's full name as of late Tuesday afternoon.

Fischers are Suring parade grand marshals

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

Philip and Elaine Fischer will be the guests of honor Sept. 7 as grand marshals of the 90th annual Suring Labor Day Parade.

The Fischers will also be feted during the annual Senior Citizen/Grand Marshal Award Ceremony at 7 p.m. Sept. 6 at the Veterans Memorial Park grandstand, part of the four-day Suring Labor Day Celebration. The parade itself is scheduled for 10 a.m. Labor Day down Main Street in Suring.

Natives of Manitowoc, Philip and Elaine Fischer moved to Suring in 1958, where Philip would teach "English, civics and a lot of history" at Suring Area Public Schools. For many years, Philip was also the prom adviser and National Honor Society adviser. Elaine was employed by Vlasic Foods and Ceremite.

Philip served as the Suring municipal judge from 1990 through April of this year. Over the years the Fischers were involved in many community



Elaine and Phil Fischer are the grand marshals of the Sept. 7 Labor Day Parade through downtown Suring.

CONTRIBUTED

organizations, including Girls and Boy Scouts, Lions Club, Lioness Club and the Suring Area Library. They are members of St. Michaels Catholic Church in Suring and serve as Mass greeters and volunteers for Food Care and Share pantry.

Philip and Elaine have four children — Kathy (Mark) Micoley, Karen (Jeff) Schneider, Philip Jr. (Tricia), and Luke (Genny) Fischer. They have 11 grandchildren and "eight-plus" great-grandchildren.



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OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Proceedings of Aug. 21

Julie A Harteau, 62, Coleman, was placed on two years' probation for possession of methamphetamine precursors, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Sept. 6. The sentence begins with 30 days in the county jail with Huber work-release privileges. Judge Michael T. Judge ruled that during probation, Harteau must maintain absolute sobriety and undergo an alcohol and other drug abuse assessment and treatment.

Proceedings of Aug. 20

Adam J. Julius, 20, Oconto Falls, was sentenced to three years in prison, followed by three years of extended supervision, for battery by prisoners, in connection with an incident that occurred June 9, 2019. A second battery by prisoners charge, involving a Feb. 23 incident, was dismissed but read into the record. Judge Michael T. Judge ruled that while Julius is on extended supervision, he must undergo any assessment, counseling or treatment recommended by his probation agent and may not possess or consume alcohol or any controlled substance without a prescription. He was given credit for 427 days already served in the county jail.

After a preliminary hearing Jessica M. Hensel, 30, Suring, was bound over on charges of possession with intent to deliver amphetamines and possession with intent to deliver heroin, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 23. Arraignment was scheduled for Sept. 17.

Proceedings of Aug. 19

Marie Faye Malotte, 42, Neenah,

waived her right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to charges of possession with intent to deliver amphetamine, possession of materials to produce methamphetamine, maintaining a drug trafficking place and possession of THC (all second or subsequent offense), in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred March 24. A pretrial conference was scheduled for Sept. 16.

Autumn Taylor Grulkowski, 18, Suring, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on charges of second-degree recklessly endangering safety, two counts battery or threat to a law enforcement officer and misdemeanor counts of obstructing an officer, lewd and lascivious behavior, battery and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 4. Arraignment was scheduled for Sept. 11.

John E. Timm, 41, Oconto Falls, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on five counts of possession of child pornography, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 29. His initial appearance was adjourned until Aug. 13. Arraignment was scheduled for Sept. 17.

Bond was set at \$7,500 cash for Joshua R. Wenzel, 31, Oconto, after he was charged with aggravated battery and two misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Aug. 2. His initial appearance was adjourned until Sept. 17.

Proceedings of Aug. 18

Treasure Lee Cote-Payment, 34, Oconto Falls, was sentenced to three years' probation for child

abuse in connection with an incident that occurred Nov. 3. Judge Michael T. Judge first imposed and stayed a three-year prison sentence followed by three years of extended supervision, which must be served if she violates terms of probation. Those conditions include maintaining absolute sobriety and undergoing assessment and treatment for alcohol and other drug abuse. She was given credit for 186 days already served in county jail.

Ryker L. Shampo, 21, Marinette, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to bail jumping and misdemeanor disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 2. He was already awaiting trial on charges of possession of materials to produce methamphetamine and misdemeanor possession of THC and possession of drug paraphernalia, in an alleged Nov. 21 incident. A pretrial conference was scheduled for Sept. 17.

