



Oscoda Press

Vol. 140, No. 52 Wednesday, August 31, 2016 Oscoda, MI 48750
(USPS 412-840)
www.oscodapress.com

\$1.25
per copy



Photo by Karen Rouse

TEACHER PREP – Richardson Elementary School sixth grade math teacher Emily Spaulding prepares for the first day of school.

It's back to school on Tuesday, Sept. 6

by Karen Rouse

OSCODA – Public schools in Iosco County open on Tuesday, Sept. 6, the day after Labor Day. One exception will be kindergartners at Richardson Elementary School (RES) in Oscoda; its first day will be on Friday, Sept. 9.

The four school districts attended by county students are Hale, Oscoda, Tawas and Whittemore-PreScott area schools.

Hale Area Schools

Students attending kindergarten through 12th grades at Hale Area Schools meet in one building, located on North Washington Street, from 8 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.

Bus route information is available by calling the district bus garage at 728-7771. The number is to be called for all transportation matters, including pick up and drop off – not the school office,

said a staff member. Parents and guardians have until 2:15 p.m. on a school day to notify the transportation office of any change to a child's transportation schedule.

School supply lists will be provided to students by their teachers during the first week of class. Elementary students attending Hale schools are provided with breakfast and lunch at no charge and high school students will be charged \$2 for a hot lunch.

Specific questions may be directed to staff in the main office at 728-3551. Also most information and updates are posted on the district website at www.haleschools.net.

An open house at the schools was held yesterday, Tuesday.

Oscoda Area Schools

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade in Oscoda Area Schools attend classes at RES, located west of the high school, on River Road. Classes start at 8 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. RES staff may be reached by calling 739-9173. Elementary students are provided with free breakfasts, while a hot lunch will cost \$2.05 per child.

Oscoda High School, housing grades 7-12, also conducts classes from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students are served free breakfasts and are charged \$2.15 for a hot lunch. A student may qualify for free or reduced meals by application. Additional details are available by calling the high school office at 739-9121.

See SCHOOL, Page 2A

Judge questions probable cause in case against deputy treasurer

by Holly Nelson

TAWAS CITY – Iosco County Deputy Treasurer Catherine Anne Anderson was not bound over for felony trial at the conclusion of a three-hour preliminary exam, held Tuesday, Aug. 23, in 81st District Court.

Judge Allen C. Yenior told the attorneys he did not believe the defendant had criminal intent and questioned whether the prosecutor had shown that the actions she is accused of taking actually constitutes a crime, according to court staff.

He instructed both sides to submit written briefs on the issue of general intent offenses versus strict liability offenses – whether Anderson's alleged actions required a culpable mental awareness of wrongdoing versus whether intent does not matter due to the nature of the act.

Anderson, 51, Tawas City, is charged by Iosco County Prosecutor Nichol Palumbo with embezzlement by a public official, a crime which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

She is specifically alleged by co-worker Jane Hackborn to have taken overnight loans from the cash box in the treasurer's office in 2011 or 2012, documenting same with notes showing the amount she had removed. The notes were intended to aid other employees in balancing the box. According to the police report, she admitted to doing this less than 10 times, possibly three or four times, including once when she was heading out of town for a doctor's appointment and another time when the banks were closed.

Anderson is represented by

East Lansing attorney Mike Nichols and Tawas City attorney Gary Rapp. The defense team called no witnesses, Nichols later said it was unnecessary, as there was nothing to refute, contending the prosecutor had failed to show a crime had been committed.

Nichols also said the charge is political. "This is so patently self motivated. I'm really surprised this case was issued."

Palumbo called two witnesses, Hackborn and Michigan State

Police Sgt. Craig Johnson. Hackborn is employed in the county treasurer's office as a senior tax specialist and is seeking election as county treasurer. Johnson is the investigating trooper.

Palumbo said testimony determined Anderson admitted, to police, to taking money from the treasurer's cash box and, under the law, it is irrelevant if she intended to return the money, as the intent

See COURT, Page 12A



Photo by Karen Rouse

TELEHEALTH DEMONSTRATION – U.S. Senator Gary Peters (D-MI), on right, speaks with Dr. Hassan Almaat, a psychiatrist in Farmington Hills, during a demonstration of telehealth services provided at Alcona Health Center's Oscoda clinic on Monday, Aug. 29.

