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The 57th Venison Feed was held on W. Wisconsin Ave. in downtown Tomahawk on Friday, Nov. 17. For decades, the event has served as a kickoff for Wisconsin's nine-day gun deer hunting season. The Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce, which organized the event, said 1,600 free venison burgers were served within an hour and a half. "Thank you for the support for the community and our sponsors," the Chamber said. "We will see you next year at the 58th Feed!"

Photo courtesy of the Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce

With Bambinos closing after 24 years, Nacho's to rent space ahead of restaurant rebuild

BY SUANNE VANNATTER

TOMAHAWK – It was Thursday, Nov. 2 as Randy Vannatter was driving to Bambinos to start his day, as he has for the past 10 years, when he saw the ominous cloud of smoke rising from downtown Tomahawk.

The fire sadly destroyed two of our businesses: Andrea Krueger's Century 21 office and Nacho's Mexican Grill.

That day also marks the beginning of the end of an era for Bambinos.

Bambinos was started in Dec. 1999 by Mike and Tina Vannatter in the space that Tomahawk Furniture is in currently, and if you called to order pizza, you would hear, "Bambinos – greatest pizza in the world!"

After much success, they relocated the business to its current location at 204 W. Wisconsin Ave. and added gluten-free options. In 2013, they sold Bambinos to Mike's brother, Randy, and his wife, SuAnne, who carried on the pizza tradition, expanding the all-you-can-eat buffet with a large and fresh salad bar.

In 2020, with the state-wide shutdown, Bambinos



Pictured, from left: SuAnne, Randy, Mike and Tina Vannatter.

survived with the already busy delivery service.

With the reopening and resulting staffing needs, Randy began to consider the option of selling the business. There was no thought another restaurant would one day need space until their building could be rebuilt, but the morning of Nov. 2 changed that.

Andrea Krueger, working without an office, graciously and quickly assisted

the two restaurant owners to negotiate an agreement to allow Nacho's to rent the space.

The good news is the food truck will still be available for future local events and pizza catering!

Bambinos' final day will be Saturday, Dec. 2, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., serving pizza only. Our staff has worked hard with the increased orders from everyone who has wanted their last expe-



Pictured are Randy of Bambinos (left) and Nacho of Nacho's Mexican Grill.

Photos courtesy of SuAnne Vannatter

rience of Bambinos these past three weeks, including some driving up from Illinois.

Once again, Randy and SuAnne, along with Mike and Tina and their fami-

lies, want to say they are beyond grateful to the community for their loyal patronage, feeling blessed to have offered a family-friendly place to gather, eat and make memories for 24

years.

We have been amazed by the love and response from everyone, confirming Bambinos just may be the greatest pizza in the world!

A&L Committee discusses Pine Crest offer in closed session, takes no action

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR

MERRILL – The Lincoln County Administrative and Legislative (A&L) Commit-

tee this week discussed an offer to purchase Pine Crest Nursing Home from the county, but ultimately took no action on the offer.

During its meeting at the Lincoln County Service

Center in Merrill on Tuesday, Nov. 21, the committee adjourned into closed session, per Wisconsin statutes, to talk over a proposal to buy the Merrill facility from Lincoln County.

After reconvening into open session and taking no action on items discussed in closed session, Committee Chair Don Friske said that when the committee has an "actionable item,"

a meeting will be held and public notice of the meeting will be provided, according to meeting minutes.

The A&L Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 6.

In the event the A&L Committee were to vote to accept an offer to purchase Pine Crest, the offer would be forwarded to the full Lincoln County Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Our Sisters' House, Salvation Army of Tomahawk awarded Green Bay Packers Foundation grants

MAC Home in Merrill also among Lincoln County recipients

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – A trio of Lincoln County organizations, including two in Tomahawk, were recently awarded grant funding from the Green Bay Packers Foundation.

The Green Bay Packers Foundation, on Monday, Nov. 20, announced that it had distributed a record \$1.5 million in annual grants to 321 civic and charitable groups throughout the state of Wisconsin in its annual distribution of grants.

Michael Barber, chairperson of the Foundation, made the announcement, honoring and recognizing the outstanding efforts and services performed by each of the organizations.

Of the Foundation's contributions, 40 grants – aggregating \$189,500.00 – were awarded to Brown County organizations.

Additional grants, totaling \$1,310,500.00, were made to 281 other groups around the state.

A release from the Foundation said this year's grant cycle "focused on organizations that will direct the funds toward the need areas of elderly, homelessness, human services and hunger."

Grants were awarded to organizations located in 50 of Wisconsin's 72 counties, with 43 grants going to the elderly, 66 to homelessness, 135 to human services and 77 to hunger.

Our Sisters' House Temporary Homeless Shelter



in Tomahawk, the Salvation Army of Tomahawk and the Merrill Community Homeless Shelter, also known as MAC Home, each received grant funding.

Other local grant recipients included the Northwoods Alliance for Temporary Housing and the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry, both located in Oneida County; the Taylor County Literacy Council; and Feed Our Rural Kids Inc. and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, both in Vilas County.

The grants awarded by the Foundation are not recurring and must be used for the specific program or initiative for which the organizations applied, according to the release.

"We're proud to award a record \$1.5 million through our annual Packers Foundation grants this year," said Packers President/CEO Mark

Murphy. "The recipient organizations are incredibly dedicated to their communities, serving some of our most vulnerable neighbors. We are honored to recognize and support their impactful and crucial work."

The Foundation said it has now distributed more than \$22,542,000.00 for charitable purposes since it was established in 1986 by Judge Robert J. Parins, then president of the Packers Corporation, "as a vehicle to assure continued contributions to charity."

"Additionally, under the Packers Scholarship Program established in 2002, \$53,000.00 was awarded – \$26,500.00 to Scholarships Inc., for distribution to students in four-year colleges, and \$26,500.00 to Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) – for distribution to students in two-

year associate degree or apprenticeship trades programs," the Foundation stated. "A portion of the scholarship funds come from National Football League Properties which, at the Packers' request, returns to the Foundation royalty fees paid for using the Packers logo on Wisconsin automobile license plates. Because the royalties do not fully cover the scholarships, the Green Bay Packers fund the remainder of the amount, a figure which totals \$557,000.00 since 2006. As in recent years, the Packers Foundation will also distribute additional dollars to various NFL Foundation programs in the coming months."

The Green Bay Packers Foundation Trustees, in addition to Barber, include Dexter McNabb, Jan Allman, LeRoy Butler, Eddie Garcia, Mike Haddad, Jeffrey Joerres, Wilson Jones, Laurie Radke and Mike Simmer.

The Packers Foundation and its annual grants are part of Green Bay Packers Give Back, the

Packers' all-encompassing community outreach initiative that comprises appearances made by players, alumni, coaches and staff, football outreach, cash and in-kind donations, Make-A-Wish visits and community events.

Including \$1.5 million in annual grants and a total of \$1.5 million in impact grants to Foster the Village Inc., Journey To Adult Success, Journeys Lutheran School, Just One More Ministry Inc., Medical College of Wisconsin, NeighborWorks Green Bay, School District of South Milwaukee and Urban League of Greater Madison Inc., as well as \$250,000.00 to Give BIG Green Bay and \$5,000.00 to the American Legion Sullivan Wallen Post 11, \$3.255 million has been awarded through Packers Foundation grants this year.

To learn more about the Green Bay Packers Foundation, visit www.packers.com/community/packers-foundation.

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

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

Expressions of gratitude and thanks will be published in the Card of Thanks section, for which there is a fee.

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Pictured are bell ringing scheduler Win Semmler and wife, Joanne.



The Salvation Army of Tomahawk's Red Kettle Campaign is now underway. Honorary Chairperson Terry Derleth and a volunteer ringer from Grace Lutheran Church kicked off the fundraising effort at Trig's on Friday, Nov. 17. The Salvation Army is continuing to seek volunteer bell ringers. To sign up for a time to ring, call Win at 630-667-3250 or visit www.registertoring.com.



