



**TFD banquet**  
The Tomahawk Fire Department (TFD) held its annual Firefighters Banquet at Pine Tree Supper Club on Saturday, Feb. 1, where members were honored for their dedication and service, as well as their excellence in the department. “Thank you to all our firefighters for your dedication, and to our families and community for your continued support,” TFD said. “Here’s to another year of serving and protecting the Tomahawk community.” Pictured is Mike Loka, who was recognized for his 50 years of service with TFD. **Photos courtesy of TFD**



Ron Morren was recognized for his 30 years of service.



Taylor Randall was recognized for his 15 years of service.



Kevin Kind received the Firefighter of the Year award.

## ‘WE OWN IT. IT’S OUR PLACE.’ Worsened care feared as counties privatize their nursing homes

BY ADDIE COSTELLO  
WPR AND WISCONSIN  
WATCH

*This story was produced by Wisconsin Watch and WPR. It was made possible by donors like you.*

Arlene Meyer is a busy woman.

The 86-year-old starts each morning by watching the news in her room at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill, Wisc. Then it’s off to the dining hall for breakfast so she can “BS with everybody out there.” She never skips her daily walk and devours books delivered by the public library each week — anything except romance or science fiction.

The event calendar in Meyer’s room lists a smorgasbord of other options: manicures and mimosas, chair Zumba, trivia, Packers watch parties and beer pong. Meyer spent a recent Friday at an exercise class in an area of Pine Crest that later hosted a happy hour with live music.

“The concept of old people, it’s out,” Meyer said, adding that “the days go by so fast” — an observation that surprises outsiders with duller expectations for nursing home life.

Meyer moved to Pine Crest in 2023 to recover



Arlene Meyer, 86, of Gleason, right, smiles as Paula Streich, a certified nursing assistant, left, opens a chocolate bar she brought for Meyer on Nov. 15, 2024, at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill, Wis. Meyer said Streich often brings her gifts from outside the nursing home like chocolate bars.

**Photos by Joe Timmerman/Wisconsin Watch**

from pneumonia. She liked it so much she stayed permanently. The nursing home’s social media posts show her holding a lizard, relaxing during a spa treatment and singing a Willie Nelson song at karaoke — photos that brought joy to those who know her.

“Sassy Arlene! Love it!” one person commented on a photo. “Happy you haven’t changed Arlene,” wrote another.

Lincoln County owns Pine Crest, one of 36 coun-

ty-owned nursing homes in Wisconsin. They tend to be better staffed, have higher quality of care and draw fewer complaints than facilities owned by for-profits and nonprofits, a WPR/Wisconsin Watch analysis of U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services data shows.

Wisconsin has more county-owned nursing homes than any state but Indiana. But perhaps not for long.

Over more than three decades, residents in 22 Wis-

consin counties lost public nursing homes to sales or closures. This year alone at least five counties — including Lincoln — considered selling, started the sales process or sold.

County leaders say they have only two options while facing financial pressures and staffing shortages: sell or close the homes. Local organizers disagree, arguing counties should continue

**Nursing Homes**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 6



Pictured are representatives from TCTS and local groups supported by the latest round of TCTS grant funding.

**Photo courtesy of Bonnie Trapp**

## Ten local groups supported by latest round of TCTS grants

BY JALEN MAKI  
TOMAHAWK LEADER  
EDITOR

**TOMAHAWK** – Ten local groups benefitted from the latest round of grant funding from the Tomahawk Community Thrift Shop (TCTS).

Founded in 2019 and located at 328 N. 4th St. in Tomahawk, TCTS is a 100% volunteer-run, nonprofit organization that returns 75% of its net profits back to other local nonprofits twice a year in the form of grants. Earlier this month, a to-

tal of \$47,820.90 was distributed to area groups.

TCTS has donated \$188,176.90 since its inception. “We would like to thank all of the volunteers, the generous donors and the shoppers,” Bonnie Trapp of TCTS said. “Without you, none of this would be possible.”

### Latest grant recipients

A \$3,000.00 grant was awarded to American Legion girls’ softball. With the team in its first year, the funds will be used for promotion, as well as for equipment, uniforms, umpires

and lodging.

