



Former mayor appears in court

Beaton waives his right to a preliminary hearing; civil case also proceeds.

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Invasive water plant spotted near Gillett

The butterfly dock is capable of crowding native species out of wetland areas.

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Saluting Marie's veterans vision

A tribute to the woman who envisioned a local veterans monument.

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REOPENING PLANS IN PROGRESS

The Gillett School Board was scheduled to get an update Thursday night on plans to bring students back to class this fall, nearly six months after Gov. Tony Evers ordered school buildings closed over coronavirus concerns. The Oconto Falls School Board is expected to get a briefing on their district's plans Monday. **SEE STORY, PAGE 3.**

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA



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420 N. Chestnut Ave. Suite C, PO Box 184,

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Editor

Warren Bluhm

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

News

editorial@newmedia-wi.com

920-848-3427

Office

420 N. Chestnut Ave. Suite C, PO Box 184,

Oconto Falls, WI 54154

Hours: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday-Friday

Telephone

920-848-3427

Publisher

Greg Mellis gmellis@newmedia-wi.com

Editor-in-Chief

Carol Ryczek cryczek@newmedia-wi.com

Sports Editor

Morgan Rode sports@newmedia-wi.com

Obituaries

obits@newmedia-wi.com

Classifieds/legal notices

classifieds@newmedia-wi.com

Retail advertising

tmurphy@newmedia-wi.com

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Former mayor pleads not guilty to charges

Civil lawsuit transferred to Oconto County court system

By **WARREN BLUHM**

News Editor

The former mayor of Gillett waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to 13 counts of theft in a business setting, during a brief appearance in Oconto County Circuit Court on July 7.

Meanwhile, the civil lawsuit filed by James A. Beaton, 39, against his former business partners has been transferred from Marinette to Oconto County court on a change of venue, by mutual agreement of the parties involved.

The former mayor filed suit in late December against Russell and Karen Walker, who sold the former Legacy Funeral Chapel on Sept. 6, 2019. According to the lawsuit, the new owner of now-Kuehl Funeral Home informed Beaton Sept. 9 that he was terminated, effective the following day, and he needed to vacate the apartment attached to the business.

The suit alleges that the Walkers breached three agreements signed when Beaton was hired in October 2016. The court documents also al-



Oconto County Circuit Judge Michael T. Judge is presiding over the criminal case against former Gillett Mayor James Beaton.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

lege wrongful eviction in addition to other claims related to their business relationship and the sale.

The two sides have filed conflicting claims, with Beaton stating he was an equal partner and only took money for his salary and reimbursement of personal expenses, while the Walkers allege Beaton was an employee who misappropriated those funds.

The criminal complaint says the

Walkers approached Oconto County law enforcement in September with allegations Beaton had been embezzling from the funeral home.

According to the complaint, an accountant for the former owner broke down the amount of money Beaton allegedly misappropriated into 11 separate time frames ranging from two to five months each, totalling \$132,227.48.

Judge Michael T. Judge scheduled a status conference in the criminal case for 10 a.m. Aug. 13. The transfer of the civil lawsuit files was completed June 29, and the case has been assigned to Judge Jay N. Conley. No hearings have been scheduled as yet.

Beaton had made himself a name in the city of Gillett, becoming president of the Gillett Business Association and waging a successful write-in campaign for mayor in April 2018. He and the City Council negotiated an agreement for him to step down that was not made public until after his resignation had already taken place Oct. 2.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

Better late than never



Oconto Falls High School graduates walk off the track after participating in an outdoor commencement ceremony Sunday at ST Paper Stadium. Only students and guests who prearranged for seating were allowed entry, masks were required, and social distancing was practiced. The ceremony, usually held Memorial Day weekend in the fieldhouse, was postponed after Gov. Tony Evers ordered school buildings closed through June 30. OCONTO FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

School boards to review reopening plans

A combination of in-person and virtual learning is likely

By **WARREN BLUHM**
News Editor

The Oconto Falls and Gillett school boards will be getting briefed this week on their administrators' plans to open the 2020-21 school year under COVID safety guidelines.

"It is our goal to create a multi-faceted educational plan that effectively meets the learning needs of our students while providing the flexibility to modify operations as needed in response to changing levels of risk," Oconto Falls Superintendent Dean Hess said in a July 1 letter to parents.

That probably will mean a combination of face-to-face instruction and the virtual learning that occurred during the last three months of the 2019-20 school years after Gov. Tony Evers ordered school buildings closed through June, Hess said.

The plan will include the flexibility to convert back to an all-virtual model if deemed necessary, he added.

The planning process has followed guidance from Education Forward, an 87-page document from the state Department of Public Instruction that goes into minute detail about keeping students and staff safe during school operations.

Administrators were planning to brief the Oconto Falls School Board about a potential back-to-school plan when it meets at 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 20.

The board has been meeting remotely via Zoom technology since March; the public can access the

meeting on YouTube — a link can be found by visiting ofpanthers.com and clicking on "Board of Education" from the "District" dropdown menu.

"I anticipate that this discussion will include topics such as the different instructional models that we are considering for the fall, transportation of students, ways that we can mitigate risks, social distancing, personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements, and other key areas in the Education Forward document," Hess said.

The Gillett School Board was expected to get an update on reopening plans when it met Thursday night. During the second of his "Toddcast" podcast reports, new Superintendent Todd Hencik said CESA 8 superintendents have been meeting weekly in hopes all local districts will have similar plans in place for the upcoming school year.

Input from teachers and parents is critical to the process.

Hencik said parent surveys will guide the development of Gillett's action plans, with questions to include parents' preferences between in-person and digital learning, and what mode of transportation parents plan to use to get their children to school.