Pictured are Pat Pietela and daughter Carmi, and Dennis Mannering of First Congregational Church. Photos courtesy of Dennis Mannering



O'Tannenbaum Tour

See the beautiful decorated live trees.

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URGENT Pine Crest Update

Lincoln County Board has an offer to purchase Pine Crest
A majority vote by the board can STOP the sale!

We, People for Pine Crest, are opposed to selling our nursing home.
Why would we sell our county-owned nursing home when:

- Pine Crest is operating in the black – there is no additional cost to county taxpayers.
- Pine Crest has and can continue to provide a 5-star “place” for all of us: no matter our financial situation.
- The debt service is paid by North Central Health Care – who pays it if Pine Crest is sold – us the taxpayers.

Who would benefit from selling Pine Crest?

- **Not** current or future residents
- **Not** employees
- **Not** Lincoln County families
- **Not** our local economy
- **Not** Lincoln County Taxpayers

Lincoln County is a place where people HELP each other, not turn our backs on our neighbors when they need a hand.

Although county board denied us a referendum to support pine crest on a 13-9 vote, here's what you can do today to keep Pine Crest county owned:

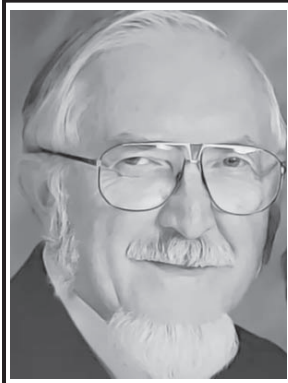
Call Lincoln County board chair Don Friske at 715.218.0410
 and your own supervisor and tell them not to sell Pine Crest. Selling our nursing home is bad for our community and goes against what Lincoln County stands for.

If you have any questions or ideas: **People for Pine Crest at: info@people4pinecrest.com**

thank you!

OBITUARIES

Obituary updates are posted at www.tomahawkleader.com



Dr. Oscar A. Hildebrandt, age 89, of Tomahawk, passed away on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital. Oscar was born at his family home in the Town of Rhine, WI, on June 7, 1934, to the late Oscar H. and Clara (Hagenow) Hildebrandt. He was married to Mary Wuest on November 24, 1962; she survives.

Oscar grew up in Kiel, WI, where he was a 1952 graduate of Kiel High School. He later attended the University of Wisconsin Madison followed by Veterinary School in Minnesota, graduating in 1958. Oscar started the Medford Veterinary Clinic and operated the clinic until his retirement in 1990. Oscar and Mary moved to Tomahawk 30 years ago and have been longtime members of the First Congregational Church of Tomahawk.

He enjoyed investing and loved traveling the world with his wife. He was an avid Green Bay Packers fan and season ticket holder. Oscar had helped organize and was a member of the board of directors for Medford National Bank. He served on the Medford School Board for 24 years, and he also served on the Wisconsin Veterinary Board. He was a former member of the Jaycees.

Survivors include his wife of over 60 years, Mary E. Hildebrandt; his sons, Dr. Hugh H. Hildebrandt and Kurt E. Hildebrandt; and his daughter, Denise J. Hildebrandt. He is further survived by his four grandchildren, Dalton, Hunter, Rowan, and Ennis. He was preceded in death by his parents, Oscar H. and Clara Hildebrandt.

Funeral services for Dr. Oscar Hildebrandt were held on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 1:00 PM, at the First Congregational Church of Tomahawk. Pastors Dennis and Wendy Mannering officiated. The family received friends for visitation on Monday from 11:00 AM until the time of services at 1:00 PM. Private family burial services were held on Tuesday, November 14, at Evergreen Cemetery II in Medford, WI. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory of Tomahawk is assisting the family.



Nels Fredrick Thommesen, age 88, of Oconomowoc and Tomahawk, Wis., passed away quietly on Nov. 12, 2023, in Lehigh Acres, Fla. He was born on Oct. 23, 1935, in West Allis, Wis., to Helga and Olaf Thommesen. The family moved to Okauchee about 1952 and he graduated from Oconomowoc High School in 1954.

Nels served in the U.S. Navy from 1955 to 1957 in Great Lakes, Ill., and later Norfolk, Va., as a FPG3, Pipefitter/Fireman on the USS Sierra (AD-18). Honorably discharged, he had a successful career at Thor Power Tools and Aurora Pump Supply until retirement in 1996 as Vice President.

His greatest joy came from living on Lac La Belle with his wife, Judy, of 24 years and their four cherished children. For many years, he sailed as part of the Yacht Club, in the summer, and ran with the Frozen Butts Incorporated (FBI) Snowmobile Club in the winter. As active as they were, at the end of day, there was always time to enjoy sipping a vodka and tonic while watching the magical sunsets over Lac La Belle and later from his deck in Tomahawk.

Nels had a variety of talents and interests in his life. If he wasn't enjoying races at any of the multiple tracks he would attend, he would be rooting for his favorite NASCAR drivers. In July, he was always excited to get to see the Offenhauser-Miller cars at state fair park. He was in awe of the Thunderbirds and would go to the EAA shows to see the war birds fly. As a good Norwegian, Nels had a fun sense of humor. Always making silly faces when slurping down raw oysters and Lutefisk but following it up with a quirky smile and proclaiming "SO GOOD!" He was a kind soul with a big heart and bigger hugs. Passionate to help any of his multitude of friends at a given notice.

Nels will be deeply missed by his sister, Grace Thommesen, his children, Kimberly (Paul) Carpenter, Timothy (Dawn) Thommesen, Terry Krenzlok, Scott (Sara) Thommesen, nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, countless extended family and friends, and his ever-loyal lap buddy, Thommy 2.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 24 years, Judy Hales Thommesen, his parents, Olaf, and Helga Paulson Thommesen, his brothers, Milton (Ruth), Ivar (Pat), Wesley (Fusako "Dee"), nephew Michael (Anna) Ewanowski, and his sisters-in-law, Penny (Pete) Francisco and Leslie (Jim) Mueller.

The family wishes to extend our deepest appreciation to Dawn Thommesen, daughter-in-law, for the care and dedication given to Nels, and special thanks to Hope Hospice of Florida, the V.A. of Florida, Rhineland, Milwaukee, Wis., and Iron Mountain, Mich.

The family is planning a 2024 summer gathering in Oconomowoc to honor Nels' life. A **GO FUND ME PAGE** has been set up at www.gofund.me/18062523 to purchase a City of Oconomowoc Park bench in his memory for friends and family, to sit, relax and take in a Lac La Belle sunset that he and Judy enjoyed so much. Donations are appreciated. In the words of one of dad's favorite singers, Vera Lynn "Until we'll meet again."

Janiece Maxine Colvin was born Aug. 4, 1930 to Alverda and Emmett Colvin and died peacefully in her sleep surrounded by loving family on Nov. 13, 2023. There was a lot of living in between.

Janiece grew up during the Depression. Her father was a dairy farmer and mother was a teacher. Their family had very little financially, but were rich with love. Janiece began her education in a one room country school and graduated from Stratford High School. In 1948 she started at the Stevens Point Teachers College where she met Donald Hendrick and began a 40-year relationship.

After Don finished college, he took a job in Grand Marais, Mich. Don and Janiece were married June 14, 1952 at the Catholic church in Grand Marais and she became Janiece Hendrick. On July 14, 1953 they had their first child, John. After three years in Grand Marais, Don got a job at the junior high school in Tomahawk. In between having three more children (Kevin, Mary and Ann), Janiece taught at the Bradley, Hiawatha, and Whittier schools until 1960. In 1964, they had a fifth child, Lois. Janiece continued to teach elementary school in Tomahawk. The family traveled many places in the United States, often for Don's educational pursuits. This likely sparked Janiece's keen interest in continued travels throughout her long life. Winters were spent in Tomahawk snowmobiling and summers at their land on Somo Lake.