The Tomahawk Area Historical Society will allocate a \$7,000.00 contribution towards the replacement of the roof on the garage behind the Old Kindergarten Museum on E. Washington Ave. The roof project marks step one of three in a full renovation process.

Music on the River, Tomahawk’s free, weekly summer concert series, received a \$3,000.00 award, which will help support one additional band for an extra week of music later this year.

A \$4,962.50 grant to the Tomahawk Public Library will be used to add books to the early reader collection, bring in 20 read-along books for youth, purchase fiction books for adults and fund face painters for the “Color Our World” activity day for kids.

Tomahawk Middle School’s \$1,500.00 funding award will be put towards the Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) program, an orientation that helps welcome sixth graders to

**Grants**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2





Photos courtesy of TPD

# K-9 Pipo stuffed animals available for purchase

**FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER**  
TOMAHAWK – K-9 Pipo stuffed animals are once again available for purchase. Each stuffed animal is \$20.00, with all funds going towards the Tomahawk Police Department (TPD)’s K-9 fund.

“With your donations, this will help cover the costs of trainings, boarding, K-9 equipment and much more,” TPD said. “We are so lucky and grateful to be a part of such an amazing community.” The stuffed animals can be found at TPD, as well as Tomahawk Feed Mill, American Legion Post 93,

Tomahawk Pharmacy, Crossbridge Community Bank, IncredibleBank, Park City Credit Union and Tomahawk Animal Clinic. Those who live outside the area and would like to purchase a K-9 Pipo stuffed animal can contact TPD at 715-453-2121.

# Alzheimer’s Association program to explore preparing finances for dementia diagnosis

**FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER**  
RHINELANDER – The Alzheimer’s Association will offer a free educational workshop covering tips for managing finances, how to prepare for future care costs and the benefits of early planning. The free Managing Mon-

ey workshop will be held at the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Oneida County, 100 W. Keenan St., Rhineland, on Tuesday, Feb. 18 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. “If you or someone you know is facing Alzheimer’s disease, dementia or another chronic ill-

ness, it’s never too early to put financial plans in place,” a release from the Alzheimer’s Association said. “This workshop provides a general overview for people who are facing a diagnosis as well as those who wish to be informed.” **Program**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 4

## GRANTS

FROM PAGE 1  
middle school. As part of the program, new middle schoolers are mentored by an eighth grader for a full day in an effort to promote a safe environment and prevent bullying. A \$500.00 grant allocated to the Samoset Council will support the Boy Scouts’ District Pinewood Derby at the Annual Scouting Summit, slated to be held at Tomahawk Middle School on Saturday, March 1. All Northwoods area scouting units will attend the Tomahawk summit. The Tomahawk Emergency Food Pantry will continue to support community members in need with food and vouchers after receiving a \$7,358.40 contribu-

tion from TCTS. With its \$5,000.00 grant, American Legion Post 93 will clean and renovate the basement of its downtown building, which is currently used by local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, and soon, Girl Scouts. The project will include patching concrete, finishing and painting the walls and ceiling and shot blasting and applying epoxy to the floor. The Legion also received a second \$5,000.000 contribution for maintenance and upkeep of the cabin on Boy Scout Island. The Legion and local Scouts will team up to replace the roof and steps, repair screens and tackle other projects at the cabin. Our Sisters’ House Emergency Shelter’s \$8,000.00 grant will go towards utili-

ties, maintenance and food. A \$2,500.00 grant awarded to the Tomahawk Community Theatre will help the group offset expenses for the next adult performance, including scripts, royalties, sound, lights and more. **About TCTS grants**  
TCTS has two grant periods per year: one from May 1 through June 30; and another from Nov. 1 through Dec. 31. Grant applications can be picked up at TCTS during the time frames listed and turned in to the shop or emailed to [tctsgrant@gmail.com](mailto:tctsgrant@gmail.com). Volunteer applications can be picked up year-round. For more information about TCTS, visit [www.tomahawkthrift.org](http://www.tomahawkthrift.org).

## LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF’S REPORT

As reported by the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office Monday, Feb. 3:  
On 1/27/2025 a deputy on patrol stopped a vehicle on CTH W near Deer Run Ave. in the Township of Pine River for equipment violations and driving behavior. After stopping the vehicle, the deputy made contact with the driver, a Merrill woman, 19, and observed signs of impairment. The deputy requested the driver perform some sobriety tests, which she did. As a result of those tests, the woman was placed under arrest for a first offense OWI. The woman was later released to a responsible party.  
On 1/30/2025 deputies were sent to an address in the N4700 block of STH 17 in the Township of Schley for a reported domestic dispute in progress. It was reported to be physical in nature. Upon arrival, the R/P stated that the suspect, a Merrill woman, 26, had struck him and he thought she was possibly under the influence of drugs. The suspect’s boyfriend was also present during the disturbance, but left prior to the arrival of law enforcement. Following the investigation, the female was arrested and transported to the Lincoln County Jail, where she was booked in

for domestic battery, disorderly conduct and several counts of bail jumping. Additional charges may be considered as there was a second victim that was identified.  
On 02/1/2025 deputies were called to the area of Rock Island Resort on STH 107 in the Town of Merrill for a reported adult male walking around with no clothing on. It was also reported that he was highly intoxicated. When the first deputy arrived on scene, they located the adult male, who was completely without apparel and highly intoxicated. The deputy made contact with the suspect, a Wausau man, 46. The deputy attempted to detain the man, but he resisted the deputy’s efforts. The deputy then brought the man to the ground, where he was placed under arrest. The man was taken to Aspirus Merrill Hospital for medical clearance prior to being brought to the Lincoln County Jail. At the jail, the man was booked in for disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and lewd and lascivious behavior. He later posted bond and was released from the jail. The man remained uncooperative throughout the contact.  
On 02/2/2025 deputies were dispatched to the area of STH 17

and Stefanez Rd. in the Township of Harrison for a motor vehicle crash with injuries. Upon arrival, deputies learned that the driver of the vehicle, a Weston man, 80, had been traveling S/B on STH 17 and while doing so, he was eating a breakfast sandwich when a deer ran out in front of him. While attempting to avoid the deer, the man dropped his breakfast sandwich to the floor board of his truck. The man then pulled over to the side of the road to retrieve his sandwich, at which point he fell on slippery roads and injured his leg. The man also failed to put his car in park, so after he fell to the ground, his truck rolled into the ditch. The man was transported by a Rhinelander area ambulance and taken to Aspirus Rhinelander Hospital for the injury to his leg. LISO was assisted by Oneida County sheriff’s deputies and Rhinelander EMS. Deputies conducted 37 traffic stops and 56 security checks. Deputies responded to six car vs. deer crashes and one car vs. eagle. Driving complaints: One. The 911 Center took two hang-up calls and three nuisance calls.

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TOMAHAWK

Investing in the Future of Tomahawk Schools

OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM: FEBRUARY 18, 2025

The School District of Tomahawk has a long history of fostering a high-quality learning environment and is a source of immense pride in our community. However, the district continues to face serious financial challenges, making it difficult to continue meeting our mission to empower all students to become life-long learners capable of thriving in an ever-changing world.

On Tuesday, February 18, 2025, our community will consider renewing a four-year, non-recurring operational referendum. If approved, we will have the ability to continue exceeding the revenue limit by \$3.25 million through the 2028-29 school year while keeping the school tax consistent with the previous referendum.

WHY IS THE REFERENDUM NEEDED?

Each Wisconsin school district has a revenue limit created by the state, capping the amount of money they can raise. However, that limit was established more than 30 years ago and has failed to keep pace with inflation. Our current enrollment, which also affects state aid, is approximately 65% of what it was two decades earlier.

The School District of Tomahawk trails many of its peers when it comes to state aid disbursements. While the average district receives \$8,060 per student in state aid, we receive \$3,147 per student. In fact, school districts like ours would receive roughly \$3,300 more per student for the 2024-25 school year if revenues had maintained pace with inflation since 2009.

REDUCING EXPENSES

The School Board and administration have taken significant steps to address our financial challenges, including nearly \$1.2 million worth of spending cuts during the 2021-22 school year. This included freezing salaries, eliminating a bus route, and not replacing a limited number of staff. The board also used \$1.8 million from the district’s reserve fund to balance its budget.

