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FREE | Wednesday, January 29, 2025 | Volume 137, Issue 48

School board gives thumbs up to girls' wrestling program

BY JALEN MAKI TOMAHAWK LEADER EDITOR

TOMAHAWK - Starting next school year, the School District of Tomahawk will offer a girls' wrestling program.

The district's Board of Education earlier this month gave the official thumbs up to a proposal from Athletic Director Ryan Flynn seeking funding to support a girls' wrestling program.

Flynn's proposal According to Flynn's proposal, the cost to launch the program well be around \$12,000.00 "on the high end," with additional financial support coming from team fundraising and local booster clubs, such as the Hatchet Booster Club and the Tomahawk Wrestling Alumni Association.

Flynn noted that costs are likely to decrease after the initial season "due to the growth statewide in girls' wrestling and our area becoming smaller for scheduling full-team dual meets with opposing schools"

During the board's meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 14, Flynn said girls' wrestling is "blowing up" in Wisconsin.

"(In) every corner of the state, it's popping up everywhere," he stated.

Flynn explained that two years ago, there were about 600 female high school wrestlers affiliated individually with the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA). As of last year's first-ever girls' State wrestling tournament, held in conjunction with the boys' tournament, about 1,500 girls were taking part

in the sport in Wisconsin.

In Tomahawk, the number of girls competing in wrestling increased from just fewer than 20 last year to 32 at the start of this season. There are currently 28 girls on the team, with two now serving as managers and two others realizing that the sport isn't for them, Flynn noted.

Flynn said the number of boys out for wrestling has also gone up this year, attributing the overall increase in participation to "talk of the program" and students believing "(the

program) is the place to be."

On average in recent years, the team was made up of about 20 boys. Roughly 30 boys are wrestling this year, according to Flynn.

In all, Tomahawk's wrestling program has about 60 athletes.

Under WIAA rules, school districts have until Thursday, Feb. 1 to declare their intention to offer a standalone girls' wrestling program next year. Beginning with next school year, girls taking part in standalone girls' programs may only compete against other girls.

"If we don't declare as a girls' program, they can still wrestle on the boys' side, but they're no longer allowed to enter the WIAA tournament on the girls' side next year," Flynn explained to the board. "The WIAA is really trying to force schools' hands to have a girls' wrestling program so they can continue to grow the sport."

Coaching staff

Flynn told the *Toma-hawk Leader* that the

Wrestling Program CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

'For the Love of Chris' fundraiser to benefit local man fighting blastomycosis

BY SARAH WOLFF

TOMAHAWK — All area residents are invited to a fundraiser celebration on Saturday, Feb. 15, to support Christopher Busterud, 26, a 2017 graduate of Tomahawk High School and Merrill resident who is battling blastomycosis (blasto), a rare and serious fungal infection.

The event will take place at the Corner Pub (formerly Pik's Pub), at 8 W. Wisconsin Ave. in downtown Tomahawk, starting at 1 p.m. Attendees can enjoy raffles, a silent auction, food, karaoke, live music, games and more.

Busterud contracted blasto last fall, likely while walking in a Merrill park.

Blasto is difficult to treat and can be fatal for both humans and animals. Since his diagnosis, Busterud has been in and out of healthcare facilities and is now receiving long-term, intensive care at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee. He requires life-supporting measures from multiple care providers and medical technologies.

Tough infection, tougher patient

Although Busterud continues to show signs of healing, his overall wellbeing is forever changed. He faces significant rehabilitation, a long recovery and financial challenges.

Family and friends are optimistic Busterud and his partner, Winter King, will survive this battle with new strength and resolve

Community members are encouraged to attend the fundraiser celebration



Busterud

next month. Anyone wish-

ing to donate raffle items,

food or assistance should

contact Monica Busterud

Contributed photo

at 715-612-3459.

More about Chris
A current Merrill resi-

dent and IT Technician for Incredible Bank in Wausau, Busterud has strong Tomahawk family ties as the son of Bo Busterud, stepson of Monica Busterud and big brother to Kortney and Hunter Busterud.

While attending Tomahawk High School, he was a member of the trap team and worked as a cook at The Rodeo restaurant. In college, he completed a summer internship at LP Building Solutions.

Busterud is also a past member of the Tomahawk Lions.

More about blasto

A rare fungal infection also known as Gilchrist's disease, blasto is caused by spores of the fungus Blastomyces dermatitidis or Blastomyces gilchristii, which live in moist soil and decomposing plant matter throughout the U.S. To contract blasto, a person or animal must breathe in the spores.

Blasto typically and most severely affects the lungs, but can also spread to the brain, stomach, bones, intestines and skin. Blasto is often misdiagnosed (usually as pneumonia) and can advance quickly before proper treatment begins.

Symptoms of blasto occur in approximately 50% of patients and can include fever, cough, night sweats, muscle pain, weight loss, chest pain and fatigue.

While individuals with healthy immune systems have a good chance of recovery from blasto, individuals with compromised immune systems and/or advanced symptoms face

'Ride With the Cup' stops in Tomahawk ahead of Eagle River snowmobile derby

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – Ride With the Cup, formerly known as the Torch Ride for the Badger State Games, made several stops in the Tomahawk area earlier this month.

Ride With the Cup is an initiative sponsored by the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs that aims to promote safe snowmobiling.

As part of the tour, the World Championship Snowmobile Derby Champion's Cup is relayed throughout central and northern Wisconsin, visiting communities along the way while reminding the public to stay safe on the trails.

This year's tour, marking its fifth iteration, started in Wausau and made its way north over the course of two days, stopping in Merrill and Tomahawk, then continuing north through St. Germain, Sayner, Rhinelander and Three Lakes before reaching the 62nd World Championship Snowmobile Derby in Eagle River on Saturday, Jan. 18.

The cup stopped in the Tomahawk area on the first day of the tour, visiting the Knight Owls Club Shed, Tomahawk Sports Center and the Northwoods Passage Club Shed.



Tomahawk Sports Center was one of the tour's local stops.

Photo courtesy of the Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce



Special Response Team tours Weinbrenner Shoe Company

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team collaborated with Weinbrenner Shoe Company for a tour of the Merrill facility on Wednesday, Jan. 22. The Sheriff's Office said the tour provided the team with the opportunity to become familiar with the layout of the facility in the event the team's services are ever required. **Photo courtesy of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office**

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

As reported by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Monday, Jan. 20: On 1/18/2025 deputies on patrol observed a vehicle traveling on CTH J with invalid license plates. The deputies conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle on USH 51 near Lincoln Dr. in the Town of Merrill. The deputies made contact with the driver of the car, a Merrill woman, 26. In doing so, one of the deputies, who has specialized training in recognizing persons under the influence of drugs, noticed signs of impairment. The driver was placed through a series of sobriety tests, and as a result of those tests, she was placed under arrest for a 4th offense of OWI, as well as two counts of bail jumping, tampering with an ignition interlock device. possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of THC. LISO was assisted at the scene of the stop by Merrill PD's K9 officer. The driver was transported to the Lincoln County Jail and turned over

On 1/19/2025 a deputy on patrol stopped a vehicle on Pope Rd. near CTH K in the Town of Merrill for lane deviation and narrowly missing hitting several mail boxes. When the deputy made contact with the driver, a Merrill man, 58, he observed signs of impairment. The driver first agreed to perform field sobriety tests, but after one test refused to do any further. As a result of those tests, the driver was placed under arrest for a first offense of OWI. The driver chose not to cooperate with the remainder of the investigation. When the deputy was complete with the process, the driver was released to a responsible party. Deputies conducted 29 traffic stops and 47 security checks. Deputies responded to 10 car vs. deer crashes, two car vs. coyote and one car vs. dog. Driving complaints: Seven. The 911 Center took three hang-

People for Pine Crest to host town hall meeting

People for Pine Crest, a local group advocating against the sale of the Lincoln County-owned Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill, will host a town hall meeting at the Merrill Expo Center, 303 N. Sales St., Merrill, on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 10 a.m. The meeting is open to the public, and all interested county citizens are encouraged to attend.

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News Briefs

TCT antique appraisal event

Tomahawk Community Theater (TCT) will present its first major fundraising event next month. A program featuring Mark Moran of Antique Appraisals will be held at the Tomahawk High School auditorium, 1048 E. King Rd., Tomahawk, on Saturday, Feb. 15 at 11 a.m. Those interested are encouraged to register and provide a brief description of the item(s) they wish to have appraised by Moran. Participants can register up to two items at a cost of \$15.00 per item. To register items, contact Kathy Rechsteiner at 920-217-6643.

TCT noted that although many kinds of items can be appraised, prohibited items include weapons, coins, paper money, fine jewelry and Beanie Babies. Antique vendors will be present at the event. There will be a \$5.00 entry fee at the door. For more information, visit www. facebook.com/tomahawk.communitytheater/.

City of Tomahawk winter parking ban

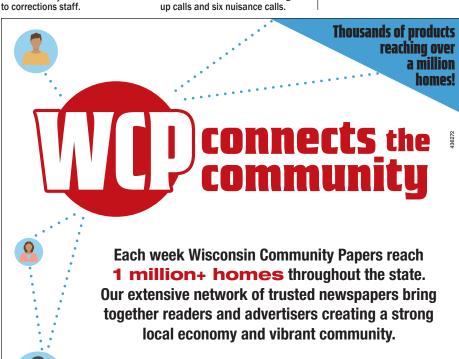
The City of Tomahawk's winter parking ban is in effect through Saturday, March 15. Parking on city streets is prohibited between 2:30 a.m. and 5 a.m.

Open Arms Community Meal closed until April

Open Arms Community Meal, served each Tuesday at St. Mary's Corpus Christi Center, 320 E. Washington Ave., Tomahawk, will be closed until Tuesday, April 1.

Donations to cover student lunch debts being accepted

A Park City Credit Union account established to cover student lunch debts at the School District of Tomahawk is continuing to accept donations. To contribute to the account, visit Park City Credit Union.



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Wisconsin municipalities receive more than \$141 million in quarterly transportation aids

FOR THE TOMAHAWK **LEADER**

WISCONSIN - Governor Tony Evers and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) last week announced that counties and municipalities across the state received more than \$141 million in the first quarterly payments for 2025 for General Transportation, Connecting Highway and Expressway Policing Aids.

A release from Evers' office said the funding goes to local governments to construct, repair and improve local streets and roads, "ensuring Wisconsinites have the safe, reliable, and strong local infrastructure in communities across our state."

According to the release, for calendar year 2025, local governments will receive more than \$540 million in General Transportation Aids for financial assistance to support transportationrelated projects. The 2023-25 budget signed by Evers provided a 2% increase for general transportation aids for municipalities and counties in both calendar years 2024 and 2025.

"The investments in the 2023-25 state budget resulted in the largest amount of funding for the program in the state's history, and total funding for all local programs makes up almost one-third of the state transportation bud-

General Transportation Aids (GTA) help cover the costs of constructing, maintaining, and operating roads and streets under local jurisdiction. Connecting Highway Aids

get," the release stated.

LOCAL AID DATA

Municipality	GTA
Lincoln County	\$313,339.79
Oneida County	\$268,390.38
Price County	\$205,848.82
City of Tomahawk	\$86,305.30
City of Merrill	\$214,543.43
City of Rhinelander	\$217,537.11
Town of Birch	\$19,807.35
Town of Bradley	\$53,893.97
Town of Cassian	\$61,836.24
Town of Corning	\$66,320.00
Town of Harding	\$23,122.80
Town of Harrison	\$39,848.05
Town of Hazelhurst	\$34,386.88
Town of Hill	\$21,557.59
Town of King	\$23,642.26
Town of Knox	\$32,247.53
Town of Little Rice	\$31,502.51
Town of Lynne	\$55,178.95
Town of Merrill	\$45,616.79
Town of Nokomis	\$36,287.01
Town of Ogema	\$40,032.59
Town of Pine River	\$44,304.47
Town of Rock Falls	\$25,617.58
Town of Russell	\$28,085.01
Town of Schley	\$36,751.79
Town of Scott	\$26,824.15
Town of Skanawan	\$16,246.79
Town of Somo	\$14,244.14
Town of Spirit	\$20,805.74
Town of Tomahawk	\$24,216.40
Town of Wilson	\$20,160.65

Data courtesy of WisDOT.

(CHA) reimburse municipalities for maintenance and traffic control of certain state highways within municipalities. Expressway Policing Aids help the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department with the costs of patrolling expressways within the county.

The first quarter pay-

ments, made on January 6, totaled \$141,362,893 and included:

- · General Transportation Aids - \$136,848,144 to local units of government;
- · Connecting Highway Aids – \$4,258,774 to 116 eligible municipalities; and
- Expressway Policing Aids - \$255,975 to Milwaukee County.

