

Oh Jay Services, LLC
Tomahawk
715-966-0181
ohjayservices@hotmail.com • www.ohjayservices.com

Servicing Septic Systems and Holding Tanks
Portable Toilet Rental
Sewer Line Jetting & Thawing
Camera Service

Fully Licensed and Insured

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TOMAHAWK, WI
PERMIT NO. 19

POSTAL CUSTOMER
ECRWSS

Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital's Melissa Long receives DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital and Clinics recently honored Melissa Long, RN, with the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses.

A release from Aspirus said Long received the award in recognition for her “commitment and patient-centered approach to care.”

“The award is part of the DAISY Foundation’s program to recognize the superhuman efforts nurses perform every day,” Aspirus stated. “Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital DAISY Award recipients are nurses recognized for going above and beyond patient expectations by providing service with respect, compassion and integrity; generating enthusiasm and energy while carrying out everyday duties and responsibilities; significantly making a difference; and listening not only with ears, but also with heart.”

Long was nominated for



Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital and Clinics recently honored Melissa Long, RN, with the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. Photo courtesy of Aspirus

the award by a colleague.

“We had a patient that, due to complications, ended up having a more lengthy stay here at the hospital,” Long’s nomination said.

“Melissa went the extra

step to bring this patient clothes when she was finally being discharged. The patient had arrived with no personal belongings. Leaving with a nice soft sweater put a huge smile

on her face. Melissa also took the time to bring this patient outside for walks on our paved walkway. Having been here for over a month, it was beneficial for this patient to get some much-

needed fresh air, as well as a change of scenery. Melissa’s heart and attentiveness towards this patient most certainly helped make a tough situation more positive. I admire her heart for her patients and her drive to advocate and treat each person with the dignity they deserve!”

Aspirus said Long and her coworkers were treated to cinnamon rolls, which honor the memory of the late Patrick Barnes, who once ate his father’s cinnamon roll when he was in the hospital without an appetite for food. He then requested one for the next day – and enough for all the nurses in the unit.

“The hope is that whenever a nurse smells that wonderful cinnamon aroma, they’ll stop for a minute and think of how special they are for being a nurse,” Aspirus stated.

Additionally, Long received a daisy honoree pin, a certificate, a bouquet of daisies donated by Nature’s Riches and a sculpture

called “A Healer’s Touch,” hand-carved by artists of the Shona Tribe in Africa.

Aspirus explained that the family of J. Patrick Barnes created the DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Award to honor his memory with a tribute to the skillful and compassionate care he received from his nurses during his hospitalization.

Nurses may be nominated by patients, families, visitors and colleagues, and they are chosen by a multidisciplinary team to receive the DAISY Award.

“The DAISY Award recognizes the outstanding and extraordinary care nurses provide every day,” Aspirus said. “Aspirus DAISY Award winners and nominees exceed the needs and expectations of patients and families by displaying the Aspirus core values of Compassion, Accountability, Collaboration, Foresight and Joy.”

For more information on Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital, visit www.aspirus.org.

As mild winter continues, Northwoods tourism entities seek help from state

‘Low snowfall equals catastrophic losses for Northwoods businesses,’ coalition says

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

NORTHERN WISCONSIN – Local tourism entities are asking the state for help after a slow start to winter has had “disastrous effects on Northwoods businesses and lodging properties.”

A Monday, Jan. 29 release from the Let’s Minocqua Visitors Bureau and the Oneida County Tourism Council said the coalition of chambers of commerce and visitors’ bureaus in the Northwoods of Wisconsin counties – including Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida,

Price and Vilas – has spoken with the offices of State Representative Rob Swearingen (R-Rhineland) and State Senator Mary Felzkowski (R-Tomahawk) “in hopes of securing some state or federal funding to mitigate the losses from lack of visitors in the wake of an unprecedented mild winter with minimal to no snowfall.”

“Many of our organizations have had conversations with our representatives alerting them to this crisis,” said Krystal Westfahl, President and CEO of the Let’s Minocqua Visitors Bureau,

Chair of the Oneida County Tourism Council and member of the Northwoods of Wisconsin marketing coalition. “We need relief for our small businesses that support our economies. We rely on the weather to provide us snow in winter months, similar to our farmers relying on the rain, but our businesses have no immediate path to funding when a negative weather pattern happens. This will be catastrophic for our Northwoods economies.”

The release said businesses and lodging properties

rely on the snow to bring in snowmobilers and other silent sports enthusiasts, who support the communities by staying in hotels and resorts, dining in local restaurants and bars and making purchases from area stores and gas stations.

“To date this winter, it’s estimated that the Northwoods of Wisconsin counties have lost roughly \$6.5 million in revenue due to lack of adequate snow to open the trails in December and January,” the release stated. “Many businesses are reporting 75% to 80% year-over-year losses in the first few months of winter, and many are closing their doors.”

Westfahl said she hopes the state will “get creative and help the small business community in a part of the state that relies on tourism as its bread and butter.”

“Visitor spending is crucial to the economy here; crucial to the well-being of our communities and the good people who live and work in them,” Westfahl stated. “We’re hopeful we can find a way to work together to support each other through this rough patch.”

In 2022, tourism accounted for over 6,000 jobs in the seven Northwoods of Wisconsin counties, with visitor spending bringing in over \$747 million to the area.



TFD, TPD joint training

The Tomahawk Fire Department (TFD) and the Tomahawk Police Department (TPD) recently held a joint training session to refresh basic life support skills. The American Heart Association (AHA)’s Basic Life Support (BLS) Course is designed for healthcare professionals and other personnel who need to know how to perform CPR and other basic cardiovascular life support skills in a wide variety of in-facility and pre-hospital settings. Photo courtesy of TFD

THS student Ella Uelmen selected for 2024 Senate Scholar Program

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

MADISON – A Tomahawk student will participate in a week-long, intensive program at the State Capitol in Madison.

State Senator Mary Felzkowski (R-Tomahawk) last month announced that Tomahawk High School (THS) student Ella Uelmen had been selected to take part in the 2024 Senate Scholar Program.

Brody Kowieski of Rhineland High School was also chosen for the program.

A release from Felzkowski’s office said the program’s “rigorous curriculum is two-fold.”

“First, the students are introduced to many facets of the legislative process,” the release stated. “The Scholars will meet with legislative support agencies, legislative staff, the Governor’s staff, a Supreme Court Justice, the media, lobbyists and University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty members.”

The students then put their knowledge into action. “When the Senate is on the floor, Scholars staff the session under the direction of the Senate Sergeant at Arms’ office,” the release said.

The week’s events will culminate in a Senate Scholar committee hearing on a bill that the students have drafted.

Felzkowski’s office began accepting program applications from high school juniors and seniors from within the 12th Senate District in Sept. 2023. Applications were accepted until Nov. 2023.

To learn more about the Senate Scholar Program, contact Felzkowski’s office at Sen.Felzkowski@legis.wi.gov or 608-266-2509.

