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Committee exploring reapportionment to rebalance representation on school board

Presentation highlights population changes, proposes several composition models

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR

TOMAHAWK – A special committee is looking into rebalancing representation on the School District of Tomahawk Board of Education.

Since Aug. 2023, the Re-apportionment Subcommittee, made up of board members Kay Kissinger Wolf, Shar Kirsch and Dave Long; Lincoln County Clerk Chris Marlowe; and community members Marguerite Lyskawa, Ken Schulz and Jon Long, has been exploring ways to alter how the board is composed to better reflect the district's population distribution.

Current Representation			
Location	District Population	% Population	Board Members
City of Tomahawk	3441	33.44%	4
Tomahawk Township	458	4.45%	
Birch Township	3	0.03%	
Bradley Township	2382	23.15%	
Rock Falls Township	105	1.02%	
Skanawan Township	386	3.75%	
Sub Total	3334	32.40%	3
Nokomis Township	1372	13.33%	
Little Rice Township	388	3.77%	
Wilson Township	317	3.08%	
Sub Total	2077	20.19%	1
King Township	964	9.37%	
Harrison Township	473	4.60%	
Sub Total	1437	13.97%	1
Total	10289	100%	9

Photos courtesy of the School District of Tomahawk

Current board composition

The district includes the City of Tomahawk and several townships in Lincoln and Oneida Counties.

Currently, the board utilizes a "4-3-1-1" representation model. Under this model, the board is composed of a total of nine members representing four designated areas within the district for three-year terms.

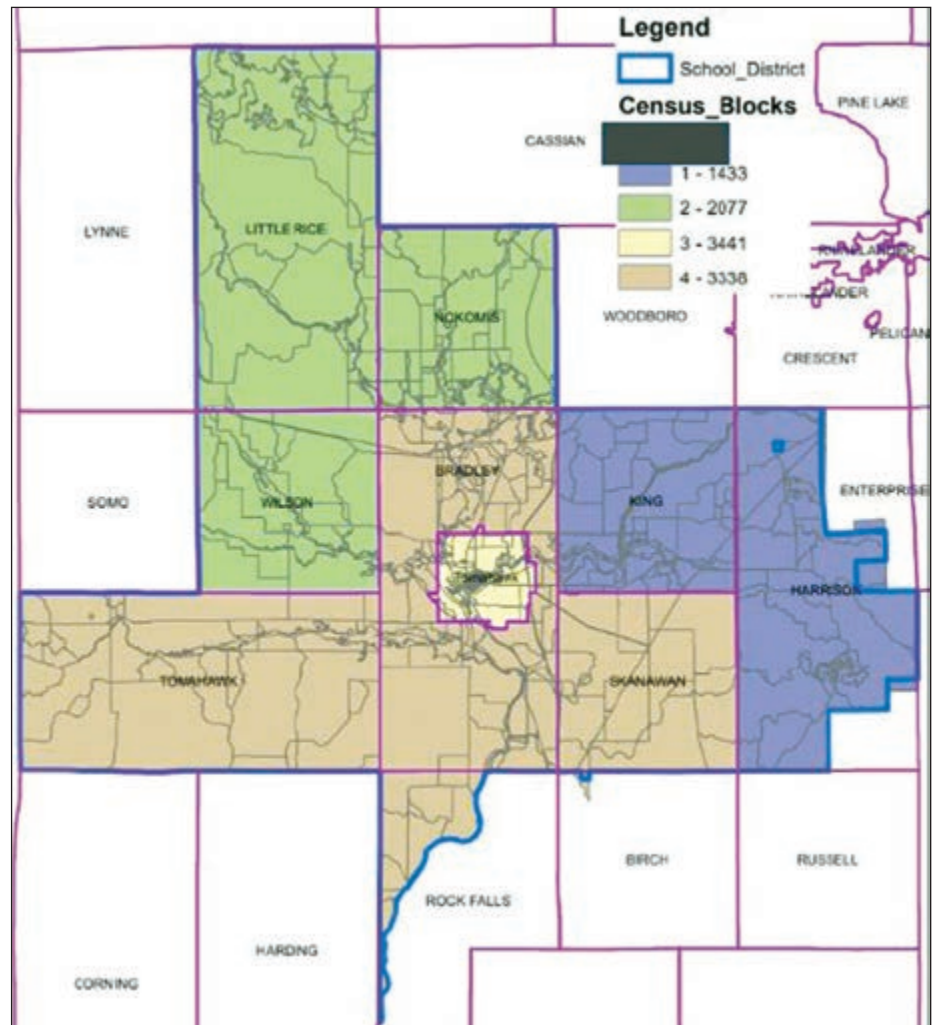
Four members represent the City of Tomahawk; three represent the apportioned area covering the Towns of Birch, Bradley, Rock Falls, Skanawan and Tomahawk; one represents the apportioned area that includes the Towns of Little Rice, Nokomis and Wilson; and one represents the apportioned area encompassing the Towns of Harrison

and King.

These areas of representation have been in place since April 1972.

All registered voters in the district may vote for board members, no matter where they live, but candidates must reside in their apportioned area. For

School Board
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



A map representing the 4-3-1-1 model currently utilized by the board.

Tomahawk-area native Ron Krueger inducted into WPVGA Hall of Fame

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – A Tomahawk-area native was recently honored for his dedication to the development of Wisconsin's potato industry.

Ron Krueger was inducted into the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association (WPVGA) Hall of Fame earlier this month.

In a release, WPVGA said its intention to "continue to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the potato industry in Wisconsin by making annual Hall of Fame inductions."

Krueger was born in Tomahawk to Clarence and Joy Krueger. His family, including two brothers and one sister, lived on a dairy farm in Irma that had been in their family since the early 1900s.

After graduating from Tomahawk High School and attending the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Krueger began his career in 1977 as the farm supervisor for the Frito-Lay Genetics research farm in Starks, Wis.

After 15 years with Frito-Lay, Ron moved on to be-



Tomahawk-area native Ron Krueger was inducted into the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association (WPVGA) Hall of Fame earlier this month. Photo courtesy of WPVGA

come the general manager for Felix Zeloski Farms in 1992, staying for 30 years before his retirement in 2022. Felix Zeloski Farms became Eagle River Seed Farm LLC in 2014.

"Nestled in the middle of the world's largest inland chain of lakes, Eagle River

Seed Farm supports a tremendous amount of wildlife, as well as natural scenic beauty," WPVGA stated. "Originally established by Felix M. Zeloski, his son, Dennis, took over in 1973."

In his career, Krueger oversaw the growing of 1,100 acres of early generation

certified seed potatoes, (including numerous varieties), certified seed oats, barley, wheat, soybeans and clover.

Krueger was active in the WPVGA, serving four three-year terms on the Board of Directors, including a term as President in 2005. He was Co-Chair of the WPVGA Research Committee for over 20 years and

Krueger
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

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Lincoln County small businesses gain expanded access to HUBZone Program

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

LINCOLN COUNTY – The Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation (LCEDC) last week announced that county small business now have a “significant expansion” of access to the U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) Program.

A release from LCEDC said the HUBZone Program is designed to help small businesses in historically underutilized business zones gain preferential access to federal procurement opportunities.

“The program encourages economic development and employment growth in distressed areas by providing access to more federal contracting opportunities,” LCEDC explained.

LCEDC said it sought support for the designation from various small businesses throughout Lincoln County and worked with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to ensure the area would be included in Governor Tony Evers’ petition.

Langlade and Juneau counties are also newly-designated HUBZone areas in Wisconsin. The three areas have been officially added to the HUBZone map as “Governor-Designated Covered Areas” and will be eligible for this designation for



one year, effective immediately.

“The initiative is aimed at widening the doors of access to federal contracting opportunities, promoting economic growth, and supporting the development of small businesses in these regions,” LCEDC stated.

Evers “expressed gratitude for the SBA’s approval, emphasizing the importance of the HUBZone Program in creating opportunities for Wisconsin’s small businesses to partner with the federal government,” according to LCEDC.

“He also committed to ensuring that these counties continue to meet the necessary requirements for HUBZone designation,” LCEDC noted.

Small businesses located in the designated areas can learn more about potential eligibility for HUBZone certification at www.sba.gov/hubzone.

LCEDC said an educational event will be held in Merrill at a date and location to be determined.

PCCU’s Val Mindak appointed as Corporate Central Credit Union Board

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

MUSKEGO, WIS. – Corporate Central Credit Union recently announced that Val Mindak has been appointed as its Board Chair.

Mindak has been President and CEO of Park City Credit Union (PCCU), based in Merrill, for more than 14 years.

Corporate Central is a national financial cooperative based Muskego, Wis.

A release from Corporate Central said Mindak “brings a wealth of experience, having served on the board for more than six years and contributing significantly to the growth and success of the corporate credit union.”

“Now, with over \$5 billion in assets under management, Corporate Central serves credit unions and their members nationwide,” Corporate Central stated. “Mindak will play a crucial role as Board Chair in leading the board and guiding the strategic direction of Corporate Central.”



Val Mindak, President and CEO of Park City Credit Union, has been named Corporate Central Credit Union’s Board Chair. Photo courtesy of Corporate Central

Joining Mindak on the board’s Executive Committee are Vice-Chair Sue Johnson, Fort Community; Secretary Steve Koenen, Altra Federal Credit Union; and Treasurer Chris Allen, Fox Communities Credit Union.

Corporate Central said the Executive Committee is “comprised of dedicated professionals with diverse backgrounds and extensive expertise in the financial industry.”

“Together, they will work

collaboratively to ensure Corporate Central continues to provide exceptional financial services and value to its members,” the release stated.

“We are confident that under Val’s leadership, Corporate Central will continue to thrive and achieve new milestones,” said Chris Felton, President and CEO of Corporate Central. “Our Executive Committee and board members bring a depth of knowledge and a commitment to excellence that will contribute significantly to the success of our credit union.”

Mindak said she is “thrilled and honored to assume the position of Board Chair.”

