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Tomahawk Area Historical Society planning summertime 'Old Kindergarten' reunion, open house

COURTESY OF THE TOMAHAWK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TOMAHAWK – Did you or someone you know attend Kindergarten at the Old Kindergarten schoolhouse, which is now a historical museum?

If so, the Tomahawk Area Historical Society is encouraging you “to save a date” – Friday, July 5, 2024. The Historical Society is planning a Kindergarten Reunion and Open House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the city’s first school building and former Kindergarten that day.

All “graduates” are invited to tour Tomahawk’s Old Kindergarten and Logging Museums across the street from each other on E. Washington Ave. A picnic lunch with a brat fry fundraiser is planned. Their families and others in the community also are welcome.

Besides ongoing and special Kindergarten-related displays, the event also will feature old-time games for young and young-at-heart.

The Historical Society Reunion Planning Committee is seeking pictures of school classes and events in that building, along



The Tomahawk Area Historical Society's Old Kindergarten museum is located on E. Washington Ave. near Washington Square Park.

Photo courtesy of the Tomahawk Area Historical Society

with memories from those school days.

“So many people we talk to attended Kindergarten in that building,” noted Kathy Tobin, one of the event’s organizers. “When we mention the reunion, there’s an immediate excitement about the event and memories begin to flow. We hope to capture some of those memories ahead of time and even more on July 5.”

Please submit any pictures and memories to the Tomahawk Area Historical Society Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TomahawkAreaHistoricalSociety/) or mail to P.O. Box 655, Tomahawk, Wis., 54487.

Emails and questions also can be sent to kathyatobin@gmail.com.

“Hopes are graduates will pass along the word about the reunion on their own social media,” Tobin said. “We’d really like to see a great turnout during the long holiday weekend.”

The school building was erected as a one-room school in 1888 on property donated by city founder, William Bradley. It became a Kindergarten in 1898 and continued to serve those aged students until 1980.



DNR grant funding will help the City of Tomahawk take down and replace EAB-impacted ash trees such as this one, which was removed from W. Wisconsin Ave. this summer.

Photo by Jalen Maki

City of Tomahawk awarded DNR grant funding to aid in removing, replacing EAB-impacted ash trees

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR

TOMAHAWK – The City of Tomahawk will receive grant funding from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to help remove and replace ash trees impacted by an invasive species.

On Thursday, Dec. 14, DNR announced the recipients of its 2024 Urban Forestry Grants, which help fund projects “consistent with state and national goals for increasing the urban forest canopy.”

In total, roughly \$805,000.00 – about \$555,000.00 in state funding and approximately \$250,000.00 in federal dollars – will be distributed among more than 50 Wisconsin organizations and communities, including Tomahawk, Ashland, Edgar, Spencer and Wisconsin Rapids.

DNR said a dollar-for-dollar match puts the estimated cost of the projects over \$1.6 million.

The City of Tomahawk

Grant

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3

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	Billy Bob's	\$50.00 G.C for Billy Bob's
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	Chuck's Sports Shop	2 \$25 Gift Certificates for Chucks
Ingman's Service	Toro Self Propelled Mower	Cheese Shoppe	Holiday Basket
Tomahawk Sports Center	Skidoo Snowmobile Jacket	Erv's Sales & Service	\$50 Gift Card to Erv's
Just 4 U Fitness	Single Person 3mo. Special w/ Access Card Joint (couple) 3mo. Special w/access Card	Hewitt Meats	\$50 Gift Card for Hewitt's Meat
Kevin Urmann State Farm Insurance	2 \$100 Chamber Bucks	Holly's Bar	2 \$25.00 Gift Certificates for Holly's
Sideways Wine & Craft Beer	2 \$100 Gift Certificates	Hometown Feed Mill & General Store	2 \$25 Gift Certificate
Subway	3 Five 6" Sub Coupons (\$60 Value)	Kracker Barrel	2 \$25 Gift Certificate
Bootleggers Lodge	Dinner for two	NAPA	2 \$25 Gift Cards to NAPA of Tomahawk
Hackel Plumbing	3 \$50 Chamber Bucks	Northwoods Community Realty	Backpack Cooler and \$50 Chamber Bucks
Woodland Lakes Realty	Hampton Bay Fire Pit	O'Reilly's	2 \$25.00 Gift Cards
Absolute Electric	\$100 Chamber Bucks	Scentability	2 \$25 Gift Certificate
Hometown Chiropractic	Therapeutic Blanket	Standard Mercantile	\$50.00 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
Coasters	\$50.00 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.



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School board approves pair of new hires

Woodall to serve as TES Principal; Remington appointed Community Education Coordinator

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR

ments during its meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

Sheri Woodall

Sheri Woodall, a familiar face around the Tomahawk school complex, is slated to begin in her new position as TES Principal on July 1, 2024. She will remain in her current role as THS Associate Principal for the remainder of the school year before replacing retiring TES Principal Guy Steckbauer.

The district said Woodall brings 28 years of educational experience to the role, with the past 15 of those years being in Tomahawk, where she has a "proven track record of leadership."

"She has previously



Woodall

served as a high school English/Language Arts teacher, along with numerous leadership roles, before accepting her current position of High School Associate Principal," the district stated. "Her leadership style emphasizes teamwork and collaboration, innova-



Remington

Photos courtesy of the School District of Tomahawk

tion and a student-centered approach that aligns seamlessly with the values of our district."

Woodall said she is "honored to have the opportunity to serve as the Tomahawk Elementary Principal."

"I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to work collaboratively with our exceptional staff, dedicated families, community partners and bright students," Woodall stated. "Together, we will continue to build a nurturing and stimulating educational environment that encourages academic excellence, personal growth and a strong sense of community."

Taylor Remington

In her role as Community Education Coordinator, Taylor Remington will "(spearhead) the district's community education initiatives, aimed at fostering knowledge, skill development and community engagement."

The board approved the creation of the new position in September.

The district explained that as the Community Ed-

ucation Coordinator, Remington will work closely with community stakeholder groups, educational partners and individual community members to identify educational needs and grow innovative programs that address those needs, adding that she will also be instrumental in building partnerships, organizing workshops and creating a collaborative learning environment that empowers individuals of all ages.

"We are thrilled to welcome Taylor to our team as the Community Education Coordinator," the district stated. "Her expertise and dedication to community development align perfectly with our strategic plan. The School District of Tomahawk looks forward to the positive impact that this position will bring to our district and the community at large."

Happy Holidays!

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Merrill and Tomahawk stores will both be closed, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Happy Holidays!

News Briefs

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. Applications are due Friday, Dec. 29.

Warm for Winter distributing clothing in Rhinelander

Warm for Winter, a mission of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Rhinelander, collects new and gently used clothing, shoes, boots, coats, hats, mittens, toys and bedding. Everyone is welcome, no questions asked. No income requirements. Distributions will take place at Friendly Village, 900 Boyce Dr., Rhinelander, on Saturday, Dec. 30, 9 a.m. to noon; Monday,

Jan. 8, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, Jan. 27, 9 a.m. to noon. 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.

City of Tomahawk winter parking ban

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

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.

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PAWS 2 THINK

is a non-profit organization to help local pets in need. For more information, call Sunnie at 715-612-5866

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AmeriCorps Seniors If Interested Call Jim at 715-536-8386 ext. 1220 or email at: James.Larkin@wisconsin.gov



Pictured, from left: Terry Derleth, Red Kettle Campaign Honorary Chairperson, Salvation Army Voucher Writer and Bell Ringing Site Coordinator; Judy Barr, RE/MAX Property Pros; Jacob Flohr, CLC Realty; Ed Raasch, Woodland Lakes Realty and NWAR Board President; Tim Nelson, Wild Rivers Group Real Estate; and Tina Duranceau-Moritz, Salvation Army Volunteer. Not pictured: Andrea Krueger, Century 21 Best Way Realty; and Jackie Leonhard, Northwoods Community Realty and GNMLS Treasurer. Photo courtesy of Chris Raasch

NATIONAL REALTOR RING DAY

Local real estate offices match funds raised for Red Kettle Campaign

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK - The Tomahawk Area Real Estate offices, active members in the Northwoods Association of Realtors (NWAR), recently took part in the annual National Realtor Ring Day to help support the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign.

The local realtors matched the funds they raised on Friday, Dec. 1. Their matching funds were donated at the Trig's kettle location on Friday, Dec. 8. The Salvation Army of Tomahawk set a fund-raising goal of \$55,000.00 this year, which will fund emergency assistance for those in need and supple-

ment the budget of the Happy Kids Backpack Program. The Tomahawk realtors are encouraging the public to donate at a local kettle or volunteer to ring through Saturday, Dec. 23. The schedule a time to ring, contact Win Semmler at 630-667-3250 or visit www.RegistertoRing.com.

kills ash trees by eating the tissues under the bark, and plant new trees of a different species in their place. The grant funding will assist the city in this endeavor. This summer, Streets Department Leadperson Nick Rosenmeier said eventually all 300 of the city's ash trees "will be gone" due to EAB.

