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FORT ATKINSON

City manager likely to take Oconomowoc job

Trebatoski offered city administrator, treasurer position

By Christine Spangler
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When "budget season" ends, Fort Atkinson City Manager Matt Trebatoski is expected to be leaving to become city administrator/treasurer in Oconomowoc.

Fort Atkinson City Council President Mason Becker confirmed Saturday that Trebatoski planned to accept an offer from the City of Oconomowoc.

"I found out two weeks ago that Matt was being considered for the position in Oconomowoc," Becker said, adding, "He is perfectly happy in Fort Atkinson and was not looking to make a move."

Becker explained that Oconomowoc's hiring process for a city administrator/treasurer apparently had not yielded a finalist, so a search firm contacted Trebatoski and other individuals with similar professional experience and asked them to apply. He did, and came out the top choice.

"I spoke with him yesterday and he let me know he had a finalized offer and he would be accepting it," Becker said. "I shared that while we hate to be losing him, we are very

excited for him and this opportunity."

In a memorandum to the common council dated Friday, Sept. 11, Oconomowoc Mayor Robert P. Magnus announced Trebatoski's appointment and asked for members' confirmation.

The memo reads: "With the resignation of Sarah Kitsemel, city administrator/treasurer, in June 2020, the city began the search for a new city administrator/treasurer. The city interviewed several qualified candidates for the position, and I am ready to make an appointment of an exceptional



Matt Trebatoski

individual with the background, experience and integrity that is a right fit for our community."

"I am pleased to announce the appointment of Matthew Trebatoski, city manager for the City of Fort Atkinson, and ask for the council's confirmation in addition to approval of the agreement on separation procedures/payments."

Mayor Magnus included a suggested motion to that effect, but no date for a meeting to vote on it was mentioned in the memo. However, it is on the agenda for the Oconomowoc Common Council's Tuesday, Sept. 15, meeting.

Trebatoski will be at that meeting, which takes place at the same time the Fort Atkinson City Council meets. See **MANAGER**, Page A3



Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson is raising funds for a dog/human watering station at Rock River Park.

Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson heads Rock River Park project

The Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson (KCFA) is seeking monetary donations toward completion of its latest community service project, "Puppy Serenade," which is under construction at Rock River Park.

When complete, this project will feature a bronze statue by local sculptor Mark Dziewior; a tri-purpose (human/canine/bottle filling) fountain; and a combination bench/pedestal by local artisan Bob Muench of Stonecroft Masonry.

The project will honor the three founding mem-



bers of KCFA — Patty Beran, Marleen LaPlant and Rita Hasel — and their dogs.

The project is located at the juncture where the road turns left toward the clubhouse and the path turns right toward the entrance to the disc golf area.

A "reveal" of the project (including a clay model of the bronze statue) is scheduled for early October. The bronze statue will be completed and installed in the spring of 2021.

See **KENNEL**, Page A5

JEFFERSON, WATERTOWN

St. Coletta might provide services cut by Bethesda

By Christine Spangler and Steve Sharp
Adams Publishing Group

JEFFERSON — St. Coletta of Wisconsin in Jefferson is hoping to provide some of the services and jobs that are being eliminated by Watertown's Bethesda Lutheran Communities, its president says.

St. Coletta President Ted Behncke noted that his non-profit organization and Bethesda have been serving intellectually and developmentally disabled persons since both were founded in 1904. However, Bethesda announced Friday that it is closing its group homes, day programs and employment services in Watertown and throughout Wisconsin, and Behncke says St. Coletta might be able to help some of the clients and employees affected by the move.

Bethesda's corporate office will remain in Watertown, albeit with staff reductions.

About 190 employees statewide, including Watertown, will lose employment. About 20 homes and approximately 90 residents will be displaced, some of whom have been with Bethesda for decades.

"Providing the very highest quality living and program services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities has always been challenging, given we experience financial loss due to the low level of Medicaid reimbursement," said Don Klein, senior director of public affairs at Bethesda.

He noted that Bethesda's revenue streams have been drying up due, in part, to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our costs have skyrocketed quickly and revenue coming

See **COLETTA**, Page A5

UW-W limits gatherings to 10

By Jonah Beleckis
Adams Publishing Group

WHITEWATER — The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater on Friday moved to restrict indoor and outdoor gatherings on campus to no more than 10 people "for the foreseeable future," a move brought on by an increase in COVID-19 cases "both locally and statewide."

