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Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill. Photo by Tina L. Scott

A&L Committee selects broker from Pine Crest RFPs

County board to consider recommendation, decide whether to list facility for sale

BY TINA L. SCOTT
MMC STAFF

MERRILL – On Wednesday, June 28, the Administrative and Legislative (A&L) Committee of the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors met to review three proposals received from interested commercial brokers in response to the county's request for proposals (RFP) regarding the potential sale of Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill.

The members of the committee discussed the contents of each proposal and spoke with representatives in attendance via video from two of the brokers that submitted proposals.

It didn't take long for the committee to narrow the choices down to two, eliminating the proposal submitted by Evans Senior Investments. The Evans firm didn't have a representative in attendance at the meeting and had proposed a 13% commission.

That left proposals from SVN and Marcus & Millichap.

Jay Hintze, Executive Director of SVN Hintze Commercial Real Estate, spoke to the committee and said his firm had buyers ready to write an offer on Pine Crest.

Hintze said their initial written bid of a 4% commission was flexible and could potentially be reduced to 3%, but admitted his firm was relatively new to representing skilled nursing home properties. Hintze also said he hadn't had an opportunity to tour the actual Pine Crest facility when he was in Merrill.

Hintze's firm proposed to list Pine Crest for sale for \$4.6 million.

Ray Giannini, Senior Managing Director of Marcus & Millichap REIS Seniors Housing Division, spoke to the committee and proposed to list Pine Crest for – and said he was “confident” their firm could get – \$8.5 million from proposed buyers.

Giannini stressed his company's experience in repre-

senting and selling senior housing real estate. Marcus & Millichap proposed a flat fixed fee of 3% of the purchase price, should his firm list and sell the facility.

The Marcus & Millichap proposal emphasized Giannini's 27-year history with the firm and that the firm had sold more than \$700 million of senior housing real estate, half of which was specific to skilled nursing facilities.

Prior to that, Giannini worked as a Senior Acquisition Analyst at a top-ten, for-profit owner and provider of skilled nursing services with 250-plus facilities in 14 states.

Marcus & Millichap's proposal provided recent comparable sales of skilled nursing homes in Wisconsin.

After discussions, and without the need to go into closed session, the A&L Committee decided to recommend Marcus & Millichap as the broker to represent Lincoln County, should the Lincoln County board vote to move forward with listing Pine Crest for sale.

Committee members cited the broker's lengthy experience working with and representing skilled nursing home facilities, the 3% proposed broker fee and Giannini's confidence in finding a buyer who would pay \$8.5 million for the property, a full \$3.9 million more than the sales price SVN had proposed.

In addition, they noted Marcus & Millichap had taken a personal tour of Pine Crest and developed a thoroughly researched, personalized presentation focusing on the facility and the Merrill community specifically and had also demonstrated how they would market the property.

The firm's proposed timetable suggested they would be able to market the property and deliver the Lincoln County board with Letters of Intent from interested buyers within 50 days of signing a contract with their

Pine Crest
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

Finance Committee working towards determining future of Kaphaem Rd. property

Offers considered during closed session

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR

TOMAHAWK – The City of Tomahawk Finance Committee is continuing to work towards determining the future of the city-owned property at 1775 Kaphaem Rd.

During its meeting at City Hall on Tuesday, June 27, the committee adjourned into closed session, per Wisconsin statutes, to consider offers made for the property.

The consideration of offers comes several months after the committee assumed responsibilities regarding the site's future.

In April, an ad hoc



committee tasked with coming up with a plan for the property disbanded.

The ad hoc committee was formed in Jan. 2021, following the city's Dec. 2020 purchase of the former Lincoln Industries property from Lincoln County for one dollar.

The city made the

purchase while it was considering moving its emergency services to a centralized location – a course of action that is still being mulled today.

The property, which features a roughly 8,000 square-foot building sitting on about 19 acres, was eyed as a potential choice for a new emer-

gency services hub.

In the months leading up to the ad hoc committee's dissolution this spring, facing challenges related to costs and the Kaphaem Rd. property's location near the southeastern city limits, the

Property
CONTINUES ON PAGE 6

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After 30-plus years of service, Michael Loka retires from Lincoln County board

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR

MERRILL – A member of the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors has retired after 32 years of service.

Michael Loka, who had served as District 16 Supervisor since 1991, announced during the board's meeting in Merrill on Tuesday, June 20 that he would step down from his post, effective Friday, June 30.

District 16 covers Wards 5 and 6 in the City of Tomahawk, as well as Ward 3 in the Town of Bradley.

In announcing his retirement toward the end of last month's meeting,



Loka
Photo courtesy of Lincoln County

Loka said he "had the privilege of decision-making with a great group of board members" and wished the best to the Supervisors.

Board Chair and Dis-

trict 9 Supervisor Don Friske thanked Loka for his years of service on the county board, as well as on the City of Tomahawk Common Council and the Tomahawk Fire Department.

The Lincoln County Clerk's Office said the District 16 vacancy would be posted on the county website and the bulletin board at the Lincoln County Service Center in Merrill.

The individual appointed will serve the remainder of Loka's term, which ends in April 2024.

No specific timeline regarding Loka's replacement was announced during the meeting.

Health and Safety Committee approves pair of special event permit applications

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER EDITOR

TOMAHAWK – The City of Tomahawk Health and Safety Committee gave its stamp of approval to a pair of special event permit applications last week.

During its meeting at City Hall on Tuesday, June 27, the committee gave the thumbs up to permit applications for Thrilla on the Grilla and the Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce Member Mini Golf Tournament.

The permit applications were expected to be sent to the City of Tomahawk Common Council for final approval.

Thrilla on the Grilla

Thrilla on the Grilla, the Tomahawk Lions Club's annual rib and side dish cook-off, is slated for Saturday, Aug. 5.

The event will be held on W. Wisconsin Ave. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. An estimated 1,500 people will be in attendance, according to the permit application.

Food concessions and alcohol sales will be available.

Chamber's Mini Golf Tournament

The Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce Member Mini Golf Tournament is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 9.

The tournament will be held at Big Bear Mini Golf and Ice Cream, 24 N. 2nd St., from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The roadway between Somo Ave. and the alleyway will be barricaded, according to the permit application.

The event will feature food, refreshments, alcohol sales and music, and 75 to 100 people are expected to attend, the application said.

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NOW PAYING CASH

PINE CREST FROM PAGE 1

firm. That would leave time for additional negotiations and could still result in a closing six months from the signing of the contract.

Now it is up to the Lincoln County board to decide if they will sign with the broker recommended by the A&L Committee and if they will officially list Pine Crest Nursing Home for sale.

The Lincoln County Board of Supervisors will meet on Tuesday, July 18, at 6 p.m. at the Lincoln County Service Center in Merrill. The public can also attend the meeting remotely.

The agenda for the meeting and a link to attend remotely will be available on the county's website at www.co.lincoln.wi.us/meetings.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It's time to invest in Pine Crest, not sell it

Editor:
Why is the majority of the Lincoln county board blindly rushing past its duty to "serve and protect" our heroes by moving to sell Pine Crest? I've known residents there including brave combat vets, law enforcement, teachers, people providing goods and services and others who selflessly served the less fortunate; people who served and protected our community to the very best of their abilities for decades.

It is estimated that a private organization

would need about \$700,000.00 in profits annually to run Pine Crest. What would they cut?

My parents had long term insurance coverage and could have gone anywhere. The first three places they entered were for-profit facilities carefully handpicked by my brother and sister, both experienced health care professionals. All three were disasters with inadequate and unhappy staff, resulting in frequent falls, infections and trips to the ER and rehab facilities.

After Mom died, we found a small town facility like Pine Crest with outstanding care

where the staff was fairly compensated, had long time camaraderie, and enjoyed working together. They were far more efficient and productive than what I witnessed in for-profit homes. It was a longer trip to visit Dad there, but well worth it. He loved the place, and was noticeably healthier and happier.

Please contact your County Supervisor before their next meeting July 18. Tell them it's time to invest in Pine Crest, not sell it. Let's take our time, secure grants and funding, and honor these heroes.

Mark Mehlos
Merrill

TOMAHAWK LEADER *Focused on our Community*

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Letters: The Leader welcomes letters to the editor, a chance for members of the public to comment on issues and concerns to them. All letters must be original, not duplications of letters addressed to public officials or others. They must be signed and the name will be printed. The writer should include a home/work phone number where he/she can be reached for verification. **Letters must be limited to 500 words or less.** Letters may be edited for style, grammar and length. Form letters and those considered libelous and/or slanderous will not be accepted. Extremely long letters may not get printed. The Leader reserves the right to reject any material submitted for publication. Letters, columns and other features do not necessarily represent the views of The Leader.

Political letters of endorsement and other political letters will carry a charge of \$40 to be paid before publication and must not exceed 300 words. Author's full name, address and phone number must be provided. Address and phone number will not be published, but may be used for verification purposes if necessary.

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College News

Ella Genelin, Autumn Peissig and Richelle Swan, all of Tomahawk; and Haley Liebelt, Irma, were named to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Dean's List for the 2023 spring semester.

Drew Bolder, Tomahawk, was named to the 2023 spring semester Dean's List at St. Norbert College.

Grace Beranek and Meagan Berg, both of Tomahawk, were named to the University of Wisconsin-Superior Dean's List for spring 2023 semester.

Johanna Craig, Tomahawk, was named to the spring 2023 Dean's List at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minn.

Matthew Bartz, Lizabeth Edwardsen, KaLee Krzewina-Thieme and Marisa Oestreich, all of Tomahawk, earned Highest Honors during the spring semester of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's 2022-2023 academic year. Brynn Beaumier, Aubree Clausnitzer, Natalie Reiter and Abigail Wrycha, all of Tomahawk, received High Honors. Matthew Johnson, Tomahawk; and Monica Lane, Irma, received Hon-

ors.