"We're working to fix the darn roads, and I'm proud we've improved more than 8,600 miles of roads and more than 2,000 bridges across the state since I took office," Evers stated. "Thanks to the historic efforts I've signed into law as governor to restore and bolster our statewide infrastructure, we're helping ensure our local communities have the support to keep our roads in good repair to keep folks safe, support our local economies and ensure Wisconsin has the 21st-century infrastructure folks expect and deserve."

"Our local roads are the first and last mile of nearly every trip Wisconsin's residents, businesses and visitors make," said WisDOT Secretary Kristina Boardman. "Whether you're commuting home from work, delivering a product to a doorstep or visiting one of our many tourism destinations, a safe and efficient network of local roads is critical to our quality of life and

Quarterly payments for cities, villages, and towns are made in four installments on the first Monday in January, April, July and October. County payments are made in three installments, with 25% of the total annual payment on the first Monday in January; 50% on the first Monday in July; and 25% on the first Monday in Oc-

strength of our economy."

More information on the GTA program and quarterly aid payments can be found at www.tinyurl.com/3ynznbaz.



NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH DHS encouraging building owners, schools to test for odorless, colorless gas

FOR THE TOMAHAWK **LEADER**

WISCONSIN – As part of National Radon Action Month, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is encouraging home and building owners, as well as schools, to test for the odorless, colorless gas.

A release from DHS said radon can seep into homes through their foundation and be deadly at high lev-

In Wisconsin, one in 10 homes has elevated levels, according to DHS.

"Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, and approximately 962 Wisconsinites have radoninduced lung cancer," DHS stated. "Fortunately, radon is easy to test for

and leaks can be fixed." "Knowing about radon and testing radon levels in your home can save lives," said DHS State Health Officer Paula Tran. "In Wisconsin, we have 17 Radon Information Centers (www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/radon/infocenters.htm) around the state where experts are available to an-

swer your questions and offer low-cost test kits. Indoor radon levels tend to increase during the colder months, so now is the perfect time to test your home or building for radon if you haven't before."

DHS said that while radon can affect anyone, children are generally considered to be more sensitive compared to adults due to their smaller lung sizes and faster breathing rates.

"Along with encouraging testing at home, Wisconsin continues to take steps to improve testing in spaces where children spend significant amounts of time," DHS said, noting that in March 2023, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) enacted rule changes which require licensed child care providers to test for radon and install a mitigation system if radon levels exceed the EPA action level.

"In addition, DHS recommends that all schools test (www.dhs.wisconsin. gov/radon/schools.htm)

Radon

CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

TOMAHAWK Focused on our Community LEADER

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Pets of the Month





Meet Albert! He's a 3 year old male Terrier, American Staffordshire/Mix. This squatty short-legged powerhouse is ready to give his new family all the love! Berto would do best in a home where he is the only pet and with no small children. He is passionate about his toys and serious about a good game of tug-of-war and is great on a leash. Albert is sponsored, so there is no adoption fee for an approved home!



Hershey is a really sweet boy, a bit cautious at first, around 3-4 years old, who is house trained, crate trained, knows his name, has very good leash manners, loves to be near you, thinks car rides are awesome, likes his dog toys. Hershey is a people pleasing dog and deserves a family (of any size) that will appreciate him, in return there will be that unconditional love that dogs so freely give.

Oneida County Humane Society 1852 N. Stevens Street, Rhinelander • 715-362-5992 By appointment only please call to adopt, surrender or if you have questions.





Contact Kathy, 920-217-6643 Spectators Welcome - \$5 at the door

OBITUARIES

Obituary updates are posted at www.tomahawkleader.com



Alice M. Foster, age 90, of Tomahawk, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025, at her home under the care of her family and Aspirus Hospice. Alice was born in Shawano, Wis., on April 27, 1934, to the late John and Mable (Martin) Wojkiewicz. She was married to Richard Foster on June 24 1950; he passed away in 2006. Alice grew up and attended school in the Shawano area. Alice and Richard owned and operated several restaurants in Fond du Lac, Wis., before

moving to Tomahawk in 1981. They were well known for their successful business, Chuck & Tim's Pizza, which they ran for many years. Alice enjoyed word searches and bowling and loved playing bingo at Sara Park and the surrounding areas. Above all, Alice cherished time spent with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Survivors include her daughters, Alice Johnson, Susan (Charles) Willie, and Cindy (David Judell) Hasserodt; her grandchildren, Amie (Troy) Hasserodt, Angela Willie, and Travis (Amanda) Judell; and her grandson-in-law, Randy Delikat. She is further survived by her great-grandchildren Matthew Schoone, Baylor Schoone, November Mankowski Addison Mankowski, Chris Mankowski, and Jace Judell. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Mable

her husband, Richard; her son-in-law, Lloyd "Tiny" Johnson and her granddaughters, Mary Delikat and Urilla Judell. In accordance with wishes, no formal services will be held Inurnment will be held at the Spirit Hillcrest Cemetery in the spring.

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



Dean S. Peck, age 73, Tomahawk, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, at his home Dean was born in Merrill, Wis., on April 28, 1951, to the late Legion and Marilyn (Zietelhack) Peck. He was married to Jeanine Callahan on Dec. 7, 1974; she survives.

Family was the most important part of Dean's life. His greatest title was "Grandpa." Married to the love of his life for 50 years, Dean and Jeanine made amazing family memories over the years. He proudly served in

the United States Army, serving from 1970 to 1973, where he was overseas for 18 months in Seoul, Korea, during his tour of duty. Dean worked at PCA of Tomahawk for over 40 years. He loved the outdoors, a mighty squirrel hunter he was. He also enjoyed polka Sundays. Dean was a former member of the Northwoods Cruisers Car Club and was pit crew for his brothers-in-law who raced at Tomahawk Speedway. He was passionate about motorcycling, wrenching ATV/UTVing, old cars, and watching Westerns.

Survivors include his wife, Jeanine Peck, of Tomahawk; his son, Thomas Cortright, of Wausau, Wis.; his daughters, Shylah Peck, of Neenah, WIis., Sarah (Derik) Overhaug, of Tomahawk, and Selina (Bob) Iczkowski, of Mosinee, Wis. his brother, Casey Swetlik; his brothers-in-law, Jim (Mary Jo) Callahan, and Wally (Jane) Callahan; his sisters-in-law Joy (Donald) Arneson, Elaine Steinhafel, Carleen (Jerome) Johnson, Jacky Smith, Jill (Pat) Massa, and Sue Callahan; and his aunts and uncle, Karla Perkins and James and Carla Scott. Dean is further survived by his grandchildren, Mason Peck, Jesse Iczkowski, Melody Overhaug, Stanley Iczkowsk, Aria Mogan, and Frank Iczkowski; in addition to many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Legion and Marilyn; his grandparents, Donald and Ione Scott; his sister, Peggy Lee Peck; his brother, Micky Swetlik; his father-inlaw and mother-in-law, James and Caryl Callahan; his favorite aunt, Jean (Lovely Leah); and his brothers-in-law, David Callahan, Bill Steinhafel, and Marvin Callahan.

Memorial services for Dean Peck were held on Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, at Generations Funeral Home, at 11 a.m. Rev. Larry Mathein officiated. The family received friends for visitation from 9 a.m. until the time of services at 11 a.m. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory assisted the family. You may view Dean's obituary and leave online condolences at www.generationsfuneral.com.



Seferino "Seff" Trevino, age 77, of Tomahawk, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, at his home. Seff was born in Chicago, Ill., on Sept. 8, 1947 to the late Octavio and Consuelo (Franco) Trevino. He was married to Barbara Kujawa on March 27, 1971; she survives.

Seff attended catholic schools in Chicago, Ill., graduating from high school in 1966. After high school, he obtained his certification and training as an electrician and retired after

many years of service with Local IBEW 134. He enjoyed the outdoors hunting and fishing, spending time with all his grandchildren, and loved cooking and baking, especially making chocolate chip cookies to share with his family. Survivors include his wife of over 53 years, Barbara

Trevino; his sons, Quentin Trevino and Klint (Samantha Sue) Trevino; his daughter, Barbara Trevino; and his brother, Saul Trevino. He is further survived by his grandchildren Blake, Ryan, Kristopher, Charly, Darken James, Penelope Klint II, Isabel AnaSue, ArcherAngelo, and Olivia Abigail-Rose.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Octavio and Consuelo; his son, Christopher; and his brother, Octavio. In accordance with the family's wishes, no formal services

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

Local news online www.TomahawkLeader.com





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

Last week we began looking at the question, How did we get the Bible? We shall continue looking at this with the question, How soon were the books of the Bible understood to be from God?

In the Old Testament prophets, we will find clear statements that God commanded His message to be written down (Jeremiah. 30:1,2). We also read of times when the prophet understood that their words were from God and ordered them to be kept and studied (Deuteronomy 31:24-30). At other times we read in the Bible where the people recognized the writings of an earlier prophet (Daniel 9:2) as God's message. Even the apostles in the New Testament recognized God's hand in what they wrote (2 Peter 3:15,16). The Bible even makes reference to other books as not from God, but important for their historical information (2 Chronicles 20:34).

We also have the testimony of historical figures who refer to different books of the Bible as being the Word of God. One such writer is Josephus who lived at the same time as Christ and the Apostles. He did not believe Jesus to be the Christ, although he acknowledged that Jesus must have come from God because of the miracles He did and how He lived. In his book, Against Apion, he voices the generally accepted rule that there had been no prophet or new scriptures written since the times of Nehemiah and Malachi, the last writers of the Old Testament (@ 435 BC). In that same book, Josephus refers to the Apocryphal books as historical books, but states they were not accepted as a part of the scriptures. By 400 BC, the Old Testament had been established. In the first century AD, we read in the New Testament where Jesus and the Apostles refer to the books of the Old Testament as the Word of God and the scriptures (Luke 24:27).

For the New Testament, only the books written by an Apostle or someone closely associated with an Apostle have been accepted as scripture. This means that the New Testament books were all written in the first century AD. By the fourth century AD, all of the books of the Old Testament and of the New Testament had been generally accepted as the Word of God by the churches, God overseeing the whole process.

In looking at this, I am reminded of the Apostle Peter's words in 2 Peter 1:16-21 where he says that greater than any vision or religious experience, the scriptures are the only thing we really can trust. Peter says it is this way because the scriptures were not written by one man, but many different men wrote as the Holy Spirit of God directed them to write. This, Peter says, shows the Divine Authorship of the Bible, the Word of God. And, Peter says, we would do well to heed what it says, like a light that shines in a dark place.

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



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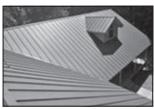
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Experience (preferred but not required):

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- Using tact and diplomacy in dealing with people.
- Compiling, organizing, preparing and maintaining an assortment of records, reports and information in an effective and efficient manner.
- Performing work with a high degree of accuracy and promptness
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- Experience using Skyward software.

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

On Aging and Invisibility

Dear Reader,

As we age, we begin to relinquish the power and foundation we spent a lifetime building. The network of friends, family, and community that once anchored us starts to loosen. The lives we touched, and that touched us, continue on—but often without us in the same role. In the fourth



quarter of life, we find ourselves gradually diminished both in presence and influence.

Retirement marks a turning point. Once the initial transition settles, the mutual accord of separation sets in—we are no longer integral to the rhythm of daily work. We search for ways to fill our days, to occupy time, and to maintain purpose.

Yet as life plods on, our involvement begins to wane. At family gatherings, meals, or community events, our voices may not carry the same weight. Fewer people ask for our thoughts or lean in to listen. The slow fade of relevance takes hold. And then one day, it happens. You walk into a room—crowded or quiet—and feel unseen. You have become invisible.

But this need not be the end of the story. While aging can bring invisibility, it can also bring clarity. Freed from the need to prove ourselves or chase accolades, we can rediscover what truly matters. We can focus on what is eternal—love, kindness, and wisdom—sharing it in ways that go beyond words.

Invisibility is also a kind of freedom. It gives us the space to observe, reflect, and create without the distractions of being in the spotlight. We can use this time to mentor others, pass on our stories, and nurture relationships that bring depth rather than breadth to our lives. Our wisdom, experience, and quiet presence can still be a source of strength and guidance for those who choose to notice.

The fourth quarter of life does not have to be about fading into the background; instead, it can offer new ways to shine. It can be a time to embrace the joy of being, rather than doing, and to show the world—and ourselves-that the gifts we offer do not have to diminish with age.

PATRICK J. WOOD

Publisher

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

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About Kinship of Tomahawk

Kinship, Inc. is a private, nonprofit organization which believes in and promotes the concept of youth mentoring. The National Kinship office exists to serve as a resource for established and emerging local Kinship affiliates. Currently, Kinship is made up of 36 affiliates located in the upper Midwest, having established mentoring relationships for nearly 1,800 of today's youth.