Senator makes Oscoda stop during cycle tour

by Karen Rouse

OSCODA – U.S. Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) stopped in Oscoda on Monday, Aug. 29, on his first day of his #RideMI Motorcycle Tour. Peters, an avid motorcycle rider, is riding through 26 counties and making 12 stops over five days to discuss his work on behalf of Michigan in the U.S. Senate.

Peters toured Alcona Health Center's Oscoda clinic and received a demonstration of the telehealth services it has been providing since 2009.

He briefly met with key staff members, who thanked him for coming, emphasizing how important telehealth services have become.

Peters was on the patient end of a telehealth demonstration, consulting with Dr. Hassan Almaat, a psychiatrist in Farmington Hills. Visiting a doctor via telehealth saves a patient a three-hour drive from the Oscoda area, saving precious time, pointed out Almaat.

"I'm a big supporter of telemedicine," Peters told the physician.

Almaat said he is happy AHC has the service to provide in Northeast Michigan. Because

of telehealth, Almaat said, even though he does not see the hands or feet of a patient, he does see the necessary elements of facial expressions and how a patient responds to him.

Peters asked Almaat how he could help support the local service. The psychiatrist urged him to continue working with Medicare in approving increased patient care through telehealth services.

The senator, with fellow U.S. Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO), introduced the Telehealth Innovation and Improvement Act in December 2015, which would pave the way for Medicare to cover additional telehealth delivery services.

Following his visit to Oscoda, Peters, a member of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force, traveled to Harrisville to tour its harbor of refuge.

Peters, a former lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve and advocate for Michigan's military installations, also met with local veterans and stopped at Camp Grayling and Wolverine Worldwide, which makes footwear for the U.S. military.

INDEX

Church	4A
Classified	10B
Crossword	15B
Entertainment	6A
Horoscope	15B
Obituaries	9B
Opinions	2A
Outdoors	2C
Social	5A
Sports	8A
Weather	15B



OPINION

Contends Clinton lie continues

Editor,
Two of the problems of being old and having a decent memory is that I AM old and I DO HAVE a decent memory.
During the course of 18 minutes recently, I heard CNN "news" commentators and Hillary Clinton supporters (sorry for being redundant) state 16 times that there was no "evidence" that the Clinton Foundation engaged in "pay-to-play" access to the U.S. Department of State when Hillary was the secretary of state. This is despite a report from the Associated Press which indicates that more than half the people outside the government who met with Hillary Clinton while she was secretary of state gave money – either personally or through companies or groups – to the Clinton Foundation. It's an extraordinary proportion in-

dicating her possible ethics challenges if elected president.
This is where my age and memory issues come into play. I am old enough to remember Bill Clinton, his supporters and "news" reporters state that there was "no evidence" that he lied about his sexual involvement with Monica Lewinsky. These lies about "no evidence" spanned more than a year and was reported thousands of times in the electronic and print media. They were correct. There was "no evidence" – until Bill's semen stain on Lewinsky's blue dress was seized by the FBI.
I guess one could say that the "evidence" leaked out.
The Clinton lies continue.

–Dennis A. Roy
Oscoda



SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1A

District information, such as calendar, bus routes and dress codes are on-line at www.oscodaschools.org. Also, the district's newsletter, "The School Observer," contains start of school information and was mailed to homes within the district last week.
An open house will be held at RES today, Wednesday, from 5-7 p.m. Open house at the high school is also today, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Freshman and parent orientation is scheduled at 5:30 p.m. and a meeting for seniors will be at 6:30 p.m.

for classes at 7:50 a.m., with a release time at 2:44 p.m. Staff may be contacted directly to answer questions at 984-2100 or on-line at www.tawas.net/highschool.

Breakfast is free to all students in the district. Lunch will cost \$1.85 for elementary and middle school students and \$2.10 for high school students. Free and reduced lunches are also available by application.

Bus route information is included in today's *Oscoda Press* and *Iosco County News-Herald*. It can also be obtained by calling the schools.

Tawas Area Schools
Open houses are scheduled tonight, Wednesday, at Clara Bolen Elementary School on Plank Road from 5:30-7:30 p.m.; the middle school from 5-7 p.m.; and at Tawas Area High School from 6-8 p.m.