Nicholas Roscoe, Tomahawk, was named to the University of Wisconsin-Madison Dean's List for the spring semester of the 2022-2023 academic year.

Trey Baalke, Tyler Beck, Madeline Marino, Abigail Norman and Haley Voermans-Dean, all of Tomahawk, were named to the University of Minnesota Duluth Dean's List for Spring Semester 2023.

Johann Carstensen, Tomahawk, was named to the spring semester Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Carstensen also graduated from UW-River Falls in May.

Jennifer DuPlayee, Tiffany DuPlayee, Emily Ihn, Megan Marcks and Jacob Zietlow, all of Tomahawk, were named to the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Dean's List in spring 2023.

John McGovern and Zachary Suchomel, both of Tomahawk, were named to the Milwaukee School of Engineering Spring Quarter 2023 Dean's List.

Sydney Michalski, Tomahawk, was named to the Dean's List at the University

of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for the spring 2023 semester.

Kiana Callahan, Jerett Flynn and Morgan Richards, all of Tomahawk; and Collin Grefe, Irma, graduated from University of Wisconsin-Stout in May. Richards and Grefe, as well as Hannah Beranek, Zach Grigg, Amanda Hoff, Karina McPherson and Courtney Powers, all of Tomahawk, were named to UW-Stout's Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester.

Nataya Calhoun, Tiana Gerstenberger, Molly Mott and Will Reiche, all of Tomahawk, were named to the Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse for the spring semester of the 2022-23 academic year.

Noah Lawniczak, Tomahawk, graduated from Carthage College in May.

Alexis Crossman, Amanda Rudolf, Arden Ziert, Cody Vaughn, Jacob Mayer, Marcus Matti and Taylor Pilarski, all of Tomahawk, were awarded diplomas during the spring 2023 term at Northcentral Technical College.

Wisconsin to receive more than \$1 billion in federal funds for broadband expansion

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR

WISCONSIN – More than \$1 billion in federal funds will be allocated to Wisconsin for the purpose of expanding access to broadband internet in the state.

On Monday, June 26, President Joe Biden's administration announced that more than \$40 billion had been earmarked for all 50 states, the District of Columbia and five territories.

The funds come from the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program, part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law signed by Biden in 2021.

Wisconsin is slated to receive a total of \$1,055,823,573.71.

A release from the office of Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) said the funding will be awarded to the state in two stages. First, 20% of the state's allocation will be awarded with initial competitive subgrants expected in summer 2024, and the remaining 80% is anticipated to be awarded in 2025.

The state will be principally responsible for administering awarded funds, with priority going to projects that bring broadband to unserved households and businesses lacking access to high-speed internet, according to the release.

Funding allocations rely on the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) National Broadband Map, which shows broadband availability – or lack thereof – across the country, based on reports from internet service providers made to the FCC every six months.

The public has the opportunity to challenge potentially incorrect data on the map, such as a missing location or if a location's broadband service is incorrectly identified.

"After hearing from Wisconsin community members and stakeholders of inaccurate data in the FCC's original National Broadband Map, Senator Baldwin successfully 'badgered the FCC' – after repeated calls – to correct the map's broadband availability information to ensure Wisconsin gets its fair share of federal broadband funding in the future," the release stated.

"I voted for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law because it is helping deliver affordable, reliable high-speed internet to Wisconsin families, students, small businesses, and farmers," Baldwin said. "No matter where you live in the state, you deserve access to reliable high-speed broadband, and these resources will help us do that. This investment will help close the digital divide so Wisconsinites can fully participate in the economy, kids can get the education they deserve, and families can connect with people across the world.

This is an investment in our Wisconsin families. This is an investment in our Made in Wisconsin economy. And this is an investment in our future – and I am proud to help deliver it."

"Nearly everything about our way of life in this day and age depends upon access to reliable, high-speed internet, and we have work to do to ensure our infrastructure, our workforce and our economy are prepared for the 21st century," Governor Tony Evers stated. "I'm proud that no administration in state history has done more than we have to expand access to reliable, affordable high-speed internet in Wisconsin, and thanks to this more than \$1 billion investment from the Biden Administration and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), we'll be able to build upon our progress in getting folks connected and closing the digital divide in every corner of our state."

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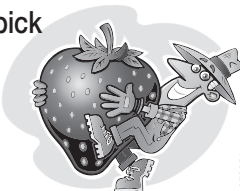


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Photo by Jalen Maki

Tomahawk Public Library's 2024 budget proposal gets green light from Finance Committee

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR

TOMAHAWK – The Tomahawk Public Library's proposed 2024 budget took the first step towards finalization last week, marking the beginning of the City of Tomahawk's process of completing its financial plan for next year.

The library's budget proposal was unanimously approved by the City of Tomahawk Finance Committee during its meeting at City Hall on Tuesday, June 27.

The library has recently operated below its proposed yearly budgets, according to the proposal.

For 2024, a total of \$470,271.02 in expenditures is budgeted, a roughly \$15,800.00 increase from this year.

The library has request-

ed a total of \$207,000.00 in property tax funds from the city, an increase of \$4,720.00 (2.33%) from 2023.

Along with city dollars, the library also receives library aid funds from Lincoln, Oneida, Price, Langlade and Taylor counties. For 2024, the library is seeking a total of about \$256,000.00 in library aid funds, with the majority – \$218,900.00 – requested from Lincoln County, \$8,000.00 more than it received from the county this year.

Fines and fees, as well as grants and memorials, also contribute to the library's budget.

The library typically seeks the city's approval of its proposed spending plan before getting the OK from other entities that provide funding.

With the green light from the Finance Com-

mittee, the proposal was slated to be sent to the City of Tomahawk Common Council for review.

"The Tomahawk Public Library provides service to all individuals in the community," the budget proposal stated. "Its objectives include the provision of books and other materials selected to aid the individual in the pursuit of education, information, pleasure or research, and in use of leisure time."

The budget proposal said the library offers books, magazines, audiobooks, Wonderbooks, comic books, graphic novels, Tonies, STEAM bins, learning games, magnatiles, launchpads, e-materials, microfilm, movies, music, computer stations, hotspots and free 24-hour wi-fi, with in-person and passive programs for all ages.

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'People for Pine Crest' present petition asking Lincoln County board not to sell facility

BY TINA L. SCOTT
MMC STAFF

MERRILL – A group of Lincoln County residents calling themselves the "People for Pine Crest" called a press conference on Monday, June 26, in the Lincoln County Service Center on N. Sales Street in Merrill.

Representatives of the group spoke to the media.

Renea Frederick, a local business owner and Merrill resident, began.

"We are all here to ask the Lincoln County (Board of Supervisors) not to sell Pine Crest," she said. "We want the board to thoroughly explore the different options listed in the Ad Hoc Committee report and also to look at some of the out-of-the-box strategies other communities have used to financially support their nursing homes. We also ask that the citizens of Lincoln County be part of this process. Our goal is to find financial solutions that will enable Pine Crest to continue to serve our residents now and into the future."

The group of about 20 people gathered included Elizabeth McCrank, current Lincoln County Board Supervisor for District 3.

"I feel that the process that has been and is being used is deeply flawed and perhaps even dishonest toward the people of the county," McCrank said. "I believe that selling Pine

Crest, in any fashion whatsoever, is turning our backs on the people who have invested in our community and paid their taxes, sometimes for decades ... (who) did it all the while believing that this would be a great place for them to live out their lives ... Turning our backs on these people is to me unacceptable and immoral. I believe that selling Pine Crest amounts to cheating the people of the county, and even those people who think they support selling Pine Crest, in my opinion, are being dealt with dishonestly by the people carrying this out."

McCrank said the county board needs to include the public "in weighty and consequential decisions such as asking what the people of the county are willing to do in order to keep Pine Crest functioning as a public institution."

She said she was particularly disappointed that her proposed resolution for a county-wide resolution was "killed" at a recent county board meeting.

"They claim the result (of a referendum) would 'put us in the same place we are now.' That shows they know the voters don't want them to do this, but they don't want to hear it," McCrank said. "Some of them claim that a referendum would cause a distress sale. But they have already done that themselves by commit-



A group of about 20 people who call themselves "People for Pine Crest" spoke during a Monday, June 26 press conference they organized at the Lincoln County Service Center in Merrill. Photo by Tina L. Scott

ting to this course of action."

"And their recent claims that they're not committed to a sale are even more disingenuous," she said. "No one hires a broker to get an appraisal ... You hire a broker to sell something."

McCrank also accused members of the county board of lying about their intentions, though she did not call anyone out by name.

With regard to her pro-

posed referendum, "I don't know what the public would choose in a referendum, but I'd like to find out," she said. "I don't know what depth of support for Pine Crest there is. But I listened to hours of public comment at county board meetings and at listening sessions held by the county board on this topic. I've heard overwhelming desire from people to keep the facility and keep it public, and then I heard my colleagues on the

county board do the exact opposite of what the public had told us."

"I accept that sometimes elected officials are faced with moral decisions where we may have to choose an unpopular path, but in this case the moral choice is between valuing community or valuing money. The people told us community, and the board chose money," McCrank said. "Saving money while costing community turns us into a

civic desert. I choose community, and I desperately urge my colleagues on the county board to rethink this choice and choose the same. At the very least, let's let the public weigh in with a straightforward referendum."

Pastor Michael Southcombe of Saint Stephens UCC in Merrill also spoke, but he took a different approach.

Petition
CONTINUES ON PAGE 6

OBITUARIES

William "Bill" "Uncle Boogie" Streicher, 90, Tomahawk, died June 26, 2023. Services are pending. Check www.kruegerfamilyfuneral.com for updates. Krueger Family Funeral Home and Cremation Serv.

