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'CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD' Hometown Christmas returning to downtown Tomahawk Friday

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER
TOMAHAWK – A favorite holiday event will return to Tomahawk this week.

The 5th annual Hometown Christmas will be held in downtown Tomahawk on Friday, Dec. 8. This year's theme is "Christmas Around the World."

Hometown Christmas's Roxanne Consolver noted that fellow organizer Mary Smith has been working her magic with downtown businesses to create this year's theme.

The event will kick off with the Christmas Parade at 4:30 p.m. The parade, featuring ATVs, UTVs, off-road Jeeps and floats, will



Downtown storefronts will feature live window displays after the parade.

start on the east end of W. Wisconsin Ave., near Cross-bridge Community Bank,

Hometown Christmas
CONTINUES ON PAGE 3



Hometown Christmas will kick off with the Christmas Parade.

Photos by Jalen Maki



Educators from the School District of Tomahawk and St. Mary's Catholic School were recently awarded Beyond Crayons and Chromebooks grants from the Support Tomahawk Area Resources (STAR) Foundation.



The seven funding requests covered a variety of projects, including expanding literacy comprehension, culinary enrichment, creating baskets for an area neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and coding and robotics. In total, \$4,960.00 was allocated among Tomahawk Elementary, Middle and High schools, and St. Mary's.
Photos courtesy of Kay Kissinger Wolf

City of Tomahawk reminding residents to keep sidewalks clear

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER
TOMAHAWK – The City of Tomahawk is reminding residents to make sure sidewalks are clear this winter. A post on the city's Facebook page said sidewalks cannot be blocked by vehicles, campers, boats, ATVs or UTVs, and trailer hitches must not hang over walkways. The city also reminded residents of their responsibility to remove snow from sidewalks, including new sidewalks, noting that "there is time to hire someone to do it for you."

2023 "Fill The Need" Food Drive

For the last 26 years Heritage Chevrolet has asked you to fill a new Chevrolet Silverado for the benefit of the Tomahawk and Nokomis Food Pantries.
Go to www.heritagechev.com and click on the FILL THE NEED link.
Make a monetary donation to the food pantry of your choice. You will then be entered in the drawing for one of the prizes contributed by our local merchants. Alternatively, you can drop off your check payable to either food pantry at Heritage Chevrolet.

This year's drawing will be held live on WJJQ on Thursday, December 21st at 2:15pm

Merchant	2023 Prize	Merchant	2023 Prize
Lincoln County Cycles	Cub Cadet 1X21 Snowblower	Coasters	\$50.00 Gift Certificate
Bethel Excavating & Northern Wisconsin Land Services	2 \$250 Chamber Bucks 10 yds Road Gravel delivered in Tomahawk Area 10 yds Top Soil delivered in Tomahawk Area	Billy Bob's	\$50.00 G.C for Billy Bob's
Ingman's Service	Toro Self Propelled Mower	Chuck's Sports Shop	2 \$25 Gift Certificates for Chucks
Tomahawk Sports Center	Skidoo Snowmobile Jacket	Cheese Shoppe	Holiday Basket
Just 4 U Fitness	Single Person 3mo. Special w/ Access Card Joint (couple) 3mo. Special w/access Card	Erv's Sales & Service	\$50 Gift Card to Erv's
Kevin Urmann State Farm Insurance	2 \$100 Chamber Bucks	Hewitt Meats	\$50 Gift Card for Hewitt's Meat
Sideways Wine & Craft Beer	2 \$100 Gift Certificates	Holly's Bar	2 \$25.00 Gift Certificates for Holly's
Subway	3 Five 6" Sub Coupons (\$60 Value)	Hometown Feed Mill & General Store	2 \$25 Gift Certificate
Bootleggers Lodge	Dinner for two	Kracker Barrel	2 \$25 Gift Certificate
Hackel Plumbing	3 \$50 Chamber Bucks	NAPA	2 \$25 Gift Cards to NAPA of Tomahawk
Woodland Lakes Realty	Hampton Bay Fire Pit	Northwoods Community Realty	Backpack Cooler and \$50 Chamber Bucks
Absolute Electric	\$100 Chamber Bucks	O'Reilly's	2 \$25.00 Gift Cards
Hometown Chiropractic	Therapeutic Blanket	Scantability	2 \$25 Gift Certificate
Honeycomb L.O.F.T	4 \$25 Gift Cards to Honeycomb LOFT	Storm's Remodeling	\$50 Heritage Chevrolet Gift Card
Knot Haus	2 \$50.00 Main Street Bucks	Tilted Loon	\$50 G.C for the Loon
Rita's Scarlet Garden	2 \$50 Gift Certificates	Tomahawk Eye Care	Routine Eye Exam
Tomahawk Pharmacy	Gift Basket	Tomahawk Family Restaurant	\$50 Gift Certificate
WT Silverado	4 \$25 Gift Cards to Silverado	Tomahawk Touch of Gold	\$50 Gift Card to Touch of Gold
Cerny's Greenhouse	\$50 Gift Card for Cerny's	Tomahawk Warehouse Liquor	2 \$25 Gift Certificate
CIS Insurance Group	\$50 Gift Card to Scarlet Garden	Viegut's Do It Express	2 \$25 Gift Certificate
		Windmill Ice Cream Shop	2 \$25 Gift Certificates
		WJJQ	2 \$25 Chamber Bucks
		Heritage Chevrolet	\$500 Heritage Chevrolet Gift Card



IMPORTANT NOTICE:
FOOD DONATIONS WILL NOT BE RECEIVED AT HERITAGE CHEVROLET. If you wish to donate food, take it directly to the food pantry of your choice. You will not be entered in the drawing.

Fill the Need is co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Chevy Dealers, WJJQ, Creative on Nokomis and Heritage Chevrolet.

FIND NEW ROADS / Entry deadline is December 20th, and this year's drawing will be held live on WJJQ on Thursday, **December 21st** at 2:15pm
Together, let's make sure no one goes hungry this Christmas.




Heritage CHEVROLET 1227 N. Fourth St., Tomahawk, WI
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Drug dog search turns up 'multiple prohibited items' at THS

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR

TOMAHAWK – A drug dog search led to the discovery of “multiple prohibited items” at Tomahawk High School last week.

According to a joint release from the School District of Tomahawk and the Tomahawk Police Department, a scheduled collaborative drug dog search

was conducted at the Tomahawk school complex on Tuesday, Nov. 28 and Wednesday, Nov. 29.

Four dogs were utilized in the search – one from Tomahawk, one from Rhinelander and two from Price County.

The release said the event “initiated 35 locker/vehicle searches, conducted by school administration and assisted by officers when requested, leading to the discovery of

multiple prohibited items in the high school.”

The prohibited items were not identified in the release.

No prohibited items were discovered in the middle school.

“Individuals found to be in possession of prohibited items while on school property face school discipline and referrals to law enforcement when necessary,” the release stated.

Tomahawk Community Thrift Shop seeking bubble wrap, packing paper

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – Those doing their holiday shopping online have the opportunity to lend a hand to a local nonprofit store.

The Tomahawk Community Thrift Shop (TCTS), 328 N. 4th St., aims to provide “good-quality used merchandise at affordable prices,” with proceeds going local nonprofit and community organizations and groups in need of financial help.

“Our mission is to provide financial assistance to the various federally-



recognized charities in the Tomahawk area by offering grants,” TCTS’s website says.

TCTS is currently seeking bubble wrap and packing paper that is shipped with packages purchased online.

TCTS noted that it is not

accepting packing peanuts or boxes – only flattened wrap and paper.

“Drop it off anytime the store is open at the back door or at the checkout counter,” TCTS stated.

For more information, contact TCTS at 715-224-3586.

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Complementary photos will be provided by Vicky’s Photo Shop

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79 Hometown Drive, Tomahawk • 715-224-3381



The Tomahawk Fire Department (TFD) is joining its counterparts from around the state and country by participating in a holiday-themed fire safety campaign. The “Keep the Wreath Green” campaign runs throughout the month of December. In a Facebook post, TFD explained that as part of the campaign, each time firefighters respond to a residential fire with damage, a green bulb on a wreath will be replaced with a red bulb to remind citizens of the dangers posed by fires in residential homes. TFD’s wreath is hung on the fire station on N. Tomahawk Ave. “Please have a safe month,” TFD stated. “Let’s work together to keep the wreath green.”
Photo courtesy of TFD

SIDEWAYS for the Holidays!!
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Our Sisters' House assembling list of volunteer interpreters

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – A local homeless shelter is assembling a list of individuals able to serve as volunteer interpreters.

Our Sisters' House (OSH), 328 E. Washington Ave., Tomahawk, is a temporary emergency shelter for men, women and families who are experiencing homelessness.

OSH is asking those who are bilingual, multilingual or trilingual, as well as those who can communicate through American Sign Language (ASL), to help non-English-speaking shelter clients, should the need arise.

For more information, contact Our Sisters' House at 715-224-3520.



HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS

FROM PAGE 1

and will make its way to the west end of the street, near Tomahawk TTT.

