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## Tomahawk Together receives trio of 'Our Dream Park' donations

BY JALEN MAKI  
 TOMAHAWK LEADER  
 EDITOR

TOMAHAWK – Three donations were recently made towards a local group's efforts to revitalize a Tomahawk park.

Since 2021, Tomahawk Together, a nonprofit organization that has worked to support families and youth in the community for more than three decades, has been planning and raising funds for the construction of an all-inclusive playground at Washington Square Park, also known as "Toddler Park," on N. 4th St.

The organization dubbed the new playground "Our Dream Park."

The park will include playground equipment designed for children of all ages and abilities, as well as a splash pad and various other amenities geared towards youth and adults alike.

Tomahawk Together hopes complete construction on the park by late next summer.

In an effort to push the group closer to its goal, Tomahawk Pharmacy made a \$10,000.00 donation in honor of their angel, Hugo.

Each of Tomahawk's Girl Scout troops contributed \$250.00 from last spring's cookie sale proceeds, donating a total of \$2,500.00.

Tomahawk Together also received a \$3,000.00 contribution from Kwik Trip.



Tomahawk Pharmacy recently contributed \$10,000.00 towards Our Dream Park.

Photo courtesy of Tomahawk Together



A \$2,500.00 contribution was made by the Tomahawk Girl Scouts.

Photo courtesy of Kay Kissinger Wolf



The Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce held its annual Awards Dinner at Inshalla Country Club last week. The recipient of this year's Ambassador Award was Crossbridge Community Bank. The Chamber said the Ambassador Award is presented to a Chamber member that, in conducting their regular business, "carries the name of Tomahawk far and wide and promotes Tomahawk in a positive manner." Photos courtesy of the Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce



Tomahawk Area Historical Society member Elaine Koth received the Lifetime Service Award, which is given to Chamber members "with a history of giving themselves to the Chamber and community." Other recipients included Spirit Award winner Jeffery Johnson, who was recognized for his support of the Chamber, its mission and activities; and Service Award winner Northwoods Harley-Davidson, which was honored for its efforts in assisting the Chamber in fulfilling its mission of "development, promotion, retention and advocacy of business and tourism in Tomahawk and the surrounding area."

# Dare to Dream: Mary Jane Weege turns 100 years young and wonders how it happened

COURTESY OF MILESTONE SENIOR LIVING

TOMAHAWK – Here's a little story of a woman living a milestone at Milestone Assisted Living Facility in Tomahawk, Wis. – the proud daughter of Alice and William Rahlf.

Mary Jane Weege was born in Merrill, Wis., on Oct. 10, 1923. She grew up, married and raised three children, one girl and two boys, all in Merrill.

Mary Jane met Norbert Weege at her job at Montgomery Wards, which was in Merrill. They were both Store Salesclerks. Mary Jane and Norbert were married in Christ United Methodist Church, Merrill, on June 29, 1946.

Mary Jane is pretty good at numbers. Both she and her beloved deceased husband were born on the 10th of the month. Her three children were born on the 12th, 13th and 14th of a month. She is blessed with seven grandkids and ten great-grandchildren.

Mary Jane's favorite color is pink. Her favorite food is "fried potatoes with onions and ketchup." She always talks about her traveling and camping trips, and she is proud of all the years she has canned fruits and vegetables. Bella, her four-legged fur grand-doggie, is



Photo courtesy of Milestone Senior Living

one of her favorite things.

Mary Jane has never applied for a driver's license, and now reaching 100, we won't recommend it!

When you meet this pretty little lady, there is no way she looks her age. In fact, she won't even admit to being this age. We calculated she has been alive 86,600 hours to date; her response

was "Oh my gosh."

Her actual birthday started with singing to her, and her favorite potatoes were served at lunch. She walked the red carpet into her party and was surprised at all her family and friends there.

The room was decorated in pink, and her Pastor, Mike Zahn, played guitar and sang. There was a beautiful birthday cake, snacks and punch. She received more than 100 birthday cards from her Milestone friends and St. Mary School kids. State Senator Mary Felzkowski could not attend, but sent a beautiful citation acknowledging her special day.

Mary Jane had a wonderful day and thanked everyone for coming to celebrate her. We're sure she had a good night's rest after her full day.

# THS senior Patrick Samundsen recognized by National Merit Scholarship Corporation

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – Tomahawk High School (THS) senior Patrick Samundsen was recently named a Commended Student in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program.

THS Principal Ryan Huseby presented Samundsen with a Letter of Commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®), which conducts the program, on Friday, Oct. 6.

According to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, approximately 1.5 million students take the PSAT/NMSQT each year.

"About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise," the district said in a release. "Although they will not continue in the 2024 competition for National Merit Scholarship Awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who en-



THS Principal Ryan Huseby presented senior Patrick Samundsen with a Letter of Commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) earlier this month.

Photo courtesy of the School District of Tomahawk

tered the 2024 competition by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®)."

"Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," a spokesperson for NMSC stated. "These students represent a valuable national resource.

Recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."

## LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

As reported by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Tuesday, Oct. 10:

Over the week our Lincoln County 911 Center received seven 911 nuisance calls/hang ups. The Lincoln County Deputies conducted 19 traffic stops with two resulting in OWI arrests. Within the county this week, there were eight car vs. animal collisions.

On 10/02/2023 at approximately 19:30, Lincoln County Dispatch Center received a call stating there was a vehicle all over the road and almost hit a stop sign. This occurred in the area of County Rd. G and State Rd. 17 in the Township of Merrill. Lincoln County Sheriff Deputies arrived on scene, advising that Merrill EMS needed to be paged for the driver. The deputy made contact with the driver, a Merrill male, 76, who was bleeding from the arm and confused. The driver was transported to Aspirus Merrill

and keys were turned over to the driver's wife. Nothing further at this time.

On 10/03/2023 at approximately 14:30, in the area of N2800 Block of State Rd. 107, a Lincoln County Deputy came across a large amount of smoke. Upon further inspection, it was determined that logs and shrubs were on fire. Merrill Fire Department and Merrill DNR were paged to the scene. Upon Merrill Fire Department's arrival, the Lincoln County Deputy and a homeowner were able to extinguish the fire. Merrill Fire Department took over the scene from there. Nothing further at this time.