When Don Hendrick died unexpectedly in 1986 at the age of 58, it was a terrible shock. With the support of her friends, family and church, Janiece carried on. Janiece lived her life to the fullest in the years that followed. She completed her master's degree in education, and continued teaching until 1991, when she retired after 35 years in the classroom. She was very active in the Methodist church in Tomahawk, and lived a life rich in service. She became active in many educational organizations, serving on boards and committees for Central Wisconsin Educators, CESA and WEAC. She was heavily involved in the American Legion Auxiliary, serving as president of the local unit, district 11 and then at the state level.

In 1994, Janiece found companionship with Bill Fischer. They married and she became Janiece Fischer. They spent 23 happy years together and traveled extensively to Russia, Africa, Alaska, and all over the United States. After Bill died in 2017, Janiece persevered and continued living independently for years.

At the venerable age of 93, her physical body wore out, but her indomitable spirit lives on in heaven with her parents, twin sisters, two beloved husbands, a grandson and friends that have passed before her. Janiece is survived by her five children - John (Sara) Hendrick, Kevin (Jill) Hendrick, Mary Hendrick, Ann Hendrick and Lois (Tim) Harrison. She is further survived by her grandchildren Megan, Rowan, Allie, Winona, Donovan, Rachel, Jim, Isaiah, Travis, Kaden and Devin, and great-grandchildren Hannah, Hazel and Willow.

Janiece Maxine Colvin Hendrick Fischer had a profound impact on thousands of people and will be remembered fondly as a caring teacher, loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and steadfast friend. She was generous, loving, supportive, funny, stubborn, an advocate for those who needed it, well dressed, and patriotic to her core. We are all blessed to have known her.

The family wishes to thank the wonderful staff at The Willows in Iola, Wis., who provided Janiece with a happy and caring living environment in her final years, and the Compassus hospice team who helped her live in dignity and comfort to the end.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Dec. 9 at the Boston Funeral Home, 1649 Briggs St., Stevens Point. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and the service starts at 11 a.m. For those interested in attending the funeral services, the family requests that you wear bright colors to honor Janiece's personality and wardrobe preferences in life. Burial service to be held at Calvary Cemetery in Tomahawk on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 1 p.m.

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.

Over the last few weeks we have looked at Romans 1 and 2 and its description of the fact that God does not judge us all by the same standard (Bible or conscience), but He does judge us all by the same principle (what did we do with what we knew). Today, we shall look at Romans 3:1-8, which continues the discussion of the last five verses of chapter 2.

In Romans 2:25-29, we saw that religious practices (like circumcision) mean nothing if we are not obeying the moral teachings of God's law. But if the Gentiles who did not have God's law were obeying the moral teachings of God's law, then their obedience would make them just as good as the Jews who had God's law with its religious instruction (circumcision). Chapter 3, verse 1, starts with the question, *Then what good was it for the Jews to have God's law and its religious instructions (such as circumcision)?* The answer in verse 2 is that the Jew had every advantage over the Gentiles because at least they knew what God wanted - they had God's message (*oracles of God*).

Verse 3 then asks, *What if the Jews did not believe God, did their unbelief cancel out all that God said?* The answer in verse 4 is, *Don't even entertain such a question!* Why? Because what God said to the Jew was true, and even if no one believed God, God's message would still be true! The writer then closes this verse with a quote from Psalm 51:4, its message was that when God judges us, the faithfulness of God's judgment will be shown by what God had already said in His law.

Beginning with verse 5, we are confronted by the question, *If our unbelief (unrighteousness) gives to God the opportunity to show that His judgment is fair, then isn't God being unfair when He condemns us for not believing Him?* That is a twisted argument used to defend unbelief against God's judgment against unbelief, but the answer is again, *Don't even entertain such a question! How could God judge if He never made known what it is that He expects from us* (verse 6). Earlier, we saw in Romans 2:12-16 that we all know what God wants both through His written law and through the conscience that He has given to us.

Verses 7 and 8 continue this argument, let me paraphrase it for you; *If the justness of God's judgment is shown when He judges me for my unbelief and sin, then God should really be thanking me for the opportunity my unbelief gives to Him to display how fair He is, rather than judging me for not believing Him.* This really is twisted logic. Verse 8 concludes with a reply to such foolish thinking, *Anyone who think this way deserves God's judgment* (damnation).

The essence of these verses is that what God has said is true, whether we believe it or not. And there is no argument that we could possibly give that would protect us from God's just condemnation of unbelief.

Pastor Charles Scheele

Berean Baptist Church, Tomahawk
bereanbaptisttomahawk@gmail.com

Church DIRECTORY

First Congregational
N. Fifth & E. Washington Ave.,
Tomahawk 715-453-2217
8:30am Bible Study • 9:30am Worship
Pastor John Miskimen

ReviveNow Church
1328 County Rd. A,
Tomahawk
715-453-8783
Sunday Service & Facebook
Live Stream: 9:30am
Prayer Meetings:
Tuesdays 6pm
Pastors Jaco & Leslie Theron

Community Seventh Day Adventist
Hwy. 86/D, Tomahawk • 715-453-5809
Pastor Eric Anderson
Church: 9am, Sabbath School: 10:15am
Radio WLBI-LP 107.1 FM

Northland Bible Church
2810 Olson Road, Tomahawk
Join Us Sunday 10 a.m.
Pastor Alex Lindsay
715-612-1841
northlandbiblechurch.com

The Rock Church of Tomahawk
201 West Merrill Ave., Tomahawk
9am Sunday Service & live-streamed on our Facebook page.
Pastors: Janel and Mike Voelker
Assoc. Pastor: Jessica Mueller

Redeemer Ev. Lutheran
WELS • 715-453-4814
16 Theiler Drive,
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Rev. Mark Gass, Pastor
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12 E. Wisconsin Ave.,
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Pastor Stephen P. Gillet

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Grace Lutheran ELCA
108 W. Somo Ave.
715-453-4066
Worship Times:
Sat., 5 pm • Sun., 9 am
Pastor Julie Sinkula
Streaming Worship on our website:
www.gracelutherantomahawk.org

Spirit Baptist
Hwy. 86, 1/4 Mile West
of Hwy. 102, Spirit
715-657-0304 • 715-657-0764
Duane Harper Pastor
Affiliated w/Baptist General Conference

Berean Baptist Church
19 N. Third St., Tomahawk
Pastor Charles Scheele
715-453-3407
Sunday School - 9:30 am Sunday
Morning Service - 10:45 am Sunday
Mid-week Bible study - 7:00 pm Wednesday

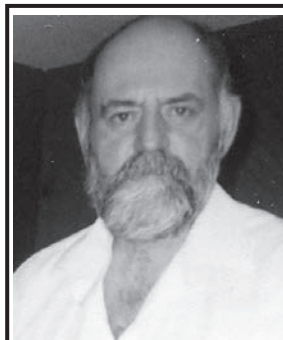
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Sunday 8:00 a.m. Mass

Northwoods Vineyard
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Tomahawk • 715-453-6700
Pastor Nate & Shelley Nelson
Reg. Serv. 9:30
Facebook Live Stream 9:30

United Methodist Church
Tomahawk & Spirit
Rev. Lisa Weaver
715-453-4378
Join Us Sunday:
8:30 in Spirit, 10:30 in Tomahawk
in person & 10:30 Online Via Zoom



Howard (Butch) William Hoff, 77, of Tomahawk, passed away Monday, Nov. 20, 2023 at Howard Young Medical Center, Woodruff. Howard was born June 23, 1946 in Tomahawk the son of Howard and Marion (VanNorman) Hoff. Howard graduated from Tomahawk High School in 1964. He worked in the construction industry and retired in 2007 from Tomahawk Log Homes. He was united in marriage to Nancy Boykins on July 11, 1964 in Tomahawk.