After the parade, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., downtown storefronts will feature live window displays.

An Irish Fest after party will be held at Kilroy's Klub, 327 W. Wisconsin Ave., following the window displays. Irish stew will be available for a free will donation.

"It will be a magical evening," Consolver said.

Parade Princess

Draya Zietlow was named 2023's Hometown Christmas Parade Princess.

The Parade Princess contest was held from Nov. 1 through Nov. 20.

Consolver explained that the five contestants sent photos to Diamond Rock Glass Studio for a chance to win the prestigious honor. The photos were displayed at Standard Mercantile, where people could cast a vote for their favorite princess. Votes were \$1.00 each.

Zietlow was ultimately named the winner. She was awarded the crown, magic wand and trophy by Santa himself at the Community Tree Lighting event on Nov.



Draya Zietlow was named this year's Parade Princess. She was awarded the crown, magic wand and trophy by Santa himself. Photo courtesy of Roxanne Consolver

25, and she will have the honor of riding in the Hometown Christmas parade.

Previous Parade Princesses include Hope Garske

Taft and Lilly Crass.

For more information about Hometown Christmas, visit www.tinyurl.com/3wexffv8.

LCHD holding walk-in adult flu shot clinics this month

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

LINCOLN COUNTY – The Lincoln County Health Department (LCHD) will hold its walk-in adult flu shot clinics throughout the month of December.

The clinics will be held at LCHD, 607 N. Sales St., Suite 101, Merrill, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each Wednesday through Dec. 27.

High dose and regular flu vaccines are available. LCHD accepts Medicare



checks and credit cards are accepted for those without an accepted insurance plan.

LCHD also offers Tdap vaccines to the public at no cost.

No appointments are needed for the clinics. LCHD said it will schedule appointments for those unable to attend the clinics.

For more information, contact LCHD at 715-536-0307 or LCHealth@co.lincoln.wi.us.

Part B, Security Health Plan (Essence, Esteem and Spirit) and Railroad Retirement. LCHD is unable to bill any other Medicare Advantage Plans, private insurance (Humana, United Health Care, Blue Cross Blue Shield, etc.) or Medical Assistance. Insurance cards are requested. Cash,

News Briefs

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, 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., 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) or call 608-345-7305.

CESA 9 offering Substitute Teacher Training

CESA 9 in Tomahawk will offer Substi-

tute 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 fam-

ily 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.wreathscrossamerica.org/WINWNC or contact Mary, Location Coordinator, at 715-612-2196.

City of Tomahawk winter parking ban

The City of Tomahawk's winter parking ban will

News Briefs
CONTINUES ON PAGE 5

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, no 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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OBITUARIES

Obituary updates are posted at www.tomahawkleader.com



Obituary Janiece Fischer
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, Billie, Dylan 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 was held at Calvary Cemetery in Tomahawk on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 1 p.m.



Cindy L. Crowell, age 67, of Tomahawk, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023, under the care of her family and Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services.

Cindy was born in Tomahawk, on March 3, 1956, to the late Clarence and Rosalie (Steinbach) Smith, Sr. She attended the Tomahawk School District until late in her junior year and then went to Florence High School. After high school, Cindy held various jobs but when her daughters were born, she was happy to become a full-time mom and homemaker. Cindy's hobbies included baking and wood craft projects and had a love for bears and drinking coffee. On Saturday nights, she looked forward to watching the Mollie B. Polka Party which aired on RFD-TV. Above all, she loved spending time with her children, grandchildren, and family.

Survivors include her husband, Leo Crowell; her daughters, Connie Jones and LuAnn Krahn; her granddaughter, Angela Liebers; her grandson, Keyan Leder (Bubba); her sisters, Kathy (Paul) Kurth, and Rosanne Barr; her brothers, Dennis (Kathie) Smith, Earl (Gail) Smith, and Jim (Julie) Smith; and her aunts, MaryAnn Streib and Betty Ingman. She is further survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family members.

Cindy was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Rosalie Smith; her brothers, Randy Smith and Clarence Smith Jr.; her grandson, Joel "Joey" Jones; her brother-in-law, Ronnie Barr; and several paternal and maternal aunts and uncles.

The family would like to thank Aspirus Wausau Hospital, Aspirus Merrill Hospital, and Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services for the care they gave Cindy at the end stages of her life.

Funeral services for Cindy Crowell were held on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023, at 11 a.m., at Generations Funeral Home. Rev. Larry Mathein officiated. The family received friends for visitation from 9 a.m. until the time of services at 11 a.m.

Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family. You may view Cindy's obituary and leave online condolences at www.generationsfuneral.com.



Marilyn L. Carstensen, age 82, of Tomahawk, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, at Riverview Health Services under the care of Compassus Hospice. Marilyn was born in Merrill, Wis., on May 28, 1941, to the late Alvin and Ruth (Aldrich) Pfister Sr. She was married to Jack R. Carstensen on Aug. 30, 1957; he passed away on Oct. 21, 2021.

Marilyn was a lifelong resident of Tomahawk where she attended school and worked at the Watergate Inn for many years. She enjoyed bowling, playing games and playing guitar, and was a talented baker. Marilyn enjoyed the outdoors sitting in the sun and mowing the lawn. She held a special place in her heart for her cat, "Whiskers."

Survivors include her son, Scott (Linda) Carstensen; her daughters, Gina (Ken) Kurth, and Shannon (Jack) Mikunda; and her sisters, Angie Lamb and Lois Brandenburg. Marilyn is further survived by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Alvin and Ruth; her husband, Jack; her sisters, Juanita Wiedenhoft, Antoinette "Tootie" Moser, Wanda "Mootsie" Severt, and Shirley Frondle; and her brothers, Gerald "Jigs" Pfister, Alvin Pfister Jr., Dennis "Jim" Pfister, and Lester "Dukie" Pfister.

In accordance with Marilyn's wishes, no formal services will be held. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family. You may view Marilyn's obituary and leave online condolences at www.generationsfuneral.com.



Phillip "Porky" Bushar, 94, of Merrill, formerly of Tomahawk, passed away Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023 at the Pine Crest Nursing Home, Merrill. Phillip was born April 24, 1929 in Irma, Wis., the son of Phillip and Celia (Willet) Bushar. He was united in marriage to Dorothy Steinbach on Sept. 6, 1952 in Milwaukee and she preceded him in death on Feb. 20, 2006. Phillip survived in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Porky liked woodworking, making yard art and decorations, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and playing cards and games with his kids.

Porky is survived by his daughter, Diane (John) Schroedel, Merrill and Donald (Michelle), Tomahawk; grandchildren, Michelle, Jessica, Jacqueline, William, Sandra, April, Phillip, Nichole and Joey; 27 great-grandchildren and many great-great-grandchildren; and a sister, Phyllis (Raymond) Gilson, Merrill.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Marian, Evangeline, BettyJane, Louise, Audrey, Kathryn, Rosella; brothers, Joseph, Thomas, Edward, Vernice, Ottis, Arnold, Louis, Freeman, David "Pete"; grandchildren, Tammy Schroedel and Lisa Przybyla.

Visitation will be held on Friday, Dec. 8, 2023 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Krueger-Nimsgern Funeral Home, Tomahawk. Visitation will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Noon). Services will be held at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023 with Chaplain Larry Mathein officiating and Military Honors at Krueger-Nimsgern Funeral Home, Tomahawk. Burial to follow at Greenwood Cemetery. Online condolences for the family may be directed to www.nimsgernfamily.com.

Pastor's Corner

December 6, 2023

"Preparing Your Heart for Jesus"

On Sunday, December 3, we began the shortest season of the church – Advent. It includes the 4 weeks prior to Christmas. It is often overlooked in favor of Christmas baking, buying and decorating. But in addition to preparing our hearts for the birth of Christ, it is also a season to prepare for Christ's coming again. Yes, Christ has promised he will be coming again.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 tells us that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. That means it will be unexpected. It will come by surprise. St. Paul, who wrote Thessalonians, is giving all believers a warning to not be surprised when it comes and do not be afraid. Those who live in figurative darkness are people around us who do not know Jesus. And we need to pray for them.

John 10:1-10 tells us that we will know Jesus because we will know his voice. We will know the shepherd's voice. Believers will hear his voice like a sheep hears his shepherd's voice. Sheep will only respond to their shepherd. A shepherd is necessary to watch over the sheep to ward off dangers like attacking animals. Of course, John was writing in a time that shepherds were plenteous, and sheep and lambs were used for the daily Jewish sacrifices. But John insists that we will hear Jesus voice like no other.

John 5: 24-29 says that "Christ the King will separate us as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats." This will occur in the twinkling of an eye. And no one knows when, but God the Father alone. It seems there has been an increase in information about the end times as of late, books and news articles, but this has always been true. Many have tried to convince the world of its coming. But Jesus warns us to wait lovingly knowing that someday it will be here.

In worship we say together the Apostles and Nicene Creeds that avow "Christ will come again to judge both the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end, and he shall reign for ever and ever." Now that will be Christmas!