The City of Tomahawk received Urban Forestry Grant dollars in Nov. 2021, after two severe thunderstorms damaged and toppled trees throughout the city and Bradley Park that summer. Additional grant funds were allocated to Tomahawk and several other communities in Feb. 2022.

www.TomahawkLeader.com



THE LINCOLN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Would like to thank our 85.21 transportation Volunteer Drivers for their service in 2023 assisting with meeting the transportation needs of some Lincoln County's most vulnerable individuals.

Thank you for being a selfless, generous & thoughtful Volunteer! You have helped make a difference in the lives of many!

For information on how you can become a volunteer driver, please call 715-539-1331.

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Deadline for ads & copy is 5PM THURSDAY.

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Table with 2 columns: Subscription length, Price. Includes Single Newsstand (FREE), 3 months (\$25), 6 months (\$50), 12 months (\$100).

Prices include postage and handling. Periodicals postage paid at Tomahawk, WI.

POSTMASTER: Address changes should be forwarded to the Tomahawk Leader, P.O. Box 408, Waupaca, WI 54981 at least two weeks in advance. Unused subscriptions are non-refundable but may be used to extend another subscription.

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.

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.

Advertising Errors: The Leader will not be responsible for errors in any advertisement beyond the first publication of that advertisement. In case of error, adjustment is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES
1st Congregational Church Sunday, December 24, 2023 9:30 am and 6:00 pm
Revive Now Church Sunday, December 24, 2023 4:00 pm
The Methodist Church Sunday, December 24, 2023 Spirit - 8:30 am Tomahawk - 4:30
The Rock Church Sunday, December 24, 2023 9:00 am and 5:00 pm
Grace Lutheran Church Sunday, December 24, 2023 4:00 pm Children's Program 7:00 pm Candlelight Monday, Christmas Day 10:00 am, followed by Friends Dinner
Northwood's Vineyard Church Sunday, December 24, 2023 9:30 am and 5:00 pm (no kids program)
Redeemer Lutheran Church December 24, 2023 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm December 25, 2023 10:00 am

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM LINCOLN COUNTY

WHERE THE NORTHWOODS START AND YOUR ADVENTURE BEGINS!

SEEKING STORIES THAT SPEAK TO OUR HISTORY AND FUTURE

Submit your preferred story by January 3, 2024 by visiting our website: co.lincoln.wi.us



Lincoln County is partnering with Uniquely Wisconsin to promote Lincoln County through the telling of three short stories that touch on a combination of culture, community engagement, economic development, and tourism. The stories are about the people within our community and celebrate what makes us unique. Help us find "The Story" that best highlights our history as well as our future.

OBITUARIES

Obituary updates are posted at www.tomahawkleader.com



Irvin B. King, 89, of Tomahawk, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, at Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital. Irvin was born Aug. 16, 1934, in Merrill, son of the late Benjamin and Edith (Hipke) King. He graduated from Antigo High School and worked as a truck driver for R.O.W., Lincoln Wood, Merrill Manufacturing, and SEMCO. Irv also had a portable sawmill and helped anyone that needed lumber cut. Irv married Letitia 'June' Reynolds on July 16, 1982. She preceded him in death on June 2, 2007.

In his younger years, Irv enjoyed hunting, open water fishing, ice fishing, and camping. Irv and June traveled everywhere with their 5th wheel camper. Their most memorable trips were to Alaska, Canada, and Las Vegas. Irv also enjoyed hunting. He was one of the original members of the "Bear Track Inn" hunting club in Newwood. Irv was very sociable and enjoyed driving to Tomahawk, Gleason and Merrill to have lunch with friends. Survivors include his sons, Gerald King (Mary Hull) of Gleason, Jim (Nadia) King of Merrill, and Tom (Kirsten) King of Birchwood; ten grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; and one brother, Allen King of Merrill. Irv was preceded in death by his wife, June King; parents, Ben and Edith King; and brother and sister-in-law, Richard "Dick" and Delores "Dee Dee" King. The funeral service for Irv was held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Rev. Greg Laska presided. The burial took place in Summit Cemetery, Town of Summit, Langlade County. The visitation was held Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. and again Tuesday after 10 a.m., all at the funeral home. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com.



James K. Likwarz, 93, Tomahawk, passed away Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023 at his home surrounded by his family. Jim was born Jan. 17, 1930 in Tomahawk to Stanley and Margaret (Tafelski) Likwarz. He was married to Darlene Tully on Aug. 20, 1955 at St. Mary's Catholic Church here in Tomahawk. A lifetime of gratitude to our amazing mom for taking care of him all these years!

He was a proud Veteran of the U.S. Air Force. "Thank you for making the Stars on our flag shine so bright."

Jim and Darlene moved to Green Bay and raised their family there for over 30 years until retiring back home to Tomahawk in 1990. Jim built and designed three family homes and two family cottages. "Pencils were thrown between the two of them during the whole process." While in Green Bay he was employed as a Mechanical Designer for the Paper Converting Machine Company. He was member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and served on their board, also serving on the Board for the Knights of Columbus. He was a driver for Meals on Wheels in Tomahawk for over 28 years. Jim was a proud member of the VFW and American Legion. Jim flew on The Honor Flight Mission 12. He enjoyed golfing, fishing, gardening, writing "letters to the Editor" at The Leader, never holding back his opinions. He also was a HUGE Packer fan and enjoyed travelling, especially to Italy, in search of the "Best Hard Salami"! Jim's favorite times were spent with his family, especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Jim is survived by his wife, Darlene and their four children, Linda (Joseph) Shamey, Seal Rock, Oregon, Gary (Diane), Lisa, and Lesley. He is further survived by six grandchildren: Ian (Ben), Olivia, Jesse (Beth), Mike (Hillary), Stephen (Megan) Mackin and Tyler Mackin; two great-grandchildren, Sterling James Likwarz and Hayden Hayes Mackin. And of course, "Jimmy's special", Gabriella, Sophie and Isaac Urmann; brother -in-Law, Ken (Marlene)Urso. He was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters.

A Memorial Service for James Likwarz with Military Rites will be held at Krueger Nimsgrn Funeral Home at 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 22. Hospice Chaplain, Michele Rein will officiate. The family will receive friends at Krueger Nimsgrn Funeral Home from 1 p.m. until the time of services. You may view the obituary and share on line condolences at www.nimsgrnfuneral.com.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes to contribute to several local organizations in Jim's honor. A very special thank you to all the Hospice nurses and staff whom helped us thru this process.



Kyla K. Dotter, age 36, of Tomahawk, passed away on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. Kyla was born in Tomahawk on October 25, 1987, to Gene "Tweet" and Catherine (Sherman) Heikkinen. She was married to the love of her life, Derek Dotter, on September 6, 2014; he survives.

Kyla grew up in Tomahawk where she was a 2006 graduate of Tomahawk High School. She entered the military in 2007, serving in the United States Air Force as a Loadmaster, deployed to over 50 countries. She was very proud of her service, and her family was even prouder. After completion of her enlistment, she attended the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point where she received her Bachelor's of Science degree, majoring in biology and minoring in education. Kyla was a talented basketball and softball athlete. It was because of her participation in high school sports that inspired her to become a teacher. Kyla began teaching at Tomahawk High School in 2017, teaching biology, anatomy, earth science, and was the Science Club advisor. She respected her students, and in return, her students respected her. Kyla enjoyed golfing and the camaraderie as a member of the Tuesday Night Women's League at Edgewater Country Club. Her life was never about her, but always about her husband, her children, and her family.

Survivors include her husband, Derek Dotter, of Tomahawk; her children, Reid and Blayke Dotter; her parents, Tweet and Cathy Heikkinen, of Tomahawk; her sister, Katie (Seth) Kroening, of Tomahawk; and her father and mother-in-law, Gary and Cindy Dotter, also of Tomahawk. She is further survived by many extended family members. Kyla was preceded in death by her maternal and paternal grandparents.

The family wishes to thank the Tomahawk Community, Ties that Bind Us, Jennifer Black, Chris Bembinster, and so many others too numerous to mention for the outpouring of support, kindness, concern, and encouragement throughout Kyla's fight. This community has blessed them more than they can say.

A celebration of life gathering will be held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at Generations Funeral Home, from 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family.



Cynthia M. Fitzgerald, aged 67, passed away peacefully in her sleep on December 2nd, 2023. She was born September 4th, 1956, in Racine, WI, to Arthur and Dorothy Shockley and graduated from Horlick high school in 1974.

Besides spending time with her family and friends, she enjoyed taking trips to the North American Bear Center in Ely, MN to visit with her two black bears, Ted and Honey. She also enjoyed traveling and spending her summers with her grandchildren. She worked various jobs, including beautician, CNA, and working for her husband's plumbing company, but her favorite and most rewarding job was caring for and helping people with disabilities at Opportunity Village in Las Vegas, NV. She continued this career path while living in West Salem as well.