Our community’s voters approved a non-recurring, three-year operational referendum in April 2022 to address this issue. This has provided \$3.25 million annually, but is scheduled to sunset at the end of the current school year.

TAX IMPACT

An approved renewal of the operational referendum is not projected to have a levy rate increase. The district is estimating a \$5.59 levy rate per \$1,000 of estimated fair market value.

Learn more by scanning the QR code

[www.tomahawkreferendum2025.org](http://www.tomahawkreferendum2025.org)



# News Briefs

## LCVSO to hold Tomahawk visits

The Lincoln County Veterans Service Office (LVCVO) will hold visits in Tomahawk. Veterans Service Officer Matthew Pultz will be available at City Hall, 23 N. 2nd St., on Thursday, Feb. 13; Thursday, Feb. 27; Thursday, March 6; Thursday, March 20; Thursday, April 3; and Thursday, April 17, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. To schedule an appointment, call 715-539-1083.

## Referendum informational public meeting

The School District of Tomahawk will hold a public meeting in the district auditorium on Thursday, Feb. 13 at 5:30 p.m., to provide information about its upcoming referendum, which will appear on Tuesday, Feb. 18 ballots. To learn more about the proposed referendum, visit [www.tomahawkreferendum2025.org](http://www.tomahawkreferendum2025.org).

**TCT antique appraisal event**

Tomahawk Community Theater (TCT) is gearing up to present its first major fundraising event. 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/tomahawkcommunitytheater/](http://www.facebook.com/tomahawkcommunitytheater/).

## Fundraiser to benefit local man fighting blastomycosis

The public is invited to attend fundraiser to support Christopher Busterud, 26, a 2017 graduate of Tomahawk High School and Merrill resident. Busterud is battling blastomycosis, a rare and serious fungal infection. The event will be held at Corner Pub, 8 W. Wisconsin Ave., Tomahawk, on Saturday, Feb. 15 at 1 p.m. Raffles, a silent auction, food, karaoke, live music, games and more will be featured.

## 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](#).



## Nokomis ATV Club donates to local food pantries

The Nokomis ATV Club recently made a pair of contributions to local pantries. The club donated \$500.00 each to the Tomahawk Emergency Food Pantry and the Nokomis Food Pantry.

**Photos courtesy of Grant Peterson**



## At Regional Leadership Conference, THS FBLA students compete in variety of business subjects

**FOR THE TOMAHAWK  
LEADER**

EDGAR – Six Tomahawk High School (THS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students last week traveled to Edgar High School for the 2025 FBLA Regional Leadership Conference (RLC).

Tomahawk's Freya Alberg, Galen Schmidt, Faith Derleth, Jennie Frederickson, Mathian Vojcik and Lydia Shaney attended the Saturday, Feb. 1 conference in-person, while Alli Palmer and Abbie Rosenmeier took part virtually.

Instructor Connor Ahrens explained that attendees competed on business subjects against other high school students and were able to learn more

business concepts through various workshops throughout the day.

Palmer and Rosenmeier competed in Sports and Entertainment Management; Alberg, Frederickson and Shaney took part in Sales Presentation; Vojcik competed in Computer Problem Solving; and Schmidt and Derleth participated in Social Media Strategies.

Vojick, who finished in second place, was Tomahawk's lone qualifier for the State Leadership Conference (SLC) in Green Bay this spring.

Ahrens noted that Alberg, Frederickson and Shaney took fifth place, just shy of qualifying for the SLC.