Christmas is all about salvation. That sweet baby Jesus came to save us, so we can spend eternity with him in heaven. So for a few minutes stop focusing on buying, and baking, wrapping and running around and focus a tiny bit on Advent. We will never be ready for the holidays, but we can prepare our heart for the perfect gift--Jesus.

Amen



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

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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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Imagination Hour Revisited

Dear Reader,

Every Sunday when our three girls were young, we held "Imagination Hour." We used this hour to "imagine" and come up with new and innovative things in brainstorming sessions.

Back in the day we came up with a reversible cape concept and called it "HatCapers - Great Adventures With The Flip Of A Cape." We thought of a Frog turning into a Prince; a Cinderella to a Princess and the list went on.

For the heck of it, I shopped them around and was able to get a sewing license with McCalls and then a license from Whimsicality costumes. Then the Boston Museum asked us to design two additions to the line to add to their catalog - a Knight to a Dragon, and a White Rabbit to Alice in Wonderland.

One of the best gifts parents can give to their children is the ability to imagine and dream, knowing that anything is possible, if minds are set for it. Besides having those hours of quality time with the family, we had a lot of fun creating stuff and just making dreams come true.



PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Re: Rep. Swearingen stone walls wakeboat Open Records request

To Whom it May Concern: Recently, I made an Open Records request of Rep. Swearingen seeking documents and information pertinent to AB 656, wakeboat legislation which gives any owner of a wakeboat cart blanche to operate a wakeboat on any Wisconsin lake over 50 acres in size. To date, despite repeated requests for a response I have not received any information.

Swearingen's proposed statute allows these behemoth 10,000 lb. \$60,000.00-plus boats to operate on any lake over 50 acres in size. It is well known that these boats damage boat landings, destroy lake bottoms, rip out fish and shoreline wildlife habitat and endanger anyone nearby trying to enjoy a kayak, paddle board, canoe, fishing or pontoon boat. When in "wake surf" mode, the driver of the boat can't see what is in front of the boat.

An Open Records response from the Legislative Reference Bureau shows that Rep. Swearingen specifically requested language be inserted into the bill that takes away the constitutional

right of local municipalities to regulate wakeboat activity. No two lakes in Wisconsin are the same. In my township which contains many pristine lakes, there are no lakes that can withstand a wakeboat's assault. Rep. Swearingen wants to take away the rights of those of us who live and play on these wonderful lakes to deal with this purely local issue. Why would he choose to do that?

Records show that the boat industry has spent more than \$50,000.00 lobbying this bill. The bill Swearingen introduced is word for word a duplicate of the boating industries' Model Bill. Our Senator, Mary Felzkowski, is also pushing this same bill in the Senate.

Call and/or write Rep. Swearingen and Sen. Mary Felzkowski and tell them you do not agree with these Bills that take away local control of our lakes here in the Northwoods. A vote for AB 656 or SB 680 is a vote against your constitutional right to "determine our local affairs and government" [Art. XI, sec. 3(1) Wisconsin Constitution].

Given all this, ask yourself - "are Swearingen and Felzkowski representing us and our interests or not?"
James Johnson
Rhineland

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 3

be in effect through Friday, March 15. Parking on city streets is not allowed between 2:30 a.m. and 5 a.m.

PCA offering scholarship

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

Bridge players wanted

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

Chamber seeking photos for 2024 Visitor Guide

The Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce is seeking photo submissions for the 2024 Visitor Guide. When submitting a photo, please name the picture as the location that it was taken. All submissions have a chance to be featured on the front of the guide. For more information or to submit a photo, visit

www.gototomahawk.com/guidephotos or call 715-453-5334.

Open Arms Community Meal served Tuesdays

Open Arms Community Meal is served each Tuesday at St. Mary's Corpus Christi Center, 320 E. Washington Ave., Tomahawk. The Corpus Christi Center opens at 4 p.m., and the meal begins at 5 p.m. All are welcome to come and share fellowship with old and new friends. To volunteer at the Open Arms Community Meal, call 715-224-3306 and leave a message.

Eagle Summit Community Healing Rooms

Eagle Summit Community Healing Rooms, W5676 Water View Ln., Tomahawk, are open every Thursday night from 6 p.m. to 7:30 for prayer support. Eagle Summit is part of the International Association of Healing Rooms and features trained volunteers who offer free, confidential prayer support. Eagle Summit is a faith-based center open to all. For more information, contact Paula at paulapmt25@gmail.com or call Eagle Summit Healing Center 715 224-3490.

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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 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). Last week we looked at Romans 3:1-8 and the question, *Does our unbelief cancel out our responsibility to obey what we know God has said?* And the answer is, No! Today we shall look at Romans 3:19-26 and how we are forgiven when we have not obeyed.

In verses 19 and 20, we are told that trying to obey God's law will never bring forgiveness for the times we did not obey; the simplest form of God's law is the *Ten Commandments*. The reason God gave us His law was to show us where we have been wrong and why we need forgiveness and change (for by the law is the knowledge of sin). *The logic is, How can trying extra hard to obey God's law ever make up for the times we did not obey - when we should be obeying God all the time? God's law can only do two things: show us the will of God, and remind us when we have failed to obey God. So the question arises, How can we ever be forgiven for our failure to obey?*

In verses 21 through 23, we are told that God is faithfully doing what is right when He does forgive. The Old Testament prophets foretold that God would be faithful to what is right (the righteousness of God) when He forgives (verse 21); saying, He would forgive all who would believe, and that faith is to be centered upon the Son of God, Jesus Christ (verse 22, see also Isaiah 53). Forgiveness is only given to those who believe, because we have all, without exception, broken God's law (verse 23). So, how can God be faithful to what is right when He forgives those who have broken His law but now believe?

In verses 24 and 25 we are told that it is by God's grace that we have been *redeemed* (forgiveness purchased) by Jesus Christ (verse 24). The idea of grace is that God has shown us favor and acceptance that we do not deserve, an acceptance that Jesus bought for us (*redemption*). Jesus purchased our forgiveness through His death on the cross for our sin; all that we must do is accept that this is true (verse 25, faith in His blood). Jesus paid the whole price (*propitiation*) for our sin and there is nothing that we can add to what He had done, God's only requirement is that we believe Him.

So we see that we can never earn God's forgiveness by trying to do extra good deeds or by trying extra hard to obey Him, because the problem is we do not always do what is right (Romans 1:18). So Jesus purchased our forgiveness by His own suffering and death on a cross, taking the punishment we deserve for our sin (*redemption*), and God accepts that on our behalf (*grace*) if we will believe Him. God is righteous when He forgives all who will believe Him because Jesus paid our sin debt for us (verse 26).

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

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

As reported by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Monday, Nov. 27:

Over the week, our Lincoln County 911 Center received six 911 nuisance calls/hang ups. The Lincoln County Deputies conducted 24 traffic stops, with one resulting in OWI arrest. Within the county this week, there were 13 car vs. animal collisions.

On 11/21/2023 at approximately 17:10, Lincoln County 911 Center received a call stating there was a two-vehicle crash in the N8500 Block of County Rd. S in the Township of Bradley. Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputies, Tomahawk EMS and Tomahawk Fire Department responded to the scene of the crash. Merrill EMS and Oneida County Medic 4 were asked to stage in the area for additional resources if needed. Deputies made contact with the drivers of the two vehicles, an Eagle River man, 18, and an Irma man, 42. The Eagle River male had a female passenger, 18, from Eagle River, with him as well. All occupants of the vehicle sustained minor injuries and elected to go to the hospital via private auto. Vehicles were removed from the scene and the road was cleared.

Nothing further at this time.

On 11/22/2023 at approximately 16:40, Lincoln County 911 Center received a call about a vehicle swerving into oncoming traffic in the area of County Rd. K and County Rd. Q in the Township of Scott. The vehicle was coming to a complete stop in the middle of the road and driving on the wrong side of the road. Lincoln County Deputies conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the driver, a Tomahawk man, 35. Lincoln County K9 Deputy made a positive alert on the vehicle. The driver was placed through a series of field sobriety tests, and as a result of those tests, he was arrested for OWI 1st offense, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine with intent to deliver, possession of a controlled substance and felony bail jumping. The driver was transported to Merrill Aspirus Hospital for medical clearance, then transported to the Lincoln County Jail. Nothing further at this time.

On 11/24/2023 at approximately 00:30, Lincoln County 911 Center received a call of a vehicle on fire in the area of U.S. Hwy. 51 and County Rd. V in the Township of Birch. Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputies and Russell Fire

Department responded to the scene. Contact was made with the driver, a Tomahawk man, 49. Driver was not injured and the fire was put out. Vehicle was removed and the lane was opened back up. Nothing further at this time.

On 11/24/2023 at approximately 19:40, a Lincoln County Deputy conducted a routine traffic stop in the area of U.S. Hwy. 51 and County Rd. A in the City of Tomahawk. The Lincoln County Deputy made contact with the driver, an Amherst Junction man, 70. The Lincoln County Deputy, trained as a Drug Recognition Expert, conducted advanced sobriety testing. As a result of those tests, he was arrested for OWI 3rd violation. Driver was also cited for speeding. Driver was then transported to the Tomahawk Aspirus Hospital for medical clearance then to the Lincoln County Jail. Nothing further at this time.