Both districts have a back-to-school advisory committee in place that includes parents, staff, students and community members.

"We are sharing information with the members of this group and listening to their perspectives on key topics," Hess said.

wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com

MARRIAGES

Cody Alan Nasgovitz and Carlee Sue Cariveau, Oconto.

Matthew Andrew Dazell and Lisa Mae Schmidt, Crown Point, Indiana.

George James Oberle Jr., Mellen, Michigan, and Sarah Elizabeth Jeske, Oconto Falls.

Jerry Lee Brugger and Dawn Victoria Wood, Spruce.

Dennis Vernon Wiskow and Brenda Susan Wellens, Underhill.

Russell Kevin Sowle and Heidi Marie Johnson, Oconto.

Eric Wallace Anderson and Janet Dempsey Schmid, How.

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July 12

Deputies responded to 66 incidents, including the following:

Fire — reported in the 5000 block of West Brown Road, Little Suamico, 1:24 a.m.

Fireworks — reported in the 15000 block of Bass Lake Lane, River-view, 2:06 a.m.

Fireworks — reported along Camber Lane, Chase, 2:51 a.m.

Suspicious — reported near Chute Pond Campground, 12436 Chute Dam Lane, Mountain, 4:21 a.m.

Burglary — reported in the 700 block of Hilbert Road, Chase, 8:55 a.m.

Burglary — reported in the 1000 block of County Road J, Little Suamico, 8:58 a.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 14000 block of County Road W, Mountain, 10:53 a.m.

Property damage — reported in the 10000 block of East Rost Lake Road, Brazeau, 12:12 p.m.

Controlled-burn fire — in the 1000 block of Stable Lane, Chase, 4:12 p.m.

Criminal mischief — reported in the 8000 block of Clay Road, How, 4:59 p.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 3000 block of Brehmer Road, Abrams, 7:10 p.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 5000 block of McDermid Drive, town of Oconto Falls, 7:31 p.m.

Accidents — Deputies logged three deer-related crashes.

Ambulance — Two ambulance calls were received.

July 11

Deputies responded to 89 incidents, including the following:

Disturbance — reported in the 200 block of Gale Street, city of Oconto, 1:16 a.m.

Noise disturbance — reported in the 100 block of Elm Street, city of Oconto, 1:23 a.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 4000 block of South Bayshore Road, Pensaukee, 10:38 a.m.

Fire — reported in the 6000 block of Company Lake Road, town of Oconto Falls, 2:32 p.m.

ATV accident — reported near East Main and North Lake streets, city of Gillett, 3:19 p.m.

ATV accident — reported in the 17000 block of Valley View Road, Townsend, 5:47 p.m.

Noise disturbance — reported in the 14000 block of Warrington Lake Drive, Underhill, 7:06 p.m.

Disturbance — reported in the

200 block of Pecor Street, city of Oconto, 8:31 p.m.

Burglary — reported in the 9000 block of Holt Park Road, Spruce, 8:39 p.m.

Criminal damage — reported at Boulder Lake Campground, White Lake, Doty, 8:38 p.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 9000 block of County Road G, Spruce, 8:43 p.m.

Controlled-burn fire — in the 100 block of McDonald Street, city of Oconto, 8:52 p.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 2000 block of Frog Pond Road, town of Oconto, 9:21 p.m.

Utility problem — reported near U.S. 41 and Galuska Road, Abrams, 11:20 p.m.

Noise disturbance — reported in the 2000 block of Trophy Court, Abrams, 11:25 p.m.

Accidents — Deputies responded to a property-damage crash near County Road D and Sandalwood Road, Abrams, 5:05 a.m.; a property-damage crash near County Road W and Sheep Ranch Road, Doty, 2:24 p.m.; and a property-damage crash in the 9000 block of Dudzik Road, Morgan, 4:38 p.m.; and logged three deer-related crashes.

Ambulance — Three ambulance calls were received.

July 10

Deputies responded to 67 incidents, including the following:

Suspicious — reported at City Park, 5182 County Road N, town of Oconto, 12:50 a.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 6000 block of Autumn Blaze Trail, Sobieski, 3:01 a.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 2000 block of Sot Road, Abrams, 6:18 a.m.

Tree down — reported near Speerman and Logan roads, Breed, 10:15 a.m.

Harassment — reported in the 9000 block of state Highway 32, How, 11:35 a.m.

ATV accident — reported along Klaus Lake Road, town of Gillett, 12:24 p.m.

Threatening — reported at an address in Townsend, 1:31 p.m.

Animal bite — reported in the 14000 block of Fairway Circle, Lakewood, 3:16 p.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 5000 block of County Road J, town of Oconto, 6:31 p.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 10000 block of East Rost Lake Road, Brazeau, 8:02 p.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 14000 block of Berry Lake North Shore Road, Underhill, 10:10 p.m.

Ambulance — One ambulance call was received.

July 9

Deputies responded to 48 incidents, including the following:

Fire — reported in the 4000 block of Hunts Lane, town of Gillett, 12:23 a.m.

Tree down — reported in the 9000 block of Pecore Lake Lane, Bagley, 2:54 a.m.

Suspicious — reported along Pecor Point Lane, Pensaukee, 4:08 a.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 5000 block of Norway Woods Lane, Abrams, 5:26 a.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 4000 block of Rosewood Court, Little Suamico, 8:43 a.m.

Wanted person — reported in the 2000 block of Doran Street, town of Oconto, 10:28 a.m.

Wanted person — reported in the 17000 block of Lake View Lane, Townsend, 11:36 a.m.

Tree down — reported near Tar Dam and Niemann roads, Riverview, 6:38 p.m.