Howard loved spending time at the log cabin he built. He loved being outdoors and was happiest when he had dirt under his nails or hip boots on his feet. He was an avid vegetable gardener and grew a huge beautiful vegetable garden. One would have a difficult time finding any weeds in his garden. Howard was a Brewer and Packer fan and enjoyed all sports. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, trapping and playing golf. Howard's faith was also very important to him. Howard especially loved spending time with his family.

He may have been a man of few words but he always had a great sense of humor. He is going to be deeply missed by many.

He is survived by his wife Nancy of 59 years, their three children, Brad Hoff, Rebecca (Charles) Jaecks, and Brendt Hoff, all of Tomahawk; four grandchildren; two great-granddaughters and one great-great-granddaughter; sisters, Sharon (Robert) Eisenman, Tomahawk, Cindy (Bob) Westcott, Tomahawk, Debbie (Glen) Powers, Tomahawk; and brother-in-law, Charlie (Teri) Wilson, Illinois.

Howard was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Kathy Wilson, daughter-in-law Lori and his grandson. Memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Dec., 4, 2023 at St. Mary's Catholic Church with Father Louis Maram Reddy officiating with a luncheon served afterwards in the Corpus Christi Hall. No visitation will be held per his wishes.

Krueger-Nimsgern Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements. Online condolences for the family may be directed to www.nimsgernfuneral.com.

One killed in head-on collision in Town of Bradley

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR

TOWN OF BRADLEY – One person was killed in a head-on collision in the Town of Bradley last week.

According to a release from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, on Wednesday, Nov. 22, at approximately 1:28 p.m., the Lincoln County 911 Dispatch Center received a report of a two-vehicle head-on crash at the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 8 and Rapel Rd., north of Tomahawk.

Callers reported that the driver of one of the vehicles was trapped and

non-responsive.

The Sheriff's Office said preliminary investigation and witness statements suggested that a pickup truck was traveling eastbound when it crossed the centerline and struck a westbound utility work truck occupied by three male parties.

The utility truck flipped into the ditch, and there were minor injuries reported by the occupants, according to the Sheriff's Office.

The operator of the pickup truck, a 78-year-old man who had not been identified by the Sheriff's Office as of press time on

Monday, Nov. 27, was pronounced dead at the scene.

U.S. Hwy. 8 was closed for approximately 5 ½ hours.

Agencies assisting the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office at the scene included Lincoln County EMS, Oneida County EMS, the Lincoln County Coroner's Office, the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, the Wisconsin State Patrol, the Tomahawk Police Department, the Tomahawk Fire Department, the Nokomis Fire Department, the Lincoln County Highway Department and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT).

Oneida County crash claims life of Sun Prairie man

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

ONEIDA COUNTY – A man from southern Wisconsin was killed in a crash involving a semi-truck in Oneida County last weekend.

A release from the Oneida County Sheriff's Office said on Sunday, Nov. 19, at approximately 10:44 a.m., the Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 call reporting a motor vehicle accident at the intersection of County Rd. K and U.S. Hwy. 51.

Upon arrival, it appeared that a southbound 2018 Cadillac X5 was mak-

ing a left turn eastbound onto County Rd. K and turned in front of a 2022 Mack semi-truck, and the semi-truck struck the Cadillac as it was making its turn, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Lifesaving measures were given to the operator of the Cadillac, identified by the Sheriff's Office on Monday, Nov. 20 as Robert D. Canfield, 76, of Sun Prairie, but Canfield was ultimately pronounced dead at the scene.

The operator of the semi-truck, who was not identified by the Sheriff's Office, was uninjured.

The Wisconsin State Patrol is completing an accident reconstruction.

The Oneida County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the Oneida County HAZMAT Team, Oneida County Ambulance Service, Lifelink Helicopter, Cassian Fire, Nokomis Fire and First Responders, the Minocqua and Woodruff police departments and the Oneida County Highway Department.

U.S. Hwy. 51 in the area of the incident was detoured for approximately five hours.



Pictured with L&S Truck Parts co-owner Corey Steinmann are Chamber Ambassadors MaryLu Voermans, Bunny Kluka, Brena Reiche, Kristi Davis, Becky Jaecks, Sarah Ristau, Karrie Hess, Jennifer VanRixel and Jennifer Turkiewicz. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Turkiewicz

Chamber Ambassadors welcome L&S Truck Parts to downtown Tomahawk

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – The Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors recently stopped by L&S Truck Parts to welcome the new business to downtown Tomahawk.

L&S Truck Parts is located at 214 W. Wisconsin Ave.

The Chamber said L&S offers everyday service items, as well as engine, transmission and brake parts.

"They also have a new line of pickup truck and car accessories – running boards, Tonneau covers, floor mats, mud flaps, and the list goes on," the Chamber stated.

Corey Steinmann's father started L&S Truck Service in Juda, Wis., in 1978. The business fea-

tured a small bay service shop for heavy duty trucks. In the early 2000s, another building was added, growing the business to nine service bays.

After Corey's father passed away in 2008, he and his brother took over the business, purchasing it from their mother several years ago.

"Vacationing in the Tomahawk area for years and really liking the area, they threw out the idea of adding a second facility as a parts-only store for heavy duty new and used truck parts, and here we are," the Chamber stated,

adding that at the time, the only building for sale was located downtown, and they were excited to come to the area to get started.

The Chamber noted that while their current location is "not ideal, with the current floorplan, they do have enough room for a showroom and everything that they want to do," and down the road, the Steinmanns "hope to find a location where trucks could get in and out of a little better, as well as a bay where they can get a truck in, not only to help diagnose, but provide the parts and service needed to get back on the road."

"L&S Truck Parts is excited to be in Tomahawk and looks forward providing customers with superior products and services through a small and personable staff of skilled and professionally-trained employees," the Chamber said.

WEATHER

DATE	HIGH (°F)	LOW (°F)	Wednesday, Nov. 22	39	28
Sunday, Nov. 19	48	25	Thursday, Nov. 23	30	9
Monday, Nov. 20	41	28	Friday, Nov. 24	31	9
Tuesday, Nov. 21	45	21	Saturday, Nov. 25	30	20

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The Support Tomahawk Area Resources (STAR) Foundation recently awarded a pair of grants. The Tomahawk Community Theater received a grant of \$500.00.



A grant of \$1,000.00 was awarded to Hometown Christmas. Photos courtesy of Kay Kissinger Wolf



Earlier this month, the STAR Foundation recognized JEB's Bar and Grill of Irma as the winner of the 2023 Burger Bash. Other participants were B's Landing Bar, Boomba Bar and Grill, Castaways Bar and Grill, Gordo's Garage Bar and Grill, Pine Pointe Bar and Grill, Road Lake Pub and Grill, Tomahawk Family Restaurant, Winding Trail Bar and Grill and WT Silverado. The Burger Bash is one of three annual STAR Foundation fundraisers, which also include Fun Run map cards for the Northwoods Fall Ride and the STAR Splash.



Photos courtesy of Michele Balda

THS Drama Department's one-act play earns accolades at State competition

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

GREEN BAY – The Tomahawk High School (THS) Drama Department performed its one-act play at the State competition at UW-Green Bay earlier this month and earned numerous accolades.

Director Michele Balda said that although the performance of "She Wrote, Died, Then Wrote Some More" went over time, preventing it from earning Critic's Choice or Directing awards, one judge did award a perfect score.

"We decided we would slow down anyway to give our best performance, and we were not disappointed," Balda stated. "The audience loved it, and the kids were so excited by the cheers from the audience during and after. It was a marvelous performance, and the kids were very emotional about and overwhelmed by the entire experience, with so many encouraging reflections towards each other about our entire season



Pictured, from left: Xan Sutton, Trey Morrison and Murphy Koth.

after our critique."

