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## Tomahawk community rallies in support after fire destroys Nacho's, Century 21

BY JALEN MAKI  
TOMAHAWK LEADER  
EDITOR

TOMAHAWK – After a fire destroyed a pair of downtown Tomahawk businesses last week, the community rallied in support of those affected.

Within hours of the blaze, in which Nacho's Mexican Grill and Century 21 Best Way Realty were lost, donations of clothing, gift cards, essential items and more poured in.

### TFD release

According to a release from the Tomahawk Fire Department (TFD), on Thursday, Nov. 2, at approximately 6:07 a.m., the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office dispatched the department to Nacho's Mexican Grill, located at 22 W. Wisconsin Ave., for a report of a structure fire.

The department's initial response included Engine 3, Engine 5 and Rescue 1, as well as Tomahawk EMS. Automatic aid was requested from the Nokomis Fire Department for a full response.

"The first arriving engine company began an aggressive interior attack, but soon found significant extension of the fire throughout the structure and into the roof," TFD said. "While firefighters worked to contain the fire, it soon spread to the adjacent Century 21 Realty building."

Utilizing the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), the incident was elevated to the box level, bringing engines from the Towns of Pine River, Russell, Crescent and Little Rice, as well as an aerial truck from the Merrill Fire Department.

TFD explained that as the size and complexity of the fire grew, additional resources were brought in through MABAS, with the incident being elevated up to the third level.

Aerial trucks from Merrill and Rhinelander were utilized for fire suppression for the roof and areas that were not safe for firefighters to access.

"Working with the Tomahawk Public Works Department, it was quickly determined that the amount of water being required for the fire ground operations was beginning to tax the city's water supply," TFD said. "A water tender operation was established, utilizing the boat landing at SARA Park for a fill site. Given the volume of water needed to support the fire ground operations, a strike team of tenders was requested to respond from



TFD was dispatched to the scene of the fire in downtown Tomahawk just after 6 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 2.

Photos by Jalen Maki



MABAS Division 130 (Marathon County)."

More than 250,000 gallons of water were utilized from the hydrant system and 60,000-plus gallons of water were used from the tender operations, according to TFD.

More than 15 agencies responded to the scene, including fire departments from Nokomis, Pine River, Hazelhurst, Merrill, Crescent, Cassian, Little Rice, Minocqua, Rhinelander, Corning, Russell and Maine, Tomahawk EMS, Taylor County EMS-Rib Lake, the Tomahawk Police Department, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Lincoln County Emergency Management, the Tomahawk Public Works Department and a strike team of tenders from MABAS Division 130.

The Lincoln County Highway Department, Packaging Corporation of America (PCA) and Schoone Construction provided fuel trucks to supply the numerous engines committed to operations. Mr. Ed's Excavating provided an excavator to remove debris and allow firefighters to fully extinguish the fire.

Retired Tomahawk firefighters also responded to

offer assistance.

TFD said all of the occupants from the apartments above the restaurant were able to make it out of the building before firefighters arrived. Several occupants later sought medical treatment for possible smoke inhalation.

One firefighter was transported by Tomahawk EMS to Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital for minor injuries, according to TFD.

Firefighters remained on scene into the afternoon hours of Thursday, Nov. 2. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Firefighters from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office is assisting TFD.

TFD Chief Paul Winter thanked the Tomahawk community for "the outpouring of support" during the incident.

"Numerous businesses and citizens donated food and refreshments for the firefighters working on the scene," Winter stated. "At times like this, we realize what a close-knit community we have, going above and beyond to support one another."

### Community rallies in support

Four adults and two children who lived above Na-

cho's Mexican Grill lost all of their belongings in last week's blaze.

Shortly after word of the fire began to spread throughout the community and on social media, the Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce got to work to help out the Vasquez family and owner Nacho Fuentes.

Donation bins and a card box were placed outside the back door of the Chamber building, where clothing, gift cards, financial contributions and more were collected.

WJQJ, Tomahawk BP, Tomahawk Child Care, Tomahawk Builders Supply, Tomahawk Pharmacy, Tomahawk Main Street Inc., Up North Nutrition, Bowman Chiropractic and St. Mary's School also chipped in by collecting donated items.

By Thursday afternoon, six SUVs' worth of clothing, bedding and essential items had been collected.

"We are extremely proud of this community for showing up for these wonderful people," the Chamber stated.

Monetary donations and gift cards are still being accepted at locations throughout Tomahawk, and a fund



More than 15 agencies responded to the scene. Aerial trucks from Merrill and Rhinelander were utilized for fire suppression for the roof and areas that were not safe for firefighters to access.



Crews were on the scene into Thursday afternoon. Photo courtesy of Nacho's Mexican Grill



Clothing and other essential items were donated in the hours following the fire. Photo courtesy of Nacho's Mexican Grill

has been set up at Cross-bridge Community Bank.

Fuentes noted that another way to show support is to patron his restaurants located in Rhinelander and Minocqua.

"We want to thank you all for your displays of unity towards us and our affected families, thank you for every message, every call, every article of clothing and help in general, but above all we thank you for your prayers because that is when the majority need it," a post on Nacho's Mexican Grill's Facebook page said. "We do not have the appropriate or precise words to say how grateful we are to everyone, thank God we are safe, which is the most important thing. It is heartbreaking to see how all your work and dreams disappear in front

of you and you cannot do anything. It is helplessness. But we trust in God that we will get out of this and soon we will be resurrected and stronger than ever. We also thank God for having placed us in this very supportive community, because without your support, we would not get out of this."

Nacho's also thanked the firefighters and other emergency services personnel who responded to the scene and "and gave their soul to put out the fire and risked their lives."

"We are eternally grateful," the post stated. "We know that with the support of all of you, we will soon have a Nacho's Mexican Grill Tomahawk back."

# USDA funding to help two Tomahawk businesses improve energy efficiency

BY JALEN MAKI  
TOMAHAWK LEADER  
EDITOR



TOMAHAWK – Federal funding will be used to help two Tomahawk businesses improve their energy efficiency.

On Thursday, Nov. 2, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Xochitl Torres Small announced \$19.5 million in investments across three U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) initiatives aimed at “helping farmers adopt new climate-smart agricultural practices, supporting community infrastructure and increasing economic development in rural Wisconsin towns and communities.”

Investments in Wisconsin included \$11.92 million

in rural jobs and infrastructure awards across five projects; \$5 million to expand access to renewable energy and lower energy costs for rural Americans through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) across 40 projects; and \$2.6 million in Rural Partners Network awards across 19 projects.

The Tomahawk-area projects were supported by Senators Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) and Representative Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.).

A total of \$106,183.00 allocated to Tomahawk Terminal Company LLC will be used to install a small solar electric array.

The project is expected to save \$5,998.00 per year and will replace 103,225 kilowatt hours (kW), 100% of the business’s energy use, per year, enough energy to power nine homes, according to USDA.

An allocation of \$13,475.00 will be put towards the installation of a small solar-electric array at Sunset Acres LLC, a local farming operation.

USDA said the project is expected to save \$1,369.00 and replace 11,602 kWh (100%) annually, enough energy to power one home.

Projects in Abbotsford, Aniwa, Athens, Edgar and Wausau also received

funding.

“Thanks to President Biden’s historic investment in rural America, USDA is providing new opportunities for rural people in their hometowns,” Torres Small stated. “USDA is investing in farmers to promote growth and build a stronger, more sustainable economy for people in rural communities through-

out Wisconsin and across our country.”

A full list of projects is available at [www.tinyurl.com/yjk56ry2](http://www.tinyurl.com/yjk56ry2).

### About USDA Rural Development

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to “help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for mil-

lions of Americans in rural areas.”

“This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas,” USDA said.

For more information, visit [www.rd.usda.gov/wi](http://www.rd.usda.gov/wi).



Bill Burcalow (left), Quartermaster of VFW Post 2687 in Tomahawk, recently presented Mike Thompson (right), co-founder and past President of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight, with a check for \$7,500.00. The donation, which was presented during the Veterans Weekly Cup-of-Coffee group meeting in Rothschild on Wednesday, Oct. 25, included \$7,300.00 from Sew Pieciful Quilting in Tomahawk and \$200.00 from the VFW. The funds will be used to send 15 veterans on the “trip of a lifetime” to Washington, D.C., to see the memorials built in their honor. Photo courtesy of Mike Heilmann

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# History of Veterans Day

## COURTESY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES – World War I, known at the time as “The Great War,” officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France.

However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, Nov. 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

Veterans Day continues to be observed on Nov. 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to Nov. 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Veterans Day timeline  
In Nov. 1919, President Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...”

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

“Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises

designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.”

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U.S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.” Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor Veterans of World War I.