Kinship of Tomahawk was established as a result of the community roundtable held by Tomahawk Together on Feb. 14, 1997. At the end of the roundtable, a youth mentoring program and family resource center were the top two needs determined by the community. That summer, the Tomahawk Together Board of Directors selected the Kinship Program as the new mentoring program for our community.

In Aug. 1997, the Board of Directors for Kinship of Tomahawk was selected, and under the umbrella of Tomahawk Together, a mentor program began. Kinship of Tomahawk made its first match that December.

Kinship of Tomahawk became incorporated in May 1999.

In the summer of 2011, the KinsKlub Program was added.

Kinship moved into the Kinship House next to Crossbridge Community Bank in Sept. 2013.

In Oct. 2022, the Lunch Buddy Program officially started after COVID-19 disrupted an earlier start. That same month, Kinship received an AT&T Foundation Grant to offer an afterschool tutoring session for middle and high school Kinskids.

Kinship purchased a 12-passenger van in Aug. 2023. This has improved our services for our Kinskids, since we are now able to transport children from school to the Kinskids programs at the Kinship House. We are also able to take Kinskids on field trips.

Mission Statement

Kinship of Tomahawk: Providing mentoring opportunities to youth and families in our community.

Staff Members

Executive Director: Patti Hilgendorf **Match Coordinator:** Brittney Woebbeking

KinsKlub Coordinator: Kris Berg KinsKlub Assistant: Margie Welke KinsKlub Assistant: Pam Hosey

President: Cheryl Brickner Vice-President: Chris Raasch Secretary: Aubrey Boisvert Treasurer: Mark Zulliger

Board of Directors

Board members: Thersea Burzynski, LuAnn Kiander, Dr. Kelley Rose Milcarek, Michelle Arnott, Julie Sinkula, Jeffrey Johnson, Kathy Tobin, Grant Voermans.

Dominic and Kevin and Thersea Burzynski: One of many Kinship success stories



Dominic and the Burzynskis attended a Kinship monthly event together in July 2024.

COURTESY OF KINSHIP OF TOMAHAWK

Dominic has been involved with the Kinship program since 2012 and has been matched with the Kevin and Thersea Burzynski for over seven years.

Dominic will soon be 18, beginning his life as a young adult and impacting the world around him.

Below is a testimonial from the Burzynski family on their journey as veteran mentors:

"Over the past 10 years, my husband and I have had the privilege of mentoring Dominic through Kinship. It has been an incredible journey watching him grow into the confident and mature young man he is today.

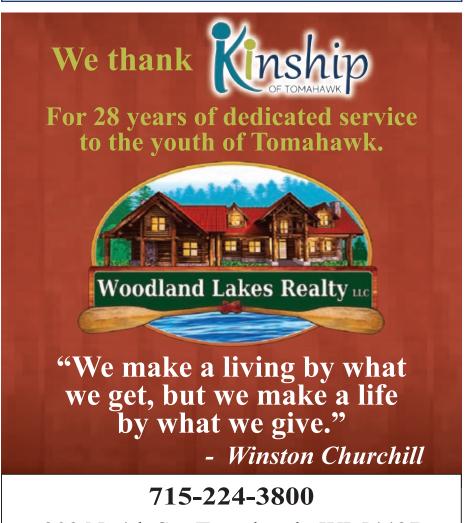
"From spending time together outdoors and on the lake to attending his school events, playing games and sharing riddles, we've shared countless meaningful experiences. Dominic has not only been a joy to mentor, but also an inspir-



Pictured are Dominic and Kevin and Thersea Burzynski after being matched in 2017.

ing presence within the Kinship community. He's built strong relationships with the older kids and has always been playful and welcoming to the younger ones, creating an atmosphere of connection and positivity.

"We are deeply grateful for the time we've spent with Dominic. His willingness to try new things, maintain a positive relationship and grow alongside us has been truly exceptional. As he embarks on his journey into the military and beyond, we have no doubt that he will continue to thrive. We're honored to have been part of his life and look forward to staying in touch as he builds his future."



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Update from Executive Director Patti Hilgendorf

I am overwhelmed and grateful for the community support Kinship of Tomahawk continues to receive.



On behalf of myself, our staff, and our board of direc-

tors, I would like to thank everyone who supported us in 2024, whether it was by mentoring, tutoring, volunteering, donating or praying for our success. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting our matchmaking ef-

For those of you not familiar with Kinship of Tomahawk, we are a nonprofit youth mentoring organization that services the Tomahawk School District area. We match children aged 5 to 17, who for a variety of reasons need a positive adult role model in their life.

Mentors can be individuals, couples, or families. Mentors are encouraged to spend a minimum of an hour a week or a couple hours every other week with their kinskid. Activities can be as simple as eating a meal together, helping with homework, walking the dog, baking cookies or going fishing. It's not so much about the activity but simply about the time spent together. Your PRESENT is your PRESENCE.

As we enter our 28th year as Kinship of Tomahawk, I look back and am amazed that in the past 27 years, we have made over 330 matches! We currently have 41 active matches, with 25 kinskids still on our waiting list.

In addition to community-based mentoring, which we began in 1997, in 2011 we added our afterschool KinsKlub Program. KinsKlub is open to all kinskids matched or unmatched and is a place for them to socialize with peers and positive adult role models (group mentoring), get help with homework, and participate in organized activities.

We are going to try to kick off our Lunch Buddy Program again for the 2025-2026 school year and are seeking mentors willing to go into the school once a week or every other week, throughout the school year, for one hour to have lunch and hang out with their little lunch buddy. These lunch buddies are usually kids on our waiting list but could be expanded if we have enough Lunch Buddy Mentors. The objective of the Lunch Buddy Program is to improve a child's social skills and self-esteem in order to foster a better attitude for learning; ultimately improving school success.

Two and a half years ago, Kinship added a tutoring program for our middle and high school youth, as we realized our graduation success rate for our kinskids was quite poor. We wrote a grant initially through AT&T and the last two years through the Tomahawk Community Thrift Store in order to have paid tutors who are qualified in helping our kinskids be successful in school and ultimately graduate on

Tutoring is available to any middle or high school youth who are enrolled in the Kinship of Tomahawk Program.

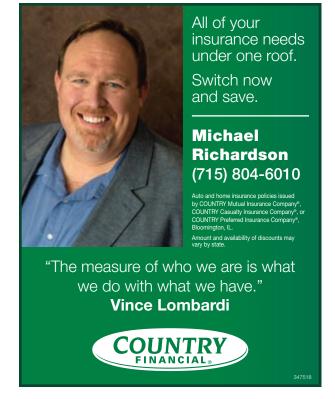
In 2023, we purchased a used 12-person passenger van and are now able to transport our kinskids from the school to the Kinship House, which is a game changer for some of our kiddos to be able to attend KinsKlub and Tutoring Night.

We have also started taking our kinskids on tours of local businesses and industries in our community, highlighting the importance of getting their high school diploma and being able to obtain a well-paying job in our community.

For years, I have had a front row seat, watching the difference a mentoring relationship could make in the life of a child. Everyone needs to hear and see that they matter. And that is what Kinship mentors do so beautifully. It's no surprise that research consistently proves the positive, longterm benefits of mentoring.

And, particularly for youth, a healthy mentoring relationship can be critical to achieving both academic and personal goals. Studies point to increases in confidence and performance as well as decreases in risky behavior in youth who are mentored

The need is great and so is your support! As a nonprofit organization, we rely on the generosity of our community, and we can't thank you enough for continuing to support our mission of providing mentoring opportunities to youth and families in our community.



Update from KinsKlub Coordinator from Kris Berg

2024 was a busy year at the Kinship house.

We continue to meet with our kinskids four days a week during the school year. Our Mondays and Wednesdays are boisterous and busy with our K-5th grade students. Our van reaches capacity most of those days, and additional kinskids are transported with staff cars.

It says a lot about how much the kids want to be here when our van is full. That means our tables in our gathering space are also full. That all makes our hearts at Kinshin full!

We fully believe in the power of not only individual mentors, but group mentoring as well. Just this week, I was delighted to see several of our kids stepping up to help the younger kids with skills they haven't yet mastered. Tying shoes, partnering on a math coloring sheet, helping new readers develop their reading skills are just a few of the sights I was happy to witness.

Building good character within our kinskids is something we are always working on here. Fostering a caring environment for them to grow and become all they can be is always on our

Our Tuesday Tutoring nights for our 6th through 12th grade students varies in attendance. Some attend every week just to have a

place to work on homework and get assistance if needed. Others come when they are stumped by a subject or project at school

We are always looking for retired (or even current) teachers interested in tutoring on Tuesdays. Simply sitting with a kinskid to support their learning is as valuable as being able to teach the subject they are working

Tutoring is academic, but it's so much more when you start having conversations with the teens and getting to know them. Our tutors will tell you they've learned a thing or two from our kinskids as well as sharing their knowledge. It's become a true partnership between our tutors and our kinskids. Our tutors get as excited as our students when they see positive results for hard work completed and turned

Thursdays each week have us meeting with our 6th through 12th grade kinskids for traditional KinsKlub activities. This group is a little smaller than our Monday and Wednesday KinsKlub groups but not always much quieter! With bigger bodies comes louder voices, we've learned. We are thankful for their open chatter and willingness to share their days with us, the good and the bad.

We believe having a safe place for our teens to have a snack, work on schoolwork, get creative with crafts, play games and simply hang out and socialize appropriately is huge to helping them succeed in life. So much of our lives is about the relationships and interactions we have with others, and fostering a place where they can practice these skills and grow into productive adults is a huge part of what our Thursday KinsKlub is all

Summer always has us switching gears to a more fun and games schedule. We still try to sneak in some learning without it being too obvious.

This last summer, had our kinskids competing in a Batter Up Reading Challenge. They were able to earn prizes along the bases and with a home run, based on reading minutes. The program was deemed a success, and there are plans in the works for a new challenge next summer.

Getting outside and moving will also be incorporated next summer. We don't think it's healthy spending the summer zoned out on electronics and TV. Keeping our bodies and minds busy lends itself to a stronger start in the fall as our kids head back to school.

Helping our kinskids succeed in a positive, productive life is our ultimate goal. Right now their "job" is learning and growing. Thanks to a caring community, we are able to help our kinskids work towards becoming the positive, productive adults that will benefit our world in the future.

Without all the volunteers and donations from our community we wouldn't be able to sustain these efforts. Thank you to all of Tomahawk for helping us match our kids with mentors and for supporting our group mentoring efforts with our KinsKlub program.

If you are ever interested in becoming involved, please let us know. There are many ways you can help.



Eddy and Wendy Smith and Ethan Hofmann with Ethan, matched Dec. 16, 2024. Eddy and Wendy mentored Ethan Hofmann for 13 years, until he graduated in May 2024. Now Ethan Hofmann, "Big E," is mentoring "Little E" with Eddy and Wendy Smith. Big E also comes to KinsKlub once a week to volunteer with our little Kinskids. Talk about breaking the cycle and teaching our Kinskids to give back!



Current mentors, volunteers and tutors

Kinship of Tomahawk

recognizes its current mentors:

- · Phil and Jessie Dahl
- · Elizabeth Lynch Family
- · Dave Tormohlen
- · Renee Merrigan Family
- · Thersea and Kevin Burzynski
- · Roxanne Klinger
- · Matthew Anderson
- · Mark Schouweiler
- · Abby Kraklow
- Margie Welke • Mark and Patti Gaedtke
- John Dziadosz
- · Amy Ploeckelman · Paula Norman
- Tara Messer
- · Coral Rickel

- · Cindy and Jack Bremer
- Tamie Hall
- Kris Berg
- Brian and Michelle Arnott
- · Larry Mathein
- Jess Denton
- · Walt Baker
- · Daryl and Caryn Strauss
- Kris Kanak
- · Katie Hilgendorf Family
- · Kay Olson
- Becky Jaecks
- · Patty Tholl
- · Mike and Brittany Lemke Family
- · Chester Jaecks
- Jennifer VanRixel
- · Samantha and Casey Ausloos Family
- Melissa Williamson Family
- · Laurie Schmidt

- · Arland and Michele Wingate • Billy and Kelly Eastwood Family
- · Eddy and Wendy Smith
- · Ethan Hoffman

Volunteers and tutors:

- · Jane Gass
- · Karla Kammer · Rose Block
- · Jess Denton
- · Kay Olson
- Vicky Bender
- · Chester Jaecks Mike Weaver
- Ethan Hoffman
- Ella Uelmen
- · Food Angels, Dave and Kelly Jonesi





Thoughts from Match Coordinator Brittney Woebbeking

Kinship of Tomahawk is a youth mentoring program. Our mission is to provide mentoring opportunities to youth and families in our community. But what does this mean? What is mentorship, and why is it important to the youth and families within our community?