Photo courtesy of Connor Ahrens

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<p><b>FREE REG. FRY AND REG. DRINK</b> WITH PURCHASE OF ANY DOUBLE BURGER AT REGULAR PRICE</p>  <p>Coupon good at Colby, Spencer, Withee, Merrill, Cadott &amp; Altoona locations only!</p> <p><b>A&amp;W</b></p> <p><small>Good at participating locations. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Must present coupon before ordering. Coupon cannot be combined with any other discount or coupon. Cash value 1/10 of 1¢. A&amp;W Restaurants, Inc. Expires 2/28/25.</small></p>	<p><b>\$1 OFF SHRIMP COMBO</b> THE REGULAR PRICE OF A (COMBO INCLUDES REGULAR FRIES &amp; 20 OZ. DRINK)</p>  <p>Coupon good at Colby, Spencer, Withee, Merrill, Cadott &amp; Altoona locations only!</p> <p><b>A&amp;W</b></p> <p><small>Good at participating locations. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Must present coupon before ordering. Coupon cannot be combined with any other discount or coupon. Cash value 1/10 of 1¢. A&amp;W Restaurants, Inc. Expires 2/28/25.</small></p>	<p><b>FREE REG. FRY AND REG. DRINK</b> WITH PURCHASE OF ANY DOUBLE BURGER AT REGULAR PRICE</p>  <p>Coupon good at Colby, Spencer, Withee, Merrill, Cadott &amp; Altoona locations only!</p> <p><b>A&amp;W</b></p> <p><small>Good at participating locations. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Must present coupon before ordering. Coupon cannot be combined with any other discount or coupon. Cash value 1/10 of 1¢. A&amp;W Restaurants, Inc. Expires 2/28/25.</small></p>



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OBITUARIES

Obituary updates are posted at [www.tomahawkleader.com](http://www.tomahawkleader.com)



**Jack Clauser**, age 87, passed away on Jan. 31, 2025 at Seasons of Life Hospice in Woodruff, Wis. Jack was born Oct. 15, 1937 in Monmouth, Ill., to Phillip and Alma Clauser. He graduated from Watseka High School. Jack enlisted in the Army in 1960 and was stationed in Washington, D.C., where he met and married Carol Christian. They lived in Frederick, Md., until moving to Appleton, Wis., in 1968 with their three daughters. There he worked as a Sales Engineer specializing in pumps for the paper industry. Jack and Carol bought their property near Tomahawk in 1980, and retired there in 2002. Jack enjoyed hunting, fishing, and exploring new places. He could often be found drawing out an idea he had and designed their homes in Appleton and on Lake Nokomis. He was a lifelong Cub fan. He loved life on the lake and enjoyed a good martini.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Carol (Christian) Clauser; daughters, Anne Clauser Madison, Wis.; Mary Clauser, Minneapolis, Minn., and Jennifer (Cully) Ekstrom, Minneapolis, Minn.; grandson, Dimitri Clauser, Minneapolis, Minn.; brother-in-law, John Christian, Santa Rosa Beach, Fla., and sister-in-law, Barbara Clauser, Sibley, Mo. He is preceded in death by his parents, Philip Clauser and Alma (Friebele) Clauser Nalley, and brother, Donn Clauser. The world has lost a good man.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Nokomis and Tomahawk Food Pantries are encouraged.

Memorial Service will be held at 12 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025 at Krueger-Nimsgern Funeral Home, Tomahawk, with Chaplin Michele Rein officiating. Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until time of service at noon.

Online condolences for the family may be directed to [www.nimsgernfuneral.com](http://www.nimsgernfuneral.com).

**Operational referendum to address critical needs in Tomahawk schools**

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, residents of the School District of Tomahawk will consider renewing an operational referendum. If it's approved, the district will be able to continue making investments that ensure students have access to a high-quality educational experience.

Our state has an outdated education funding formula that has led school districts statewide – including Tomahawk Schools – to face significant funding challenges. All districts operate under a state-imposed revenue limit that restricts the amount of money they can receive through state

general aid and local property values.

The property tax element adversely affects Tomahawk Schools due to the increased percentage of high-value lake properties within our boundary. This means we receive far less state aid than our peers. The average district receives \$8,060.00 per student, compared to only \$3,300.00 per student here.

State funding has also failed to keep pace with inflation for many years. If it had, districts like ours would receive about \$3,300.00 more per student today.

The non-recurring referendum question on the Feb. 18 ballot seeks permission to exceed our state-mandated revenue limit by \$3.25 million per

year through the end of the 2028-29 school year. These funds would allow us to maintain current class sizes, preserve academic programs and extracurricular activities, and address minor facility projects.