In 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the nation’s history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the Veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word “Armistice” and inserting in its place the word “Veterans.” With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, Nov. 11 became a day to honor American Veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on Oct. 8, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first “Veterans Day Proclamation,” which stated: “In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all Veterans, all Veterans’ organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the

Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible.”

In 1958, the White House advised VA’s General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989, when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee’s chairman.

The Uniform Holiday Bill was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on Oct. 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on Sept. 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of Nov. 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

## FIRE FROM PAGE 1

**Century 21 moves into new temporary office**  
Century 21 Best Way Realty has moved into a temporary office space at 119 W. Wisconsin Ave., just across the street from its previous location.

Owner Andrea Krueger, on behalf of her family and staff, thanked the emergency services departments that responded to the fire.

“Thank you to Randy’s Bambinos and What’s Brewin’ for bringing food for all the workers,” Krueger said in a Facebook post. “We are so glad my neighbors are all safe.”

Krueger added that she is “so blessed with so many friends, community members and family that have reached out.”

“My staff and family are so grateful for all of you,” Krueger stated.

## News Briefs

### 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.

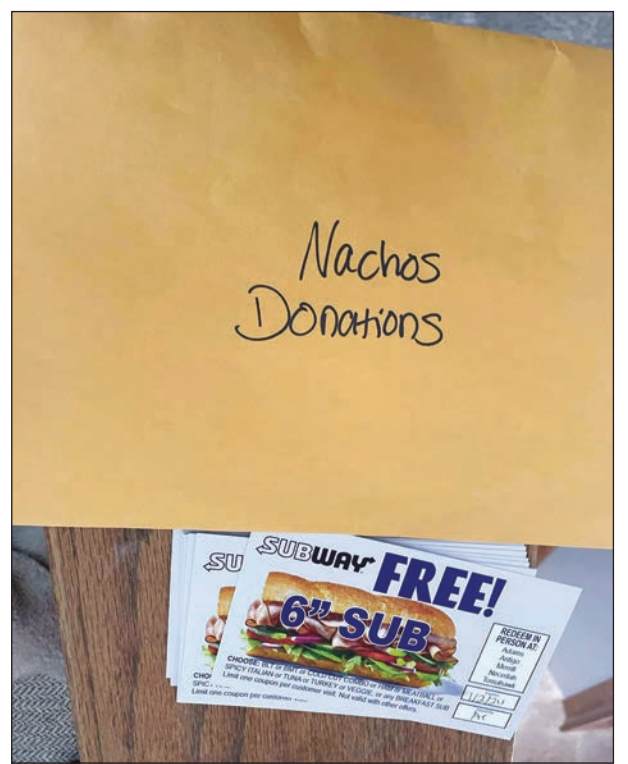
### TMS Veterans Day program

Tomahawk Middle School will hold a Veterans Day ceremony and assembly, “Quest for Liberty,” in the district auditorium on Friday, Nov. 10. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m.

### Chili feed, meat raffle at Legacy Tavern

A chili feed and meat raffle, benefitting Honduras Well Projects, will be held at Legacy Tavern, W10860 Spirit Falls Ave., Tomahawk, on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 4 p.m. The event will also

**News Briefs**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 11



Financial donations and gift cards are still being accepted. Photo courtesy of Nacho’s Mexican Grill



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## 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.

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# OBITUARIES

Obituary updates are posted at [www.tomahawkleader.com](http://www.tomahawkleader.com)



**Robert A. Helmrick**, age 82, passed away peacefully at home under hospice care on Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023. He was born Jan. 25, 1941 in the Town of Oasis, Waushara Co., Wis.; son of Arnold and Edna (Damrau) Helmrick. On Aug. 17, 1963, Bob married Lynda Alm at Nelsonville Lutheran Church and together through the years they raised three children, Philip, Peggy, and Evan. He will be dearly missed by all of his loving family and friends.

Bob is survived by his wife Lynda Helmrick of Plover; two sons Philip (Amy) Helmrick of Stevens Point and Evan (Lori) Helmrick of Almond; son-in-law Tim (Monica) Bauman of Hortonville; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two sisters, Sylvia Wahl of Appleton and Judith Swenson of Albuquerque, N.M.; a brother Douglas (Cynthia) Helmrick of Weslaco, Tex.; four nieces and six nephews; along with cousins, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Arnold and Edna Helmrick; parents-in-law Harold and Irene Alm; an infant son; and a daughter Peggy Bauman.

A Funeral Service for Bob will be on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Almond, Wis. Pastor David J. Sutton will officiate. A visitation will be held on Saturday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the church. Burial will take place at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Almond at a later date.

The Hardell-Holly Funeral Home of Almond is assisting the family with arrangements.



**James M. Roberts**, born on April 10, 1947, in Harvey, Ill., to Bernard and Margaret (Redmond) Roberts, passed away Monday, Oct. 30, 2023, with his family by his side.

James proudly served in the United States Army 101st Airborne during the Vietnam War. He was awarded multiple commendations, including the Purple Heart for his bravery. After his honorable discharge, Jim went to welding school. He worked as a welder in the Chicago area for ten years. Jim then moved to northern Wisconsin and worked at the Harley-Davidson plant in Tomahawk for more than 20 years.

Jim is survived by his wife, Claudia (Hamlin) Roberts; daughters, Audrey (Mark) Evans and Tammy (Adrian) Waller; granddaughters, Michelle (Cole) Kleinschmidt and Trinity Evans; and great-grandchildren, Willow and Hank Kleinschmidt. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Patrick and Michael; sister, Mary; son, James; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Per Jim's request, there will be no ceremony. The family would like to thank Merrill EMS and Aspirus Merrill Hospital ER/MS for their extra special attention and support.

Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com](http://www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com).

# PUBLISHER'S LETTER

**"Pass It Forward": Help Us Shape the Future of Journalism**

Dear Reader,

Today, I invite you to be a part of something extraordinary – the MMC Internship Program. The "Pass It Forward" program has been a resounding success, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Packers Give Back and Nicolet Bank. This initiative has thrived, powered by the unwavering support of seasoned editors and writers from the Press Times in collaboration with talented interns from UWGB and St. Norbert College.



Pass It Forward is not just an internship program; it is a transformational journey. It is a collective effort that has led to positive change in our local communities. By filling the gaps where coverage of news was previously lacking, this program has given a voice to stories that matter. Concurrently, our interns have realized that they are not merely students; they are the future of journalism, learning and growing through "Earn Your Press Pass" webinars, on-site seminars, and hands-on experience covering real stories across sports, entertainment, and government.

The impact of this program reaches far and wide. Our sponsors have seen their names associated with the incredible work of our interns, earning well-deserved recognition for supporting local news. As a community, we have a chance to acknowledge and appreciate these businesses that have given us the gift of knowledge and insight.

But our journey doesn't end here. We are on a mission to expand our reach and create more opportunities. In the coming year, we plan to extend Pass It Forward to other Wisconsin cities, including Wausau and Stevens Point. We also intend to welcome journalism and communications interns from a broader spectrum of schools, including both college and high school levels.

To make this vision a reality, we need your support. Whether you are a business owner, an influencer in your local or regional community, or simply someone who values the power of journalism and education, we invite you to join us. Together, we can nurture the next generation of storytellers and continue to shine a light on the stories that deserve to be told.

For more information and details on how you can become a part of our mission, please contact [mhollihan@mmclocal.com](mailto:mhollihan@mmclocal.com). Let's "Pass It Forward" and make a lasting impact on the world of journalism.

Thank you for considering our call for support.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
Publisher

## The Pastor's Corner for November 8, 2023

As I write this article, it is snowing outside. It's the first snow of the season and it's cold, but also beautiful. The snow blankets everything in a coat of white, covering the dead vegetation of the fall. It softens the rough edges of things hidden beneath the blanket of snow.



This reminds me a lot of what Jesus does for our lives. Being baptized in Jesus, we are made holy and redeemed by Jesus' love and grace. It's like putting on a robe that covers the stains and tatters of sin in our lives. Putting on Christ means our rough edges are softened by the love and grace of Jesus. The apostle Paul writes of this in his letter to the Colossians,

**"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts to which indeed you were called in the one body." (Colossians 3:14-15).**

Clothing ourselves in Jesus' love, we are made brothers and sisters connected in the body of Christ. It doesn't matter whether you have fancy designer clothes or hand me downs. We are all covered by Jesus' grace, so no one is better or worse than another. There's enough love to go around for everyone so we don't have to hoard or keep for ourselves. There's no need for competition or jealousy because each person is valued as a beloved child of God. Covered by Jesus' love and grace, we have peace in our hearts and minds knowing that Jesus' love and grace is for each one of us. Clothed in Christ, we include and care for others in the same way.