Balda added that, to top it off, in addition to All-State honors as one of 36 out of the 80 schools that started the season, THS also received an Outstanding Ensemble award, which, Balda

said, was "in our minds our personal Critic's Choice."

THS also took home an Outstanding Technical Theatre award, and Xan Sutton, Trey Morrison and Murphy Koth each earned Outstanding Acting awards.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

A son, Waylon James, was born to Torrie and Bret Hamrick Jr., Tomahawk, on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Love or Soulmates

Dear Reader,

Are there soulmates in this world? Possibly, and possibly not. When I think of my daughter Katelyn's love for her husband, I think of soulmates. When I think of other people who love each other, I think of them as semi-soulmates.

And then, when I think of people who just like each other, and want to be with each other, possibly they are soulmates of some sort too.

Love can be so diverse, from the deep connection of soulmates to the affection between people who simply like each other. It's a reminder that there's no one-size-fits-all definition of love, and that's what makes it so unique and special for each person.



PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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LEGALS

Legals 7700

CLAIMS DEADLINE NOTICE IN THE MATTER OF CHERYL L. FRIEL AND THE CLF INCOME TRUST DATED JULY 27, 2023

Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute § 701.0508, Wisconsin Statutes, James P. Friel, as Trustee of the CLF Income Trust dated July 27, 2023 with the power to pay the debts of Cheryl L. Friel (deceased 9/24/2023) hereby provides notice that the deadline for filing for payment of debts of Cheryl L. Friel and/or the CLF Income Trust dated July 27, 2023 is four (4) months after the date of first insertion of this notice.

Minutes 7725

Regular Meeting Tuesday, October 10, 2023 5:30 PM District Meeting Room, 1048 E King Road, Tomahawk, WI 54487

Present: W. Quesinberry, S. Woodall, S. Bolder, G. Steckbauer, M. Schommer, W. Simonis, (1) staff member and (2) community members. I. Call to Order: K. Kissinger Wolf called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 pm

Minutes 7725

John Larson, High School Head Boys Basketball Coach Neil Breitenfeld, High School JV2 Boys Basketball Coach

Raleigh Jahn, Middle School Head Boys 8th Grade Basketball Coach Jacob Seelig, Middle School Head Boys 7th Grade Basketball Coach 5. Volunteer Mikayla Zipp, One-Act Play 6. Student Transportation Contracts Amy Ploeckelman, Karren Dewitt I Start College Now J Donations

Minutes 7725

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Minutes 7725

XIV. Public Comment: B. Skubal recognized Coach Garrou, Bob Lee. XV. Board Referrals: There were no Board Referrals.

XVI. Adjourn: K. Kissinger Wolf adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:12 pm

Notice To Creditors 7735

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LAWRENCE J. TARVAS DOD: July 8, 2023

Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 2023IN47

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

- 1. An application for informal administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth April 12, 1942 and date of death July 8, 2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N7725 Highway 107, Tomahawk, WI 54487.

DATE SIGNED: November 15, 2023 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer

Probate Registrar Form completed by: Attorney Bridget M. Erwin Hager, Dewick & Zueneger, S.C. 200 S. Washington St., Ste 200 Green Bay, WI 54301

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NOTICE OF QUOTATIONS

The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department is seeking to contract with an individual or entity to hand plant 58,000 containerized Red Pine tree seedlings on 72 acres of Lincoln County Forest. This project is to be completed by May 15, 2024.

Specifications and instructions may be obtained from Dean Bowe, Lincoln County Forest Administrator at 801 N. Sales Street, Suite 106; from the County Clerk (801 N. Sales Street, Suite 201, Merrill), or online at www.co.lincoln.wi.us. Phone (715) 539-1034. Proposals must conform to the requirements of the specifications and instructions.

Proposals must be received by the Forestry, Land and Parks Department on or before 3:00 PM Thursday December 21, 2023 and will be publicly opened at the Forestry Department Office located at 801 N. Sales Street at 3:15 PM that day. Quotations will be prepared for consideration by the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee at the January 8, 2024 Committee meeting.

The Committee reserves the right to reject any or all quotations and accept any quotation or portion thereof they deem most advantageous to Lincoln County.

Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee Published November 23, 2023

REQUEST FOR PRICE QUOTE TOWN OF CORNING - Lincoln County Crushing Gravel at Town Pit

The Town of Corning is accepting 2 price quotes for crushing gravel in the Corning Town pit. The pit is located on Bergman Road. The gravel should meet State of Wisconsin DOT specified standards Grade II, ¾" base course. The gravel will be stockpiled in the pit. Only one of the bids will be chosen depending on the Town's budget restraints. For detailed map of pit location, contact Rick Hass, Clerk at (715) 536 3432.

The first bid would be for crushing approximately 20,000 yards of gravel. The second bid would be for crushing approximately 15,000 yards of gravel.

Bid Completion Date - May 31, 2024 Sealed price quotes are due by December 11th, 2023 (to be opened at the monthly town board meeting at 7:15 p.m.) Questions: Contact Ray Melander Chairman Chairman@tn.corning.wi.gov (715) 216-7309

The Town Board of Corning reserves the right to accept and/or reject any and/or all price quotes. Contractors will give the Town of Corning a Certificate of Insurance & accept all responsibility according to State Statutes that apply to Workmen's Compensation, Liability Insurance, Social Security and Withholding taxes.

Please send your sealed quotes to Rick Hass, Clerk, Town of Corning, N1428 Strawberry Lane, Merrill, WI 54452.

Rick Hass, Clerk Recycle Recycle Published November 29 & December 6, 2023

WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! For more information, or to file a complaint regarding an ad, please contact The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)

Activities and Meetings 7020

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Miscellaneous Merchandise 7266

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Knox Creek Heritage Center to host Finnish Independence Day celebration

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TOMAHAWK LEADER

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

BRANTWOOD – The Knox Creek Heritage Center (KCHC) will host its annual Finnish Independence Day celebration in Brantwood this weekend.

The event will be held at the Brantwood Community Center, located at the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 8 and County Rd. D north, Brantwood, on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Mojakka, a Finnish stew cooked in an old cast iron kettle over a wood fire outdoors,



will be served beginning at 1 p.m. Homemade bread and pulla, a traditional Finnish cardamom bread, will be available for purchase.

A program featuring Native American storyteller and poet Michael Laughing Fox Charette will take place.

KCHC President Kevin Wollemann reminded organization members to send in annual membership dues and said KCHC is always looking for new members and volunteers to help maintain the several

buildings on its museum grounds, located at N4517 W. Knox Rd., Brantwood.

Wollemann said the organization will be seeking help on numerous projects in the spring, including finishing the inside walls in the kitchen area of the pavilion and installing kitchen cabinets and a sink and stove from the basement of the main house in the pavilion.

For more information about KCHC, visit www.facebook.com/knox-creekheritagecenter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GLITC Adolescent Recovery and Wellness Center should be built on tribal land

To the Editor:

While I applaud the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC) for seeking to help those who have substance abuse problems, GLITC has numerous tribes in their association that have the public safety and medical infrastructure missing in the Town of Cassian.

The western part of Cassian is a remote area lacking appropriate public safety infrastructure for a drug rehabilitation facility the size and scope of the GLITC proposal. The largely rural residential area has a small presence of EMTs, firefighters, and police protection.

Therefore, by straining local resources, the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Cassian and the western part of Oneida County would be compromised. Due to the additional public service costs in a time of extremely tight county budgets, concerns for public safety with a facility of this type, and the devaluation of residents' property, the Oneida County zoning committee and Board of Directors should reject the Conditional Use Permit application.

In addition, Oneida

County residents should be aware that GLITC will at some point remove the land in question from fee to trust – meaning the property will no longer be taxable – shifting the burden onto the remaining Oneida County and Town of Cassian taxpayers. Local, county, and state entities will also no longer have regulatory authority over a facility that should be highly regulated.