INSULATION PROS

Commercial . Industrial . Residential

Call Now for a Free Inspection
715-436-0175
Attic Insulation • Air Sealing
Ice Dam Removal



THS CNA students, District Nurse Trina Armstrong discuss profession Tomahawk High School (THS) Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) students recently had the opportunity to speak with School District of Tomahawk Nurse Trina Armstrong to gain insight into the nursing profession. "Armstrong talked about the many facets of becoming a nurse, the many avenues for this career and the countless educational options and pathways depending on the specialty area," the district said in a Facebook post. "We are so grateful to have Nurse Trina in our buildings and her connection with the students. Thank you, Nurse Trina, for being such a great role model for our students." Photo courtesy of the School District of Tomahawk

WisDOT seeking public input on 2025 Official State Highway Map

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER WISCONSIN - The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is seeking public input on the 2025 Official State Highway Map. A release from WisDOT said after a century of production, the depart-



ment is looking closely at how new technology and processes can build on the tradition of the map. "Through the use of geographic information system (GIS) data, the map will better show current infrastructure to help travelers Map CONTINUES ON PAGE 7



Ambassadors Jennifer Turkiewicz, Kathy Rankin, Deb Tomaszewski, Bunny Kluka, Becky Jaecks and Patti Panfil were on hand to welcome Paul, Dawn and their team to Tomahawk. Photo courtesy of Andy Tomaszewski

Tomahawk Ambassadors hold ribbon cutting ceremony at Modern Finishing

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER TOMAHAWK - The Tomahawk Ambassadors recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony at Modern Finishing. Modern Finishing LLC, owned by Paul and Dawn Bender, began business in the spring of 2013.

chase the property at 459 Southgate Dr. here in Tomahawk, the old R&J Body Shop, and make the commitment to the Tomahawk community." The Ambassadors noted that a key connection with Northern Advantage Builders and Wausau Homes has catapulted the business to also support three full-time employees.

ing. The company also does pre-finished siding and exterior wood products. "It is evident that Paul is interested in giving back to the community also," the Ambassadors said. "His educational background earned him some good insight into running a business, and he is most willing to help our young entrepreneurs learn how it can be done with hard work and commitment."

"With many of life's milestones, including having two daughters born and a work injury, over a decade of hard work and dedication has seen the business continue to grow," a release from the Ambassadors said. "Their continuing dedication allowed them to pur-

"The community has been great, with a lot of support," the Benders said. "At this time, their doors are open to anyone," the Ambassadors stated, adding that some of the products Modern Finishing typically works on are trim and doors, as well as paneling products, such as tongue and groove paneling and shiplap panel-

The Ambassadors noted that Paul's experience even landed him a job with the Restaurant Impossible crew that shot an episode in Tomahawk several years ago. "We are very happy to welcome Paul and Dawn into their business, Modern Finishing LLC, to Tomahawk," the Ambassadors said.

Quality, Service and Value Every Time

Get all the quality, value and service you deserve in your new building. Willie Kimmons • 800-569-3090 WillieAtWickBuildings.com Wick Buildings Authorized Wisconsin Builder

Need Pet Food? If it is a hardship to feed your pet, Paws 2 Think can help. PAWS 2 THINK is a non-profit organization to help local pets in need. For more information, call Sunnie at 715-612-5866

HANSEN AUCTION GROUP ONLINE AUCTION ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS for March 19th 7th Annual North American Manure Application & Wisconsin Custom Operators Auction- Multiple Locations

Winter blues? 50 YEAR SNOWLOAD WARRANTY! Northland Buildings Inc. Gary Sterr, Tomahawk Local Sales Rep 1-800-736-4510

Ready to work for you! CENTURY 21 Best Way Realty Century21BestWay.com 119 W. Wisconsin Ave. Tomahawk 715-453-3365 Merrill 715-536-9518

Become a Direct Care Professional FREE TRAINING. \$500 BONUS. WisCaregiver Careers GET STARTED TODAY! WisCaregiverCDCP.com

60-60-60 SALE! 60% OFF INSTALLATION of a new bath or shower! 60 MONTHS 0% INTEREST! \$60 Walmart gift card with in-home estimate!

Tomahawk Emergency FOOD PANTRY YOUR CASH AND FOOD DONATIONS ALWAYS APPRECIATED. Always in need of Beef Stew, Baked Beans, Canned Fruits & Vegetables, Cooking Oil, Cereal, Instant Potatoes, Noodles, Pasta, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Soup, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned meats: Chicken, Spam, Tuna. Tomahawk Pharmacy 315 W. Wisconsin Ave. • 715-453-6600

Pair of Felzkowski-authored bills focused on rural dental care signed into law

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR

WAUSAU – Governor Tony Evers last week signed two bills authored by State Senator Mary Felzkowski (R-Tomahawk) that focus on access to dental care in rural areas.

Felzkowski's bills were among five signed by Evers at Northcentral Technical College in Wausau on Wednesday, Jan. 31.

The first piece of legislation authored by Felzkowski, now 2024 Wisconsin Act 87, authorizes the licensure of dental therapists, a mid-level dental provider similar to a physician's assistant. Dental therapists will be able to provide both preventive and restorative services and help fill gaps in care in areas where there are shortages of dentists, a release from Evers's office said.

Felzkowski's second bill will "significantly improve the ability of technical colleges across the state to support and strengthen the dental and oral hygiene workforce," according to the release. The legislation provides guidelines for the allocation of \$20 million for oral healthcare workforce initiatives that was set aside for the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) in the Joint Finance Committee's supplemental appropriation during the 2023-25 biennial budget process.

The other three pieces of legislation signed into law ratify and enter Wisconsin into the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact, providing individuals with the ability to become eligible to practice in Wisconsin and other compact states; modify the existing health services scholarship program to address the lack



Felzkowski



Evers

of dental professionals throughout the state by limiting eligibility to students enrolled in the Marquette University School of Dentistry who agree to practice dentistry in a dental health shortage area for 18 months for each annual scholarship received; require the Higher Education Aids Board to provide \$350,000.00 annually to the School of Dentistry for the development and operation of programs that support recruiting and training of rural dentistry students; and allow those with dental insurance coverage to assign reimbursement for dental services to a specific dental provider, removing the need for patients to cover the cost of care at the point of service and wait for reimbursement from their insurance provider.

"If you had asked me, when I took my oath of office in 2013, what I'd guess one of my proudest achievements would someday be as a legislator, I never would have guessed that it would be a dental care bill that took me eight years to pass," Felzkowski said regarding Act 87. "I think it's easier today than it has ever been to look out at the path before you, muddled with obstacles and naysayers and cynics, throw up your hands in defeat and turn away from a challenge. But

good things aren't meant to come easily, and if you really believe in what's at the end of that road, you can't give yourself the option to give up. The pen I hold in my hand today, used to sign my bill into law, is proof that it's worth it. And several years from now, when Wisconsin graduates its first dental therapist, I know that in a way, it'll feel like it's my own child graduating."