“Collaborating with the outstanding members of the Executive Committee, and the team of amazing directors, we are dedicated to advancing Corporate Central’s mission, ensuring unparalleled financial solutions, and nurturing the financial well-being of members,” Mindak stated.

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 Saturday, Feb. 24, from 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.

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.

Grace Lutheran blood drive

A blood drive, sponsored by the American Red Cross,

will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 108 W. Somo Ave., Tomahawk, on Tuesday, March 19, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Appointments are recommended, but not necessary. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit www.redcross-blood.org. A Red Cross ID or photo ID is required.

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.

KRUEGER

FROM PAGE 1

served on the WPVGA Government Affairs and SpudPro committees, working on the SpudPro Committee from its inception until his retirement.

Krueger also sat on the Board of the Wisconsin Seed Potato Improvement Association for two separate

five-year terms, including four years as President.

Krueger’s awards and honors include the 2006 and 2014 WPVGA Volunteer of the Year Awards, the 2013 Wisconsin Seed Potato Industry Leadership Award, the 2007 Frito-Lay Seed Supplier of the Year honor and National Potato Council Environmental Steward-

ship Award.

In his free time, Krueger enjoys golf, hunting, boating and woodworking. He and his wife, Mary, have two daughters, Kara and Katee, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Ron and Mary will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 21 of this year.

SCHOOL BOARD

FROM PAGE 1

example, a Town of Birch resident may vote for a candidate seeking to represent the City of Tomahawk, but that candidate must reside in the city.

Why reapportionment is being considered

In a presentation provided during the board’s January meeting, the committee explained that reapportionment is being considered due to population shifts within the district over the last several decades.

According to the presentation, which cites U.S. Census data, the City of Tomahawk went from having 49% of the district’s population down to 33.1% between 1960 and 2020, yet the area continues to be represented by four board members.

Meanwhile, two of the three district’s rural apportioned areas have seen population increases over that time while still having less board representation than the City of Tomahawk has.

From 1960 to 2020, the area encompassing the Towns of Birch, Bradley, Rock Falls, Skanawan and Tomahawk saw a 3% jump in percentage of district population, from 30.7% to 33.7%, the presentation said.

The percentage of district population in the area covering the Towns of Little Rice, Nokomis and Wilson increased from 7.5% to 20.8% in that time.

Despite these increases, each area is represented by one board member.

The area including the Towns of Harrison and King, which also has one representative on the board, saw a slight decrease in percentage of district population over the same time period, dropping from 12.8% to 12.4%.

Committee goals

In exploring reapportionment, the committee said it has several goals.

The committee said it will look into models that ensure equitable representation based on population, equitable opportunities for election and simplicity, as well as voting district continuity, which is required by state statute.

The committee recommended that a process of apportionment be codified. Under this proposal, the board would reexamine apportionment every ten years, with this process required to be completed within three years of the census.

‘3-3-3’ model backed by committee

The committee presented five potential options for reapportionment, with a “3-3-3” model ultimately being supported by the committee.

Under a 3-3-3 proposal, the district would be made up of three apportioned areas, with three representatives from each area. In each election cycle, one

seat from each area would be up for election, allowing for residents in each apportioned area to run for a three-year term in each election year.

A 3-3-3 plan would also keep the board at its current nine-person membership.

The committee said this model “offers consistency” and “encourages equitable representation and involvement based on population.”

Under the two 3-3-3 plans proposed by the committee, the percentage of district population in each apportioned area would be roughly between 32% and 34%.

Next steps

Moving forward, the committee said it aims to send its work for legal review soon, and the committee has reached out to local municipalities offering to share its information during upcoming public meetings.

The committee is also looking to give community members the opportunity to review its work during springtime public meetings. The feedback gathered by the committee will be used to reevaluate its plans before making a final recommendation to the board in the summer.

The committee’s final reapportionment proposal will be presented to the board during its Annual Meeting in September, according to the committee. The plan would then be voted on by the board.

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TMS Forensics

The Tomahawk Middle School (TMS) Forensics team took part in the Level 1 competition in Crandon on Thursday, Feb. 8. Coach Shirley Derleth said all TMS performers received "Excellence" ratings, the highest possible score. Tomahawk will host the next competition on Thursday, Feb. 22. Pictured, back row, from left: Vallyn O., Jordy K. (Playacting), Kindra K., Nyla K., Eadlyn D.-A. (Playacting); row two: Henry N., Tripp T. (Readers Theater), Mollie F., Mya L. (Reader's Theater), Jalynn W., Alexa W. (Reader's Theater); row three: Marley D., Avery S., Victoria T., Avi K. (Reader's Theater), Greyson K., Eli L. (Playacting), Urijah M., Rook M. (Reader's Theater); front: Abi D., Skye S., Elena V., Ruby F., Tilly V. (Reader's Theater), IV H., Kortney B. (Playacting), Jackie W. (News Reporting).

Photo courtesy of Shirley Derleth

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Essence Of Accumulation: Sharing Makes It Meaningful

Dear Reader,

In a world where we amass treasures and experiences, let's not forget the profound truth - accumulation gains its true value when shared with others. Material possessions and achievements may fill our lives, but without someone to share them with, the joy they bring remains incomplete.

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Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor must include the writer's full name, address and other contact information (only your name and town of residence will appear in print and online). We will not accept a letter from an unidentified source. Letters should be no more than 500 words and may appear in our weekly print issue. Letters may be edited by our staff for length, clarity and facts.

The Tomahawk Leader will only print letters that address a specific issue or article that may be of interest to the bulk of our readers.

Letters can be submitted to leadernews@mmlocal.com or Tomahawk Leader, 24 W. Rives St., Rhinelander, Wis., 54501. We will not print letters that:

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- Support discrimination on any grounds. This includes, but is not limited to, discrimination based on age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion or culture.
- Are vulgar, profane, obscene or otherwise offensive.
- Make explicit or implied threats. This includes personal attacks, intimidation, bullying or threats of harm against a person or organization.
- Contain copyrighted material or that have been printed in another publication. All letters must be an original writing by the signer and exclusive to the Tomahawk Leader.
- Identify another person, unless that person has given their explicit consent. We assume that any person identified in a letter has consented to be mentioned in the letter.

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OBITUARIES

Obituary updates are posted at www.tomahawkleader.com



Edward G. Fry, 80, of Tomahawk, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024. Ed was born March 10, 1943, and raised by the late Edward and Isabelle (Jach) Fry and Ivan Fry. He was united in marriage on Oct. 2, 1965, to Susan (Davis) at St. Mark Lutheran Church of Rhinelander, Wis. They both chose to reside in Tomahawk, a town they loved.

Ed's employment included DeHart Mink Ranch, managed Highland Egg Farm and owned/operated E.F. Egg Distributing with his wife, HVAC at Schlising Sheet Metal, and finished employment prior to retirement at Bollech Electric. He was passionate about the many businesses he served and met many people along the way. Everyone who knew Ed recognized how giving and warm-hearted he was.

Ed is further survived by his wife of 58 years, Susan Fry; two daughters, Tammy (Mark) Loka and Tarsie (Gary) Goes; a sister, Sharyn (Donald) Schlising; and a brother, Peter Fry. Ed was known as a staple at the Tomahawk Speedway for many years whether it was officiating or behind the wheel (#18). Though Ed loved spending time outdoors hunting and fishing, his favorite role was that as a grandpa. He treasured his time with his three grandchildren: Maegan Loka, Macey Loka and Kale Goes. Ed will always be remembered for all the heartfelt memories he made and the blessings he brought to our lives.

The funeral service for Edward Fry took place at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024 at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 12 E. Wisconsin Ave., Tomahawk. Pastor Stephen Gillet officiated. Visitation took place on Friday, Feb. 16, 2024 at Krueger-Nimsgern Funeral Home from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., and visitation continued at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church on Saturday at 10 a.m. until the time of service. Burial took place at Greenwood Cemetery. Krueger-Nimsgern Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements. You may view the full obituary and leave online condolences for the family to www.nimsgernfuneral.com.



Robin L. Nylund, age 58, of Tomahawk, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, at the Howard Young Medical Center in Woodruff, Wis. Robin was born on Aug. 13, 1965, in Rhinelander, Wis., to Lonnie and Diana Nylund. Robin attended the Rhinelander High School before moving to Texas and Arizona, and then back to Wisconsin. She was educated in the dental field at Nicolet College in Rhinelander and worked as

a dental assistant. Robin was a devoted, loving mother to her two children and cherished time with them and adored her grandchildren. She had a witty sense of humor and enjoyed shooting pool, going on Harley rides with her husband, and loved her pets, especially her new German Shepherd, Rip. Robin was a talented cook, baker, and loved grilling. She enjoyed the outdoors skiing and fishing and enjoyed crocheting and running her online resale shop. Robin loved the Green Bay Packers, weekend travels, and she couldn't be beat in cribbage or pool. Her motto was "Feel the fear and do it anyway" and lived by it every day. She will be greatly missed and always remembered.

Survivors include her father, Lonnie (Darlene) Nylund Sr.; her husband, Doug Brown; her son, Justin (Erin) Karpf; her daughter, Taylor Karpf; her grandchildren, Kaylee, Caiden, Keyan, Cailyn, Jady, Addison, Paige, Haley, and Lexi; her great-grandchild, Noava; her stepsons, Doug Jr., Chad, and Craig; her stepdaughters, Krissy (Mike) and Cheyanne; her brothers, Alex (Renee) Nylund and Lonnie Nylund; her sisters-in-law, Donda (Tom), Darlene, and Doreen; and her father-in-law, Dennis (Bev) Running. Robin was preceded in death by her mother, Di Nylund; her grandmother, Doreen Boxrud; her grandson, Nathan; and her father-in-law, Donald (Lois) Brown.

Robin requested a celebration of life to be held as opposed to a traditional funeral. The family requests all of Robin's loved ones to join them in celebrating her beautiful life at Cabaret Cove, 1540 Pueblo Dr., in Rhinelander, on Saturday, April 13, 2024, beginning at 3 p.m.

Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family.



On Feb. 8, 2024, **David Ashley Manninen**, age 51, of Tomahawk, went to his forever home with our Lord and Savior after a courageous battle with cancer.

Dave was born on March 21, 1972 in Tomahawk and was a 1990 graduate of Tomahawk High School. He proudly served in the United States Marine Corps and worked as the Lincoln County Jail Administrator for many years. He was a lover of music, an expert grill master, avid fisherman,

and lover of the outdoors.

He was a dedicated father, beloved brother and son and a loyal friend. His laugh was contagious, his hugs were amazing and he was of course "The DAVE".

He will be lovingly remembered by his sons, Michael (Wife: Taylour) and Josef Manninen; mother, Suzanne Horn; siblings, Valorie Nelson (Husband: Rick), Das Manninen (Wife: Lauren), and Tanya Manninen; his beloved nieces and nephews; as well as numerous relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his Father, Floyd Manninen, on Monday, Feb. 25, 2019.

Dave will be dearly missed by all. He also leaves behind his faithful companion, his bullweiner dog, Olive.

A Celebration of Life Gathering for Dave was held Monday, Feb. 19, 2024 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Floyd's Timber Tavern, 433 S. Tomahawk Ave. in Tomahawk.

Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family.

Leave online condolences and share memories of Dave at www.generationsfuneral.com.



Robert L. Nikolay, age 83, Marshfield, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024, at his home.

Funeral services will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024, at Rembs Funeral Home, Marshfield. Deacon Ray Draeger will officiate. Private family committal services and burial will be in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Marshfield. The visitation will be from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Wednesday and from 10:30 a.m. until

service time on Thursday at Rembs Funeral Home, Marshfield. A Knights of Columbus rosary service will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home. Military rites will be conducted at the funeral home by the American Legion Post 54 and the State of Wisconsin Military Honors, following the service.

Robert was born on Aug. 11, 1940, in Marshfield, to Frank and Helen (Wyman) Nikolay Sr. and was a 1958 graduate of Marshfield Senior High School.

He married Nancy L. Bauman on Sept. 4, 1967, at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Marshfield.

Family was the most important thing in his life, especially his beautiful wife of 56 years, Nancy – he would do anything for the love of his life. There are many memories shared as a family, especially at his cottage near Tomahawk on Lake Nokomis that he built in 1979. He shared and taught his strong work ethic with his children and grandchildren. But the work was always done before noon so he could enjoy the rest of the day on his pontoon.

Bob's sense of humor was a big part of who he was, and he always had a one-liner to share. He had many favorite lines including the ones his grandchildren use today.

He raced snowmobiles from 1968-1977, and even got Nancy involved in it. Bob continued to enjoy snowmobiling throughout the Northwoods, U.P. of Michigan, and even in Montana with good friends.

Bob and Nancy loved traveling together. They enjoyed numerous trips to Ixtapa, Mexico, and Madeira Beach, Fla., where they met many good friends and enjoyed the sunshine away from the cold Wisconsin winters. In 2016, they took a dream cruise to Alaska where they enjoyed many beautiful sites.

Bob talked fondly of growing up on the family farm and was a true American. In 1963, he was drafted into the Army and served in Vietnam until 1965. His love of country continued throughout his life; he was very proud of the opportunity to serve his country and shared his passion with everyone around him. He was a proud member of the Knights of Columbus, holding many positions over the years. He was a member of the American Legion and the VFW.

In 1966, he started his construction business, Nikolay Companies, which he proudly ran with Nancy until his retirement in 2017.

Keeping family first was his motto; he instilled this in everything he said and did with his kids. It is a priority his family will continue to live.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and their children, Kelly (Mick) Rohr of Weston, Kim (Tim) Rogers, of Dixon, Ill., Keith (Laura) Nikolay of De Pere, and Kriss (Matt) Nepstad of Plymouth, Minn.

He is also survived by eight grandchildren, Alex (Kayla) Arendt, Joey (Tara) Arendt, Jon Rohr, Lauren Rohr, Jack Nikolay, Will Nikolay, Drew Nepstad and Luke Nepstad, and two great-grandchildren, Finn Arendt and Lakyn Arendt. He is further survived by sisters, Kathleen Reigel and Carol Ress, both of Marshfield, and Betty Worzella of Plymouth, Wis.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Frank Nikolay Jr., Patrick and Jerry Nikolay and a sister, Jean Sazama.

The family wishes to thank St. Croix Hospice, especially, Breanna, and the Villages, especially, Kristen, for their loving care.

Condolences may be sent online to www.rembsfh.com.

Associated Clergy of Tomahawk "Pastor's Corner"

Lent: Fasting and Prayer

Fasting gives rest to the overworked organs of the body. To enjoy food is alright, but to be a slave to it is the bane of life. The more you concentrate on food, the more disease you will have. It is all in the mind, willpower takes our concentration away from food. Mental power is superior. One should learn gradually to make greater use of the mind. Your mind is superb. Whatever you command, it will do. Depend more on your mind although you cannot deny the body entirely.

Health is not the purpose of life. Communion with God is the purpose of life. Fasting is one of the greatest ways of approaching God. It releases the life-force from enslavement to food, showing you that it is God who really sustains the life in your body (Luke 4:4 – "Man cannot live on bread alone but by every Word that comes from the mouth of God").

The physical results and the spiritual experiences of fasting are wonderful. When we fast we should rely even more on God's energy within. The spirit within becomes disassociated from the demands of the body as the body itself is freed from gross habits. The body becomes self-supporting and independent. When you refrain from overeating and when you fast, the life-force takes rest and becomes recharged. It is true that on a longer fast, you may feel weak during the first days because the life-force has been accustomed to dependence on food, but gradually, as the days pass, you no longer feel any weakness.

Every one of us is going to die someday, so there is no use in being afraid of death. You don't feel miserable at the prospect of losing consciousness of your body in sleep; you accept sleep as a state of freedom to look forward to. So is death, it is a state of rest, a pension, a reward from this life. There is nothing to fear. When death comes, laugh at it. Death is only an experience through which you are meant to learn a great lesson: you cannot die. Why wait for death when you can realize this now? The first lesson you have to learn is that life is not dependent on food. By fasting you can prove it to yourself.

Regularity is admirable and necessary in all circumstances: whether you sleep or don't sleep; have food or no food, have vacation or no vacation. We must acquire the habit of regularity in order to obey the laws of God. The greatest discipline lies in body, mind and spirit. And in that lies the heart of fasting. You are pure energy and you are pure consciousness. Whatever you command, the mind impinges on the consciousness of the life-force, it will manifest accordingly.

Anything can be done by mind power. Make your life and body impervious to suffering. Conquer yourself. By long fasting you realize that everything is in the mind. The mind will not show its miracle unless you make it work. And it will not work as long as you continue to depend more and more on material things. When you learn through fasting, how to depend on the mind, it will work in everything whether disease or prosperity or finding God.

Lent is the best time to depend on God and prove to ourselves that we live not by bread, but by the Word of God. Jesus is the Way to be followed. Let us follow Jesus. He will lead us to the Resurrection, Easter.



Rev. Dr. Louis Maram Reddy
Pastor, St. Mary's Church,
Tomahawk, WI

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.

Valentine's Day slipped past me last week, and I did not realize it until it was too late to change my article for the paper. So, today, we shall look at what God says about love. We shall focus on the chapter of love – 1 Corinthians 13.

First, before I give the chapter's definition of love, let me make a distinction here. The Bible contains three different words translated *love* from the Greek, the original language of the New Testament. There is the Greek word *storgos*, the natural affection that should exist between parents, children and siblings. There is the Greek word *philew*, a shared affection and is sometimes translated friend. But the word used in 1 Corinthians 13 is the Greek word *agapa*, a sacrificial affection that invests itself in another even if it gets nothing in return. It is translated *love* or *charity*. This word is *always* used to describe God's love (John 3:16) or God's command for His people to love others (Mark 12:28-31). This is the word of 1 Corinthians 13.

In verses 1 and 2, we are told that if we had supernatural power from God and did miracles, but did not exercise these gifts with love (*agapa*), those powers would mean nothing. In verse 3 we are told that if we make great personal sacrifices, even to the place of death, but it is not done in love (*agapa*) for others, even God would have no reward for us. So, what does this important thing called love (*agapa*) look like?

Verses 4 and 5 read: *Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity does not envy; charity does not boast, is not puffed up, does not act embarrassingly, does not seek to get its own way, is not easily provoked, does not think evil of the other.* Here we see that there is no room to be selfish in love (*agapa*).

Verse 6 reads: *Love does not rejoice in sin, but rejoices in the truth.* Here we see that love (*agapa*) can never be happy with doing wrong, but does rejoice in doing what is right. Verses 7 and 8 read: *Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never quits being useful for the object of its affections.* Here we see that love (*agapa*) is willing to put up with a lot of things and still will think the best of the object of its affections.

In 1 John 4:7,8 we read, *Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loves is born of God, and knows God. He that does not love, does not know God; for God is love.* And the rest of 1 John 4 tells us that the definition of love (*agapa*) will never be our love for God, but is always His love for us because He had His Son take the punishment for our sin so we could be forgiven (verse 10); and besides, He loved us first (verse 19).

God has always loved us. The issue is, will we love God? We sin because we do not love God as we should (1 John 4:20).

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

Merrill 4-H Club wins Cedar Crest Ice Cream Flavor Creation Contest

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

MERRILL – A Merrill 4-H Club recently took the top spot in a statewide ice cream flavor creation contest.

Cedar Crest Ice Cream and the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, on Tuesday, Feb. 13, announced that the Pesobic Pathfinders 4-H Club was the Grand

Prize Winner of the 2023 Cedar Crest Ice Cream Flavor Creation Contest.

A release from the 4-H Foundation said that as the competition winners, the Pesobic Pathfinders, led by Ann Jaroski, will have an ice cream party and will be awarded \$500.00. All other finalists will also have ice cream parties.