I encourage GLITC to pursue their efforts for a high-risk facility on tribal lands. GLITC acknowledges the facility is primarily for Native American youth. Therefore, it only makes sense to build such a facility on tribal lands. I stand ready to assist the tribes in seeking federal funding when they identify an appropriate location, but to build such a facility in a remote area like the Town of Cassian makes no sense.

Rep. Tom Tiffany
Wisconsin's 7th
Congressional District

Many companies do make a profit at this and do it well

There is a lot of incorrect information going around regarding Pine Crest, its operation, and its financial situation:

Pine Crest is operating in the black. *Incorrect.* Pine Crest has not operated in

the black, made a profit, nor sustained itself in many years. The County Board has had to do last-minute, inventive budgeting to cover the short fall from Pine Crest for years.

Pine Crest has a five-star rating. *Misleading*, in that it just attained five-star status after many years of being three-star. With fewer residents, it is likely easier to attain, but not financially feasible.

Debt service is paid by NCHC. *Incorrect and ridiculous.* Are we blind sheep? We all know who signed that loan and who has to pay for it.

No one would benefit from selling Pine Crest. *Unknown.* Current and future residents may be happier and have better care. Employees and Lincoln County families/taxpayers would be happier as their tax rolls wouldn't be so burdened and we'd have more for our County's infrastructure.

County residents do not get precedence. My mother-in-law, a lifelong County resident, was refused twice. Pine Crest has less than 50% capacity. Know of any other business that could survive?

If I were a resident of Pine Crest, I would be much more at ease if I knew that the owner was experienced in nursing home operation,

knew the regulations, and wanted to make the business successful. Many companies do make a profit at this and do it well.

Gloria Rahlf
Rhineland
Lincoln County resident

They have a fiduciary and moral responsibility to us

Despite all of the public's opposition to the disposal of Pine Crest Nursing Home, the current County Board is rushing headlong into a highly questionable sale.

In spite of hundreds of petition signatures, direct phone calls to and personal contacts with county board members, multiple testimonies at multiple county board meetings, multiple letters-to-the-Editors in both local newspapers, a ¼-page ad in both local papers outlining unanswered questions and serious unaddressed economic concerns with the proposed sale, and ultimately, the results from the local papers' survey – the majority of all of the above were in opposition to the sale – the county board is pushing a sale that prompts more questions than answers.

All of the above opposition could have been resolved through a county-wide referendum, but the county board rejected that option multiple times.

Why?

More doubts arise when the contract with the brokerage firm, Marcus & Millichap, is examined, especially now that the board has received an offer to purchase. The county never obtained a formal appraisal, as required by adopted resolution 2021-03-15, which requires one for the sale of a property worth more than \$100,000.00. Why wasn't one obtained?

In addition, the brokerage firm warned the county, in writing, that forbidding the firm from advertising on the open market would result in a restricted, poorer quality of bids that would limit the firm's ability to solicit the highest possible price. Who benefits from that?

Apparently, there was no vote on offering the Health and Human Services Building for sale, but it is listed in the contract. When was that decision made and at what county board meeting?

The sale cannot be finalized until it is approved by the whole county board. It appears that this board has many questions to answer before they can proceed. Remind them, that first and foremost, they have a fiduciary and moral responsibility to us.

Diana C. Smith
Tomahawk

News Briefs

City of Tomahawk winter parking ban

The City of Tomahawk's winter parking ban will be in effect from Friday, Dec. 1 through Friday, March 15. Parking on city streets will not be allowed between 2:30 a.m. and 5 a.m.

St. Mary's and Friends holiday concert

St. Mary's and Friends will present their annual free holiday concert at St. Mary's Church, 320 E. Washington Ave., Tomahawk, on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. 70-plus musicians will perform "Festival of Christmas," followed by a reception featuring hors d'oeuvres and desserts. A free will offering will benefit the Tomahawk Area Interfaith

Volunteers. For more information, call Jan at 715-453-2878.

Warm for Winter distributing clothing in Rhineland

Warm for Winter, a mission of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Rhineland, 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., Rhineland, on Monday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 30, 9 a.m. to noon; and Monday, Jan. 8, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Additional dates are scheduled for next year. Donations can be placed in the bin outside of First Congregational, 135 E. Larch St.,

Rhineland, or the Oneida County Health Department, 100 W. Keenan St., Rhineland. For more information, refer to the Warm for Winter Facebook page (www.tinyurl.com/2w2ccd7s) or call 608-345-7305.

CESA 9 offering Substitute Teacher Training

CESA 9 in Tomahawk will offer Substitute Teacher Training on Tuesday, Dec. 12. Individuals with an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree and who successfully complete the training are eligible to apply for a Substitute Teacher permit. For more information, visit www.cesa9.org or call 715-453-2141.

National Wreaths Across America Day

A National Wreaths Across

America Day ceremony will be held at Northwoods National Cemetery, 4520 Lakewood Rd., Harshaw, on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 11 a.m. The program will include the Ceremonial Wreath laying (branch of service, POW/MIA, organization) and grave-specific wreath placements by family and friends, followed by a complimentary hot sandwich and dessert social at Rondele Ranch. Group sponsors for the event are American Legion Riders District 11 and Veterans Ceremony U.G.C. Inc. For information on group sponsorship, sponsoring a wreath for a veterans grave and/or volunteering to place a wreath, visit www.wreath-sacrossamerica.org/WINWNC or contact Mary, Location Coordinator, at 715-612-2196.

www.TomahawkLeader.com

Leader Sports & Nature

2023 fall sports, activities summary: Part two

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

TOMAHAWK – Last week, we reviewed Tomahawk High School (THS)'s 2023 football and volleyball seasons.

This week, we'll take a look at girls' swimming and girls' and boys' cross country, as well as the one-act play and the GNC Choir and Band Festival.

Girls' swimming

Our next team to look back at is the girls' swimming team, coached by third-year varsity coach Melissa Nieman, assisted by Kurt DeKiep.

Team members were Madeline List, Paige DeKiep, Maggie Lashua, Abigail Roberts, Emma Hoff, Morgan Kretschmar, Dorain Stefan, Kenadie Gilbert, Lily Krueger and Kaylee Roberts.

Their season started at the Fun in the Sun Meet at Antigo, where the Hatchets took 10th place of 12 teams. The remainder of their regular season was dual meets, which saw Tomahawk defeat Mosinee 82-70, Antigo 94-54 and Lakeland 75-72, while losses were 117-44 to Medford, 138-21 to Rhinelander, 104-48 to Colby/Abby and 107-60 to Ladysmith.

Final conference dual meet standings were Rhinelander 7-0, Medford 6-1, Ladysmith 5-2, Colby/Abby 4-3, Tomahawk 3-4, Mosinee 2-5, Lakeland 1-6 and Antigo 0-7.

At the conference meet held in Antigo, Tomahawk placed fifth with 86 points, while Rhinelander easily won conference with 466, compared to second place Medford with 255.

Final conference points were Rhinelander 30, Medford 26, Ladysmith 22, Colby/Abby 18, Tomahawk 12, Lakeland 10, Mosinee 8 and Antigo 2.

Making All-Conference was Paige DeKiep in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly, earning first team All-Conference honors.

At sectionals, Tomahawk placed 11th of 14 teams with 89.5 points while sectional champions Rhinelander scored 424.5.

Paige DeKiep qualified for state in two events. She tied for first in the 50-yd. freestyle and was second in the 100 yd. butterfly, while the remainder of the team swam 11 personal bests. At state, DeKiep was fourth in the 100 butterfly and seventh in the 50 freestyle. Overall, she scored 27 points at state, placing Tomahawk 21st of 36 teams.

Cross country

Up next are the boys' and girls' cross country teams.

Connor Ahrens was in his second year as head coach of both programs, with assistance from Bill Turgeon, Stephanie Ahrens, Kurt Cordova and Kurt Reinke.