Tomahawk is a beautiful community, rich in its history and generational traditions; a community that is composed of hardworking families who strive to see our children thrive for generations to come. But what lies beneath the surface? What are the vulnerable experiencing, and who is willing to take a chance, to make a difference, and more importantly, where do we start?

What makes a community successful? Is it promoting fairness, setting obligations and boundaries, or striving to reach a common goal? The answer, we believe, starts with the foundation: the people, by striving to ensure our ability to foster strong and healthy relationships within the community.

Children are our future. In time, their dreams will replace our reality, and our reality will be founded on their aspirations. A wise woman once said, "It takes a village" (Patti Hilgendorf). Mentorship is an opportunity not only to support a child and their family, but an opportunity to become a part of their village, their community.

Mentorship is revolutionary in consideration of the health and success of some of our most vulnerable populations. Mentorship is founded by establishing a healthy bond with a child, supporting their goals and aspirations, providing guidance, being a positive role model, fostering confidence and boosting self-esteem – all of which is only possible with the dedicated support of our community members that are will $ing \ to \ explore \ mentorship.$

Many of our community members are already tasked with the role of mentor, many without recognition. This may be a coach of a sports team, a teacher or daycare provider, or a volunteer within the community. Becoming a mentor is not a financial obligation or disruption from a daily routine. A mentor is a commitment or promise to become one caring adult for a child.

At Kinship, we believe that the presence of a mentor is their gift to their mentee. Children who have a mentor in their life often experience reduced anxiety, establish strong coping mechanisms, experience an increase in confidence and the ability to form healthy and trusting relationships. The true mentoring happens when an adolescent and their care providers form a trusting and supportive relationship with the mentor.

Unfortunately, the children in our community face many adversities. This may include abuse, neglect, drug endangerment, sexual exploitation, cognitive delays, emotional disturbances, social limitations, isolation and other unmet mental health conditions. The impact that a mentor can make in the life of a child that has experienced these adversities could be life changing.

Children who have faced the loss of a loved one or potentially separation from a parent or caregiver often greatly benefit from a mentor. Additionally, we have children in the program that are being raised by a single parent or split household. Other unfavorable circumstances are rooted in bullying, harassment, insecurities and lack of self-esteem. These children are in great need of role models that can help support them in a time of need. Again, today's children are tomorrow's

future.

Children are impressionable, innocent, vulnerable and full of life. Mentorship is the most amazing opportunity to show a child kindness, consistency, reliability, responsibility and self-lessness.

January is National Mentor Month. This allows the opportunity to highlight the critical need and value of a mentor in the life of a child. The research is clear that relationships play a significant role in the development of a child. When a child is able to establish healthy relationships with critical support, they are able to thrive.

At this time, we have 41 successful matches. Some of these matches are still in place after ten years of being matched. We have had the pleasure of seeing the success and impact that our mentors have had on their mentee.

Kinship has 20-plus children on the waiting list for a mentor. This number continues to increase with new applications. Kinship is dedicated to supporting the youth in our community. However, this is only possible with the support of all our valued volunteers, mentors and community partners. Currently, we have children that have been waiting about six years to be matched with a mentor.

Circling back to where does someone start, and how can they contribute. The answer is simple: ask questions. Please feel free to make contact with Brittney Woebbeking at 715-409-1011 or email matchcoordinator@kinshiptomahawk.org.

The door is always open to those who want to become involved, those who want to learn more about how they can make a difference, and those that have the time to spare to see just how amazing it can feel to make an impact in the life of a child.

New Matches



Samantha Ausloos Family with Nathan, matched June 5, 2024.



Laurie Schmidt with Olivia, matched Aug. 15, 2024.



Arland Wingate with Markus, matched Sept. 26, 2024.



Billy and Kelly Eastwood Family with Iven, matched Dec. 4, 2024.



Chester Jaecks with Stephen, matched Jan. 9, 2024.



Jennifer VanRixel Family with Trevinn, matched Jan. 17, 2024.



Melisa Williamson Family with Braxley, matched June 13, 2024.



John McKinley with Tristin, matched Sept. 4, 2024



Arland and Michele Wingate with Abriyellah, matched Sept. 25, 2024.



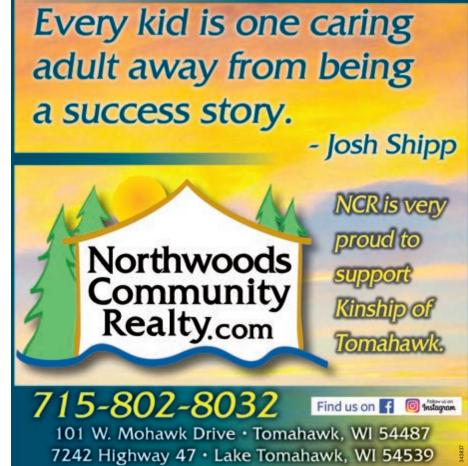
Involved on purpose.

We believe helping a child discover their purpose, through support and mentorship is the greatest gift you can give. That's why we are proud, long-time supporters of Kinship.



Crossbridge.bank

INVOLVED SINCE 1920

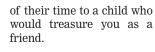


KinsKids awaiting mentors

One of these kids must be calling to you...

Don't hesitate any longer. Take a moment now to

find out more about the importance of mentoring and the success seen locally by those who give just a little





Wyatt is in the fifth grade and new to Tomahawk. At 10 years old, children are beginning to form strong bonds and friendships with their peers. There is no better time for this kiddo to establish a healthy relationship with a caring mentor! Wyatt presents as a very sweet and mellow child. Coming from a large family, Wyatt is seeking a mentor that can give him the chance for quality one-on-one time. Wyatt loves to play outside and enjoys most outdoor activities. Wyatt's interests are vast, from soccer in the summertime to fishing in the spring. This boy is ready to adventure, learn new skills and try new things. Wyatt would like a mentor that would teach him to ice fish, as he loves being outside in the winter and fishing. This young man is skilled in culinary arts and enjoys cooking for others. In his down time, Wyatt enjoys spending time reading and kayaking. As Wyatt is establishing roots in Tomahawk, he is looking forward to a mentor that will show him new opportunities, see new places, and meet new people.



Zayden is an energetic 11-year-old. He enjoys running, basketball, baseball, and biking. He is looking for a mentor to help him focus, work on math and he would like to learn how to swim.



Samara is five years old. This kiddo is extremely loveable and ready to greet you with a smile and hug. At home, Samara enjoys spending time with her siblings and playing Legos with her brother. Samara struggles with her speech and would benefit from a mentor who enjoys reading and writing. Samara loves to play, enjoys being outside and gets along well with other children. Samara is looking forward to the idea of a mentor who wants to take her out to experience new activities and adventures.



Meet our newest Kinskid to join the crew, Kenew. Kenew is five years old and full of energy. Kenew is a very sweet five-year-old boy. Do not let his charming personality deceive you, this boy is fierce on the ice with his new found love of hockey. Kenew lives a busy life and is seeking a male role model that can provide him with someone one-onone time together. Kenew is looking forward to an active mentor that loves to play and explore. Kenew is very active, funny and friendly. Currently, Kenew is in 4k at Tomahawk Elementary School, and his favorite subject is gym. This little man's interests are vast, from bowling, riding bikes and playing outside. In the fall, Kenew is looking forward to another season of flag football. At five years old, children are little sponges, soaking up the world around them and learning how to create healthy relationships. Children at five are very impressionable; it could not be a better time for a caring adult to make a significant



Ozias is a seven-year-old boy looking for a mentor that enjoys swimming, fishing and riding bike. Ozias has great manners, but his mom is hoping for a stable, reliable, confident guy to teach him the art of being a gentleman. Ozias, on the other hand, is just hoping for a mentor to get him out of the "house of girls" he lives in, as he is the only boy with three sisters.



Welcome Zayn! Zayn is a happy and healthy sevenyear-old boy. Zayn attends Tomahawk Elementary School. Zayn is full of energy and ready to take on new experiences and challenges. Zayn is not only active in sports, but is your typical Northwoods kiddo, taking advantage of all the Northwoods has to offer. Zayn looks forward to bird hunting season and has an interest in learning how to ice fish. In the summertime, good luck trying to get this kiddo out of the water, as he loves to swim. Zayn enjoys being outside and sledding in the wintertime. He is very active in sports in the Tomahawk community, including baseball, football and basketball. Zayn is also very invested in bowling and spending time with friends socially. If you are an active mentor, smitten by the Northwoods, or love watching sporting events, this may be your perfect match. Part of the mentor role is to provide support, encouragement and guidance. Whether you have interest in sports, hunting or fishing, this is the perfect time in Zayn's life for a mentor.



Hunter is a 10-year-old boy looking for a mentor and some one-on-one time he can enjoy. He enjoys boating and ice fishing, swimming, baseball and especially rollerblading. A mentor will provide much needed time and make a difference in this young man's



Meet Asavari! Asavari is a 10-year-old, kindhearted. sweet young lady. Asavari is homeschooled, is very good at math, likes challenging puzzles and building crafty things. Asavari is becoming a good reader, is very faithbased and likes journaling. Asavari likes to be physically active and enjoys riding her bike. She also is very open to learning new things and going on new adventures. Asavari has two sisters in the Kinship Program who both have mentors, and she longs to have someone like they do to hang out and be special friends with.



Ayden is a 14-year-old boy who loves fishing, bike riding, baseball, football and doing anything else outdoors. Ayden also really likes playing Xbox and hanging out with his



Traitynn is a 14-year-old boy who loves participating in sports like football and basketball. Traitlynn likes fishing, biking, arcades, being outside and is open to trying new activities.



Amiyah is a shy six-year-old girl who likes coloring, playing with dolls and Barbies, playing at the park and swimming. Amiyah's favorite color is pink, and spaghetti is her favorite food. Amiyah said she would like to learn how to ice skate and play hockey.



AR'manny is a six-year-old girl who is a little firecracker, starting each day ready to go and get stuff done! She is a wizard with Building Blocks, both putting up and demolition, we're told. She would love to color and draw with her mentor, but would like it if you'd let her use the pink! AR'manny has just tried gymnastics for the first time, and her mom says that she really enjoyed that as well. If you're looking for someone to do some cartwheels with, this might just be your Match.

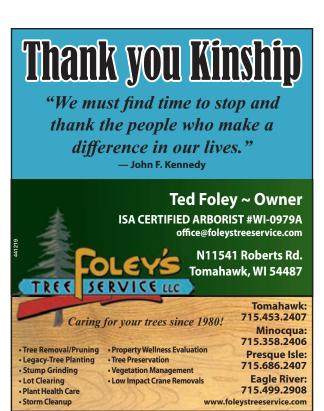


Freya is a spunky eight-yearattending Tomahawk Elementary School. Freya's personality is as unique on the inside as it is on the outside. Freya is a very sweet and bubbly kiddo. Freya is very talented in arts and crafts, showing her wonderful creative side. Freya is looking forward to spending quality time with a mentor.



Logan is 15 years old and is in 9th grade. Logan attends school online. In seeking a mentor, Logan would like a male mentor to spend oneon-one time with. Logan is fascinated by electronics and spends most of his free time playing video games, chatting with friends and watching anime. Outer space captivates Logan, and he enjoys reading, researching and learning all about space. Provided the opportunity, Logan would spend all day at an air and space museum planetarium. Logan has no interest in joining competitive sports. However, Logan does enjoy casually hitting a baseball at the park, shooting hoops and golf. In the wintertime, Logan does enjoy spending time on the tubing hill but is not a fan of skiing. Other dislikes include bullies and roller coaster rides. Logan presents as a very positive child, but does admit he often will call it as is and say what is on his mind. When asked what single trait he seeks in a mentor, Logan desires a mentor that always looks on the bright side. Although Logan prefers more individualized activities, he also enjoys going out to eat and spending time at the arcade. At 15, kiddos are developing independence, gaining responsibilities and establishing their confidence. There is no better time in this young man's life for a caring adult to help guide him into his future!







715-453-2119

www.heritagechev.com -



Introducing Alex! Alex is 15 years old and is enrolled in Tomahawk School District. Alex is a very active young man whose interests are vast. Alex loves the outdoors. Whether it is open water fishing in the spring or four wheeling in the fall, this kiddo will have a great time. In the wintertime, Alex enjoys skiing and snowmobiling. If you cook at home or love to patronize the local restaurants, Alex would be the perfect wingman. Alex is also talented athletically. He enjoys baseball, football and basketball. When Alex is not busy enjoying outdoor activities or sports, he is content playing a video game or watching a sports game. Fifteen is an amazing age to make a difference in the life of a young person. At 15, kiddos desire respect, have the ability to make commitments and are seeking confidence from others in their decision making. This would be a wonderful opportunity for a mentor to support this young

man's dreams and aspirations.