Fireworks — reported along Birchwood Lane, Brazeau, 8:48 p.m.

Threatening — reported in the 17000 block of Evergreen Lane, Lakewood, 11:29 p.m.

Accidents — Deputies responded to a personal-injury crash in the 8000 block of County Road I, town of Oconto Falls, 6:47 p.m.; and logged one deer-related crash.

Ambulance — Two ambulance calls were received.

July 8

Deputies responded to 43 incidents, including the following:

Disturbance — reported near U.S. 141 and state Highway 22, Stiles, 2:58 a.m.

Harassment — reported at the Courthouse, 301 Washington St., city of Oconto, 11:35 a.m.

Harassment — reported in the 5600 block of Business 41, town of Oconto, 9:07 p.m.

Suspicious — reported near County Road ZZ and Goldhorn Road, Brazeau, 11:36 p.m.

Accidents — Deputies responded to a personal-injury accident near U.S. 41 and Vermeiren Road, Pensaukee, 4:41 p.m.; an accident at the Scenic Overlook, State Highway 32, Lakewood, 7:19 p.m.

Ambulance — One ambulance call was received.

July 7

Deputies responded to 45 incidents, including the following:

Theft — reported near Schwartz Road and County Road S, Chase, 7:04 a.m.

Wanted person — reported in the 13000 block of County Road M, How, 7:59 a.m.

Controlled-burn fire — in the 7000 block of Hillcrest Road, Little River, 9:32 a.m.

Controlled-burn fire — near Village Tractor, 1465 E. Frontage Road, Little Suamico, 9:52 a.m.

Theft — reported in the 7000 block of Settlement Road, Underhill, 10:15 a.m.

Harassment — reported in the 800 block of Hilbert Road, Chase, 4:50 p.m.

Harassment — reported in the 11000 block of Tracey Lane, Riverview, 7:36 p.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 17000 block of Flynn Lane, Lakewood, 9:09 p.m.

Disturbance — reported in the 300 block of North Rosera Street, village of Lena, 10:10 p.m.

Accidents — Deputies logged one deer-related crash.

Ambulance — One ambulance call was received.

July 6

Deputies responded to 37 incidents, including the following:

Fireworks — reported in the 10000 block of state Highway 32, Breed, 12:40 a.m.

Controlled-burn fire — in the 2000 block of state Highway 22, town of Oconto, 8:04 a.m.

Harassment — reported in the 600 block of East Frontage Road, Little Suamico, 1:03 p.m.

Suspicious — reported in the 5000 block of County Road S, town of Oconto, 1:22 p.m.

Line down — reported in the 12000 block of South White Potato Lake Road, Brazeau, 2:09 p.m.

Tree down — reported in the 11000 block of Old 64 Road, Mountain, 2:21 p.m.

Tree down — reported along Chute Dam Lane, Mountain, 2:23 p.m.

Tree down — reported near Old 64 and Butler Rock roads, Brazeau, 2:26 p.m.

Drugs — reported in the 5000 block of Pine Avenue, town of Oconto, 2:47 p.m.

Line down — reported near County Road WW and Two Mile Road, Little River, 3:25 p.m.

Loafing around on the Oconto River

By CATHY CARNES
Special to NEW Media

The remnant of the rock jetty near the mouth of the Oconto River provides great loafing and preening habitat for birds such as the white pelican and gulls. High waters in recent years topped most of the jetty and washed away rock, leaving stepping stones where once a wider avenue provided a place for a picnic table and anglers.

Today, white pelicans, ring-billed gulls and herring gulls enjoy the comfort and safety of the rocky pier as they loaf in the warm afternoon sun, taking time to socialize and preen their feathers.

Preening, necessary for good health, is no small job for these birds; they can spend at least 10% of each day doing this. They use their bills and feet to preen their feathers by nibbling or stroking them from the base up to the tip; this also moisturizes their feathers with oil to keep them flexible and strong and aligns them for optimum waterproofing, insulation and flight. Feather parasites and lice are also removed by preening, protecting the bird's health and the flock or



Gulls and white pelicans gather near the mouth of the Oconto River off the Splinter Causeway.

CATHY CARNES

nest from disease. And preening pays off in courtship, as a bird's healthy appearance attracts a mate and helps in raising strong, healthy chicks. Mutual preening, or allopreening, helps bond mates to each other; it's a form of communication that keeps their union strong (www.thespruce.com).

It's an eyeful to see so many beautiful birds in one place on the jetty — a study in whites and grays, with the large stately pelicans taking central stage. They have real presence; white pelicans weigh up to 16 pounds and have a wing span of 9 feet. They have

strikingly orange bills, legs and feet.

Pelicans like to fish together using their bills and wings to drive fish shoreward, corralling their prey and scooping up their fishy meals with their large, strong bills and throat pouches.

Breeding birds develop a plate or large orange ridge, also called a "nuptial tubercle" on their bills and ornamental plumes on the tops of their heads; the plate falls off once their chicks start feeding.

Pelicans nest in colonies on remote sandbars, islands and peninsulas,

building their nests in depressions on the ground. Chicks are born featherless and orange skinned. When older, they feed in large groups until they fledge or are ready to fly at roughly 10 weeks (<https://www.eekwi.org/animals/birds/american-white-pelican>).

According to Wisconsin DNR, the white pelican is documented in the early history of Wisconsin, but the species disappeared from the Midwest due to habitat loss and contaminants. Through time and increased conservation, their habitat has improved and they have returned and are expanding their range.

In Wisconsin, the white pelican is now found in more undisturbed habitats near the Upper Mississippi River, Green Bay, Lake Butte des Morts and at Horicon Marsh. Watch for these birds. They are especially beautiful in flight — the pure white of their bodies a sharp contrast to their black-tipped wing feathers as they soar together in slow sweeping circles, rising higher and higher skyward, sometimes disappearing from view. They are a beautiful sight to behold.