Members of the girls' program were Faith Derleth, Halle Derleth, Liam Dickrell, Jennie Frederickson, Summer Gaedtke, Elise Gibeault,

Kailynn Hanse, Elizabeth Lee, Norah Mann, Kambyl Mattke, Abigail Micke, Reese Molitor, Alli Palmer, Rachael Reilly, Abbie Rosenmeier, Robin Schmidt and Lydia Shaney.

The girls' season started at the Hodag Invite, where THS was first of 13 teams, then second of 14 teams at the Wausau Nine Mile Invite. At the Menomonie Invite, Tomahawk was seventh of 14 teams, followed by a seventh-place of 19 teams in Divisions 2/3 at the Smiley Invite at Wausau East. The Three Lakes Invite saw THS place second of nine teams. The last competition before conference was the Medford Invite, where Tomahawk took second of five teams.

At conference, held in Mosinee, Tomahawk was conference champions for the 21st time in school history and earned their first conference title since 2014.

Team scores at conference were Tomahawk 36, Medford 42, Lakeland 78, Rhinelander 92, Eagle River 120, and both Antigo and Mosinee did not have complete teams.

Making All-Conference were Alli Palmer and Elise Gibeault, first team; Rachael

Reilly, Halle Derleth and Lydia Shaney, second team; and Robin Schmidt and Faith Derleth, honorable mention.

Because of Tomahawk defeating six-time conference champion Medford for the title, Connor Ahrens was voted GNC Coach of the Year.

Sectionals were held at Colby, with the Hatchets taking fourth of 14 teams with 148 points and seeing their season come to an end.

Members of the boys' program were Elias Albrent, William Boneck, Dominic Boos, Owen Dickrell, Gerard Gorell, Presley Gutbrod, Jeremiah Johnson, Ryan Montag, Trey Morrison, Elliot O'Connor, Bruce Peetz, Nathan Rosenmeier, Andrew Voermans and Samuel Zastrow.

The boys' season also started at the Hodag Invite, where THS took sixth of 17 teams, followed by fifth of 16 teams at the Wausau Nine Mile Invite. At the Menomonie Invite, Tomahawk was 12th of 14 teams, followed by 12th of 25 teams in Divisions 2/3 at the Smiley Invite at Wausau East. At the Three Lakes Invite, Tomahawk was first of 10 teams. The last competition before conference saw

Tomahawk second of five teams at the Medford Invite.

At conference, held in Mosinee, Tomahawk was third.

Conference scores were Lakeland 24, Rhinelander 76, Tomahawk 77, Medford 81, Eagle River 99, while Antigo and Mosinee did not have complete teams.

Making All-Conference were Presley Gutbrod, Sam Zastrow and Domonic Boos, all second team.

At the Colby sectionals, Tomahawk was fifth of 16 teams with 148 points and seeing their season come to an end.

One-act play

I would also like to congratulate members of the one-act play on a job well done. They have now qualified for state eight years in a row.

Michele Balda was the director, with Nancy Herbison and Makayla Zipp working as assistant directors.

Students involved in this year's production included Murphy Koth, Sadie Ruder, Isabella Marino, Juliana McGovern, Galen Schmit, A J Schertz, Aubrey Graeber, Xan Sutton, Arawen Alberg, Trey Morrison, Cedar Hoff-

man, Kiannah Mullen, Greta Kurth, Johnathan Feltes, Shyann Boos, Caroline Kle-smith, Cheyanne Schade, Apollo Davis, Madeline Long and Mariah Sparbel.

GNC Choir and Band Festival

Also, congratulations to the All-Conference musicians performing in the GNC Choir and Band Festival held in Minocqua.

Representing Tomahawk High School, under the direction of Cory Colburn, were Xan Sutton, Galen Schmidt, Try Morrison, Elliot O'Connor, Douglas Scott, Robin Schmidt, Bella Marino, Murphy Koth and Arawen Alberg.

THS athletes who have passed

Finally, I would like to pay respects to THS athletes who recently passed away.

They are Gene Lokken, Class of '48; Dick Pickett, Class of '61; Gordy Erickson, Class of '63; Dan Herbst, Class of '89; and Tyler Cole, Class of 2025.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

TOMAHAWK SPORTS TRIVIA: WEEK 158

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 157 question: During the 1974 girls' track season, Ann Pintens, Bonnie Draeger, Keri Buedingen and Carol Salacinski

qualified for State in what relay: The mile, 880 or 440?

Week 157 answer: During the 1974 girls' track season, Ann Pintens, Bonnie Draeger, Keri Buedingen and Carol Salacinski qualified for State in the 440 relay.

Congrats to Wayne Herber for being the first to correctly answer last week's question!

Week 158 question: During the 1974-75 wrestling season, THS had its first shutout in school history. Was the opponent Antigo, Ashland or Eagle River?



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Photo courtesy of Connor Ahrens

Hatchet harriers hold Awards Night ceremony

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – The Tomahawk Hatchet cross country team held its yearly Awards Night ceremony in the high school auditorium on Monday, Nov. 13.

Award recipients are as follows.

Rookies of the Year: Dominic Boos, boys; Elise Gibeault, girls.

Most Improved: Bruce Peetz, boys; Lydia Shaney, girls.

Coaches Awards: Sam Zastrow, boys; Robin Schmidt, girls.

Scholar Athletes (all 4.000 GPAs, first quarter): Will Boneck, boys; Faith Derleth, Norah Mann, Izzy Lee, Robin Schmidt, Jennie Frederickson, Halle Derleth, girls.

Captains Awards: Presley Gutbrod, boys; Halle

Derleth, girls.

Punchy Reich Memorial (as picked by teammates): Halle Derleth.

GNC All-Conference, boys: Presley Gutbrod, Sam Zastrow, Dominic Boos, all 2nd team.

GNC All-Conference, girls: Alli Palmer, Elise Gibeault, 1st team; Rachael Reilly, Halle Derleth, Lydia Shaney, all 2nd team; Robin Schmidt, Faith Derleth, honorable mention.

Most Valuable: Presley Gutbrod, boys; Elise Gibeault, girls.

Service Award: Aimee Garcia.

JV Awards

Freshmen, boys: Ryan Montag, Will Boneck.

Sophomores, boys: Bruce Peetz, Elliot O'Connor, Beau Stromberg, Gerard Gorell, Elias Albrent.

Sophomores, girls: Kailynn Hanse, Jennie Frederickson, Summer Gaedtke.

Letter winners

Freshmen, boys: Andrew Voermans (1).

Sophomores, boys: Jeremiah Johnson (2).

Juniors, boys: Sam Zastrow (3), Nathan Rosenmeier (2), Dominic Boos (1).

Seniors, boys: Owen Dickrell (4), Presley Gutbrod (4), Trey Morrison (1).

Freshmen, girls: Elise Gibeault (1), Abbie Rosenmeier (1), Norah Mann (1).

Sophomores: Faith Derleth (2), Abigail Micke (2), Lydia Shaney (2).

Juniors, girls: Alli Palmer (3), Reese Molitor (1).

Seniors, girls: Halle Derleth (3), Izzy Lee (3), Kambyl Mattke (4), Rachael Reilly (4), Robin Schmidt (3).



The 2025 NFL Draft will take place in Green Bay in the area around Lambeau Field and Titletown on April 24-26, 2025. We continue our coverage of the planning already taking place. **Kris Leonhardt photo**

The NFL Draft: Rolling out the red carpet

BY KRIS LEONHARDT
MMC SENIOR EDITOR

The 2025 NFL Draft will take place in Green Bay in the area around Lambeau Field and Titletown on April 24-26, 2025. MMC continues its coverage of the planning already taking place.

GREEN BAY – “There are about 33 different committees right now – about 33-34 give or take,” said Discover Green Bay President/CEO Brad Toll, “and some of those will not get started probably until 2024. Once we know what the layout is going to be, they will probably get started then.”