As we put on our winter clothes and gear for another season of cold and snow, remember the warmth of Jesus' love goes with you. Isn't it wonderful to know that Jesus' love and grace is one-size fits all and has a lifetime guarantee?

**Blessings,**  
Pastor Julie Sinkula  
Grace Lutheran  
Tomahawk  
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.

Last week we looked at Romans 2:1-6 and God's warning to self-righteous people. In verse 1, God's warning is, *You are inexcusable, O man, whosoever you are that judge others: for wherein you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you that judge do the same things.* For today, we shall look at verses 7 through 11 and what He means when He says that those who judge others are guilty of *doing the same things* as those they judge.

Earlier in Romans, we noticed the words of Romans 1:18 where God says He is angry at the sins of those who *hold the truth in unrighteousness.* Verse 18 is a statement as to why God is angry and will judge us; God is not so angry with our individual sins, but with the sins where we know what is right but don't do what is right. Jesus said the same thing in John 3:19,20 and James in James 4:17. The *same things* in Romans 2:1 is what is stated in Romans 1:18, that even the best among us have not always been obedient to what we know is right. This is what draws God's judgment against us.

In verse 7 we are told that any who would consistently do good, looking for glory, honor, and immortality – they would receive eternal life. The problem is that no one consistently does what is right except for one, Jesus Christ. But then, they crucified Him because by His teachings and sinless life, He embarrassed those who were not doing what is right (John 15:18-27).

Verse 8 gives to us a three part description of those who know what is right but do not do what is right: *But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness.*

The first part, *contentious*, means they argue to get their own way. Why don't people do what is right? It is that they are willing to do whatever it takes to get what they want – they are *contentious*.

The second part is that they *do not obey the truth.* They know what is right, but they choose not to do it. Why? Because they are *contentious*, they want to get their own way and doing right may not get it for them.

The third part is that they *obey unrighteousness.* They know that what they are going to do is wrong, but they choose to do it anyway because they are *contentious*, and it gets them what they want. The rest of verse 8 and all of verse 9 promises that such people will face God's judgment for their behavior. This describes the behavior behind the statement in Romans 1:18, that God is angry about the sins of those who know what is right but do not obeyed what is right (see also John 3:19, James 4:17).

In verse 10 we are reminded that even though God will judge our sinful behavior, God is also very gracious, quick to honor those who seek to do what is right. How can God both judge sin and still be gracious? It is because He judges according to truth (verse 2) and not according to our opinions or station in life (verse 11).

**Pastor Charles Scheele**  
Berean Baptist Church, Tomahawk  
[bereanbaptisttomahawk@gmail.com](mailto:bereanbaptisttomahawk@gmail.com)

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# LCHD offering tips to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

LINCOLN COUNTY – With temperatures outside dropping, the Lincoln County Health Department (LCHD) is reminding the public to take action to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning in homes, cabins, hunting shacks and other enclosed areas.

“Fuel burning appliances, when not properly installed or maintained, are the main causes of carbon monoxide poisoning,” said Michael Mandli, LCHD Environmental Health Specialist.

“On average, carbon monoxide poisoning sends

about 500 Wisconsinites to the emergency room each year, according to data from the Wisconsin Environmental Public Health Tracking Program,” LCHD stated. “These trips to the ER for carbon monoxide poisoning are preventable when people are prepared.”

LCHD offered the following carbon monoxide safety tips:

- Make sure you have working carbon monoxide detectors. All single-family duplexes and homes in Wisconsin are required to have detectors on every level, including the basement. Carbon monoxide alarms are not substitutes

for smoke alarms. Change batteries twice a year and replace your detector every five years or according to manufacturer’s instructions.

- Have your furnace or wood-burning stove inspected annually. Hire a professional to make sure it is functionally sound and vents properly outside the home.

- Never run a gasoline or propane heater or a grill (gas or charcoal) inside your home or garage. Any heating system that burns fuel produces carbon monoxide. Use a battery-powered detector where you have fuel burning devices but no electric outlets, such as in tents, cabins and RVs.

- Generators should be run at a safe distance (at least 20 feet) from the home. Never run a generator in the home or garage, or right next to win-

dows or doors.

- Never run a car in an enclosed space. Even with a door or window open, carbon monoxide levels can still build up to an unsafe level.

LCHD said symptoms of overexposure to carbon monoxide include headache, fatigue, dizziness, shortness of breath, nausea and confusion. At high levels, carbon monoxide can cause death within minutes.

“If you think you may be experiencing carbon monoxide poisoning, or your detector sounds an alarm, head outside immediately for fresh air and call 911,” LCHS stated. “Do not re-enter the building until it has been declared safe to do so.”

For more information about carbon monoxide, visit [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/air/co.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/air/co.htm).

# Merrill man injured after being struck by car while hitchhiking on U.S. Hwy. 8

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOWN OF SOMO – A Merrill man was injured after being struck by a car while hitchhiking on U.S. Hwy. 8 in the Town of Somo late last month, the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office said.

According to a Tuesday, Oct. 31 release from the Sheriff’s Office, on Saturday, Oct. 28, at approximately 7:09 p.m., the Lincoln County Telecommunications Center received a report of a male hitchhiking in the area of U.S. Hwy. 8 and Meyer Rd. The initial report said the man was wearing all black

clothing and was walking eastbound on the fog line of the roadway.

Upon arriving at U.S. Hwy. 8 and Honey Rd., a deputy located a Merrill man, 24, lying on the roadway with serious injuries caused by an apparent vehicle strike. The victim was taken by ambulance to Tomahawk Aspirus Hospital.

Deputies identified the driver of the vehicle as being a Tomahawk man, 51.

The Sheriff’s Office said the incident was not a hit and run.

The names of those involved had not been released by the Sheriff’s Office as of press time on Monday, Nov. 6.

The Wisconsin State Patrol Reconstruction Unit was requested to the scene for further investigation. U.S. Hwy. 8 was closed from County Rd. CC to County Rd. T to allow for an investigation to be conducted.

Following the reconstruction and the crash investigation, the driver and the scene were released, the Sheriff’s Office said.

The Sheriff’s Office was assisted by the Wisconsin State Patrol, Tomahawk EMS and Little Rice First Responders.

Further investigation is being conducted into the incident, according to the Sheriff’s Office.

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### CLUES ACROSS

1. Happen again
8. Large flightless birds
13. A type of account
14. Beyond what is natural
15. Beloved comfort food
19. Rural delivery
20. Belonging to us
21. Typical
22. Pie \_\_ mode
23. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
24. Not us
25. Discharge
26. Made empty
30. Fishing net
31. Fast-moving, harmless snake
32. Analyzed into its parts
33. In a way, chilled
34. Hindu queen
35. Circles around the sun
38. Used for emphasis
39. Reactive structures
40. Recommendations
44. Feel intense anger
45. Puke
46. Rural Northern Ireland community
47. Naturally occurring solid material
48. British watch brand
49. Toddler
50. Integrated circuit
51. Being revered
55. “Pets” you can grow
57. Continual

58. Puts together in time
59. Houses temporarily

### CLUES DOWN

1. Vital public document
2. Disinter
3. Musical performances
4. After B
5. Every body has one (abbr.)
6. Utilize
7. In a way, disproved
8. Fisherman’s tool
9. Of she
10. Trauma center
11. Commercial flyer
12. Administered medicine to calm
16. Popular R&B performer
17. Regretted
18. Leg (slang)
22. “Night Train” author
25. More supernatural

27. Baltimore ballplayer
28. Shoe parts
29. Scores perfectly
30. More lucid
32. Trim by cutting
34. Disreputable people
35. Dramatic behaviors
36. Disorder
37. Private box in a theater
38. More dried-up
40. Raw
41. In operation
42. Pillager
43. Butterflies with brown wings
45. Disallow
48. Own up
51. Hungarian city
52. A way to condemn
53. Tax collector
54. Lease
56. Not out

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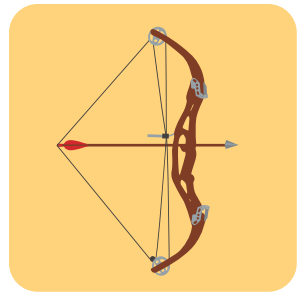
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# Hunting Guide 2023



## 2023 gun deer hunt regulations

This year's nine-day gun deer hunting season will be held from Saturday, Nov. 18 through Sunday, Nov. 26.

Below is regulation information from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).



### Bag limits

Unless otherwise specified under "Special Restrictions," the bag limit for all seasons is one buck deer per unused buck deer harvest authorization and one antlerless deer per unused antlerless deer harvest authorization valid for use in the specified zone, deer management unit (DMU) and land type (public access or private).

