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### Local

Suspect in custody in Oconto County double murder.

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### Sports

Marines take down Oconto in OT.

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Good morning,  
**Dorothy Tobison!**  
Thank you for subscribing to the EagleHerald

### DEATHS

**Faucett**, Carol A.  
**Lamma**, Harvey  
**White**, Carolyn J.  
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EAGLEHERALD/ERIN NOHA

People gather at the boat launch in Marinette as Resolute Forest Products burns on the other side of the Menominee River.

## Menominee industrial fire continues to smolder

By **DAN KITKOWSKI**  
EagleHerald Editor

MENOMINEE—Dozens of firefighters from local departments and beyond, including some from downstate Michigan, continue to battle a massive industrial fire in Menominee that is still smoldering after nearly four full days.

One official said she heard it could burn all week.

“That’s what I’ve been told,” said Marinette County Emergency Management Coordinator Kathy Frank, whose department is assisting. “It’s under control, but it’s a big building with a lot of area.”

The fire at Resolute Forest Products, 701 4th Ave., Menominee, began at about 11 p.m. Thursday and has burned throughout the weekend. A company spokesperson on Friday said the fire started in a



EAGLEHERALD CONTRIBUTOR/PAUL WILLIAMS

Firefighters continue to soak the warehouse Saturday at Resolute Forest Products in Menominee.

warehouse that contains pulp injuries.

A company statement on Friday said the fire “is under control.” That was premature as

firefighting efforts continued throughout the weekend and into Monday.

Turn to **FIRE** on Page A2



### TODAY'S WEATHER

**High 67 | Low 54**  
Mostly sunny early,  
showers late.

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EAGLEHERALD CONTRIBUTOR/PAUL WILLIAMS

This shot from across the Menominee River shows three pieces of heavy equipment tearing down the warehouse while it is being sprayed by an aerial truck Sunday at Resolute Forest Products in Menominee.

# Fire

Continued from Page A1

Smoke could be seen billowing from the plant much of the last few days. Bright orange flames also were visible during that time.

Officials from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) came in during the weekend. "They're the ones doing the air and water sampling monitoring," Frank said, adding that information will be released through the EPA going forward.

The Marinette Fire Department has a mutual aid agreement with Menominee, but in order for other Wisconsin departments to offer help the governors from both Wisconsin and Michigan had to activate the Northern Emergency Management Assistance Compact (NEMAC).

The NEMAC legislation, signed in 2013, allows jurisdictions, to include any or all of the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, to participate in cross-border mutual

assistance for preparedness and response with any or all of the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan. The compact allows additional states and provinces to join upon execution or adoption.

Once the NEMAC was activated, crews came from all over Marinette County, Oconto County, Brown County and as far away as Appleton.

Town of Peshtigo Fire Chief Mike Folgert said firefighters from his department were on site Friday as part of a strike team that came from Marinette County. He estimated 12 to 15 firefighters from his department were on site at various times.

"It's a number of different apparatus and personnel," he said of the strike team. "We were officially requested through the State of Wisconsin to provide some help."

Folgert described the fire. "Just a lot of heavy fire in a very large warehouse facility that extended into the pulp mill," he said. "There was a lot of fire load in that warehouse—filled from floor to ceiling with

baled paper products and other products as well."

Besides the Marinette and Town of Peshtigo fire departments, other Marinette County departments offering help include the City of Peshtigo, Wausaukee and Grover-Porterfield. Folgert said most of these departments were released Saturday morning.

He said his department was more than willing to help.

"Most of this is being coordinated on the Michigan side," Folgert said. "We were just a small part of the whole thing. We certainly are glad to help and do what we could. This thing continues to burn and it needs attention."

Crews also came from throughout the Upper Peninsula, as far away as Marquette. Menominee County 911 reported Monday that units from multiple Lower Michigan fire departments were being deployed.

The Escanaba Township Fire Department, which sent a Tower 5 ladder truck that was steadily flowing 1,200 to 1,800 gallons of water per minute with the help of

assisting department's engines and volume pumps, according to a social media post from that department.

"In getting our Tower we had agreed to go anywhere in the Upper Peninsula we may be needed and this weekend we are fulfilling that promise, because if the tables were turned and we had an incident of this size in our community, these Departments would not hesitate to help us," the department posted on its Facebook page.

The City of Escanaba Fire Department sent down a total of eight firefighters and two trucks between Friday and Sunday. One of the trucks was a pumper and the other was a portable air filling station that allows air bottles to be filled on scene.

"That truck is pretty unique," Escanaba Fire Chief Robert LaMarche said of the portable air filling station. "Most of the time when you have to fill air bottles you have to run them back to a department to fill them."