On 10/04/2023 at approximately 16:00, Lincoln County 911 Center received a call regarding a vehicle driving erratically in the area of U.S. Hwy. 51 and MM208. Merrill Police Department was able to intercept

the vehicle at a local restaurant. Once Lincoln County Deputies arrived on scene, contact was made with the driver. A Woodruff man, 35, was cited for OAS, no insurance and obstructing an officer. Nothing further at this time.

On 10/05/2023 at approximately 22:30, a Lincoln County Deputy conducted a routine traffic stop in the area of County Rd. Q and Brush Rd., in the Township of Scott. The deputy made contact with the driver, a Merrill man, 24, who was showing signs of impairment. The driver was placed through a series of field sobriety tests, and as a result of those tests, he was arrested for OWI 4th, possession of THC, OAR-criminal, and fail to install IID. Nothing further at this time.

Sheriff's Report CONTINUES ON PAGE 4

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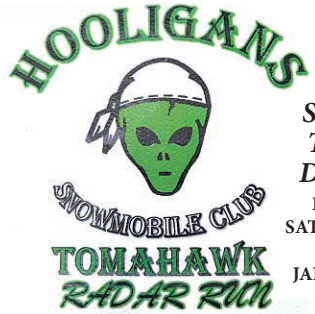
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- Motel Nokomis
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# THS grad's kidnapping ordeal recounted in new book

## 'Scot-free: Safe in Georgia' now available online

BY SARAH GREIL

TOMAHAWK – What started out as an evening trip on a holiday weekend quickly turned into a life-or-death situation for one 1970 Tomahawk High School graduate.

While his wife Deb was in Tomahawk visiting family for the bicentennial 4th of July weekend, Scott Gaedtke was traveling from his home in Titusville, Fla., to Daytona. He stopped to help a stranded traveler who had steam pouring from his car's hood. What he didn't realize was that the man was not alone, and that he and the other two men with him were dangerous murderers.

Shortly after stopping to help, Scott found himself in a situation with a gun to his chest, wondering if these were his last moments on earth. The criminals seized his car and decided to take Scott with them. Scott's quick thinking and witty tongue not only talked the criminals out of killing him, but talked them out of armed robbery of a convenience store and attacking a couple in their car.

Driving up the interstate, the car was eventually stopped by police in Georgia for suspected drunk driving as they weaved down the road. While searching the vehicle, the officer was unalarmed by the unloaded shotgun in the back seat, since this was legal in Georgia.

Upon further searching, they arrested the driver for having Florida beer that didn't have a Georgia stamp on it. He'd be charged with interstate trafficking of alcohol without a license, a federal crime.

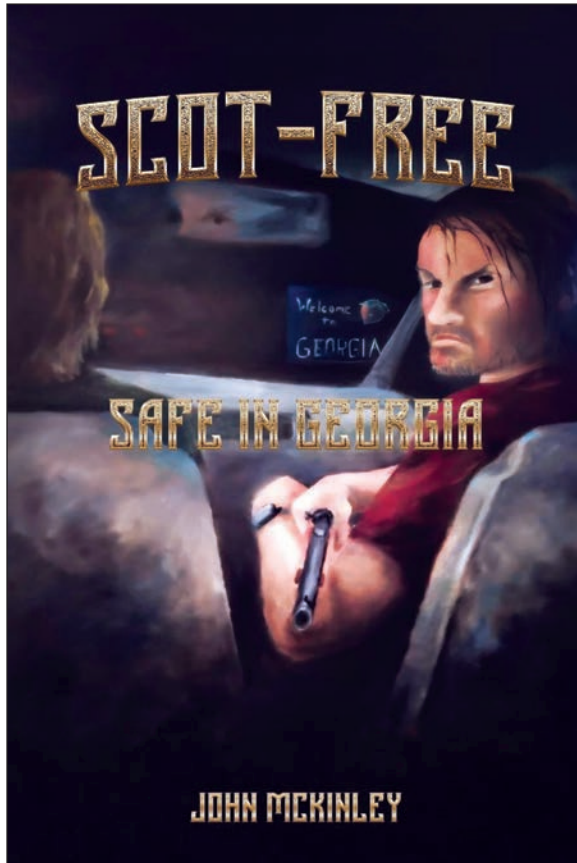
The driver rode to the station with the officer, and the others followed in Scott's car. While the driver was being booked, Scott and the others were told to go wait outside.

As they headed out the door, Scott suddenly jumped aside and yelled, "Grab them! They have knives!" (They hadn't been searched.) The criminals were apprehended, and Scott explained how he had been kidnapped and wasn't one of them.

The next day, the FBI spent about two hours taking Scott's testimony. He never did have to go to court. The suspects pleaded guilty and were given multiple life sentences.

Scott said he did a lot of praying during the ordeal. He said God gave him the right things to say at the right time to make the criminals laugh and avoid the situation getting worse. The rest of his life, he's been trying to live up to some of the promises he made to God that night.

Scott believes that if a family had stopped, they would have been killed in



Scott Gaedtke's wife, Deb, created the book's cover.

order to take their car. He believes that he was there so that no one else would be killed.

"It was a miracle the way the whole thing came out," Scott reminisced. "I should have been dead. God got me through that. I have no doubt about that."

In 2005, during a fall grouse hunting trip in northern Wisconsin, Scott shared his story with several classmates. This past January, his friend John McKinley decided his experience should be written down and spent the winter writing a book entitled *Scot-free: Safe in Georgia*. Several months later, the book was published and

is available on Amazon.

John changed a few names and took some liberties with writing backstories for the criminals, but the events of the kidnapping are true to Scott's memories.

Through his ordeal, Scott would like people to know that there's a bigger purpose in life.

"You may not see it right out front," he said, "but things happen in life for a reason. Keep your faith and you'll find out in the long run what it was. Some of those things we won't know until we finally get to heaven. Until then, you'll always have the comfort of knowing it's all part of a plan."

# Man arrested after allegedly shooting at vehicle on U.S. Hwy. 51 in Marathon County

BY JALEN MAKI  
TOMAHAWK LEADER  
EDITOR

MARATHON COUNTY – A man is in custody after allegedly shooting at a vehicle on U.S. Hwy. 51 in Marathon County.