Bow buck deer harvest

authorizations are weapon-specific. For example, you may not use a rifle to fill your bow buck harvest authorization even during the firearm gun deer season.

Junior antlerless deer harvest authorizations are valid statewide on the land type specified.

### Licensing requirements

What you need to hunt deer:

- Gun deer license, to har-

vest deer with a firearm; or

- Archer License, to harvest deer with a bow and arrow; or

- Crossbow License, to harvest deer with a crossbow; and

- A valid, unfilled harvest authorization.

Note: The purchase of upgrade is required with either an archer or crossbow license in order to use both weapon types.

### Harvest authorizations

Harvest authorizations are issued with each deer hunting license. The number and types of harvest authorizations issued with a deer hunting license may vary based on where in the state you are hunting.

Some harvest authorizations are valid only during certain open seasons or when hunting in certain locations. Each harvest authorization allows the harvest of a single deer of the type specified.

The following information outlines the types of harvest authorizations, weapon you may use to fill them, along with where and when they are valid.

Gun buck harvest authorization:

- Issued with a gun deer license and valid in any DMU statewide.
- Authorizes the harvest of one buck deer with any legal weapon type.
- Valid during any firearm deer season except

in any DMU where an antlerless-only hunt is taking place. (Visit [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov) and search "armed forces hunting" for military exceptions).

### Antlerless harvest authorizations

Junior antlerless deer harvest authorization:

- Issued to hunters ages 17 and younger with each gun, bow or crossbow license.
- Valid for taking one antlerless deer in any DMU statewide on the land type specified on the authorization.
- May be used during any open deer season with the weapon authorized by that license.

- May be filled ONLY by the authorization holder.

Bonus antlerless deer harvest authorizations:

- Sold on a first-come, first-served basis with a purchase limit of one per person per day.
- Authorizes the harvest of one antlerless deer per authorization.
- Valid only in the zone, DMU and land type (public-access or private) specified on the authorization.
- May be filled with any weapon during any season with the correct license for the method of harvest and season.

For full regulation information, visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/hunt/regulations>.

## Hunters can help monitor CWD, reduce its spread

### COURTESY OF THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a contagious neurological disease of deer, elk, moose and reindeer (caribou) caused by a misfolded protein (prion). It is always fatal. Infected deer spread CWD in their saliva, urine and feces. They can also spread CWD after death as their bodies decompose into the soil.

Hunters can help monitor CWD and reduce its spread by:

- Having their deer tested for CWD.
- Properly disposing of their deer carcass waste.
- Following baiting and feeding rules and choosing not to bait deer where it is allowed.

To learn more, visit [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov) and search "CWD."

### Venison: What hunters should know

CWD prions do not cook out of meat. Most CWD prions stay in the brain, spinal cord, lymph nodes and spleen, but can also enter the meat.

There have been no reported cases of CWD in people. As a precaution, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recommends that hunters do not consume or distribute venison to others until test results show that CWD was not detected in the deer.

More recommendations to hunters for

processing and handling venison:

- If you have your deer or elk commercially processed, ask that it be processed individually to avoid mixing meat from multiple animals.
- Keep venison from multiple deer separate and label it before freezing.
- For more information on human prion diseases, call DHS at 608-267-9003.
- For recommendations on the safe handling of deer, visit [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov) and search "carcass movement."

### Use Go Wild to submit CWD sampling online

Save time by using the online CWD form. Find a link to the form in your registration confirmation email or in your Go Wild harvest history when submitting your sample at a CWD sampling location.

### Looking for carcass disposal or CWD sampling locations?

To find a map of carcass disposal and CWD sampling locations, visit [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov) and search "CWD sampling."

### Check your deer's CWD test results

Check your deer's CWD test results online by logging into your Go Wild account and navigating to your harvest history, or by going to [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov) and searching "CWD results."



Connor Burnett, age 10, bagged his first deer in Tomahawk with his dad during the youth hunt.



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Photo courtesy of Wisconsin DNR



Brantley Krueger, age 9, of Wausau, harvested his first deer during his first youth hunt with his dad in Medford.



Jeff Kroening harvested this bear in Harshaw in on Sept. 28.



This elk was taken by Jake Collinworth (front) near Laramie, Wyo., on Oct. 15. Collinworth, 25, of Gleason, is a third-year law student at the University of Wyoming.

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### REGISTER THAT DEER – IT'S REQUIRED!

Register your deer through GameReg by 5 p.m. the day after recovery. All registration is electronic.

Register online (fastest and easiest method): [gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov).

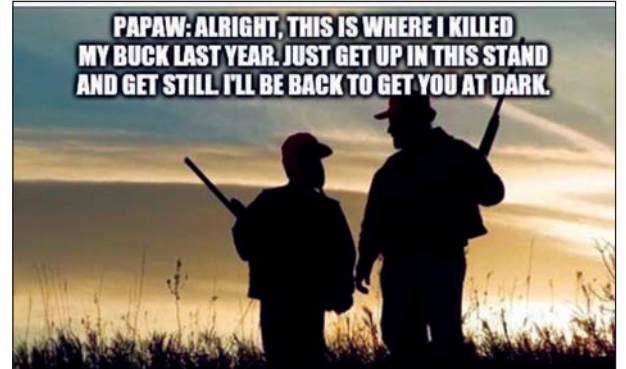
Register by phone: 1-844-426-3734 (1-844-GAMEREG) (available 24 hours). When prompted, use the numbers on your phone keypad to spell the first three letters of the county. For example, for Adams County, enter A-D-A by pressing "232."

Register in person: Find a station that offers a phone or computer for registration at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search "registration stations."

Have your deer harvest authorization number available to enter at the start of the registration process.

You will receive a 10-character confirmation number for your records once your deer has been successfully registered. For white-tailed deer, all confirmation numbers begin with "W" and are issued in the format W12-345-6789.

Learn more about GameReg. Visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search "GameReg."



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MOVIES YOU GOTTA SEE

# ‘Catch Me If You Can’ and the heart of Steven Spielberg

BY JALEN MAKI

Broken families can be found throughout Steven Spielberg’s filmography. It’s a theme he’s grappled with in a variety of ways – offering the perspective of kids affected by their parents’ separation, focusing on a family missing a father figure, examining the relationship between an estranged father and son. This career-spanning fixation culminated with 2022’s *The Fabelmans*, an autobiography centered on the disintegration of his own family unit when he was 19 years old.

In 2002, Spielberg released *Catch Me If You Can*. Call the film what you want – a top-tier con movie, an entertaining globe-trotting caper, a satire of the financial greed and material desires pervasive in society – but to me, it’s possibly the most fun, yet sad, movie in Spielberg’s filmography and one of his most earnest explorations of the broken home.

*Catch Me If You Can* pits at-the-time ascending movie star Leonardo DiCaprio against Oscar winner Tom Hanks in one of the best head-to-heads of the decade. In the film, based on true events, DiCaprio stars as a youth named Frank Abagnale Jr. By watching his father, Frank Sr. (played by the always terrific Christopher Walken), Frank learns how to utilize charm to pull off confidence scams. After his dad runs into a snag with the IRS – well, less of a “snag” and more of a “tax fraud investigation” – Frank and his parents move out of their massive home in New Rochelle, New York, and into a small apartment. On Frank’s 16th birthday, his father opens a checking account for him. This is usually a semi-important but

ultimately mundane event in a person’s life, but for Frank, it’s a crucial milestone.

Taking a few plays from his old man’s playbook, Frank figures out that he’s also got a knack for swindling. Upon arrival at his new school, he passes himself off as a substitute French teacher, a grift he maintains for a week. Frank’s mother is understandably distraught, but Frank and his dad share a quick laugh as they leave the principal’s office. Frank Sr.: appreciator of a good hustle.

Frank’s parents split up shortly thereafter, which is the key event in the film. A devastated Frank hops a train out of town and writes a few bad checks to keep his head above water before resorting to forging checks and cashing them at various banks. Frank’s smooth demeanor allows him to execute this racket with ease, and his newfound self-assurance leads to him upping the stakes. Through a few fairly simple yet brilliant schemes, Frank begins impersonating a third-seat Pan Am pilot, and before long, he’s criss-crossing the country, raking in money from his bogus checks and having a pretty good time along the way.

Eventually, the FBI catches wind of Frank’s ongoing fraudulent check con – which, to be clear, is *insanely* illegal – and Agent Carl Hanratty (Hanks, doing an accent the origins of which I have yet to pin down), a bank fraud expert, begins working to bring Frank to justice. The first scene between DiCaprio and Hanks is absolutely lights out. After tracking Frank to a Hollywood hotel and entering his room intent on slapping cuffs on



Photo courtesy of IMDb

him, Frank, through sheer force of confidence and charm, convinces Carl that he’s a Secret Service agent on the case and slips away just before Carl realizes he’s been duped.