“We have some that are already working and talking; Beautification is one of those,” Toll explained. “Each of the different areas like GBI downtown and Definitely De Pere, and different areas of the city – Military Avenue – that represent a particular area and neighborhood associations, we really encourage them to look at the community and what kind of things, you know, ‘We talked about ripping that garden out and redoing it,’ and maybe now’s a good time to do that so that when the draft comes, it’s a beautiful garden and what you want to have done. It might be putting in some bulbs that pop out early in the spring because it’s the end of April. So, as the

leaves are starting to pop, what kinds of things can we do to make certain that our community is (ready.) It won’t be as green as it is in July, but what can we do to make April look really nice. That’s about the time that we’re pulling out some of the dried things from the fall that maybe didn’t get cut down or whatever, we’re kind of doing that spring cleanup. So as a community, what can we do to plan? Do that spring cleaning the middle part of April, so when we have thousands of visitors that come into the area, we look great.”

Some of the other committees in the organizational process include Destination Marketing Organizations, Public Affairs, Ticketing, Hotels, Retail, Community Projects, Marketing & Promotion, Communication Internal, Communication External, Experiences for Prospects, Arts & Family Entertainment, Finance, Welcoming, Volunteers, Business Connect, Hospitality/Concessions, NFL Digital & Social Covering Draft, Youth Football, Local Community Development, NFL Environmental, Travel to Wisconsin, Logistics, Security/Public Safety/Command Center, Highways & Road Construction, Transportation and Permits & Road Clo-

sures, with several other committees branching from these.

Toll said that organizers have also been talking with previous host cities such as Cleveland, Nashville and Kansas City.

“We’re visiting with the ones who have hosted. We’ve been talking with Detroit, so we know a little about the timeline because they are a year ahead of us; they will have the draft in 2024,” Toll said, adding that even with that draft half of a year out, some of the things are still getting moved around.

Toll added that the majority of the work on the 2025 Green Bay Draft will not be initiated until next year.

“They start working with us when that draft is complete. This team from the NFL – their events team – they do the Super Bowl, they do the (NFL) Combine, they do the Drafts. So there are two Super Bowls, two Combines and a Draft before the Draft in Green Bay,” Toll explained.

Regardless of that timeline, local committees are already in the process of getting the planning started as they prepare to “roll out the red carpet” for the 240,000 visitors expected to attend.

Next week: A bucket list destination.

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.

www.TomahawkLeader.com

OSHKOSH GUN SHOW

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Nov 30	11:03AM	2:09AM	7:13PM	2:36PM
Dec 1	11:42AM	3:03AM	8:20PM	3:28PM
Dec 2	12:11PM	3:52AM	9:28PM	4:15PM
Dec 3	12:34PM	4:38AM	10:35PM	5:00PM
Dec 4	---	5:21AM	12:53PM	5:41PM
Dec 5	---	6:01AM	1:09PM	6:21PM

Solunar fishing and hunting chart for Tomahawk. Major feeding periods last two hours and minors run one hour. New Moon is December 12th.

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Natural Connections: Lingerin Loons

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

Gray skies bled into gray water as I snaked down the eastern shore of Lake Namakagon on County Highway D. After a hike with a friend, I'd decided to take the long way home. My dad used to tell us that drives like this were "shortcuts" although what he really meant is that they were the scenic route. He was usually looking for hawks on fence posts in the fields of Iowa. I spotted something quite different.

Out in the middle of Sugar Bay, a small shape interrupted the glimmering ripples. Even in the poor light at a fair distance from a moving car, I

could tell that this was a loon by their distinctive silhouette. After a few seconds of indecision I swung into a gravel road and "flipped a Louie" which is what my family calls Uies or U-turns. Pulling safely off the road, I dug my new Natural Connections camera (thank you donors!) out of my backpack and zoomed in.

The loon's gray-brown back, full white throat, and pale cheeks confirmed them as a juvenile, a young of this year. While this loon is on the late end of migration, I wasn't worried for their safety. Juvenile loons have been navigating their fall migrations alone for millennia. The general schedule I've been told is that bachelor loons (without chicks for whatever reason) migrate in August, mother loons head out in



A juvenile loon lingers on Lake Namakagon, gaining strength for their long flight to the ocean.
Photo by Emily Stone

September, the dad's leave in October, and the juveniles fly south in November.

That's just a general schedule, though, and individual loons are likely all over the calendar, as well as the map. That also doesn't account for loons from Canada making pit stops here along their

way. Early ice formation will shoo them south faster, and warm autumns like this one don't give them any reason to hurry.

The ultimate destination for loons is saltwater that doesn't freeze. Their main habitat requirements are plenty of fish to eat and clear water to hunt in. Southern inland lakes tend to have warm, shallow, murky water, and alligators (!), so the ocean provides a better option. There, loons face the challenge of transitioning from freshwater to saltwater. They've adapted by excreting salt out of glands in their skull between their eyes. The glands drip almost constantly during the winter...sort of like how my nose adapts to winter, too...

After making the big journey and coping with salt, loons gain access to a seafood feast. Wintering loons eat flounder, crabs, lobster, shrimp, gulf menhaden, bay anchovies, silversides, and more. The ocean bounty gives loons enough energy to molt and regrow all of their feath-

ers, which carry them back north in the spring.

Those feathers carry important information. As loon researcher Walter Piper recently wrote on his Loon Project blog, once feathers are grown, they don't continue to be living tissue. Just like our fingernails, they stop receiving a blood supply and become a time capsule. Inside the feathers are stable isotopes, or as Piper explained, "different versions of a chemical element with different masses." By studying the stable isotopes of the feathers and matching them to the stable isotopes of various loon wintering locations, we can identify the place where the feather was grown. When scientists capture a loon in Wisconsin in July, studying a tiny clip of a feather can reveal where that loon spent their winter.

Early studies of loon migration using satellite transmitters suggested that many of our loons head to the west coast of Florida. Further information provided by recoveries and sightings of banded loons expanded that map quite a bit. We now have records of banded loons from Wisconsin and Minnesota wintering all along the west and east coasts of Florida, up through Georgia and the Carolinas, and even up into the Northeast, but that data is mostly based on luck.

This new avenue of stable isotope analysis opens up a way for scientists to capture a loon on their breeding territory up here and figure out where they spent last winter

without having to track them on migration. Why does that matter? Well, I for one, love talking to snowbirds about their winter adventures in warm places. But more importantly, this information may help scientists understand how challenges loons face over the winter may be impacting their ability to return north, or their breeding success once they get here.

Out on Sugar Bay, the feathers of that juvenile loon contain information from here, or maybe from Canada, wherever the kid molted out of their baby fuzz and into their first round of sleek feathers. After three or four years gaining strength and maturity on the ocean, this loon will molt into their striking black-and-white breeding plumage for the first time—feathers filled with the signature of saltwater—and fly home.

I wonder if they'll take a "shortcut" or flip any Louies along the way!

Emily's award-winning second book, *Natural Connections: Dreaming of an Elfin Skimmer*, is available to purchase at 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 to see what we are up to.

Lake Nokomis Concerned Citizens donation to fund AIS Limited Term Employee

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER EDITOR

LAKE NOKOMIS – A local group's donation will help promote aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention on a Tomahawk-area lake.

During its meeting in Merrill on Tuesday, Nov. 14, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution accepting a donation of \$14,000.42 from Lake Nokomis Concerned Citizens (LNCC) to fund an AIS Limited Term Employee.

The resolution noted that while Lin-



coln County currently provides Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) programming and services aimed at AIS prevention, "this coverage is only done on weekends during the summer period."

The additional staffing funded by LNCC will "allow Lincoln County to provide CBCW coverage on all days during (the) summer period at the Nokomis Dam Landing," according to the resolution.

With the donation's acceptance, additional CBCW services will be provided on Lake Nokomis in summer 2024.

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