Obituary updates
are posted at

www.tomahawkleader.com



Pearl Houston, age 89, passed away peacefully on June 21, 2023 surrounded by her husband Bob and family after a long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease. Pearl was born in Belgium, Wis., on Sept. 29, 1933. She was one of seven children of Joseph and Mary Ansay. After graduating from Port Washington High School, Pearl worked as a secretary in Port Washington and Madison, where she met Bob. Pearl and Bob were married on Sept. 10,

1955. Pearl and Bob had three children, Linda Mullins (Bill), Suzanne Steel (Marshall), and Mike Houston (Angie). She delighted in her 10 grandchildren and was blessed with seven great-grandchildren.

Bob and Pearl lived in Tomahawk for over 50 years before moving to Lake Havasu, Ariz., and then Grand Junction, Colo. Pearl spent five years at Aspen Ridge Alzheimer's Special Care Center under the care of loving staff with assistance from HopeWest in Grand Junction, Colo.

Pearl had a zest for life that bordered on amazing. She excelled at snow and water skiing, dancing, golf and pretty much anything she tried. She loved to camp, sew, laugh, tell jokes, and play cards. She volunteered for numerous charities and community organizations throughout her life, and touched countless lives with her kindness and generosity. She was a joy to be with and was always ready with a big smile and a witty one-liner to liven things up.

Pearl was blessed with many friends and a wonderful family who she loved dearly.

Pearl was preceded in death by her grandchildren, Tyler Steel and Kyle Mullins. She is survived by her husband Bob, her children and their spouses: Linda and Bill Mullins (Downers Grove), Suzie and Marshall Steel (Grand Junction) and Mike and Angie Houston (Tomahawk); all other grandchildren: Jenny, Erin, Peter, Amanda, Ryan, Mary, Emily and Holly; and her great-grandchildren: Billy, Jimmy, Aubrey, Logan, Maggie, Finn, and Mia.

A family memorial service was held for Pearl on June 23, 2023 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Grand Junction where she rests.

The Pastor's Corner July 5, 2023

The Blessing of Consistency

Our kids think that their moms and dads know everything and can do anything. We did the same when we were young. We as parents demonstrate reliability by consistently providing shelter, food and safety – and also by lovingly teaching, comforting and guiding our children. Children sleep in peace when they know their needs are met.

Adults know we can trust our heavenly Father because he is trustworthy. Psalm 119:90 tells us that "God's faithfulness continues throughout all generations." God does not break his promises, and He even has good plans for us (Jer. 29:11). God understands our weaknesses and helps us with whatever He asks of us. We know that He will always be with us. Ps 46:1.

We learn in Sunday school that God is Omniscient. He knows what is happening for every person at every moment. His knowledge is complete. Nothing is hidden from Him. He knows even our thoughts and our motives. We can't hide anything from God. Secondly, God is Omnipotent. He has power over all things. Nothing is outside His control. Nothing can thwart His purposes. And thirdly, God is Omnipresent. There is nothing outside of his presence. Space and time are within His sight.

God always speaks the truth. His word is reliable. And He responds to our prayers. God's character is not affected by time, place, people, or circumstances. He is a steady as a rock.

Now we as parents are not quite capable of all that, but can you imagine how we would feel if God were not reliable? If we were unsure of His hearing us or guiding us?

Thankfully, we can trust Him because He is faithful and He is consistent. Though life is anything but consistent, we can try and model ourselves after our Father God. Faithfulness is a little like consistency, and for a family certain things need to be done with consistency.

If mom or dad has a job, they must show up on time and come home on time. If either mom or dad prepares the family meals, they must plan for that daily. Author and Pastor, Michael Youssef, says, "It's not what we do some of the time that causes ill health or creates good health – It's what we do most of the time."

In our emotional and relational life we must be consistent too. We are loving most of the time. We show up for events most of the time. We attend church most of the time. We treat others with respect and kindness regardless of who they are.

What we do, and who we are is what your children will learn from you. They will know if you are a shy person or an outgoing person, but they will know if you are kind to others, are helpful to neighbors, or can be counted to help them with their homework. They will see how you treat your own parents.

Children will observe how you spend your time and your money. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is there your heart will be also."

In all areas of our life what we do faithfully and consistently reaps benefits and produces wholeness in us and our children.

God is faithful always. He does not change. We have the privilege to teach our children about Jesus. We have the assurance of our salvation. Parents who live with this kind of assurance feel secure and hopeful. And they pass that on to their children.



Pastor Carolyn Rauschert,
retired
Formerly of
St. Barnabas Church
Associated Clergy of
Tomahawk

Ask the PASTOR

Readers are invited to submit questions about God, the Bible, and religion. I shall try to answer them for you, using the Bible as the authority for my answers.

Tuesday was the 4th of July, when we celebrated the 247th birthday of our country. In today's article, we shall focus on how the Bible relates to the writing of our constitution.

When the writers of our constitution set out in 1787 to write a constitution and establish a government for the United States of America, they did not intend to try some new and untested political ideas, but turned to a form of government that had already been tried and tested in the past. It was a form of government developed by men who went to the Bible for their knowledge of God, mankind, and the world in which we live.

It was in the 1500's and a religious reformation was happening in Europe. A young lawyer by the name of John Calvin had turned to faith in Jesus Christ and began to teach what He understood the Bible to say. He spoke out against the abuses of the established religious system and was forced to flee from his native land (France). Eventually he ended up in Geneva, Switzerland, where he lived until his death in 1564.

When he came to Geneva, the city was going through some political problems of its own, and he was asked to help establish a just form of government. Based on what he understood the Bible to teach, he oversaw the development of a democratic republic. There were two principles from the Bible that largely influenced his thinking on government.

The first principle was that *God established government for the purpose of preserving civilization by limiting the opportunity for individuals to express their sinful tendencies* (1 Peter 2:13-17, Romans 13:1-5). And second, *because of the sinful tendencies of those in power, the government must be held accountable to those it governs* (greed and the desire for power, 1 Samuel 8:10-18). For these reasons John Calvin had the government of Geneva divided up into three branches (executive, legislative, and judicial, with each branch exercising some influence over the other two) and regular elections. It was this model that was generally followed in establishing our government and constitution in 1787.

Most of the men involved in writing our constitution were religious men. The dominant theology preached in their churches followed the teachings of the reformer, John Calvin. It was John Adams, who was a member of the Continental Congress during the American Revolution, an ambassador to England after the Revolution, and the second president of the United States, who stated concerning the freedoms we enjoy under our constitution: "Let not Geneva be forgotten or despised."

No government will be perfect, for every government is made up of people. John Calvin, in studying the Bible, knew this. The men who wrote our constitution had also been taught this in their churches. That is why they chose a tried form of government where those who govern are held accountable to the people they govern, through elections held every two years.

Pastor Charles Scheele
Berean Baptist Church, Tomahawk
bereanbaptisttomahawk@gmail.com

8th annual Jiggin' for Jayden Memorial Fundraiser to benefit Kinship

BY LU YENTER

TOMAHAWK – Our precious little grandson Jayden passed away on July 16, 2015 at the young age of six. He was born with a congenital heart defect (CHD) called hypoplastic left heart syndrome (HLHS).

He underwent three open heart surgeries in his short lifetime, the first one being at just four days of age. Several months after his third surgery, they realized he was in heart failure, and he was listed for a heart transplant.

After three and a half long months, we got the call from my daughter that they had found a match for him. He received his heart transplant on July 16, 2013.

On Jan. 19, 2015 he suffered a heart attack. His new heart was failing fast, so he was then re-listed for a second heart transplant. He remained hospitalized waiting for his new angel heart, but his health continued to deteriorate. In May of 2015, he was placed with two Berlin Hearts (mechanical hearts).

Sadly, Jayden never recovered and lost his courageous battle with CHD exactly two years to the day he received his angel heart, July 16, 2015.

To keep Jayden's memory alive, we decided to pay it forward. In the last six years, we have raised more than \$60,000.00 for different foundations, with

the last four years benefitting Kinship of Tomahawk. Last year was our best year to date, raising more than \$13,000.00.

This year, the tournament will be held on Saturday, July 15, 2023 at Veterans Memorial Park in Tomahawk. Fishing starts at 8 a.m., and fish must be registered by 3 p.m. at the dock, where we will have a Jiggin' for Jayden banner up!

You do not need to register to fish, but we ask that you have a Jiggin' for Jayden tee shirt. A limited number and sizes of Jiggin' for Jayden shirts may be available at the event. Some shirts from past tournaments may be available as well.

We will have three categories this year: Most weight in panfish (1st, 2nd and 3rd place); most weight in game fish (1st, 2nd and 3rd place); and largest musky (catch and release only). Pictures need to be taken with your fish, sportin' your Jiggin' for Jayden shirt. Also, a picture will need to be taken with the length of your fish (1st place only, as we all know they are the fish of 10,000 casts!).

For those who don't want to fish, additional activities start at noon.

For more information, call Lu Yenter at 715-630-6019. Follow us on Facebook at www.tinyurl.com/37d5mcr6 for more details.



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PETITION
FROM PAGE 4

“Our quarrel is not with our county board,” he said. “Our quarrel is with the payment structure and the business model we have now for elder care in this country. Most nursing homes are not financially viable if they have more than 10% of their residents on Medicaid. Pine Crest has 70 to 80% of its residents on Medicaid.”

It is not financially viable to run a nursing home with that many residents on Medicaid unless that nursing home has an outside source of income to make up the losses, he said.

“Nursing homes that go beyond that 10% of residents on Medicaid have an outside source of funding – either an endowment fund, a boisterous fund development office raising money, connections with churches or county funds or an endowment fund,” Southcombe said. “To believe that someone will buy Pine Crest – either a non-profit or a for-profit en-

tity ... and keep the same level of service with 70 to 80% of the residents on Medicaid, is magical thinking,” he said.