Her whole world was her bears, as well as her grandchildren. Jadyne states that "she was an amazing grandma. I loved it most when she took me to Chuck-E-Cheese and we played. I also loved it when she went swimming with me at the swimming pool and the pond at the campground she stayed at with my Papa during the summer. At the pond we would get ice cream with cousins and friends during the ice cream social, she rarely if ever, told me "No". One year for my birthday she got me a black truck just like Papa's, and another year for my birthday she got me a hoverboard which I still have. She also got a bear blanket from the bear center that I still use every night as it reminds me of her. My most fond memory of her was when she came back after the winter and would surprise me at school, bringing my classmates and I ice cream. I love and miss my grandma very much and will always be thinking of her."

Jenna, her first grandchild, states that "our grandma was a compassionate lady who loved all animals, big and small. I believe my love of animals came from her, as she would bring home all sorts of animals and taught me how to care for them. I remember living right across the street from my grandparents, riding my little battery powered car to their house every chance I got to hang out with my grandma and whatever animal she had at the time. She also taught me how to swim and allowed me to eat ice cream for supper with my Papa. I also have a love of traveling from her, as we went to Disney World, Disney Land, multiple trips were made to Las Vegas, and every summer we would take a trip to the Milwaukee Zoo. My grandma will be deeply missed, and a huge hole will be left in the hearts of all her loved ones. I love and miss you so much Granna."

She was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur and Dorothy, her brothers, Larry, Michael and James McMullen as well as her two black bears, Ted and Honey. She is further survived by her husband, Tim Fitzgerald, her daughter and son-in-law, Erica and Shaun Schober, and grandchildren, Jenna and Jadyne Schober, as well as many other relatives and friends.

In accordance with Cinders wishes, no formal service will be held, but a celebration of life is in the works and will be announced once finalized. The family asks that you send monetary gifts to "North American Bear Center Hwy 169 Ely, MN 55731" in her name.

Associated Clergy of Tomahawk "Pastor's Corner"

Merry Christmas – A Feast of Love

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I come to wish you a Merry Christmas. May the child Jesus Christ, the Savior, be born in our hearts and families and transform us to be more Christ like. God became man to reconcile man with God. God became man to make men children of God. Christmas is a sign of universal love and hope for salvation. All through Advent we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in a worthy manner. Let us open our hearts and lives to enthrone Him in our lives and live our lives in the light of His message of love and hope for salvation. Let us pray that we may have the conscience of Christ in all that we do and be a light to the world.

The first recorded date of the celebration of Christmas was on Dec. 25th in 336 AD during the time of Roman Emperor Constantine. A few years later, Pope Julius I officially declared that the birth of Jesus would be celebrated on Dec. 25th. And ever since that day, it is celebrated as Christmas. St. Francis of Assisi in the 12th century started the tradition of the crib and the Nativity scene in the Christmas celebration. It is all about the contemplation of how God loved humanity and how we need to invite Christ into our lives.

We know that we all love gifts on Christmas, but above all God is giving us a great gift of His Only Son, Jesus Christ, who would give us the salvation to humankind. What else do we need above salvation? God is the giver of all gifts. If we offer our reverence continuously, with ever increasing intensity, we will see and feel the presence of God today.

What is the purpose of celebrating Christmas, if not to experience the love of God in our lives. **Pope Alexander** said, "What does it profit me if Jesus is born in thousands of cribs all over the world and not in my heart". Today we should use the full power of our soul to show God that we love Him more than anything in life. Make everyday a new birth of Christ in our life and spread the message of peace everywhere.

Virgin Mary, our blessed Mother, by her example and intercession is with us because where Jesus is awaited, there Mary is. Immaculate Virgin Mary, our Mother, who said "YES" to the will of God is a model to us to say "YES" to Jesus Christ to be born in our hearts to dispel the darkness. **St. Augustine** said, "Wake up, O man, it was for you that God was made man. Let us joyfully celebrate the coming of our Salvation and redemption. Through him we have access to this grace in which we stand". Keep Christ in Christmas. I wish and pray that you have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Rev. Dr. Louis Maram Reddy
Pastor, St. Mary's Church,
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Local news online
www.TomahawkLeader.com



Pictured, from left: Dewey Ericksen, Post 93 Finance Officer; Tom Pederson, Post 93 Adjutant; Pat Cleveland, UTV winner; and Tom Garrigan, Post 93 Commander. Photo courtesy of Sarah Wolff

American Legion Post 93 draws winners for 2023 recreational vehicle raffle

BY SARAH WOLFF
TOMAHAWK AMERICAN
LEGION AUXILIARY
MEMBER

TOMAHAWK – Bronsted-Searl-Ingman Tomahawk American Legion Post 93 earlier this month congratulated all the winners in its 2023 recreational vehicle raffle and thanked all who purchased tickets in support of the Post 93 renovation.

Winners were drawn Friday, Dec. 1, at a special celebration at the Legion Post, 327 W. Wisconsin Ave., Tomahawk. Numerous Post members and community members attended the drawing party, which also featured live music by Post Commander Tom Garrigan.

Raffle winners

Raffle winners are as follows:

- First prize – 2023 Can-Am Defender DPS HD7 with Karavan 7'x13' trailer: Pat Cleveland of Rhinelander.
- Second prize – \$1,000.00

certificate/cash: Bret Hamric of Tomahawk.

- Third prize – \$750.00 cash: Eric Reeder (city of residence not given).

- Fourth prize – \$500.00 in Tomahawk Chamber Bucks: Harry Perry (city of residence not given).

- Fifth prize – \$500.00 cash: Allan Raatz of Irma.

- Sixth prize – \$500.00 cash: Jerry Krehmeyer of Neillsville.

- Seventh prize – \$500.00 in Tomahawk Chamber Bucks: Cindy and Jerry Geiss of Merrill.

- Eighth prize – \$500.00 cash: Don Johnson (city of residence not given).

- Ninth prize – \$500.00 cash: Allan Raatz of Irma. Allan donated this prize to the Post 93 Renovation Fund.

- Tenth prize – Yeti Cooler (\$250.00 value): Allan Raatz of Irma. Allan donated this prize for raffle at Matt Graeber's benefit, which was held at Post 93 on Saturday, Dec. 2.

More opportunities to win, support area veterans in 2024

Post members and numerous Tomahawk-area establishments began selling tickets in spring 2023. Thanks to the generosity of supporters in communities near and far, hundreds of tickets sold. All monies raised through ticket sales and private donations will go to the \$300,000.00 Renovation Project, which is nearly at the halfway point.

Post 93 plans additional raffles in 2024 and looks forward to awarding many more great prizes in support of its endeavors to support veterans and their families.

About the Tomahawk American Legion

Chartered Oct. 6, 1919, the Tomahawk American Legion Post 93 is named in memory of three local veterans: Henry Bronsted, the first Tomahawk man killed in WWI; Charles J. Searl, a Tomahawk native killed in a plane crash in WWII;

and Einar Harold Ingman, a Tomahawk-area resident who received the Medal of Honor for his bravery and self-sacrifice in combat during the Korean War.

The Tomahawk American Legion supports veterans, youth and the Tomahawk community overall. American Legion membership is open to all veterans exclusive of time or area served. There is also a Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron open to any man whose immediate relatives (parent, grandparent) are veterans.

Tomahawk American Legion, SAL and Legion Auxiliary meetings occur the third Tuesday of every month at 6:45 p.m. All who are interested in becoming a member or supporting the Legion are invited.

Learn more about the American Legion at www.legion.org/.

For information about joining the Tomahawk American Legion, email toma-hawkpost93@gmail.com.

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	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Dec 20	11:39PM	5:20AM	11:47AM	5:43PM
Dec 21	12:55AM	6:07AM	12:07PM	6:31PM
Dec 22	2:11AM	6:55AM	12:28PM	7:20PM
Dec 23	3:27AM	7:45AM	12:54PM	8:12PM
Dec 24	4:44AM	8:38AM	1:26PM	9:06PM
Dec 25	5:56AM	9:34AM	2:07PM	10:02PM
Dec 26	7:02AM	10:30AM	2:58PM	--
Dec 27	7:55AM	10:58PM	3:58PM	11:26AM

Solunar fishing and hunting chart for Tomahawk. Major feeding periods last two hours and minors run one hour. New Moon - Jan. 11.