As the film progresses, Frank’s boldness grows, and he continues to push the envelope, stepping up his hustles while Carl stays on his trail. Frank eventually falls in love and gets engaged, and he calls Carl on Christmas Eve. The genuine sadness in Frank’s voice when he begs Carl to stop chasing him is a stark reminder that Frank is just a teenager. He might want forgiveness for his transgressions, but he can’t fully understand their gravity, and he certainly doesn’t want to bear the brunt of their consequences. In fact, he never really seemed to

consider them at all, until they became inescapably real.

One could chalk all this up to a blatant disrespect for authority in pursuit of personal gain (not an unfair assertion), but I choose to call it irresponsibility and ignorance by way of adolescence. Did Frank repeatedly break laws in several sovereign nations? You bet he did. Should he have been subject to the repercussions of his crimes? Absolutely. But is he a bad person? No he’s not, and Carl knows this. He understands that Frank isn’t some devious criminal mastermind out to hurt people – he’s comic book-reading kid who made a series of colossally dumb decisions.

Even though Frank’s cons are complex, *Catch*

*Me If You Can* is a pretty straightforward film thematically. Watching Frank grift his way around the globe is a blast, but no matter where he goes, how many fake checks he cashes, how many women he hangs out with or how many *New York Times* headlines he creates, he cannot outrun his loneliness. At the end of the day, he’s a just boy, broken by his parents’ broken marriage and a victim of his own inability to make sense of it. Every scam Frank pulls is just a futile attempt to fill the hole created by the dissolution of his family. He’s consumed by the idea that maybe if he lies his way into a more prestigious job, or if he buys his dad a newer car or a nicer suit, his mother will think they’re worthy again, and she’ll come home. It’s the kind of tragic, naïve vanity that only a kid would cling to.

Frank isn’t the only one heavily affected by the divorce. Each time his father appears on screen, it looks like he’s aged half a decade. While Frank Jr. maintains his youthful exuberance, Frank Sr.’s life force seems to be slowly drained from him. Frank and his father are very similar people, both holding family in high regard, but when it’s stripped away from them, they diverge in their reactions. While his father eventually accepts the situation and retreats into a quieter, simpler life, Frank does the opposite. He doesn’t try to come to grips with what’s happened and attempts to create a fantasy existence. Instead of facing reality, he’d rather live a lie – a very enjoyable and lucrative lie, but a lie nonetheless.

I can’t think of another Spielberg movie that is si-

multaneously as fun and sad as *Catch Me If You Can*. The movie is not all doom and gloom, however; it truly is a great time. But Spielberg doesn’t let you forget that there’s something deeper at work, and it’s one reason why he’s a master of his craft. His films can be taken at face value, and if viewed that way they can be delightful, but they’re never superficial. They’re often very emotionally resonant and, when taken in the context of Spielberg’s own family experiences, quite impactful.

Shot by his frequent collaborator, cinematographer Janusz Kaminski, *Catch Me If You Can* looks like a Spielberg movie, but more importantly, it *feels* like a Spielberg movie. Beneath the dazzling camera work, incredibly blocked shots and A-plus performances is a film full of yearning and humanity. As a filmmaker, Spielberg doesn’t shy away from the pain he’s endured. In fact, he embraces it and channels it into something honest and heartfelt. Spielberg’s sentimentality might come off as cheesy or cheap for some, but I’d take it over hollow storytelling any day.

Although their relationship is adversarial at the start, Carl and Frank eventually become friends. Carl, a divorcee himself, empathizes with Frank’s feelings of familial loss. The kindness Carl shows Frank is classic Spielberg: there’s no situation in which the man will not try to tug at our heartstrings, and we love him for it.

Follow Jalen on Letterboxd at [www.letterboxd.com/jalenmaki182/](http://www.letterboxd.com/jalenmaki182/) to see what he’s been watching, and read more at [www.medium.com/@jalenmaki](http://www.medium.com/@jalenmaki).

## LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF’S REPORT

As reported by the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office Monday, Oct. 30:

Over the week the Lincoln County 911 Center received 15 911 nuisance calls/hang ups. The Lincoln County Deputies conducted 34 traffic stops with three resulting in OWI. Within the county this week, there were 16 car vs. animal collisions.

On 10/23/2023 at approximately 23:00, a Lincoln County Deputy observed a vehicle traveling southbound on County Rd. H in the Township of Birch turn off onto County Rd. S and pull over. The Lincoln County Deputy initiated a motorist assist stop. Lincoln County Deputy made contact with the driver, an Irma man, 42, 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 an OWI 5th. Nothing further at this time.

On 10/24/2023 at approximately 21:30, Lincoln County Dispatch received a call about someone trespassing on property in the area of County Rd. G and Altenburger Dr. in the Township of Schley. Once deputies arrived, it was determined the suspect was attempting to steal Christmas trees and got their vehicle stuck. Deputies made contact with the driver, a Merrill man, 51. The driver was taken into custody on multiple charges and transported to the Lincoln County Jail. Nothing further at this time.

On 10/27/2023 at approximately 12:15, in the area of U.S. Hwy. 51 and County Rd. D in the Township

of Harrison, a Lincoln County Sheriff’s Deputy conducted a routine motorist assist stop. The deputy made contact with the driver, a Merrill woman, 74, who stated she was attempting to get to Tomahawk Methodist Church. The driver informed the deputy that she did not think she had enough gas to make it and was unsure of how to get there. The deputy asked the driver to follow him to the nearest gas station. The deputy put gas in the driver’s vehicle and proceeded to lead her to the Tomahawk Methodist Church. Nothing further at this time.

On 10/27/2023 at approximately 15:30, Lincoln County 911 Center received a call about a vehicle swerving in the area of U.S. Hwy. 51 and mile marker 215 in the Township of Rock Falls. A routine traffic stop was conducted by Wisconsin State Patrol with the help of two Lincoln County Sheriff’s Deputies and a Tomahawk Police Department K9 Officer. Law enforcement made contact with the driver, a Wausau man, 43, who was showing signs of impairment. During a search of the vehicle, the driver swallowed what was believed to be illegal substances. Officers on scene requested dispatch page for an ambulance to come to the scene. The driver was transported to Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital for medical treatment and the vehicle was removed from the scene. Nothing further at this time.

On 10/27/2023 at approximately 16:00, Lincoln County 9-1-1 Center received a

call of a car crash in the area of County Rd. H and County Rd. J in the Township of Birch. Lincoln County Sheriff Deputies, Russell Fire Department, Russell First Responders, and Merrill EMS responded to the scene. It was determined that a vehicle neglected to stop for a stop sign and struck the car coming from the other lane. Patients were transported to Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital for medical treatment and the vehicles were removed from the scene. Nothing further at this time.

On 10/28/2023 at approximately 18:30 Lincoln County Dispatch was notified over the radio about a crash injury in the area of U.S. Hwy. 8 and Meyer Rd. in the Township of Somo. The Lincoln County Deputy on scene advised a Merrill man, 24, had been struck by a car. Tomahawk EMS was paged to the scene and transported the patient to Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital. Nothing further at this time.

On 10/29/2023 at approximately 00:00, in the area 11000 Block of County Rd. L in the Township of Bradley, a Lincoln County Sheriff’s Deputy conducted a routine traffic stop of a UTV. The deputy observed the vehicle traveling 43 MPH in a 25 MPH. The deputy made contact with the driver, a Tomahawk man, 30, 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 operating a UTV while under the influence. The driver was transported to Lincoln County

Jail. Nothing further at this time.

On 10/29/2023 at approximately 05:00, Lincoln County 911 Center received a call of a male slumped over his steering wheel in the area of U.S. Hwy. 51 and County Rd. G in the Township of Scott. Lincoln County Sheriff’s Deputies responded to the scene to find the driver, a Conover man, 21, slumped over his steering wheel. When the male finally came to, he 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 1st. The driver was transported to the Lincoln County Jail. Nothing further at this time.

On 10/29/2023 at approximately 13:00, Lincoln County 911 Center received several calls about a car crash in the area of U.S. Hwy. 8 and County Rd. U in the Township of Bradley. Lincoln County Sheriff’s Deputies, Tomahawk Fire Department, Tomahawk EMS, and Tomahawk Police Department responded to the scene of the crash. Upon arrival, it was determined that there were three confirmed injuries and road blockage. A vehicle being operated by a Park Falls woman, 59, was stuck by an oncoming car driven by a Tripoli man, 32. Tomahawk EMS triaged patients and transported them to Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital. The vehicles were removed and the scene was cleared. Nothing further at this time.