Proceedings of Aug. 17

Brittany Fagerstrom, 34, Seymour, was sentenced to 18 months in state prison, followed by 18 months of extended supervision, for possession of methamphetamine, in connection with an incident that occurred April 16, 2018. Judge Michael T. Judge ruled that during her extended supervisions, Fagerstrom must maintain absolute sobriety, undergo alcohol and other drug abuse assessment and treatment and not be involved with anyone in the drug trade.

Zachary A. Dronso, 27, Shawano, was placed on five years' probation for injury by intoxicated use of a vehicle in connection with a July 5, 2019, crash at Valley View Road

and Red Maple Lane in Townsend. Judge Michael T. Judge first imposed and then stayed a five-year prison term, followed by five years of extended supervision, which must be served if Dronso violates the terms of his probation. Those conditions include that he maintain absolute sobriety and undergo alcohol and other drug abuse assessment and treatment. Judge sentenced him to 300 days in the county jail, with credit for 216 days already served.

Jhonathan Anthony Gutierrez, 31, Fallon, Missouri, formerly Green Bay, pleaded no contest to charges of strangulation-suffocation and misdemeanor battery and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Aug. 31, 2019. Judge Michael T. Judge approved a deferred-judgment agreement for the felony charge and placed Gutierrez on two years' probation, with conditions including absolute sobriety and fines and court costs totaling \$926.

Jason S. Jeske, 27, Oconto, pleaded guilty to a sex offender registry violation, in connection with an incident that occurred Jan. 14, and misdemeanor criminal damage to property, in connection with a Feb. 25 incident. Judge Michael T. Judge scheduled sentencing for Oct. 9 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

Bond was set at \$15,000 cash for Melanie L. Nelson, 55, formerly of Wild Rose, North Dakota, who is charged with bail jumping, possession of methamphetamine and misdemeanor possession of THC and drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Aug. 14. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for Aug. 28.

MUSIC BY THE RIVER

The final Sunset Concert Series event of the season is scheduled for 6-9 p.m. Friday at East Side Beach along North Main Street in Oconto Falls. This week's featured band is The Presidents, an Oshkosh-based band that promises "a high-energy show with an eclectic mix of classic to contemporary party rock songs." The Oconto Falls Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors the monthly series during the summer months, inviting people to bring their own lawn chairs to enjoy the show. Food and refreshments are available for purchase on the grounds; Carry-ins are not permitted.

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Gillett School Board gets reopening update

Some parents choose all-virtual option for their students with classes five days a week

By **WARREN BLUHM**
News Editor

New teachers were scheduled to report to work at the Gillett School District on Monday, with returning teachers joining them Tuesday, as the district prepared to open the 2020-21 academic year in the shadow of a pandemic.

The Gillett School Board was updated during its Aug. 20 meeting on the upcoming 2020-21 school year, a year that begins with students and staff required to wear masks most of the time and football games without spectators.

"We're working on the safety measures, they've been tweaked, they're as ready as possible," Superintendent Todd Hencsik said.

High School Principal Jason Dreier said the Marinette & Oconto Conference decided not to move fall sports to springtime, an option that the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association is allowing, but the season will begin with spectators not allowed.

A spring football season would be "risky at best" because of the weather in Northeast Wisconsin during March, when the games would be played, Dreier said.

"For example, Niagara would not even be able to have a football field for the first three weeks," he said.

Board members said the conference plan makes it crucial that some sort of video feed be available, such as the Eye in the Sky (now known as

Justagame Web Services) that has carried Gillett games online in the past.

"We need to be streaming if we're not going to have spectators," Board President Jamie Young said.

School will be in session five days a week, although parents were given the option of enrolling their children in virtual learning. About 25 elementary students, 25 in middle school and 33 high school students will be learning digitally, for various reasons, Hencsik said.

"With the system we have in place, I'm feeling pretty confident that we'll be able to manage that," he said.

The board last month approved a contract with Acellus Digital Curriculum, an online program that can be aligned with in-person teaching to provide a seamless part- or full-time virtual classroom. Both live and virtual students will be following the same instruction schedule.

Detailed letters were being sent to parents this week with information about how schools would be operating this fall. While the district will be following the state mask mandate, there will be designated mask-free times such as snack breaks, lunch and recess.

"We all understand that no one wants schools to close again, and the masks are a huge key to keeping our schools open," Elementary Principal Curt Angeli said in his letter to parents.