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PCCU donates to Tomahawk, Merrill, Rhinelander, Minocqua food pantries

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

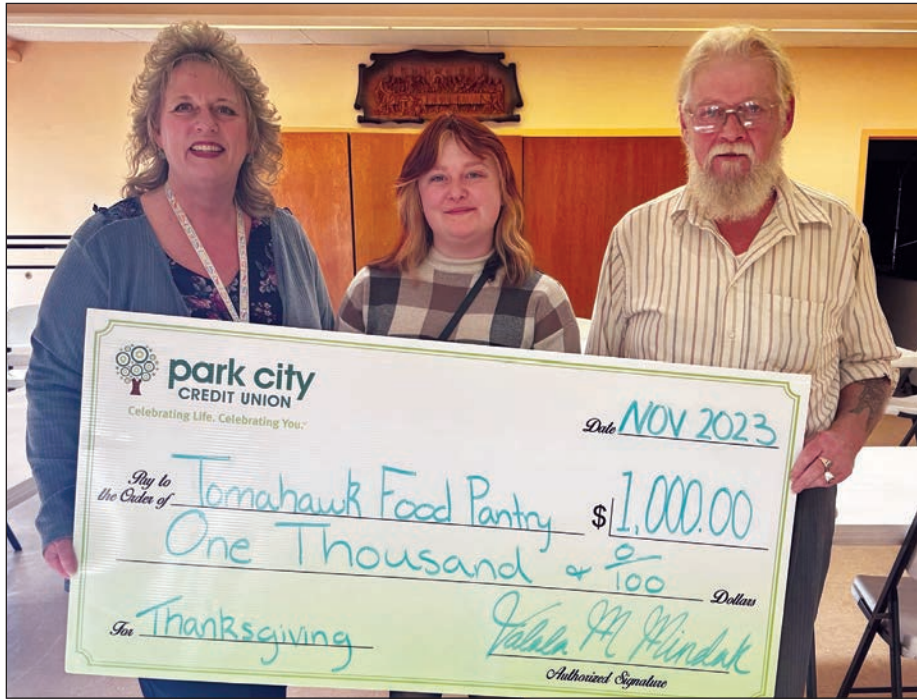
TOMAHAWK – Park City Credit Union (PCCU) donated a total of \$3,800.00 to food pantries in Tomahawk, Merrill, Rhinelander and Minocqua last month, helping area families enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday.

A release from PCCU said the donations were made “in the wake of increased demand for assistance at local food pantries due to lingering effects of the pandemic and rising costs.”

“This contribution highlights the credit union’s strong commitment to addressing urgent community needs and enriching the lives of residents,” the release stated.

Among the donations was a \$1,000.00 contribution to the Tomahawk Food Pantry.

PCCU said all area food pantries have experienced dramatic increases in utilization after the extra food benefits from the COVID-19 pandemic ended, noting



PCCU donated \$1,000.00 to the Tomahawk Food Pantry last month. Pictured, from left: Becky Jaecks, PCCU Tomahawk Branch Manager; Tiki Krueger-Boehm, Community Engagement Coordinator; and Ricky Lawrence, Chairperson, Tomahawk Food Pantry. Photo courtesy of PCCU

that the Rhinelander food pantry has seen almost triple the utilization of some of their student programs.

“Similarly, the Merrill food pantry had almost 40

new households enroll in their program, reflecting the growing need in these communities,” PCCU stated.

In Merrill, 172 turkeys were purchased for the local pantry.

“Throughout November, every family visiting the pantry received a turkey, ensuring everyone had the opportunity to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal,” PCCU said.

At the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry, funds were used to acquire essential Thanksgiving items, such as stuffing, broth, gravy, cranberry sauce, green beans, mushroom soup and pumpkins. PCCU said this support benefited around 350 households, and surplus funds were used to provide additional items, like pies and butter, “adding a special touch to the holiday meals.”

“Following these specific contributions, it’s important to recognize the broader impact of the total \$3,800.00 donation,” PCCU stated. “This amount, distributed across various food pantries, not only addressed immediate needs, but also supported the ongoing efforts of these organizations to serve their communities.”

PCCU added that the collective benefit of the donation “extended beyond the holiday season, contributing to the resilience and well-being of families across the region.”

“PCCU’s commitment to community support was further demonstrated by staff members volunteering at these pantries, showcasing a deep-rooted culture of giving and community involvement,” PCCU said. “The cumulative effect of the credit union’s Thanksgiving initiative was a testament to the power of community support, illustrating how strategic contributions can make a significant difference, bringing hope and relief to many during challenging times.”

About PCCU

Park City Credit Union is a member-owned financial cooperative providing financial services to over 24,000 members who live, work or own land in Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Price, Rusk, Taylor or Vilas counties.

PCCU has offices in Tomahawk, Merrill, Minocqua and Rhinelander.

To learn more, visit www.parkcitycu.org.

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Tomahawk LP employees design, build, donate doghouse as part of company-wide competition

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – Employees at Tomahawk’s Louisiana Pacific (LP) facility recently took part in a company-wide competition aimed at attracting the next generation of manufacturers.

As part of National Manufacturing Day, LP held a dog-

house-building competition that pitted its 20 North American manufacturing facilities against each other.

“The competition allowed team members to show off their skills as they utilized LP products to design and build custom doghouses, which were then donated to local animal shelters,” LP Corporate Communications Specialist Jen Bowman explained.

The winner was decided by a company-wide popular vote via LinkedIn.

The winning facility, LP Sagola in Michigan, “received a meal fit for the doghouse-loving crew: hot dogs and bratwursts,” Bowman said.

After the competition, the Tomahawk LP employees donated its luxury doghouse to the Lincoln County Humane Society.



Tomahawk LP team members designed and built this doghouse as part of a company-wide competition. The doghouse was later donated to the Lincoln County Humane Society. Photo courtesy of LP

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FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC

The City of Merrill is seeking applications from qualified persons for the establishment an eligibility list for employment as a Paramedic/Firefighter. Expected opening in spring of 2024.

Minimum Requirements by Date of Hire:

- 18 years old
- Certification as Firefighter I by the State of Wisconsin or an IFSAC accredited agency
- State of Wisconsin Licensed EMT – Paramedic although we allow EMT-Basics to apply as well.
- Candidates must have a current Candidate Physical Agility Test (CPAT) certification at time of hire.
- Candidates must also possess a valid driver’s license and acceptable driving record. Residency requirements apply within 60 days of successful completion of probation period.
- Wisconsin State Certified Firefighter II, Driver/Operator – Pumper, and Driver/Operator – Aerialare desirable.

Applications and job description are available online at the City of Merrill Web Page <http://www.ci.merrill.wi.us>

All applications along with a comprehensive letter of introduction and current resume must be returned no later than 4:00 P.M. on Monday, January 8th, 2024, to the Merrill Fire Station at 110 Pier Street, Merrill, WI. 54452 or emailed to fdadministrative@ci.merrill.wi.us. Application packets that are submitted to us via email will receive a confirmation reply from us confirming that they have been received.

For questions contact the Fire Chief at 715-536-2233.

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GO HATCHETS



Boys' Varsity Basketball

Back row, from left: Cooper Hetzel, Quentin Susa, Jordan Weathers, Easton Sleaper, Ethan Ihn, Tyler Sundquist; front: Dominic Boos, Colton Seslar, Brody Rigney, Malachi Scheffler, Nathan Rosenmeier, Riley Massa.



Boys' JV1 Basketball

Back row, from left: Niklas Nelson, Jeremiah Johnson, Matthew Walbeck, Julian Lasee, Logan Norman, Jacob Rieme; front: Jason Watkins, AJ Mazariegos, Zach Ruffin, Ryan Rau, Eddie Riese, Nick Esselman.



Boys' JV2 Basketball

Back row, from left: Gavin Maule, Mason Riebe, Ryan Sundquist, Caden Gustafson; front: Ryan Montag, Nathan Litzau, Isaac Urmann, Tanner Cruz.

Photos by Catherine List Photography

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Hockey

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Photo by Catherine List Photography

GO

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Boys' Swim

Back row, from left: Trea Mattson, Bruce Peetz, Dane DeKiep, Toby Scott, manager Lauren Hansmann; front: Jack Amelse, Jerome Morrison, Zack Germano, Sam Zastrow.

Photo courtesy of Theresa Lesperance

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Wrestling

Back row, from left: Ethan Trays, Nathan Norman, Dane Schoenenberger, Kaiden Kapellusch, Drew Tollefson, Zander Zehner, Ethan Gibeault, Skylar Harper-Dahlvig, Tanner Wanta, Tristin Bridges, Blake Younger, Presley Gutbrod, Jack Derleth; middle: manager Abigail Rosenmeier, manager Kailynn Hanse, Masen Towle, Bradyn Ristau, Ryan Larson, Zack Larson, Fletcher Baumann, Harmon Hoffman, Walter Horabik, Connor Jones; front: Kaylynn Sandry, Elise Gibeault, Halle Derleth, Robin Schmidt, Alli Palmer, Reese Molitor, Grace Waring, Payton Haring, Kylie Peissig, Madeline List, Nadia Schoone.

Photo by Catherine List Photography



Varsity Girls' Basketball

Back row, from left: Lydia Shaney, Claire Albert, Gracie Long, Kinsley Lange, Freya Alberg, Lily Krueger, Madeline Long, Caylie Swan; front: Manager Izzy Lee, Molly Jablonski, Elizabeth Arnott, Bryn Baalke, Khianna Vacho, Lydia Ziert, Jennie Frederickson, Aubrey Seaubert.