Colton is a very sweet 10-year-old boy who is in the fifth grade. Fifth grade

brings many new challenges

for students who are just

beginning to develop a strong

sense of self-identity, creating

the perfect time in his life

for a mentor. In speaking

with care providers, Colton appears to be willing to try new activities and adventures. This young man is ready for a mentor to challenge him to step outside of his comfort zone. Colton likes going to the beach, but could use a

special mentor to help him

learn to swim. Colton enjoys riding bikes, bowling and

fishing: he has also shown an

interest in becoming involved in baseball. Colton would also

have an interest in learning

more about basketball. Colton

enjoys watching the local

stock car races. This kiddo

could use an active mentor, as

he has many interests ranging

from enjoying trampoline

parks, boating, sports and playing cards. Colton is

ready to explore the world

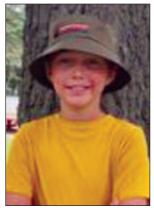
and take advantage of new

opportunities while learning a

few things along the way.



Introducing Jackson! Jackson is nine years old and attending Tomahawk Elementary School. Take a chance on meeting Jackson. His personality is spectacular. Jackson presents as shy at first, but once he is comfortable, his personality and charisma shine. Jackson loves to tell jokes and is hilarious. Jackson is seeking a mentor that can provide him with new experiences and opportunities. His laid-back attitude will make planning time together an enjoyable experience, as he strongly desires new experiences. Jackson gets along well with other children. He is both polite and charming and looking forward to the idea of making a new forever friend. At nine years old, children are beginning to use good judgment and are establishing good decision making skills. What a perfect time for this kiddo to have a positive role model to help support a healthy and positive development.



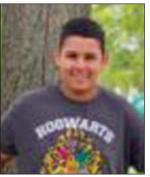
Jeriah is a 13-year-old boy. He is looking for a mentor to spend time with outside four-wheeling or even learning about guns and gun safety. His favorite subjects are math and gym!



Ciana is a very sweet eightyear-old girl that is up to trying anything and is always looking for something new to do. Ciana loves to figure skate, color, paint, play games, go swimming, dance and make jewelry.



Jacob is seven years old and in first grade at Tomahawk Elementary School. He is a very sweet boy who is looking for a male mentor. Jacob has many interests and is ready to learn and explore. Jacob started football this year and is enjoying the camaraderie. At home, Jacob enjoys playing video games, playing with Legos and spending time with his siblings. Jacob is prepared to enjoy any adventure from fishing to arts and crafts. Provided the opportunity, Jacob would love to learn to swim, explore archery and tinker. Jacob is a very likable child with a charming personality. Given opportunity, Jacob is ready to have new experiences and create a healthy relationship with a caring adult.



Xavier is a 15-year-old happy, talkative teenager looking for a mentor. His favorite subjects are math, science and phy ed. He also enjoys football, soccer, wrestling, fishing, shooting archery and guns. He enjoys playing chess and video games, as well. He is always open to learning something new!

Letter from outgoing Board President Thersea Burzynski

Tomahawk community,

As I conclude my time as Board President of Kinship of Tomahawk, I am filled with immense gratitude and will remain active with Kinship.

Our community-based mentoring program thrives because of the dedication and compassion of our current and past mentors. Our sitebased mentoring occurs

in the Kinship house due to the amazing staff we have and the cooperation of many volunteers and parents. Those involved in Kinship in any way are committed to guiding and supporting our local youth, and each has made a profound difference in the lives of the youth we serve. I cannot thank you enough for your invaluable contributions.

The need for mentors continues to grow, however. We have many eager and deserving youth waiting for mentors to help them navigate life's challenges and celebrate their successes. I encourage anyone considering mentorship to take this rewarding step – your time and guidance can truly change a young person's future.

I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation to the Kinship staff. Your hard work and passion in managing our site-based mentoring program have created a nurturing and supportive environment for our Kinship Kids. Your dedication ensures that every child feels valued and empowered. You truly rock at facilitating rich activities year-round, both indoors and in the Kinship House greenspace. You also arrange worthy field trips into local businesses, monthly activities, build home and school connections and facilitate meaningful relationships with our kids and their families.



Burzynski

Reflecting on my time as president, I am proud of several key milestones we've achieved together. We launched an after-school tutoring program staffed by many qualified former teachers and generous volunteers, providing essential academic support to our youth and improving the graduation rate of our Kinship

seniors. We also acquired a Kinship van, breaking down transportation barriers and making our programs more accessible. During the challenges of the CO-VID-19 pandemic, we adapted to meet the evolving needs of families, offering vital support during unprecedented times. Patti and staff went above and beyond and the Tomahawk community came out in an online auction to show support when we couldn't hold our annual banquet. The backing of this community is ultimately what makes Kinship of Tomahawk work.

My husband and I are also soon to age out of a wonderful nine-year mentoring relationship with an amazing young man, Dominic. Dominic will be graduating from Tomahawk High School and heading into the military, we hope and pray both he and his family remain in our life. We've been blessed. While I will remain dedicated to Kinship and press for more mentoring relationships continually, I am happy to welcome Cheryl Brickner as the new President of the Board of Directors for Kinship of Tomahawk.

Sincerely,
Thersea Burzynski, Mentor
Outgoing Board President
of Kinship of Tomahawk
Vice President of Kinship Incorporated

Ralph Waldo Emerson

715-453-5161





Remember to use the "Kinship" Pump #2 at Chase's Tomahawk Shell Station, as Kinship of Tomahawk will receive \$0.04 per gallon through Aug. 2025. Kinship thanks Chase and Natasha Hilgendorf for their continued support of the program.





"The only person you are destined to

become is the person you decide to be."



-Benjamin Franklin

"You cannot teach a man anything. You can only help him discover it within himself." Galileo Galilei



We can *SEE* what an important part Kinship plays in Tomahawk.

82 Hometown Dr. Tomahawk, WI

own Dr. (715) 453-3636

We are in search of opportunities to help as many youth as possible.

We welcome youth enrollment for anyone who needs

a positive adult friend or role model. Families often hear about us from school, social services, or from peers.

We Mentor

Today's youth need a helpful hand and the right guidance at every stage.

At Kinship of Tomahawk, we recruit and train mentors so they are ready to be matched with a kinskid

We Provide Care

We follow mentor and mentee matches on a scheduled basis, checking in and providing support and care as needed. We provide mentoring opportunities to youth and families in our community.

We Educate

Our Tutoring Night provides experienced tutors to work with middle and high school kinskids on all of their schoolwork in an effort to keep them on track to graduate.

Our Kinship4Teens group also provides activities and opportunities to our middle and high school kinskids.

The goal of this program is to offer programming that is age appropriate, fun, all while having an educational/learning component, and is in a safe and controlled environment.

Many of these activities have life skill lessons.

We Lunch

We run a school-based Mentoring Program, Kinship Lunch Buddies.

The goal is to improve social skills and self-esteem in order to foster a better attitude for learning: ultimately improving school success.

We Amplify

We believe that providing youth with monthly experiences and activities in our community helps them establish and strengthen their identity, mentor relationships, connections, purpose, and joy.

Wish List

The following items are on Kinship's Wish List. Donations can be dropped off at the Kinship House. Financial donations to help cover rent, utilities, insurance and monthly match activities are also accepted.

- Healthy snacks (string cheese, Go-Gurts, cheese/sausage/crackers, fresh fruit/veggies, etc.)
- Pretzels/goldfish crackers/popcorn
- Paper lunch bags
- Postage stamps
- Copy paper
- Dish soap
- Dishwasher soap

- Hand soap
- 13-gallon kitchen garbage bags
- Swiffer wipes
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Legos
- Ice melt
- Gas cards (for the Kinship van)

- Clorox wipes

- Magna-tiles

Thoughts from current mentors

Several current Kinship mentors shared their thoughts on mentorship.

Watching Shyann grow as a skater and take pride in her accomplishments or watching her play with my grandbabies when they visit." - Tamie Hall on the highlights of being a mentor.

"Starting to see the trust after two-plus years, Victor is a tough nut to crack." -Paula Norman on the highlights of being a mentor.

"Jasper is big into fishing and hunting. It is fun to watch Jasper light up when he catches something big or new. Jasper has this game that he plays about the high, low and random part of his day. It is enlightening to do that with him and it feels good when the time we spent with him was his high." - Caryn Strauss on the highlights of being α

"Showing Stephen wood working techniques and how happy he was when he finished a coat rack for his room. Helping Stephen repair a lawnmower that he got so he can mow people's lawns next summer and how excited he was when it ran. Stephen has started to

work on keeping his grades up." - Chester Jaecks on the highlights of being a men-

"It is an equal relationship. What you give is what you get back, so it is positive for both people." - Tamie Hall on the positive attributes of being a mentor.

"It is a way to give back!" Paula Norman on why others should consider men-

"It's rewarding when we have small successes and he laughs or enjoys himself." - Caryn Strauss on why others should consider mentorship.





Aspirus announces \$227 million expansion of Wausau hospital

FOR THE TOMAHAWK **LEADER**

WAUSAU Aspirus Health earlier this month announced an expansion of its Wausau hospital.

According to a release from Aspirus, the expansion of Aspirus Wausau Hospital is "designed to meet growing critical care needs and position the hospital as a destination for complex, specialized care."

The release said the multiphase project, scheduled to begin early this year, "underscores Aspirus' commitment to elevating health care standards for the communities it serves.'

"This expansion positions Aspirus Wausau Hospital as the destination for specialized health care in northcentral Wisconsin," said Matt Heywood, Aspirus President and CEO. "It is a direct response to the growing needs of our patients and communities. By increasing capacity and access to advanced technology, we are ensuring timely care and creating efficiencies that benefit everyone."

Aspirus said key features of the expansion include:

 Increased capacity: 48 intermediate care beds and a 16-bed observation unit to address growing patient needs, with provisions for future Intensive Care Unit expansion.

· Advanced diagnostics: A new fixed PET/CT scanner to improve cancer services and minimize patient travel for critical imaging.

Specialized care units: Redesigned spaces to better support care teams and deliver exceptional patient outcomes.

· Expanded surgical facilities: Upgraded spaces to meet rising patient demand and improve operational efficiency.

"This expansion designed for flexibility and foresight," Heywood stated. "It will enhance patient flow, improve care transitions and strengthen collaboration across our specialized care teams. By providing better tools and resources, we are empowering our staff to deliver the highest level of care efficiently and effectively."

"Aspirus recognizes the importance of planning for future health care needs," the release stated. "With an aging population and increasing complexity in patient care, this \$227 million investment - the largest in Aspirus' history reflects the organization's dedication to enhancing access, capacity and specialized services for the communities it serves.'

The release said the project will "also prepare Aspirus for future growth opportunities, particularly in neuroscience and heart care, reinforcing its position as a leader in specialized health care."

Construction will proceed in phases to minimize disruption to hospital operations, with regular updates on milestones and community impact shared through various channels, according to the release.

"By focusing on strategic investments like this expansion, Aspirus continues to build on its commitment to providing high-quality, patient-centered care for generations to come," Aspirus stated.

RADON

FROM PAGE 3

for radon at least once every five years or upon completion of any major renovations." DHS added.

"Since the DCF rule went into effect. 41 child care centers across Wisconsin have mitigated high radon, protecting over 820 children enrolled in care from exposure to high radon levels," Tran stated. "Preventing exposure to high radon in places where kids spend a lot of time is a significant way to reduce their overall exposure to radon."

Reduced-cost test kits are available to child care

providers and all Wisconsin residents through their regional Radon Information Center, and test kit promotions are happening throughout January.

"The cost of mitigation can be a barrier for some families and businesses," DHS noted. "Wisconsin residents can visit their Radon Information Center or speak with local public health department radon experts by calling 888 LOW-RADON to discuss available options."

Any house or building can be at risk for high radon levels, including apartments and commercial buildings, according to DHS.

"Landlords have a responsibility to provide safe living and working conditions to their tenants and should work with a certified radon testing or mitigation contractor to get started on addressing the issue for their tenants," DHS stated. "DHS encourages homeowners and property owners to use a certified contractor and to locate one using resources available on the DHS How to Find a Contractor webpage (www.dhs.wisconsin. gov/radon/proficiency. htm)."

More information can be found at www.lowradon.org.

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Call 715-453-2151 to advertise today!

Nicolet College conducting community survey aimed at improving services, programs

FOR THE TOMAHAWK **LEADER**

RHINELANDER - Nicolet College has launched a community survey to improve its services and programs for employers, high school students and learners of all ages.

A release from Nicolet said employers, high school students and learners of all ages are encouraged to share their perspectives and ideas through the sur-

The survey can be found on the Nicolet College website at www.nicoletcollege. edu/survey. Participants can also request to take the survey by phone by contacting Public Information Officer Jenna Allen at 715-365-4434.