According to a Saturday, Oct. 7 release from the Marathon County Sheriff's Office, a 911 call was received at about 8:44 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 6 from an individual traveling northbound on U.S. Hwy. 51 near County Rd. WW in the Village of Maine. The caller reported that they and their vehicle had been struck by gunfire.

"Following the initial report, multiple calls were received about the incident, and a suspect vehicle description was obtained," the release stated. "The vehicle's occupants, targeted by gunfire, safely pulled over, received medical attention from first responders in Lincoln County and were transported to a local hospital for non-life-threatening injuries."

The release said the suspected vehicle was located by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, and the vehicle was pursued back into Marathon County after it failed to comply with orders to stop.

"The Wausau Police Department deployed tire deflation devices to bring the pursuit to an end," the release stated. "However, the suspect vehicle evaded these measures."

The pursuit ended when a Lincoln County deputy disabled the suspect's vehicle with their patrol vehicle in the City of Wausau. The Lincoln County deputy suffered minor injuries from the crash, according to the release.

After the pursuit, the northbound lane of U.S. Hwy. 51, where the initial incident occurred, was closed for approximately three hours to



Green  
Photo courtesy of the Marathon County Sheriff's Office

conduct an investigation.

Bennie Zachariah Green, 41, from Tony, Wis., was arrested as a result of the investigation.

Charges of attempted homicide, first degree recklessly endangering safety, being in possession of a firearm as a felon, operating while intoxicated (second offense) and a Department of

Corrections warrant were forwarded to the Marathon County District Attorney's Office for consideration, the release said.

The release said the incident was isolated, and there is no ongoing threat to the community.

The Marathon County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Wisconsin State Patrol, the Wausau Police Department, the Wausau Fire Department and the Marathon County District Attorney's Office.

"This is an ongoing investigation, and no further details will be provided at this time," the release said, noting that additional information would be posted to the Marathon County Sheriff's Office Facebook page when available.

No additional information had been released as of press time on Monday, Oct. 16.

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# DSPS launches online dashboard to help fire departments assess risk, identify vulnerable groups

**FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER**

WISCONSIN – The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), on Sunday, Oct. 8, launched a new dashboard aimed at helping state fire departments better identify risks and vulnerable groups in their communities.

In a release, DSPS said the Fire Safety Dashboards-Risk Reduction Tool expands on the department's commitment to safety.

DSPS explained that the data is put together in a product called CRAIG 1300, which stands for Community Risk Assessment Insight Generator. It is a risk-reduction tool that uses publicly available data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) to help fire departments and other agencies develop data-driven public safety programs.

"In addition to data on fire calls, EMS calls and other incidents, the dashboards provide data on housing conditions and demographic information for different communities, like age, number of people with disabilities or number living in poverty," DSPS stated.

provided state-wide data to fire departments in the past, but this upgrade "allows them to drill down and find data for individual counties, municipalities or even districts/neighborhoods within those municipalities."

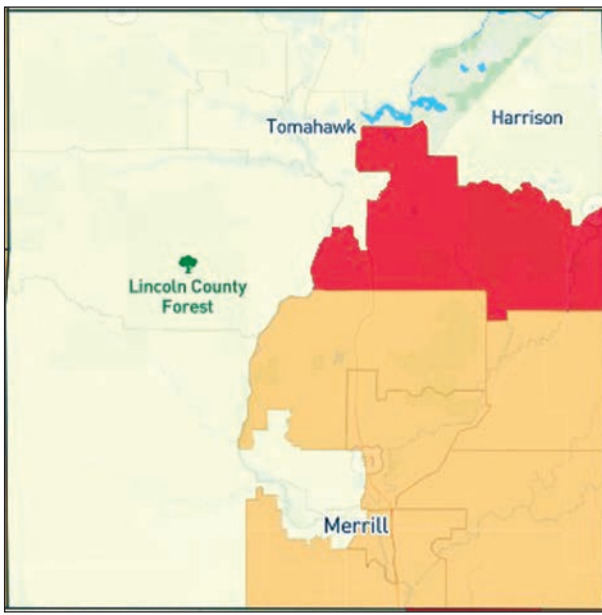
"Fire Prevention is an important part of our department's overall safety mission," said DSPS Secretary-designee Dan Hereth. "These Fire Safety Dashboards are going to help fire departments across Wisconsin identify risks in the communities they serve and allocate their resources accordingly, potentially saving lives."

"Fire departments will be able to more easily analyze incident report data related to public emergencies and gain valuable insights," said Bradley Johnson, Director of the DSPS Bureau of Field Services. "There are three years' worth of data, which will also assist in identifying any trends."

"We know the most common fires in the United States are cooking fires," Johnson stated. "Using this tool, Wisconsin fire departments can look at the individual communities they

**DSPS**

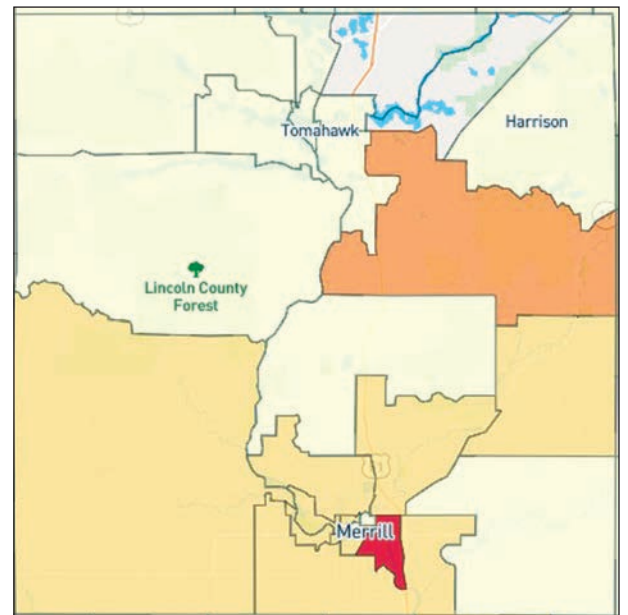
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**FIRE-RELATED INCIDENTS**