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MARRIAGES

Zachary Daniel Szymik and Jenna Leigh LaFave, Little Suamico.

Mark Alan Frievalt and Samantha Hope Marquardt, Brazeau.

Storm Odin Chinana and Sierra Rose Peeters, Pulaski.

Patrick Mitchell Manthey and Lyr-ic Ann Manders, Naperville, Illinois.

Aaron Wayne Pedersen and April Marie Olinger, Gillett.

Kendall Duane King, Annville, Pennsylvania, and Rosa Fern Martin, Oconto.

Nolan Paul Brauer, Elizabeth Anne

Sprout, Stiles.

Jeremiah Tim Vizelka and Kimberly Jean Van Boxel, Spruce.

Joseph Gary Domke and Kahner Elise Feld, Chase.

Brett Michael Lucas and Rosa Helga Hansen, Underhill.

Clinton Bruce Neshek and Andrea Sue Parma, Abrams.

Tyler Matthew Marquardt and Holly Marie Blazek, Lena.

Wesley Bruce Brabant, Stiles, and Isabella Grace Morrow, Kingsford, Michigan.

Hillside Assembly to host open house

Hillside Assembly of God Church will begin a new year of youth and children's programs on Wednesday evenings, kicking off with a special open house event at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the church, 5890 State Highway 22 West, Gillett. Prizes, hot dogs and ice cream will be provided.

"Royal Rangers" is a boys' program for ages 3-18. Boys learn practical lessons from the Bible with a variety of themes including camping, sports, lifesaving, first aid,

etc. "Mpat" Girls Clubs is for girls of the same age group and teaches practical lessons from the Bible with various themes including making the right choices, fitness, attitude, peer pressure, family, accountability and self-esteem, just to name a few. Both groups can earn rewards and have opportunities for extracurricular activities.

The Hillside Youth Group also meets on Wednesday nights and includes an opportunity to make

new friends, hear practical messages from the Bible, sing Contemporary Christian music with the youth band and interact with other teens.

For adults the church is offering a Bible Study called "Your Battle Belongs To The Lord."

Hillside is not running its bus ministry this fall, so parents are encouraged to bring their children and stay for the adult Bible Study. The church is following the procedures implemented by the local school dis-

trict, including weekly sanitization of all rooms, temperature checks at the doors, face masks in the hallways and social distancing in the classrooms. It is up to the parents to decide if their child wears a mask in the classroom.

These Wednesday night activities meet 6:45-8 p.m. starting on Sept. 9. Visitors are welcome. For more information or to register your child online, visit www.HillsideAssembly.com.



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DF-CD-NP-Q320

SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Experienced Oconto Falls roster sets sights high in new conference

Panthers return 19 starters from last year

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

After a strong finish to its 2019 season and with an experienced roster to utilize, the Oconto Falls High School football team is eager to get its season underway.

Oconto Falls, which is coached by Nick Bohl, will play in the newly formed Northwoods Conference. The Panthers head into the season with nine starters back on offense and 10 starters returning on defense.

Two of those starters earned all-conference nods in the North Eastern Conference last fall and are ready to lead the team. Daylen Hischke was a second-teamer as a defensive lineman and an honorable mention as a wide receiver. Adam Haines made the second team for his play on the defensive line, and he added an honorable mention nod on the offensive line.

"Well, expectations are high. We have a great group of guys and some great athletes this year," said

Haines. "I definitely think we will have the goal of having a winning season this year and going pretty far in the playoffs. We need to stick together and work as a team. It will be a fun season for us and the fans to watch."

"Expectations are to work just as hard as last year, and then some," said Hischke. "There are no excuses to go easy on this new conference because we have no clue what's going to happen."

Senior Tucker Bouche is expected to take over at quarterback while serving as a defensive back on the other side of the ball. He will be protected by senior offensive linemen Elijah Zielinski, Brant Rowland, Tucker Moynihan and Haines. Those four players will also serve as defensive linemen.

The Panthers have a multitude of players that will serve as ball carriers — including junior Dylan Thomson and seniors Owen Huber, Logan Joachim, Hunter Mallien and Carson Mercier. On defense, Huber

and Mercier will serve as linebackers, with Mallien on the line and Thomson and Joachim in the secondary.

Seniors Garrett Vervelde (defensive back) and Owen Seidl (tight end, linebacker) also are back with plenty of varsity experience under their belts.