## WEATHER

DATE	HIGH (°F)	LOW (°F)
Sunday, Oct. 29	37	19
Monday, Oct. 30	32	25
Tuesday, Oct. 31	36	10
Wednesday, Nov. 1	36	15
Thursday, Nov. 2	43	30
Friday, Nov. 3	54	18
Saturday, Nov. 4	47	29

## Wisconsin Fund grant program aims to help repair failing septic systems

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DPS) is currently accepting applications for the Wisconsin Fund, a program that provides financial assistance to homeowners and small businesses with a failing private onsite wastewater treatment system (POWTS), commonly called septic systems.

In a release from Tuesday, Oct. 17, DPS said failing POWTS, even if still operating, are a health concern because they contaminate well

and ground water with disease-causing bacteria and other microbes.

“Repairing or replacing these systems can easily cost several thousand dollars, a large financial burden for many homeowners and small businesses,” DPS stated. “The Wisconsin Fund exists solely to help Wisconsinites with limited resources pay for these repairs.”

Eligibility is based on several criteria, including household income and age of the system. Currently, 67 of Wisconsin’s 72 coun-

**SEPTIC**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 13



**Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross Check Presentation**

Pictured, front, from left: Lisa Carlson, Sister Celine Goessl, Jim Rell, Sister Kathy Lange, Judy Warren; back: Sister Pat Cormack, Sister Dolores Hrdina, Sue Norenberg, Sister Dorothy Niemann, Sister Linda Songy, Pete Mueller, Sister Pam Hodgson, Karen Bloechl.

**St. Vincent de Paul Conference Annual Fund Drive underway**

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

LINCOLN COUNTY – The Annual Fund Drive for St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Conference of Merrill is currently underway, and the conference is seeking public support to help those in Lincoln County who need emergency assistance.

In a release, SVDP said Connexus Credit Union, Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, the family of Nick and Kathy Laphen and an anonymous donor have agreed to donate a total of \$36,000.00 to their Annual Matching Fund Campaign.

“Thanks to these corporate donors, all gifts will double in value to benefit those in need,” SVDP stated.

“Poverty is an incredibly significant problem in Lincoln County,” said Sue Norenberg, Director of Operations. “(The) SVDP Outreach Program has provided \$125,711.00 in assistance to 333 households during the past 10



From left: Conference board member Freida Swanson, Nick Laphen and Kathy Laphen. Photos courtesy of Russ Mancil

months.”

The SVDP Thrift Store in downtown Merrill, which contributes all store profits to the Outreach Program has provided over \$4,500.00 worth of clothing, furniture and other items to those in need.

For more information or to donate, call Norenberg at 715-539-2666, or send a donation to Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 503 S. Center Ave., Suite 2, Merrill, Wis., 54452.

**NEWS BRIEFS FROM PAGE 3**

feature 50/50 raffles and basket raffles. For more information, visit [www.tinyurl.com/872prkvs](http://www.tinyurl.com/872prkvs).

**Free Veterans Dinner at Redeemer Lutheran Church**

A free Veterans Dinner will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 16 Theiler Dr., Tomahawk, on Sunday, Nov. 12 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. To RSVP, contact Kim Brixius at 715-612-4206.

**Community Ecumenical Choir fall concert**

The Community Ecumenical Choir, comprised of approximately 25 men and women from several churches in Price, Lincoln, and Taylor counties, will perform its fall concert, “Foundations (A Place to Start, A Place to Stand, A Place to Build)” at Lutheran Church in Phillips on Sunday, Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. Jody Isaacson is this fall’s director, and the choir is accompanied by pianists Joan Points and Judy LeMaster. A free will offering will be used to cover minimal expenses and also to make donations to the Rib Lake American Le-

gion Auxiliary and Santa’s Elves Foundation in Fifield.

**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 Monday, Nov. 13, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 25, 9 a.m. to noon; and Monday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. 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.

**Grace Lutheran blood drive**

A blood drive, sponsored by the American Red Cross,

will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 108 W. Somo Ave., Tomahawk, on Tuesday, Nov. 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Appointments are recommended, but not required. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-277 or visit [www.redcross-blood.org](http://www.redcross-blood.org). A Red Cross ID or a photo ID is required.

**One-act play performance**

The Tomahawk High School Drama Department will perform its state-bound one-act play, “She Wrote, Died, Then Wrote Some More,” in the district auditorium on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. There will be no charge for admission, but a free-will offering benefiting those impacted by the recent fire in Tomahawk will be collected.

**United Methodist Church Christmas Bazaar**

United Methodist Church, 1104 School Rd., Tomahawk, will host its Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Crafts and holiday décor, attic treasures, equal exchange items, a soup/salad luncheon, homemade pie and a bake sale will be featured. Homemade soup will be sold by the quart or pint to go.

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**ADRC-N Disability Benefit Specialist Price County Health and Human Services Department Aging & Disability Resource Center of the North (ADRC-N)**

Price County is accepting applications for an ADRC-N Disability Benefit Specialist within the Health and Human Services department. This position is located at the Price County Branch of the ADRC-N. The Disability Benefit Specialist (DBS) assists people living within the ADRC-N region with developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, mental illness, and/or substance abuse disorders between the ages of 18 and 59 with accessing public and private benefits. This position is supervised by the local ADRC-N supervisor in collaboration with a DBS Program Attorney who provides substantive case oversight. This is a full-time, regular position with a starting hourly wage of \$22.05 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 November 25, 2023, to be considered for this position.

Price County is an equal opportunity employer.

The School District of Tomahawk is seeking an energetic, organized, and team-oriented individual to serve as the Community Education Program Coordinator. This individual will be tasked with developing and growing community education opportunities offered through the District. This is a full-time position. Interested candidates can learn more by visiting the “Employment Opportunities” page of the School District of Tomahawk website.

To be given full consideration, upload the requested application material through the Wisconsin Education Career Access Network (WECAN) at <https://wecan.waspa.org/>. Interested applicants must complete the WECAN on-line application and cover letter. Provide the following attachments: current resume and three letters of reference. Screening will begin as applications come in and candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Applications will be accepted until November 10.

The School District of Tomahawk is an equal employment opportunity employer and does not discriminate against job applicants on the basis of race, color, ancestry, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age (40 or older), declining to attend a meeting or participate in any communication about religious or political matters, disability, marital status, use of lawful products, arrest or conviction records, honesty testing, sexual orientation, genetic information or military service.

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# Leader Sports & Nature

## Football: Hatchets fall to Southern Door in playoff matchup

**FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER**  
BRUSSELS – The Tomahawk Hatchet football team traveled to Brussels, Wis., to take on Southern Door High School in a playoff matchup on Friday, Oct. 20.  
The game marked the

first-ever meeting between the Hatchets and the Eagles.  
Tomahawk ultimately fell by a score of 48-7.  
Southern Door held Tomahawk scoreless until late in the fourth quarter, when Brett Marheine returned a fumble 47 yards

for a touchdown with four minutes left in the game. Caleb Dickens rushed for 86 yards on 17 carries.  
The Hatchets finished the 2023 season with a 6-6 overall record and a 3-4 record in the Northwoods Football Conference.

## Fishing Report: Late fall temps finally arrive

**BY GEORGE LANGLEY**  
NORTHERN WISCONSIN – Well, we are now in serious late fall, with very cold conditions which have finally triggered a drop in water temps. We are finally seeing upper to mid 40s. While we'd rather see these temps colder, they're better than the 50s we've had all fall. For the walleye and musky fishermen, this is great.  
We also got some decent rain late last month, which helped water levels a bit – especially on the flowages. Turnover was finished on all but the biggest lakes as of last week. Forecasted cold temps should bring some fantastic fishing, especially on those smaller lakes that turned earlier.  
Hunters are also very happy with most of the leaves off the trees and the deer now seriously in the rut period. We've seen a few nice bucks taken recently. We have also talked

to some bird hunters who have said that the hunting has been decent. Many of us wish that there were two Octobers, as there is just so much to do outdoors at that time of year.  
Walleye fishing has been good with a good number of fish being reported. Jigs and larger minnows are definitely the best bait. As usual at this time of the year, they are in the holes on the Chain. If you're not seeing them in those holes, check around the edges.  
On the bigger, deeper lakes, they are on the drop offs by the weeds. Look for harder bottom areas and use large fatheads or red-tail chubs. Don't be afraid to fish pretty deep if the wind allows.  
We still have a few perch and crappie anglers out there, but as the temps get colder, we really don't see too many panfish anglers. Action has been a bit slow,

but both perch and crappies are hitting on small minnows.  
Musky action has been in the decent range, and with this drop in water temps, the action should be good. The sucker bite is just ok, but it's worth taking. After turnover like this, the fish can be anywhere in the water column. Larger baits are now working well, with jerk baits fished over the deeper weed edges working quite well. Slower retrieves are more effective at this point, as the fish move slower with the colder water temps.  
It'll be a great week to be musky fishing with this cold weather. Get out that winter gear and enjoy the quiet of late fall on the water. And if you're not heading out, this is a great time to get ready for the hard water season.  
Good luck and good fishing!