On 11/25/2023 at approximately 07:50, Lincoln County 911 Center received a call of a UTV rollover in the N8900 Block of Grundy Rd. in the Township of Skanawan. The driver of the UTV had hit a deer and rolled the vehicle. Lincoln County Deputies, Tomahawk EMS and Tomahawk Fire Department responded to the scene. Merrill EMS stood by the area for extra resources. Contact was made with the driver, a Madison man, 73. The driver was transported to Aspirus Wausau Hospital via ambulance. Nothing further at this time.

On 11/26/2023 at approximately 10:30, Lincoln County 911 Center received a call of a chimney fire in the W6000 Block of Tug Lake Ave. in the Township of Rock Falls. Lincoln County Deputies, Merrill EMS and Merrill Fire Department responded to the scene. Merrill EMS requested that Tomahawk EMS stage in the area for additional resources. Once arrived on scene, the fire was extinguished and no one was injured. Nothing further at this time.

Tomahawk man dead after rollover into Skanawan Creek

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR

TOWN OF BRADLEY – A Tomahawk man is dead after his vehicle was found submerged in Skanawan Creek in the Town of Bradley late last month.

According to a release from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, on Sunday, Nov. 26, at approximately 7:23 p.m., a 911 call was received regarding a motor vehicle crash on County Rd. S south of Crass Rd. The caller further reported that a vehicle had been located flipped over and submerged in Skanawan

Creek, with the driver reportedly still in the vehicle.

Deputies responded to the scene, along with an officer from the Tomahawk Police Department and personnel from the Tomahawk Fire Department and Tomahawk Ambulance.

"When the first deputy arrived on scene, they were unable to locate the driver," the Sheriff's Office stated. "A short time later, the driver was pulled from the vehicle, and lifesaving measures were attempted."

Upon arrival of Tomahawk Ambulance, the driver, identified by the

Sheriff's Office on Monday, Dec. 4 as Raymond J. Olson, 60, of Tomahawk, was determined to be deceased.

At the time of the release, it was believed that Olson was traveling northbound on County Rd. S when his vehicle left the roadway for unknown reasons, rolled over and entered Skanawan Creek, according to the Sheriff's Office.

It was unclear how long Olson's vehicle had been in the water before it was reported to the Sheriff's Office.

The incident remains under investigation.

Victim in fatal Town of Bradley head-on collision identified

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR

TOWN OF BRADLEY – The victim in a fatal head-on collision in the Town of Bradley last month has been identified.

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 pick-

up truck, identified by the Sheriff's Office on Monday, Dec. 4 as Dexter D. Porter, 78, of Sheboygan Falls, 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).

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Date (CDT)	Morning		Evening	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Dec 6	11:44PM	5:41AM	12:25PM	6:00PM
Dec 7	12:48AM	6:20AM	12:41PM	6:40PM
Dec 8	1:53AM	7:01AM	12:58PM	7:23PM
Dec 9	3:02AM	7:45AM	1:17PM	8:08PM
Dec 10	4:14AM	8:32AM	1:41PM	8:58PM
Dec 11	5:29AM	9:25AM	2:12PM	9:53PM
Dec 12	6:45AM	10:22AM	2:55PM	---
Dec 13	7:56AM	10:52PM	3:50PM	11:23AM

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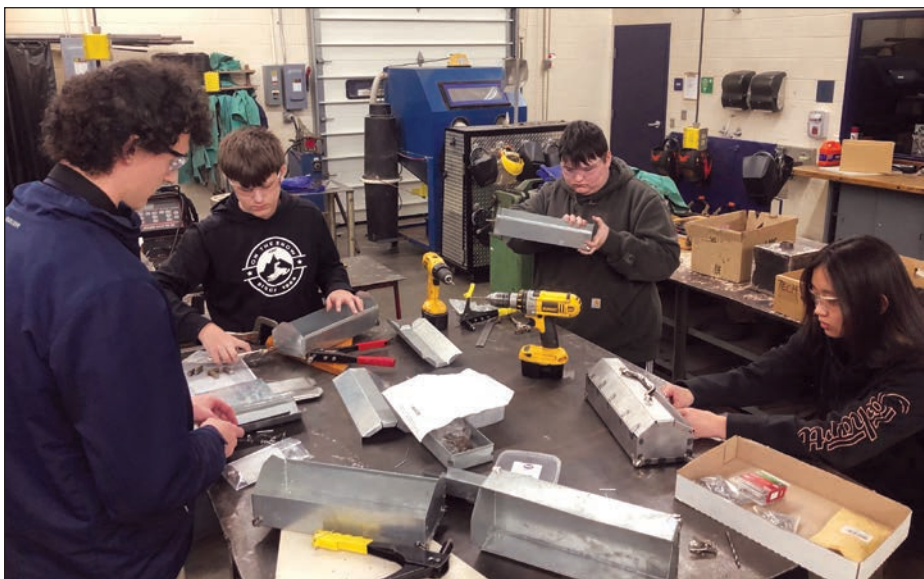
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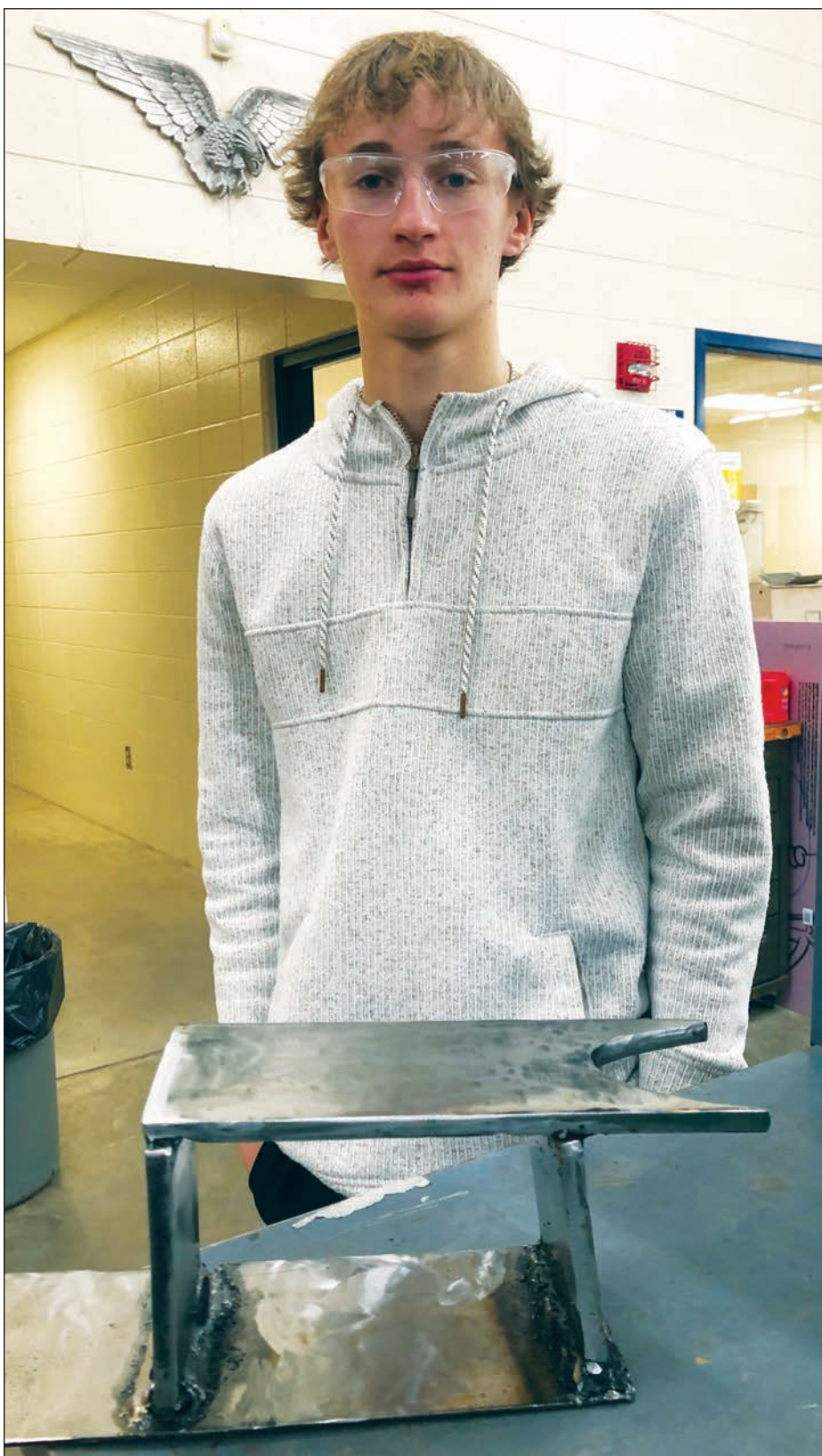


Tomahawk High School (THS) General Metals students Alex, Levi, Michael and Sophie assemble their toolboxes by using blind pop rivets.