Bohl also sees several other players on the roster that could help the team out on either side of the ball.

Josh Saari (tight end, defensive line), Alex Waschbisch and Logan Vorpahl (defensive backs) and Josh Temple (tight end, defensive line) are hoping to earn roles during their senior seasons.

The list of juniors that could see ample time on the field includes Weston Borkevic (running back, linebacker), Owen Heinke (offensive line, defensive line), Alonso Romo (linebacker) and Noah Hirst, Jake Sager and Jaden Ganter (running back, defensive back). Sophomore Mitchell Kallies will play on the offensive and defensive line.



Oconto Falls' Logan Joachim runs with the football during a 2019 nonconference game in Shawano. Joachim started for the Panthers on both sides of the ball in his junior season and is one of several starters back in the mix this fall.

sports@newmedia-wi.com

FILE | NEW MEDIA

Football, volleyball seasons postponed at Menominee Indian High School

Both sports plan to take advantage of alternate season

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Menominee Indian High School announced Monday morning that it was postponing its fall football and girls volleyball seasons. The school's cross-country team will still participate in the fall season.

The announcement was made in a press release from Wendell Waukau, the superintendent of the Menominee Indian School District.

"In making this decision, we factored in the safety and well-being of our entire Menominee community as well as our ability to safely open schools to students on Sept. 21," the press release read. "As the year

progresses, we will evaluate the health concerns and how it impacts our participation in all our extracurricular activities."

The school will attempt to play its football and volleyball seasons during the alternate fall season, which will take place after the winter sports season and end after the start of the spring season. Athletes will be allowed to participate in multiple sports.

"Obviously disappointed, but it doesn't come as a huge shock," said Menominee Indian football coach Chris Clache of the news. "I've been pretty honest with my guys all summer that this was a possibility; things could change real quick. As a coach, disappointed, but we're adults and we can

process this and move on."

Clache believes his team handled the news as well as they could have and will respond in a positive manner moving forward. He didn't anticipate losing too many players to spring sports.

The football season will start practice the week of March 8 and wrap up the week of May 3. There is not any tournament play for that football season.

The alternate volleyball season is set to start practice during the week of Feb. 22 and end the week of April 12.

Chuck Raasch, Menominee Indian's athletic director, said the school had been 50/50 on whether it would play this fall, and it had let its conference opponents know that. Menominee Indian's football team was set to join

the Northwoods Conference this fall, while the volleyball squad plays in the Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division.

While those two conferences are planning on playing conference schedules this fall, Raasch and Clache didn't anticipate any problems with scheduling games in the alternate season.

They said they'd be willing to travel across the state if that's what it takes to get the athletes some game action.

The press release also stated that there would not be any fall sports or extracurricular activities at Menominee Indian Middle School or Keshena Primary School.

sports@newmedia-wi.com

Schmidt earns funeral director license

She has been with Gruetzmacher since 2015

Gruetzmacher Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Suring has announced Mandalyn Schmidt recently earned her Wisconsin funeral director license.

Schmidt graduated from Des Moines Area Community College with a Mortuary Science - Advanced Standing diploma. Prior to this she earned her associate degree from Indian Hills Community College.

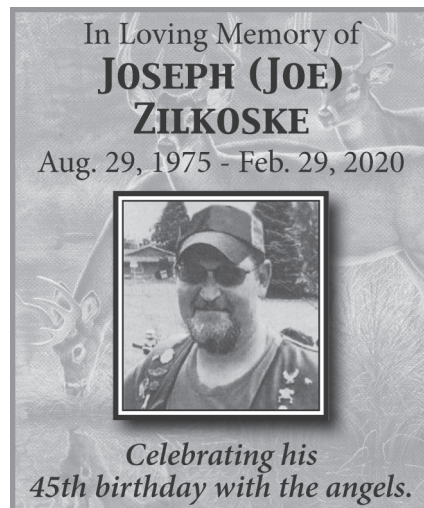
In the State of Wisconsin, to be a licensed funeral director one needs to have completed nine months or more instruction in a prescribed course in a mortuary science school and two years of academic instruction in a college or university with coursework in specific areas, as well as completing an apprenticeship.

"Mandalyn is a huge asset to our business," said Brent Gruetzmacher, owner of Gruetzmacher Funeral Home & Cremation Services. "Having grown up in this area, she has true empathy and compassion for the families we serve."