Southcombe challenged the board to “stand up and abide by the moral contract we have had with the most vulnerable elderly residents of Merrill since 1900.”

“For 123 years people have counted on Pine Crest as the backstop,” Southcombe said.

He explained that many residents who can initially afford for-profit nursing homes are faced with needing to move when their funds run out.

“And then the family gets the call,” he said. “We only have five Medicaid beds left and they’re all filled. You’ve got three days to get your loved one out of this home and somewhere else.”

“I’ve seen that happen with members of my churches over the last 30 years with countless for-profit nursing homes,” he said. “It is unconscionable that that would happen here in Merrill.”

Southcombe referred to “an endowment fund that can supply the extra money needed when you have so many Medicaid patients” and said, “We have an endowment fund here in Merrill, in Lincoln County. It’s called the integrity of the citizens.”

“We have over 650 signatures, and we have more coming,” he said.

Southcombe added this was just over the course of a three or four-week signature drive.

“The signatures we have represent almost 10% of the number of people who voted in the last election, and we’re going to deliver those signatures to not sell Pine Crest this morning when they are opening up the bids, or RFPs, for a broker to broker just such a sale.”

Frederick handed the petitions to Lincoln County Board Chair Don Friske when he entered the building to attend the scheduled receipt and review of proposals in response to the county’s request for proposals.

PROPERTY
FROM PAGE 1

city shifted its focus to the potential construction of a new fire station at the city’s yard waste site on S. Tomahawk Ave. and ultimately dissolved the committee.

Last week’s meeting

marked the first time the Finance Committee discussed the Kaphaem Rd. property since the ad hoc committee’s disbandment.

No specific information regarding the offers was provided after the committee returned to open session, and no ac-

tion was taken, but it was ultimately determined that the premises will remain under the Finance Committee’s purview until a long-term plan is developed.

A Finance Committee meeting centered on the Kaphaem Rd. property is anticipated.



Contributed photo

Magic of Isaiah dazzles audience at Tomahawk Public Library

BY SARAH GREIL

TOMAHAWK – The Tomahawk Public Library, 300 W. Lincoln Ave., welcomed their first of several special events on Thursday, June 22.

The Magic of Isaiah dazzled around 200 librarygoers with his illusions and humor. He also put in his own plugs stressing the importance of reading.

Isaiah has been doing magic since he was nine years old, when he began entertaining friends and family.

“I enjoyed the feeling it gave me to make people scratch their heads in

wonderment,” he said.

Isaiah has been entertaining with his magic for over 10 years now and has performed thousands of shows for all ages.

Isaiah incorporated the Tomahawk Public Library’s summer theme, “All Together Now Under the Sun,” into his show, stressing the importance of friendship. He also incorporated some of his favorite children’s books into his tricks.

To learn more about The Magic of Isaiah, visit www.lacrossemagic.com.

Upcoming Thursday special events at the Tomahawk Public Library in-

clude:

- June 29 – North Lakeland Discovery Center – “Monarch Butterflies”
 - July 6 – Raptor Education Group, Inc (REGI) – “Winged Wonders”
 - July 13 – Storyteller Tracy Chipman – “All Together Now Stories of Friendship”
 - July 20 – Singer Stuart Stotts
 - July 27 – Sunshine Surprise Day – Games, Ice Cream and Fun
- Learn more about the Tomahawk Public Library at www.tomahawk.lib.wi.us/.

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LEGAL SECRETARY

PRICE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Price County is accepting applications for a Legal Secretary within the District Attorney's Office. This is a para-professional position, responsible for clerical functioning of the office. Position interacts with the Court system, law enforcement, private attorneys, and the general public daily. The position provides clerical support to the District Attorney, and requires specialized skills and knowledge acquired only through experience and/or formal training. Work originates from Price County business establishments, the general public, and from other governmental agencies. Position requires only general supervision with work reviewed mainly in terms of error-free operation.

This is a full-time position with a starting hourly wage of \$20.39 and full benefit package. Benefits include Wisconsin Retirement System with employer match, health insurance, 10 days of vacation after 90 days of service, 10 paid holidays, paid sick leave, employee lifestyle enhancement perk, and paid maternity/paternity leave. Dental/vision, health savings account, flex spending, WI Deferred Comp, life, short-term disability, accident, and cancer/critical illness coverages are available.

A full description of minimum requirements and application instructions can be found on the Price County website's employment opportunities page at www.co.price.wi.us, by emailing a request to hroffice@co.price.wi.us or by calling 715-339-5131.

Completed applications and resume must be received by the Price County Office of Administration no later than 4:30 pm on July 12, 2023, to be considered for this position.

Price County is an equal opportunity employer.

LCHD hosting amateur photography contest

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

LINCOLN COUNTY – The Lincoln County Health Department (LCHD) is hosting a photo contest for amateur photographers.

LCHD said it is “seeking out the best parts of Lincoln County.”

“When you think of Lincoln County, what is your favorite part?” LCHD stated. “What makes Lincoln County healthy? When you brag about the county you live in – what do you picture?”

LCHD said photos should represent its “vision of a safe and thriving Lincoln County where everyone has the opportunity for optimal health and quality of life.”



“Please submit one or two sentences as to why your photo represents optimal health and quality of life,” LCHD stated.

Photos must be taken in Lincoln County and must be submitted as high-resolution JPEG files to *Danielle.Bender@co.lincoln.wi.us* by Saturday, July 15.

No panoramic, digitally-enhanced or altered photos, and only one photo per person, will be accepted.

“Tall thin, photos from phones do not reproduce well for our use,” LCHD

stated. “Please send photos that can be used as 4x6-inch or 8x10-inch prints.”

Each photo submitted must include where, when and why the photo was taken, as well as the photographer’s name, phone number, mailing address and email address.

Professional photographers and individuals who sell their photos are not eligible to enter the contest.

“By entering the contest, photographers are verifying that the image is their own and are agreeing to have their submitted photos used/copied/displayed (without fee or compensation) for the contest voting purposes in local publications, in articles relating

to the contest, saved for any future use by LCHD, and on the Facebook page,” LCHD stated. “Photos that are picked will be contacted via email to sign a consent form for the use of your photograph.

LCHD said it reserves the right to reject any photo submitted that does not comply with the contest rules, is not properly labeled or is deemed inappropriate.

First-place winners will receive a 2024 Wisconsin State Park vehicle sticker. Second-place winners will receive a gift certificate valued up to \$15.00.

For more information, email *Danielle.Bender@co.lincoln.wi.us*.

PUBLISHER’S LETTER

That Old Gang of Mine

Dear Reader,

The day has turned the corner at midnight. The moon pierces through the treetops to a haven by a lake with a name that doesn’t matter. The frogs are croaking their own throaty melody, an orchestral composition with an earthy refrain. A lone wolf howls in the distance.



In that rough-hewn setting, I wish I was with that old gang of mine, toasting the goodness of life with a merry

libation. We would dialogue on truth and beauty, uncover the mysteries of life, and enjoy another evening of fellowship. We might even yowl at the moon, recapturing the primal energy of our earliest forebears.

But no one is here. Those boon companions are gone to far-away places. I’m for once and forever on my own without that old gang of mine. To be honest, I miss them, feeling cheated by the merciless passage of time that has left me with only the memory of their camaraderie and love.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

Author of “Dear Reader” and “Tapestry of Love and Loss”

News Briefs

Construction on Lincoln County roads
Road construction will run from Monday, July 10 through Thursday, Aug. 31 on the following Lincoln County roads: County Rd. L; County Rd. S east of U.S. Hwy. 51; Prairie Rd. in the Town of Merrill; and Meyers Rd. in the Town of King. Lincoln County Highway Commissioner John Hanz recommends using alternate routes, if possible.

Friends of the Tomahawk Public Library book sale
The Friends of the Tomahawk Public Library will hold a book sale in the base-

ment of the library, 300 W. Lincoln Ave., on Wednesday, July 12 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. No items are priced. Donations are appreciated, with all proceeds go to the library. Many books for all ages, as well as magazines, CDs and rummage sale items, will be available.

Aspirus blood drive
A blood drive will be held in the Spruce and Tamarack Rooms at Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital, 410 W. Mohawk Dr., Tomahawk, on Friday, July 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Appointments are requested. To schedule an appointment, call the Community Blood

Center at 800-280-4102.

Historical Society museums open
The Tomahawk Area Historical Society’s Old Kindergarten and Log Museums, located on E. Washington Ave. near the Tomahawk Chamber, are open to visitors from 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout the summer season. The museums are filled with local history, including a new display of a Tomahawk Elementary School time capsule buried by sixth graders in 1986. Military, kitchen and Native American displays and artifacts, information

about Tomahawk’s founder William Bradley, histories of area schools and businesses and more are featured. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. The museums are staffed by volunteers. Admission is free, with donations appreciated. For more information, contact Society President Pat Pietila at 715-966-4801.

Open Arms Community Meal served Tuesdays
Open Arms Community Meal is served each Tuesday at St. Mary’s Corpus Christi Center, 320 E. Washington Ave., Tomahawk. The Corpus Christi Center opens at 4 p.m., and the meal begins

at 5 p.m. All are welcome to come and share fellowship with old and new friends. To volunteer at the Open Arms Community Meal, call 715-224-3306 and leave a message.

Eagle Summit Community Healing Rooms
Eagle Summit Community Healing Rooms, W5676 Water View Ln., Tomahawk, are open every Thursday

night from 6 p.m. to 7:30 for prayer support. Eagle Summit is part of the International Association of Healing Rooms and features trained volunteers who offer free, confidential prayer support. Eagle Summit is a faith-based center open to all. For more information, contact Paula at *paulapmt25@gmail.com* or call Eagle Summit Healing Center 715 224-3490.