Because Trevor decided to use galvanized steel for his toolbox, he will also use rivets to hold the hinge to the lid and base. He uses a Roper Whitney punch to create the holes in the hinge where the rivets will be installed.

Photos courtesy of Brian Schiltz



When THS Technical Metals student Ethan was working on his Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) techniques, he wanted to put his time into designing and fabricating something that would be practical.



This boot puller allowed him to continue laying beads while having a project to take home with him.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. Salt
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. It begins with them
- 17. A way to compare
- 19. Government lawyer
- 20. Back parts
- 22. 8th month (abbr.)
- 23. Very willing
- 25. __ ex machina
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. Quebec river
- 29. A doctrine
- 30. Popular pickup truck
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid material
- 34. Company officer
- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. German founder of psychology
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic
- 44. A "place" to avoid
- 45. Cigarette (slang)
- 47. Canadian politician Josephine
- 48. French ballet/acting dynasty
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan
- 53. Belonging to the bottom
- 55. Sound
- 56. Yankees' slugger Judge
- 58. Dickens character
- 59. More wise
- 60. Flash memory card
- 61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- 64. Atomic #79
- 65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio

- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Craft supply
- 4. Storage units
- 5. Investment vehicle
- 6. Colorado Heisman winner
- 7. In a way, sank (abbr.)
- 8. Post-birth brain damage (abbr.)
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. The opposite of yes
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Messianic in Islamic eschatology
- 15. Showing since conviction
- 18. Not safe
- 21. The number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Yard invader

- 26. Pouch
- 27. Swedish krona
- 30. Start anew
- 32. While white or yellow flower
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. Graphical user interface
- 38. Up-to-date on the news
- 39. Campaigns
- 42. Touch softly
- 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property
- 47. One who supports the Pope
- 49. Anxiety
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. Phony person
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. City in central Japan
- 59. Silk garment
- 62. Draw from
- 63. Automobile
- 66. Man
- 68. Legal bigwig (abbr.)

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31/1715



The Hoyer family was honored with the 2023 Outstanding Philanthropist Award for its support of the Nicolet College Foundation and other organizations. Picture, from left: Page Hoyer, Barbara Hoyer and Peter Hoyer. Photo courtesy of Nicolet College

Nicolet College Foundation donors receive Outstanding Philanthropist Award

Hoyer family recognized by Association of Fundraising Professionals

COURTESY OF NICOLET COLLEGE

RHINELANDER – The Hoyer family's commitment to helping to provide access to higher education at Nicolet College in Rhinelander started in 1983.

Mary Alice "Jill" Hoyer, a World War II flight nurse, and her husband, Paul Edward "Pat" Hoyer, a P-51 fighter pilot, shared a commitment to service that extended beyond their military duties. In 1983, when Pat passed away, Jill established the Pat Hoyer Memorial Scholarship with the Nicolet College Foundation in Rhinelander.

Her vision was twofold: to honor Pat's memory and support nursing students at Nicolet College.

Today, that vision lives on through her family. Jill's deep love for the community and belief in the importance of community colleges guided her decision.

She once expressed, "We love this area, we love Nicolet and we've always felt that community colleges are so very important."

For nearly two decades, one of the Hoyer's sons, Paul "Page" Hoyer, and his wife, Barbara, have been annual donors, dedicating their support to the scholarship in Pat's name.

Page emphasized the importance of Nicolet College to the local community, stating, "Nursing scholarships help create nurses who stay in the community, which helps hold the community together. If you don't have good healthcare, you won't have a good community for very long."

Most Nicolet College

graduates continue to live and work in the Nicolet College District, benefiting the entire community.

Jill passed away in 2021 at the remarkable age of 101. In memory of their beloved mother, all three of her sons, Page, Peter and Jeff, made contributions to the Nicolet College Foundation. The endowment has since been renamed the Pat and Jill Hoyer Memorial Endowment.

This endowment has provided scholarships to 40 students to date, making a lasting impact on the lives of Nicolet College students.

A recent scholarship recipient said, "Mr. and Mrs. Hoyer were an admirable couple who gave much for others in their service to our country. They continue to touch people's lives through their scholarship endowment. I am deeply touched by Mr. and Mrs. Hoyer's lives and their gift."

This year, the Association of Fundraising Professionals Northeast Wisconsin Chapter selected the Hoyer family to receive its 2023 Outstanding Philanthropist Award.

Heather Schallock, Nicolet College Foundation Executive Director, nominated the family and said, "The Hoyer family's generosity and commitment to Nicolet College has made a lasting impact on our community. It's an honor to recognize them, and we are grateful to have their trust."

The Hoyer family was officially recognized on National Philanthropy Day on Nov. 16 in Appleton.

Their philanthropy goes beyond Nicolet Col-

lege, with each sibling actively contributing to other causes that are also important to them. They believe in the power of giving back to the community and supporting organizations that make a difference.

Page noted, "Somebody has to lead the way. We don't think of ourselves in that way, but if someone finds inspiration from us, that would be great."

Because of Page's support, and his own dedication and work on key committees at the Annenberg Foundation based in Los Angeles, Calif., Annenburg is now also a Nicolet College Foundation donor.

Reflecting on their journey of giving, Page said, "Barbara and I didn't start out with huge numbers of resources. We never thought we'd be in a position to make any sort of substantial contributions to charities. It's so great that this has happened in our lives."

Jill Hoyer's actions four decades ago fostered a genuine spirit of giving in her children, resulting in a lifetime of philanthropy that has touched countless lives and communities.

The Hoyer family's dedication to supporting education and their community continues to inspire and transform the lives of many. Their story exemplifies the power of philanthropy to create lasting change.

If you would like to learn more about the Nicolet College Foundation, contact Heather Schallock at 715-365-4518 or hschallock@nicoletcollege.edu.



Four boxes of food donated by participants in the three-week interim session of StrongBodies in Tomahawk were delivered to the Tomahawk Emergency Food Pantry on Friday, Dec. 1. Pictured are Ricky Lawrence, chairman of the food pantry, center; with StrongBodies leaders Mary Hogland, President of the nonprofit, left; and Bonnie Rudie, founder of StrongBodies in Tomahawk, right. The twice-weekly StrongBodies workout for seniors has grown to about 100 women and men divided among five classes. Photo courtesy of Diane Montz

WPS offers holiday safety, energy efficiency tips

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) is sharing tips to stay safe and save money on energy this holiday season.

WPS offered the following information on lighting, entertaining, heating and safety.

Lighting tips

Replace your old holiday lights with Light-Emitting Diode (LED) light strings. Although they cost more initially, LEDs use a fraction of the energy of traditional holiday lights. Plus, they last up to 20 years.

Plug your indoor and outdoor lighting displays into a timer set to run during the earlier evening hours.

If you don't use timers, unplug your lights when you go to sleep or leave home.

Rather than adding more lights to your tree, try enhancing the existing lighting with tinsel, mirrored ornaments and other reflective items.

Try floodlights on the outside of your home. Models are available for incandescent and halogen bulbs. Halogen bulbs give more intense light and use less energy. Buy different colors for a festive look.

Use the WPS holiday lighting calculator (www.wisconsinpublicservice.com/savings/holiday-calculator) to estimate the energy costs of your holiday lights.

Entertaining tips

Cook as many dishes as possible in your microwave over the holidays. Because microwaves cook food so quickly, the typical model uses as much as 75% less energy than a conventional oven.

Use your slow cooker. For about \$0.17 worth of



your water heating costs by 10%.

Open-hearth fireplaces draw heated air from your home, sending it and possibly your energy budget up the chimney. If you use your fireplace, install a snug-fitting set of glass doors and crack open a nearby window. Doing so reduces the amount of heated interior air drawn into the fireplace and improves efficiency by up to 20%.

Safety tips

Before hanging holiday lights, check for damaged sockets, plugs and cords. Replace anything that looks defective.

If you plan to string lights outdoors, be absolutely certain they are marked for outdoor use.

If you use a ladder when decorating outside, stay well away from power lines. The same can be said for lights; do not place them near power lines.

Fasten outdoor lighting securely to your home's exterior to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples or plastic attachments to hold strings in place, not nails or tacks.

To avoid overloading electrical circuits, never plug in more than three sets of lights to one extension cord.

Don't use light-duty flat extension cords, often brown or white, to power your lights. Instead, use heavy-gauge UL or FM labeled round extension cords.

Never run electrical cords under rugs or carpeting.

Turn off electrical decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Don't let small children play with light strings.

To learn more about WPS, visit www.wisconsinpublicservice.com/.

electricity, you can prepare an entire meal.

When using your oven, check cooking progress by looking through the window. Opening the oven door for even a few seconds lowers the temperature inside by as much as 25°F.

If your stove doesn't have a window, try not to open the door to check your food until it's as close to the expected finish time as possible.