"The health and well-being of our state and our economy depend on the health and well-being of our communities, including ensuring that all Wisconsinites have access to quality, affordable healthcare," Evers stated. "I am proud to sign these five bipartisan bills that will move us forward in our work to address shortages and bolster our dental healthcare workforce while also closing gaps in access across the state. Coupled with my administration's new Healthcare Workforce Task Force, these bills will help us build upon our administration's work to support and strengthen this workforce and ensure more folks can get the dental care they need, especially in our rural communities while finding real, long-term solutions to address the challenges our healthcare industry faces today."

Nicolet College accepting applications for Board of Trustees

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

RHINELANDER – The Nicolet College District Board Appointment Committee is accepting applications for three positions on the Nicolet College Board of Trustees.

Successful candidates will serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2024.

The open three-year term positions include one member who is an employer, one member who is an employee and one member who is a school district administrator.

Per state guidelines, all candidates must meet a number of requirements in order to be eligible for Wisconsin Technical College System district board membership, according to a

release from Nicolet.

"Candidates must be residents of the technical college district, must submit an application/affidavit with a completed questionnaire and at least two written references, and must attend a district board appointment committee public hearing in person to be interviewed," Nicolet stated.

The hearing is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Monday, March 18, at Nicolet College, 5364 College Dr., Rhinelander. A second hearing is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, at the college. If all candidates are able to attend the Monday, March 18 hearing, the Thursday March 21 hearing will be cancelled.

Additional information

about the appointment process, applicant requirements, and online applications are available at www.nicoletcollege.edu/about/board-trustees/board-appointment-process.

Notarized applications are due to Kris Peeters, Nicolet College, P.O. Box 518, Rhinelander, Wis., 54501, by 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 23.

Nicolet College has notaries available on campus by appointment. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Peeters at 715-365-4416.

Nicolet College is governed by a nine-member District Board appointed by the Iron, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, and Vilas County Board Chairs.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

A daughter, Nova Nicole, was born to Rachel and Derek Hand, Tomahawk, on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024. She was born at 3:20 a.m., weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.

advertise
715.453.2151

- PICK UP A TOMAHAWK LEADER AT THESE NEWSSTANDS**
- TOMAHAWK
 - BP TOMAHAWK
 - Crossroads
 - Trig's
 - Milo's Country Store
 - Holiday
 - Tomahawk Shell
 - Tomahawk Pharmacy
 - Kwik Trip
 - Corner Mart
 - Viegut's Self Service
 - Wagner Shell
 - Kracker Barrel
 - Northwoods Store

TOMAHAWK LEADER *Focused on our Community*

24 W. Rives St., Rhinelander, WI 54501
Phone: 715-453-2151

PUBLISHER
Patrick J. Wood
publisher@mmclocal.com

GENERAL MANAGER
Tim Schreiber
tschreiber@mmclocal.com

EDITOR
Jalen Maki
jmaki@mmclocal.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Jeff Schulz
jschulz@mmclocal.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Lynn Schoohs
lschoohs@mmclocal.com

General E-mail:
leadernews@mmclocal.com
leaderads@mmclocal.com

Deadline for ads & copy is 5PM THURSDAY.

Published weekly by Multi Media Channels LLC., 310 West Walnut, Fourth Floor, Green Bay, WI 54303; Phone: 715-258-3207

The Tomahawk Leader was established in 1897 and is an official newspaper representing Lincoln County, City of Tomahawk, Tomahawk School District. The publication is an active member of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Association.

Subscriptions	
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, 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: All letters submitted as an endorsement for a political candidate, referendum or political agenda will carry the same guidelines as above; however, they will be charged \$40.00 per letter of up to 250 words in length. Longer political letters will be accepted, but will be charged \$10.00 per additional 50 words. All political letters must be prepaid prior to printing. Letters to the Editor will not be accepted from candidates running for election or representatives of an organization endorsing their own referendum; those submissions will be referred to our advertising department to be run as ads.

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.

© Copyright 2024

Printed on 100% Recycled Paper Since 1983

Wisconsin Newspaper Association National Newspaper Association

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, Feb. 12, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 24, 9 a.m. to noon; Monday, March 11, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m. to noon. 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 Substitute Teacher Training on Thursday, Feb. 22. 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 additional information, go to www.cesa9.org or call 715-453-2141.

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 prohibited between 2:30 a.m. and 5 a.m.

Open Arms Community Meal closed until March

Open Arms Community Meal, served each Tuesday at St. Mary's Corpus Christi Center, 320 E. Washington Ave., Tomahawk, will be closed until March 19, 2024.

Local news online
www.TomahawkLeader.com

Valentine's Day
at Somo Lake Resort

View our special menu by scanning the code

Reserve your table by Feb. 11, space is limited.

715-453-2306
N10750 Somo Lake Dr., Tomahawk, WI 54487
Website: www.somolakeresort.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/somolakeresort>

Red Barn Meats

8am-5pm Mon.-Fri., Sat. by Appt.
N5314 Co. Rd. X, Gleason, WI 54435
715-493-2340
redbarnmeats@upwardmail.com

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS FOR CUSTOM PROCESSING OF BEEF OR PORK PROFESSIONAL MEAT CUTTING

SEND AN EMAIL TO REQUEST A CUT SHEET

OBITUARIES

Obituary updates are posted at www.tomahawkleader.com



Peter A. Renn, age 84, of the Town of Harrison, Wis., passed away on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024, at Marshfield Medical Center in Weston, Wis. Peter was born on Feb. 4, 1939, in the Town of Harrison to the late Henry and Whilemina (Schoone) Renn. He proudly served in the United States Army with the 32nd Infantry Regiment from 1961 to 1964. He was later married to Kathleen Tindall; she survives. Pete was a 1957 graduate of Tomahawk High School. After returning from the military, Pete moved to Twin Lakes, Wis., where he owned and operated Twin Lakes Marine for many years. A lover of the outdoors and always on the move, "Speedy Pete" was a lifetime honorary member of the Aquanuts Water Ski club. He was a founder of the Twin Lakes Water Ski Club. He will be remembered as a committed snowmobile enthusiast and a founding member and safety instructor of the Twin Lakes Snowmobile Club. He was a Director of the AWSC (Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs) and served for 35 years. Pete was an active member of the Knight Owls Snowmobile Club, a member of the Parrish ATV Riders Club, and a member of the Harrison Hills ATV Club. He was an integral part of his community serving as former president of the Lakeland Jaycees and the Twin Lakes Business Association. Pete volunteered his time with the Twin Lakes Fire Department where he was awarded lifetime member serving since 1966. In his younger years, Pete was Cub Master of Troop 343. He was a faithful member of St. John's Catholic Church in Twin Lakes from 1965 to 2002 and a longtime member of St. Augustine Catholic Church in Harrison. Survivors include his wife, Kathleen Renn; his sons, Peter (Maria) Renn, and Todd (Lynn) Renn; his daughters, Diana (Allan) Renn, and Nannette (Tig) Kerkman; his sisters, Sr. Frances Renn, SSM, Mary (George) Sladek, and Isabel Olkives. Pete is further survived by his grandchildren, Cassandra (Heather) Pitts, Elizabeth Pitts, Ronda (Victor) Sanchez, Aaron Kerkman, Jenna Kerkman, Emily Renn, and Anthony Renn; and his great-grandson, Theodore Sanchez. He was preceded in death by his parents, five brothers, and three sisters.