The survey will be open until Sunday, Feb.16. Participants can choose to enter a drawing to win a \$100.00 Amazon gift card.

Nicolet College is a technical and community college and the only institute of higher education in its district. The counties in its district are Oneida, Vilas



and Forest, as well as the parts of Lincoln, Iron and Langlade that include Tomahawk, Mercer and Elcho.

"Each community in our district is unique, because each community has different educational, economic and workforce needs," said Kate Ferrel, President of Nicolet College. "That's why we want to hear from everyone."

College has Nicolet served 3,639 students in the 2024-25 school year. Annually, the college also reaches several thousand learners through community classes, events, and services. 71% of Nicolet College

graduates live and work in Wisconsin, and 51% work in the Nicolet College district, according to Wisconsin Technical College System graduate outcome data for the 2023-24 school year.

After the survey, Nicolet College will host community listening sessions throughout their district in the spring.

"For almost 60 years, Nicolet College has partnered with our communities to drive forward their vision for the future through education," Ferrel stated. "This survey represents a new cycle of listening, innovating

Evers hosts roundtable with Rhinelander community leaders

BY KATIE THORESEN **WXPR**

RHINELANDER - Governor Tony Evers declared 2025 the "Year of the Kid" in his State of the State ad-

That message resonated with a lot of Rhinelander community leaders, whether or not they provide services directly for children.

"We know that when adults have the ability to keep kids healthy and safe, our community is so much better for it," said Courtney Smith, Executive Director of the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry.

She, along with representatives from Nicolet College, NATH, the Rhinelander District Library, League of Women Voters of the Northwoods and the Rhinelander Fire Department, sat in a roundtable with Governor Tony Evers at Morgue Coffee in Rhinelander Thursday, Jan. 17.

Increase in food insecure families

The food pantry typically serves about 800 households in the area. They've recently hit a record of more than 1,000. Most of that increase is seen in families with young children.

"What we're seeing really are households that are employed, that are working, that aren't able to meet their most basic needs," said Smith.

In his address, Evers said he wanted to lower out-ofpocket costs for Wisconsinites to make living more affordable. This ranges from childcare to prescriptions to affordable housing.

"Obviously politics play a role in that, so we're hopeful that the legislature will



Photo courtesy of WXPR

be helpful and we can get something done for the people in Wisconsin and the people in Rhinelander," said Evers.

The food pantry has added two nutritional programs aimed at children to help meet the gaps in the community. Smith said she'd like to see expanded eligibility guidelines for who can shop the food pantry. More food through their doors would also directly help the food pantry.

During the roundtable, Smith pointed out that during the COVID pandemic, when households had a lot more resources and benefits, the pantry saw fewer people needing their services.

"We dropped down to just over 500 households. Now, post COVID, we're over 1,025 households," said

Affordable housing and childcare are also directly linked to the food pantry.

"I think what we fail to realize is when we have a childcare crisis, food insecurity has its claws deep into the back of that childcare crisis. So not only are underpaid childcare workers food insecure, but then households that can't afford childcare, become food insecure," said Smith. "We're kind of hiding and lurking

around behind all of the issues that we have."

Sustaining and maintaining

Many of the organizations at the roundtable stressed how much they depend on the generosity of their communities to keep their organizations opera-

Nicolet College President Kate Ferrel spoke to the Governor about how the college partners with dozens of organizations, including the ones sitting at that table. They're often drawing from the same resources.

"We're drawing so much on the good will of our communities, that I think it's hard to sustain and maintain and really get that inertia and forward momentum if we're always sort of relying on really just generous benefactors in the community that have been generous. It's remarkable. It's unbelievable," said Ferrel. "But, when do we get out of playing defense and into more playing offense."

Affordable living

The Northwoods Alliance for Temporary Housing (NATH) has three families

> **Evers** CONTINUES ON PAGE 14

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Bring light and love to those who need it most

Editor.

The Four Rivers Quilt Guild of Tomahawk is a shining example of compassion and care, particularly in their work with grieving children.

In addition to their stunning quilts, this group creates fleece critters and handcrafted bags that serve as vehicles to deliver age-appropriate, grief-related books to children navigating the loss of a loved one. These thoughtful gifts provide comfort and understanding during difficult times.

Compassus hospice supplies the grief-related

books, carefully selected to support children's emotional well-being, while the Four Rivers Quilt Guild lovingly creates the fleece critters and bags to hold them. Each pairing reflects a commitment to helping children find solace and healing.

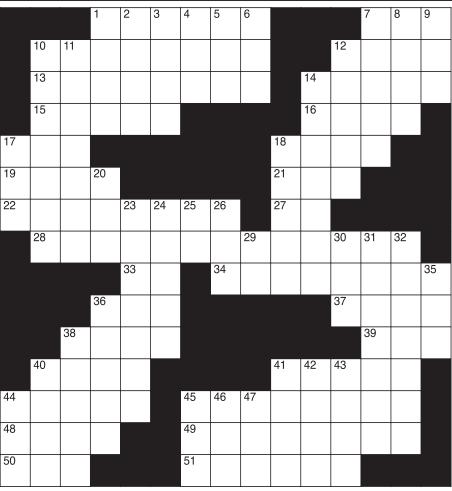
The Four Rivers Quilt Guild meets regularly to create these treasures, providing a vital resource for Compassus hospice families. Those interested in supporting their efforts or joining this group can contact Pat Westphal for more details.

Compassus hospice also offers Memory Bears, handcrafted from a loved one's clothing, as keepsakes

for grieving families. These bears embody the profound connection between memory and healing. To learn more or contribute to this initiative, please contact Mary Ellen Kaminski, Volunteer Coordinator at Compassus, at maryellen. kaminski@compassus. com or 1-800-234-3542.

We are truly grateful for the Four Rivers Quilt Group and their dedication to serving families in our community. Their kindness and creativity bring light and love to those who need it most.

> Sincerely, Mary Ellen Kaminski Compassus Volunteer Coordinator



©MetroCreative

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Where entertainers perform
- 7. Miller beer variety
- 10. Ageless
- 12. River in SE Europe
- 13. Able to be repaired
- 14. Type of wrap
- 15. Atomic #54
- 16. Type of tent
- 17. U.S. Treasury position
- 18. Opposed to
- 19. Protective covering 21. Bridge building degree
- 22. Clouding of the lens
- 27. Priestess of Hera loved
- by Zeus
- 28. Unacceptable
- 33. Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
- 34. American national park 36. One point south of due
- 37. Assist in a crime
- 38. Greek mythological personification of Earth
- 39. A major division of geological time
- 40. German courtesy title 41. English family dating back
- to Norman times
- 44. Discounts
- 45. South American nation
- 48. Former Milwaukee Buck
- Michael
- 49. Hostile
- 50. Passports and drivers licenses are two

51. Discourages from doing

CLUES DOWN 1. Supreme god of ancient

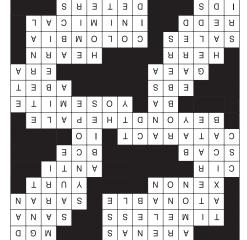
- Egyptians
- 2. Nevada city
- 3. Energy, style and
- enthusiasm
- 4. Bird's beak
- Language
- 6. Midway between south
- and southeast
- 7. Punjab village
- 8. Small biting flies
- 9. Sportscaster Patrick 10. A way to get around
- 11. Repeat
- 12. A way to cook with fat 14. Temporary loss of
- consciousness
- 17. Reciprocal of a sine
- 18. Fir tree genus

Michael 23. Criminals who steal

24. Genus of leaf-footed bug

20. "Transformers" director

- 25. Music product
- 26. "Talk to you"
- 29. Santa says it three times 30. Doctors' group
- 31. African nation
- 32. Ageless 35. When you hope to get
- somewhere 36. Worn
- 38. Deprives of vigor 40. Used to have (Scottish)
- 41. Where you live
- 42. Muslim ruler title
- 43. Basics 44. Type of drug (abbr.)
- 45. Spanish soldier
- 46. It precedes two 47. Illuminated



LEGALS

Legals 7700 OFFICE OF COUNTY TREASURER

LINCOLN COUNTY

Pursuant to Section 59.66 of the Wisconsin Statues, I Robbin Gigl, Lincoln County Treasurer, herewith advertise the following unclaimed funds held by municipalities and county departments of Lincoln County

Unless the owners call for and prove their ownership within six (6) months from the time of completed publication the Lincoln County Treasurer will take possession of these funds.

CITY OF MERRILL

308 Grand Ave Merrill, WI 54452 \$20.00 Pamela Wopp 817 Grand Ave Merrill, WI 54452 \$57.89

152440 Valley Inn Way Wausau, WI 54401 \$69.99 Wendelin Swanson 2800 Thielman St Unit 15C Merrill, WI 54452 \$110.79

Henry Reimann W2465 Pat Smith Ln Merrill, WI 54452

Tim Wagenaar Raise Your Voice 1201 N Sales St Merrill, WI 54452 \$100.00 Jordan Bush

118 N State St Merrill, WI 54452 \$20.00 Kat Yohe (Yoheville)
5 Canoe Court Cedar Lake, ME 04462

\$50.00 Johnathan Sass

116 N Prospect St Apt #3 Merrill, WI 54452 \$27.00 LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF

54012 Schmutzler St Weston, WI 54476 \$130.00 Morgan Hampton 380 Ripley 142E-24 Doiphan, MO 63935 \$20.20 Scott Romatoski 607 Francis Dr Merrill, WI 54452 \$50.00

Jacqueline Frank 2003 Greenbud Rd Mosinee, WI 54455 \$20.00 George Bouton 109 Miller St Wausau, WI 54403 \$20.00

Craig Gilbert W6432 W Kraft Rd Tomahawk, WI 54487 \$20.00 Margaret Gomez 406 Waswagon Lane Lac du Flambeau, WI 54438 \$50.00 LINCOLN COUNTY CLERK

Cynthia Lokemoen
W3585 Copper Lake Ave
Merrill, WI 54452 \$81.04
LINCOLN COUNTY
COURTS JURY

CLERK OF Samuel Hernandez N10477 Echo Valley Rd Tomahawk, WI 54487 \$39.48

Nicole Gryskiewicz W2668 Heineman Rd Merrill, WI 54452 \$24.18 Michael Hilleman N11676 Cottage Rd Tomahawk, WI 54487 \$39.75 Carlie Kleinhans N1821 Trillium Ln Merrill, WI 54452 \$21.12 Lucas Luedtke N710 Mink Rd

Merrill, WI 54452 \$29.28 Joseph Whitelaw W7006 Wilderness Dr Merrill, WI 54452 \$21.12 LINCOLN COUNTY TREASURER

Evan Norgord 512 Gailway Tr Cottage Grove, WI 53527 \$23.12 Todd Smith 308 N Cleveland St Merrill, WI 54452 \$27.45 Wilbert and Gloria Nelson 314 E Lincoln Ave #209

Tomahawk, WI 54487 \$2,716.69 Walter and Martha Parchuc 1202 Brenham Ct Allen, TX 75013 \$8,522.18 Harold and Charlane Starr 305 W Prairie St Marengo, IL 60152 \$47,178.47 John Zaboklicki S68W14543 Sandy Knoll Ct

Muskego, WI 53150 \$23,047.71 Gerald and Dorothy Kurth W7868 State Rd 86 Tomahawk, WI 54487 \$9,333.09 Kim Renn N11101 County Rd CC Tomahawk, WI 54487 \$24.35

DISTRICT COUNTY ATTORNEY

Oneida County Sheriff
2000 E Winnebago St
Rhinelander, WI 54501 \$65.00
LINCOLN COUNTY CLEI CLERK OF Dylan Andrzejewski

218 E Somo Áve

Kurt Hartson W694 County Rd J Wood-Columbia Gleason, WI 54435 \$1,450.00 Beth Ann Hebert 105 N Scott St Merrill,WI 54452 \$200.00 Daniel Luna 545 Chapman St San Benito, TX 78586 \$150.00 Roni Murillo Gusman DR Roofing Solutions Shelby, OH 44875 \$100.00 Junior Oseguera 100 Prairie Rd Fond du Lac. WI 54935 \$74.45

Tomahawk, WI 54487 \$57.00

Randall M Parizek N5704 S Pratt Rd Gleason,WI 54435 \$189.00 Morgan J Randall W4708 County Rd G Merrill, WI 54452 \$150.00 Alexandra Jean Reeves 700 Woodbine Ave Apt 1 Merrill, WI 54452 \$263.50 Zachary C Runge W516 Rustic Rd Tomahawk, WI 54487 \$43.50

Michael J Schoenike 860 Murfreesboro Pike Nashville, TN 37217 \$11,288.70 Jose Mauricio DR Roofing Solutions Shelby, OH 44875 \$25.55 Total Rows: 44 \$105,981.60

> STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT

Published: Jan. 22, Jan. 29, Feb. 5,

LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
CAROL G. VANDER VOORT DOD: 10/26/2024

Notice Setting Time to Hear Application and Deadline for Filing Claims (Informal Administration) Case No. 2024IN54 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

for informal

2. The decedent, with date of birth 2/10/1946 and date of death 10/26/2024 was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W6174 Frontage Road, Tomahawk, WI 54487

3. The application will be heard at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 East Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office, before Beck Byer.