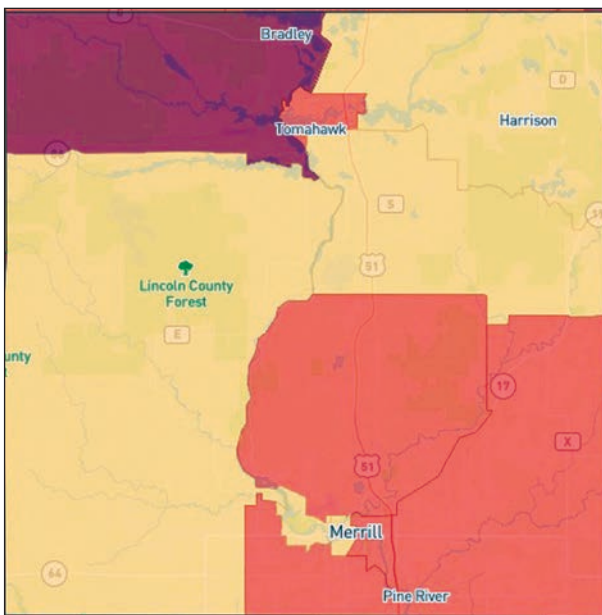
In 2022, the red area in eastern Lincoln County reported 28 fire-related incidents, according to the dashboard, which cites National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data. The orange areas each reported between five and 10 fire-related incidents.

Photos courtesy of DSPS



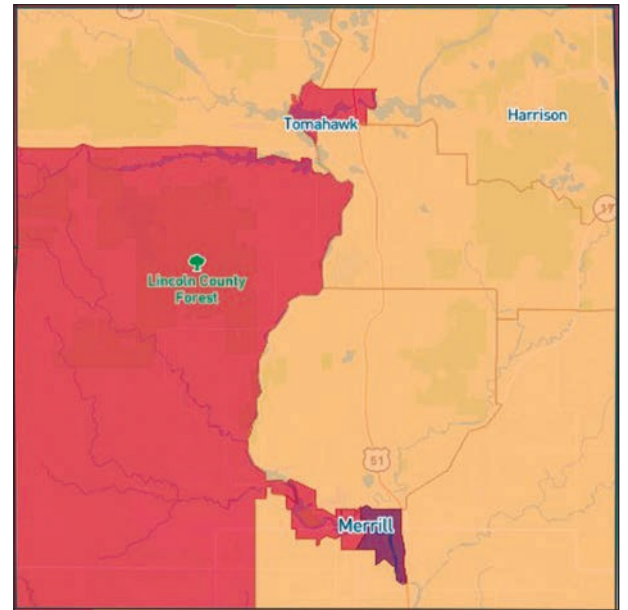
**EMS RESCUE-RELATED INCIDENTS**

The red area in southern Lincoln County reported 471 EMS/rescue incidents last year. The dark orange area southeast of Tomahawk reported 435 EMS/rescue incidents.



**AGE DEPENDENCY RATIOS**

Age dependency ratios explain how many dependents – residents who are either children or the elderly – there are for every 100 people of working age in an area. The dark red area in northwestern Lincoln County has an age dependency ratio of 92%, according to the dashboard, which cites U.S. Census Bureau data. The orange area in the center of the county has an age dependency ratio of 68%.



**MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

Risk factors associated with poverty are often related to a lack of access to resources. Poverty is correlated with lower levels of health. Residents living in poverty may not have access to health clinics, health insurance or healthy food, DSPS said. Median household income in Wisconsin is \$67,080.00, according to the dashboard. The dark red area in southern Lincoln County has a median household income of \$45,594.00, while the orange area to its north has a median household income of \$69,846.00. The small red area in northern Lincoln County has a median household income of \$53,792.00.

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# Weinbrenner of Merrill's Thorogood boot among 'Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin' finalists

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

MERRILL – A Merrill product is among the finalists in the “Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin” contest.

Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) and Johnson Financial Group announced the four finalists in the contest on Wednesday, Oct. 11. Among them is Weinbrenner Shoe Company's Thorogood American Heritage Tobacco Safety Toe Work Boot.

Weinbrenner Shoe Company is headquartered in Merrill.

The Thorogood boot will go toe-to-toe with the Bevi Bottleless Water Dispenser, manufactured by Plexus Corp. in Neenah; Applewood Smoked Bacon, produced by Nueske's Applewood Smoked Meats in Wittenberg; and the Ar-



Contributed photo

iens® 90th Anniversary Limited Edition Sno-Thro, made by AriensCo in Brillion.

The final round is a popular vote. Voting began on Thursday, Oct. 12, and individuals can vote

once per day, per device, until 12 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 19. The winner will be crowned at WMC's Business Day in Madison later that day.

To vote, visit [www.madainwis.com](http://www.madainwis.com).

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Or

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## DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

Price County Clerk of Court Department

Price County is accepting applications for a Deputy Clerk of Court, within the Clerk of Courts Department. This deputized position provides complex clerical support for the court system and acts as a clerk in the courtroom and in the Clerk of Circuit Courts office. The position also requires skill in the operation of office equipment, excellent communication skills, and an ability to communicate clearly with users of court services. This is a full-time, regular position with a starting hourly wage of \$20.39 (Grade E) and full benefits package. Interviews will be conducted in person on Monday, October 30, 2023.

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](http://www.co.price.wi.us), by emailing a request to [hroffice@co.price.wi.us](mailto: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 **Wednesday, October 25, 2023**, to be considered for this position.

Price County is an equal opportunity employer.

## DSPS

FROM PAGE 5

serve and see where these incidents are most common, then also check, for example, if that community has a high number of dependent youth or seniors. They can then adjust their education and outreach efforts to target the groups most susceptible, and even apply for grants specific to their needs."

"The effectiveness of fire prevention and suppression is dependent on the risks identified through community demographics and emergency responses in our jurisdictions," said Joe Pulvermacher, Fitchburg Fire Department Chief and President of the Wisconsin Fire Chiefs Association, which advocated for the new product. "This new community risk assessment tool allows us to thoughtfully provide response and prevention programs – and share insight for practical staffing plans. If fire departments and EMS agencies are going to plan appropriately, it will be driven by conditions that we know have the likelihood of impacting those that reside in and visit our state. DSPS's commitment to data-driven preparedness is a crucial component to this effort."

Hereth noted that the dashboard "gives us the opportunity to organize and look at data in ways we've never been able to

before, helping us understand how demographics, economics, housing and other factors are influencing incident trends."