Funeral services for Peter Renn were held on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, at 11 a.m., at St. Augustine Catholic Church. The family received friends for visitation from 9 a.m. until the time of services at 11 a.m. Burial followed at the St. Augustine Cemetery. Memorials are appreciated to the St. Jude's Children Hospital or the Twin Lakes Volunteer Fire Department. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory assisted the family.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

On Lying

Dear Reader,

In a world saturated with lies, the consequences stretch beyond immediate distrust. Lies erode credibility and integrity, turning trust into a fragile commodity.

The story of the boy who cried wolf serves as a timeless reminder that repeated deceit tarnishes one's reputation, leaving them isolated and unheard when the truth finally emerges. As adults, our responsibility to model honesty for children is paramount; failing to do so risks perpetuating a cycle of dishonesty that can harm relationships and society as a whole.

PATRICK J. WOOD

Publisher

Author of "Reflections" a new book now available on Amazon.



Charles "Chuck" E. Becker, age 52, of Tomahawk, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024, under the care of his family and Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services. Chuck was born in Eau Claire, Wis., on March 19, 1971, to James and Brenda (Grandy) Becker. Chuck attended high school in Medford, Wis. After high school, he entered the workforce holding various jobs throughout his life. He was a small-engine mechanic for many years and later worked as a detailer. Chuck enjoyed spending time outdoors, especially fishing.

Survivors include his mother, Brenda Becker; and his children, MaKayla Becker (Ryan), Megan Becker, Dakota Houpt, and Piper Brett. He was preceded in death by his father, James Becker; his grandparents; and his former wife, Melissa.

A celebration of life gathering will be held on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024, at 11 a.m., at Generations Funeral Home. Rev. Larry Mathein will officiate. The family will receive friends for visitation from 10 a.m. until the time of services at 11 a.m. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family. You may view Charles' obituary and leave online condolences at www.generationsfuneral.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why the rush to dispose of it?

On Jan. 27, 2023 my husband and I attended a non-partisan panel discussion on the proposed sale of county-owned, Pine Crest nursing home. It provided much information and first-hand testimony informing the public on the consequences of selling versus keeping the facility.

Financial data were provided that were not offered in Lincoln County's Board of Supervisors earlier decision to sell to a private buyer. Specifically, that Pine Crest ended the year with net income due to improvements in the state's Medicaid reimbursements.

Pine Crest is one of the few skilled staff nursing facilities in the county. It holds the highest five-star rating, and counter to local and national trends, has had a low employee turnover rate which translates to a better-than-average rate over infection control and overall health outcomes.

Heart-felt, first-hand accounts of care at Pine Crest were shared by residents and family members and former staff. My husband and I can confirm their positive nature due to our personal experience with a Tomahawk family member previously residing in Pine Crest. One of the medical professionals commented that nationally, public sector not-for-profit nursing homes give better care and that's a good reason to stop the sale.

The county originally claimed that, if sold, Pine Crest could stay in business as a nursing home and its workers might see pay increases along with profits for the new (not local) owners. So far the county has not provided any working example of that outcome.

Realistically, when for-profit businesses take over that type of facility, they look to par down expenses in order to increase profits. One route is to decrease staffing levels, which equates to a decrease in quality of care, and another is to cut back on the numbers of less-profitable Medicaid patients. Currently, Pine Crest maintains the highest number of Medicaid patients in Lincoln County. If the facility is sold, where will those "excess" Medicaid recipients go?

The outlook can be very positive for maintaining Pine Crest as a locally-owned, financially stable facility, and ultimately for those of us who might need its services in the future. Why the rush to dispose of it?

Diana C. Smith
Tomahawk

Church DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

Redeemer Ev. Lutheran
WELS • 715-453-4814
16 Theiler Drive,
Tomahawk
Rev. Mark Gass, Pastor
For Mass Times Check
www.redeemertomahawk.org

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran
Missouri Synod
715-453-5391
12 E. Wisconsin Ave.,
Tomahawk
Pastor Stephen P. Gillet

Directory made possible by these churches and...
PCA
PUBLISHING CORPORATION OF AMERICA
N9090 Hwy. E, Tomahawk
TOMAHAWK LEADER
24 W. Rives St., Rhinelander

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

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

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

St. Mary's Catholic
Seventh and Washington Aves.,
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

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

St. Augustine Catholic
Intersection of D & B,
Harrison • 715-453-2561
Fr. Louis Maram Reddy, Pastor
Sunday 8:00 a.m. Mass

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

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

Pastor's Corner

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

The war in Israel is all over the news. The Middle East is at war with itself. The fighting has been going on a long time. In Jesus day, there was a divided kingdom between Israel and Judah. The Samaritans hated the Jews and visa versa.

Moses taught the Israelite's to Love your enemies. This is the teaching of Leviticus. But somewhere down the line 'an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth' translated into 'hate your enemies and not love your neighbor.' Those of us who are disciples of Jesus find this 'eye for an eye' mentality exhausting.

God instructed Moses to teach the people of Israel to be holy. God said, "Be holy like me." Consider the poor among you. Don't reap all your harvest - leave it for the poor. Remember the food pantry when you go shopping. Remember the homeless shelter. Don't steal, deal falsely, or lie to one another. Don't swear by my name. I abhor profanity. I am God. I am holy.

Exercise justice as you want justice exercised to you. Don't talk behind your neighbors back. Hate no one in your heart. If you hate, you become hateful. Treat your family members with respect. Don't take vengeance on your own, and don't hold a grudge. Vengeance is mine saith the Lord. Love your enemies as yourself. I am God. I am holy. You also shall be holy. This is Leviticus. The Lord speaking through Moses and this is Jesus.

St. Paul told us we are temples of the Holy Spirit. So how could we use God's temple to harm others? Followers of Jesus have no business fighting and hating. But the Jews hated the Samaritans as well as the Roman occupation and the Roman soldiers.

The Old Testament Law of 'an eye for and eye' and a 'tooth for a tooth' had escalated into constant fighting, hating, and vengeance. This was the Law of the Jungle. You kill my child. I kill your child. Retaliation. But God's intention in Leviticus 19:18 reads, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' God repeats over and over 'Vengeance belongs to God.' (Deut. 32:35; Proverbs 20:22; Psalm 94:1)

Jesus teaches us to love our enemies. Jesus instructs us to treat our enemies with equity and fairness. God wants us to put the welfare of others before our own. When evil people do you wrong, accept the injustice without retaliation.

Proverbs says that a soft word turns away wrath. Jesus is building our character...temple. Meet hatred with positive love. Violence is born of weakness, not strength. It is the strong man or woman who can love and suffer hurt. It is the weak man or woman who only thinks of themselves and hurts others to protect themselves.

Christian love is an act of the will, not just an emotion. Praying for our enemies takes the 'poison' out of our attitude. Christ sets a high standard for us to follow. This is a paradox of course. The goal of perfection only shows us how unworthy we are of salvation. Good children imitate the Father, and Jesus advocates the same. Love your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you. It is a mark of maturity. Our love is a lasting testimony to others. Return good for evil. 1 John 3:2... 'because we shall be like him.'