Cathy Carnes of Oconto is a retired U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologist who volunteers with Bird City Oconto.

Invasive plant spotted near Gillett

Butterfly dock has the potential to shade out native species

A prohibited invasive plant that has the potential to invade shorelines, wetlands, forests and other shaded, moist areas has been found for the first time in Oconto County.

Butterfly dock originally inhabited Europe and northern Asia, where it is known for its attractive appearance. It is prohibited in Wisconsin under the state's invasive species rule, NR 40 of the Administrative Code. Prohibited species are illegal to transfer, sell, possess, transport or introduce into the state. The only other finding of this species in Wisconsin was in 2015 at a nursery in northern Wisconsin.

In June, two Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources botanists responded to a report of suspected butterfly dock in a right-of-way just north of Gillett. The botanists verified the species as prohibited and pursued control efforts with the help of a local contractor and the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area called Timberland Invasives Partnership, which serves Langlade, Forest, Menominee and Oconto counties.

"It is unclear how the plant was introduced, but it was possibly planted for horticultural aesthetics or for medicinal uses," said Amanda Smith, a DNR invasive species specialist. "Initial monitoring of the area does not suggest that the population has spread locally; however, other forms of spread are possible."

Smith said an adjacent stream could have transported seeds or roots downstream, or garden enthusiasts might have shared clippings of this unusual and striking plant, not knowing of its invasiveness and ecological impacts. Additional monitoring of the site and nearby waterbodies will continue, and DNR staff and partners will also begin outreach to local garden clubs and retailers.

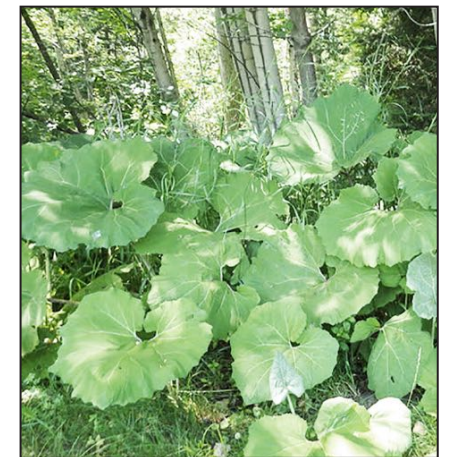
The public can report invasive species by following the instructions on the DNR website or email invasive.species@wisconsin.gov.

Butterfly dock is known by numerous common names, including butterbur, bog rhubarb, devil's hat, winter heliotrope, purple butterbur,

pestilence wort and colt's foot. It has reportedly grown as tall as 7 feet with leaves that can span over one yard in diameter, shading out native species. This species readily reproduces by root fragmentation, creeping rhizomes and seeds.

As with all aquatic invasive species, people can help reduce the spread of this species by following these steps:

- Use native plant species whenever possible.
 - Bag and dispose of unwanted seeds or invasive plants in the trash, labeled "Approved for landfilling by DNR."
 - Be on the lookout for invasive species.
 - Respond aggressively to rid your land of new invasive species.
 - Leave native trees and plants alone; natural landscapes offer the best defense.
 - When traveling on foot in natural areas, always brush boots and waders clean of seeds, mud and other debris.
- Paddlers and boaters remember the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention



Butterfly dock has reportedly grown as tall as 7 feet with leaves that can span over one yard in diameter, shading out native species.

WISCONSIN DNR

Steps:

- Inspect boats, trailers and equipment for attached aquatic plants or animals.
- Remove all attached plants or animals.
- Drain all water from boats, motors, livewells and other equipment.
- Never move live fish away from a waterbody.

Remembering Marie's vision

Marie Magnin envisioned veterans' monument to honor her late husband, Chub, and other local heroes

By **RODNEY GOODELL**

Special to NEW Media

Back in the day, Chub and Marie Mangin owned a small hardware store in Oconto Falls. Chub was a proud World War II veteran who had served overseas during the war. After many years in the store, Chub sadly passed away. Marie, now a widow, began to dream a grand vision.

She dreamed of a veterans' monument to be built somewhere in the community — a monument to honor and recognize the many men and women, both living and dead, who had served in the military. She proposed selling bricks in the name of each veteran. In turn, these bricks would become part of the monument.

Marie began her campaign with determination and, as time went on, she sold many bricks and raised a sizable fund. Along the way there were ebbs and flows, but Marie persisted. As more time passed, her health began to suffer and for a time enthusiasm for the noble cause began to waver. About this time, with her urging, a local veteran and auxiliary unit agreed to become involved to see the ambitious project through to completion.

Within the organization, key members stepped forward, individuals who worked wholeheartedly on the project. Names of these members are too numerous to mention, but Bob, a Navy veteran, Vaughn and Dan, both Army veterans, and Bev, wife of a Marine, deserve special mention. It is doubtful they knew the obstacles ahead, but with determination they moved the project forward. A site for the monument had yet to be determined.

At the beginning, a site on a side street from downtown had been considered and, later, a second site on an elevated corner of the cemetery. But because of a number of issues, they were ruled out. Finally an attractive site on school property was considered, but this required approval from school administration. Issues of maintenance, liability, parking and lighting had to be resolved. After several months of intense meetings, the school site was approved.

Through the long process, fundraising and the sale of bricks continued. Finally all the pieces were in place — the site, funding and the design.

Throughout the whole process Marie continued her unwavering support,



A plaque at the Oconto Falls Area Veterans Monument commemorates Marie Magnin's vision.