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HIGHWAY OPERATOR

Price County Highway Department

Price County is accepting applications for the position of **Highway Operator** within the Price County Highway Department. This is a regular, full-time position performing skilled work in road maintenance and equipment operations. Work includes a wide variety of manual and automatic equipment operation tasks involved in routine maintenance and emergency highway situations. Work is performed in accordance with established routines and procedures based upon accepted equipment operation and maintenance practices.

This position has a starting hourly wage range of \$24.05 to \$25.40, depending on experience, plus an additional \$1.50 per hour from November 1 through March 31, and full benefit package. Benefits include Wisconsin Retirement System with employer match, health insurance, 10 days of vacation after 90 days of service, paid sick leave, paid maternity/paternity leave, 10 paid holidays, annual clothing allowance, and employee lifestyle enhancement perk. Dental/vision, health savings account, flex spending, WI Deferred Comp, life, short-term disability, accident, and cancer/critical illness coverages are available.

A full description of minimum requirements and application instructions can be found on the Price County website’s employment opportunities page at www.co.price.wi.us, by emailing a request to hroffice@co.price.wi.us, or by calling 715-339-5131.

Completed applications must be received by the Price County Office of Administration no later than 4:30 p.m. on July 12, 2023, to be considered for this position.

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SOCIAL WORKER

Price County Department of Health and Human Services

Price County is accepting applications for a **Social Worker** to join our team in the **Children & Youth Unit** of the Department of Health and Human Services. Work involves serving children, youth and families faced with youth justice and child welfare issues and includes family-based support services to keep families intact or to reunify families who have experienced out of home placements. Position has extensive contact with the public, other service providers in the community and state, law enforcement and the court system, and other employees in the department. Position functions are performed in an office, client home, and community setting. Work involves in-home services including family assessments and treatment planning, case management, after-hours on-call services, and alternate care services. Responsibility for cases and decision-making occurs jointly with the supervisor. Position is under the direct supervision of the Children and Youth Unit Supervisor and the general supervision of the Health and Human Services Director.

This is a full time, regular position with a full benefit package and starting hourly wage range of \$27.89 to \$30.26, depending on experience. Benefits include Wisconsin Retirement System with employer match, health insurance, 10 days of vacation after 90 days of service, 10 paid holidays, paid sick leave, employee lifestyle enhancement perk, and paid maternity/paternity leave. Dental/vision, health savings account, flex spending, WI Deferred Comp, life, short-term disability, accident, and cancer/critical illness coverages are available.

A full description of minimum requirements and application instructions can be found on the Price County website’s employment opportunities page at www.co.price.wi.us, by emailing a request to hroffice@co.price.wi.us or by calling 715-339-5131.

Completed applications and resume must be received by the Price County Office of Administration no later than 4:30 pm on July 12, 2023, to be considered for this position.

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PRICE COUNTY CORPORATION COUNSEL

Price County is accepting applications for the position of **Corporation Counsel**. This position is responsible for advising and representing the County Board, governing bodies, committees, departments, and officials of the County in civil legal matters involving the County. The duties and responsibilities of the Corporation Counsel are established by the County Board and performed under, and subject to, the review and direction of the Administrative committee with the approval of the County Board.

This is a full time, regular, exempt position with a full benefit package and starting annual salary range of \$90,771 to \$96,324, depending on experience. Benefits include Wisconsin Retirement System with employer match, health insurance, vacation, 10 paid holidays, paid sick leave, employee lifestyle enhancement perk, and paid maternity/paternity leave. Dental/vision, health savings account, flex spending, WI Deferred Comp, life, short-term disability, accident, and cancer/critical illness coverages are available.

Located in north central Wisconsin, midway between Hayward and Minocqua, Price County is home to a variety of natural resources. Our abundance of woods and waters provides endless outdoor recreational opportunities. The communities in Price County offer shopping, dining, services, affordable housing, and a friendly atmosphere.

A full description of minimum requirements and application instructions can be found on the Price County website’s employment opportunities page at www.co.price.wi.us, by emailing a request to hroffice@co.price.wi.us or by calling 715-339-5131.

Completed applications and resume must be received by the Price County Office of Administration no later than 4:30 pm on July 12, 2023, to be considered for this position.

Price County is an equal opportunity employer.

ADRC SPECIALIST

Price County Health and Human Services Department

Price County is accepting applications for the position of **ADRC Specialist** within the Price County Health and Human Services Department. This is a regular, part-time (20 hours per week) position. This person will help inform and educate people about their options; assist in connecting them to programs, services, and public and private benefits; and provide outreach, eligibility determination and enrollment into the Family Care/Care Management Organization/IRIS program. This position requires Wisconsin’s Long Term Care Functional Screen (LTCFS) certification. Responsibilities include managing referrals and programs simultaneously, and providing outreach, marketing, and presentations to the community and area agencies. The person in this position is the “face of” and gateway to the ADRC and long-term care programs. Position is under the direct supervision of the Aging and Disability Supervisor/ADRC Branch Manager and the general supervision of the Health & Human Services Director.

The starting hourly wage is \$22.05. Pro-rated benefits include 10 days of vacation after 90 days of service, 10 paid holidays, paid sick leave, employee lifestyle enhancement perk, and paid maternity/paternity leave. Flex Spending and Wisconsin Deferred Comp are also available.

A full description of minimum requirements and application instructions can be found on the Price County website’s employment opportunities page at www.co.price.wi.us, by emailing a request to hroffice@co.price.wi.us, or by calling 715-339-5131.

Completed applications must be received by the Price County Office of Administration no later than 4:30 p.m. on July 12, 2023.

Price County is an equal opportunity employer.



The Knox Creek Heritage Center (KCHC) in Brantwood held its annual Mid-Summer Celebration on Saturday, June 24. The Mid-Summer Celebration is one of four yearly fundraising events held by KCHC, which works to preserve the heritage of the pioneers that settled the Northwoods. During the event, KCHC displayed artifacts representing several ethnic groups in southeastern Price County, including antique logging, farming and blacksmith equipment, school and church memorabilia, photos, documents and more pieces of history dating back as far as the late 1800s. Food, refreshments and entertainment were also featured. KCHC's next fundraising event is slated for September.



Photos courtesy of KCHC



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REDUCED: N10221 Cty Rd H: Welcome to Lake Alice. This property is located just East of Tomahawk and sits on a scenic 2 acres. The lot is nicely wooded and has fisherman frontage on Lake Alice. The home has 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, and a main level laundry room. There is also a two-car attached garage. The home is equipped with a new furnace and is move in ready. **\$229,000**

W6339 Cty Rd O: Old fashioned country living can be yours. A huge yard for playing, gardening or maybe some animals. Beautiful lilacs to bring in the birds and plenty of wildlife right here. 30 acres, mostly wooded, is a great place to explore and maybe do some hunting. The ranch style home has a nice big kitchen and dining area for family gatherings. The third bedroom was turned into laundry as mom and dad aged. Nice mud room when you enter the home. The basement has an insulated floor, and extra pellet stove, as this was once used as a workshop. There is also a pellet stove upstairs in the dining area. The home has natural gas heat and central air. Outside, you will find a 2-car garage, 3-car garage and 2 smaller sheds, room for all the toys. This has been a one owner home. **\$299,900**

W5795 Robinson Rd: Fantastic location, and custom built, log sided home. Located directly across the street from Lake Nokomis, this home offers a beautifully landscaped lot, and that curb appeal you've been searching for. This home was built in 1999 and has been precisely maintained since. This home offers plenty of storage and is equipped with a 26x24 attached garage. There is also a 28x28 detached garage for a workshop or storing all of your toys. Additionally, the grounds are equipped with an underground sprinkler system and an invisible buried pet fence. This newer home is in a desirable area, with all recreational possibilities nearby. **\$499,000**

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Leader Sports & Nature

Tomahawk sports history: Boys' track and field

BY BOB SKUBAL
RETIRED COACH,
HISTORIAN, AUTHOR
OF 'HISTORY OF
TOMAHAWK SPORTS'

TOMAHAWK – The first mention of track at Tomahawk High School was in 1905.

The *Tomahawk Leader* reported track members as being Percy Lord, Herman Foster, Herbert Olson, Elmer Foster, Patsy Stone, Willie Marcouiller, Edgar Welfley, and Earl Wakefield. Nothing more was mentioned until March 9, 1906 when the *Tomahawk Leader* stated the following about track:

"Information concerning the annual spring track meet of the WIAA has been received by the athletic association of the high school. Representatives of each high school, after competing in a local contest, will be chosen to attend the track meet of their district. Those who receive honors will attend the state meet in Madison. The schools in our district will include Rhineland, Antigo, Wausau, Grand Rapids, and Tomahawk. The meet will probably be held the first of May. If it is approved by our athletic association, Tomahawk will be well represented."

Nothing more was mentioned in the *Leader* of anyone from Tomahawk being successful at the district meet.

The next mention of track at THS comes from the 1912 yearbook.

The yearbook states that there is an unusual amount of interest surrounding the track meet on May 18, owing largely to the fact that a new manager would be decided upon for the track and field medal.

Several changes were made in the events. The hammer was removed because it would often fly off uncontrolled, and the 50-yard dash and the left-handed shot were put in.

The yearbook had many reasons to believe that this would be their best year. The main reason was that the younger students took part in many events and succeeded in winning points. Several former records were broken that year.