Photo by Catherine List Photography

Best of luck to all athletes and coaches!

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Legals 7700

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

Plaintiff(s) Jason and Aury Vojcik N9236 Pine Grove Lane Tomahawk WI 54487

-vs- Defendant(s) Christianson & Freund, LLC 920 S. Farwell St. Eau Claire WI 54701

Publication Summons and Notice (Small Claims) Case No. 2023SC001276

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-839-4801 prior to the scheduled court date.

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):

You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above.

The lawsuit will be heard in the following small claims court: HEARING WILL BE HELD BY ZOOM MEETING ID: 986-7496-2866

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SONJANN ANDERSON

Notice Setting Time to Hear Application and Deadline for Filing Claims (Informal Administration)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: 1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 09-02-1939 and date of death 08-15-2023 was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of W1189 US Highway 8, Tripoli, WI 54564.

3. The application will be heard at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 East Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office, before Becky Byer, Probate Registrar, on 01-11-2024 at 11:00 a.m.

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Raymond J Olson

Notice Setting Time to Hear Application

Legals 7700

and Deadline for Filing Claims (Informal Administration) Case No. 2023IN48

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: 1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth July 13, 1963 and date of death November 26, 2023 was domiciled in Lincoln County, state of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 132 Henry Street, Tomahawk, WI 54487.

3. The application will be heard at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office, before Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar, on 01-11-2024 at 10:00 AM.

4. You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.

5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.

6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or address are unknown.

*The names or addresses of the following interested persons (if any) are not known or reasonably ascertainable: Katie Olson.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0342 prior to the scheduled court date.

DATE SIGNED: December 5, 2023 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar

PLEASE CHECK with person named below for exact time and date. Kristopher Olson 405 Main St. Genoa, WI 54632

Telephone- 507-313-8125 Published December 13, 20, 27, 2023 WNAXLX

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Tomahawk Power & Pulp Company Kings Dam Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 2239 N10099 Kings Road Tomahawk, Wisconsin 54487

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given by Tomahawk Power & Pulp Company, Lincoln County, Wisconsin that all public access to all the Kings Dam properties will be closed between January 1, 2024 and March 15, 2024, due to heavy equipment site construction. Kings Dam is located at N10099 Kings Road along the Wisconsin River in the Town of Bradley, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 25 T35N, R6E. No trespassing is permitted on any of the Kings Dam properties during the construction and violators will be reported to local law enforcement.

Issued by Authority of:

Tomahawk Power & Pulp Company Kings Dam Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 2239 Al Morganroth, CEO

Published December 20 and December 27, 2023

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

As reported by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Tuesday, Dec. 12:

Over the week the Lincoln County 911 Center received 12 911 nuisance calls/hang ups. The Lincoln County Deputies conducted 42 traffic stops, with five resulting in OWI arrest. Within the county this week, there were twelve car vs. animal collisions.

On 12/04/2023 at approximately 09:40, Lincoln County 911 Center received a call stating there was a fire in the basement of a house in the W4000 Block of Ackerman Rd. in the Township of Merrill. Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputies, Corning Fire Department, Merrill Fire Department, Merrill EMS, Pine River Fire Department and Russell Fire Department responded to the scene. Tomahawk EMS and Wausau Fire Department stood by for additional resources. There were no injuries, and the fire was extinguished without issues. Nothing further at this time.

On 12/05/2023 at approximately 17:00, Lincoln County dispatch center was notified over the radio that there was a crash in the area of County Rd. W and County Rd. P in the Township of Pine River. Deputies made contact with a Merrill female, 17. She struck a Christmas tree with her vehicle. The driver was not injured and the vehicle was drivable.

Nothing further at this time.

On 12/06/2023 at approximately 17:45, Lincoln County 911 Center received a call of a vehicle that had rolled over and ended up in the swamp. This was in the area of Axen Rd. and Prairie Forks Dr. in the Township of Russell. Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputies, Russell Fire Department, Russell First Responders and Merrill EMS responded to the scene. Deputies made contact with the driver, an Irma man, 49. The man sustained minor injuries from the crash and was transported to Merrill Aspirus Hospital. The vehicle was removed and the scene was cleared. Nothing further at this time.

On 12/07/2023 at approximately 00:45, Lincoln County 911 Center received a call of a vehicle vs. deer in the area of State Rd. 64 and Leafy Grove Rd. in the Township of Corning. Deputies made contact with a Medford man, 44. Once contact was made, the driver was showing signs of impairment. 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 violation and cited for failure to maintain a restraint device. Driver was then transported to the Merrill Aspirus Hospital for medical clearance then to the Lincoln County Jail. Nothing further

at this time.

On 12/08/2023 at approximately 20:00 in the area of Tannery Rd. and Red Pine Rd. in the Township of Bradley, a Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy conducted a routine traffic stop. Lincoln County Deputy pulled over a Tomahawk man, 76, for doing 49 MPH in a 35 MPH zone. 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 and possession of THC. 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 12/09/2023 at approximately 01:20 in the area of Muskellunge Lake Rd. and County Rd A. in the Township of Bradley, a Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy conducted a routine traffic stop. A Lincoln County Deputy pulled over an Irma man, 19, for doing 71 MPH in a 55 MPH zone. The Lincoln County Deputy conducted advanced sobriety testing, as a result of those tests, he was arrested for violation of absolute sobriety law. Driver was then transported to the Merrill Aspirus Hospital for medical clearance, then released to a responsible party. Nothing further at this time.

On 12/09/2023 at approximately 06:40, Lincoln County Dispatch Center was notified of a person lying in the ditch near the area of 900 Southgate Dr. in the City of Tomahawk. Deputies responded to the scene and made contact with a Tomahawk woman, 45. It was determined that the female was walking home from the bar and was taking breaks along the way. Lincoln County Deputy gave the female a ride home. Nothing further at this time.

On 12/09/2023 at approximately 15:30, Lincoln County 911 Center received a crash notification call in the area of Big Eddy Rd. and Center Rd. in the Township of Pine River. Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the scene and spoke with the drivers and passengers involved in the crash. One driver was a Merrill man, 46. The other driver was a Wausau man, 36. Deputies determined that the 36-year-old male was driving too fast to negotiate the curve. The 36-year-old was taken into custody for felony bail jumping 2x, misdemeanor bail jumping and carrying a concealed weapon. Both vehicles were removed from the scene, and the area was cleared. The 36-year-old male was transported to the Lincoln County Jail. Nothing further at this time.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Droops
- Subatomic particle
- Not in danger
- Nursemaid
- Black band worn in mourning
- Long song in opera
- Edible seed of a Philippine tree
- Chicago political family
- Pursues pleasure from one place to another
- Appetizer
- Hill (Celtic)
- Simple shoe
- Songs to one you love
- Secret activities
- Upset
- Popular hot drink
- Body art (slang)
- Fired
- Blood relation
- Identical
- Porticos
- Partner to cheese
- Type of sword
- Enough (archaic)
- Surface layer of ground
- Cotton fabric woven like satin
- Choose for a post
- Father
- Tell on
- Indian title of respect
- Fonts
- Fencing sword
- Mock
- Vaccine developer
- Atmosphere surrounding a person or place
- Marten with a short tail
- Chinese temple
- Invests in little enterprises
- Popular cut of meat
- Charity

CLUES DOWN

- Exhausts
- Genus of fish related to gars
- Impudent behavior
- Adherents to Islam
- They come after A
- Spoke
- Room to receive guests
- About opera
- End-blown flute
- Heroic tales
- Member of a Semitic people
- Dog's name
- Opposite of west
- Political divisions in ancient Greece
- Ocean
- Cool!
- Young woman about to enter society

- One from central Caucasus
- Indian city
- A way to serve ice cream
- Emaciation
- Escort aircraft carrier
- Italian city
- Mythical settler of Kansas
- Unhappy
- High schoolers' test
- Measured in pace
- Satisfies
- Gullible person
- Enclosed space
- Substance used to color something
- Shirt type
- Discover by investigation
- Castell, makers of pens
- Semitic Sun god
- Grads wear one
- French river
- Part of a cap
- Digestive fluid
- Metrical foot
- Body part
- Very fast airplane
- Supplement with difficulty

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Leader Sports & Nature

Fishing Report: Anglers getting out despite warm spell

BY GEORGE LANGLEY

NORTHERN WISCONSIN – Things could be a lot worse. We've got fishable ice despite the warm weather we've had – and the fishing has been good. Ice conditions have not deteriorated, but it hasn't been great ice-building weather either. We can be thankful we've not had any big snow yet, and that the nights are still getting cold.

As of last week, we were seeing four to six inches of ice throughout the area – and of course some lakes with more or less. Unfortunately, it could still be a while until we can be confident about the ice. Caution is the name of the game. Spud as you go anywhere you haven't been to

yet this year.