Turn off your oven several minutes before your food is fully cooked. As long as the door remains closed, enough heat will be stored inside to finish cooking your meal.

If you use glass or ceramic pans, try turning your oven temperature down 25°F. Your dish may cook just as quickly.

When cooking on your stove top, match the size of the pan to the heating element. More heat will get to the pan and less will be lost.

Keep your refrigerator and freezer well-stocked. A full refrigerator or freezer saves energy by reducing the recovery time when the door is opened.

Heating tips

Set your thermostat between 66°F and 68°F, a comfortable range for most people. For every 1°F you lower your thermostat, you may reduce your energy use by 1% to 3%.

Start the heating season with a new furnace filter, and clean or replace it monthly to keep your furnace running efficiently.

Setting your hot water heater to 120°F can cut

Leader Sports & Nature

DNR: Statewide firearm deer harvest down nearly 18% from 2022

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), on Tuesday, Nov. 28, released preliminary license sales data, as well as harvest registration and hunting incident numbers, from the state's recent nine-day gun deer hunting season.

Preliminary license sales

As of 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 26, sales for gun, bow, crossbow, sports and conservation patron licenses reached 788,697. Of that total, 434,817 were for gun privileges only.

Year-to-date sales for all deer licenses are down 0.8% compared to last year.

This year, hunters from all 50 states and 27 countries purchased a Wisconsin hunting license.

Of the licenses sold to date, 66% were purchased online. The remaining 34% were sold in person through transactions at DNR license sale locations.

Deer hunting license and harvest authorization sales will continue through the remaining deer hunting seasons.

Preliminary harvest totals

Preliminary figures show hunters registered 173,942 deer during the 2023 gun deer season, including 85,390 antlered and 88,552 antlerless deer.

Compared to 2022, the total firearm deer harvest was down 17.6% statewide, with the antlered harvest down 14.7% and the antlerless harvest down 20.3%.

Since the opening of the

County	Ave 2018-2022			2022			2023			Percent Change in Harvest From 5-Year Average			Percent Change in Harvest From 2022		
	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
ASHLAND	602	208	810	784	204	988	566	135	701	-6.0%	-35.2%	-13.5%	-27.8%	-33.8%	-29.0%
BAYFIELD	1,604	1,175	2,779	1,748	1,088	2,836	1,367	754	2,121	-14.8%	-35.8%	-23.7%	-21.8%	-30.7%	-25.2%
BURNETT	1,536	1,455	2,990	1,658	1,567	3,225	1,188	997	2,185	-22.6%	-31.5%	-26.9%	-28.3%	-36.4%	-32.2%
CHIPPEWA	479	358	836	546	503	1,049	405	335	740	-15.4%	-6.4%	-11.5%	-25.8%	-33.4%	-29.5%
DOUGLAS	1,622	647	2,268	1,670	749	2,419	1,215	497	1,712	-25.1%	-23.1%	-24.5%	-27.2%	-33.6%	-29.2%
FLORENCE	800	431	1,231	1,040	367	1,407	734	490	1,224	-8.2%	13.6%	-0.6%	-29.4%	33.5%	-13.0%
FOREST	788	215	1,003	994	291	1,285	748	271	1,019	-5.1%	26.2%	1.6%	-24.7%	-6.9%	-20.7%
IRON	299	64	364	338	105	443	188	10	198	-37.2%	-84.4%	-45.5%	-44.4%	-90.5%	-55.3%
LANGLADE	1,261	900	2,161	1,621	1,107	2,728	1,307	899	2,206	3.7%	-0.2%	2.1%	-19.4%	-18.8%	-19.1%
LINCOLN	1,124	835	1,959	1,349	856	2,205	1,038	631	1,669	-7.7%	-24.4%	-14.8%	-23.1%	-26.3%	-24.3%
MARINETTE	1,326	461	1,787	1,749	553	2,302	1,188	430	1,618	-10.4%	-6.7%	-9.4%	-32.1%	-22.2%	-29.7%
MENOMINEE	1	0	2	2	0	2	4	0	4	566.7%	#DIV/0!	100.0%	100.0%	#DIV/0!	100.0%
OCONTO	522	168	690	654	254	908	475	119	594	-9.0%	-29.3%	-13.9%	-27.4%	-53.1%	-34.6%
ONEIDA	1,094	716	1,810	1,192	762	1,954	1,040	429	1,469	-4.9%	-40.1%	-18.9%	-12.8%	-43.7%	-24.8%
PRICE	1,272	864	2,135	1,467	894	2,361	1,054	405	1,459	-17.1%	-53.1%	-31.7%	-28.2%	-54.7%	-38.2%
RUSK	1,506	1,441	2,947	1,696	1,700	3,396	1,189	918	2,107	-21.0%	-36.2%	-28.5%	-29.9%	-46.0%	-38.0%
SAWYER	1,121	768	1,889	1,262	733	1,995	925	431	1,356	-17.5%	-43.9%	-28.2%	-26.7%	-41.2%	-32.0%
TAYLOR	1,643	1,724	3,367	1,995	1,991	3,986	1,383	1,267	2,650	-15.8%	-26.5%	-21.3%	-30.7%	-36.4%	-33.5%
VILAS	768	372	1,140	831	561	1,392	681	377	1,058	-11.4%	1.4%	-7.2%	-18.1%	-32.8%	-24.0%
WASHBURN	1,400	1,362	2,761	1,654	1,504	3,158	1,020	910	1,930	-27.1%	-33.2%	-30.1%	-38.3%	-39.5%	-38.9%
Total (ALL)	20,766	14,164	34,931	24,250	15,789	40,039	17,715	10,305	28,020	-14.7%	-27.2%	-19.8%	-26.9%	-34.7%	-30.0%

Northern Forest Zone preliminary comparison – five-year average and 2022 vs. 2023.

bow and crossbow seasons, hunters have registered 266,132 deer statewide so far this year.

Adams County in the Central Farmland Zone led the state with 9.7 deer registered per square mile. Adams County also led the Central Forest Zone with 3.5 deer per square mile.

Vernon County led the Southern Farmland Zone with 6.7 deer registered per square mile.

Taylor County registered the most deer per square mile, 2.7, in the Northern Forest Zone.

The DNR's Wisconsin Deer Harvest Summary webpage (www.tinyurl.com/3699phaz) has more information regarding preliminary harvest registration totals, including county-level numbers.

2023 gun deer season hunting incidents

DNR reported three firearm-involved hunting incidents during the 2023 gun deer season:

• Forest County, Arbonne Township: On Nov. 18, in the morning hours, a 53-year-old male suffered a self-inflicted gunshot to the foot. The victim was walking to his tree stand on public property and adjusted his rifle sling when he accidentally pulled the trigger. The victim was transported to the hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

• Adams County, Big Flatts Township: On Nov. 19, in the morning hours, a 62-year-old male shot once at a dog, which he believed was an antlerless deer, on private property. A 47-year-old female victim was walking that dog and was shot in her thigh. The victim was taken to the hospital via MedFlight for her injuries.

• Taylor County, Rib Lake Township: On Nov. 24, near midday, a 30-year-old male was the victim of a gunshot to his upper thigh. During the end of a deer drive, a 35-year-old male shooter shot at a deer, striking the victim. The victim received

Deer Management Zone	2023 Gun Deer Harvested	5 Year Average Comparison
Northern Forest Zone	Antlered: 17,715	-14.7%
	Antlerless: 10,305	-27.2%
Central Forest Zone	Antlered: 3,587	-3.6%
	Antlerless: 2,703	-2.1%
Central Farmland Zone	Antlered: 44,587	-5.2%
	Antlerless: 53,696	-14.7%
Southern Farmland Zone	Antlered: 19,501	-0.9%
	Antlerless: 21,848	-11.1%
Total Preliminary Harvest Registrations	Antlered: 85,390	-6.4%
	Antlerless: 88,552	-15.2%
	Total: 173,942	-11.1%

The 2023 gun deer season's regional harvest breakdown by deer management zone as compared to the five-year average. Photos courtesy of Wisconsin DNR

medical treatment at a hospital.

Comparatively, during the 2022 gun deer season, the DNR reported eight fire-

arm-involved hunting incidents. Of those incidents, four were self-inflicted gunshots.

The average hunting in-

cidents per year for the last 10 gun deer seasons (2014-2023) is 5.9. In addition, there were no fatalities in six of those 10 years.

The NFL Draft: Growing confidence

BY KRIS LEONHARDT
MMC SENIOR EDITOR

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

GREEN BAY – Work on romancing the NFL to Green Bay for the Draft started when the professional football league decided to pull the event out of New York City.

The NFL Draft was held in New York from 1965 to 2014 at Radio City Music Hall – which hosted the draft nine times – when the Rockettes' spring spectacular pushed the draft into May in 2014.