The winners of the 1912 track and field meet were:

- 50 yd. dash – Eugene Meunier (5 3/5 seconds)
- Left-handed shot – Eugene Meunier (30' 10")
- 440 dash – Charles Cronkrite (1:04 5/5 minute)
- Discus – Eugene Meunier (84' 9")
- 100 yd. dash – Charles Cronkrite (not recorded)
- Right-handed shot – Eugene Meunier (34' 4")
- 220 yd. hurdles – Edward Whitson (30 2/5 seconds)
- Pole vault – Eugene Meunier (7' 8")
- Half mile – Edwin Isberg (2:28 3/5 minutes)
- High jump – Elmer Eck-

lund and Edward Whitson tied (5' 4")

- 220 yd. dash – Charles Cronkrite (26 2/5 seconds)
- Broad jump – Edward Whitson (17' 11")
- 120 yd. hurdles – Edward Whitson and Lloyd Basteen tied (20 4/5 seconds)
- Mile run – Edwin Isberg (5:46 2.5 minutes)

Eugene Meunier won the medal with 32 points. Other point winners were Edward Whitson 23, Edwin Isberg 17 1/2, Amel Bronsted 12, Irvin Mitchell 6 1/2, Elmer Ecklund 4, Glenn Boone 4 and Lloyd Basteen 4.

Nothing further was discovered until the spring of 1957 under coaches Otis Mehlberg and Bob Meyer. Team members were Jack Leggett, Walt Tuttle, Lloyd Bishop, Dennis Dorski, Floyd Howe, Dick Nibbler, Dave Howe, Dale Arnett, Rod Greil, Dave Anderson, Tim Rose, Don Hamlin, Bill Zastrow, Roger Lewerenz, Dennis Cronick, Wesley Clements, Dick Carew and Steve Hanson.

All-Conference honors that first year went to Walt Tuttle, 2nd Team in the 440; Jack Leggett, honorable mention in the 440; Walt Tuttle, honorable mention in the 880; Lloyd Bishop, honorable mention in the shot put; and the relay team of Jack Leggett, Walt Tuttle, Lloyd Bishop and Floyd Howe, honorable mention. THS was 6th at conference, scoring 23 1/2 points.

Since 1957, THS has had 10 different head coaches. Some years there were co-head coaches due to the large number of events that track has to offer. Bob Meyer has the most years as varsity coach with 22, followed by Bill Fischer with 21. Bob and Bill were co-head coaches for 19 years.

The program has had two conference dual championships (1985 and 1997), six conference tournament championships (1963, 1964, 1965, 1995, 1997 and 2008), two conference relay championships (1993 and 1995), 10 regional championships (1973, 1974, 1977, 1978, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1993, 1994 and 2008), and three sectional championships (1965, 1983 and 2010). There have been 343 state qualifying individuals and 72 state qualifying relays.

Following are some of the high lights the program has offered to the community.

1960 – Tomahawk secured their first dual meet victory when they defeat Park Falls 63-56 by winning nine of 14 events. Coaches were Bill Fischer and Bob Meyer. Team members were Dave Anderson, Mike Hanson, Bob Blume, Jim VanNorman, John Radcliffe, Fran Pflum, Dan Salewske, Daryl Ernst, Dennis Montabon, Ton Theiler, Bill Zastrow, Mac Winker and Wayce Carow.

1962 – First individual state champion was Don Dorski in the shot put with a toss of 49' 1 1/4".



Boys' track, 1960. Front row, from left: D. Theiler, J. McCarthy, T. Gruhlke, R. Lewerenz, D. Dorski, D. Anderson, B. Zastrow, J. Crapeau; second row: J. VanNorman, M. Winker, B. Blume, D. Salewske, A. Tresness, F. Pflum, W. Carow, R. Eisenman; third row: J. Arnett, E. Rutter, B. Ball, J. Bloomquist, J. Gable, D. Ernst, J. Venne, F. Milligan; fourth row: B. Marvin, T. Collins, R. Robarge, P. Luxem.



Boys' track, 1985. Front row: B. Henckel, A. Steinhafel, C. Brimacombe, M. Charles, G. Gaedtke, J. Galloy, P. Hagen, C. Lambries; second row: J. Clevenger, J. Leggett, B. Herman, L. Devito, R. Dilba, P. Steinhafel, L. Springer, C. Meyer; third row: K. Haring (Manager), R. Myre, J. Yustus, B. Shockley, D. Ebbert, M. Steuernagel, A. Hetzel, J. Gaedtke, Coach Steuernagel, Coach Kahn; back row: C. Gaedtke, S. Steuernagel, B. Whitman, T. Funk, J. Mamaclay, K. Krueger.

1963 – Coaches were Bob Meyer and Bill Fischer. Team members were Tom Gabriel, Harold Gaedtke, Frank Higgins, Dick Turnbull, Dennis Heglund, Pete Trantow, Terry Anderson, Dennis Burgy, Frank Cronick, Jim Crapeau, Don VanderVoort, Rene Roberge, Roger Hinz, Bill Sparr, Mark Eisenman, Gary Hoffman, Gordon Erickson, Ken Urso, John Stelling, Mark Alberg, Bill Nick, Lance Bell, Jim Callahan, Ed Steigerwaldt, Tim Theiler, Jim Richards, Jack Wurster, Jim VanRyen, Otto Koske, Geoff Charapata, Dan Schiltz, Walt Binder, Phil Beiler, Daryl Ernst, John Mott, Ron Schrupp, Forrest Black, Neil Whitaker, Terry Ball, Andy Beiler, Jay Arnett, Richard Berghammer, Bob Smith, Bob Koth, Dave Whitaker, Steve Johnson, Chuck Burton, Don Huseby, Dan Voermans, Bill Koch, Greg Venne, Steve Theiler, Jerry Paukner, Karl Hofmann, Phil Loveless, Dennis Briggs and John Stellings.

THS won their first conference championship, scoring 52 points. Phillips was second with 37 points. Conference place winners were Tom Gabriel – 1st (pole vault), Jim Crapeau – 1st (low hurdles with a con-

ference record of 22.2 sec.), Gordon Erickson – 1st (880), Peter Trantow – 1st (mile), Fran Higgins – 1st (discus), Rene Robarge – 2nd (220), 880 Relay team of Gordon Erickson, Sid Lokken, Tom Gabriel, and Gary Hoffman – 2nd, Sid Lokken – 2nd (high jump), Hal Gaedtke – HM (pole vault), Gary Hoffman – HM (broad jump), and Rene Roberge – HM (100). Tom Gabriel was state champion in the pole vault with a vault of 12' 3 1/2".

1964 – THS coaches Bob Meyer and Bill Fischer produced a second conference championship. Conference champions were Gary Hoffman (broad jump and triple jump), Hal Gaedtke (pole vault), Pete Trantow (mile), and the half mile relay team of John Mott, Jim Hibert, Roger Hinz and Gary Hoffman.

1965 – Coaches Bob Meyer and Bill Fischer produced the third conference championship and the first sectional championship in school history. Team members were Peter Trantow, Dennis Burgy, Bill Smith, Gary Hoffman, Hal Gaedtke, Fran Higgins, Dennis Theiler, Gary Gould, Dan Schiltz, John Mott, Jim Hilbert, Tim Theiler, Otto Yirkovsky, Don Mueller, Bill Lovshin,

Andy Beiler, Dan Voermans, Gaylin Raab, Craig Kuntz, Joe Radcliffe, Phil Beiler, Mark Alberg, Greg Venne, Ed Steigerwaldt, Steve Gaedtke, Ron Faust, Ralph Johnson, Neil Whitaker, Tom Petta, Vince Alber, Bill Schiltz, Grant Graeber, Jerry Paukner, Steve Johnson, Oscar Copes, Jim VanRyen, Lauren Erickson, John Feind, Milton Larson, Richard Loveless, Jim Postl, Tim Herman, Dave Thompson, Paul Kuntz, Buddy Gessler, Jim Alber, Girard Robarge, Jim McCarthy, Harry Copsiskey, Al Whitaker, Rod Gaedtke, Allan Hetzel, Mike Johnson and Mike Timm.

Tomahawk sent a school record 13 individuals to state, a record that still stands today. Gary Hoffman (broad jump and low hurdles), Hal Gaedtke (pole vault), Fran Higgins (discus), Peter Trantow (6th in mile), Fran Higgins (discus), Tim Theiler (high jump), Dan Mueller (discus), mile relay team of Gaylin Raab, Craig

Kuntz, Dan Schiltz, and Phil Beiler, and the half mile relay team of John Mott, Him Hibert, Phil Beiler, and Steve Gaedtke.

1967 – Craig Kuntz was second at state in the long jump with a leap of 21' 8 3/4".

1973 – Coaches Bill Fischer, Bob Meyer and Gordy Erickson produced the first regional championship in school history. Team members were Norb Renn, Mike Johnson, Bob Wise, Dennis Raab, Kevin Hendrick, Ray Newcomb, Todd Kahle, Blain Nyberg, Tim DeBels, Tim Heglund, Charlie Kahn, Dale Crass, Jack Parsons, Mike DeBels, Jim Richards, Von Martin, Jeff Slaton, Todd Jelinek, Tom Kahle, Grant Dotter, Dan Kaeser, Mark Gaedtke, Rick Parsons, Larry Copsiskey, Bill Cook and Mike Renn. Jack Parsons (high hurdles), Mike Renn (mile), Kevin Hendrick (low hurdles), Blain Nyberg (2 mile) Charlie Kahn (shot put) and Dale Crass (discus) were regional champions.

1974 – Coaches Bill Fischer, Bob Meyer, and Gordy Erickson produced a second regional title with Tom Kahle (pole vault), Charlie Kahn (shot put),

Track and Field
CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

TRACK AND FIELD
FROM PAGE 10

Jack Parsons (high hurdles) and Kevin Hendrick (low hurdles) as regional champions.

1975 – Tom Kahle was second at state in the pole vault with a vault of 13' 6".