Walleye fishing has been good. We're hearing about good numbers, but not great size. The evening bite has been pretty consistent throughout the area. Medium shiners or sucker minnows under tip-ups are working best. Fish off weed edges and structure.

Northern action continues to be good, with fish being caught all day long in the weeds using large shiners. If you're fishing on weed edges for walleye, you may find that the northern are interested in your offerings, too.

Panfish action is also good, and perch are being caught on most lakes on the deeper edge of weeds using crappie minnows

and tip-ups. We are still seeing some panfish in water of ten feet or less, but if you can safely get yourself to a nice basin, try those drop offs or hole edges. Jigging is often a great way to rattle some of these fish into hitting and is also an easy way to search horizontally through the water column if you're fishing without electronics.

All in all, it's not been a bad start to the season. Some might even say it's fantastic, since the lack of beefy ice has kept the machines off the lakes. It's quiet out there right now. Get out and enjoy it while you can!

Good luck and good fishin'!

Ice Age, North Country scenic trails designated as units of National Park System

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – The National Park Service earlier this month announced that three national scenic trails have become the country's newest national parks, with two being in Wisconsin.

The Ice Age, New England and North Country national scenic trails, all previously established by Congress and administered by the National Park Service as part of the National Trails System, are now also recognized as units of the National Park System.

"The new status for the Ice Age, New England and North Country national scenic trails will increase public awareness and use of these amazing pathways," said National Park Service Director Chuck Sams. "Their combined 5,500-plus miles travel through parts of ten states and hundreds



Three national scenic trails, including the Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin, have become the country's newest national parks.

Photo courtesy of Lindsey Moore

of communities, from large cities to rural towns, providing countless close-to-home opportunities for people to easily access green space and enjoy the benefits of outdoor recreation."

At nearly 1,200 miles in length, the Ice Age National Scenic Trail winds across most of Wisconsin, peppered with lakes, river valleys, gently rolling hills and more to remind users of the fact that much if it existed under a

glacier 15,000 years ago. The trail passes through Lincoln County, between Tomahawk and Merrill.

The New England National Scenic Trail in Connecticut and Massachusetts stretches 235 miles from the shores of Long Island Sound to scenic mountain summits. It offers panoramic vistas of New

Ice Age Trail
CONTINUES ON PAGE 13

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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.

Last week I mentioned that God prepared the world before He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into it. In Galatians 4:4, we read, *when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son.* When God prepared the world before He sent His Son, He prepared the world *three ways* before He sent His Son. God is not tied to time like we are, nor does He force people against their will to make decisions. God worked through ordinary, historical events to prepare the world for spreading the message of His Son.

1) Political: Before Christ was born, God brought peace and stability to North Africa, Europe, and portions of the Middle East through the forming of the Roman Empire. And God united the lands of the Middle East and into western India under the Persians and Alexander the Great. Where before there had been warring nations, the Roman Empire and Persia created a situation where people, commerce, and ideas could freely move over a large portion of the ancient world.

2) Language: Before Christ was born, God used the Greeks to spread a common language. For centuries the Greeks influenced much of the trade around the Mediterranean Sea and made Greek the trade language for much of Southern Europe and North Africa. In the fourth century BC, Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire and spread the Greek language from the Mediterranean Sea to India. By the time of Christ, Greek had become the trade language for southern Europe, north Africa, the Middle East, and into western portions of India. What before had been lands with many languages, now had one common trade language – Greek.

3) Spreading God's message: God had given to the Jews the responsibility to guard and spread the knowledge of God (Exodus 19:4-6), included in this were the prophecies of the Messiah/Christ. The Jews are people just like us, and in times of prosperity they forgot their God and became unfaithful. God, in dealing with their unfaithfulness, brought against them the Babylonians (around 600 BC), who, in building their empire, caused the Jews to be spread throughout the Middle East, into North Africa, southern portions of Eastern Europe, and east all the way to the borders of India. Wherever the Jews went, they started synagogues where the Old Testament and its prophecies of the Messiah/Christ would be read and studied every Saturday. But the Jews were not the only people to attend the synagogues, many non-Jewish people also attended (e.g. Acts 17:1-4), so that lands, which had not had God's Word, now heard it.

By the establishment of these three things, the Message of Jesus Christ was allowed to spread throughout Europe, North Africa, and eastward all the way to India in the first century after Jesus' death and resurrection. Truly, the statement *when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son* (Galatians 4:4), is not an idle claim.

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

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: Wednesday 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>
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The Wisconsin Department of Tourism was on hand in Boulder Junction last week with a grant check to help cover the cost of a new snowmobiling travel website launched by Oneida and Vilas counties. Photo courtesy of Vilas County Tourism and Publicity

Oneida, Vilas counties partner to launch new snowmobiling travel website

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

NORTHERN WISCONSIN – The tourism entities of Oneida and Vilas counties have collaborated to launch a new website to help promote snowmobiling in Wisconsin's Northwoods.

The site, www.SnowmobileNorthwoods.com, is funded by a \$25,000.00 joint effort marketing grant from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, as well as Vilas County Tourism and Publicity and the Oneida County Tourism Council.

Jeff Anderson, of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, was on hand in Boulder Junction on Thursday, Dec. 14 to present the state grant check to the counties and chambers.

"It's easy to see how important snowmobiling is to our communities economically, so we're very grateful for the state's help in getting this project off the ground," said Collette Sorgel, Director of Vilas County Tourism and Publicity. "We wanted a one-stop shop that would make planning a snowmobiling getaway to our corner of the Northwoods as easy as possible,

but also highlighted our hard-working local clubs, and promoted safety at the same time."

"The website does just that, by offering trail info, maps, club details, up-to-date trail conditions, information on snowmobiling rules and safety, and the opportunity to sign up for weekly snow report e-newsletters that the county leaders hope will excite and entice riders throughout the season," a joint release stated.

"We'll be using both counties' marketing platforms, like our e-newsletters and social media, as well as paid digital advertising, to encourage people to sign up for the weekly updates," said Krystal Westfahl, President of the Oneida County Tourism Council. "It's an all-hands-on-deck push that we hope will keep snowmobiling in the Northwoods at the top of riders' minds – and the top of their inbox."

The release noted that in addition to the website, printed materials and Snowmobile Northwoods swag, including reflective decals and safety checklists that encourage people to

stay on the trails, ride right and stay safe, will be available at local chamber and visitor bureau offices.

To kick off the new website and safety push, Vilas and Oneida counties are sponsoring the "Snowmobile Northwoods Weekend Getaway Sweepstakes" on www.SnowmobileNorthwoods.com, from Tuesday, Dec. 19 through Wednesday, Feb. 1, that includes a chance to win one of two prize packages, including snowmobile rentals and money to spend at local shops and restaurants.

Entrants will be asked to read and promise to adhere to a snowmobiling safety pledge as a reminder of the importance of sledding safely.

Tourism is Vilas and Oneida counties' largest industry, supporting a combined 4,234 jobs in 2022 and bringing in over \$566 million in visitor spending last year between the two Northwoods counties.

For more information about Oneida County, visit www.oneidacountywi.com.

To learn more about Vilas County, visit www.vilas.org.

ICE AGE TRAIL FROM PAGE 12

England's natural and cultural landscape, including traprock ridges, historic village centers, farmlands, unfragmented forests, quiet streams, steep river valleys and waterfalls.

The North Country National Scenic Trail is expected to be a 4,600-mile continuous path when completed. Traversing sections of Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, New

York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Wisconsin, it showcases the varied landscapes of the Lake Superior Region, Adirondacks, Ohio River Valley, and North Dakota plains. The trail will pass through Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland and Iron counties in Wisconsin.

The designation will not result in any immediate changes to the size or structure of the trails, which already have access points, signage, operating budgets, superintendents, staff and

volunteers.

The 428 units of the National Park System are commonly referred to as "parks" since there are more than 25 different name designations, including national park, national battlefield, national monument, national seashore, national historical site and national scenic trail.

Collectively, the parks cover over 85 million acres in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories.

TOMAHAWK SPORTS TRIVIA: WEEK 161

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 160 question: In the 1974-75 hockey season, Tomahawk defeated Rhinelander 11-1. How many goals

did Ed Schmit score in that game: Five, six or seven?

Week 160 answer: In the 1974-75 hockey season, Tomahawk defeated Rhinelander 11-1, with Ed Schmit scoring five goals.

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

Week 161 question: Who was the first female to score points at State for THS girls' track: Keri Buedingen, Carol Salacinski or Suzie Houston?

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. All participants must sign a waiver form. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult age 21 or older.

Natural Connections: Birch Polypore

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



Birch polypore is a common fungus that grows from birch trees. Photo by Emily Stone

The rocky trail led up and over and around tree roots and boulders, and we hiked steadily to stay warm. As we navigated the stairs of a birch tree's roots, my friend pointed out a pale grayish fungus poking out from the trunk like a small, fat Frisbee. "Birch polypore," I offered reflexively, not needing to think at all about the name of this common and easily recognized species. Not having been on very many hikes with me, they were startled by this casual identification, and burst out in surprised laughter. This made me chuckle, and soon we were both giggling down the trail.