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

Ask the PASTOR

Readers are invited to submit questions about God, the Bible, and religion. I shall try to answer them for you, using the Bible as the authority for my answers.

Over the last few weeks, we have been looking at the idea that the Christian life is an *ordinary life* - with its ups and downs, and joys and sorrows like everyone else. If the Christian life is extraordinary, it is extraordinary in this: it is directed by a love for God and a humble obedience to what God has said. It is not a religious *life*, but a *humble, obedient life* that is confident in the One who defines what is true.

Last week we looked at why God wants us to obey Him. I concluded last week with a reference to Ephesians 4:17-19, which we will focus on today. The general message of these verses is that if we ignore what God has said and focus on satisfying our own opinions, then our connections to reality will become weak, we will not know life as God intended it, and we may even become slaves to our own desires.

In verse 17 we have the command, *This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should not walk as unbelieving Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind.* This is a command to Christians to not live like those who do not know God. The idiom, "walk," is the idea of making choices; each decision we make is a "step" we take in our day. We are not to ignore God and live by our opinions ("walk in the vanity of their mind"). Why?

In verse 18 we are told that if we do, we may end up with our "understanding darkened" and become separated from life as God intended it to be because we will blind our thinking against what God has said. Verse 19 goes on to warn that if we continue down that path, then we may become slaves to our own opinions and passions.

I have known people who constructed *their* world as they believed it should be. If people did not support them in *their* world, then they either got very angry or they fell apart - they could not handle disagreement or the idea they may be wrong. And if I tried to show them their world is not based on what really is, then they got very angry with me and took my disagreement as an attack on them personally. And, as a general principle, they tried to shut down any discussion by name calling and ridicule - avoiding any real debate. They buried themselves in *their* world.

So why should a Christian not live their life based on their own opinions? In verses 20 and 21 we are given two reasons. *First*, Jesus Christ does not teach us to live this way (verse 20). And *second*, the truth is not in us, it is in Christ, the Creator (verse 21).

God has given us His Word so we can know Him, ourselves, and the world in which we live. People have always been people; they may be different in color, size, shape, language, or culture, but they still have the same basic desires and struggles, each a variation on the same theme. The Bible was written to address the situations and needs in *any* culture - this is why we need to obey Him if we are to know life as God had intended it to be.

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

PAID LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The following is a paid letter, per policy.

To the Editor

The continued and uninterrupted operation of Pine Crest as a skilled nursing facility has been, and continues to be, the priority of your County Board. Previous efforts to change financial outcomes at the facility were not successful. Subsequently, an AD HOC Committee was formed to review Pine Crest's history and determine how our goal of maintaining a skilled nursing facility in Merrill might be achieved.

The AD HOC Committee spent a year researching this issue, looking at successes, failures and options. All meetings were open to the public and an extensive report of their findings was provided to tax payers. Meeting details and the report can be found on the Lincoln County website.

After careful review of the findings, the Board contacted a broker to determine if there was a market for a skilled nursing facility, as selling Pine Crest to a private party with industry expertise is one of our options.

Another option was offered, a referendum to raise taxes in order to keep the facility County owned. In my opinion, a failed referendum would be disastrous for Pine Crest residents and staff. Nonetheless, these two choices emerged, were publicly debated, and voted on. The decision was made to seek a private buyer.

A brief history follows. In 2017, the Board borrowed \$10 million to build a rehabilitation center to capture new revenue. It didn't work and we still owe over \$8 million. Next, the County Board contracted the management of care to NCHC. That didn't work either; last year tax payers had to reimburse NCHC \$1.1 million to cover operating deficits. Three years ago, the County Board gave up 40 bed licenses, out of the 160 owned, stating in Committee we (meaning Pine Crest) will never be that full again.

I asked the County Board to address this very difficult issue, and they have worked hard over the last two years, examining options and developing a plan to keep a high-quality skilled nursing facility in Merrill while ensuring tax payers are also regarded during the process. They have represented the people of Lincoln County in a professional and respectful manner throughout.

This is an emotional issue for many in our community. I am not sure what option the Board will choose, but I do know that someone will have to pay for the continued operation of Pine Crest and doing nothing is not an option. Together, we will continue to seek solutions to this and all the obstacles we face. It is our privilege to serve you.

Donald R. Friske

Chairman, Lincoln County Board of Supervisors

Wisconsin 4-H Foundation accepting scholarship applications

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation is currently accepting scholarship applications.

In a release, the Foundation said it will award more than \$20,000.00 in scholarships to outstanding Wisconsin 4-H members and alumni pursuing higher education in 2024.

“Wisconsin 4-H Foundation scholarships are awarded to students based on demonstrated personal growth through 4-H, development and leadership in 4-H, academic performance and future educational goals,” the Foundation stated.

To be eligible for Wisconsin 4-H Foundation scholarships, students must have been a Wisconsin 4-H member for at least three years, should have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and must be enrolled or planning to enroll at a university, college or technical school



during the 2024-2025 academic school year.

Scholarship winners from previous years are not eligible to receive a second 4-H Foundation scholarship.

The application is a one-page cover letter and a one-page résumé, both of which give the 4-H youth a chance to share their 4-H achievements, as well as their future plans. The Foundation said applicants are asked to treat this process as if applying

for a job.

Cover letters and résumés must be submitted as one PDF document and emailed to scholarships@Wis4HFoundation.org by 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1.

“A panel of experienced youth educators will screen the applications and select finalists,” the Foundation said. “Applications chosen as finalists will be ranked by a second panel comprised of 4-H and youth development experts. The 4-H Foundation will assign available scholarships to the top-ranking applications based on scholarship criteria.”

Applicants who are awarded scholarships will be notified by postal letter and email in May.

For complete instructions and detailed information about what to include in and how to prepare the application documents, 4-H youth can visit www.Wis4H-Foundation.org/scholarships.

DSPS: Record number of initial licenses issued to professionals in 2023

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) last week announced that it issued 60,696 initial licenses to professionals in 2023, representing a 38% increase over the 44,047 issued in 2022 and is the most the department has ever issued in a single year.

“We’re issuing more licenses more quickly than we ever have at DSPS,” said DSPS Secretary-designee Dan Hereth. “This success is a reflection of our credentialing team’s work and our agency’s focus on improving licensing times and getting qualified professionals into the workforce as quickly as possible without compromising

the safety of Wisconsinites. When Governor Evers appointed me to lead this agency 17 months ago, we were talking about DSPS licensing review times in terms of months. We went from months to weeks, and now we’re measuring application review times in days.”

Licenses

CONTINUES ON PAGE 6

I BUSINESS DIRECTORY I

To have your professional service appear in this section, call 715-453-2151 today!

FREE Estimates • Fully Insured
715-966-2008 • b.wadellc@outlook.com

SERVICES

- Metal Roofing
- Shingle Roofing
- Rooftop Snow Removal
- Ice Dam Removal
- Arctic Steam Services

WADE
 Construction & Specialty Roofing

Have Your Home or Business Stand Out
 Call Now For Your FREE Roofing Estimate!