CONTRIBUTED

but suddenly and unexpectedly, she passed away. It was a tragedy felt by everyone, but it only inspired the effort to continue. A comforting thought was she knew the monument was on track, for the end was clearly in sight.

Not long after her death in the spring of the year, groundbreaking occurred, and soon after deep footings were poured. Construction continued throughout the summer. Enthusiasm and excitement for the monument began to grow in the community. Contributions and brick sales began to come in from distant places, several from out of state. Local contractors contributed time and materials at cost. Progress continued, and finally completion was accomplished in late October.

Dedication took place in early November before a packed house in the school auditorium. Immediately afterward on nearby grounds, the beautiful monument was revealed. Almost on cue the overhead clouds parted, the sky cleared and the sun shone bright and, with great anticipation, flags were



The plaza of the new Oconto Falls Area Veterans Monument was filled to overflowing after its dedication ceremony Nov. 8.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

raised for the first time — a fitting end to a great cause, for Marie's dream had finally come true.

Somewhere in the great beyond, I have to believe she is looking down with that beautiful smile on her face.

SALUTE: Pantry thanks community

The volunteers of the Kingdom Come Food Pantry in Oconto Falls are grateful to all the generous and thoughtful people who have shared their funds and other items with them so that they might continue to help area people during these hard

times. Your continued support is critical as we provide needed food and other items. Thank you, and God bless you.

**Loretta Shellman,
For Kingdom Come Food Pantry,
Oconto Falls**

SOCIAL WORKER (Case Manager)

Oconto County Department of Health & Human Services has an exciting professional employment opportunity in the area of child protective services. The ideal applicant will be able to establish engagement with families to create a trusting relationship that will promote growth and connections within the family unit.

Our Family Services Division is looking for a self-motivated, organized and detail-oriented individual to join our team! Minimum requirements are a Bachelors Degree from an accredited college or university with a BSW or BS/BA degree in social work or other related Health & Human Services Field.

Oconto County offers an opportunity for gainful employment while preserving a strong work-life balance in a rural setting.

Starting wage range is \$24.09 per hour plus 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 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, July 27, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

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REGISTERED NURSE Limited Term Employee

Oconto County is seeking applicants for a Registered Nurse limited term employee position within the Health and Human Services Department. This position will conduct disease investigation and contact tracing in the local health department's response to the current pandemic. This position requires a current WI Registered Nurse License. This part-time position works a flexible schedule, including some weekend hours. The number of hours per week will vary. The current wage is \$27.00 per hour. Finalists will be required to undergo a detailed background check.

Interested candidates must apply on-line at www.co.oconto.wi.us. Application deadline is Monday, July 24th at 4:00 p.m.

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Emergency Management Director

Oconto County is seeking qualified applicants to fill our Emergency Management Director position. This position is responsible to coordinate the planning necessary to assure that Oconto County citizens will be adequately protected in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. Position assists in implementation of the SARA and LEPC programs and works as the liaison between the County and Fire, Ambulance and Police departments. Position also assists Administrative Coordinator with safety and risk management programs.

Requires Associate Degree or equivalent in Emergency Management, Public Safety or related field, or one to three years related experience and/or training, and working knowledge of all FEMA rules. Also required to be on-call 24/7 in order to respond to emergencies. Starting salary range is \$58,760 - \$60,008 and includes a full benefit package including the Wisconsin Retirement System. Please apply on-line at www.co.oconto.wi.us and submit a letter interest, resume and references. A full-background investigation may be part of the hiring process. Application deadline is 12:00 p.m. on Friday, July 31, 2020

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OPINION: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Raise the bar on police transparency

Recently, the National Freedom of Information Coalition and the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information issued a statement calling for greater transparency and accountability from law enforcement. They were joined by more than 50 groups, including the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council, Wisconsin Newspaper Association and the Wisconsin Transparency Project.

“Trust is a key element in police-citizen relationships. Secrecy is the enemy of trust,” the statement noted. “Effective oversight of law enforcement requires meaningfully improving the flow of information to the public, both as a matter of law and as a matter of culture.”

The police killings of George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks and Breonna Taylor, among others, as well as video footage of police using excessive force in dealing with protesters, have underscored the need for changes in policing, including greater access to disciplinary



BILL LUEDERS

records. It is time to break down some of the barriers that prevent the public from getting a full and true picture of how police perform — sometimes laudable, sometimes not — and how government agencies respond to allegations of misconduct.

Wisconsin, according to one survey, is among just 12 states in the nation in which records of police disciplinary investigations are generally available to the public. But there are still opportunities for improvement.

For one thing, the law builds unnecessary delays into the process to afford police officers, like all public employees, an opportunity to sue to block the release of disciplinary records. It also enables departments to deny access to records while an investigation is pending, in the absence of any proof

that secrecy makes the process work better.

Early this year, the Legislature passed and Gov. Tony Evers signed into law a bill regarding the use of police body cameras. While it does a good job of balancing the public's right to know against legitimate privacy interests, it still allows police agencies to withhold video of ongoing investigations, something that doesn't happen with video taken by onlookers and not police.

That means, in some cases, the public can only see the video that it is not paying for.

The National FOIC and Brechner Center argue that every aspect of the police misconduct oversight process should be open to public scrutiny.

“Only by seeing the substance of each complaint, how it is resolved and what consequences are imposed can the public trust that justice is being dispensed without favor,” the statement says.

“We understand the difficult challenge police officers face each day in their work. While they have a unique position in our communities, they are still public employees — but with extraordinary power to use deadly force, to search private homes and to detain and arrest.”

Thus we should insist on maximum transparency.

Yes, there are times when police draw complaints that are unfounded and unfair. But the public should have a right to see even these, with the expectation that ordinary people can make rational judgments about their nature and how they are addressed.