"This tool really has the potential to make a tremendous impact," he stated.

DSPS said it will be demonstrating some of the uses of the Fire Safety Dashboards in a series of trainings with state fire departments over the next month.

To view the dashboard, visit [www.tinyurl.com/yacvwpbs](http://www.tinyurl.com/yacvwpbs).

## About DSPS

DSPS issues more than 240 unique licenses, administers dozens of boards and councils that regulate professions, enforces state building codes, runs the state fire prevention program, and maintains the award-winning Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which is a key tool in the multi-faceted public health campaign to stem excessive opioid prescribing.

A fee-based agency, DSPS is self-sustaining and receives no general fund tax dollars for its day-to-day operations.

With five offices and 250 employees throughout Wisconsin, DSPS collaborates with constituents and stakeholders across a wide range of industries to promote safety and advance the economy.

## ELDER BENEFITS SPECIALIST

Price County Health & Human Services Department

Price County is accepting applications for an Elder Benefit Specialist within the Health and Human Services department. This position is located at the Price County Branch of the Aging & Disability Resource Center of the North (ADRC-N). The Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS) provides individuals 60 years of age and older with information, assistance, and advocacy, in the three main priority areas of public benefits, housing, and consumer issues. The EBS is also responsible for coordinating outreach and education to older persons, service providers, and professionals in the community. The EBS acts as a consultant to other service providers and professionals. This is a full-time, regular position with a starting hourly wage of \$22.05 (Grade F) and full benefit package.

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](http://www.co.price.wi.us), by emailing a request to [hroffice@co.price.wi.us](mailto: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 **Wednesday, November 1, 2023**, to be considered for this position.

Price County is an equal opportunity employer.



## Lincoln County Highway Department Highway Worker

Applications are now being accepted to fill a Highway Worker position-CDL Drivers. Starting wage is \$18.49 to \$21.55 per hour depending upon qualifications.

Regular scheduled work week is Monday through Thursday 6:30 am to 4:30 pm with overtime opportunities. Job description, duties, responsibilities, and applications are listed on the Lincoln County web page at [www.co.lincoln.wi.us](http://www.co.lincoln.wi.us) (career opportunities) or applications can be picked up at the Lincoln County Service Center at 801 N. Sales Street (upper level) Merrill, WI. John Hanz, Highway Commissioner, may be reached at 715-539-2554 if you need additional information or have questions.

# OCHD to conduct Drug and Sharps Take Back Day event

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

ONEIDA COUNTY – Those with unwanted medical sharps or prescription medications will have the opportunity to dispose of them this month.

Medical sharps can be disposed of at the Oneida County Solid Waste Department, 7450 County Rd. K, Rhineland, on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A release from the Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) said sharps must be packaged safely and will only be accepted at the Solid Waste Department.

“According to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), it is important to never put sharp medical items in the trash, recycling or medication collection drop boxes,” OCHD stated. “Medical sharps, such as needles, syringes and lancets, pose a risk for injury



and exposure to diseases for anyone who comes in contact with them. It is important to properly package and dispose of all sharps.”

For more information on the safe disposal of household sharps, visit [www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/HealthWaste/HouseholdSharps.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/HealthWaste/HouseholdSharps.html).

Various locations throughout Oneida County will accept unused or expired medications from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28, as part of the state-wide Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

Sites for disposal will be the Rhineland Police Department, 201 N. Brown St., Rhineland; the Minocqua Police Department, 418 E. Chicago Ave., Minocqua; the Three Lakes Police Department, 1795 Erie

St., Three Lakes; and the Oneida County Solid Waste Department.

Drug disposal is confidential.

“Unused medications create unnecessary risk,” OCHD stated. “Properly disposing of prescription painkillers helps keep them out of the hands of youth. You should never flush or drain your unused prescriptions medications. Together, we can help prevent prescription painkiller abuse and addiction.”

To find more local drug disposal locations, visit [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/index.htm).

For additional information on the Drug and Sharps Take Back Day event, contact OCHD at 715-369-6111.

# Social Security Administration announces 3.2% benefit increase for 2024

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

UNITED STATES – Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for more than 71 million Americans will increase by 3.2% next year, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announced on Thursday, Oct. 12.

On average, Social Security retirement benefits will increase by more than \$50.00 per month, according to a release from SSA.

More than 66 million Social Security beneficiaries will see a 3.2% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) beginning in Jan. 2024. Increased payments to approximately 7.5 million people receiving SSI will begin on Dec. 29, 2023.

SSA noted that some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits.

“Social Security and SSI benefits will increase in 2024, and this will help millions of people keep up with expenses,” said Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner of Social Security.



SSA said some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages.

“Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$168,600.00 from \$160,200.00,” SSA stated.

Social Security will begin notifying people about their new benefit amount by mail starting in early December.

“Individuals who have a personal my Social Security account can view their COLA notice online, which is secure, easy and faster than receiving a letter in the mail,” SSA said. “People can set up text or email alerts when there is

a new message – such as their COLA notice – waiting for them in my Social Security.”

Individuals must have a My Social Security account by Nov. 14 to see their COLA notice online. To get started, visit [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

Information about Medicare changes for 2024 will be available at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). For Social Security beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare, their new 2024 benefit amount will be available in December through the mailed COLA notice and my Social Security’s Message Center, SSA said.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) as determined by the Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics.

For more information, visit [www.ssa.gov/cola](http://www.ssa.gov/cola).

# Aspirus Health provides information on prostate cancer, encourages screenings

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – Aspirus Health recently provided information on prostate cancer and said screenings are a key defense against it.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), about 288,300 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year.

“The good news is it has

one of the highest survival rates of any type of cancer due to the slow speed at which it grows and spreads, as well as the opportunity for early detection,” Aspirus said.

Prostate cancer originates within the prostate gland, a small, walnut-sized organ situated below the bladder, crucial for the male reproductive system. Abnormal cell growth in the prostate

can lead to prostate cancer.

“Early stages often have no symptoms, making screening helpful in detecting abnormalities sooner,” said Katie Bittner, DO, Aspirus Family Medicine Physician. “Detecting and treating certain prostate cancers can sometimes improve survival rates and minimize the extent of treatments recommended.”

Aspirus Health Screening

Guidelines recommend that men aged 50 and older get screened annually for prostate cancer.