Schmidt is a native to Gillett, the daughter of Eric and Hope Schmidt. She has been employed by Gruetzmacher since September 2015.



Mandalyn Schmidt has been part of the Gruetzmacher Funeral Home & Cremation Services since December 2015. CONTRIBUTED



This is the Friday-only COVID-19 Journal version of NEW Media's Shawano Leader, Wittenberg Enterprise & Birnamwood News and Oconto County Times Herald. Find us online at www.newmedia-wi.com

NOTICE OF BUDGET CHANGE

The following budget adjustment/transfers have been approved by the Oconto County Board of Supervisors on August 20, 2020:

FROM	TO
Contingency Account	Forestry & Parks Department
AMOUNT	PURPOSE
\$15,000	Weso Dam Engineering Costs

Published pursuant to Wis. Stats. 65.90(3)(a).

NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of the Town of Oconto Falls will consider the amendment of Chapter 18: Land Division & Subdivision Regulations ordinance at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 14, 2020, at the Town Hall, 8680 State Highway 22, Oconto Falls. The primary focus of the proposed amendment is to revise the review requirements for minor land divisions.

The regular Town Board Meeting will begin immediately following completion of this hearing.

You are further notified that a copy of said proposed amendments will be on file and open for public inspection for two weeks commencing Monday, August 31, 2020, in accordance with Wis. Stat. s. 66.0103. Please contact the Town Clerk at 920-412-8151 for an appointment.

Heather Fifield, Clerk
9256 Holtz Road
Oconto Falls, WI 54154

WNAXLP

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Oconto County is seeking applicants for a full time Public Health Nurse position within the Health and Human Services Department. This position promotes population health by applying the nursing process with individuals, families, systems and communities. Interaction with socio-economic and culturally diverse populations and community organizational partners is a key component of work activities. This position requires a Bachelor's degree from an accredited School of Nursing and current WI Registered Nurse License, with public health nursing experience preferred. Familiarity with Oconto County and local community resources, schools and businesses desired.

This position works 37.5 hours per week with a starting wage of \$28.25 per hour, and an excellent fringe benefit package including the Wisconsin Retirement System. Finalists may be required to undergo a detailed background check.

A full job description is available on the county website. Interested candidates must apply on-line at www.co.oconto.wi.us and include a cover letter, resume and references. Application deadline is Monday September 28, 2020 at 12:00p.m.

Oconto County is an EEO/AA Employer

PRESS RELEASE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY

CTH R
Shawano County Line to CTH VV
Oconto County

All interested persons are advised that a public involvement opportunity is being planned by the Oconto County Highway Department and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for the reconditioning of County Trunk Highway (CTH) R.

The CTH R reconditioning project will start at the Shawano County Line and go north through the CTH VV intersection. The reconditioning activities will involve pulverizing the existing asphalt pavement and resurfacing a new 4-inch asphalt pavement. The shoulders will be upgraded from 6-foot gravel shoulders to 3-foot paved and 3-foot gravel. The existing cross culverts will be replaced, and improvements will be made to the CTH VV intersection. All work is planned to be conducted within the existing right of way. The project is scheduled for construction in the summer of 2021.

Due to the Safer at Home order (DHS EO#12), an in-person public involvement meeting will not be conducted. A preliminary plan layout, a description of the project, and a comment form are located for your viewing on the Oconto County homepage at www.co.oconto.wi.us, then click on Departments, then click on Highway Department, then click on County Trunk R Project tab.

If you have any questions or input on the project, or if you would like a hard copy of the preliminary plan layout and project description mailed to you; please contact Mark Schuster, Project Manager; Robert E. Lee & Associates, Inc., at (920) 662-9641, Email: mschuster@releeinc.com, or U.S. Postal mailing address: Robert E. Lee & Associates, 1250 Centennial Centre Boulevard, Hobart, WI 54155.

Or you may contact Brandon Hytinen, Commissioner; Oconto County Highway Department, (920) 834-6896, Email: Brandon.hytinen@co.oconto.wi.us, or U.S. Postal mailing address: Oconto County Highway Department, 202 Van Dyke Street, Oconto, WI 54153.

WNAXLP

Oconto County hires emergency management director

By **WARREN BLUHM**
News Editor

Oconto County has a new emergency management director to replace Tim Magnin, who recently was named full-time Oconto Falls fire chief.