"It was in New York City for years and years and years. And Radio City Music Hall is where it was held, and the next year, they couldn't hold it. They had another event," said Discover Green Bay President/CEO Brad Toll. "And as soon as I saw that story, I looked at all of the Radio City information I could find and



Work on romancing the NFL to Green Bay for the Draft started when the professional football league decided to pull the event out of New York City. Photo by Kris Leonhardt

their capacity is about 6,000. Seating in the Resch Center, it easily can do 8,000. So, I called Aaron Popkey over at the Packers and said, 'Hey, we could do this in Green Bay?' and he said, 'You know, we were just talking about that over here; like maybe that would fit here.' And I said, 'It absolutely does.'"

So, the Green Bay Packers and Discover Green Bay applied, but they were turned down that year.

Chicago got the Draft in 2015 and 2016, where it was held at the historic Auditorium Theatre.

"So you know the first

time we bid on it, it was probably a letter that said, 'Hey, we'd love to host it,'" Toll recalled. "Now that bid book is probably 65 pages to 70 pages, and very, very detailed – all the information. Our bid was hundreds of pages long, like a big three-ring binder of all the information that you needed to provide. So, certainly bidding on it grew from that time. But you know, we knew early on it would be a great event for Green Bay to host. We can't host a Super Bowl. So this really is our Super Bowl."

"Being able to host a draft, and I think the NFL knew

Fishing Report: Some ice forming as temps drop

BY GEORGE LANGLEY

NORTHERN WISCONSIN – Ice...we've got some! "Some" is the operative word, but with these cold nighttime temps we're seeing the ice building quickly.

Although we can't recommend it as of this late November writing, we're already seeing some hard-core ice anglers come through for bait, aiming for early wall-eye. And they're catching them, too.

The beginning of any fishing season can be somewhat of a "crap shoot," especially up here with different ice conditions each year, and thus different access to the best spots. With most of the bigger lakes still open, over the Thanksgiving weekend,

that too, that this meant a lot to our community and the history and the tradition that's here in Green Bay, and it really is some of the roots of the NFL are here. We knew they really wanted to bring it here too. It was a matter of being confident that we could do it, we had the hotel inven-

we were actually seeing a couple folks getting suckers and looking for musky on the open water, while others were buying shiners and heading out on the hard water.

Everyone from the snowmobilers to the ice anglers would like to see a bit more really cold weather before we get the inevitable dump of snow, so we can avoid that slush on both the lakes and the trails.

Walleye action for the very few anglers that have ventured out has been good. Try some shallow weeds in the evenings and after dark, as these fish will move quite shallow in low light conditions to feed. Set those tip-ups to intercept the walleye

tory that we needed," Toll continued. "In a lot of the other cities, they have 800 to 1,000-room hotels. You know, we don't have hotels that size, which means you need a lot of them to make up for that one big one. We certainly come with some extra things that are a little different than

as they move shallow to feed in the evenings and be quiet on the thinner, new ice.

We're not really seeing anyone trying for panfish. But that will begin as soon as it's safe to get around out there.

We heard of a few muskies caught over the weekend, so those willing to brave the cold are getting fish. Suckers have been the bait of choice.

Hopefully this is the only real "in between" time period we'll have, and that ice will continue to build. If you're going out, be very careful and check ice thickness often as you move around. Caution is better than bravado at this time of the year.

Good luck and good fishing!

other cities; but, through the bidding process, the NFL I think has gotten very confident in Discover Green Bay and the Packers' ability to be able to pull this off with them as partners."

NFL Draft coverage will be ongoing over the upcoming year.

Applications for 2024 spring turkey season due next week

COURTESY OF THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WISCONSIN – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is reminding wild turkey hunters that applications for the 2024 spring season are due next week.

Applications must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10.

Hunters can apply for harvest authorizations or purchase preference points toward future drawings through Go Wild (www.gowild.wi.gov/) or an authorized license agent.

Turkey harvest authorizations are issued through a preference-based drawing system.

Applicants may choose up to two time period and zone combinations that they would like to hunt. As a third choice, applicants may choose one zone in which they will accept a harvest authorization for any period. This third choice can be the same zone as the first and/or second choice. The second and third choices are optional, but applicants are encouraged to submit additional choices to maximize their likelihood of drawing a harvest authorization.

The spring harvest au-



Applications for the 2024 spring turkey season are due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10.

Photo courtesy of iStock/Robert Winkler

thorization drawing takes place in late January. Successful applicants are notified by mail after the drawing results are finalized.

Application status can also be checked through Go Wild, at a DNR service center or by calling 1-888-WDNRINFO (1-888-936-7463). Applicants not selected will receive a preference point that will increase their chances of drawing a harvest authorization the following spring season.

Any harvest authorizations not awarded in the drawing will be available for purchase as bonus harvest authorizations. Bonus harvest authorizations will cost \$10.00 for residents and \$15.00 for non-residents.

All turkey hunters must possess a valid spring turkey license and a wild turkey stamp when they acquire their spring turkey harvest authorization. A 2024 spring turkey license is \$15.00 for Wisconsin residents and \$60.00 for non-residents. The 2024 wild turkey stamp is \$5.25. Licenses will go on sale March 1, 2024.

The 2024 spring turkey season is as follows:

- Youth Hunt – April 13-14
- Period A – April 17-23
- Period B – April 24-30
- Period C – May 1-7
- Period D – May 8-14
- Period E – May 15-21
- Period F – May 22-28

For more information, visit www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/hunt/turkey.

TOMAHAWK SPORTS TRIVIA: WEEK 159

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

Week 158 answer: During the 1974-75 wrestling season, THS

earned its first shutout in school history over Eagle River, by a score of 62-0.

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

Week 159 question: During the 1975 state wrestling tournament, what place did Bill Cook take: Fourth, fifth or sixth?

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.

WEATHER

DATE	HIGH (°F)	LOW (°F)
Sunday, Nov. 26	25	11
Monday, Nov. 27	15	4
Tuesday, Nov. 28	19	14
Wednesday, Nov. 29	40	18
Thursday, Nov. 30	42	8
Friday, Dec. 1	32	6
Saturday, Dec. 2	35	28

Entries now being accepted for 2024 Keep Wildlife Wild poster contest

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is now accepting entries for its 2024 Keep Wildlife Wild poster contest.

Students in fourth, fifth and sixth grades enrolled in public, private, parochial or home schools in Wisconsin are eligible to participate.

“The Keep Wildlife Wild program began in 2014 to spread the word about our shared role in keeping all wildlife healthy in its natural habitat,” DNR said in a release. “The contest’s goal is to create a poster that teaches the importance of enjoying and observing wildlife in the wild and not keeping wildlife in homes or as pets.”

DNR noted that during the warmer months of spring and summer, the frequency of human and wildlife encounters increases, especially those involving young wild animals.

“While most of these encounters are harmless, there are times when well-intentioned people disrupt wildlife because they mistake a lone baby animal for an orphan,” DNR said. “The Keep Wildlife Wild poster contest is a fun way for kids to help spread the important message to keep wildlife wild.”

Judging will take place in February. Those who submitted designs will be notified by email of winners in March.

DNR will also announce winners in a statewide news release and Facebook post during the sixth annual Keep Wildlife Wild Week in April.

For inspiration to help design your poster and learn about Wisconsin critters, visit EEK! Critter Corner (www.eekwi.org/critter/index.htm) or check out the DNR’s Keep Wildlife Wild webpage (www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/orphan).

The poster entry must contain the words “Keep Wildlife Wild 2024” and follow the theme “Safe in their home.”

Poster CONTINUES ON PAGE 12



Fourth grader Elsa Wright of Suamico won first place in her grade in the 2023 Keep Wildlife Wild poster contest.

Photo courtesy of Wisconsin DNR



From NASA: “This four-panel illustration shows how the southern region of the rapidly evolving, bright, red supergiant star Betelgeuse suddenly become fainter for several months during late 2019 and early 2020. In the first two panels, a bright, hot blob of plasma is ejected from the emergence of a huge convection cell on the star’s surface. In panel three, the outflowing, expelled gas rapidly expands outward. It cools to form an enormous cloud of obscuring dust grains. The final panel reveals the huge dust cloud blocking the light (as seen from Earth) from a quarter of the star’s surface.” Photo courtesy of NASA, ESA and E. Wheatley (STScI)

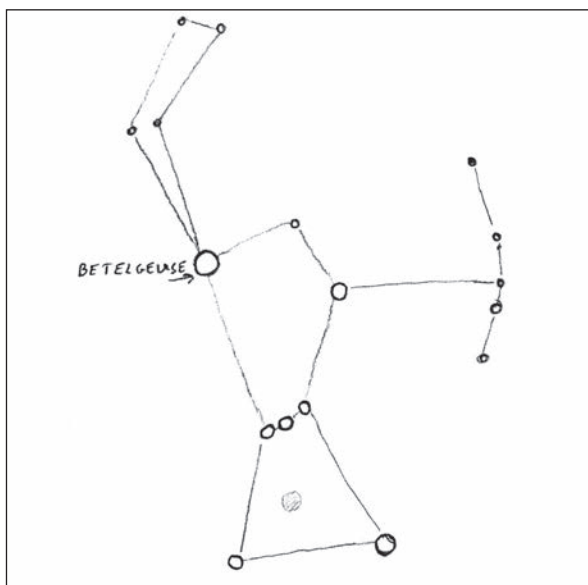
Natural Connections: An Old Friend

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

The dark road curved beneath my headlights, and then straightened into a long trough between the trees. An old friend lay resting there, just above the pointed tips of spruce and fir.