Whittemore-Prescott Schools
An open house for Whittemore-Prescott Elementary School students in kindergarten through sixth grade is scheduled tomorrow, Thursday, from 5-7 p.m. The school day for elementary students is from 7:55 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. School staff may be contacted by phone at 756-2881.

The high school is located on Prescott Road, beside the elementary school, and contains grades 7-12, with students attending from 8 a.m. to 2:55 p.m. daily. Staff is available to answer questions at 756-2400. Orientation for junior/senior high students was held last week.

Elementary school staff may be contacted at 984-2200.
Middle school students in fifth through seventh grades are moving to the high school at the start of the school year and will start the school day at 7:50 a.m. and finish at 2:44 p.m.

All students in W-P schools receive free breakfasts and lunches.

Bus routes were included in its "Cardinal Connection" newsletter, recently mailed to homes within the district. The newsletter, as well as additional information, is available on-line at www.wpas.net.

Additional information may be obtained by calling the school at 984-2300. On-line information is found at www.tawas.net/middleschool.

High school students report

Received a surprise act of generosity

Editor,
We spend our summers in East Tawas each year. On Thursday, Aug. 25, we were celebrating our 54th wedding anniversary with dinner at the Northwoods Steakhouse in East Tawas.

A woman with a young child was sitting in the booth behind us and apparently heard us informing our waitress about our celebration.

As she got up to leave, she stopped and wished us a happy anniversary. After she left the restaurant and just before we finished our dinner, the waitress informed us that our dinner was paid by the woman, tip and all.

The waitress gave us the bill that had an inspiring personal note written by the woman on the back of it. We were blown away at such

generosity by a stranger and want to extend our sincere appreciation for making our dinner celebration even more special.

Her kind generosity renewed our spirit and faith in our fellow citizens.

–Dan and Jean Balagna
Naples, Fla.

Says letter writers have Trump all wrong

Editor,
Normally I try to ignore some of the letters to the editor that contain outrageous statements that only serve to identify a tribal bunch of ill-informed voters who reside in this nation. However, after reading the letters to the editor in the Aug. 10 issue, I could not resist the effort to defuse the misled comments of a couple of gentlemen.

Most all of their statements were taken out of context. The following are rebuttals to their accusations.

No. 1: It is not true that Trump encourages Russia to enlist in espionage towards the U.S.A. Mr. Trump, with tongue in cheek, said 'I would like to see if Russia might find some of the thousands of emails that Hillary destroyed, I wonder why she destroyed them? In my opinion, the word "espionage" was injected by CNN. They usually take a Trump comment and spin it to meet their objective of avoiding the truth.

No. 2: Trump wants to privatize Social Security. Not true, it was Bush "W" who came up with that one. But considering the three previous raids on the Social Security lock box that have all been exclusively executed by the progressive, socialist party, turning the lock box over to a bonded monetary organization might be the safest way of protecting what's left for the next generation of geezers. The aforementioned geezers are going to have a rough enough time trying to recoup the billions of dollars that Obama has taken from the Medicare account to keep Obama care afloat.

While on that subject of Obama care, the largest insurance company that has been supporting Obama care has just recently dissolved their association with Obama and his health insurance fiasco. He, as usual lied to us and figured this plan to last till he got himself out of office and, as usual, dumped his mess, along with the

overseas and immigration problems, that he has created.

Now to the third lie (and it's a doozie). Trump has never, ever said that he wanted to take away health insurance from 20 million citizens. What Trump did say is if he is elected president, he will fix all of the Obamacare that was predicated on lies and make it better than ever.

Number four lie ranks highly in the bull excrement area. This outrageous lie from "Hillarious" Clinton says Trump will tax, heav-

ily, the middle class. In my opinion, Trump has made the middle class tax issue one of the most important of his campaign. Trump will actually cut middle class taxes.

I have reached my limit of words used. I have several more rebuttals. I will follow up next week with more challenges.

–Ed Koneczny
Oscoda

Letters to the Editor

The editorial page is provided for the purpose of expressing opinion or drawing attention to issues.

Letters to the editor **must be signed with a first and last name** and include home address, also a phone number where the author can be reached for confirmation or questions. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Letters must address the editor – not government, organizations or the authors of prior letters.

Letters should be no longer than 450 words. Inappropriate content will be deleted and letters will run on a space-available basis.

This forum is not intended as a thank you section for groups and organizations. Thank you letters should be addressed to the advertising department.