He said the portable unit on the truck can be taken anywhere. "That's really nice, especially in rural areas, so you don't have to drive 30 miles back to the fire department. We can just fill the air bottles right on scene."

LaMarche said the Menominee Fire Department sent out a request for assistance on Friday. Once such a request comes in, there is no hesitation to respond, he said. "We gather all the resources that we can and then we will send them (firefighters)," he

said.

The Escanaba chief was on site Friday and he said it was a massive fire. "By far the largest fire I have ever seen and the hardest to control," LaMarche said.

He said the extreme fire load in the warehouse is what made the fire difficult to contain.

## OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shelter in place orders were issued at various times throughout the weekend for portions of both Marinette and Menominee, depending on the wind direction. There were no active orders as of late Monday afternoon.

On Monday afternoon, Marinette County Emergency Management

Turn to FIRE on Page A3

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SUBMITTED/PATTY HASSEMER

The blue siding torn from a warehouse stands out amid the smoke inside the yard Friday night at Resolute Forest Products in Menominee. Mike Biehl, owner of MJB Industries, was onsite much of the weekend utilizing a backhoe and other equipment to help contain the fire. Other excavating companies assisted as well.

## Fire

Continued from Page A2

provided this update: "The industrial fire in the City of Menominee is expected to burn for several days. As wind direction changes city residents may smell smoke and possibly see soot on outdoor surfaces. The EPA is on-site and

conducting air monitoring. Currently they are not finding any chemical levels above health based screening levels."

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Numerous businesses and agencies have been providing food and drink to the firefighters throughout the battle.

"Kudos to everybody and a lot more willing to help," Folgert said.

### ABOUT RESOLUTE FOREST PRODUCTS

According to its website, Montreal-based Resolute Forest Products is a global leader in the forest products industry with a diverse range of products, including market

pulp, tissue, wood products and papers, which are marketed in over 60 countries. The company owns or operates some 40 facilities, as well as power generation assets, in the United States and Canada. The Menominee plant has 98 employees and the plant manager is Todd Clausen, according to its website.

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## Oconto County suspect in custody

Man faces charges in double murder

O C O N T O — A 27-year-old Oconto County man is a suspect in a double murder earlier this month.



D. Steinmetz

David Steinmetz, Little Suamico, is in custody and two counts of first degree intentional homicide will be forwarded to the Oconto County District Attorney's office, Sheriff Todd Skarban said in a statement.

Oconto County dispatch received a call at 9:04 a.m. Oct. 2 regarding two individuals unresponsive outside a residence in the 1200 block of Melissa Boulevard in the Town of Little Suamico. Oconto County Deputies and County Rescue Ambulance Services arrived on-scene and located a 75-year-old male, later identified as Paul Brennan and a 55-year-old female, later identified

as Lori Steinmetz, both from Little Suamico, deceased outside the residence.

Both victims were observed to have multiple gunshot wounds, according to Skarban. The relationship between the suspect and the victims has not been released.

David Steinmetz, who was labeled a person of interest, was located a short time later in the parking lot of Thompson's Market in the City of Oconto. He was taken into custody without incident and is currently being held in the Oconto County Jail on a probation hold.

This was an isolated incident and the community is not in any danger, Skarban said.

The preliminary investigation has determined the cause of death to be homicide for both victims. This investigation is still active.

The Oconto County Sheriff's Office is being assisted with the investigation by the Brown County Medical Examiner's Office and the Wisconsin Department of Justice Wisconsin State Crime Lab.

## One dead in Oconto County crash

O C O N T O — A person died Friday in a one-vehicle crash in Oconto County.

No information, including the gender of the victim, has been released by the Oconto County Sheriff's Office pending notification of relatives.

The dispatch call was received at 11:10 p.m. Friday reporting a crash on Old 22 Road at Finnegan Lake Lane in the Town of Gillett. When deputies arrived on scene they located a lone vehicle engulfed in flames in

a wooded area adjacent to the ditch, according to a press release from Sheriff Todd Skarban.

The vehicle had been traveling west on Old 22 Road prior to leaving the road and entering the ditch near Finnegan Lake Lane, the sheriff said. A

lone occupant located in the vehicle died on scene.

The Oconto County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Wisconsin State Patrol, the Gillett Police Department, the Town of Gillett Fire Department, City of Gillett Fire Department and

the Gillett Area Ambulance Service. An ongoing investigation is being conducted by the Oconto County Sheriff's Office, the Wisconsin State Patrol and the Brown County Medical Examiner's Office.

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