1983 – The team was coached by Wolfgang Cahn, Jerry Johnson and Rich Steuernagel. Team members were Terry Clements, Clint Hitt, Kevin Sartain, Brian Redmond, Paul Uranski, Paul Hagen, Jeff Swan, Jim Coey, Kevin Haring, Gabe Sablica, Jim Hanson, Jon Baer, Brian Smith, Tim Francisco, Chris Barlow, Brian Fish, Mike Schiltz, Dennis Dietz, Brian Martin, Gregg Gaedtke, Jim Calhoun, Troy Evans, Andy Weizenicker, Esaki Keiichiro, John Upham, Dave Collins, Chris Lambires, Mike Charles, Mark Hanson, Rich McAllister, and Jon Galloy.

Tomahawk was regional champions and also sectional champions (first title since 1965). At sectionals, THS defeated Maple Northwestern 66-57 and knocked New Richmond down to third place. New Richmond was the two-time sectional champions and the Class B defending state champions. At state, Tomahawk scored 10 points for 21st place. Those placing at state were Jon Baer – 3rd (high jump), Brian Smith – 5th (triple jump and high jump), and Terry Clements – 5th (400m and long jump).



Boys' track, 2010. Front row: M. Norton, L. Hendzel, R. Kuehn, B. Arndt, V. Ierulli, A. Kuehn, N. Kuehn, D. Dahl, A. Benner, R. Freeman, C. Overhaug; back row: B. Lemke, J. Novitski, Z. Bruesewitz, T. Miller, N. Kainz, N. McMahon, T. Bostwick, E. Renn, J. Barr, D. Galloy, A. Murphy, Z. Zehner, T. Spaeth, M. Gerber, A. Phalin, N. Vandenberg, G. Daigle.

1985 – Coaches were Wolfgang Cahn, Rich Steuernagel and Jerry Johnson. Team members were Mike Schiltz, Brett Henckel, Mike Charles, Jon Galloy, Joe Yustus, Jess Gaedtke, Chris Meyer, Brad Weyers, Art Steinhafel, Larry Devito, Chad Gaedtke, Kevin Krueger, Ricky Myre, Al VanStrydonk, Gregg Gaedtke, Chris Lambires, Brian Martin, Bob Garrou, Josh Leggett, Aaron Hetzel, Bill Shockley, Scott Steuernagel, Craig Brimacombe, Darin Dobson, Bruce Henning, Jim Larkin, LeRoy Springer, Brad Whitman, Paul Hagen, Jim Calhoun, Joe Clevenger, Pat Steinhafel, Dave Ebbert, Eric Huseby, Mike Steuernagel, Tim Theiler, Ryan Dilba, Tim Funk, Bryan Herman, Joe Mamacalay and Darin Sturm.

THS won their first Lumberjack Conference dual meet title in over 20 years. Tomahawk also won regionals for the 7th time in school history. Jon Galloy

advanced to the state tournament. Jon placed 2nd in the 400m (:49.28 sec. for an NSR) and 7th in the 200m.

1986 – Jon Galloy was second at state in the 400m. Jon lost the state title by two hundredths of a second with a time of 48.8 sec. for an NSR.

1993 – Coaches were Rich Steuernagel, John Zuelsdorf, Todd Bohm, Bonnie Kahn, Jeff Zehner and Mike Loretz. Team members were Wade Melquist, Chad Beiler, Tim Albert, Craig Ploetz, Tim Menebroeker, Ryan Freude, Scott Leffel, Chad Mertens, Erik Steuernagel, Mike Lafond, Jeremy Meyer, Rick Scholz, Josh Johnson, Todd Liberty, Levi Rapp, Matt Andersen, Guy Kiser, Tim Gaedtke, Craig Redmond, Mike Sandry, Cory Gessler, Dave Tomaszewski, John Kopp, Tim Titler, Adam Menebroeker, Greg Dirx, John Foreman, Jesse Bociek, Dale Wanta, Dave Bethel, Mike Hilgendorf, Shane Reese, Andy Klade, Jim Verbist, Denney Wood-

ward and Paul Freude.

Tomahawk was conference relay champions for the first time in school history. They followed this up with their 8th regional title.

1997 – Coaches were Mike Loretz, Nate Mickelson, Jeff Majerus, Mark Gaedtke and Jeff Zehner. Team members were Ty Beckley, Andy Steuernagel, Jim Ingman, Nate Nelson, Chad Copiskey, Josh Carney, Dewey Reilly, Mike Tormohlen, Joe Flowers, Tom Deitz, Charlie Farmer, Matt Farmer, Jake Galloy, Justin Riebe, Justin Lund, Luke Wanta, Derek Osero, Zach Garner, Tom Runyon, Jake Hetzel, Seth Gaedtke, Gary Halverson, Kevin Kind, Simon Janeczko, Nate Schoone, Todd Sleeper and Rich Wanta.

THS was both Lumberjack Conference Dual Meet Champion and Lumberjack Conference Tournament Champion for the only time in school history. Todd Sleeper was voted Lumberjack Conference Athlete of the Year. Mike Loretz was

voted Lumberjack Conference Coach of the Year.

2002 – Todd Copiskey was second at state in the pole vault with a vault of 13' 6".

2005 – Anthony Lampe was state champ in the 800m in a time of 1:55.92 for an NSR – just 1.58 seconds off the D2 state record of Mike Raemisch of Waunakee.

2006 – Anthony Lampe was second at state in the 800m when he had to run in the slow heat.

2008 – Joe Lilek was state champion in the shot put with a toss of 55' 4 1/2" for an NSR and improvement of over 11 feet from his junior year.

2010 – Coaches were John Zuelsdorf, Nate Mickelson, Mike Janz, Katie Hanna, Jeff Zehner, DeAnn Janeczko, Katie Carlson, Mike Loretz and Sara Piller. Team members were Tyler Bostwick, Nathan Kainz, Josh Barr, Andy Murphy, Zach Zehner, Elijah Record, Matt Gerber, Garrett Daigle, Travis Spaeth, Zach

Bruesewitz, Dan Galloy, Larry Hendzel, Dylan Dahl, Thomas Miller, Mike Norton, Austin Phalin, Ryan Kuehn, Brogan Lemke, Ethan Renn, Victor Ierulli, Alex Kuehn, Nick Vandenberg, Ben Arndt, Adam Benner, Randall Freeman, Caleb Overhaug, Justin Novitski, Nate Kuehn, Neko McMahon, Tyler Bostwick, Jordan McAllister and Austin Champine.

Tomahawk would win their first sectional title since 1983. Matt Gerber would place second at state in the 100m (10.77 sec. NSR) and 200m (22.12 sec. NSR).

2011 – Matt Gerber was state champion in the 200m with a time of 21.4 sec. for an NSR and new state record. Matt Gerber would place second at state in the 100m in 10.86 sec. The 4 X 100m relay team of Matt Gerber, Dan Galloy, Eddie Yirsa and Travis Spaeth would place second at state in a time of 43.2 sec. for an NSR.

LCHD: Be on the lookout for blue-green algae this summer

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

LINCOLN COUNTY – Summer is here, and the Lincoln County Health Department (LCHD) is reminding the public to be on the lookout for blue-green algae when enjoying the area's waterways.

"Although warmer temperatures and sunshine are welcomed, this weather creates the perfect conditions for algal blooms to develop, some of which can be harmful to humans and pets when swallowed, touched or inhaled," LCHD stated.

LCHD said that although many species of algae are found in local lakes and rivers and are a vital part



Blue-green algae's color is often described as pea soup or spilled green paint, but it can also be other colors, including white, red or brown.

Photo courtesy of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

of waterways, blue-green algae are not true algae, but are actually bacteria known as cyanobacteria.

According to Mike Mandli, LCHD Environmental Health Specialist, risk for blue-green algae increases after heavy rain, causing agricultural and residential fertilizers to run off into area waterways.

"These added nutrients to our water, combined with little wind, warm temperatures and sunlight, can create ideal conditions for blue-green algae to grow," Mandli explained. "If it looks like split pea soup, it is important to stay out."

Mandli noted that these conditions typically occur in Lincoln County from

mid-June through mid-September.

Blue-green algae's color is often described as pea soup or spilled green paint, but it can also be other colors, including white, red or brown. Blue-green algae grows most abundantly in warm, calm, sunny weather with water temperatures above 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

"When conditions are just right, blue-green algae can grow quickly and create blooms," LCHD said. "Blooms may produce a bad odor. It can be difficult to tell whether an algae bloom is dangerous or not, so it is best to treat all algae

Algae
CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

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CAMP FIVE

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Camp Five Museum, Laona, WI
Hwys 8 & 32 1-800-774-3414
www.lumberjacksteamtrain.com

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FISHING & HUNTING TIMES

Date (CDT)	Morning		Evening	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
July 5	6:47AM	1:43AM	10:22PM	2:13PM
July 6	8:12AM	2:42AM	10:49PM	3:09PM
July 7	9:34AM	3:35AM	11:11PM	4:01PM
July 8	10:54AM	4:25AM	---	4:49PM
July 9	11:30PM	5:13AM	12:09PM	5:36PM
July 10	11:49PM	5:59AM	1:24PM	6:22PM
July 11	12:10AM	6:46AM	2:37PM	7:10PM
July 12	12:32AM	7:34AM	3:50PM	7:59PM

Solunar fishing and hunting chart for Tomahawk. Major feeding periods last two hours and minors run one hour. New Moon is July 17th.

Northwoods Six-County Lakes meeting to be held at Nicolet College

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

RHINELANDER – Lake group leaders and members from six northern Wisconsin counties will convene for a discussion of water resource issues next week.

The Northwoods Six-County Lakes meeting will be held at Nicolet College, 5364 College Dr., Rhinelander, on Friday, July 14 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

The meeting will feature a panel of experts involved with enforcing laws and regulations that address boating and safety, shoreland zoning, short-term property rentals, fish and game rules and general outdoors-related activity.