Drop off letters to the Oscoda Press office; mail to P. O. Box 663, Oscoda, MI 48750; or e-mail using a plain text format to editor1@oscodapress.com.

SUBSCRIPTION COUPON

Name _____

Street/P.O. Box _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

ONE-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

In County **\$57** In State **\$62** Out of State **\$67**

SIX-MONTH SUBSCRIPTION

In County **\$41** In State **\$43** Out of State **\$48**

Send Check or Money Order to: Oscoda Press
311 S. State St., P.O. Box 663 • Oscoda, MI 48750
To use your credit card, call 989-739-2054



The Oscoda Press

311 S. State St., P.O. Box 663, Oscoda, MI 48750 • Phone (989) 739-2054
Established 1879

Co-Editors - Holly Nelson and John Morris
Jenny Haglund - Reporter
Karen Rouse - Reporter

Advertising
Julie Carroll - Sales Representative
Dan Kubisiak - Sales Representative

Production Manager: Jerry Malone
Composing Manager: Christine York

An independent newspaper, published weekly at East Tawas, Michigan and circulating in Iosco County. Subscription Rates: \$57.00 a year in Iosco County; \$62.00 a year elsewhere in Michigan; \$67.00 a year out-of-state. Online subscriptions \$52 a year; online subscription \$20 a year with current print subscription.

Periodicals Postage Paid at East Tawas, MI 48730.

Publication Number 412-840.

Postmaster Send address changes to P.O. Box 72, East Tawas, MI 48730
Contents © copyright 2016 by Iosco News-Press Publishing, Inc.

LOCAL NEWS

Oscoda looks to reestablish Wurtsmith Restoration Advisory Board

by Jenny Haglund

OSCODA – Members of the Oscoda Township Board of Trustees, meeting earlier in the month, agreed to send a letter to U.S. Air Force (USAF) representatives, formally requesting that the Wurtsmith Restoration Advisory

Board (RAB) be reestablished.

Trustee Aaron Weed explained that the last time the USAF conducted a RAB meeting at the former base in Oscoda was in 2005.

RAB was formed in accordance with Department of Defense (DOD) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance and regular meetings were held.

“The Wurtsmith RAB consisted of community members, local government officials, EPA, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality [MDEQ], Oscoda Base Redevelopment Authority and other groups who had interest in the Air Force’s cleanup program,” advised Weed.

“The RAB provided an invaluable forum where the status of the Wurtsmith cleanup programs were communicated to the municipal leaders, the general public and the community had opportunity to provide input to the Air Force and the regulatory agencies on the environmental restoration process,” he continued.

Weed also pointed out that the USAF received a similar request last year and reestablished the RAB at the Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire in April, as it, too, is addressing prefluorinated chemical (PFC) contamination issues in groundwater and drinking water wells.

“As you know, these meetings may provide an invaluable opportunity for stakeholder and community involvement in the PFC contamination response process as well as coordination and implementation of other Wurtsmith remediation, drinking water and environmental control programs.” Weed stated in the letter which was sent to the Air Force, as well as to various state representatives, the MDEQ, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), EPA and others.

Weed said the purpose of reestablishing the RAB is to set up an advisory group for the township and the community to keep in touch with those from the USAF, as to what the department is do-

ing and how they’re doing it, and to ensure that they’re still pressing as hard as they can to resolve the contamination issues.

“My concern is that they’re discovering more and more contaminated sites with PFCs that are worse than ours,” Weed told board members.

If the DOD only has so many resources to work with, they may spend funds on tackling the larger issues first, when Oscoda still needs to be of concern, he added.

As previously reported, there are nearly 30 private water wells near the former air base which have been determined to contain PFCs at levels which, although less than federal advisory guidelines, resulted in the MDHHS and District Health Department No. 2 recommending that impacted res-

idents not drink the water or use it for cooking.

PFCs are chemicals which are used in firefighting foams, non-stick cookware, manufacturing, electroplating and textiles.

AuSable cancels trustee meeting

by Karen Rouse

OSCODA – The AuSable Township Board of Trustees will not meet as scheduled on Tuesday, Sept. 6, due to the Labor Day holiday, said Supervisor Kevin Beliveau.

The trustees will next be meeting on Monday, Sept. 19, at 5 p.m. in the township hall meeting room.