“The most common screening tool for prostate cancer is the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test,” Aspirus stated. “This blood test measures the presence of PSA circulating in the bloodstream and is usually the first step in any prostate cancer diagnosis. A digi-

tal rectal exam is less effective than the PSA blood test in finding prostate cancer, but it can sometimes find cancers in men with normal PSA levels. Therefore, it may be included as a part of prostate cancer screening based on risk.”

“Patients often have questions about what it means to complete prostate cancer screening,” Bittner said. “We try to make this a joint

decision-making process, discussing the most up-to-date recommendations for screening options, depending on the patient’s age and other risk factors. Quite often, this is simply completing a blood test.”

To schedule an appointment with a primary care physician or to find one, visit [www.aspirus.org/find-a-provider](http://www.aspirus.org/find-a-provider).



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# Leader Sports & Nature

## Tomahawk runners host 47th annual Hatchet Invitational

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – The Tomahawk Hatchet cross country team hosted eight teams for the 47th annual Hatchet Invitational at Inshalla Country Club on Saturday, Oct. 7.

The temperature was cooler than usual, but when the frost lifted, the beautiful golf course was ready for the races to begin.

The boys' race was first, resulting in the Hatchets taking second place both at the varsity and junior varsity levels, only losing to Lakeland. The girls followed up the boys' race with two swift victories at the varsity and junior varsity categories.

"This was an excellent morale boosting race for our kids, being able to race in front of the home crowd and win the meet for the girls and take second for the boys was well deserved. Both teams ran with heart and their efforts paid off," said coach Connor Ahrens.

The boys were led by four



The varsity Lady Hatchets took first place at the Hatchet Invite earlier this month. Photos courtesy of Connor Ahrens

medaling performances by senior Presley Gutbrod (7th-18:21), junior Sam Zastrow (8th-18:24), junior Dominic Boos (12th-18:43) and senior Owen Dickrell (15th-19:03). Varsity teammates included Nathan Rosenmeier (21st-19:46), Trey Morrison (27th-20:44) and Jeremiah Johnson (29th-20:51).

The junior varsity medalists were sophomore Beau Stromberg (2nd-19:54) and freshman Drew Voermans (4th-20:34). The junior varsity squad included Bruce

Petz (12th-22:05), Will Boneck (13th-22:13), Ryan Montag (14th-22:19), Elliot O'Connor (15th-22:32), Elias Albrent (16th-23:01) and Gerard Gorell (17th-23:03).

Boys' varsity team scores: Lakeland-27, Tomahawk-56, Rhinelander-76, Northland Pines-99, Mosinee-122, Crandon-123, Antigo-Inc.

Boys' junior varsity scores: Lakeland-22, Tomahawk-39, Crandon-Inc., Northland Pines-Inc., Rhinelander-Inc., Antigo-Inc.

The girls handily won the meet with a whopping six medalists that included freshman Elise Gibeault (3rd-20:53), junior Alli Palmer (4th-21:01), senior Rachael Reilly (8th-22:10),



The girls' JV squad also earned a first-place finish at Inshalla Country Club.

senior Halle Derleth (10th-22:24), sophomore Lydia Shaney (11th-22:30) and senior Robin Schmidt (14th-22:37). To round out the varsity team, freshman Faith Derleth ran the course in 23:38 for 21st place.

The junior varsity girls did similarly well, being led by the first place junior varsity finisher senior Kambyl Mattke in a time of 23:53. Other junior varsity medalists included senior Izzy Lee (2nd-24:06), sophomore Abi Micke 3rd-24:07), freshman Norah Mann (5th-24:37), freshman Abbie Rosenmeier (6th-24:37) and junior Reese Molitor (9th-27:17). The additional ju-

nior varsity Lady Hatchets included Jennie Frederickson (11th-27:52), Summer Gaedtke (12th-27:55) and Kailynn Hanse (13th-27:56).

Girls' varsity team scores: Tomahawk-26, Lakeland-55, Rhinelander-59, Mosinee-93, Northland Pines-Inc., Crandon-Inc., Bitternut-Inc., Antigo-Inc.

Girls' junior varsity scores: Tomahawk-15, Lakeland-Inc., Northland Pines-Inc., and Rhinelander-Inc.

"Despite the poor weather late in the week, race day was an excellent temperature for a brisk weekend race," said coach Bill Turgeon. "Many of the girls

had seasonal best times, along with our junior varsity boys."

"The team had some great starts to the races, but again we found ourselves lacking speed in the final mile of the race," said coach Steph Ahrens. "Finishing times were good, but can still be better if our team goes into the conference race in the right mindset."

After the awards ceremony, Hatchet cross country parents and seniors were recognized for their service and commitment to the program.

"Without their help, the Tomahawk cross country program would not be what it is today," said coach Connor Ahrens. "Once again, the coaching staff thanks all past and present cross country parents and alumni who have made their mark on Hatchet cross country. We also would like to thank the owners and managers of the Inshalla Country Club for allowing us to race on their excellent golf course."

### Recent action

On Saturday, Oct. 14, the Hatchet runners were scheduled to travel to Nine Mile Forest in Wausau for the Great Northern Conference (GNC) meet.

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**FISHING & HUNTING TIMES**

Date (CDT)	Morning		Evening	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Oct 18	11:04AM	2:16AM	7:18PM	2:43PM
Oct 19	12:14PM	3:12AM	8:07PM	3:41PM
Oct 20	1:15PM	4:11AM	9:10PM	4:41PM
Oct 21	2:04PM	5:12AM	10:24PM	5:41PM
Oct 22	---	6:11AM	2:43PM	6:39PM
Oct 23	11:44PM	7:07AM	3:13PM	7:34PM
Oct 24	1:07AM	8:00AM	3:37PM	8:26PM
Oct 25	2:28AM	8:51AM	3:58PM	9:16PM

Solunar fishing and hunting chart for Tomahawk. Major feeding periods last two hours and minors run one hour. New Moon is October 14th.

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Tomahawk Emergency

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**ATTENTION**

CITY OF TOMAHAWK RESIDENTS

**FALL YARD WASTE CLEAN-UP WEEK**

The City of Tomahawk Public Works Department has designated the week of **OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>-NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>** as yard clean-up week. This cleanup is for brush and yard waste only. Brush should not be bundled, but neatly piled with cut ends of limbs facing the curb. The only acceptable containers for leaves, are plastic bags. These bags must not contain any other type of rubbish or household waste. This clean-up is for this week only, and these items should be set out no later than 7am each day.

