

Wanted:

Prep sports officials,
in Sports, Page B1

SUPERIOR Telegram

Covering Northwest Wisconsin since 1890

Friday, October 15, 2021

Zoning change denied

Hobby farm would change community, neighbors say

By Shelley Nelson
Superior Telegram

Plans to build a hobby farm near Person Lake in Wascott were defeated Wednesday, Oct. 13, when the Douglas County Zoning Committee denied a zoning change to Craig and Christine McNeil.

The couple planned to have up to four horses or foals, and 6-10 hens on a five-acre parcel on Pine Oak Road, north of Person Lake.

"My husband and I cared for some of the abandoned horses at a stable in Omaha while we lived there ... to give them the best care and love possible until they could be adopted out for a forever home," Christine McNeil wrote about the couple's goals. "When we were able to move back home, we knew that horses would need to be our purpose in our retirement."

The McNeils own two Mangalarga Marchadors, the national horse of Brazil, that were purchased as foals and are currently boarded in Scottsdale, Arizona.

ZONING: Page A10

County jail staffing short of need

Officials look to raise wages, recruit for open positions

Editor's note: This story first appeared in the Tuesday, Oct. 12, e-edition of the Telegram.

By Shelley Nelson
Superior Telegram

Correctional officers could soon see a bump in their pay as Douglas County faces critical staffing shortages in the jail.

The county's administration committee approved advancing jailers two steps on the pay

scale to retain working staff at its meeting Oct. 7. Pay increases would range from \$1.20 to \$1.38 per hour.

"They basically have 24 healthy, certified jailers trying to cover the shifts of 36 people," county administrator Ann Doucette said. "They know of two more resignations coming before the end of the year. When you look at who's left in the jail, they only have five peo-

ple that have been there over three years."

The increases would go into effect with the pay period following county board approval, said Linda Corbin, human resources manager.

Douglas County's human resources office asked other counties in Wisconsin what they are doing to recruit and retain staff in their jails.

STAFFING: Page A10



Jed Carlson / File / Superior Telegram
The Government Center in Superior, Wisconsin.



Photos by Jed Carlson / Superior Telegram

University of Wisconsin-Superior students, Dillion Krisik, left, and Sami Keller perform during the Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration at the Maawanji'idiwin — "The Place Where We Come Together" Medicine Wheel and Community Gathering Area on the UWS campus Monday.

COMING TOGETHER

Events held statewide on Indigenous Peoples' Day

By Megan Hart
Wisconsin Public Radio

On Monday, Oct. 11 — Indigenous Peoples' Day — Gov. Tony Evers signed an executive order apologizing for the state's role in supporting Indian boarding schools. He's also calling for an examination of the history of the schools in Wisconsin in conjunction with a national investigation announced earlier this year by the U.S. Department of Interior.

For more than 100 years, the federal government forced countless Native American children to attend day and boarding schools across the country, with the goal of assimilating the children into white culture and disconnecting them from their American Indian identities. Kids were prevented from practicing their traditions, according to a news release from the state. Wisconsin had at least 10 such schools, Evers said during an Indigenous Peoples' Day event hosted by the Oneida Nation.

"It's estimated that thousands of Native American kids in Wisconsin were forced to attend one of these schools,



Dillion Krisik, a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Superior from Red Cliff, performs a dance during the Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration on Monday.

leaving generations of trauma inflicted in Native families and communities, and a loss of language, culture and identity," Evers said.

Hundreds of children

were also sent to boarding schools in other states, including Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania. More than 400 children from the Oneida Nation

"We honor those that have never returned home from the boarding school, from the grocery store, from the nightmare of abduction. We honor those who never returned home from the systemic and institutional violence."

TINA DANFORTH, ONEIDA NATION TREASURER

were taken there, councilman Kirby Metoxen said.

"As Native people, we've always heard the stories of the language that they weren't able to speak, the cultural and traditional ways that they weren't able to practice," he said.

Metoxen visited Carlisle, Pennsylvania, during a road trip. He saw a prison where Indigenous children were punished and the stadium where Jim Thorpe played. But he wasn't prepared to encounter the school's cemetery, he said. He felt overwhelmed when he saw Oneida children there, and he worked to have three of them disinterred and brought home. Four Oneida children remain in Carlisle, he said.