The County Board on Aug. 20 approved the hiring of Jon Spice, an 18-year employee of the county highway department, to take over the emergency management office starting Aug. 24.

Administrative Coordinator Kevin Hamann said the county received 19 applications for the post, which Magnin held for 13 years, and interviewed three top candidates before recommending Spice.

Spice has been volunteering with Magnin over the last few months as the county deals with a variety of public emergencies, including flooding along the bay, the July 2019 windstorm and the coronavirus pandemic, Hamann said.

He is a training officer with the

Oconto Falls Fire Department and is certified by the state of Wisconsin as an emergency services instructor. He also has served as president of Oconto Falls Youth Football.

Spice starts on step 1 of the county's pay grade system for the position, or \$58,760, and he will receive vacation based on his 18 years and eight months of service with the county, according to the resolution passed unanimously by the County Board.

Hamann said the county has

negotiated an agreement with the city of Oconto Falls to have Magnin work with Spice for eight hours a week to provide a smooth transition in the Emergency Management Office.

"I'm very excited to have Jon Spice on board as our emergency management director," Sheriff Todd Skarban said after the meeting. "He's going to do great."

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

Corn silage harvest coming soon, timing assistance available

By **SCOTT REUSS**
Special to NEW Media

Corn silage harvest season is a relatively stressful time for livestock farms, and can be for non-farm neighbors, as well, due to increased farm equipment traffic on the roadways. Although a bit extra stress, silage harvest season is critically important to the economic viability of our area's livestock industry.

On a per-acre basis, corn silage is our area's most valuable field crop. Harvest timing of this high volume, high value crop is dependent on the whole-plant moisture of the standing corn. However, there is significant date variability from year to year when the moisture is correct, and not every farm harvests at the same whole-plant moisture.

In general terms, corn is ready for proper ensilage when the whole-plant moisture measures somewhere around 65%. This occurs approximately 50 to 55 days after the corn tassels, although soil moisture can change that up to 1 week. In 2020, the earliest area corn started tasseling around July 15, with



SCOTT REUSS

most fields tasseling between July 19 and 25. The type of storage structure which a farm utilizes to ensile their corn silage will also change the optimum harvest dates, with horizontal silos

requiring moister corn and vertical silos requiring drier corn.

2020 tasseling dates likely mean that most acres of corn silage in our area will be harvested in the first two weeks of September, but some acres will be later. The Marinette office of UW-Madison Division of Extension is offering livestock producers an opportunity to help monitor whole-plant moisture with three sample testing dates: Sept. 1, Sept. 8 and Sept. 15.

Each of these dates will have four sampling sites: Middle Inlet Town Hall from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.; Crivitz Feed Mill from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.; Beaver Town Hall from 12:30 to 1:30

p.m.; and Grover Town Hall from 1:45 to 2:45 p.m. Full details can be found in the agriculture newsletter or online under the agriculture tab at marinette.extension.wisc.edu.

It is critical that livestock farms make proper harvest timing decisions, as corn which is too dry may not ensile properly and corn that is too wet is unlikely to be at optimum feeding value and can actually seep out the most nutritive portion of the silage. The economic value of an acre of corn silage is dictated by the combination of yield and feeding value. Yield is dictated by corn hybrid planted, growing conditions, and height of harvest. Feeding value is dictated by starch content, fiber digestibility and proper ensiling.

In our two counties, an acre of corn silage will yield approximately 16-20 fresh tons/acre. Each fresh ton of corn silage's value to a farm is based on how much meat or milk it can help a farm produce. Proper ensiling can change this value up or down \$100 per acre very easily, illustrating easily why decision-making based on good data is important.

It is simpler to look at corn silage sale value according to current year corn grain price and fertilizer prices. A fresh ton has about 8 bushels of grain equivalency (at \$3.10 per bushel, about \$25) and this year has a fertilizer replacement (for the non-grain portion) value of around \$10 to \$12. The combination of these two factors yields a per fresh ton value of \$35 to \$37. 18 tons times \$36 per ton equals a per acre value of \$650.

Although this sales value doesn't change as much as the on-farm feeding value, proper harvest timing does still play a part. Harvesting too early (too wet) will decrease the amount of grain equivalency, whereas harvesting too late (too dry) decreases yield measured at the farm level. Both of these can reduce sales value 10% very easily, or up to \$65 per acre in lost value.