Orion has been my favorite winter constellation for many years. Sometimes subtitled “The Hunter,” it seems apt that Orion is lying on his back these days, perhaps resting up from early mornings of deer hunting. Traditionally, of course, his quarry was more mythical—chasing the beautiful seven sisters of Pleiades, doing battle with Taurus the Bull, fighting a scorpion sent to tame his ego, or hunting the constellation Lepus the Hare.

In Australia and New Zealand, Orion appears upside down, and his distinctive belt and sword are imagined instead as a cooking pot.



Vivianne Hanke drew this image of the constellation Orion for Emily Stone’s first Natural Connections book.

Perfect for the end of hunting season! Closer to home, some in the Ojibwe culture call this constellation Bi-boonkeonini, the Winter Maker, as his presence in the night sky heralds winter. Indeed, he can be seen from November to February each year.

Of the four stars that form the rectangular shape of Orion’s body, Betelgeuse is my favorite. This reddish colored star forms Orion’s right shoulder. The red color is not an optical illusion, and it is not due to rusty iron, as

Old Friend CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

Church DIRECTORY

<p>First Congregational N. Fifth & E. Washington Ave., Tomahawk 715-453-2217 8:30am Bible Study • 9:30am Worship Pastor John Miskimen</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Northland Bible Church 2810 Olson Road, Tomahawk Join Us Sunday 10 a.m. Pastor Alex Lindsay 715-612-1841 northlandbiblechurch.com</p>	<p>St. Mary's Catholic Seventh and Washington Ave., Tomahawk • 715-453-2878 Fr. Louis Maram Reddy, Pastor Mass times: Saturday 6 p.m. Sunday 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Confessions: Saturdays, 9 a.m.; Anytime by Appointment</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Pier-Willow 12 Miles North of Tripoli at 5209 Willow Road Fr. Louis Maram Reddy, Pastor Saturday 4 p.m. Mass</p>
<p>Redeemer Ev. Lutheran WELS • 715-453-4814 16 Theiler Drive, Tomahawk Rev. Mark Gass, Pastor For Mass Times Check www.redeemertomahawk.org</p>	<p>St. Augustine Catholic Intersection of D & B, Harrison • 715-453-2561 Fr. Louis Maram Reddy, Pastor Sunday 8:00 a.m. Mass</p>
<p>St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Missouri Synod 715-453-5391 12 E. Wisconsin Ave., Tomahawk Pastor Stephen P. Gillet</p>	<p>Northwoods Vineyard 418 Kaphaem Road Tomahawk • 715-453-6700 Pastor Nate & Shelley Nelson Reg. Serv. 9:30 Facebook Live Stream 9:30</p>
<p>Directory made possible by these churches and...</p> <p>PACKAGING CORPORATION OF AMERICA N9090 Hwy. E, Tomahawk</p> <p>TOMAHAWK LEADER 24 W. Rives St., Rhinelander</p>	<p>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</p>

OLD FRIEND

FROM PAGE 11

is the color on Mars. Betelgeuse is a type of star called a red supergiant, and it gives off most of its light in the near-infrared wavelength, which we cannot see. It is at the opposite end of the spectrum from ultra-violet (UV) light, which is also invisible to humans. Only a small portion (13%) of Betelgeuse's light is visible to our eyes. But we have built surrogate "eyes"—instruments that can "see" these wavelengths and translate them into beautiful images in the visible spectrum of colors.

Betelgeuse is one of the largest stars ever discovered, and it would be the brightest star in the sky—if we could see that infrared light. Instead, we only observe it as roughly the tenth-brightest star, and its brightness fluctuates.

With the help of powerful telescopes, astrophysicists have seen hotspots and other features on the surface of Betelgeuse. One astronomer characterized Betelgeuse as "an enormous seething restless cauldron of belching plasma." In 2019, the star blew a huge chunk of its mass into space, and the dust cloud that ensued shaded us from its light. Betelgeuse dimmed by 60%, and then brightened again less than a year later as the dust cleared.

Something that violent can hardly last very long. At about 10 million years old, Betelgeuse is thought to be near the end of its life. It will likely explode into a supernova within the next 100,000 years, and maybe even

within tens of years. When it does, it will be visible even in the day, brighter than the moon, and to an outside observer would outshine the entire Milky Way Galaxy.

I was never an astronaut-aspiring space kid, but I did become enthralled with stars once I learned that they, like us, are born and die. Stars arise from clouds of dust, where gravity brings the particles together. Mass builds and gravity increases until hydrogen atoms smashing into each other combine to form helium. Nuclear fusion begins, light shines, and a star is born.

As the star ages and becomes a red giant, helium fuses into carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, magnesium, and eventually iron. But where does the rest of the periodic table come in? Those elements can't be created during a star's life. They are conceived during its death.

The heat and energy involved in a large star's death—in a supernova—are enough to synthesize many more elements, which are all hurled into space to form a supernova remnant, also called a nebula. Nebulas are the birthplaces of stars, and also of planets like Earth. The atoms who coalesced to form the Earth now cycle endlessly through her rocks, her air, her water, and her life. We literally are made of stardust.

Betelgeuse has already used up its supply of hydrogen for nuclear fusion. This means heavier elements are fusing together, and the star's core is compressed into a hot, dense, ball, while other outer layers have expanded into the huge red

mass we see today. Stars like this are rare—we only know of 200 in our galaxy—because they do not live very long.

While I admire the superlative nature of stars like Betelgeuse, I often think about how wonderful our own star is. Our Sun is just the right size, just the right distance, just the right age, and just the right brightness to make life on Earth possible.

This time of year, when gray clouds can hang low for many days in a row, a splash of sunlight on my face feels like wonderful gift. I am even grateful for when the Sun sets early. Crystalline stars and shimmering Northern Lights appear closer in these long winter nights. This time of year, Orion is really a perfect friend. He keeps me company on dark lonely drives, sparkles handsomely above my doorstep, and after hanging out with him, I can still get to bed early!

This world provides us with much to be thankful for.

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.

Tree seedlings available to all Wisconsin fourth graders ahead of Arbor Day

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – Free tree seedlings are available to every fourth grade student in the Badger State as part of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)'s annual Arbor Day tree planting program.

Wisconsin fourth grade principals, teachers and those who homeschool can now place seedling orders and coordinate delivery by completing the 2024 Arbor Day application (www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/treeplanting/arbormform) by March 15, 2024.

"Planting seedlings from state nurseries is a great way to celebrate Arbor Day (April 26, 2024), which is dedicated to increasing the number of trees across the country to help improve the environment," DNR stated. "By ordering seedlings, you can help."

Through its fourth grade Arbor Day tree planting program, the DNR provides interactive education to Wisconsin students around the importance of trees within our environment. Annually, the DNR provides approximately 50,000 free tree seedlings to fourth-grade students throughout the state.

Seedlings come protected to keep backpacks clean, and shipments include educational information on how to best plant and care for seedlings and trees.

"Trees provide a variety of benefits to both people and the planet," said Heather Berkland, DNR Chief State Forester. "They give off oxygen, trap carbon dioxide, feed and provide shelter for furry forest creatures and provide materials to build a variety of essential house-



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is offering free tree seedlings to every fourth grade student in Wisconsin as part of the department's annual Arbor Day tree planting program. **Photo courtesy of Wisconsin DNR**

hold items. This program enables us to bring forest education directly to the hands of students and teach them about the importance of trees and of managing and restoring our forests."

In 2021, Governor Tony Evers signed an Executive Order pledging to protect and restore Wisconsin's forestland by planting 75 million trees by 2030 as part of the U.S. Chapter of the Global Trillion Trees Initiative.

Arbor Day is a holiday during which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant trees. The holiday originated in Nebraska in 1872 and is now celebrated nationally. Wisconsin's Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April and is usually linked with Earth Day.

For more ways to celebrate Arbor Day, visit www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/education/arborday.

POSTER

FROM PAGE 11

"Whether it is a rabbit nest in a garden, a robin nest in the branches of a tree, or a fawn's hiding spot in the long grass of a field, each of their homes is unique and helps keep them safe," DNR said. "Young artists are encouraged to design their poster with this idea in mind."

All posters must consist of original artwork of Wisconsin native wildlife. Posters must fit an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper and must be submitted individually; no team creations.

All submissions, including the student's entry form and artwork, must be received electronically via email or by mail by 5 p.m. on Feb. 16, 2024.

Submit entries to Wis-

consin Keep Wildlife Wild Poster Design Contest, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Attn: Taylor Czynscon, P.O. Box 100 Friendship, Wis., 53934; or KeepWildlifeWild@wisconsin.gov.

To see the complete list of rules and requirements, visit www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/posterdesigncontest.



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