"I hope someday we will be able to bring the remaining four children from Carlisle back to Oneida," he said.

Metoxen visited Carlisle, Pennsylvania, during a road trip. He

saw a prison where Indigenous children were punished and the stadium where Jim Thorpe played. But he wasn't prepared to encounter the school's cemetery, he said. He felt overwhelmed when he saw Oneida children there, and he worked to have three of them disinterred and brought home. Four Oneida children remain in Carlisle, he said.

"I hope someday we will be able to bring the remaining four children from Carlisle back to Oneida," he said.

As states and nations begin to reckon with the history of Indian boarding schools, it's led to tragic headlines. More than 1,300 unmarked graves were identified at four Canadian boarding schools earlier this year.

In 2019, Evers signed an order designating the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Wisconsin. This year, President Joe Biden

TOGETHER: Page A10

Get the newspaper format you love EVERY DAY.



Open your phone or tablet's camera and point it at this code any time after 6 a.m. each day to access that day's print replica.



Available even on days your print paper is not delivered!

GET HOME DELIVERY (715) 395-5050 or (715) 395-5000

CONTACT Us Send news tips to editorial@superiorteleg.com or call 715-395-5000

VOL. 130 NO. 51



\$2.00



Jed Carlson / Superior Telegram

The Chi Waagimin Bay drum group plays and sings during the Indigenous Peoples Day celebration at the Maawanji'idiwin — “The Place Where We Come Together” Medicine Wheel on Monday, on the UW-Superior campus.

TOGETHER

From Page A1

became the first American president to officially recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day, which falls on Columbus Day, a federal holiday.

The Indigenous Peoples' Day ceremony Monday in Oneida was bittersweet, said treasurer Tina Danforth, who recognized residential school survivors and missing and murdered Indigenous women.

“We honor those that have never returned home from the boarding school, from the grocery store, from the nightmare

of abduction. We honor those who never returned home from the systemic and institutional violence,” she said.

Several speakers on Monday highlighted the resilience that American Indian cultures have shown amidst the many injustices they have faced. The ceremony ended on a hopeful note, with the release of a juvenile bald eagle from Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary. The eagle is a significant animal, said councilwoman Marie Summers.

“When we send our prayers, he can send them up to the creator for us,” she said.

Locally

A crowd of roughly 100 people gathered at the Maawanji'idiwin — “The Place Where We Come Together” Medicine Wheel on the University of Wisconsin-Superior campus to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day.

The audience heard from speakers, listened to music and songs from the Chi Waagimin Bay drum group and watched dances from two UWS students.

The Superior Telegram contributed to this report. Wisconsin Public Radio can be heard locally on 91.3 KUWS-FM and at wpr.org.

Wisconsin Public Radio, © Copyright 2021, Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System and Wisconsin Educational Communications Board.

ZONING

From Page A1

The couple's plan included breeding the mare and selling any foals that exceeded four. However, the property is currently zoned as residential recreational. To make their dream a reality, the property would need to be zoned as residential.

They sought a zoning change from Wascott officials and received it. The county zoning committee also weighs in on proposed changes, which is how the issue came up at Wednesday's meeting.

The proposed plan didn't sit well with neighbors.

Ten cabins are adjacent to the property in a span of 470 yards, said Rick Gondik, who owns a cabin two doors away from the McNeils.

“You're going to put the smell of horse manure wafting through the neighborhood when you'd like to smell the water and all of the nice country-type smells that you have at a cabin on a lake,” Gondik said.

Knute Pedersen, who owns

property across from the five-acre parcel, said he should have gotten a letter as an adjacent property owner when the Wascott Plan Commission met on the issue. He learned about the meeting because a friend discovered the posting at a local store 24 hours before the meeting.

“I would recommend that this not be rezoned ... that would be my request of the committee,” Pedersen said.

Shannon Jorgensen, who owns property on Crystal Lake, said, “They knew what the zoning was when they purchased the property or it was transferred, and to change it so they can change the nature of a community or the neighborhood just doesn't seem appropriate to me.”