Custom Sheet Metal Fabrication
wadehomesllc.com

Ted Foley ~ Owner
 ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST #WI-0979A
foleystreeservice@gmail.com
Fully Insured • Free Estimates

- Tree Removal
- Pruning
- Stump Grinding
- Lot Clearing
- Plant Health Care
- Storm Damage Cleanup
- Property Wellness Evaluation
- Tree Preservation
- Vegetation Management

Tomahawk: 715-453-2407
 Minocqua: 715-358-2406
www.foleystreeservice.com

Joseph Thorne Fully Insured

THORNE CONSTRUCTION LLC
715-432-5197
Your Dream Builder

- Build & Remodel
- Complete Remodels
- Shop-Sheds
- Concrete/ICF Walls

Cottrell's Auto Repair LLC
 ASE Certified
 33 Yrs Experience
cottrellsautorepair@charter.net

W5896 County Road A
 Tomahawk, WI 54487
 (715) 224-3433

JAWS HandyMan LLC
 Jim Waldburger-Owner
 Fully Insured • Free Estimates

Electrical • Plumbing • Drywall • Decks
 Light Masonry/Remodeling

715-204-0020

VIOLENCE
 affects even the smallest members of your family
 For more information call **HAVEN** at 715-536-1300

Wisco Spray Foam, LLC
 NI6465 Bachelors Ave, Thorp, WI 54771
 Commercial Residential & Agricultural
 Free Estimates
 Call Jerry at 608-696-8617

DAN-BEE ROOFING, LLC
 P.O. Box 708 • Tomahawk • WI 54487

“NO JOB TOO SMALL OR TOO TALL.”
 715-453-1110
 FREE Estimates Over 30 Yrs. Experience

Shingled • Metal Roofing • Rubber & Built Up Roofs
 COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL • FULLY INSURED

MYERS HEATING & COOLING LLC

Josh Myers FURNACE | MINI-SPLIT | A/C | BOILER HVAC Contractor
 AVAILABLE 24/7!
PHONE: 715.216.7968
JOSH.MYERSHEATINGANDCOOLING@GMAIL.COM FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

KNOTTY PINE
HICKORY • OAK • POPLAR

50,000 SQUARE FEET T&G PANELING IN STOCK

T&G PANELING DOORS & TRIM
 Full Service Prefinishing Serving the DIY & Pro
 Better price. More options.

IRON BRIDGE
 Est. 2013
 241536 Corlad Rd. Athens, WI 54411
 Call Lawrence @ 715-257-1011

SHOWROOM OPEN
 MON.-FRI. 9AM-6PM, SAT. 9AM-NOON

BADGER STATE STEEL ROOFING

FREE ESTIMATES!
 Tired of re-roofing your house?
TRY A STEEL ROOF!

- Snaplok (hidden fastener)
- Can Be Installed Over An Existing Roof
- 40 Year Factory Warranty
- 4-Star Hail and Fire Resistant
- Ventilated At Peak
- Energy Star Efficient
- 28 Colors Available

Jerry Stutzman **Do it Once, Do it Right!** 715-314-2295

Call Vernon 715-512-1356

- Can Be Installed Over An Existing Roof
- 40 Year Factory Warranty
- 4-Star Hail and Fire Resistant
- Ventilated At Peak
- Energy Star Efficient
- Hidden Fastener
- 28 Colors Available
- Steel or Asphalt Roofing
- Top Quality Work for Less
- Individual Homeowners, Contractors, or Commercial

BADGERLAND STEEL ROOFING
 Tired Of Re-Roofing Your House?
Try a Steel Roof!
CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE

LCHD reminding public of risks related to blastomycosis

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

LINCOLN COUNTY – The Lincoln County Health Department (LCHD) is reminding the public of the risks related to blastomycosis.

LCHD said the fungus that causes blastomycosis lives in moist soil with decaying wood and leaves. Wooded areas that are close to water are prime settings for the fungus to live. Only under exact conditions of humidity, temperature and nutrition, can the fungus grow and produce spores that can be inhaled when soil is disturbed.

“With a warmer-than-usual late fall and early winter, we should be aware of the potential risk of conditions being favorable,” LCHD stated. “People most likely also spent more time outdoors during these times.”

Although the risk of getting the fungal infection is



low, every year there are individuals in Lincoln County who get blastomycosis. Lincoln County is in the top five counties for the highest incidence rate of blastomycosis in Wisconsin, according to LCHD. From 2013 to 2022, 40 individuals in Lincoln County tested positive for blastomycosis, 21 of whom were hospitalized.

LCHD said it is important to know that blastomycosis symptoms typically do not occur until two to 15 weeks after exposure. Symptoms can mimic other respiratory illnesses, like the flu or acute bacterial pneumonia, making it difficult to diagnose.

“Usually, blastomycosis symptoms resemble those of a lung infection, but it can affect other body systems, including your skin

and bones,” LCHD added.

Blastomycosis symptoms may include fever or chill, cough, shortness of breath, chest or back pain, feeling very tired and skin sores that may look crusted and growing in size.

About half of people infected will not have any symptoms, according to LCHD. People with a weakened immune system or a chronic illness are more likely to show symptoms.

“Your risk increases if you participate in outdoor activities like farming, clearing brush, construction, riding all-terrain vehicles, gardening, hiking, hunting and camping,” LCHD stated.

“Given the significant overlap with other respiratory illness symptoms, it is important for patients to follow up with their primary care provider or other provider if respiratory symptoms are not improving or worsen, and to be sure your provider is aware of activities that may increase your exposure to blastomycosis,” said Dr. Michael Clark, MD, LCHD Medical Advisor.

“If you are having these

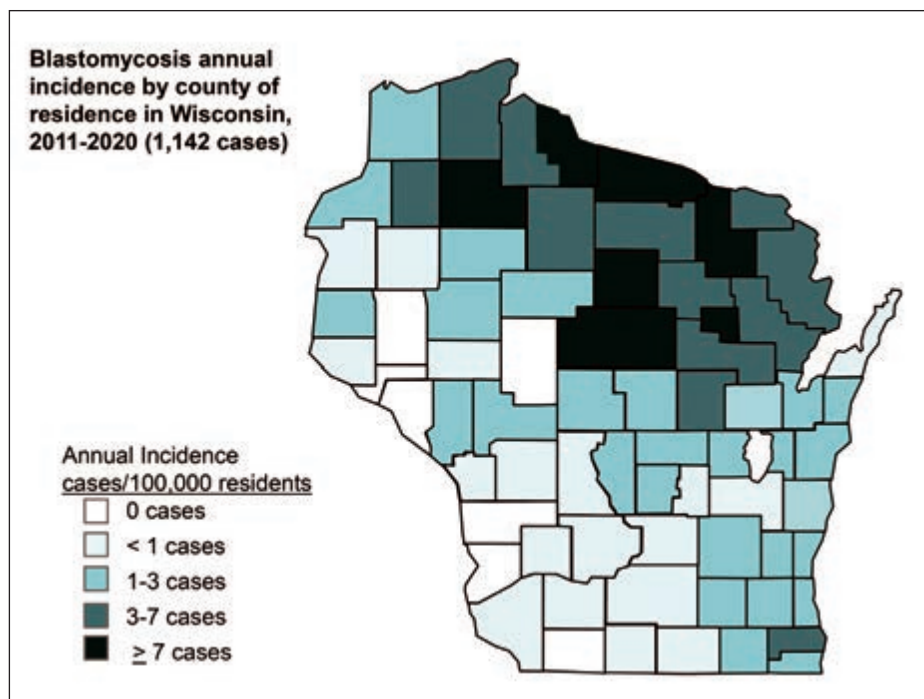


Photo courtesy of LCHD

symptoms and think you may have blastomycosis, be sure to talk to your healthcare provider right away,” LCHD said. “People are usually treated with antifungal medicine. Early recognition and appropriate treatment can minimize illness. Although there are no formal recommendations to prevent blastomycosis,