## DNR releases results of statewide PFAS sampling in private wells

**COURTESY OF THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

WISCONSIN – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), on Friday, Nov. 3, announced the results of a study conducted to understand the extent of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in shallow groundwater throughout Wisconsin.

The results of the DNR's groundwater study ([www.tinyurl.com/7rn6nr53](http://www.tinyurl.com/7rn6nr53)) were released in the Journal of Environmental Science & Technology.

PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals used for decades in numerous products, including non-stick cookware, fast food wrappers, stain-resistant sprays and certain types of firefighting foam.

"These contaminants have made their way into the environment in a variety of ways, including spills of PFAS-containing materials, discharges of wastewater that contain PFAS from treatment plants and use of certain types of firefighting foams," DNR said.

During the summer and fall of 2022, DNR used funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to collect water samples from across the state and analyzed them for PFAS.

In total, 450 samples

were collected voluntarily from private wells distributed throughout Wisconsin.

DNR said most private wells that were sampled "had PFAS concentrations below current Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) health recommendations, and overall, the number of areas in Wisconsin with significant PFAS contamination were limited."

DNR's groundwater study shows roughly seven in 10 private wells contain one or more PFAS, but only one in 100 contains PFAS above DHS' current health guidelines.

"The information gained through this groundwater study, combined with compliance sampling in public water systems and surface water monitoring efforts, will help us in developing an understanding of where PFAS are found in Wisconsin's water," said Steve Elmore, DNR Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater Director. "This knowledge will allow us to use our limited resources to address PFAS most efficiently."

New drinking water regulations that went into effect in Wisconsin in 2022 require ongoing sampling of public drinking water systems. By the end of 2023, Wisconsin will have PFAS data for nearly all public water systems in the state due to these regu-

lations, according to DNR.

Private well owners who find their well is impacted by PFAS at levels above DHS' health recommendations may be eligible for grants through the Well Compensation Grant Program to install a new well or water treatment system.

Funding from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is available to both municipal water systems and wastewater systems that have been impacted by PFAS.

DNR said it is currently working to enact standards for four PFAS compounds (i.e., PFOA, PFOS, PFBS, and HFPO-DA (GenX)) in groundwater.

"If enacted, standards would help to limit the amount of these compounds that could reach groundwater," DNR stated. "This would protect private well owners from PFAS exposure and reduce treatment needs for impacted public water systems that source water from groundwater."

The public is encouraged to participate in the groundwater standards rulemaking process. More information about this proposed rule and opportunities to participate are available at [www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS](http://www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS).

Learn more about DNR's PFAS Action Plan at [www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS/ActionPlan.html](http://www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS/ActionPlan.html).

### TOMAHAWK SPORTS TRIVIA: WEEK 155

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](mailto: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 154 question:** Who led the 1973-1974 THS varsity basketball team in scoring: Tom Kahle, Mike Olson or Von Martin?

**Week 154 answer:** Mike Olson lead the 1973-1974 THS varsity basketball team in

scoring with 184 points.

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

**Week 155 question:** Beginning with the 1974-1975 school year, the WIAA indicated that there would no longer be any ties in what sport: Football, soccer or hockey?

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Open gym

Open gym, for basketball only, will be held in the Tomahawk school complex fieldhouse from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. each Wednesday through May, excluding days when school is not in session. Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Tomahawk Emergency**

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Andrea Krueger,  
Fred Koth

**NEW LISTING: ACCEPTED OFFER: 11035 Woodsmoke Ln:** Over 2 acres on a dead-end Lane, on the Rice River flowage, part of the Lake Nokomis chain. Just like brand new this 2-bedroom ranch style home/cottage is ready for new ownership. Stone faced wood burning fireplace is what you would expect in that picture-perfect cabin. Nice big kitchen, plenty of dining area, with pretty wood floors, and open to comfortable living. The yard is parklike, leading to water's edge with dock and kayak rack. The garage is insulated and heated, and yes there is a storage shed for the extra toys or garden tools. **\$324,900**

**NEW LISTING: N2118 River Rd:** Country charm would best describe this Town of Spirit 3-bedroom 2 bath home. Located just west of the Lincoln & Price County line on Highway 86 & River Rd. This home has beautiful hardwood floors throughout the home. The main floor has a large open concept living & dining rooms with a brick fireplace that has a pellet stove insert. The home sits on the SW corner of a 40 that is excellent hunting with a mix of hardwoods and some low land. There is a large back yard with a garden and apple orchard in a park like setting. **\$239,900**

**NEW LISTING: 11149 Brown Rd:** Need Storage, this like new 30 x 50 Pole Shed has full cement floor with drain. Power is in the shed and ready to pull to the rest of the shed. Set on a wooded 9.6-acre parcel, there is plenty of room for a deer stand or 2. Close to fishing, UTV and snowmobile out your front door to some great area trails. **\$149,900**

**REDUCED! 204 W Wisconsin Ave:** Momma Mia, now that's a terrific Pizza! Currently an Italian eatery, this Downtown Tomahawk location is perfect. The Pizza Truck is included and is great for traveling events. This building has 2 apartments upstairs, a two-bedroom and a three-bedroom. **\$239,900**

**NEW LISTING: 6498 County Rd K Rhineland:** Just a little finishing work and this one could be perfect for you. Updated septic, newer kitchen cabinets and more remodeling started. Close to town and over an acre country lot. One bedroom on the main floor, the other up. Office space on the front porch. **\$72,900**



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**Early Deadline!**

**Due to the holiday, the deadline for all ads appearing in the Wed., Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> issue of the Tomahawk Leader is:**

**Thurs., Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 am**



# Natural Connections: Snow Buntings and Needle Ice Foretell Winter

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

Tawny, dried weeds and their dusky shadows painted texture on the roadside border as I drove up Scenic 61 along Minnesota's North Shore of Lake Superior. Suddenly, those colors came alive in a cloud of swirling beauty. Brilliant white, sharp black, brown, and blue; the flock of snow buntings ascended, swooped as if tossed by blizzard winds, flashed their colors in unison, then fluttered back to invisibility among the weeds.

These tough little visitors from the Arctic live up to their nickname of "snowflake birds." Snow buntings nest on tundra all around the top of the globe, and are the most northerly recorded songbird in the world.

My toes get cold just thinking about it, but feathered feet allow snow buntings to spend most of their winter strutting about on the chilly drifts. They usually feed in big, gregarious flocks that seem to roll along chaotically as the birds in the back make short, fluttering flights to the front. Occasionally, the whole group will rise and fall in a flurry of motion at the suspicion and passing of danger. Feeding flocks are entertaining to watch, since these birds don't submit to a defined hierarchy like chickadees do, and end up bickering continuously over seeds and space.

Deep snows cover up the seed heads of short tundra plants in their breeding territory, but here in the Northwoods, snowplows expose seeds in the gravel shoulder, and windswept fields of nodding stems offer good foraging, too. I was particularly happy to read that they eat seeds of the ragweed plant, which is a major cause of



Photo by Charles J Homler

This female snow bunting blends in well with the mix of snow, bare ground, and dry grasses on her wintering habitat.

seasonal allergies!

While snowshoe hares turn white for the winter, snow buntings add brown and spend the season with rusty patches on their feathers. It helps them blend in on the bare fields and among the grass stems where they feed. By April, that color has worn off to reveal pure white plumage that will match their still-snowy Arctic breeding habitat. Since snow buntings nest in deep cracks and cavities in rocks to avoid predators, their nesting sites are limited. Not going too far south and arriving early back north to claim a territory is essential.

Their breeding is carefully timed so that chicks are hungriest right when insects are most plentiful. Warm springs that shift breeding earlier produce a mismatch with their food source. Hard winters seem to keep this timing well-matched. What type of winter will this one be?

Swirling flocks led me up the North Shore, all the way to the Cascade River north of Lutsen, MN. The

trailhead was empty, and it looked like we were the first ones on that section of the Superior Hiking Trail. While cool, wet weather has made a lot of trails muddy recently, the ground was rock hard under my hiking shoes. Frozen! A novel experience for this fall, when September and October both set records for higher-than-average global temperatures.