Julie Kimmes, who bought her lake home in Wascott in 2020, said she never received notice of the town meetings. She said the issue has created animosity and tension in the neighborhood.

“There is no validity to this zoning change,” Kimmes said, adding that a hardship hasn't been demonstrated.

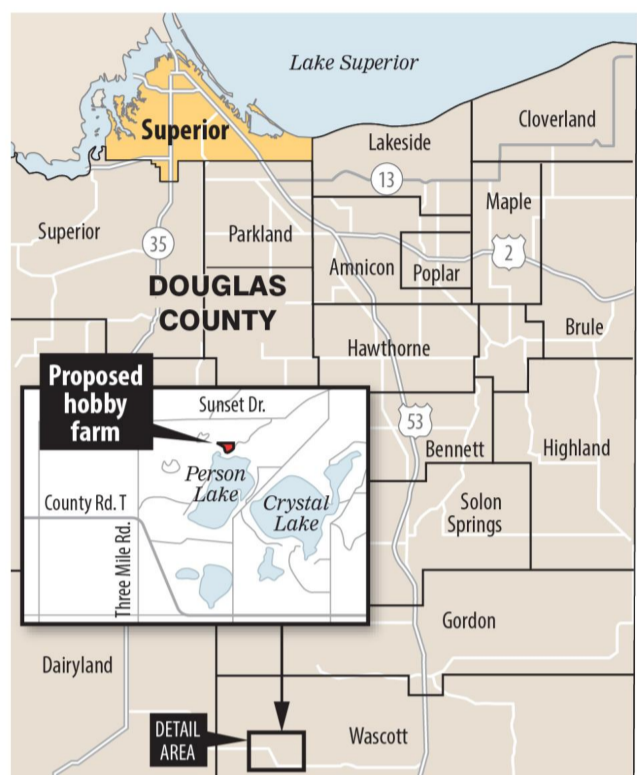
Lynn Koalska, chair of the Wascott Plan Commission, said she was surprised that the proposed hobby farm wasn't in a more remote location when she visited, and she believes that with additional information, the commission might have come to different conclusion.

“It will affect the other property owners,” Koalska said. “While it is legal to rezone, but when you rezone you need to consider that there are neighbors that are going to be unhappy with it ... Common sense tells us we should consider the neighbors and what it's going to be used for in the end.”

The zoning change would be inconsistent with Douglas County's Comprehensive Plan, said zoning coordinator Tessah Behlings.

Wascott Town Board chair Jan Jensen said the town board, which gave final approval, didn't believe they had legal grounds to deny the zoning change.

After a motion to approve the zoning change failed with a 2-3 vote; the Douglas County Zoning Committee voted 4-1 to deny the change.



NEWS TRIBUNE GRAPHICS

Gary Meader / Duluth News Tribune

STAFFING

From Page A1

Of the 15 counties that responded, only one reported that its jail was fully staffed. Waupaca County credited its success to good supervisors, minimizing overtime, and a jail captain who comes in during the night shift to just see how things are going.

Other counties reported trying to solve their staffing challenges with everything from signing bonuses and changing work shifts to increasing hourly wages and creating rewards programs to keep corrections staff on board.

Juneau County reported that jail staff are considered deputies, but to get to patrol, they must work in the jail first.

“This proposal is more or less for retention purposes,” Doucette said.

Ideally, jail staff members work 12-hour shifts with three days working and three days off one week, and four days on and four days off the next week of the pay period for a total of 84

hours every two weeks, said jail Lt. Stacey Minter. However, with the current staffing levels, she said many jail officers are working more than 80 hours of overtime in a pay period.

“That's pretty much two full-time jobs here,” Minter said. “That's not the average, but I'd be shocked if that wasn't close ... that's a lot for us to expect from our employees.”

While the county budgeted \$125,000 for overtime in the jail this year, Minter said the actual cost so far is closer to \$325,000.

The most overtime paid in a two-week pay period was 65.5 hours, said Capt. Tyler Edwards.