Last week through Friday, 115 students tested positive for COVID-19, according to the university. See **LIMIT**, Page A2

Hunters: Keep watch for Sumner murders suspect

By Christine Spangler
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JEFFERSON — Law enforcement authorities are requesting the public's assistance in the search for a rural Fort Atkinson man wanted in the murders of his sister and brother-in-law, attempted murder of a sheriff's deputy and setting his late father's Town of Sumner house on fire in June.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office said Friday it and other state and federal law enforcement agencies are continuing to seek the whereabouts of Kevin P. Anderson, 61, who has been charged in the shooting deaths of Nedra and Jim Lemke of Fort Atkinson.

"At this time, there are no known ve-



Kevin Anderson in May 2020.

hicles associated with Kevin Anderson, and he is a known outdoorsman/hunter," the sheriff's office stated. "As many begin their hunting season, please pay special attention for Kevin. He was known to frequent thousands of acres in the area of County Highway A and State

Highway 106, which we have searched by use of planes, helicopters, drones, K-9s, thermal imaging and officers actually walking through the woods and fields.

"Again, we are dealing with thousands of acres and ask that the public pay special attention for Kevin and contact us (920) 674-7310 if he is observed," it added.

Authorities have cautioned in the past that anyone who sees him should not approach Anderson. Rather, they should call authorities immediately.

He is described as a 6-foot-tall white male who weighs about 200 pounds and has blue eyes and balding brown hair.

See **SUSPECT**, Page A3

Gunman sought after California deputies shot in patrol car

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Authorities searched Sunday for a gunman who shot and critically wounded two Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies who were sitting in their squad car — an apparent ambush that drew a reward for information and an angry response from the president.

The 31-year-old female deputy and 24-year-old male deputy underwent surgery Saturday evening. Sheriff Alex Villanueva said in a late-night news conference. Both graduated from the academy 14 months ago, he said.

"They were each in critical condition Sun-

day afternoon, said Deputy Trina Schrader.

The deputies were shot while sitting in their patrol car at a Metro rail station and were able to radio for help, the sheriff said. Villanueva, whose department has been criticized during protests over racial unrest, expressed frustration over anti-police sentiment as he urged people to pray for the deputies.

"It pisses me off. It dismays me at the same time," he said.

The department tweeted video of the shooting that shows a person approach the parked patrol car on foot and shoot through

the passenger-side window.

"The gunman walked up on the deputies and opened fire without warning or provocation," the department stated.

An extended version of the video reviewed by the Los Angeles Times shows the shooter running away in the direction he came.

He turns a corner out of the frame, past a second figure lingering on the sidewalk, according to the Times. It's unclear if the second person was involved in the attack. A Sheriff's Department spokeswoman declined to comment, citing the ongoing in-

vestigation.

Moments after the shooting, the passenger door opens and a deputy stumbles out, hand on head. The driver's-side door opens soon after.

The video sparked reaction from President Trump who tweeted, "Animals that must be hit hard!"

"This cold-blooded shooting is unconscionable and the perpetrator must be brought to justice," Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden tweeted. "Violence of any kind is wrong; those who commit it should be caught and punished."

KENNEL

Continued from Page A1

This park-enhancing project is supported by an \$8,050 grant from the Fort Atkinson Community Foundation. The total estimated cost of the project currently is \$19,000.

The KCFA is reaching out for support from individuals and groups who enjoy using the amenities of Rock River Park — walkers, dog walkers, runners, bicyclists, birders, archers, disc golf players and anyone else who appreciates and wants to support the work of local artists.

To make a tax-deductible dona-

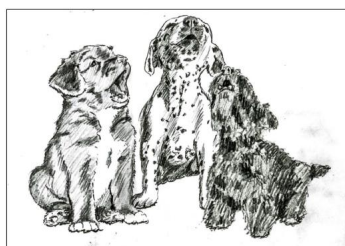
tion, please send a check, payable to KCFA, to: Mabel Schumacher, KCFA Treasurer, 848 Messer St., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538. Indicate that the donation is for "Puppy Serenade," and include your address so an acknowledgement and receipt can be sent.

In 1992, KCFA founders Beran, LaPlant and Hasel started meeting to train and compete with their dogs, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever "Cody," Dalmatian "Dottee," and Scottish Terrier "Scarlett," respectively. Soon, word spread and others asked to join them in their training sessions, resulting in organization of

The Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson.

Having celebrated the club's 25th anniversary in 2017, KCFA offers puppy kindergarten and several levels of companion, obedience, and performance classes. Over the years, it has served an overwhelming number of Fort Atkinson-area families and their canine companions.

The Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization offering community service, education, and training classes. Visit www.kcfadogs.org and the club's Facebook page for more information.