Any producers wanting to discuss corn silage management in more detail or any other horticultural or agricultural questions can contact Scott Reuss, Marinette and Oconto County agriculture and horticulture agent, at 715-732-7510 or scott.reuss@wisc.edu.

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OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Aug. 23

Deputies logged 51 incidents, including the following:

Suspicious — reported near state Highway 22 and Van Hulle Lane, Town of Oconto, 1:18 a.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 9000 block of Holt Park Road, Spruce, 1:26 a.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 300 block of North Oakland Avenue, City of Oconto Falls, 5:15 a.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 2500 block of East Frontage Road, Abrams, 12:23 p.m.

Harassment — reported in the 3000 block of Rocky Ledge Road, Pensaukee, 12:37 p.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 300 block of South Green Bay Avenue, City of Gillett, 2:53 p.m.

Attempted burglary — reported in the 200 block of Peshtigo Brook Road, Suring, 4:15 p.m.

Animal bite — reported in the 13000 block of Wardecke Road, Brazeau, 4:30 p.m.

Animal bite — reported in the 12000 block of Chute Dam Lane, Mountain, 4:34 p.m.

Property damage — reported in the 12400 block of Chute Dam Lane, Mountain, 6:55 p.m.

Fireworks — reported in the 5000 block of Allen Road, Little Suamico, 8:47 p.m.

Accidents — Deputies responded to a property-damage accident near Norway Woods and Early lanes, Abrams, 9:55 a.m.; a property-damage accident near South Gage Street and state Highway 32, Lakewood, 12:57 p.m.; a personal-injury crash near U.S. 141 and Old 141 Road, Town of Lena, 4:17 p.m.; and logged one deer-related crash.

Ambulance — one ambulance call was received.

Aug. 22

Deputies logged 72 incidents, including the following:

Suspicious — reported near U.S. 41-141 and County Road D, 12:56 a.m.

Tree down — reported near Island Lake Road and state Highway 32, Riverview, 5:36 a.m.

Theft — reported in the 2000 block of County Road S, Little Suamico, 7:47 a.m.

Trespassing — reported near Pete De Foure and Old 64 roads, Brazeau, 2:54 p.m.

Property damage — reported in the 6000 block of Pipgrass Road, Town of Oconto Falls, 4:29 p.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 9000 block of Tachick Lane, Brazeau, 4:35 p.m.

Weapon offense — reported in the

7000 block of Casey Lane, Sobieski, 5:27 p.m.

Suspicious — reported near Boulder Lake Campground, Doty, 9:25 p.m.

Accidents — Deputies responded to a personal-injury crash near U.S. 141 and Chicken Shack Road, Stiles, 3:43 p.m.; a property-damage crash in the 6000 block of County Road E, Abrams, 4:37 p.m.; and a property-damage crash near County Road T and East Burnt Dam Road, Townsend, 7:55 p.m.; and logged one deer-related crash.

Ambulance — two ambulance calls were received.

Aug. 21

Deputies logged 77 incidents, including the following:

Threatening — reported in the 14000 block of state Highway 32-64, Mountain, 12:45 a.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 5000 block of U.S. 141, Stiles, 2:24 a.m.

Property damage — reported in the 500 block of Cedar Street, Village of Lena, 7:31 a.m.

Burglary — reported in the 6000 block of Red Bank Road, Underhill, 9:03 a.m.

Weapon offense — reported in the 11000 block of Moody Lake Circle, Breed, 10:09 a.m.

Trespassing — reported in the 5000 block of County Road B, Town of Oconto Falls, 10:08 a.m.

Harassment — reported in the 1000 block of Melissa Boulevard, Little Suamico, 10:59 a.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 11000 block of Old U Road, Town of Gillett, 11:09 a.m.

Fraud — reported in the 1000 block of Grosse Road, Little Suamico, 5:20 p.m.

Burglary — reported in the 12000 block of Lonzo Lane, Doty, 5:40 p.m.

Animal bite — reported in the 3000 block of Huebscher Road, Pensaukee, 5:55 p.m.

Stabbing — reported at an address in the City of Oconto, 11:26 p.m.

Noise disturbance — reported in the 700 block of Lilac Road, Little Suamico, 11:36 p.m.

Accidents — Deputies responded to a property-damage accident near County Roads M and B, Spruce, 2:35 a.m.; an accident in the 15200 block of state Highway 32, Lakewood, 12:41 p.m.; and a property-damage accident involving a bear near U.S. 141 and County Road M, Town of Lena, 8:24 p.m.; and logged one deer-related crash.