if you have a weakened immune system or are elderly, you may want to consider wearing a dust mask when taking part in activities in which the soil is disturbed or avoiding these activities all together.”

A “Blastomycosis: Trends in Lincoln County 2013-2022” data brief, published last year, can be

found on at www.co.lincoln.wi.us/health/page/blastomycosis-blasto.

For more information, contact LCHD at 715-536-0307.

More information is also available at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) website at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/blastomycosis.htm.



SIGN ON BONUS - \$5,000/FT & \$2,500/PT

Elite Care Management, a private duty home healthcare company with 25 years' experience in the industry, is currently hiring full-time or part-time RNs, and LPNs to provide one-on-one care for our patient in Eagle River, WI.

Immediate coverage is needed for:
Day Shift: 7am to 7pm
Night Shift: 7pm to 7am

Please contact our Recruiter, Andri at (331) 305-7429
Or email her at: recruiting@elitecaremanagement.com

Or

Apply on [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) under Elite Care Management / Registered Nurse/LPN - Eagle River, WI

304428

LICENSES FROM PAGE 5

In a release, DSPS said the current average time it takes for it to review application materials is 3.6 calendar days, meaning DSPS is approving applicants who satisfy all legal requirements for a license in just a few days.

The department's Occupational Licensing: By the Numbers performance

dashboard (www.license.wi.gov/s/performance-data) tracks review times on the agency's website and updates in real-time.

An audit of professional credentialing in Wisconsin found the “amount of time to issue initial credentials decreased considerably” in fiscal year 2023 (FY23), including a 52% year-over-year drop in the average time to receive a health license.

“This improvement comes in spite of a 60% increase in demand for applications over the last three fiscal years, according to the audit,” DSPS stated.

“Over FY23 alone, the increase in initial licenses issued by our department equates to \$54 million more in wages for graduates in key industries across Wisconsin,” Hereth noted.

DSPS said it has “invested heavily in technology

and staffing, with Governor Tony Evers directing emergency federal funding to the agency.”

“The department used the funding to create an online, self-guided system to apply for or renew a license and to add temporary staff to its credentialing team,” DSPS stated.

“That investment, along

Licenses

CONTINUES ON PAGE 7

JOIN OUR TEAM

We are Hiring!





- Crew Member, \$19.21 - 20.71/HR
- Department Manager, 2nd Shift

4 10-Hour Days

- Both shifts available
- Possible OT on Friday
- Attendance BONUS (Up to additional \$1.50/hr)

- Retirement & Life Insurance
- Paid Holidays and Vacations
- Excellent Low Cost Benefits (Health, Dental, Vision)

Individual: \$88/Month

Spouse: +\$140/Month

Child: +\$63/Month

APPLY IN-PERSON
1815 Water Street • 605 N. Ohio Street
Questions? Call: 715-722-1884

Visit us online at spi.careers!

Sierra Pacific is an (EOE) Equal Opportunity Employer, including those with a disability and veterans.

350179

We are looking for professional, friendly, and reliable Member Service Representatives (Tellers)

EXCITED TO ADVANCE THEIR CAREER!

MATCHING 401(K) PLAN

INCENTIVES AND GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Starting \$18/HR

PAID COMMUNITY SERVICE TIME

FINANCIAL SERVICES EXPERIENCE NOT REQUIRED





Scan Here or apply in-person for same-day interviews.

www.parkcitycu.org

CHILD SUPPORT DIRECTOR/SPECIALIST

Price County Child Support Department

Price County is accepting applications for a full-time **Child Support Director/Specialist** within the Child Support Department. This position is a divided position and is responsible for the overall function of Price County's Child Support Program, as well as maintaining and assigning caseloads for the Child Support Agency. Individual is responsible for managing all aspects of their assigned caseload, including intake, establishing support obligations, case monitoring and enforcement. Director duties include, but are not limited to, preparing an operating budget for the department, oversight of the child support program, supervision of agency employees, ensuring compliance to all federal and state Child Support requirements and regulations in areas of paternity, court order establishment and enforcement. As a function of the Price County Child Support Agency, this position is responsible for establishing, modifying, and enforcing court orders for child support and medical insurance, establishing reimbursement perk. Dental/vision, flex spending, WI Deferred Comp, life, short-term disability, accident, and cancer/critical illness coverages are available.

This is a full-time, regular, exempt position with a full benefit package. Benefits include Wisconsin Retirement System with employer match, income continuation insurance, choice of multiple health insurance plans including a no deductible plan, 22 days of paid leave within the first year, 10 paid holidays per year, paid maternity/paternity leave, and quarterly employee lifestyle enhancement reimbursement perk. Dental/vision, flex spending, WI Deferred Comp, life, short-term disability, accident, and cancer/critical illness coverages are available.

A full description of minimum requirements and application instructions can be found on the Price County website's employment opportunities page at www.co.price.wi.us, by emailing a request to hroffice@co.price.wi.us or by calling 715-339-5131.

Completed application and resume must be received by the Price County Office of Administration no later than February 21, 2024, to be considered for this position.

Price County is an equal opportunity employer.

351430



O'MELIA, SCHIEK & McELDOWNEY, S.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

NOW HIRING

Immediate opening for professional Legal Secretary.

This is a fast paced office specializing in a variety of legal areas.

Please submit resume with cover letter to:

O'Melia, Schiek & McEldowney, S.C.
ATTN: Office Manager
4 S. Stevens Street, Rhinelander, WI 54501
Or send to: general@omelialaw.com

344101

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ASSISTANT

Price County Health and Human Services Department

Price County is accepting applications for a **Health and Human Services Assistant** within the Health and Human Services Department. This position will perform a variety of program related functions in accordance with established policies, routines, and procedures. The essential functions include supporting the department with necessary clerical duties, including, but not limited to keyboarding, filing, reception, numerical calculating, use of office machines, and interacting face-to-face with the public. This is a regular, full-time position with a starting hourly wage of \$18.73, and full benefit package.