We should not have to trust the police to police themselves. Trust will come only when we are allowed to see inside the process.

Your Right to Know is a monthly column distributed by the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council (wisfoic.org), a group dedicated to open government. Bill Lueders, the editor of The Progressive, is the council's president.

YEARS GONE BY

110 years ago • July 1, 1910 • The Enquirer

OCONTO: With the passing of the harbors and rivers bill signed by President Taft, Oconto is going forward with plans to improve its harbor.

The plan improvements provide for a channel 16 feet deep and 100 feet wide which will be extended beyond the present piers to a minimum width of 150 and a contouring of 18 feet.

OCONTO: A fire destroyed F.J. Fischer's building in the rear of Main Street on Friday night. The building was used as an ice house.

100 years ago • June 30, 1920 • Farmer Herald

KELLY LAKE: A number of the members of the Oconto County Medical Society met at the lovely home of Dr. Robbins, on the shore of Kelly Lake, this afternoon, and transacted the usual business.

They not only enjoyed the genial hospitality of the doctor and his estimable wife, but also derived some little pleasure from the proximity to the lake and the resultant coolness.

OCONTO: District Attorney J.B. Chase, Oconto, was in town on legal business Tuesday. Mr. Chase is a candidate for reelection.

90 years ago • July 3, 1930 • Gillett Times

GILLETT: J.M. Melchoir, who has not been in the best of health for some time, has leased his filling station on the corner of Main and Richmond streets to Ben Van

Haren, who is quite well and favorably known to Gillett people and who will put in Wadhams gas for the use of all customers.

OCONTO: R.J. McMillin, of Green Bay, was brought before Justice J.E. Fisher of Oconto on June 28. He was charged with fishing in reserve waters closed by the State Conservation Commission.

90 years ago • July 3, 1930 • Oconto Falls Herald

KELLY LAKE: John Nelson passed away from black erysipelas.

LITTLE RIVER: The bridge contractor completed piers for the new bridges and the steel construction moved forward.

LITTLE RIVER: Charles Staidl suffered severe flesh wounds after being injured by a broken hay fork trip line.

80 years ago • July 4, 1940 • Oconto Falls Herald

LENA: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bentz are the proud parents of a son.

SPRUCE: Maybelle Courtion and Bernard Kramer were married at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

GREEN VALLEY: The Birr families celebrated a family reunion and picnic.

70 years ago • June 29, 1950 • Oconto Falls Herald

SURING: Frances Soulek is among 18 finalists from more than 200 entrants in the Alice in Dairyland contest.

OCONTO FALLS: Ralph Metzler is leasing the Johnson Sweet Shop and changed the name to Metzler Sweet Shop.

LENA: Leroy Seefeldt, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gust Seefeldt, passed away.

60 years ago • June 29, 1960 • Times Herald

SURING: Norma Ann Christensen became the bride of Joseph Ondik Jr.

SURING: Donald Trevor returned home from Camp McCoy where he spent two weeks training with the National Guard.

LENA: Fire destroyed the barn on the Frank Kafka residence.

50 years ago • July 2, 1970 • Times Herald

GILLETT: Cheryl Winker received a bachelor's degree in nursing at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Her class was the first nursing class to graduate from UW-Oshkosh and consisted of 22 members.

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA: Joe C. Valenta graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. Joe received a gift for outstanding contribution to student activities on campus.

He received a certificate of commendation for efforts and services.

40 years ago • July 2, 1980 • Times Herald

LITTLE SUAMICO: Vandals broke into the Lac Baie Council Girl Scout Camp on Lade Beach Road. They broke into a storage shed and took two bows, shooting hundreds of arrows into the roofs, doors and sides of every building in the camp.

OCONTO: A 18-year-old man was jailed after beating and robbing a 72-year-

old man and taking his wallet containing \$23.

OCONTO: Thieves broke a window at Coel's Fish House and made off with a jar of herring and 20 pounds of boned perch.

30 years ago • July 4, 1990 • Times Herald

OCONTO FALLS: A contractor working for Oconto Electric Cooperative accidentally plowed through two underground power circuits near a substation, interrupting service to 560 members. In another incident, a hapless bird shorted out high voltage equipment and knocked out power to about 2,000 customers.

OCONTO FALLS: Patti Elliott has been accepted as a new emergency medical technician on one of the two squads with the Oconto Falls Ambulance Service.

GILLETT: A daughter, Rachel Mae, was born to Joe and Tami Peterson.

25 years ago • July 5, 1995 • Times Herald

SURING: Diversified Wood Products is building a new home following the destruction of the old plant in Hayes last spring. The new structure is located in Suring south of F & M Bank, off Krueger Street.

LENA: Sheila Garrigan graduated with honors from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Green Bay.

SURING: Henry Reidinger celebrated his 101st birthday.

Compiled by Oconto Falls Community Library staff.

COLLEGE NOTES

Knox College

Caitlin Johnson, Little Suamico, has been recognized for academic excellence by the Knox College English department during the 2019-20 academic year. Johnson received the Beverly K. White & Friends Creative Writing Prize, which is awarded annually to a beginning writer for an outstanding piece of creative writing during the year at Knox, which is located in Galesburg, Illinois. Johnson also was named to the Knox dean's list for the 2020 winter term.

Marquette University

Taylor Williquette, Sobieski, has been named to the dean's list for the spring 2020 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee. Williquette is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in biomedical sciences.

Minnesota-Duluth

Trevar A. Zellner, senior from Sobieski, was named to the dean's list for the spring 2020 semester at

the University of Minnesota Duluth's Swenson College of Science and Engineering, where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in mathematics.