Probate Office, before Beck Byer, Probate Registrar, on February 6, 2025 at 10:30 am.

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

4. The deadline for filling a claim against the decedent's estate is April 25 2025

25, A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 East Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate

6. This publication is notice to any unknown.

you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0342 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

DATE SIGNED: January 7, 2025

Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar

Form completed by: Nick G. Cirilli 116 E. Davenport St. Rhinelander WI 54501 715-369-3443 715-369-3443 Bar No. 1101541 Published January 15, 22, 29, 2025. WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT LINCOLN COUNTY SUMMIT CREDIT UNION

ADAM LEE TESKE XYZ UNKNOWN DEFENDANT, Defendants.

Case No. 24CV144 Code No. 30301 PUBLICATION SUMMONS

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN To each person named above as a

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Complaint, which is attached, states the nature and basis for the legal action.
Within 40 days after January 22, 2025,
of receiving this Summons, you must respond with a written Answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the Complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an Answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The Answer must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is Clerk of Circuit Court, Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E Main St, Merrill, WI 54452-2579, and to Plaintiff's attorney, whose mailing address is PO Box 1473, Wausau, Wisconsin 54402-1473. You may have

an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper Answer
within 40 days after January 22, 2025, the Court may grant Judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A Judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated this 14th day of January 2025.

Bates Legal Group, LLC, Attorneys for By: /s/ Attorney Justin J. Bates
Justin J. Bates State Bar No. 1066128

PO Box 1473 Wausau, WI 54402-1473 (715) 843-5599 (715) 843-5599 Published January 22, 29, February 5, WNAXLP

Notice To Creditors

STATE OF WISCONSIN,

7735

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF IAIN H. GAMMIE

Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: for An application administration was filed.

The decedent, with date of birth /15/1968 and date of death 06/15/1968 and date of death 09/20/2024, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1152 E. King Rd, Tomahawk WI 54487. 3. All interested persons waived notice.

 The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 9, 2025.
 A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main County Courthouse, 1110 E. Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Street, Second Floor.

DATE SIGNED: January 16, 2025 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer Probate Registrar Form completed by

Maggie M. McLoone Weld Riley, S.C. PO Box 1030 Eau Claire, WI 54702-1030 (715)839-7786 Bar Number: 1119757 Published January 29, February 5, 12,

WNAXLP

CALL TODAY TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD! 715-453-2151

CLASSIFIEDS

7005 Announcements

FLORIDA BOUND **EMPTY** TRUCK. Can move household & Cars – CHEAP! Local 414-520-1612

7244 Firewood

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

Sporting Goods

GUN SHOW: January 31- February 1 & 2, 2025 Washington ary 1 & 2, 2025 Washington County Fairgrounds, 3000 Hwy PV. West Bend, WI. Fri 3-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-3pm. \$8 (Under 14 FREE) 608-752-6677 www.bobandrocco.com

7266 Miscellaneous Merchandise

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activa-tion is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-833-518-2155

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Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-888-355fying purchase. Call 1-888-355-6955 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move

7272 Dogs

AKC PUPS GOLDEN RETRIEVER \$675!AKC LOW/BLACK LAB PUPS \$800! GOLDEN LAB PUPS \$400! Call 715-671-3092 (#267331) 2/3

AKC YELLOW BLACK LAB PUPS AND AKC GOLDEN RETREIVER PUPS \$800. ALSO GOLDEN RE-TREIVER CROSS. 715-671-3092 (#267331) 1/27

BERNE DOODLE PUPS! Shots Vet Ck'd \$1000 No Sunday Calls. 715-409-3321 (#495932)1/27

CAVAPOO PUPS. Shots, Dews, Wormed Vet Ck'd Health Guaranteed \$500 Call 715-470-0458 No Text (#509642) 1/20 amnw

CAVASHAN POODLE CROSS PUPS! Shots DEW Cute \$600 715-669-3356 Thorp! (1/27)

MOYANDOODLE PUPS! \$700 715-255-2661 (#269146)1/20sm

REGISTERD CAVALIER KING CHARLES PUPS. Shots, Dews, Vet Ck'd Ready NOW Can deliver 715-470-0458 \$700 Call (#509642) 1/27 amsm

WELCH CORGI PUPS! Vet Ck'd Dewormed 1st shots \$500 Well socialized with Kids call 715-745-6018 (1/27)y

YORKI POO & HAVAPOO PUP-PIES! DEW. Vet Ck'd and Shots. Tri Color Chocolate 715-937-9425

Miscellaneous Pet 7278

PAWS 2 THINK helps feed local nancial difficulties. Donations are needed: Monetary or dry dog & cat food, medium to good quality please. Drop off Tomahawk Warehouse Liquor. Auntie Em's Resale For info, contact 715-612-5866

Agriculture Services

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 BARNS, LLC 715-873-3338 mile North of Gleason, Hwy 17

Motorcycles

BUYING SALVAGE MOTORCY-CLES-ATVS-WATERCRAFT 920-850-9299 Local Dealer Pickup

Miscellaneous Services

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



Photo courtesy of WXPR

EVERS

FROM PAGE 13

at Frederick Place.

Executive Director Abby Dall Lukowski said they can't afford more than \$750.00, all inclusive, for housing.

"The housing situation here, there's absolutely no way I can confidently suggest that they go around the place for \$1,500.00. They'd be right back at our house," said Dall Lukowski.

Rhinelander Fire Chief Brian Tonnancour brought up issues he's seen, including a lot of housing not up to code, limited land available to build new housing within the city limits and 60% of housing within the city being rentals, not owner-occupied.

"That availability isn't really there for people to buy a house, and when they do become available, the people who are selling it know that they're in the position that they're going to gain on it. Those house housing prices raise up that much more because of that position. So how do we beat that? I don't know," said Tonnaceuor.

While both there in their professional capacities, Di Wu of Nicolet College and Elisha Sheffer of the Rhinelander District Library spoke to some of the struggles young professionals in the area face.

Wu said his rent has increased a couple of times in the last two years because of inflation.

"I'm lucky I have a good job that can provide me for that, but I'm really concerned for other people who live with the minimum wage," said Wu. "How do we retain the young professionals and laborers in this area to keep the community going? We need those talents.

Minimum wage in Wisconsin matches the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per

District Rhinelander Library Director Virginia Roberts said about a third of her staff doesn't have a living wage, with some taking second jobs.

Sheffer is one of those people. She told the Governor she worked four jobs over the summer to be able to afford a car on top of her student loans and costs of living.

"Even the thought of having kids is just completely off the table because I can't afford to feed myself, let alone... so it just all compounds," said Sheffer.

As part of an effort to reduce some cost-of-living expenses for Wisconsinites, Evers specifically called for creating new programs to set price ceilings for prescription drugs and better oversight of drug companies in his address.

Youth mental health

Governor Evers is calling for spending \$300 million to provide comprehensive mental health services in schools statewide. It was another of his announcements during his State of the State address.

"It's not just schools. It's about whether it's affordable housing, whether it's making sure that kids are safe, whether it's about gun issues," said Evers. "We're looking at making this a holistic way of making lives better for people in Wisconsin."

Wu is also a co-advisor for the Rainbow Hodags, the LGBT+ student club at Nicolet College

He said the group is putting a large focus on mental health this year because of the high rates of mental health issues among youth in Oneida County.

"I think that's a really awakening call that we should not neglect the mental health for the whole community," Wu told the Governor. "I think it's a really good thing to focus on that, because that's really like the starting point, and really connect everybody together."

Sheffer pointed out how the suicide rate among LG-BTQ youth goes down significantly if they have one accepting adult in their life.

Sheffer says the library tries to be that place, but lack of public transportation in the area can be a barrier.

"We ask nothing of you. You can exist here as yourself, and they can't make it in. They can't make it to those services. That's so much of what the kids want, is they just want to be able to exist," said Sheffer.

Roberts added, "Particularly in our books and our materials, 'Here's somebody who looks like you. There are other people out there in the world.'

Mental health is one of four major health priorities in the recently updated Community Health Improvement Plan for Oneida County.

Emergency services

The last state budget included a 20% shared revenue increase to help municipalities cover increased

costs, especially for fire and police services. Ahead of that budget, Evers had visited the Rhinelander Fire Department to hear about struggles they've been facing because of lack of fund-

The first question Evers had at the roundtable was for Fire Chief Tonnancour, "Has that made any difference?"

"Unfortunately, Maybe too little, too late, possibly," Tonnancour told

Tonnancour said expenses are still going up. Health insurance, for example, went up 16.5%.

"For the city to be able to bite the bullet on that is very difficult when we're already, you know, counting down to zero every year," said Tonnancour. "We're at the point where, for public safety, we're probably going to have to go to referendum to continue public safety services here, even with the

shared revenue increase." Later in the discussions, Tonnancour brought up how the School District of Rhinelander has to go to referendums because of lack of school funding from the state.

"I don't think people realize that we fight for the tax levy money with the schools, so if the schools aren't getting funded correctly, or what they need from the state, public safety also suffers," said Tonnan-

Talking to reporters after the roundtable, Evers said schools going to referendum every couple of years is not sustainable.

Over the years, many administrators in districts within the Northwoods have called on legislators to change the funding formula for how money is distributed to districts.

"Would I love at some point in time to change the funding system? Yes. It's so complex, it's hard to even talk about," said Evers. "What we can do in the meantime is get the money to the school districts in a place, whether it's a special education or any other categorical aid, that will allow them to spend that money for kids."

Wisconsin has a new budget every two years. The process takes several months.

The Joint Finance Committee typically hosts several budget listening sessions across the state. Dates and locations for those have not yet been announced.

www.TomahawkLeader.com

Leader Sports & Nature

Middle school grapplers compete in D.C. Everest tourney

FOR THE TOMAHAWK **LEADER**

WESTON - The Tomahawk Middle School (TMS) wrestlers traveled to D.C. Everest last week to compete in their annual team dual meet tournament.

Eight teams competed, and the Hatchets placed 7th overall, going 1-3 as a team. The other teams involved were D.C. Everest, Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, John Muir, Horace Mann, Mosinee and PJ Jacobs.

The TMS wrestlers wrestled very well in their first competition of the year, but could only fill seven or eight of the 14 weight classes, making it tough to come out on top in a dual meet

Charlee Lund went 3-0 on the day with three pins.

The following wrestlers came away with at least one victory on the day: Spencer Bauman, Dustin Dermer, Guzman, Christian Hock, Charlee Lund, Lexi Palmer, Hector Luna Perez, Hallie Pierce, Layton Taves and Victoria Towle.

The middle school Hatchet grapplers were back in action on Monday, Jan. 27, when they traveled to Marathon for another conference scramble.

Anglers encouraged to help protect Wisconsin waters from aquatic invasive species

FOR THE TOMAHAWK **LEADER**

WISCONSIN - The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is asking anglers to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species while fishing this winter.

"Even in harsh winter conditions, anglers can transport aquatic invasive species and fish diseases from one lake or river to another by emptying water from bait buckets and fish containers," DNR said in a release. "When we add lake or river water to these containers, diseases such as viral hemorrhagic septicemia or critters like tiny spiny water fleas and zebra mussel larvae may be along for the ride. That's why you should drain all lake and river water from bait buckets on site before leaving. Putting used bait back into your container could also increase the risk of spreading aquatic invasive

According to DNR, Wisconsin fishing regulations state that up to two gallons of water may be used for transporting minnows. As long as no lake or river water has been added to the container, minnows may be used on a different waterbody. If lake or river water was added, the minnows cannot be used at



Anglers can help stop the spread of invasive species this winter by following bait rules and checking gear for attached organic matter and mud. Photo courtesy of Amanda Smith

other fishing locations and should be disposed of before going to a new site. Never dispose of unwanted bait in a lake or river, and dispose of any worms in a closed container in the trash.

Minnows can only be purchased from a licensed Wisconsin bait dealer. No other fish can be held in the minnow container, and dead bait must be preserved in ways that do not require freezing or refrigeration.

"Before leaving your fishing spots, remove any mud or plant material clinging to gear, including sleds used to haul supplies," DNR stated. "Some invasive aquatic plants flourish under the ice, like curly-leaf pondweed and

Eurasian watermilfoil. Invasive critters like the spiny water flea larvae hide in the mud, and zebra mussels often hitch rides on plants."