Ambulance — two ambulance calls were received.

Aug. 20

Deputies logged 40 incidents,

including the following:

Suspicious — reported near Madison Street and Arbutus Avenue, City of Oconto, 12:40 a.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 600 block of North Main Street, City of Oconto Falls, 3:30 a.m.

Unwanted party — reported in the 7000 block of Konitzer Road, Town of Oconto Falls, 5:59 a.m.

Drugs — reported at an address in Abrams, 9:02 a.m.

Threatening — reported in the 7000 block of Daly Creek Road, Town of Oconto Falls, 9:31 a.m.

Trespassing — reported in the 5000 block of County Road B, Town of Oconto Falls, 10:14 a.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 300 block of Columbia Street, City of Oconto Falls, 10:19 a.m.

Suspicious — reported along East Stiles Tower Road, Abrams, 11:24 a.m.

Fire — reported in the 7000 block of South Chase Road, Chase, 1:09 p.m.

Internet Crimes Against Children — reported at an address in Maple Valley, 3:28 p.m.

Trespassing — reported in the 12000 block of County Road Z, Maple Valley, 4:10 p.m.

Harassment — reported in the 5000 block of Molitor Road, Town of Lena, 8:52 p.m.

Unwanted party — reported in the 300 block of Columbia Street, City of Oconto Falls, 8:57 p.m.

Accidents — Deputies responded to an accident in the 4000 block of U.S. 41, Pensaukee, 6:02 p.m.; and logged two deer-related crashes.

Ambulance — two ambulance calls were received.

Aug. 19

Deputies logged 48 incidents, including the following:

Suspicious — reported in the 5000 block of Downtown Lane, Underhill, 3:12 a.m.

Wanted person — reported in the 7000 block of Stoney Creek Lane, Little River, 3:09 p.m.

Suspicious — reported near Michael Circle and County Road HH, Underhill, 6:38 p.m.

Suspicious — reported near Riverside Park, 205 E. Main St., Suring, 10:54 p.m.

Accidents — Deputies responded to a property-damage accident near School Road and County Road R, Underhill, 2:29 p.m.; and logged one deer-related crash.

Ambulance — three ambulance calls were received.

Aug. 18

Deputies logged 44 incidents, including the following:

Suspicious — reported in the 5900 block of Duame Road, Stiles, 12:27 a.m.

Property damage — reported near County Roads V and VV, Underhill, 9:18 a.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 1000 block of Schwartz Road, Chase, 12:04 p.m.

Trespassing — reported in the 3000 block of North River Road, Town of Oconto, 1:49 p.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 13000 block of County Road W, Mountain, 6:06 p.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 5000 block of County Road HH, Underhill, 6:09 p.m.

Criminal damage — reported in the 5000 block of Downtown Lane, Underhill, 7:19 p.m.

Suspicious — reported along East Main Street, Suring, 10:52 p.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 9000 block of Holt Park Road, Spruce, 11:23 p.m.

Accidents — Deputies responded to a property-damage crash near U.S. 141 and Kottke Lane, Town of Lena, 9:35 a.m.; accident near County Road B and Charlie Road, Brazeau, 2:35 p.m.; and logged one deer-related crash.

Aug. 17

Deputies logged 54 incidents, including the following:

Suspicious — reported in the 11000 block of Sleeter Road, Bagley, 5:39 a.m.

Theft — reported in the 15000 block, state Highway 32, Lakewood, 12:08 p.m.

Line down — reported in the 100 block of Cross Street, City of Oconto, 12:54 p.m.

Controlled-burn fire — in the 1000 block of East Frontage Road, Little Suamico, 1:50 p.m.

Suspicious — reported along Kinzinger Lane, Brazeau, 3:31 p.m.

Fraud — reported in the 8000 block of Clay Road, How, 3:55 p.m.

Suspicious — reported along Pecor Point Lane, Pensaukee, 4:21 p.m.

Suspicious — reported near Red Cedar Road and County Road Y, Little River, 4:31 p.m.

Fraud — reported in the 1000 block of County Road J, Little Suamico, 5:37 p.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 100 block of Walnut Avenue, City of Oconto Falls, 9:47 p.m.

Accidents — Deputies responded to an accident in the 2500 block of East Frontage Road, Abrams, 12:18 p.m.; and logged one deer-related crash.

Ambulance — two ambulance calls were received.

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