According to an analysis of jail payroll, the average overtime per pay period is 17 hours

because some employees work very little overtime, Edwards said. They include jail staff on light duty, those on military leave and court officers and administration, he said.

Moving on

Minter said often when people leave jail employment, they're not staying in the field because they are burned out and looking for better hours, even if it means earning less money.

“It's a problem for all agencies and businesses in this city,” Supervisor Nick Baker said. “You see the signs up there wanting people, willing to hire. I think it's a real serious problem that should be corrected as soon as possible.”

The proposed pay change would put the

hourly range at \$22.11 to \$25.10 for jailers and \$25.47 to \$28.91 for jail sergeants, still less than the pay scale for jail staff in Carlton and St. Louis counties.

“I think it's the first step,” Minter said. “I don't think it's necessarily enough. It's going to be a little bit of a thank you.”

Edwards said he's been pushing for a wage study, and he's hopeful Douglas County will look at Carlton and St. Louis counties because they are the main sources of competition for filling jobs.

A wage study will get underway in January, but recommendations from that aren't likely to go into effect until 2023.

“We can't wait until 2023 because I'm scared we won't have anyone left to do the job,” Edwards said.

Recruiting staff

In addition to increasing pay, Doucette said the county is stepping up its recruiting efforts by reaching out to potential applicants directly.

The county mailed postcards Oct. 1 to people ages 21-50 recruiting for open positions in the jail and dispatchers in the emergency communications center.

Since then, the county has received 23 applications for the jail, compared to the seven or eight applications per month officials typically receive/ Edwards said

he's hopeful there will be more applicants by the time they start interviews next week.

New hires recently have started at step two on the pay scale, Doucette said; or step three or higher if they have prior jail experience.

“I think something should be done as soon as possible,” Baker said. “... I hope they can take a look at the budget and see if there is something we can do about it.”

Baker made a motion to increase pay by two steps, a measure that comes with a \$65,000 price tag.

The Douglas County Board will consider the proposal at 6 p.m. Oct. 21 in the Government Center Boardroom.

MN Lic. #01-12, 01-23

Reinhardt
PROFESSIONAL
AUCTION SERVICE

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

Sun. Oct. 17th Farm Estate Auction for Gordon Gruhke
Tractors, Haying and Field Machinery, Semi Tractor and Trailers, Shop, Palisade, MN.

Sun. Oct. 24th Firearms, Ammo., Car, Shop and Machinery, Hibbing, MN.
See www.reinhardtuctions.com for complete listing.

For pictures see www.reinhardtuctions.com or call 218-845-2260. Reinhardt Auction Service, “Work hard-Sell right!”

We Manufacture The Industry Leading Super Rib 100 - 40 yr. Warranty

HIXWOOD

MANUFACTURERS OF QUALITY BUILDING COMPONENTS

N14685 Copenhaver Ave., Stanley
Phone: (715) 644-0765 Fax: (715) 644-4931
Your Post-Frame Building Supplier Since 1998

9.27.21am

GET UP TO \$1,500

STRESSLESS® CREDIT FOR MORE SEATING AND ACCESSORIES.*

Stressless

OR TAKE **\$500 OFF SELECT RECLINERS***

Stressless® Stella shown in Paloma Rock

Get \$500 off Stressless® Signature base recliners with the soft, gentle rocking motion of BalanceAdapt™ or Stressless® recliners with Classic Power™, a comfort feature that offers enhanced motorized functionality.

September 3 - October 18

*See store for details.



VISIT OUR LINCOLN PARK SHOWROOM AT:

1819 West Superior St, Duluth, MN
Open M-F 8-5 • Sat 8:30-Noon
(218) 722-6699
www.arrowheadsupplyinc.com

What's ON THE menu

VIP
Vintage Italian Pasta
PIZZA-PASTA-CALZONES

Senior Pasta Special
\$5.99 1-4 p.m. Daily

Spaghetti w/Meatballs
Rigatoni w/Meatballs

All Day Sunday
Pasta \$5.99
11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Superior • 1201 Tower Ave.
Closed Mondays

To advertise in this section, reserve your space today by contacting **Scott Blatchford 218-590-8349**