That laughter was good medicine, and fitting that it came from a mushroom with so many uses. Birch polypore, or *Fomitopsis betulina* is a bracket fungus who grows on birch trees around North America, the British Isles, Europe, and Asia. This fungi's big moment of fame came with the discovery of Otzi the Ice Man, a 5,300-year-old man frozen in the Italian Alps. Otzi was carrying two small

lumps of birch polypore on a goat-skin thong around his neck.

Initially, some researchers put forth the idea that the fungus contains a laxative compound that Otzi was using to treat whipworms in his gut. While this sounds logical and interesting, and spread quickly throughout the internet, other scientists found no cultural or experimental evidence that chemicals in the fungus have that particular effect.

There are far more reliable reports in traditional medicine, especially in Europe, of birch polypore being used as an antimicrobial, anticancer, and anti-inflammatory agent. In Canada, a paper on Traditional Dene Medicine based on collaborative research with Indigenous knowledge holders, reports that the fungus was boiled into tea that could heal internal bleeding, ease heart pain, and more.

Traditional medicine, like those examples, is based on Indigenous science. While Western science uses short-term experiments that generally test one thing at a time, Indigenous science is practiced using trial and error over centuries, and is integrated into daily living. The knowledge gained through Indigenous science is valid and valuable.

Birch Polypore
CONTINUES ON PAGE 14

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Tomahawk Leader
Early Deadline!

Due to the holidays, deadlines will be as follows:

Wed., Dec. 27th issue will be THURSDAY, DEC. 21st, 10am

Wed., Jan. 3rd issue will be THURSDAY, DEC. 28th, 10am

332627

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BIRCH POLYPORE
FROM PAGE 13

It can lose significance when taken out of its cultural context, though, such as by anthropologists without the full picture or a game of telephone on the internet.

While Indigenous science doesn't need to be vetted by Western science to be valid, it often spurs research questions that lead to that outcome. In the case of birch polypore, pharmacological studies provide evidence for antiviral, anti-inflammatory,

anticancer, neuroprotective, and immune tonic properties in the tea, and especially in an alcohol extraction of the fungus. Of course, none of those experiments contain the cultural context of how to treat a patient with this medicine.

Birch polypores aren't just used for internal medicine. Slices of the fungi have been used as band-aids with built in styptic properties by people in Great Britain. Recently, this versatile fungus has proved useful for sharpening razors, polishing Swiss watches, soaking up sweat in

hat bands, and by entomologists for mounting insects.

Insects who haven't been killed and mounted yet, mites, and even white-tailed deer, also rely on birch polypore as a source of food. Fungi are high in protein. The first time birch polypore caught my attention, it was because a deer had taken a nibble out of one right at my eye level in the Museum's Wayside Wanderings Natural Play Area.

The fungus is an active player in the food web as well. Birch polypore may infect a wound in a birch

tree and then just hang out for years, held at bay by the tree's immune system, until the tree is weakened by other factors. Then the fungus begins to spread and eventually contributes to killing the tree.

As a brown rot fungi, birch polypore breaks down cellulose in the tree cells and turns it to sugar, but leaves the dark, woody lignin behind. According to Tim Adam's PhD thesis, published the year I was born, wood being decomposed by birch polypore smells like green apples. Naturally I had to

see for myself, so I set out on another hike, this time with a small folding saw in my pocket. Slicing a notch out of a birch trunk riddled with young polypores, I sniffed deeply. While the scent was a bit sour, I don't believe I agree with Tim. Still, he spurred curiosity that got me outside on a sunny day.

From laughter, to curiosity, to other forms of internal medicine, birch polypore is a common fungus with a lot to offer.

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.

WEATHER

DATE	HIGH (° F)	LOW (° F)
Sunday, Dec. 10	25	16
Monday, Dec. 11	21	19
Tuesday, Dec. 12	27	15
Wednesday, Dec. 13	36	18
Thursday, Dec. 14	50	31
Friday, Dec. 15	43	35
Saturday, Dec. 16	46	34

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Happy HOLIDAYS

Man found dead in Oneida County field in 1980 identified as missing Chicago resident

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR

ONEIDA COUNTY – The identity of a man found dead in Oneida County more than four decades ago has been discovered.

A Friday, Dec. 15 release from Oneida, Forest and Vilas County Medical Examiner Crystal L. Schaub said a deceased man discovered in a field in the Town of Pine Lake on March 19, 1980 has been identified as Norman Grasser of Chicago, Ill.

According to the release, the Oneida County Medical Examiner's Office and the Oneida County Sheriff's Office responded to a call and located the man, with the assistance of witnesses who initially discovered the body in the snow.

The body was found approximately 46 yards off of State Hwy. 17 on private



Grasser
Photo courtesy of FindAGrave

property, and there was no identification on the body, the release said.

A forensic autopsy performed at the University of Wisconsin determined that the man had died from cold exposure due to hypothermia.

The man was described as a white male between the ages of 25 and 45, 6' 1/2" tall,

weighing 170 pounds with brown hair. The man's clothing and other belongings were collected by the Sheriff's Office to assist in identification.

The release said the unidentified man's fingerprints were sent to the State Crime Laboratory and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for possible identification, with negative matches.

"Over time, this case continued to be investigated through missing persons report follow-ups and press releases," the release stated.

In 2019, the unidentified man was entered into NamUs, a national database for missing and unidentified and unclaimed person cases across the United States.

"Multiple possible matches were generated and followed up on, again with negative matches," the release said.

In April 2021, the Medical

Examiner's Office exhumed the body, referred to as "John Doe 1980." The body was taken to the Fond du Lac Medical Examiner's Office to be processed for DNA collection.

The collected items were then sent to the FBI Laboratory in Quantico, Va., for DNA profiling.

In Jan. 2023, the Sheriff's Office enlisted the assistance of Ramapo College of New Jersey Investigative Genetic Genealogy Center to "perform advanced forensic DNA testing of John Doe 1980 and a genealogy search."

"As a result of the work performed by students in the Ramapo College IGG Certificate Program, a new investigative lead was developed, resulting in Mr. Grasser's identification," the release said.

Subsequent investigation revealed that Grasser had

Grasser

CONTINUES ON PAGE 16

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Northland Bible Church of Tomahawk, Wisconsin will be celebrating Christmas on Sunday, December 24th during the regular service at 10:00 AM and at our special Christmas Eve service at 7:00 PM. There will be carol singing and other special music.

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6:30 p.m. ~ St. Augustine, Harrison*
Christmas Day - Monday, December 25
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12:00 p.m. ~ St. Francis, Pier-Willow
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Three cheers!

I had the pleasure of attending three events in the last couple of weeks that not only impressed me but made me extra proud to live in Tomahawk.

The Hometown Christmas parade and especially the live window displays were spectacular! From figure skating to puppetry to live music behind the windowpanes, store owners and friends took us around the world as we strolled by. I still remember as a small child the awe I had in visiting New York City during the Christmas season and seeing the animations in department store windows. Tomahawk's version was equally impressive. A

small committee of hard-working planners dream big each year and make it happen. And, I think the huge crowds on hand knew they were being treated to something special.

Likewise, St. Mary's Church was filled to capacity for the recent Christmas Concert and Cantata. The choir made up of a large group of singers from St. Mary's as well as other churches from here and more distant communities gave me shivers. What a wonderful performance and way to ring in the holiday season.

And, though it wasn't a public participation event, Kinship of Tomahawk's Christmas Party was actually a gift from the

community. Scores of Kinship kids and their mentors and family members enjoyed an afternoon of pure fun. The kids, and many adults, decorated cookies and enjoyed pizza. Each child could pick out several donated gifts to wrap to give to a loved one, teacher or mentor. Of course, the highlight in their minds was a visit by Santa, who made wishes come true with individual gifts made possible by people like you.

As I said, I feel blessed to live in a community that makes great things happen that enrich the lives of others. Well done!

Kathy Tobin
Tomahawk

Aspirus shares advice for guarding against pneumonia

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

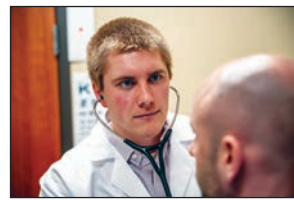
WISCONSIN – Aspirus Health recently shared information to help the public understand and protect against pneumonia.

"Pneumonia is a serious lung infection that can affect anyone, from babies to the elderly, and it can be very dangerous," Aspirus stated. "According to the American Lung Association (ALA), more than a million people are hospitalized, and over 50,000 lives are claimed by pneumonia each year."

Pneumonia, as described by Samuel Staehling, MD, Aspirus Wausau Family Medicine Resident, is an infection of the lung tissue, specifically impacting the delicate structures involved in the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide. This infection is primarily caused by pathogens, such as bacteria, viruses, or fungi, which are commonly spread through the inhalation of these microorganisms.