The panelists are Karl Jennrich, Director, Oneida County Planning and Zoning; Erika Roeder, Administrator, Iron County Zoning;

Darren Kuhn, Conservation Officer, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR); Grady Hartman, Sheriff, Oneida County (or designee); and a Wisconsin DNR Conservation Warden (to be announced).

The meeting will also include an update on state government policy related to water given by Mike Engleson, Executive Director of Wisconsin Lakes; an update on invasive zebra mussels and spiny water flea from Gretchen Gerrish, Director of the UW Center for Limnology's Trout Lake Research Station; and a presentation on loons and lead poisoning given by Mark Naniot, Director of Rehabilitation at Wild Instincts in Rhinelander.

There will be time for a question-and-answer session, during which attendees

will have the opportunity raise issues of specific concern to their lakes.

Master of ceremonies for the meeting will be Eric Olson, Director of UW-Extension Lakes.

Exhibits will be offered by area educational, non-profit and government organizations. Attendees are expected from Oneida, Vilas, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, and Iron counties.

The event is jointly sponsored by the Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association (www.oclra.org) and the Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (www.vclra.org). No pre-registration is required.

For more information, contact Ted Rulseh at 920-242-8671 or trulseh@tjrcmunications.com; or Tom Ewing at 630-985-8472 or president@vclra.org.

TOMAHAWK SPORTS TRIVIA: WEEK 137

The Tomahawk Leader will feature one local sports trivia question per week, provided by Bob Skubal, retired coach, historian, and author of "History of Tomahawk Sports." Email leadernews@mmclocal.com if you know the answer!

The first person to tell us the correct answer each week will have their name published in the paper if they wish, along with their correct

answer to the question.

Week 136 question: The 1969-1970 Tomahawk basketball team was conference champions with a 15-5 overall record. Who led the conference in scoring that season: Terry Timm, Dana Kahle or Joe Draeger?

Week 136 answer: The member of the Hatchet basketball team that led the conference in the 1969-70 season was Dana Kahle. Kahle

scored 248 points in conference games and was selected as a Channel 7 All-Star honorable mention.

Congrats to Don Stelter for being the first to correctly answer last week's question!

Week 137 question: In what year did THS win its first conference dual meet and conference wrestling title in 1968, 1969 or 1970?

Sports Briefs

Tomahawk Community Fun Runs

The Tomahawk Community Fun Runs are now underway. Runners of all ages are invited, though runners under the age of 14 should be accompanied by an adult, as runners are not supervised. Runners meet at Veterans Memorial Park, where a description of the running route will

be communicated. Runs typically occur Sundays, Mondays, and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m., with occasional 7:30 a.m. Tuesday runs from Sunset Point. View the Fun Run schedules at www.tinyurl.com/ybwwkdjz. For more information about the Tomahawk Community Fun Runs group, visit www.strava.com/clubs/1066717.

Summer morning lap swim

Summer morning lap swim will be held at the pool at the Tomahawk school complex Mondays through Thursdays from 6 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. Entry is through at Door #6 (auditorium, fieldhouse and pool). Walking on the indoor track and water aerobics will return in the fall.

Natural Connections: The Lake Superior Fishery in Wisconsin Waters

BY EMILY STONE
NATURALIST/EDUCATION DIRECTOR, CABLE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

The boat engine rumbled and machinery whirred as a gillnet rose from the depths of Lake Superior. Captain Ross Lind managed the throttle so that the 55-foot-long gillnet-tug-turned-research-vessel named Hack Noyes moved toward the net at the same speed the net lifter reeled it in.

A group of interested adults on this Museum-sponsored field trip gathered around the equipment. We were mesmerized by the clicking of the metal teeth on the spinning drum as they gripped and then released the line, and by the lengths of delicate nylon net attached to the line. Capable hands guided the net down a long, stainless-steel worktable and into the storage tub. (Check out the Museum's Reels on Instagram and Facebook if you want to see a video of this operation.)

Gillnets look like a long tennis net, anchored by weights along the lake bottom and held vertical by floats. Small fish swim right through, but bigger fish get caught. Whether a DNR biologist or a commercial fisherman is setting the net, they can choose the fish they target by the size of the mesh and the depth of set.

A flash of silver rounded the drum. The fish landed on the worktable and Dray Carl, Fisheries Biologist for



Whitefish (top) and cisco (left) are closely related, but the downturned mouth of the whitefish fits their bottom feeding lifestyle, while the forward-facing mouth of the cisco is suited for eating the critters right in front of them throughout the water column. Cisco are also known as lake herring.

the Wisconsin DNR, freed it from the filaments. Another fish, and then another and another landed on the table. They all looked about the same to my untrained eye, but after lining them up, Dray began to teach us about the different species we'd caught.

There was one adult whitefish. At 17.7" long it was of legal size, and Dray put it on ice to take to Bodin Fisheries processing plant, which was the next stop for all of us on the field trip. The DNR tries not to waste the fish they catch as part of their research and monitoring efforts, and their catch is factored into the fishing quotas. Quotas are negotiated between the state, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and the Bad River Tribe, and these entities manage the fishery cooperatively.

Three young whitefish remained on the table, next to two cisco. Other than be-

ing slightly different shades of silver, I couldn't tell them apart. These two nearshore fish species are in the same genus, and hang out in 50-250 feet of water. Whitefish, though, feed on the bottom of the lake, nibbling on insects and snails with their down-turned mouth. Cisco feed throughout the water column on zooplankton and other critters right in front of their forward-facing mouth. Dray held them up, and now even I could see the difference.

The third fish species on the table was a rainbow smelt. Though introduced from the Atlantic Coast, smelt gained a huge following during their heyday, when anyone with a net could catch hundreds at the mouth of a creek during a spawning run. Smelt can be beneficial as a prey species, but they also eat young cisco and whitefish. Now that smelt numbers have moderated, whitefish and cisco



The invention of net lifters (upper right) enabled fishing tugs to become enclosed, which makes for a safer and more comfortable job during the winter. DNR Fisheries Biologist Dray Carl (far left) explains this to participants on a Museum-organized field trip.

Photos by Emily Stone

are able to increase their populations again.

In fact, current numbers of one-year-old cisco are higher than biologists have seen since at least 1978. This boom was spawned in the fall of 2021, and hatched in 2022. Their reproductive success was thought to be tied to high ice cover, but the new hypothesis is that our recent late springs have provided the cold water that the fish need at just the right time.

While cisco populations are high all over the lake, "the highest densities of the little cisco have been observed in Wisconsin waters," Dray told me proudly. Wisconsin waters only include 7% of the surface area of Lake Superior, but there are more fish harvested out of this jurisdiction than the rest of the lake combined.

Part of that has to do with the number of fisherman out there trying to catch fish. Much of Min-

nesota's North Shore and Canada are pretty wild and host relatively few commercial fishing operations. A bigger reason? Wisconsin has more shallow water. Eighty percent of Lake Superior is more than 250 feet deep. Sunlight doesn't penetrate into those depths, and therefore can't jumpstart the food chain. In the shallow waters of the St. Louis River Estuary, the Apostle Islands, Chequamegon Bay, and Kakagon Slough, sunlight powers algae, and streams bring in nutrients from the uplands, too.

When you mix that productivity with a wide variety of habitats that support a diversity of species as they grow and reproduce, you get a lot of fish. So many fish are born in Wisconsin waters that they disperse throughout the rest of the lake.

Dray did a fantastic job of explaining the biology and management of the

Wisconsin fishery on Lake Superior. To my delight, he even brought it back to geology. About a billion years ago, the Mid-Continent Rift tried to rip apart North America, right through where Lake Superior is today. The lava that erupted from immense seam volcanoes in the rift became the steeply dipping bedrock on the North Shore of Lake Superior. Sandstone filled in the resulting basin, and glaciers carved that softer rock into the islands and bays—and fish habitat—of today's Wisconsin waters. As the land rebounds from the weight of the glaciers, the lake is tilting southwest to flood the mouth of the St. Louis River and create more great habitat there.

This Friday, as I nibble on a locally caught fillet of Lake Superior whitefish or cisco, I'll be quietly thanking all the people (and geology!) who contribute to the health of Wisconsin's fishery.

Emily's award-winning second book, *Natural Connections: Dreaming of an Elfin Skimmer*, is available to purchase at www.cabl-museum.org/books and at your local independent bookstore, too.

For more than 50 years, the Cable Natural History Museum has served to connect you to the Northwoods. Our new exhibit: "The Northwoods ROCKS!" is open now! Our Summer Calendar of Events is ready for registration! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and www.cable-museum.org to see what we are up to.

ALGAE

FROM PAGE 11

as dangerous and when in doubt, stay out."

Upon arriving to a beach or body of water, LCHD suggests looking for postings and water quality notices and doing a visual inspection of the water to look for any signs of blue-green algae before entering the water.

LCHD also provided the following recommendations:

- Do not swim or wade through algal scum.
- Do not boat, water ski or jet ski through algal blooms.
- Do not fish in lakes where algal scum is present.
- Always shower off with soap and water after swimming in a lake.

LCHD recommends con-

tacting a healthcare provider if an individual is exposed to blue-green algae and is experiencing the following symptoms:

- Sore throat
- Red skin
- Runny nose
- Hives
- Cough
- Earache
- Difficulty breathing
- Headache

- Itchy eyes
- Stomach pain
- Itchy skin
- Vomiting

"Pets are especially susceptible to blue-green algae because they can't tell if water is unsafe," LCHD stated. "Because of their relatively small size, animals do not need to swallow very much contaminated water to be-

come ill. If you think you or your pet may have come into contact with any blue-green algae, rinse them off right away, do not let them lick the algae off and contact a veterinarian right away."

For more information on blue-green algae, visit the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) website at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/bg-algae/index.htm.

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/bg-algae/index.htm.

For information on reporting a blue-green algae bloom to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), how to protect children and pets and links for DNR beach closings and advisories, visit www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes/bluegreen-algae.