Minnesota State, Mankato

Cole Gille, Sobieski, was named to the honor list for the past spring semester at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Northern Michigan

Ashley Collar and Kori Vickery, both from Pulaski, were named to the dean's list for the winter 2020 semester at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan.

Saint Rose

Anna Wood, Mountain, was named to the spring 2020 dean's list at The College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York.

UW-Eau Claire

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire dean's list for the spring

2020 semester included Kennedy Koehne, Abrams, who is studying at the College of Education and Human Sciences; Megan Larson, Lena, Education and Human Sciences; Rickaela Ludwig, Abrams, Arts and Sciences; Shyanne Lessor, Oconto, Education and Human Sciences; Megan Loberger, Oconto Falls, Education and Human Sciences; Hannah Petroll, Sobieski, Nursing and Health Sciences; Greta Sleeter, Suring, Education and Human Sciences; Mikaela Thomson, Abrams, Business; and Ashley Zuge, Little Suamico, Arts and Sciences.

UW-Green Bay

The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay has made public the names of undergraduate students receiving semester honors for the spring 2020 semester.

HIGHEST HONORS (4.0) — Mallory Allen, Abrams; Mara Allen, Abrams; Marlaina Baker, Little

Suamico; Carly Flunker, Sobieski; Chelsey Gilson, Sobieski; Jasmine Gromoske, Oconto; Jasey Jicha, Lena; Mindy Johnson, Oconto Falls; Caleb Lally, Suring; Taylor Markiewicz, Oconto Falls; Chantelle Marotz, Little Suamico; Katie Nowak, Sobieski; Ellen Sohrweide, Oconto; and Heaven Winter, Abrams.

HIGH HONORS (3.99-3.75) — Christopher Beekman, Oconto; Cole Bertrand, Little Suamico; Brady Bostedt, Oconto; Natasha Clark, Townsend; Berkley Dolata, Lena; Preston Fischer, Suring; Jenna Harske, Oconto; Alex Jensen, Little Suamico; Jacob Krueger, Oconto; Kortney Krueger, Sobieski; William Parks, Oconto; Kelly Polzin, Sobieski; Heather Rupiper, Oconto Falls; Ahlana Saray, Oconto; Josiah Schoen, Oconto Falls; Kyle Stoll, Abrams; Samantha Strickland, Oconto Falls; Elizabeth Elisa Suarez, Oconto; Michael Suarez, Oconto and Blake VanVooren, Lena.

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#1262
July 03, 10, 17, 2020
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL DIVISION
OCONTO COUNTY
NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE
Case No. 2019CV000170
Case Code No. 30404

OCEANSIDE MORTGAGE COMPANY
Plaintiff
VS.
BONNIE L. MERRITT A/K/A BONNIE MERRITT;
Defendant.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure entered on December 27, 2019, in the amount of \$104,498.57, the Sheriff, or Designee, will sell the described premises at public auction as follow:

TIME: July 30, 2020 at 10:00am

TERMS: 1. 10% down in cash, cashier's check or certified funds at the time of sale; balance due within 10 days of confirmation of sale; failure to pay balance due will result in forfeit of deposit to plaintiff.

2. Sold "as is" and subject to all legal liens and encumbrances.

3. Buyer to pay applicable Wisconsin Real Estate Transfer Tax in addition to the purchase price

4. Bidders not a party to this action are subject to the requirements of Wisconsin Statute Section 846.155.

Legals
WNAXLP

PLACE: LOBBY OF THE OCONTO COUNTY COURTHOUSE, TREASURER'S OFFICE, 301 WASHINGTON STREET, OCONTO, WI 54153.

Property description:
THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF OCONTO, STATE OF WISCONSIN IN INSTRUMENT NUMBER 707280 AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOTS 45 AND 46 OF THE PLAT OF OCONTO CITY, IN THE CITY OF OCONTO, OCONTO COUNTY, WISCONSIN. SUBJECT TO AND EXCEPTING ANY PARTS THEREOF THAT ARE PRESENTLY CONVEYED, USED, LAID OUT, OR DEDICATED, FOR ROADWAY PURPOSES.

Tax Key No.: 2651520026706

Property Address: 415 2ND STREET, OCONTO, WISCONSIN 54153
Shannon K Cummings
State Bar No. 1033710
Attorney for Plaintiff
633 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 408
Milwaukee, WI, 53203
Phone: 312-541-9710
Mailing Address:
230 W. Monroe St., Suite 1125
Chicago, Illinois, 60606

Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC. Is the creditor's attorney and is attempting to collect a debt on its behalf. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

WNAXLP

Town of Lena
Invitation to Bid

The Town of Lena is taking bids for a project on Goatsville Road. A pre-bid meeting is set for Monday, July 13, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. at the Lena Town Hall at 6087 Goatsville Road.

The Town of Lena, Oconto County, is accepting sealed bids for the reconstruction and blacktop of two miles of Goatsville Road from Sunshine Road towards Old 141 Rd N.

Bids are due on Thursday, July 23, 2020 by 8 P.M. and will be opened and awarded at the Town Hall meeting on July 23, 2020 starting at 8:00 P.M. at 6087 Goatsville Road, Lena, WI 54139. This will be a multi-year project and bids must be submitted for entire project. Sub-contractors may be used.

Job timing will be reviewed at the pre-bid meeting.

THIS IS A (MLS) MULTIMODAL LOCAL SUPPLEMENT PROJECT

Goatsville Road is to be a 4 rod road with 28 foot road surface including 3 foot shoulders.

Truck & Place _____ yards of Fill	@ _____ per ton.
Truck & Place _____ yards of Breaker Rock	@ _____ per ton.
Truck & Place _____ yards of Crushed Rock	@ _____ per ton.