The Pesobic Pathfinders' winning flavor, called "Paul Bunyan," features vanilla bean ice cream with double-dipped pretzel "logs," maple syrup and swirls of Butterfinger "sawdust."

The release said Paul Bunyan will be produced by Cedar Crest for the 2024 summer season as a Feature Flavor for the month of July.

"The flavor will be available in ice cream parlors and scoops shops across the state of Wisconsin and beyond," the release stated.

Other finalists included the Cloverview 4-H Club of Waterford's Peanut Butter Brownie Boom, the Lakeview 4-H Club of Fredonia's Oreo Cheesecake, the Beloit 4-H Club's Wake Me Up and the Pella Eagles 4-H Club of Caroline's Heavenly Cheesecake.

Entries were judged by a panel of ice cream experts chosen by Cedar Crest. The family-owned



company, based in Cedarburg, Wis., manufactures more than 80 flavors of ice cream, along with frozen custard, sherbet and sorbet at its Manitowoc, Wis., plant. Cedar Crest distributes products in several Midwest states and beyond.

Brenda Scheider, Executive Director of the

Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, said the contest is a "great opportunity for 4-H youth to work together to develop and name their flavor."

"The most exciting part of the contest is the winning flavor will be available through Cedar Crest this summer," Scheider stated.

"We are proud to support the Wisconsin 4-H organization through our annual flavor contest," said Cedar Crest Ice Cream President Ken Kohlwey. "The project requires collaboration, teamwork and creativity to create the next best ice cream flavor. Every year, we look forward to reading the entries that come in and sharing the winning flavor with our customers."

The release noted that some past winning flavors were so popular among ice cream lovers that they became a part of Cedar Crest's scoop shop flavor lineup, including Wisconsin Campfire S'mores, created by Springbrook 4-H Club of New Richmond, and Haystack, created by Knellsville 4-H Club of Ozaukee County.

Learn more about all the flavors at www.wis4h-foundation.org/cedar-crest-ice-cream-flavor-creation-contest/.

OBITUARIES



Mary E. "Liz" Felzkowski, age 65, of Tomahawk, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024, at Seasons of Life Hospice House. Liz was born on Oct. 4, 1958, in Cheyenne, Wyo., to the late Durward and Martha (Walker) Tildon. She was a 1976 graduate of Palo Verde High School in Tucson, Ariz.

Liz held various jobs throughout her life working at Funks Greyhound in Racine, Wis., the Queen Creek Cafe for 10 years, and Felz Trucking. She owned and operated the Stardust Lounge in Little Black, Wis., for some time, and also worked for the Denver Broncos catering their events. Liz moved back to Tomahawk to be by her son and granddaughter. She enjoyed arts and crafts, holiday decorations, and yard work.

Survivors include her son, Reginald Felzkowski; her brother, James (Connie) Dickens; her sister, Shirley (Ray) Mowstowy; and her granddaughter, Chevelle Nova. She was preceded in death by her parents, Durward and Martha; her brother, Durward III; and her sister, Marguarite Wik. A private family gathering will take place at a later date. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family.

Kathleen M. Devinger

Tuscon, AZ – Kathleen M. Devinger (nee Hagerty) – 88, passed away peacefully on December 19, 2023. She was born on August 3, 1935 in Chicago, IL to the late Elanore (nee Clark) and William Hagerty. She married Richard Devinger (deceased) on December 10, 1960 and eventually raised six wonderful children: Eugene Devinger (deceased), Michael Devinger (Susan), Laurie Davis (nee Devinger - Jeffrey), David Devinger (Patricia), Todd Devinger and James Devinger. She and Richard enjoyed spoiling their grandchildren: Patrick, Jennifer, Heidi, Storm, Starr, Tess, Nathan, Morgan, Christian, Andrew, Alex, Sean, Rylan and Emily. She is also survived by her sister Grace Pera (nee Hagerty) along with many great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors whom she adored. During her life she exemplified the true nature of an unshakeable caretaker, making sure that all she knew were safe and nurtured. She spent many years as a realtor in IL and WI – a career she enjoyed immensely. Her hobbies included gardening, golf and get-togethers with friends and family. Mother Theresa said, "not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love". All who knew Kathleen will remember the multitude of kind acts she demonstrated enduringly over the course of her blessed life.

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LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WISCONSIN

LWVNOW awarded national youth voter registration grant

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

NORTHERN WISCONSIN - The League of Women Voters of the Northwoods (LWVNOW) last week announced that it had been awarded a grant from the U.S. League of Women Voters Education Fund.

Walter Hobbs, grant coordinator and LWVNOW Vice President, said the \$600.00 Youth Voter Registration Grant will support LWVNOW's upcoming voter registration and education activities in the high schools in Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas counties and Nicolet College in Rhineland.

"The League's objective is to motivate high school students to register to vote, cast their first vote and to begin the journey of voting at each election," a release from LWVNOW stated. "The League wants students to realize the importance of their one vote."

LWVNOW said it has trained volunteers for assisting at these drives and is currently looking for new volunteers. Online voter registration training materials are available to help train new volunteers.

"Then get out there and practice while having fun with the students and other volunteers," Hobbs stated.

The students can register to vote online at www.MyVote.wi.us, using their own tablet, computer or phone.

"Volunteers then congratulate the students and share important information on how, where, when and why to vote," LWVNOW said.

About LWVNOW

The LWVNOW encompasses Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas counties. The local league belongs to the state and national League of Women Voters, a "non-partisan organization devoted to helping members and fellow citizens develop educated political opinions and act upon them through the democratic process." The league's monthly meetings and sponsored events are open to all.

Contact the league by emailing information@lwnow.org or visiting www.lwnow.org.

oneida county Tourism

Oneida County asking businesses to add, update listings on official tourism website

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

ONEIDA COUNTY - To help visitors and potential visitors learn more about business offerings in the Northwoods, the Oneida County Tourism Council is giving local businesses an opportunity to create a free listing on the county's official travel website.

On the website (www.oneidacountywi.com), business listings appear in five main categories: Activities (boat rentals, fishing guides, etc.), Attractions (museums, breweries, etc.), Dining, Lodging and Shopping. A release from the Oneida County Tourism Council said businesses can update their listings on the site, which features a robust filter system that allows users to find businesses by type, location, amenities and more.

Businesses that already have a listing on the website can also use the platform to update their listings.

"The new and updated business listings are being made in conjunction with and in support of Wisconsin Department of Tourism initiatives that highlight accessibility options and information on diverse-owned businesses," the release stated.

"Oneida County's website is an important tool for visitors and potential visitors planning a trip to the Northwoods," said Krystal Westfahl, President of the Oneida County Tourism Council. "We want to make our site a one-stop shop for travelers and highlight the diverse business community we have here."

Oneida County is inviting all tourism businesses in the county to take advantage of these free business listings. Businesses outside the county but affiliated with an Oneida County Chamber of Commerce or Destination Marketing Organization can also participate.

Businesses interested in adding their free listing or updating their existing listing can learn more at www.oneidacountywi.com/update-your-listing.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear People of the Great State of Wisconsin,
 Hello! I am a third-grade student in Northern Virginia. Our class is learning about the United States, and I will be teaching our school about the state of Wisconsin. In the month of May, I will create a display for our State Fair that I hope will make you proud.

Although I have gathered facts about your state from books and websites, I think that I can receive the best information from the people who live there. This is why I am writing to you. I am hoping that you would be willing to send me some items to help me learn more about the best things in your state. You might consider sending items such as postcards, pictures, souvenirs, this newspaper article, or any other unique items that would be useful or show your state pride. Here are a few questions:

- Why do you live in your state?/What first brought your family there?
- How do you make money?/ What is your job?
- What does your state look like?
- What do people do for fun?
- What animals live there?
- What traditional food/recipes does your state have?
- What type of music is native to your state?
- Do you have a state athletic team?
- What geographic features are unique to your state?

I will need to gather all of my information by the second week of May. You can mail items to the address below. I really appreciate your help!

Sincerely,
 Bryce McKinney
 Miss Campbell's Class
 The Langley School
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 Mclean, Va., 22101

Tomahawk School District

2024

CHILD Find

The Tomahawk School District will offer free Child Find screening for children three through five years of age whose parent or guardian has questions or concerns about developmental milestones. The screening will consider the areas of cognition, social/emotional, communication and adaptive skills.

The screenings will be at the Tomahawk Elementary School in the Early Childhood Room.

Screening Dates

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For more information and to schedule a screening call Traci Swan, Special Education Administrative Assistant 715-453-2126 ext. 406

MOVIES YOU GOTTA SEE

Dudes have never rocked harder than in 'Tombstone'

BY JALEN MAKI

I have seen Tombstone, conservatively, eleven thousand times.

Everyone has those movies that were just on while they were a kid. If Tombstone isn't squarely at the top of my list, then it's easily among the three movies I've watched the most times in my life. And can you blame me? It rules.

Tombstone is a 1993 Western film directed by George P. Cosmatos and starring Kurt Russell as famous lawman Wyatt Earp, Sam Elliott and Bill Paxton as Wyatt's brothers Virgil and Morgan, and Val Kilmer doing the best work of his career as John "Doc" Holliday, a former dentist-turned alcoholic gambler dying of tuberculosis. The cast also includes an absolute who's-who of '80s and '90s dudes, including, but not limited to, Michael Biehn, Powers Boothe, Thomas Haden Church, Michael Rooker, and Billy Bob Thornton.

The plot of the film is pretty easy to wrap your head around: Wyatt, renowned for his years working as a peace officer, decides to turn in the badge, put away the trusty ol' six shooter and head to Tombstone, Arizona, with his wife, Mattie, along with Virgil and Morgan and their spouses, to retire and put down roots. Upon arrival, the brothers run into their old pal Doc, who's in the Southwest in hopes that the dry climate will help alleviate his illness. Just when they think they've finally found a place to settle as a family, the boys discover that there's trouble a-brewin.' A band of outlaws called

the Cowboys, led by Curly Bill Brocius (Boothe) and Johnny Ringo (Biehn), also hang out in Tombstone, and the only thing they like more than wearing matching red sashes is breaking the law. As you can imagine, the Earps and the Cowboys don't exactly hit it off, and the town ain't big enough for the, uh, several dozen of them. Horses are ridden, cards are played, whiskey is consumed, smack is talked, tensions are escalated, and guns are shot; so, you know, pretty standard procedure for a Western.