Benefits include Wisconsin Retirement System with employer match, income continuation insurance, choice of multiple health insurance plans including a no deductible plan, 22 days of paid leave within the first year, 10 paid holidays per year, paid maternity/paternity leave, and quarterly employee lifestyle enhancement reimbursement perk. Dental/vision, flex spending, WI Deferred Comp, life, short-term disability, accident, and cancer/critical illness coverages are available.

A full description of minimum requirements and application instructions can be found on the Price County website's employment opportunities page at www.co.price.wi.us, by emailing a request to hroffice@co.price.wi.us or by calling 715-339-5131.

A resume and completed application must be received by the Price County Office of Administration no later than February 21, 2024, to be considered for this position.

Price County is an equal opportunity employer.

351432

Leader Sports & Nature



New banners

The Tomahawk Hatchet Booster Club recently announced that it had donated new banners to be hung in the fieldhouse at the Tomahawk school complex. The club said the banners commemorate "many proud moments of school sports history" and are "prepped for many more to come."

Photo courtesy of the Tomahawk Hatchet Booster Club

TMS grapplers compete in Crandon scramble, D.C. Everest meet

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

CRANDON – The Tomahawk Middle School (TMS) wrestling team competed in a scramble in Crandon and a meet at D.C. Everest last week.

Crandon

The TMS wrestlers traveled to Crandon on Thursday, Feb. 1, to compete in an eight-team scramble.

Joining Tomahawk were Crandon, John Muir Blue,

MHLT, Rhinelander, Wabeno/Laona, Three Lakes and Florence. No team scores were kept.

The following TMS wrestlers earned at least one victory last night: Dawson Jones, Hudson Evans, Colton McMeekin, Brayden Nowak, RJ Guzman, Vanessa Patterson, Aiden Cruz and Brantley Budzinski.

D.C. Everest

On Saturday, Feb. 3, the

middle school grapplers headed to D.C. Everest to take part in the school's annual team dual meet tournament.

D.C. Everest, Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, John Muir, Horace Mann, Mosinee and P.J. Jacobs joined Tomahawk in the meet. The Hatchets placed 5th overall, going 2-2 as a team.

TMS's Dawson Jones went a perfect 4-0 on the day

with three pins.

The following Hatchets came away with at least one victory on the day: Aiden Cruz, Hudson Evans, RJ Guzman, Charlee Lund, Colton McMeekin, Brayden Nowak and Tyler Waller.

This week's action

The TMS wrestlers were slated to travel to Wisconsin Rapids for a conference scramble on Tuesday, Feb. 6.



Dotson cleats

The Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame generously opened their vault to share pieces of Packers history with The Press Times, published by Multi Media Channels (MMC). Pictured are Santana Dotson's game-worn cleats. Dotson played six seasons, from 1996 to 2002, with the Packers as a defensive tackle. For more information on the Hall of Fame, visit www.packershofandtours.com. MMC also publishes the Tomahawk Leader.

Photo by Kris Leonhardt

Fishing Report: Good ice, warmth makes for comfort

BY GEORGE LANGLEY

NORTHERN WISCONSIN – Mother Nature sure is showing her crazy this year. We can be thankful we got ice when we did, and that it's still been getting below freezing at night, so that what we've got is staying – for the most part. We were seeing anywhere from seven to 12 inches of ice throughout the area as of last week, though there was some light slush in some areas. We had some warm weather to get through last week, but the lakes were expected to get through it intact. One thing about this warm weather is that it sure makes for a comfortable day out there, considering it's the beginning of February, when we're used to having sub-zero days.

Walleye fishing has been okay, but not super. We seem to be in a little bit of a slow period, but that's not stopping anyone from trying. Most anglers report a few fish nightly, but no big runs. The best time for these fish is still from dusk into the evening, with tip-ups set with either medium shiners or sucker minnows. On the Eagle River Chain, the most productive depths seem to be in the eight- to ten-foot range.

Northern are hitting well daily after having

slowed down a bit with the warm front. The best action is on those deeper weed edges and inside the weeds on larger shiners. If you can find the perch, you'll be into some northern, too. The deeper the weeds, the better.

Panfish action has been improving. Perch are in the deeper weeds. Crappie action has picked up, especially in the holes on the Chain. They are hitting crappie minnows. Remember that they are not always right on the bottom, so use electronics if you've got them and search vertically. Small jigs tipped with waxies work well, but tip downs with minnows are working also. The bluegill bite has been good, but not as good as it will get later in February. They are hitting spikes in the weeds.

All in all, on the fishing front there is very little to complain about. For everything else "winter," there is a whole lot lacking. While we only have a month of game-fishing left, we all know winter in northern Wisconsin isn't even close to over. We still hope to get some nice, big snow so the people who want to snowmobile, ski and snowshoe can have some fun, too. Fingers crossed!

Good luck and good fishin'!

TOMAHAWK SPORTS TRIVIA: WEEK 168

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 167 question: What was the fewest number of points ever scored in a single game by a THS basketball team? Was it 0, 1, or 2?

Week 167 answer: The fewest points ever scored by a THS basketball team was when they lost to Stevens Point by a score of 17-0 in the 1928-29 season.

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

Week 168 question: Mike Olson repeated as Lumberjack Conference scoring champion in the 1975-76 basketball season with 267 points in the conference. Overall, he scored 967 points, breaking the record of 718 held by whom: Mac Winker, Bevo Pearce or Tom Higgins?

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.

WEATHER

DATE	HIGH (°F)	LOW (°F)
Sunday, Jan. 28	37	26
Monday, Jan. 29	34	31
Tuesday, Jan. 30	35	30
Wednesday, Jan. 31	48	28
Thursday, Feb. 1	40	22
Friday, Feb. 2	44	21
Saturday, Feb. 3	41	14

FISHING & HUNTING TIMES

Date (CDT)	Morning		Evening	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Feb 7	5:19AM	8:50AM	1:23PM	9:21PM
Feb 8	6:07AM	9:52AM	2:46PM	10:23PM
Feb 9	6:43AM	10:52AM	4:13PM	---
Feb 10	7:11AM	11:21PM	5:39PM	11:49AM
Feb 11	7:34AM	12:16AM	7:04PM	12:42PM
Feb 12	7:55AM	1:07AM	8:26PM	1:33PM
Feb 13	8:15AM	1:58AM	9:46PM	2:22PM
Feb 14	8:36AM	2:47AM	11:05PM	3:12PM

Solunar fishing and hunting chart for Tomahawk. Major feeding periods last two hours and minors run one hour. New Moon is February 9th.



STOP BY AND SEE OUR NEW LINE OF MEN'S CLOTHING

216 W. WISCONSIN AVE
LOCATED IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN TOMAHAWK, WI
715-224-3666
honeycombloft@hotmail.com

[f](#) [i](#) [t](#)

USIC LOCATE TECHNICIAN

WISCONSIN • INTERVIEWING NOW!

Daytime, full time Locate Technician positions available
100% PAID TRAINING
Company vehicle & equipment provided
PLUS medical, dental, vision, & life insurance
Newly Increased Hourly Wages!

REQUIREMENTS
Must be able to work outdoors • Ability to work OT & weekends
Must have valid driver's license with safe driving record

Apply today: www.workatusic.com
We are an Equal Opportunity Employer