

Sawyer County Record

SAWYER COUNTY SPORTS

Canes football loses to Osceola, will host Spooner, **Page B1**

NORTHERN HIGHLIGHTS

Photos of the Seeley Lions Pre-Fat Racing, **Page A3**

COMMUNITY

Feather pole raising at LCO school, **Page A2**

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HAYWARD WISCONSIN

ON THE TOWN



Photos from the Wisconsin State Fair, **Page B4**

UPCOMING WEATHER



Thursday Friday

For Wednesday, Aug. 27, there's a slight chance of showers and then after 1 p.m. showers and thunderstorms are likely. Patchy fog before 8 a.m. with a high near 80 and low of 57 at night. On Thursday, Aug. 28, it will be mostly sunny with a high near 73 and winds gusting up to 15 mph. At night, the low will hit 50. Friday, Aug. 29, will be sunny with a high near 76 and low at night of 57. Saturday, Aug. 30 there is a slight chance of showers on a partly sunny day that will reach a high of 77. It will be breezy with gust up to 25 mph and at night the low will hit 62. Sunday, Aug. 31, there is a chance of showers and thunderstorms. A mostly cloudy day with a high near 78 and gust up to 20 mph. Sunday night the low will hit 61 and it will remain gusty.

WEATHER LAST WEEK

Not available

Did the system meant to protect children fail four-year-old Zoey Chafer?

At least six reports filed raised concerns but child was kept with caregivers – mother and boyfriend/care giver until she died

BY **FRANK ZUFALL**
Staff Reporter

Two types of stories that are often told in the press about the social services network meant to protect children.

In one, there's a child who has a minor ailment/symptom, such as a bruise that raises concern of foul play or abuse and the child is taken out of the home as a precaution and later it turns out that nothing was wrong – it was an accident – and to the public it

appears the system wildly overreacted.

And then there are cases like Zoey Chafer, 4, of Hayward where concerns were raised, reports filed after medical visits by mandatory reporters but her living situation never changed and then a tragedy occurs and the question is raised – Did the system meant to protect children fail?

In hindsight, it is always easier to line up all the clues and make a case for what appears to be an obvious conclusion because of

the end result – the death of a child.

The Sawyer County Record still wanted to explore this question with a review of what is reported to have occurred to Zoey Chafer.

July 2021

On July 28, 2021 emergency medical specialist (EMS) responded to a call on West 2nd Street in the City of Hayward of a child who was unable to wake up, later identified a Zoey Chafer, 4.

SEE SYSTEM • PAGE A10



PHOTO BY MICHAEL CHAFER

Zoey Chafer.

ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILL HELD AT HAYWARD HIGH SCHOOL



PHOTO BY TERRELL BOETTCHER

A police officer and an EMT drag a person portraying a shooting victim through a hallway at Hayward High School during the active shooter simulation training Tuesday, Aug. 16.

BY **TERRELL BOETTCHER**
News Editor

The sound of three gunshots from a .38-caliber revolver echoed through the hallways at Hayward High School.

"Code Red, Code Red, there is an active shooter in the building; 911 is being called," Principal Dan VanderVelden announced over the intercom. "Now he's in the math hallway. . . now he's in the study hall area. He's heading to the auto shop area."

So began the full-scale mock active shooter drill Tuesday, Aug. 16, involving school staff, multiple law enforcement agencies, fire departments for traffic control, Sawyer County emergency medical services and the Hayward Area Memorial Hospital.

SEE DRILL • PAGE A9



PHOTO BY TERRELL BOETTCHER

A school staff member portraying a person injured in a shooting is escorted out of Hayward High School by a police officer during the active shooter response simulation on Aug. 16.

Bass Lake board dismisses fire chief, hires new chief

BY **TERRELL BOETTCHER**

A controversy involving the Town of Bass Lake fire department's facility maintenance led the town board July 11 to dismiss Chief Marvin Mullett from his duties.

The board voted 3-1 to dismiss Mullett, with supervisors Marshall Savitski, Jim Evans and Bob Hammond in favor and town chairman Justin Hall opposed. Supervisor Dave Aubart was absent.

Subsequently five other department members resigned, leaving two on the roster as of Aug. 1. Those two were dismissed by the town board at a meeting on Aug. 20.

On Aug. 8, the board voted unanimously to appoint veteran firefighter Chris Headley as fire chief.

According to a notice on the town's website, "Chris Headley's reputation as a fire fighter precedes him, and his dedication to the citizens of Sawyer County and Bass Lake is without question. The board stands by him and has complete confidence that he will turn the Bass Lake Fire Department into the best it has ever been."

SEE CHIEF • PAGE A6

Advisory referendum question regarding private funding of election not discussed

BY **FRANK ZUFALL**
Staff Reporter

The Sawyer County Board of Supervisors had on the agenda for their Aug. 18 monthly meeting a topic regarding private dollars funding public elections but it never received sufficient votes to even bring the item to

the floor for discussion. "Resolution for advisory referendum regarding private funding of election administration," was sponsored by Supervisor John Righeimer and co-sponsored by Tom Duffy and Ron Kinsley.

Because the resolution came to the board from the mem-

bers and not from a standing committee, it required a two-thirds vote just to be discussed, according to the board's policy and procedures.

Since there were only 13 present, a two-thirds majority would have required nine supervisors to vote yes, but only eight responded affirmatively:

Dale Schleeter, Jesse Boettcher, Stacey Hessel, Marc Helwig, Duffy, Marshai Savitski, Righeimer and Kinsley.

The five voting no included Tweed Shuman, Brian Bisonette, Michael Maestri, Ron Buckholtz and Ed Peters.

SEE REFERENDUM • PAGE A9

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