Ultimately, Tombstone is a story of family, brotherhood, friendship, loyalty, vengeance and morality. But maybe more importantly, it's also a story about how dudes rock, and how it's simply cool to be a tough guy. This definition doesn't apply so much to the Cowboys in my opinion, considering if I had 20 or so armed pals around me at all times, I'd be much more inclined to run my mouth and generally be a menace to society. Wyatt, Doc, Virgil, and Morgan, however, don't have this luxury. In a town living in fear of the wrath of bad men, few have the guts to back the Earps in their righteous stance for peace and justice. What our protagonists lack in numbers, however, they make up for in unwavering male unity represented in the form of guns, duster coats, stern looks, intense monologues, and striking facial hair. Speaking of which, the mustaches in this film are two things: 1.) Absolutely incredible; and 2.) Totally authentic. Russell and Elliott are two of our



best Facial Hair Guys, and the rest of the cast comes in clutch, rocking some the sickest 'staches, beards, and goatees this side of Serpico.

For a movie that's bursting at the seams with macho energy and masculine stoicism, Tombstone is also surprisingly (and sometimes downright gut-wrenchingly) tender in its exploration of the relationships between its main characters; specifically, the friendship between Wyatt and Doc. These two belong among the likes of The Lord of the Rings' Frodo and Sam and Thelma and Louise as one of the all-time great film companionships. When seeing the two interact early on in the movie, it seems like they were fast friends from the jump and

pick up right where they left off with ease, but it's not hard to imagine that Wyatt and Doc could've rubbed each other the wrong way upon their first encounter. Wyatt's steady, no-B.S. demeanor is pretty much the polar opposite of Doc's breezy personality that's filled to the brim with idiosyncratic humor and charm. The push and pull between their temperaments is both fun and believable because at a more foundational level, Wyatt and Doc are very similar: they each have a strong sense of right and wrong, and they're unshakably faithful to those they care about.

I mentioned earlier that Kilmer is doing the best work of his career as Doc, but I'd put his performance in Tombstone

up against any performance of the '90s, and to go one step further, any performance in a Western. Kilmer oozes charisma and swagger, and when he's onscreen, it's impossible to take your eyes off him. His physicality as a drunken, dying, gun-fighting gambler is second-to-none, but there's something deeper beneath the pistols and sweat-stained shirts: a heartbreakingly convincing rendering of a man who's finally forced to face his own mortality after years of living like the sun might not rise again. In their war with the Cowboys, Doc's aware that he's got nothing to lose; if a bullet doesn't get him today, his sickness probably will tomorrow. What makes Doc such a tremendous character and friend is that his impending end doesn't make him reckless with the lives of the people that are important to him. If anything, it makes him even more resolute in his belief that he's doing something that matters and that he has to make every day he has left mean something for the greater good. At a key point in the movie, ahead of a duel with the famed gunhand Ringo, Wyatt seeks advice from Doc. Knowing he'll likely lose, Wyatt goes anyway, but Doc beats Wyatt there and takes on Ringo himself. Doc puts himself on the line, but he doesn't do it with nihilistic abandon: he makes a calculated decision that ultimately saves Wyatt's life.

As the fight wanes, and as Doc's condition worsens, Wyatt has to confront what life without his best friend will be like. In the end, losing Doc marks a turning point for Wyatt. He's not only saying goodbye to his longtime companion, but to his former self, and both men know it. While Wyatt is understandably upset about this, Doc tells his pal to relish in the hope of the unknown and honor his memory and their friendship by going out and living for both of them. The final scene between Wyatt and Doc is the culmination of one of the most palpably believable and devastatingly beautiful portrayals of friendship ever put to film.

Tombstone has funny a way of sneaking up on you. One minute, you're watching some classic testosterone-fueled Western violence and debauchery, and the next, you're wiping tears from your eyes, trying to remember the last time you texted your best friend. Tombstone remains an all-time classic to me because it simultaneously nails two things: Superficially, it rocks unbelievably hard, but more profoundly, it's an incomparable depiction of the depths of devotion to friends and family. And if you're not moved by that...you're an oak.

Follow Jalen on Letterboxd at www.letterboxd.com/jalenmaki182/ to see what he's been watching, and read more at www.medium.com/@jalenmaki.

Advertisement for Honeycomb L.O.F.T. clothing store, located at 216 W. Wisconsin Ave. in Tomahawk, WI. Contact: 715-224-3666, honeycombloft@hotmail.com.

FISHING & HUNTING TIMES table with columns for Date (CDT), Morning (Minor, Major), and Evening (Minor, Major) for dates Feb 21 to Feb 28.

Advertisement for Century 21 Best Way Realty, featuring a group photo of agents and contact information for 119 W. Wisconsin Ave., Tomahawk, WI.

Advertisement for Mad City Windows & Baths, featuring a 60-60-60 SALE with 60% OFF installation, 60 MONTHS 0% INTEREST, and a \$60 Walmart gift card.



Advertisement for Wisconsin Wayfinder Children's Resource Network, featuring a QR code and the text 'Find health care resources for kids with special needs'.

Advertisement for Tomahawk Emergency Food Pantry, including a list of food items like Beef Stew, Baked Beans, and Canned Fruits & Vegetables.

Call to action for Mad City Windows & Baths with phone number 920-471-1739 and website MadCityBaths.com.

Additional call to action for Wisconsin Wayfinder with website dhs.wi.gov/wisway and phone number (877) WiscWay.

Advertisement for Crossbridge Community Bank, sponsored by the food pantry, with address 15 E. Wisconsin Ave., Tomahawk, WI.

LEGALS

Minutes 7725

Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 9, 2024 5:30 PM District Meeting Room, 1048 E King Road, Tomahawk, WI 54487 Present: R. Huseby, S. Woodall, S. Bolder, G. Steckbauer, W. Simonis, M. Schommer, (4) staff members and (4) community members I. Call to Order: R. Zimmerman called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. II. Pledge of Allegiance III. Roll Call: Present: D. Huseby, K. Kissinger Wolf, D. Long, B. Skubal, A. Swenty, D. Velleux, R. Zimmerman Absent: C. Hafeman, S. Kirsch IV. Declaration of a Quorum: R. Zimmerman declared there was a quorum. V. Adoption of Agenda: Motion by B. Skubal and seconded by D. Velleux to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. VI. Staff Recognition: R. Zimmerman presented the staff award to 7th Grade Teacher Suzie Coleman. VII. District Administrator Report: W. Quesinberry acknowledged ongoing and upcoming events, several new staff, staff leaving the district and staff that have recently passed. VIII. Consent Agenda Items A. Approve the minutes from the Operations and Finance Committee meeting on November 7, 2023 B. Approve the Minutes from the Ad hoc Committee meetings on November 9 and December 14, 2023, and January 4, 2024 C. Approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on December 12, 2023 D. Approve the Minutes from the Special Board meetings on December 12 and 21, 2023 E. Approve the Minutes from the Personnel Committee meetings on January 3 & 5, 2024 F. Approve the Minutes from the Closed Sessions on: December 12, 2023 Regular, December 12, 2023 Special, December 21, 2023 Special, January 3 and 5, 2024 Personnel G. Approve the December Invoices H. Employment/Contract Adjustments 1. Replacement Staff Amanda Hoff Elementary Spec. Ed. Teacher Aubrey Fryar Elementary Spec. Ed. Para 2. Resignation Linda Mussell Elementary Regular Education Para 3. Retirement Visenta Goetz Custodian, effective at the end of the 2023-24 school year Celena Sankey High School ELA Teacher, effective at the end of the 2023-24 school year 4. Above Pay Tony Derleth Middle School Wrestling Assistant Coach Dave Bellile Middle School Wrestling Head Coach I. Donations LaForce Inc. (3) Green Bay Packers tickets to the District Sacred Heart Foundation to HS FCCLA \$300.00 Wisconsin FCCLA to HS FCCLA \$500.00 Kwik Trip to Elementary Snack Donation \$100.00 Motion by K. Kissinger Wolf and seconded by D. Huseby to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. IX. Staff Reports: C. Bubolz and C. Sennett presented to the Board on Explicit Instruction. X. SEL Curriculum Update: W. Simonis updated the Board on the current status of the SEL Curriculum. No official action was taken. XI. Approve the number of Regular Education and Special Education spaces available within the District per State Stat. 118.51(5)(a)1: W. Simonis presented the Regular Education and Special Education spaces available within the District per State Stat. 118.51(5)(a)1. Motion by D. Long and seconded by A. Swenty to approve the Regular Education and Special Education spaces available. XII. Approval of Change to 2024-2025 District Calendar: Motion by B. Skubal and seconded by A. Swenty to approve the change to the 2024-2025 District Calendar as presented by W. Quesinberry. Motion carried unanimously. XIII. School Board Election Update: W. Quesinberry updated the Board on the current status of the School Board Election. No official action was taken. XIV. Update on Board Reapportionment Discussions: D. Long and K. Kissinger Wolf updated the Board on the Reapportionment discussions from the recent Ad hoc committee meetings. XV. Review 2024-25 WASB Resolutions: W. Quesinberry presented on the 2024-25 WASB Resolutions. No official action was taken. XVI. Public Comment: There was no public comment. XVII. Board Referrals: A. Swenty

Minutes 7725

thanked the volunteers from the December Elementary coverage for duties. W. Quesinberry spoke on virtual representation for upcoming meetings. Motion by D. Long and seconded by K. Kissinger Wolf to move into a closed session. All aye in a roll call vote. XVIII. CLOSED SESSION under Wisconsin Statute 19.85 (1)(c) "Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility." A. Personnel concerns XIX. Adjourn : R. Zimmerman adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:55 pm