"The biggest risk for contracting pneumonia is posed to older adults, very young children, hospitalized patients, immunocompromised individuals and those with chronic comorbidities like lung disease, heart disease or diabetes," Staehling stated.

Staehling underscored the link between viral upper respiratory infections and the development of pneumonia



Staehling
Photo courtesy of Aspirus

and explained that these infections can weaken the immune system, particularly in the lungs, making individuals more susceptible to pneumonia.

"However, there are proactive steps that everyone can take to reduce their risk," Aspirus stated.

"The most fundamental preventive measure for everyone is good hygiene, emphasizing proper handwashing and the use of alcohol-based sanitizers," Staehling said.

Aspirus said vaccination has also proven to be a powerful tool in the fight against pneumonia. Pneumonia vaccines are commonly administered to children and older adults.

"These vaccines play a vital role in preventing pneumonia, especially in high-risk groups," Aspirus stated.

Staehling also recommended maintaining a strong immune system through healthy habits to bolster one's defenses against the condition.

"Getting sufficient sleep, eating a balanced diet and

engaging in regular physical activity can all contribute to a robust immune response," Aspirus stated. "Sometimes getting sick is inevitable, though. Recognizing signs of pneumonia is essential for early diagnosis and treatment."

Staehling outlined the common symptoms of pneumonia:

- A productive cough (producing phlegm), which distinguishes it from a dry viral cough.

- Chest pain, particularly when breathing or coughing.

- Elevated fever, chills, and sweats, more severe than typical respiratory infections.

- Shortness of breath, which may necessitate oxygen therapy.

"If breathing becomes extremely difficult, requiring additional oxygen support, it's a clear indication to seek medical attention," Staehling stated. "Likewise, persistent high fever, the presence of productive green phlegm or pus in your cough should prompt a visit to a health care professional."

"It's important to know that pneumonia can be serious, but there are ways to protect yourself and get treatment if you need it," Aspirus said. "Talk to your primary care provider to learn more about your individual risk factors and recommended preventative measures."

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Beautiful Parallels: Origins of Christmas and the Spirit of Giving

Dear Reader,

As we approach the most wonderful time of the year, it is only fitting to reflect upon the origins of Christmas and the remarkable parallels between the Christian celebration and the beloved traditions of Santa Claus, embodying goodness and giving.



mirrors the Christian belief in the gift of Jesus, the ultimate present to humanity.

Furthermore, the act of gift-giving during Christmas has become a way for people to express their love and affection for one another. It mirrors the self-

less love that Christians believe God demonstrated by sending His Son into the world.

Christmas, at its core, is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. It traces its roots to the Christian faith, where believers commemorate the nativity of the Savior. The story of the Holy Family, a humble birth in a stable, and the adoration of shepherds and magi exemplifies the theme of humility and simplicity that underlies the Christian message. This very essence of Christmas forms the basis for the notion of giving and selflessness.

The arrival of Santa Claus, a legendary figure inspired by St. Nicholas, further enhances the spirit of giving associated with Christmas. St. Nicholas was a Christian bishop renowned for his acts of charity and kindness, particularly to children and the needy. This spirit of generosity and compassion is embedded in the modern Santa Claus, who symbolizes the joy of giving.

Santa Claus transcends religious boundaries and cultural differences, embodying a universal spirit of goodwill and benevolence. His iconic image—jolly, rosy-cheeked, and clad in red—conjures a sense of warmth and merriment that resonates with people of all ages. Santa's yearly journey to deliver gifts to children around the world

The melding of these traditions—from the Christian celebration of Jesus' birth to the universal appeal of Santa Claus—exemplifies the beautiful essence of Christmas. It serves as a reminder that, regardless of one's religious or cultural background, the season fosters an all-encompassing sense of unity and goodwill. The spirit of giving is not confined to material presents alone but extends to acts of kindness, charity, and togetherness.

As we gather with loved ones, decorate our homes, and exchange gifts, let us not forget the profound origins of Christmas and the remarkable parallels that emphasize the values of goodness and giving. This holiday season, may we all be inspired by the enduring message of Christmas and the universal appeal of Santa Claus as we come together to share the love and generosity that define this magical time of year.

Wishing you a blessed and joyous Christmas!

Warmly,
PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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On Wednesday, Dec. 13, members of StrongBodies of Tomahawk made contributions to two local organizations. StrongBodies donated the class fees from its three-week interim session to Our Sisters' House, which offers a temporary home for women, children men and families in need; and the Salvation Army of Tomahawk's Happy Kids Backpack Program, which provides food to children and their families. StrongBodies donated \$225.00 to each of the organizations. Pictured, from left: Backpack packers Mary Cottrell and Jean Walker; Mary Austin of StrongBodies; Jeff Walker; Toni Rawlins of StrongBodies; Bill Young, Jean Whalen and Gerry Johnson.



Lukas Lyons, of Our Sisters' House, center, accepted the donation from StrongBodies, represented by Mary Austin, left; and Toni Rawlins, right. Photos courtesy of Diane Montz

WisDOT unveils new 511 Wisconsin logo, highlights free traveler information service

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) last month unveiled a new logo for its free traveler information service.

A release from WisDOT said 511 Wisconsin's new logo "brings a modern look to real-time travel information."

WisDOT said the 511 Wisconsin platform, entering its 15th winter season, "reflects a handful of service enhancements, all designed to help keep drivers safe."

"The 511 Wisconsin Traveler Information System is the state's official source for trusted roadway conditions and traffic impacts across Wisconsin," WisDOT stated, explaining that by visiting www.511wi.gov or by using the 511 Wisconsin mobile app, the public can access real-time travel information across the state, including road conditions, traffic speeds, live video feeds from traffic cameras, message boards and more.

"Safety is a top priority on Wisconsin highways as we continue to provide a high-quality 511 Wisconsin travel information system to readily share traffic information with Wisconsinites and visitors," said WisDOT Secretary Craig Thompson.



"Now is the time to get vehicles ready for winter driving, bookmark the 511 website and download our free 511 Wisconsin app. We are committed to helping drivers make informed decisions about their travel plans."

Since it was first launched in 2009, 511 Wisconsin has continued to develop its web and smartphone capabilities to provide direct access to up-to-date traffic information throughout the state. The 511 Wisconsin mobile app was first released in 2015, and there are more than 270,000 combined downloads for Android and Apple devices.

WisDOT noted that within the last two years, 511 Wisconsin has been upgraded to include the state's network of more than 500 traffic cameras to stream video.

"In addition, WisDOT leveraged technology in Jan. 2022 to share winter road conditions for more than

14,000 miles of roadway, which is updated at least twice hourly, 24 hours a day," WisDOT stated.

The WisDOT Traffic Management Center (TMC) oversees 511 Wisconsin to populate the website and mobile app with current information based on notifications from law enforcement and other first responders. On average, the TMC handles more than 38,000 incidents each year, according to WisDOT.

"Our control room staff work diligently 24/7 year-round to ensure drivers are aware of upcoming conditions on Wisconsin roads," said WisDOT TMC Supervisor Randy Hoyt. "Each year, roughly half a million users go online to 511 Wisconsin to get the latest traffic information. It's an invaluable resource with various features that can help drivers best plan their route to work, school or another destination."

"No matter the time or season, WisDOT reminds motorists to buckle up and put their phone down – every trip, every time," WisDOT stated. "Plan ahead and know before you go with www.511wi.gov for updates on road conditions, traffic cameras, incidents and locations of construction work."

GRASSER

FROM PAGE 14

been reported missing by family members in Cook County, Ill., in Jan. 1980.

The release did not say why Grasser was in Oneida County.

According to Ramapo College of New Jersey, Grasser's brother "had been searching for him for over 40 years" and created a *FindAGrave.com* page dedicated to Grasser.

The FindAGrave page said Grasser was born on March 20, 1948 in Chicago and was 31 years old when he was reported missing.

A memorial tombstone for Grasser was placed in All Saints Catholic Cemetery and Mausoleum in Des Plaines, Ill., in Aug. 2016, according to the page.

"The Grasser family is grateful to everybody involved for ending their 43-year nightmare," the release stated. "During this time, the Grasser family requests privacy so they can grieve and process this information."

Agencies and organizations assisting in the case included the Oneida, Vilas, Forest and Waupaca County Sheriff's Offices; the Eagle River, Woodruff and Rhine-

lander Police Departments; the Oneida County District Attorney's Office; the City of Rhinelander Parks Department; Oneida County Buildings and Grounds; the Ramapo College of New Jersey Investigative Genetic Genealogy Center; InterMountain Forensics; WJFW Newswatch 12; FBI; the Wisconsin State Crime Lab; the University of Wisconsin Pathology Department; the Fond du Lac Medical Examiner's Office; NamUs- National Missing and Unidentified Persons System; and Father Chris Kemp of Nativity of Our Lord Church.

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@MetroCreative Level: Intermediate

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