Then: Crunch! Crunch! Crunch! The trail was filled with fragile clusters of ice, pushing up through the soil. My clumsy feet had pulverized some, but in several places the ice remained beautifully sculpted into ribboned clusters a few inches high. Squatting down for a better look, I noticed soil particles, moss fragments, and grass blades frozen into the ice.

"Needle ice" seems to be the most scientific term for this phenomenon, but I've also heard it called frost pillars, frost castles, and ice filaments. The Swedes, Germans, and Japanese have their own words for this cir-

cumboreal art form, too.

While not confined to one region or habitat, needle ice does require a certain set of conditions in order to form. First, the soil must not yet be frozen, at least beyond the first thin crust. In contrast, the air temperature

needs to be below freezing. Finally, the soil needs to have plenty of moisture, and just the right sized pores between the grains so that water can flow toward the growing ice.

What draws the liquid water toward the ice is a process known as ice segregation. Supercooled water – held in a liquid state below 32 degrees F – moves toward ice and adds on to it. When the two meet, ice grows away from the ice/water interface. As the ice crystals expand upward, growing perpendicular to the surface, they may also push soil up or away, lift small pebbles into the air, and incorporate whatever debris is nearby. This fragile structure of ice and dirt is what crumbled under my hiking shoes.

I'm not the only source of destruction, though. Once these frosted soils melt, they are loose and susceptible to erosion. If the needle ice forms on a slope, even just the action of lifting soil particles up and letting them down again will cause them to descend in the process of soil creep. This is a chal-

lenge for trail maintenance.

The icy hike was beautiful, and "snowflake birds" swirled ahead of my car all the way home. Real snowflakes chased me from behind, and soon accumulated six inches of the white stuff. Snow buntings and needle ice foretold the coming winter, and as I write this, it has arrived!

*Author's note: portions of this article are reprinted from 2015, 2016, and 2022.*

Emily's award-winning second book, *Natural Connections: Dreaming of an Elfin Skimmer*, is available to purchase at [www.cablemuseum.org/books](http://www.cablemuseum.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 exhibit: "The Northwoods ROCKS!" is open through mid-March. Our Fall Calendar of Events is ready for registration! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and [www.cablemuseum.org](http://www.cablemuseum.org) to see what we are up to.



Needle ice grows into elaborate glimmering ribbons as wet soil freezes. Photo by Emily Stone

**SUDOKU**

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@MetroCreative Level: Intermediate

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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Date (CDT)	Morning		Evening	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Nov 8	1:54AM	8:06AM	3:05PM	8:26PM
Nov 9	2:58AM	8:46AM	3:20PM	9:06PM
Nov 10	4:04AM	9:26AM	3:37PM	9:47PM
Nov 11	5:11AM	10:08AM	3:55PM	10:30PM
Nov 12	6:22AM	---	4:15PM	10:54AM
Nov 13	7:36AM	11:43AM	4:42PM	---
Nov 14	8:51AM	12:09AM	5:17PM	12:37PM

Solunar fishing and hunting chart for Tomahawk. Major feeding periods last two hours and minors run one hour. New Moon is November 13th.

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## Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake monitor reports 'continued improvements' at Irma facility

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

IRMA – The 18th report from the federal court-appointed monitor for Lincoln Hills School/Copper Lake School (LHS/CLS), filed on Monday, Oct. 30, noted “continued improvements” at the Irma juvenile facility, according to a release from the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC).

The release said DOC is now in substantial compliance with 36 of the 50 provisions (72%) identified in the consent decree, four more than the previous reporting period.

“The consent decree stems from a 2017 lawsuit over conditions at the facility under the previous administration,” DOC stated. “Under Governor Tony Evers, the DOC has been in either partial or substantial compliance with all provisions of the consent decree.”

In the latest report, the department “gained substantial compliance in provisions related to clinical observation, documentation and the department’s incident review process,” according to DOC.

“The staff in the Division of Juvenile Corrections and at LHS/CLS continue to do an exceptional job improving operations and addressing all provisions of the consent decree,” said DOC Secretary Kevin Carr. “At the same time, we will not ignore the areas that still need attention, and we will continue to identify additional opportunities to build upon the progress being made at the facility.”

The court-appointed moni-



tor visited LHS/CLS in October and conducted 48 interviews with staff and youth. DOC said the monitor “noted the cleanliness of the facility, fewer instances of administrative confinement and the overall positive interactions between staff and youth.”

The monitor “also praised the DOC for creating a ‘home-like’ environment” and noted the following improvements:

- Replacement of dayroom televisions with larger models.
- Installation of televisions in the upper day classroom for staff to use with youth.
- Installation of 80-inch monitors in classrooms to assist with instruction.
- Completion of new living unit sidewalks and stairways.
- Expansion of video production studio space and capabilities for the Music and Arts Initiative.
- Requests to update dishwashers, sinks and living unit bathrooms.

“(DOC) should be commended for their continuing commitment to improving the physical plant, which improves the daily lives of staff and youth,” the monitor wrote.

Staffing levels have im-

proved since the last report, but DOC is continuing to hold hiring events to address worker shortages. The monitor noted the vacancies, especially among education staff, but applauded the DOC and its efforts to address the shortages.

“(DOC is) working diligently to try to attract and retain staff for these critical roles and have truly created significant incentives for new and existing employees to help with attracting new talent and retaining current staff,” the monitor wrote.

DOC said it is continuing to move forward on the development of a new Type 1 facility in Milwaukee County.

On Aug. 9, the Wisconsin State Building Commission approved funding for construction of the new facility, expected to be completed in 2026, as well as funding for the planning and development of a second Type 1 facility in Dane County.

“The projects would allow youth to be closer to their families and community support systems,” DOC stated.

A listing of all monitor reports can be found on the DOC website at [www.tinyurl.com/bdf558j8](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdf558j8).

## Nicolet College students, Learning in Retirement program members partner for Aging and Mobility class

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

RHINELANDER – The Nicolet College Learning in Retirement (LIR) program recently partnered with Medical Assistant students to address a growing concern within the aging population: the risk of falling and fall-related accidents.

“As individuals age, the likelihood of experiencing a fall increases, and these incidents can have a profound impact on quality of life,” a release from Nicolet said. “That’s why LIR collaborated with students for its Aging and Mobility class.”

Nicolet said the recent Aging and Mobility class provided an opportunity for participants to measure their risk of falling and gain insight into preventive measures to help ensure their safety and well-being.

Kurt Klemm, retired physical therapist, and his daughter, Erin Nelson, DPT, also a physical therapist who works at Aspirus Eagle River, led participants through a series of simple tests commonly used in physical therapy.

The students helped provide the exercises to assess balance, muscle strength, coordination and overall mobility and empower LIR members to make informed decisions about their personal safety and mobility.

“Participating in activities like these builds a bond between our students and community members,” said Jolene Guenther, Medical Assistant Program Director and Instructor. “Learning through service is one of our students’ favorite ways to learn. Talking with participants of Learning in Retirement helps them understand more about what medical assistants can do. It was really a great experience for us to be given the opportunity to help.”

Nicolet said the Aging and Mobility class is a “unique opportunity for older adults to connect with students who are pursuing careers in healthcare.”

“It provides a win-win scenario, as participants receive valuable insights into their own health, while students gain practical experience and make a positive



Physical therapists and Nicolet College students recently performed health assessments with Learning in Retirement program members.

Photo courtesy of Nicolet College

impact on the community,” Nicolet stated. Margaret Barnes, President of LIR, also expressed her enthusiasm for the program.

“This partnership exemplifies the spirit of collaboration that LIR strives for,” Barnes said. “We are dedicated to providing meaningful and enriching experiences for our members, and the Aging and Mobility class is a wonderful addition to our program offerings. We believe it will greatly benefit our community members and inspire a sense of unity between generations.”

### About Learning in Retirement

Nicolet College Learning in Retirement offers a variety of educational opportunities and enrichment programs for older adults.

“These programs are designed to promote lifelong learning, personal growth and community engagement,” Nicolet said. “By partnering with experienced professionals, Nicolet College Learning in Retirement ensures that participants receive high-quality educational experiences that cater to their unique needs and interests.”

For information about joining LIR, contact Nicolet College at 715-365-4544 or visit [www.nicoletcollege.edu/lir](http://www.nicoletcollege.edu/lir).

# 2023 OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday, November 11  
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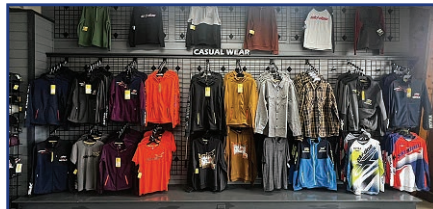
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