Board Clerk Published February 21, 2024 WNAXLP

Notice To Creditors 7735

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT LINCOLN COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF NELDAL L. JANKOWSKI Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 2024 IN 08

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 7/24/1950 and date of death 1/18/2024, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 428 N. 6th Street, Tomahawk, WI 54487.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 05/31/2024.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
Form completed by: Isaiah M. Riche 143 S. Main St. 3rd FL West Bend WI 53095 Telephone: 262-334-3471 Bar Number: 1106573
DATE SIGNED: February 15, 2024 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer Probate Registrar
Published February 21, 28, March 7, 2024 WNAXLP

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements 7005

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

Miscellaneous Sales 7212

DO YOU HAVE ITEMS TO SELL? GET RESULTS! Affordable advertising that fits your budget! Reach OVER 300,000 homes! Place your ad in MANY weekly Wisconsin Shoppers & Buyers' Guide papers for as low as \$36.00! **Call today! Publishers Development Service, Inc. (PDS, Inc.) 1-800-236-0737 www.pdsadnet.com**

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-948-3442

GUN SHOW: February 23-25, 2024, Waukesha Expo, 1000 Northview RD. Waukesha, WI. Fri 3-8pm, Sat 9am-4pm, Sun 9am-3pm \$8 (Under 14 FREE) Buy/Sell, 608-752-6677 www.bobandrocco.com

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-888-355-6955 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Computers and Electronics 7216

SWITCH & SAVE UP TO \$250/YEAR on your talk, text & data. No contract & no hidden fees. Unlimited talk & text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more info, call **1-844-883-1477 (WCAN)**

Firewood 7244

DRY OAK & Hard Maple, \$250/cord. Over 15 mi is extra. Have hard wood in wood shed over a year old. Clean & no bark. 715-351-1888 or 715-873-4196.

Outdoors 7262

Trophy Bison/Buffalo Hunts, free ranging Bison, bulls 5-10 yr. old, up to 2400 lbs. Call for avail. Dates/prices 575-779-4409

Guns 7264

56th ANNUAL NCWGA Spring Gun Show Merrill Expo Building (Lincoln Co. Fairgrounds) North Sales St, Merrill, WI **March 1st and 2nd, 2024** Hours Open to Public: Friday 3pm-8pm Saturday 9am-4pm Admission \$5. Youth under 14 free (with paid adult) Sponsored by: North Central WI Gun Collectors Assoc. Inc For information only call Fred 715-443-2825

Collectors Gun Show

COLLECTORS GUN SHOW Mar 16 & 17 - HS Gym Cornell Sat. 8am-5pm, Sun 9am-3pm **ATTN: TRUE COLLECTORS!** This show will host modern guns & also a LARGE percentage of High End Collectible Guns! Winchester, Drillings, Colts, Smith & several more. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THIS SPECIAL SHOW** Info 563-608-4401 Marv Kraus

Wanted to Buy 7268

STONEWARE WANTED Collector paying \$1000+/- for Red Wing salt glazed or advertising crocks, jugs, churns & water coolers. (612)685-6762

Dogs 7272

13 week old POMERANIANS PUPS UTD shots, dewormed, vet checked \$375 **715-644-8077**

AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS Shots Vet chkd, Can Deliv \$650 **715-255-2661 #269146**

AKC GREAT PYRENEES PUPPIES 8 weeks old! shots/wormed \$400 **920-404-9094 call/text**

AKC GREAT PYRENEES PUPPIES 8 weeks old! shots/wormed \$400 **920-404-9094 call/text**

AKC REG COCKER SPAN PUPS! 50% OFF! 2 Rescues avail \$300! Sweet Adorable Pets! Shots 920-563-3410 mornings (#268588) **(WCAN)**

AUSSIE PUPS Blue Eyed Merles & Tris Family Raised Super Friendly \$300-\$500 **715-250-2793**

Australian Shepherd Puppies Black & White and Blue Merle, born Nov. 12th \$150. Call 715-446-3650

CAVAPOO PUPPIES Born 2-8-23 3-Males 2-Females vet checked dewormed shots, \$300 No Sunday Sales **715-267-6887**

FOR SALE PEMBROKE WELSH CORGI PUPS DOB Jan. 8, 2024 Blue Merles Males & Females Cute **608-387-6911 for pics**

German Shepherd Pups \$600; Dachshund M-\$600 F-\$800; Cavaliers \$800 Call/Text 715-316-2617

MINI COCK-A-POOS Hypo-allergenic, Non-shed, shots/vet F-\$600, M-\$500; PUREBRED REG COCKER SPANIEL PUPPIES **715-758-2433**

POMERANIANS APRI CERTIFIED PEDIGREES Show prospects, Friendly Vet chk, Health Guar. \$750 **715-654-5149**

PUREBRED BOXER PUPS Flashy Brindle & Fawn Shots UTD Ready Now! \$300 **715-701-1473**

Dogs 7272

Red Moyen Poodle & Mini Goldendoodle Pups \$550 20-25 lbs (LC 466789) **715-409-0533**

REG CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL PUPPIES Vet checked/wormed/ dewes, \$750 No Sun Calls 715-409-3321 (495932) **(WCAN)**

REG CAVALIER PUPPIES shots, vet checked, health cert. Ready now \$600 715-965-4060

SAMOYED PUPS Cute and fluffy, Papered and Vet Checked \$998 **509-936-3141**

SHIH'TZU PUPPIES: Black females, \$300, healthy, exc. temperament, dew claws removed, wormed, parents on site. Manawa, no text. 920-470-2121.

SILVER LABRADOODLES non-shed shots/wormed \$300. Ready to Go! 715-660-1085



Teddybear, Poodle, MultiPoo, Cavachon, BichonPoo Puppies: Happy & Healthy! 12-20 wks. Shots, Vet checked. \$500-950. DHKenneLLC@gmail.com or 715-823-2165. WI Lic# 268597

Miscellaneous Pet 7278

FREE PET FOOD- Having financial difficulty? Paws 2 Think can help. Call Sunnie 715-612-5866

Livestock 7284

HOME GROWN BEEF No Impants, 1/4s \$2.80/lb 1/2 \$2.75/lb Mar Process **715-470-0458**

Agriculture Services 7292

Hand Crafted Garden & Storage Sheds, Garages & Cabins. Many Styles and Options. Sizes from 8' x 8' up to 15' x 40' are available. Call **BAKER BARN, LLC** 715-873-3338 mile North of Gleason, Hwy 17

Homes for Rent 7409

306 N Pine Street, Merrill. 3BR House, Pet Friendly, Corner lot, Close to Westside Market, Mud Room, W&D Hookups, \$1039/MO+SEC. No Sun. Calls, 715-558-5282.

Vacation For Rent 7421

WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get FREE informational package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! FREE consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. **CALL 844-374-2565 (WCAN)**

Motorcycles 7502

CONVENTION & EXPO CENTER AT CEDAR CREEK 10101 MARKET ST ROTHCHILD, WI



49TH ANNUAL MOTORCYCLE SWAP MEET IN WAUSAU SAT. FEB. 24, 2024 10AM-4PM Motorcycles, parts old & new Leather goods & more. For more info: (715) 571-1802

Vehicles Wanted 7554

DONATE YOUR CAR, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at **1-844-406-2647 today!** **(WCAN)**

GET YOUR DEDUCTION AHEAD OF THE YEAR-END! Donate Your Car, Truck or SUV to assist the blind & visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup & secure a generous year-end tax credit. Call **HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND** today at **844-374-3067 (WCAN)**

General Employment 7110

LOCAL CONCRETE contractor looking to fill multiple positions. Pay based on experience. \$18-\$30/hr. Company offers 401k, paid vacation & company bonus plan. Call 715-453-7100.

Insurance 7308

DENTAL INSURANCE. From Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Don't Wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! **855-807-9516 www.dental50plus.com/wicomunity #6258 (WCAN)**

UP TO \$15,000 OF GUARANTEED LIFE INSURANCE! No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral & other final expenses. Call **Physicians Life Insurance Company 844-433-5898** or visit www.Life55plus.info/wcp **(WCAN)**

Health Care Services 7310

MobileHelp, America's Premier Mobile Medical Alert System. Whether you're home or away, for safety and Peace of Mind. No Long Term Contracts! Free Brochure! Call Today! **1-855-491-0732 (WCAN)**

STROKE & CARDIOVASCULAR disease are leading causes of death, according to the AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION. Screening can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact **Life Line Screening** to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149! Call **1-888-675-5048 (WCAN)**

Internet 7318

CONNECT TO THE BEST WIRELESS home internet with EarthLink. Enjoy speeds from 5G & 4G LTE networks, no contracts, easy installation, & data plans up to 300 GB. Call **844-223-7265 (WCAN)**

Satellites and Antennas 7324

DIRECTV OVER INTERNET Get your favorite live TV, sports, & local channels. 99% signal reliability! **CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo** for 12 months. HBO Max & Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call **IVS 1-833-574-1746 (WCAN)**

DIRECTV Sports Pack 3 Months on Us! Watch pro & College sports LIVE. Plus over 40 regional & specialty networks included. NFL, College Football, MLB, NBA, NHL, Golf & more. Some restrictions apply Call **DIRECTV 1-888-925-9452 (WCAN)**

HughesNet Satellite Internet: 25 mbps starting at \$49.99/mo! Get More Data, FREE Off-Peak Data. FAST download speeds. Wifi built in! FREE Standard Installation for lease customers! Limited Time Call **1-844-829-5070 (WCAN)**

Switch to DISH Get up to a \$300 gift card! Plus get the MultiSport pack included for a limited time! Hurry, call for details: **1-844-897-8523 (WCAN)**

Home Building Supply 7358

DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call **AmeriGlide** today! **1-888-686-1458 (WCAN)**

JACUZZI BATH REMODEL Can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're cutting installation costs in half & offering a FREE safety upgrade! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 3/31/24 **1-833-224-4977 (WCAN)**

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a GENERAC home standby generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-year warranty w/qualifying purchase*. Call 1-877-626-1009 today to schedule a free quote. it's not just a generator. It's a power move. **(WCAN)**

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments & No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. **BCI Bath & Shower.** Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call today! **1-877-651-1850 (WCAN)**

Home Building Supply 7358

THINKING ABOUT INSTALLING A NEW SHOWER? American Standard makes it easy. FREE design consultation. Enjoy your shower again! Call **1-844-479-1327** today to see how you can save \$1,000 on installation, or visit www.newshowerdeal.com/wcp **(WCAN)**

Roofing and Siding 7370

REPLACE YOUR ROOF w/the best looking & longest lasting material, steel from **Erie Metal Roofs!** 3 Styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% OFF Installation + Add'l 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders) Call Erie Metal Roofs **1-877-845-6606 (WCAN)**

Miscellaneous Services 7374

MEUNIER'S CARPET and Upholstery Cleaning. Professional cleaning at affordable rates. Residential & commercial. Tomahawk, 262-208-6384.