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# Athletes of the Week



Kambyl Mattke – “Despite starting the season with higher times than she is accustomed to and battling through illness, senior Kambyl Mattke has never complained. A definite leader within the girls’ team, she always looks out for the best interest of the team and seems to always have a great attitude. She has given her all every practice and meet and finally has been rewarded on the race course with a first-place overall finish in the junior varsity Hatchet Invitational race in a time of 23:53. As the team comes down the stretch and into the postseason, the girls will need Kambyl both mentally and physically more than ever.”

Photos courtesy of Connor Ahrens



Presley Gutbrod – “Coaches look for athletes to start showing signs of eager competitiveness late in the season, and one does not have to look far to find it in senior Presley Gutbrod. Coming off of several great practices, Presley had a solid home invite race, claiming the 7th-place medal and taking the top spot for the boys’ team in a time of 18:21. Presley has set his sights high for his final season. High aspirations typically lead to great results, and thus far Presley has earned these great results by attaining the most varsity letter points and having the fastest personal record of all the Hatchet boys with last season’s time of 17:55. Now it’s a matter of how much can be accomplished with only a few meets left of his high school cross country career – the coaching staff believes it could be a lot.”

# Hatchets take down Truckers in final regular season matchup

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – The Tomahawk Hatchet football team wrapped up its regular season with a home victory over the Clintonville Truckers on Friday, Oct. 13.

Tomahawk scored a pair of touchdowns in the first half – a ten-yard run by Logan Seymour in the first quarter, and a 47-yard run by Caleb Dickens in the second quarter – and took a 14-6 lead into the half.

The Truckers struck back with a third quarter touchdown, and the Hatchets forced a safety, making the score 16-14 heading into the fourth quarter.

Clintonville added one more touchdown in the final quarter of the game, but a one-yard touchdown scamper from Brayden Larson and Kaiden Kapellusch’s 38-yard fumble recovery for a touchdown helped the Hatchets earn the 29-20 win.

Brayden Larson completed two passes to Caleb Dickens for a total of 11 yards and rushed 28 times for 49 yards and a touchdown. Caleb Dickens (13 carries, 87 yards, one touchdown), Landyn Seymour (11 carries, 47 yards, one touchdown), Kapellusch (one carry, 53 yards, one touchdown) and Ryan Larson (three carries, three yards) also contributed to the Hatchets’ rushing attack.

The Hatchets logged 250 total yards, while Clintonville tallied 238, 222 of which came through the air. Tomahawk converted all five of its fourth down attempts and committed no turnovers, although the team recovered six of its own fumbles. Clintonville lost one fumble. The time of possession battle was dominated by the Hatchets, who held the ball for 33:10. The Truckers had possession for 14:50.

### This week’s action

The Hatchets are slated to travel to Brussels, Wis., to take on Southern Door in a Division 5 playoff matchup on Friday, Oct. 20. Tomahawk is ranked #7, while Southern Door is ranked #2.

The winner will face the winner of #3 Wrightstown and #6 Sturgeon Bay on Friday, Oct. 27.

# Fishing Report: It’s fall patterns as temps drop

BY GEORGE LANGLEY

NORTHERN WISCONSIN – It certainly has been beautiful out there. The bad thing is that the color doesn’t last long enough. It seems peak up here was probably two weeks ago, with all the wind and the bit of rain we’ve had.

Weather continues to be unpredictable with recent expected highs in the upper 50s then crashing to low 40s – but it remains to be seen what we will actually see. Water temps in the area are finally entering the 50s. It’s been a slow descent, which has slowed down the progress into autumn, but

we are seeing some typical fall patterns now. No talk of turnover yet, but surely it’s starting on some of the smaller lakes.

Walleye fishing is good right now. The fish are moving deeper as you read this. On the Chain, look for fish in the 15 feet and deeper range as they move to the holes. Jigs and minnows are the best bait now. Use a 1/8 oz. jig, unless it’s windy and more weight is required. On the deeper lakes we are also seeing fish going deeper – as deep as 35 feet. One place to check out on these lakes, especially in the evening, is

deep rock humps.

Bass are still hitting, with smallies being very active in deeper water. Look for cribs or rocks in these areas. Jigs and minnows or paddle tails will give you good results. It has been a great year for these fish, and hopefully this trend will continue for a while. Largemouth are slowing down as the water temp drops, but are still using deeper cover. On sunny days you can still find them under piers. Wacky Worms are still best when shallow. Northerns are hitting well in the weeds. Try some

Mepps #3 or other spinners for best results, or sucker minnows under slip bobbers at different depths.

Musky fishing has been good lately, with good numbers of fish reported. Look for deep weeds and fish those edges. Suckers are getting good action now but jerk baits and crank baits are working, too.

Not too many panfish anglers now. We are seeing some perch in the weeds and crappies are moving deep toward the holes, just like the walleyes.

Good luck and good fishin’!

# WEATHER

DATE	HIGH (°F)	LOW (°F)
Sunday, Oct. 8	51	30
Monday, Oct. 9	50	39
Tuesday, Oct. 10	49	32
Wednesday, Oct. 11	73	44
Thursday, Oct. 12	54	29
Friday, Oct. 13	56	41
Saturday, Oct. 14	52	36

www.TomahawkLeader.com

# TOMAHAWK SPORTS TRIVIA: WEEK 152

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 151 question: When was the first official season for hockey at THS: 1971,

1972 or 1973?

Week 151 answer: The first official season for hockey at THS was in 1972, under Jim Sheridan.

Congrats to Don Stelter for being the first to

correctly answer this week’s question!

Week 152 question: In which season did the WIAA go to a three-class system in basketball: 1973-1974, 1974-1975 or 1975-1976?

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DEADLINE IS 10AM, November 1st

Remember to include names, ages & information about the photo!

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# News Briefs

## 'Our Dream Park' groundbreaking ceremony tomorrow

Tomahawk Together will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for "Our Dream Park" at Washington Square Park, N. 4th St., at 12 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 19. The public is invited to attend.