Road should be centered using crushed rock for the road and for the shoulders of the road.

The road should be watered and rolled ready for blacktop. Price to include replacing the culverts which the town will supply. Also include cleaning out the ditch on both sides of the road and back fill with crushed rock. All used culverts are to be hauled back to the Town Hall. Contractors are responsible for erosion control including mulch and seed, staking, clearing, ditching, and grading.

Blacktop will consist of two 1 1/2 inch compacted layers.

The Town of Lena reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder. Bids can be mailed to the Town of Lena at 8489 Sunshine Road, Lena, WI 54139.

Any questions please call Town Chairman, Kevin Jagiello at 920-373-4908.

Dawn VanArk, Clerk
Town of Lena
WNAXLP

OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Proceedings of July 10

Samantha J. Ahnen, 30, Oconto, formerly Lena, pleaded no contest to two counts of theft of movable property-special facts, in connection with incidents that occurred in 2015.

Twenty-one related charges were dismissed but read into the record.

Judge Michael T. Judge scheduled sentencing for Sept. 21 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

Brittany M. Olson, 34, Green Bay, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on charges of substantial battery and misdemeanor disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Dec. 21. A pretrial conference was scheduled for Sept. 21.

Michael J. Baye, 60, Oconto, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fifth or sixth offense), battery or threat to a law officer, misdemeanor counts of operating while revoked, tampering with or failure to install an ignition interlock device, three counts of resisting or obstructing an officer and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly took place May 19.

A pretrial conference was scheduled for July 31.

Holly S. Jensen, 25, Pound, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to taking and driving a vehicle without the owner's consent, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred May 28.

A pretrial conference was scheduled for Sept. 8.

Proceedings of July 8

Cody L. Belisle, 28, Green Bay,

pleaded no contest to being a felon in possession of a firearm, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred March 25, 2018. Judge Michael T. Judge scheduled sentencing for Sept. 11 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

A Dec. 17 jury trial was scheduled for Caleb J. Hudson, 26, Bonduel, who is charged with child abuse-recklessly causing harm and misdemeanor disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Dec. 18. A final pretrial conference was scheduled for Dec. 7.

After a preliminary hearing, Judge Michael T. Judge dismissed without prejudice a sexual assault charge against Jason J. Huncosky, 19, Suring, on grounds prosecutors did not prove probable cause that a felony was committed.

Nicolas Nigel Beaupre-Mamula, 22, Amberg, pleaded no contest to burglary while armed with a dangerous weapon, in connection with an incident that occurred March 9, 2018.

Several related charges were dismissed but read into the record. Judge Michael T. Judge scheduled sentencing for Sept. 16 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

Patrick E. Mocco, 63, Coleman, pleaded no contest to possession of methamphetamine precursors, in connection with an incident that occurred Sept. 6.

Judge Michael T. Judge scheduled sentencing for Sept. 16 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

Jason Michael Seckel, 23, River Falls, stood mute and a not-guilty plea was entered on his behalf on a charge of battery by a prisoner, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Oct. 9.

Arraignment was scheduled for

Aug. 13.

Rowan Nathaniel Klitzke, 27, Crivitz, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on two counts of possession of narcotic drugs, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred March 4. A pretrial conference was scheduled for Aug. 13.

Travis L. Lacount, 42, Oconto Falls, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on two counts possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a felony, in connection with incidents that allegedly occurred Nov. 23 and Nov. 26. Arraignment was scheduled for July 28.

Justin J. Kubiak, 30, Lena, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on charges of second-degree recklessly endangering safety, strangulation and suffocation, and misdemeanor pointing a firearm at another person, battery and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred May 18. A pretrial conference was scheduled for July 29.

Proceedings of July 7

Samantha L. Smith, 25, Oconto, was placed on three years of probation for possession of methamphetamine, in connection with an incident that occurred Nov. 22, and charges of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor resisting an officer, in connection with a Jan. 31 incident. Judge Michael T. Judge first imposed and stayed a 3½-year term of prison followed by extended supervision, which would take effect if she is found to have violated conditions of probation.

Those conditions include that Smith maintain absolute sobriety, have no relationship with anyone involved in controlled substances

and never enter an establishment where the main purpose is the sale of alcohol.

Cassy M. Devereux, 31, Oconto, waived her right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on charges of possession of methamphetamine, possession of narcotic drugs and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Nov. 24. Arraignment was scheduled for July 21.

Jerame Mathew Perez, 31, Appleton, pleaded no contest to possession of burglarious tools, in connection with an incident that occurred Jan. 18. Judge Michael T. Judge scheduled sentencing for Aug. 25 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

James F. King, 19, Suring, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on charges of fleeing an officer in a motor vehicle and two counts of misdemeanor resisting or obstructing an officer, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 20. Arraignment was scheduled for July 15.

Daniel L. McDermid, 38, Oconto Falls, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on a charge of felony bail jumping, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Dec. 1. Arraignment was scheduled for July 15.

Proceedings of July 6

Gary G. Rosek, 65, Mountain, pleaded no contest to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (seventh offense), in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Aug. 24. Judge Michael T. Judge scheduled sentencing for Sept. 8 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

After a preliminary hearing, Blaze L. Agen, 56, an inmate at Oshkosh Correctional Institution, was bound over for trial on 11 counts of second-degree sexual assault, in connection with assaults that allegedly occurred from 2013 to 2016. Arraignment was scheduled for July 16.

Daniel Roy Roeder Jr., 47, Oconto, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on a charge of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fifth or sixth offense), in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred April 10. Arraignment was scheduled for Aug. 13.



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22oz

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or Peaches**



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Plums**



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Limes



3/\$1

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