J.D. Power names WPS best in Midwest for residential customer satisfaction

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN - Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) recently announced that it had been named the best midsize electric utility in the Midwest for residential customer satisfaction by J.D. Power.

WPS said it received the honor for its performance in the 2023 Electric Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study (www.tinyurl.com/yc32495d), in which, the company scored more than 30 points higher than the average score for electric utilities across the United States.

"Every plan, every decision, every improvement we make is dedicated to providing world-class service to **WPS** CONTINUES ON PAGE 9

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**

TOWN OF MERRILL

W4594 PROGRESS AVE., MERRILL, WI 54452

REQUEST FOR BID

Town of Merrill is requesting a bid for "Reconstruction of Airport Road" to include gravel, Pulverizing, Hot Mix Asphalt Paving (HMA) and shouldering. The project is approximately 1.23 miles long. Bidding documents and special provisions are available from Town of Merrill.

This is a [WisDOT LRIP TRID project](#)
Project will be completed by October 1, 2024
Completed bids should be submitted to:
Town of Merrill
W4594 Progress Ave.
Merrill, Wisconsin 54452
Any questions should be directed to Mike Hass, Chairman at 715-218-7821 or email: Clerk-treasurer@townofmerrillwi.gov
Bids will be open at Town of Merrill Town Board Meeting: March 11, 2024.
Town reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
Published February 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2024 WNAXLP



Tomahawk High School (THS) Technical metals students are working on their SMAW welding skills with 7018 electrodes. Makayla presents one of her welds after spending time dialing in her welder.



Nathan, Trevor, Brett and Blake show off their ice chisels they fabricated in the metals shop. Photos courtesy of Brian Schiltz

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©MetroCreative

WPS
FROM PAGE 8

our customers,” said Scott Lauber, WPS President and CEO. “This honor is a reflection of the tireless efforts of our employees, who ensure our customers have the affordable, reliable and clean energy they depend on around the clock.”

This is the second time in three years WPS has been honored by J.D. Power for excellence in customer satisfaction. WPS also was named as the best midsize natural gas utility in the Midwest for residential customer satisfaction in 2021.

About WPS
Wisconsin Public Service Corp. is a subsidiary of WEC Energy Group Inc.



(NYSE: WEC). The company serves approximately 461,000 electric and 341,000 natural gas customers in northeastern and north central Wisconsin.

Visit www.wisconsin-publicservice.com to learn more.

About J.D. Power
J.D. Power is a global leader in consumer in-

sights, advisory services and data and analytics. A pioneer in the use of big data, artificial intelligence (AI) and algorithmic modeling capabilities to understand consumer behavior, J.D. Power has been delivering incisive industry intelligence on customer interactions with brands and products for more than 50 years. The world’s leading businesses across major industries rely on J.D. Power to guide their customer-facing strategies.

J.D. Power has offices in North America, Europe and Asia Pacific. To learn more about the company’s business offerings, visit www.jdpower.com/business.

The J.D. Power auto shopping tool can be found at www.jdpower.com.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Golf scores
- 5. Shock therapy
- 8. Ballplayer’s tool
- 11. Quench one’s thirst
- 13. Female relatives of American war vets (abbr.)
- 14. Every one of two or more things
- 15. Member of Muslim people
- 16. Play
- 17. Type of cheese
- 18. Type of lounge chair
- 20. ___ King Cole, musician
- 21. Fellows
- 22. North, Central and South
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Foes
- 31. Georgia rockers
- 32. Cryptocurrency
- 33. Narrow path along a slope
- 38. Disallow
- 41. Joyousness
- 43. Inaccessible
- 45. Evoke emotions
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Boston Celtic punk rockers (abbr.)
- 50. Sword
- 55. Actor Idris
- 56. Affirmative (slang)
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Born of
- 61. Arabic name
- 62. Traumatic brain injury (abbr.)
- 63. Extremity

64. Post

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Pacific Standard Time
- 2. Protruding ridge on nematodes
- 3. Indian king
- 4. Type of milk
- 5. One who brings home the bacon
- 6. More comprehensible
- 7. Connected with sense of touch
- 8. Red mineral
- 9. Breezed through
- 10. Therefore
- 12. Supplement with difficulty
- 14. Early kingdom of Syria
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. They confuse doctors (abbr.)
- 24. Brass instrument
- 25. Domesticated animal
- 26. Ribonucleic acid
- 27. Snakelike fish
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Economically-minded aircraft
- 34. When you hope to get somewhere
- 35. Tease
- 36. Actress Gretchen
- 37. Midway between northeast and east
- 39. Inoffensive
- 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
- 41. Consume
- 42. Does not tell the truth
- 44. Improved something
- 45. Spiritual leader
- 46. Abba ___, Israeli politician
- 47. Fix
- 48. Evergreen tree genus
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Major C. European river
- 54. Long, narrow strap
- 58. Male parent

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337334

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Leader Sports & Nature

Hatchet grapplers compete in Regional tournament

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

MEDFORD – Earlier this month, the Tomahawk High School wrestling team traveled to Medford for the WIAA Regional tournament.

The Hatchets had an exciting and successful showing, securing 4th place out of 13 teams. The tournament was won by Medford with 259 team points, followed by Neillsville with 191, Stanley-Boyd with 171 and Tomahawk with 167.

Continuing with their success from the conference tournament, the Hatchet wrestlers had outstanding individual performances from

both their up-and-coming underclassmen, as well as their established veterans, with eight out of their 13 weight classes advancing on to Sectionals.

Some highlights from the tournament:

Brayden Ristau placed 1st at 106.

Presley Gutbrod placed 1st at 113.

Walter Horabik placed 3rd at 120.

Jack Derleth placed 4th at 126.

Fletcher Baumann placed 4th at 132.

Ryan Larson placed 4th at 138.

Zander Zehner placed 4th at 144.

Kaiden Kapellusch placed 4th at 165.

The advancing Hatchet wrestlers took part in the Sectional tournament this Saturday, Feb. 17, hosted at home in Tomahawk for the first time. The boys were joined by the Hatchet girl wrestlers, who started their postseason journey in the female-only division at the same Sectional tournament.

“The Hatchets appreciate all the community support on their journey to Madison for the WIAA State tournament,” the team said.

Middle school wrestlers host six-team scramble

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – The Tomahawk Middle School (TMS) wrestling team hosted a six-team scramble on Monday, Feb. 12.

Joining Tomahawk

were Merrill, Rhinelander, MHLT, Three Lakes and Florence. No team scores were kept.

The following Hatchets came away with at least one victory last night: Hudson Evans, Brantley Budzynski, RJ Guzman, Vanessa

Patterson, Brayden Nowak, Aiden Cruz, Charlee Lund, and Lillian Taves.

This week's action

The TMS Hatchet grapplers were back in action on Tuesday, Feb. 20, when they traveled to Marshfield Middle School.

WEATHER

DATE	HIGH (°F)	LOW (°F)	Wednesday, Feb. 14	43	24
Sunday, Feb. 11	38	25	Thursday, Feb. 15	27	0
Monday, Feb. 12	36	23	Friday, Feb. 16	17	-5
Tuesday, Feb. 13	29	16	Saturday, Feb. 17	25	16

Fishing Report: A strange winter, but decent ice

BY GEORGE LANGLEY

NORTHERN WISCONSIN – We are in our last gasp of what has been one of the most unusual ice fishing seasons on record here. We've got only two weeks left in the game fishing season, and it sure doesn't look like we're going to get any of our normal, miserably cold weather during this last bit. While the lack of snow has kept the snowmobile trails closed all season and we haven't rented more than one or two pairs of skis or snowshoes, we are thankful that our lakes froze in the beginning of the season and stayed that way.

For the most part, the fishing has been fantastic. We've seen a tremendous number of people through this season who have never been to the area and traveled here only because we have ice. While it doesn't come close to making up for the lack of snowmobiling, we sure wish the area chambers would

take notice. And while the game fishing season is closing soon, we still have some of the best panfishing of the winter yet to come.

Walleye fishing has been inconsistent, with some fish being caught early in the morning and at the normal “prime time” around sunset. As usual, the best spots vary from one lake to the next. Some lakes have been producing walleye in deep water in the 20- to 30-foot range, and other lakes have seen most action on top of shallower structure. Use tip-ups rigged with shiners or sucker minnows and try jigging if the tip-ups are not producing fish.

Northern pike fishing has been very good. The best spots have been around the remaining green weed beds, where you can find them. Action has been pretty consistent all day long until sunset. There are dozens of lakes in the area with decent pike populations, and we've

had good reports area wide. Large shiners have produced the biggest pike, but action has been good with medium shiners and sucker minnows, too.

Panfish action has been very inconsistent. Some nice bluegills are being caught in shallow water using waxworms. You can also get ‘gills suspended in deep water on some lakes. Electronics are almost a must in this situation to help you locate these schools of fish. Perch fishing has been decent, but the larger perch have been a bit tough to find. Big perch mainly hang over deep mud flats right now, feeding on wigglers. Crappie fishing has been just okay over the past week.