## Tomahawk United Methodist Church Harvest Dinner

Tomahawk United Methodist Church, 1104 School Rd., will host its Harvest Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The dinner will include turkey with all the trimmings, pie and coffee. Cost is \$12.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Carryouts will be available.

## Spirit Methodist Church Bazaar

The Spirit Methodist Church Bazaar will be held at the church, located on Hwy. 86 near Hwy. 102 in the Town of Spirit, on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature crafts, barbecue, baked goods, attic treasures and drawings for prizes.

## Zion Lutheran Church Harvest Dinner and Raffle

Zion Lutheran Church will hold its annual Harvest Dinner and Raffle at the Brantwood Community Center, W1593 U.S. Hwy. 8, Brantwood, on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Hearty bison stew, homemade bread and pies, as well as a quilt raffle and other prizes, will be featured.

## Warm for Winter distributing clothing in Rhinelander

Warm for Winter, a mission of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Rhinelander, collects new and gently used clothing, shoes, boots, coats, hats, mittens, toys and bedding. Everyone is welcome, no questions asked. No income requirements. Distributions will take place at Friendly Village, 900 Boyce Dr., Rhinelander, on Saturday, Oct. 28, 9 a.m. to noon; Monday, Nov. 13, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, Nov. 25, 9 a.m. to noon. Additional dates are scheduled for this year and

next year. Donations can be placed in the bin outside of First Congregational, 135 E. Larch St., Rhinelander, or the Oneida County Health Department, 100 W. Keenan St., Rhinelander. For more information, refer to the Warm for Winter Facebook page ([www.tinyurl.com/2w2ccd7s](http://www.tinyurl.com/2w2ccd7s)) or call 608-345-7305.

## HAVEN Inc. fundraiser

HAVEN Inc., which serves adults and children who experience domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, child abuse, harassment, stalking and human trafficking, will hold a fundraiser at Riverside Athletic Club, 500 S. Center Ave., Merrill, on Thursday, Nov. 2. The event will feature two golf simulators and numerous games to challenge all golfers. A light luncheon, beverages and various raffles will be featured. To make a reservation, contact HAVEN at 715-536-1300. Cost is \$30.00 at the door. All proceeds will benefit HAVEN.

## CESA 9 offering Substitute Teacher Training

CESA 9 in Tomahawk

will offer Substitute Teacher Training on Thursday, Nov. 9. Individuals with an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree who successfully complete the training are eligible to apply for a Substitute Teacher permit. For additional information, visit [www.cesa9.org](http://www.cesa9.org) or call 715-453-2141.

## PCA offering scholarship

PCA Tomahawk Mill is offering a scholarship to a senior who is planning to major in engineering. Complete information, including how to apply, was emailed to seniors at Tomahawk High School. Contact the Guidance Office at 715-453-2106, ext. 214, with any questions.

## Bridge players wanted

Those who would like to join a bridge club or play as a substitute may contact Jane at 715-966-2945.

## Chamber seeking photos for 2024 Visitor Guide

The Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce is

seeking photo submissions for the 2024 Visitor Guide. When submitting a photo, please name the picture as the location that it was taken. All submissions have a chance to be featured on the front of the guide. For more information or to submit a photo, visit [www.gototomahawk.com/guidephotos](http://www.gototomahawk.com/guidephotos) or call 715-453-5334.

## 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.

## Historical Society encourages use of Allan Bell Memorial Trail

The Tomahawk Area Historical Society is encouraging Tomahawk residents and guests to visit the Allan

Bell Memorial Trail, located behind the high school office on Kings Rd. "There, you will find a very interesting half-mile walk with ten interpretive signs set up by high school students," the Historical Society said.

## 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](mailto:paulapmt25@gmail.com) or call Eagle Summit Healing Center 715 224-3490.

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Buglers for military funerals, service-related events

Dear Editor,

I am a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran. I have had the honor of sounding bugle calls for military funerals and other service-related events.

The past decade has witnessed more of these missions than there are buglers to staff them. To alleviate the shortage, the U.S. military authorized the use of a recording or an electronic bugle to sound Taps and other calls when a live bugler is unavailable.

From what I have learned through experience, is that there is misunderstanding about when it is appropriate to employ a "substitute" bugle. There are some that believe a substitute should only be used as a last resort; others believe it appropriate to only use a substitute, and not bother to locate a live bugler.

According to a description of the "Military Funeral Honors Program" from [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil), a live bugler is the preferred option. The American Legion website states that, "if a bugler is not available, an electronic recording will be played." It is clear from these statements that a live bugler should be the first option.

There are two national volunteer organizations, the members of which are vetted buglers, who stand ready to provide their services: [www.BuglesAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.BuglesAcrossAmerica.org) and [www.TapsforVeterans.org](http://www.TapsforVeterans.org). Families of deceased veterans, funeral directors, veteran service organizations and others in need of a live bugler for events can request one through either of these websites.

If you have questions, I'll be happy to answer them or direct you to someone who can.

Ed Kemery  
Merrill

**FINAL DAYS!**  
Sale Ends Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>

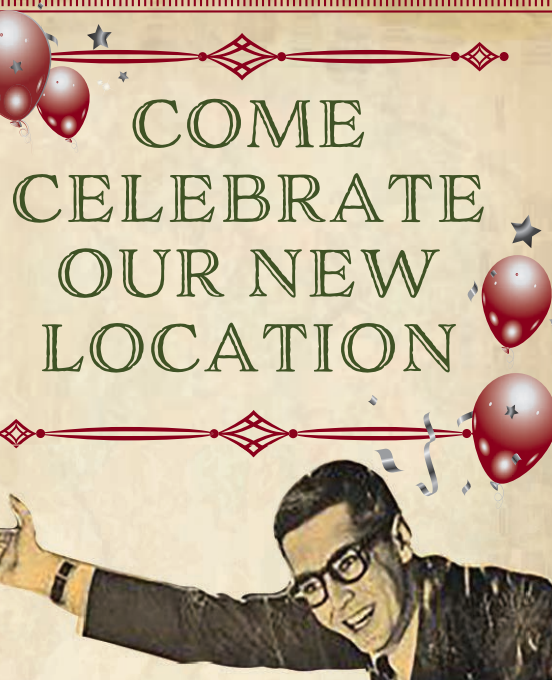
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