Contributed

From left, Cody, Dottee and Scarlett will be featured in bronze in "Puppy Serenade."

COLETTA

Continued from Page A1

from many of our services and fundraising has diminished," Klein said. "The economic recession is expected to hit state budgets hard, further reducing the already inadequate funding for many of the services we provide, so as a result, we will be closing our group homes, day programs and employment services in Wisconsin."

Bethesda College and Bethesda's thrift stores are not affected by these decisions, and its new residential community concept — Bethesda Cornerstone Village — will have a presence in Wisconsin.

"While our corporate office will remain in Watertown, we have significantly reduced the number of positions there, as well," Klein said.

He noted that Bethesda officials have been working closely with state leaders in preparation for the transition of people Bethesda supports, and it is notifying parents and guardians of plans.

"We will partner every step of the way with the people we support, families and guardians, and care managers to transition care to another provider of their choice," Klein said. "We will also be supporting our employees who are impacted by this decision. We care very much for those who have given so much in service to people we support, and we are sad that they will be leaving us through no fault of their own."

Klein called the decisions leading up to Friday's announcement difficult.

"But they are necessary for us to thrive in the future and move forward with our vision to be the innovator for our industry," he said. "We are committed to providing new and innovative services, including Behavioral Health, Financial Services, Independent Living, Transition Services and Employment Services, and putting smart technology to work. These services have the potential to transform the lives of

the 6.5 million people in the U.S. who have an intellectual and developmental disability. We look forward to helping more people achieve the brighter future they deserve."

On Sunday, Behnckexpressed his sorrow at hearing the news.

"We are saddened to hear the news that Bethesda will be closing much of its programming across the state; we were both founded in 1904 and together have served persons for disabilities for over a century," the St. Coletta of Wisconsin president said.

He noted that some of Bethesda's closures will occur in the extreme north of the state and in the southern end of the Fox Valley, areas in which St. Coletta currently provides no services.

However, "St. Coletta provides both residential, day programming and employment services in the Milwaukee and Jefferson areas and we encourage families needing services to reach out to our admissions department," Behncke said. "St. Coletta has some residential openings, but will have the most ability to assist in vocational programs and employment services in the near term. Our mission at St. Coletta desires to meet the unmet needs of those with developmental disabilities and other challenges, and we are committed to help in any way we can."

Behncke said that Bethesda had not reached out to St. Coletta directly regarding any transitions so far. However, some of its clients and employees have.

"In the days since the announcement, we have begun to receive many service requests from individuals at Bethesda and we are working with them to provide needs assessments to determine our ability to serve them," Behncke said. "We are working to accommodate as many individuals as we are able to, to offset the ripple effect this will have in the community."

He continued: "In addition to Bethesda's individuals, our Human Resources Department has received calls from Bethesda employees with new opportunities to work in di-

rect care and other positions at St. Coletta of Wisconsin. With services in Jefferson and the Milwaukee area, including Waukesha County, we have a number of job opportunities currently available."

Behncke said he certainly understands what Bethesda has been going through.

"We sincerely empathize with Bethesda and others in the care industry they face when it comes to the low level rate reimbursement we receive," he said. "The issue is not limited to Wisconsin, as the low reimbursement problem has caused a staffing crisis across the nation."

Behncke said that central to the issue is skilled labor and the ability to hire and maintain employees.

"The overall job market is very dynamic and the care industry is affected by the competition from all employers," he said. "St. Coletta launched a program four years ago to build our team and have been fortunate to largely keep them, but the pressure is intense. Caregivers require high skills and need to be respected with good pay and benefits."

He pointed out that, sadly, many service providers are closing their doors due to these issues and it is has captured the interest of Governor Tony Evers, who he said is committed to provide relief. His seated Task Force on Caregiving is sending its recommendations to the governor this month.

"The current Family Care system in Wisconsin started around 2006, and has not seen substantive rate increases since then, so many of the initiatives center around that issue, but also larger proposals that would improve access to caregivers and the support for them," Behncke said. "One undeniable truth is there is an increasing need due to closures of care organizations and providers. We have expanded our operations each year to meet the increasing need and will continue to add services."

Bethesda reportedly has community-based housing in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, Indiana, New Jersey, Texas, Colorado, Kansas, Oregon, California and Washington state.

According to the Watertown Historical Society, Bethesda was founded in 1904 as Faith House in a rented building on Margaret Street.

St. Coletta also was founded that year, by the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in Milwaukee. Its mission is to provide quality residential, day/vocational programs and services for persons with developmental disabilities and other challenges.

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