Get your ice creepers strapped on and get out there for some walleye and northern while you can. This season will definitely go down in the record books as one of the strangest we've seen.

Good luck and good fishin'!

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.



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Nicolet College announces Musky Seminar lineup

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

RHINELANDER – Details are in place for the Nicolet College Outdoor Adventure program’s annual Musky Seminar.

The Musky Seminar will be held in the Northwoods Center on the Nicolet College campus, 5364 College Dr., Rhineland, on Saturday, March 23 and Saturday, April 6.

A release from Nicolet said participants can attend one or both sessions. Ten different lessons are planned for the two-day seminar, plus a question and answer session at the end of each day.

“As in the past, we have changed the focus of our Musky Seminar lineup to keep things fresh and informative,” said Steve Heiting, Fishing Hall of Famer and the event’s lead presenter. “This year, we are focusing on patterns that are applicable to almost any Northwoods lake or stream.”

Heiting noted that a fishing pattern involves much more than the lure.

“A pattern involves as many variables as you can determine, and figuring out patterns is the key to being consistently successful on the water,” he stated.

Nicolet said previous attendees have asked for discussions about high tech electronics, and the 2024 Musky Seminar will



Fishing Hall of Famer Steve Heiting will be the Musky Seminar’s lead presenter. Photo courtesy of Nicolet College

include presentations about forward facing sonar and side imaging sonar.

Additional presenters are Northwoods guides Rob Manthei, Ken Jackson and Will Buhler.

The schedule and session topics for the Saturday, March 23 Musky Seminar are as follows:

- 10 a.m. — Musky Fishing Basics/Landing and Release
- 11 a.m. — Early Season Musky Patterns
- Noon — Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. — Summer Musky Patterns
- 1:30 p.m. — Live Bait Strategies
- 2:30 p.m. — Forward Facing Sonar Techniques and Ethics
- 3:30 p.m. — Question and answer session with the presenters

The schedule and session topics for the Satur-

day, April 6 Musky Seminar are as follows:

- 10 a.m. — Develop Your Own Musky Patterns
- 11 a.m. — Pre-Turn-over Musky Patterns
- Noon — Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. — Choose Your Lake According to Season
- 1:30 p.m. — Get the Most from Side Imaging Sonar
- 2:30 p.m. — Fall Musky Patterns
- 3:30 p.m. — Question and answer session with the presenters

The cost for the Musky Seminar is \$60.00 for one day and \$100.00 for both days. Catered lunch and a chance at door prizes are included in the registration fee.

To register, visit www.nicoletce.tix.com or call 715-365-4544 for assistance.

TOMAHAWK SPORTS TRIVIA: WEEK 170

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 169 question: Who did THS defeat by one point at the 1976 boys’ cross country sectionals: Unity,

Nekoosa or Neillsville?

Week 169 answer: At the 1976 boys’ cross country sectional meet, Tomahawk defeated Neillsville by one point.

Congrats to Jacob Felser for being the first to answer last week’s question!

Week 170 question: At the 1976 State girls’ cross country meet, THS defeated the defending State champions by 25 points for the Division 2 title. Who did THS defeat: West Allis Central, Prairie Du Chien or D.C. Everest?

Lincoln, Oneida, Vilas County LMPN programs receive DNR grant funding

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – Three area lake protection programs recently received grant funding from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

DNR announced last week that approximately \$6 million in grant funding would be allocated to lake organizations, nonprofit organizations and municipal and county governments throughout Wisconsin.

“Funding, which includes Healthy Lakes and Rivers grants as well as support for the Clean Boats, Clean Waters and Lake Monitoring and Protection Network programs, will be used to help restore and protect the state’s surface water resources in 2024 and beyond,” DNR stated.

This year, the program received 428 applications from eligible applicants requesting over \$9.1 million in funding.

DNR said the selected projects are “incredibly diverse, including education and outreach activities, management planning, habitat restoration, runoff management, water quality improvement projects and aquatic invasive species control.”

Among the recipients of funding was Lincoln County’s Lake Monitoring and Protection Network (LMPN) program, which was awarded \$16,224.09. Oneida County’s LMPN program received \$22,003.33, while \$18,780.58 went to the Vilas County LMPN.

“The projects designated for award leverage a sub-

stantial amount of local funding and are sure to make significant contributions to Wisconsin’s natural resource legacy,” DNR stated.

“The amount of work happening at the local level to support our lakes, rivers and watersheds is incredible,” said DNR Surface Water Grant Program Manager Jen Jefferson. “It’s amazing to see the level of communication and coordination between members of these organizations, local government representatives, DNR Biologists and other stakeholders. The effort it takes to develop such meaningful projects is commendable.”

For more information on the grants, visit www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/SurfaceWater.html.



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Natural Connections: Nenes and Blueberries in Hawaii

BY EMILY STONE
NATURALIST/EDUCATION
DIRECTOR, CABLE
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My parents and I didn't spend all our time looking up for rare birds in Hawaii. After walking the Pu'u O'o Trail, we drove just a few miles down the road to the Kaulana Manu Nature Trail. The route through a lovely kipuka – a vegetated area in a sea of younger lava flows – was lined with plant identification signs.

With small, pointed, waxy leaves and bright berries, many of the plants reminded me of species I'd find in bogs in the Northwoods. We'd been puzzling over the plants while birding, and now a sign next to a shrub with pink berries identified it as Pūkiawe. Cross-referencing with my iNaturalist app, I discovered that it's in the Ericaceae family, along with cranberries, blueberries, and black crowberry. No wonder it looked familiar! The interpretive sign also mentioned that the berries are eaten and dispersed by nēnē geese.

'Ōhelo, read the next sign. The scientific name, *Vaccinium reticulatum*, told me it



Kūkaenēnē, the Hawaiian name of this black berry, translates to "nēnē dung." The berries not only look like nēnē scat, they also show up in nēnē scat after being munched on by the birds.

Photos by Emily Stone

was a type of blueberry without even consulting my app! The berries are red to orange, though, and are sacred to the volcano goddess Pele. No berries may be eaten without tossing a few to Pele first. I'm pretty sure the nēnē geese skip that part, as the berries are a major part of their diet, and the geese are a major part of seed dispersal for the plants.

The next plant, with tiny, pointy, evergreen leaves and shiny black berries looked just like black crowberries, but a

little research informed me that they are in the coffee family. Kūkaenēnē, the Hawaiian name, translates to "nēnē dung." The berries not only look like nēnē scat, they also show up in nēnē scat after being munched on by the birds.

After reading all these references to nēnē geese, we were anxious to see one. Besides being handsome, with buff and black diagonally striped necks and black faces, nēnē are the state bird of Hawaii, and one of the most endan-



Nēnē geese are the state bird of Hawaii, and one of the most endangered waterfowl in the world. Their ancestors were likely Canada geese who were blown off course to Hawaii.

gered waterfowl in the world.

Just like the 'Apapane and 'I'iwi I wrote about last week, the ancestors of these geese were blown off course to the Hawaiian Islands and then stayed there, although the geese only arrived about half a million years ago, vs. five million for the honeycreepers. The Canada geese-like birds radiated quickly into at least seven different species, including the nēnē-nui or great nēnē, which were nearly four feet long and weighed almost 20 pounds. Unsurprisingly for birds that big, most of the geese species became flightless or nearly so.

When Polynesians arrived on the islands with dogs, rats, crops to grow, and mouths to feed, the geese quickly diminished. By the time of European contact, only the nēnē still thrived, and only on the Big Island. With the addition of mongooses, cats, cattle, goats, and more land use changes brought by Europeans, the numbers of nēnē declined precipitously to just 30 birds in 1952.

Captive breeding, reintroductions, and protection under the Endangered Species Act brought the nēnē back from the brink. Their success requires several of their breeding strongholds in national parks to remove and exclude non-native predators. Fences can make things difficult for nēnē, though, since they are adapted to migrate between low elevation nesting areas and foraging areas higher on the volcanoes. Descending the Saddle Road into Hilo, we kept our eyes open for nēnē. We'd read that they sometimes hang out



'Ōhelo berries in Hawaii are related to our local blueberries in the Northwoods!

on golf courses, not unlike their Canadian cousins. No luck. The following day we met an "Institute-on-Demand" guide from the Friends of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Upon hearing we really wanted to see a nēnē, she took us on a quick detour through the grassy lawns of the Kilauea Military Camp within the park boundaries. No luck on geese, although my dad spotted a Snickers bar in the general store.

On our first day on Maui, we drove the almost endless switchbacks to the top of Haleakalā National Park. At the top of Pu'u 'Ula'ula, we chuckled at the many non-native chukars who strutted around the parking lot, and we stopped to photograph nēnē crossing signs along the park road, but still no luck.

As the Sun was getting low, and daily clouds obscured the rest of Maui, we gave up and began navigating our way back down the tight switchbacks. Pulling into a trailhead to let a faster car pass us, we found a single nēnē casually ripping grass at the edge of the pavement next to a "do not feed the nēnē" sign. With enthusiasm that far surpasses any I've ever felt at seeing a Canada goose, we exclaimed at our good luck and began snapping photos.

In addition to having the elegantly striped neck instead of just a white chinstrap, nēnē have longer legs and shorter wings than Canada geese, as adaptations to their more terrestrial lifestyle. Since some of the terrestrial places they live are lava flows with rough surfaces, their feet have less webbing and more padding. Almost every nēnē in the park sports leg bands as well, to assist scientists with research and monitoring. We admired the handsome bird in the last rays of the setting Sun. Then the goose casually crossed the asphalt, ducked into long grass next to the outhouse, and disappeared.

A few days later, having landed in Minneapolis, I went for a sunset walk down by the Minnesota River. As a skein of Canada geese honked over my head, I felt a little flash of connection. With blueberries, basalt, and geese in common, Hawaii and home don't feel nearly as far apart as they used to.

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 Winter/Spring Calendar of Events is ready for registration! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and www.cablemuseum.org to see what we are up to.

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