COURT

Continued from Page 1A

of the law is to protect the assets of the public. She also said Hackborn testified that money was observed missing two to three times a week, and the cash box was light \$20 to \$40 a time, over a period of six to eight months in 2011 and/or 2012. “Sometimes there was a sticky note left in there, but not all the time.”

“Nearly every embezzler intends to return the money before they get caught, but this intention does not prevent the act from being a crime,” said the prosecutor, adding that she was citing case law.

She also said the charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty and, as prosecuting attorney, her job is to prove beyond a reasonable doubt specific elements of the crime, these being that the defendant either held public office or was the agent or servant of a public official; received money in her official position; knew that the money was public property; that the defendant used the money for an unauthorized purpose, that being for her personal use; and that more than \$50 was involved.

Palumbo contends she proved this through exhibits and the testimony of both witnesses.

It was “absolutely not” political on the part of the prosecutor’s office, according to Palumbo. “Sometimes people bring things to us directly and we refer them to the police. MSP did an investigation, obtained evidence and presented that to me and my responsibility is to uphold the laws of this state.” She said Hackborn brought the allegations to her in April.

Nichols, on the other hand, said

what was brought out by the testimony is that the Iosco County Treasurer’s Office is a small office, staffed by people who mostly got along until one person was passed over for a promotion. She did not like it, so she brought allegations about missing money That was back in 2008 or 2009 and resulted in an audit being done which found no money was missing.

Nichols said testimony showed the employee, Hackborn, moving forward, developed animus and exercised petty, childish behavior and, despite multiple chances to reveal any subsequent concerns she had to the county audit firm – such as the cash box borrowing in 2011 – she had not.

In fact, he contends, she raised no additional red flags until she decided to run for election against her boss.

Hackborn took her allegations to Palumbo in April, according to the prosecutor. She filed for election the same month.

“Whatever is going on, it’s doing the taxpayer a disservice,” said Nichols. “What happened in that courtroom [Tuesday] was really ridiculous.”

According to the trial court administrator, Jennifer Huebel, the judge has given Palumbo three weeks to prepare a brief, after which the defense team will have an additional week to write its response. The judge will then consider the written arguments and dismiss the charge or find there is sufficient evidence to bind Anderson over to 23rd Circuit Court for trial.

There are two other unresolved issues in this case. One pertains to the 2008 allegations of missing money. The judge heard the tes-

timony, over the objection of the defense, and said he will rule on its admissibility at a later time. Nichols objected based on the fact that the statute of limitations has expired, nothing ties the alleged shortages to his client and a subsequent audit found no shortage.

A separate issue exists in that Palumbo is challenging Rapp’s position as co-counsel. She contends, because the county treasurer consulted with Rapp, then the county prosecutor, about the 2008 allegations, that Rapp may not serve as Anderson’s attorney under two different rules governing the ethics of attorneys. Nichols said this remains unresolved because Palumbo’s oral motion did not follow court rules as the motion was not written.

SEW IT SEAMS
Sewing Notions Available
739-3412
 By Kmart
 Monday-Friday
 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 Closed 1-2 for Lunch

Dean Arbour
 (989) 362-3489 Office • (800) 610-3781 Office
 Sales Consultant Member
 55 West M-55, East Tawas

2014 Ford Fusion
 15,815 Miles
Only \$20,995
 Certified with 7 yr.
 100,000 Mile Warranty

Contact Charlie Smith

Jerry's Marina **SUMMER SALE**
from \$19,999 w/40HP
MERCURY Outboards
Small Engines Reducing Stock 2.5-25HP Low, Low Prices
Located on Tawas Point (989) 362-8641

Are You Ready?



Now scheduling back to school dental appointments.

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS
Mathew C. Friedemann, DDS
Tyler J. Jacques, DMD
 114 W. State St., East Tawas • 989-362-3408

Moir Law Office

Keith E. Moir
 Attorney at Law

116 W. State Street, Suite 2
 East Tawas, MI 48730

- Directly across from NAPA AUTO PARTS -

Over 30 Years Experience

Family Law, Criminal Defense, Civil Litigation,
 Real Estate, Employment Law, Construction Law,
 Insurance Disputes, Probate and Estate Planning,
 and Business and Corporate Disputes

www.moirlawoffice.com

Phone: (989) 362-9930 Fax: (989) 341-3430