Before and after you drop your line, protect our fishing future by doing your part to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Remember

- · Inspect all fishing equipment for attached aquatic plants, animals or mud.
- · Remove all attached plants or animals.
- · Drain all water from buckets and containers.
- · Never move live fish away from a waterbody (fish out of water = dead).
- · Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

TOMAHAWK SPORTS TRIVIA: WEEK 218

The Tomahawk Leader will feature one local sports trivia question per week, provided by the late Bob Skubal, 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 217 question:

Jeff Zehner went on to play football in college. Where did he go: UW-Superior, Winona State or Itasca Community College?

Week 217 answer: Jeff Zehner went on to play college football at Winona State in Minnesota.

Congrats to Patricia Feind for being the first to correctly answer last week's question!

Week 218 question: **During the 1982-83** wrestling season, Tomahawk was

conference dual champion, conference tournament champion and regional champion. In order to win the conference dual meet championship, Tomahawk had to defeat Park Falls. They did so in Park Falls by a score of 25-22, with the match coming down to heavyweight. Who got the pin for the win over Park Falls: Bill Calhoun, Scott **Burroughs or Tom** Henkel?

Fishing Report: 'Normal' winter activity returns to ice

BY GEORGE LANGLEY

NORTHERN WISCON-SIN - Ice conditions have continued to improve, and after the cold last week, we're now looking at 18 to 20 inches throughout the area.

We've also gotten just enough snow to make snowmobiling, skiing and snowshoeing happen this winter. That's more than we can say for last year, and we're glad for it.

Fishing has been a bit of a rollercoaster with the weather, but the general conditions in our area couldn't be better.

Walleye fishing has been really good. The evening bite has been very consistent, with last light and after being really productive. If you're just out for a few hours, plan on being set up by 4 p.m. and staying until after dark. Medium shiners or sucker minnows under tip-ups are working great. Look to set up in about 10 to 15 feet of water right off any structure. Weed edges

are a super place to look for, as you'll be intercepting the fish coming out of deeper water to feed in the evenings.

Northern action continues to be good, with fish being caught all day in the weeds using large shiners under a tip-up. If you're fishing on weed edges for walleye, you'll probably get some of these guys interested in what you've got to offer. Fishing for northern can be a great way to warm up for the walleye fishing later in the day.

Panfish activity has been good, although there have been some variations due to changes in the weather. Perch are still being caught on the deeper edges of weeds using crappie minnows under tip-ups. You'll find the crappie about as deep as you can go, and they're best targeted with a tip-down and a rosie red. If that's not working, jigging is often a great way to rattle some of these fish into hitting. It also

makes it easy to search horizontally through the water column. Try tipping a 1/16 oz. jig or spoon with a minnow head and jigging high in the column for crappie or dead sticking about 6 inches from the bottom for bluegill and perch. While the general advice is to look deep, we are still seeing some panfish in water of 10 feet or less, so that's always worth a shot.

We're seeing all the "normal" winter activity on the ice now, like vehicles and marked and traveled snowmobile trails. It's a welcome change from the last couple of years! The fishing this season has been great, and while we'd love to see some more snow and a little less wind, the weather has been cooperative. Looks like we've got some warmer weather coming this week, so be sure to get out and en-

Good luck and good fish-

Other rules regarding bait can be found in the current Guide to Wisconsin Hook & Line Fishing Regulations at www.tinyurl.com/y6n9dtvt.

To learn more about invasive species and their impacts on Wisconsin's waters and economy, visit the DNR's Invasive Species webpage at www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives.

WRESTLING PROGRAM

coaching structure for the Hatchet wrestling program will mirror that of cross country and track, with the program being co-ed and the boys' and girls' teams sharing coaches.

To fill out the wrestling program's coaching staff, Flynn said the plan is to move one coaching position each from two sports with dwindling participation numbers – girls' basketball and track - to wrestling. This effort will ensure that coaching positions are allocated evenly by participation numbers while not creating new paid coaching

Wrestling will have one head coach and three paid assistant coaches, as well as volunteers. Flynn said the coaching structure will allow for two paid coaches to travel with each program in the event that competitions are held at separate locations.

This allows the head coach of the program to send paid assistant coaches where needed at their discretion, or continue to find tournaments at the same location, allowing us to have four paid coaches available at all times to cover the mats and individual wrestling," Flynn explained in his proposal.

Flynn noted that the coaching staff is another driving factor in the jump in wrestling numbers this

Head wrestling coach Bob Garrou also coaches middle school track and helps out in the weight room, where he's developed relationships with the athletes, leading them to give wrestling a shot.

Garrou told the Tomahawk Leader that the Hatchet girls are "very excited" to take part in an "aggressive, tough sport," noting that they're picking up on the ins and outs of wrestling quickly.

"The girls never shy from tough competition," Garrou added.

Also on the coaching staff this year is Alyssa Lampe, one of Tomahawk's most decorated athletes who forever changed the face of wrestling in the Badger State.

As a sophomore at Tomahawk High School in 2004, Lampe became the first female wrestler in Wisconsin history to qualify for the WIAA Division 2 State Championship. Lampe wrestled at State three times as a Hatchet, placing second in Division 2 as a senior in 2006.

She also earned 12 letters in three sports, competed at State nine times and was named the Lumberjack Conference Runner of the Year in 2004.

Lampe continued to wrestle after high school and was the U.S. Open individual champion in 2010. 2013, 2014 and 2019. In 2012 and 2013, she was a bronze medalist in international competition.

In 2013, Lampe was chosen by her peers and coaches as USA Wrestling's Women's Wrestler of the Year. She was also selected as the U.S. Open's Outstanding Wrestler that year.

Lampe retired from wrestling in 2015, but decided to make a return in 2019. She went on to win nationals and was named the U.S. Open's Outstanding Wrestler for the second time.

Also in 2019, Lampe was inducted into the George Martin Wrestling Hall of Fame – the first woman to receive the honor.

This year's staff is rounded out by experienced and knowledgeable coaches in John Arnott, Nate Mickel-

son and Sara Kuba, which, as Garrou put it, "doesn't hurt."

Potential opponents

Although nothing is official at this time, Flynn pointed to Lakeland, Merrill and Wausau West as potential schools for the Tomahawk girls to compete against due to their participation numbers.

"As this develops, I can see the Great Northern Conference (GNC) combining with the Wisconsin Valley Conference or another conference in the area to form a Girls' Wrestling Conference to promote individual conference and team honors," Flynn stated.

Over the last two years, Flynn noted, Tomahawk has traveled heavily to the west side of the state due to Eau Claire North, St. Croix Falls and Cameron having good participation numbers and full lineups.

Flynn hopes the team can

stay local as much as possible while also competing in the traditional Holiday Tournament and a large in-season tournament to allow the Tomahawk athletes to face their Sectional opponents prior to the WIAA tournament.

"(Girls' wrestling) is growing so rapidly that it will be a year-by-year approach to find tournaments where our girls can get four to five matches consistently and as schools promote and grow the sport, we will continue to work on scheduling to make sure our girls are getting minimal 30 to 40 matches a season, similar to our boys," Flynn stated.

'The sky's the limit'

Looking forward, Garrou sees promise in Tomahawk's girls' wresting pro-

"I feel the sky's the limit for where the girls in Tomahawk can end up," he said.

Natural Connections: Operation Owl Rescue

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

On Christmas Dav. I found myself driving from Lutsen, Minn., to Duluth with a very unusual package next to my skis and duffle bag. On my way home from a short trip near Thunder Bay, Ontario, a Facebook post caught my eye. "...large grey owl on the side of the road. They stopped to investigate, and noticed that its wing appears to be broken. Given our location (Lutsen) and the date (Christmas Eve), what should we do?"

Minutes later, I passed a group of three people trudging up a snowy road ditch with a blanket and a cardboard box. As it turns out, that crew included Christine Salomon and her two teens, Ezra and Macy. When I met Christine and Macy the next morning in Lutsen to help transport the owl, they filled me in on the rest of the story.

Christine had called the hotline for Wildwoods wildlife rehab facility in Duluth and received instructions on how to rescue the owl. That explained the blanket for protection from the raptor's sharp talons, and the box to carry the owl without further injuring them. "It was not that different than picking up one of my chickens," explained Macy nonchalantly. "The owl was all puffy until I picked them up, and then they just deflated."

Great Gray Owls, one of the tallest owls in the U.S., are mostly made of feathers. Living in the taiga of Canada, Scandinavia, Siberia, Mongolia, and Minnesota, they need lots of insultation. They also need lots of food, and this year more owls than usual have come south in search of tasty voles.

Macy and Ezra placed the owl, still inside the sturdy box with lots of ventilation, in an unheated sauna for the night. Being in quiet darkness is the least stressful environment for an injured bird. The owl's need for transport to Duluth on Christmas Day fit with my own travel plans back to Cable, which is how I ended up in the empty parking lot of a liquor store in Lutsen making the handoff.

To reassure ourselves that the owl was still alive. Christine opened one of the flaps on the box. Staring up at us were two giant yellow eyes nestled into satellite dishes of gray-patterned feathers that funnel sound into the owl's hidden ears. Just like the more common Great Horned and Barred Owls, Great Grays use their excellent hearing to locate mice and voles beneath the snow and plunge in talonfirst to grab them.

This owl probably had swooped down toward a mammal snack in the road ditch, and didn't see an oncoming car. Both natural



This Great Gray Owl was injured by a car on Hwy. 61 near Lutsen, Minn. The rescuers took this photo to help wildlife rehabilitators assess the owl's identification and injuries and then quickly backed off.

Photo by Christine Salomon

weed seeds and food scraps thrown out of car windows can attract small mammals to the road ditch and put wildlife in danger.

I was mindful of my precious cargo on the long drive as I reduced my speed on corners, eased into stoplights, and kept the radio off. Jessica LaBumbard, executive director of Wildwoods, met me outside the door of their little facility in Duluth. With another owl already in their care, the possibility of spreading avian influenza was a risk she didn't want to take. Plus, she would have needed the help of another staff member to handle the owl safely.

Instead, a third car pulled into their lot, and

two of Wildwoods' longtime volunteers whisked the owl away to The Raptor Center in St. Paul for advanced care. I asked if they were already heading in that direction. "Nope," they said with big smiles. They were just happy to

Jessica and the small staff at Wildwoods have been busy lately. They helped rescue five owls in the matter of just a few days around Christmas. All were injured by cars, and not all of them survived.

One owl in particular, a Snowy Owl found in the grill of a car in the parking lot at the Bentleyville Tour of Lights in Duluth, made the national news. I asked Jessica what she thought those stories overlooked. "I cringe at all the photos of the owls with lights and people," she told me. "Owls are terrified of us, and the best thing we can do is get them somewhere quiet and dark, away from human voices, as soon as possible. Our roads are not designed for wildlife, which makes these injuries unavoidable. But if people can slow down a bit, that helps," she added.

Even after I'd delivered my unusual package, I found myself driving in silence. My thoughts were with all the rescued owls, wishing that their injuries could be healed. I'd just seen my first Great Grav Owl, and even that tiny glimpse had been unforgettable. With any luck, and with the hard work of all the rehabilitators and their rescue volunteers, and conservationists, the next Great Grav I'll see will be healthy and in the wild.

If you find an injured raptor, never try to help them until you have spoken with a licensed wild-life rehabilitator. Only move them if they are in immediate danger and you aren't putting yourself in danger. It is illegal to possess a raptor unless you are transporting them directly to a licensed rehabilitator.

Here are a few places you can call in Minnesota and Wisconsin:

and Wisconsin:

• Wildwoods, Duluth,
Minn., 218-491-3604

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• The Raptor Center, St. Paul, Minn., 612-624-4745. The Raptor Center has an excellent guide to handling (www.raptor.umn. edu/injured-bird/raptor-handling-tips) on their website

• Winged Freedom Raptor Hospital, Spooner, Wis., 715 781-2595

• Raptor Education Group, Inc., Antigo, Wis., 715-623-4015

• Hoo's Woods Raptor Center, Milton, Wis., 608-883-2795

• Wisconsin DNR Wildlife Hotline 608-267-0866

• Wisconsin DNR Wildlife Rehab Directory (www. dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/ WildlifeHabitat/directory)

All these facilities have websites where you can find out more, sign up to volunteer, and donate to support their important work.

Emily's award-winning second book, Natural Connections: Dreaming of an Elfin Skimmer, is available to purchase at www.cabl-emuseum.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. The Museum is open with our brand-new exhibit: "Anaamaagon: Under the Snow." Our Winter Calendar is open for registration! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and www.cablemuseum.org to see what we are up to.

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