Operational referendum funds also allow our district to retain and attract quality teachers and staff, while avoiding further budget cuts like those witnessed during the 2021-22 school year, when the district was forced to eliminate approximately \$1.2 million worth of expenses.

A renewed operational referendum is not projected to have a levy rate increase. Although levy rates can vary slightly between townships due to various factors, the overall average impact would remain consistent at \$5.59 per \$1,000.00 of estimated fair market value.

We believe an operational referendum is the best option to address our financial challenges and ensure students continue to have the resources they need and a learning environment where they can thrive. More information about the referendum, including answers to frequently asked questions, is available at [www.tomahawkreferendum2025.org](http://www.tomahawkreferendum2025.org).

Ron Zimmerman  
President, School District of Tomahawk Board of Education  
Submitted on behalf of the board

**PROGRAM FROM PAGE 2**

The workshop will describe how caregiving affects finances; list the legal and financial documents caregivers should put in place; prepare for useful discussions about financial decisions and planning; identify steps to lower the chances of financial abuse and fraud; begin to create a backup plan in case a caregiver can no longer provide care; and offer helpful Alzheimer's Association resources.

In the United States alone, nearly seven million individuals are living with

Alzheimer's, and 16 million are serving as their unpaid caregivers, according to the release.


"The disease is a global crisis that impacts numerous families right here in our community," the release stated. "However, no one has to face this disease alone or without informa-

tion."

Registration is requested. To register, or to learn more about the program, contact Julie St. Pierre at 715-352-4091 or [jstpierre@alz.org](mailto:jstpierre@alz.org); call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 1-800-272.3900; or visit [www.bit.ly/MoneyFeb18](http://www.bit.ly/MoneyFeb18).

Local news online – [www.TomahawkLeader.com](http://www.TomahawkLeader.com)

Ask the PASTOR



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

A few weeks ago, we began looking at the question, "How did we get the Bible?" We shall continue looking at this with the question, "Where did the information about creation, man's fall into sin, Noah's flood, the tower of Babel, and the other stories in the book of *Genesis*, come from?"

From the time of Moses (about 1400 BC) up to our day, it has generally been accepted that Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible (*Genesis*, *Exodus*, *Leviticus*, *Numbers*, and *Deuteronomy*). Moses wrote these books when he led the Jews out of slavery in Egypt and on to Palestine, around 1400 BC. Why did Moses write those five books and then command the Jews to keep them and study them (Deut. 33)?

In Exodus 19:3-6, after the Jews left Egypt, they came to Mt. Sinai to receive God's law. There, God tells them, if they would obey Him and keep His covenant, they would be to Him a holy nation and a nation of priests to the world. They were to keep the knowledge of God alive in the earth. It is interesting that in 1 Peter 2:9 we read the same explanation given to Christians almost 1,500 years after Moses had written it in *Exodus*.

God probably had Moses begin the writing of the Bible to establish an authoritative, written voice, defining God and His works so the Jews could be that nation of priests to the world. And we, who are followers of Jesus Christ, continue that same responsibility with the Bible as our authoritative, written voice defining God and His works.


God explains His right as God over the earth in *Genesis*, explaining who He is, His works, how we relate to Him, and why He alone is God. The book of *Genesis*, the first book of the Bible, explains all of this. Even the title, *Genesis*, means to *begin*. In the creation account, God is established as the only God, because without Him we would not exist. Understanding this, we must ask, how did Moses know what to write concerning creation, the worldwide flood in Noah's day, the confusion of the languages at the tower of Babel, and the other things that happened thousands of years before he lived?

It appears that when Moses wrote the book of *Genesis*, he did the part of an editor, combining at least eleven other books in writing *Genesis*. In *Genesis*, Moses wrote footnotes to the books that he had brought together in writing *Genesis*; books covering the general history of the world from creation to the beginning of nations, and the beginning of the Jewish people.

I am running out of space here, so we will have to continue this subject next week. The important thing I want to point out is that the Bible is intended to be an authoritative, written voice, defining the nature and character of the God who created all things, and how we relate to Him.

**Pastor Charles Scheele**  
**Berean Baptist Church, Tomahawk**  
[bereanbaptisttomahawk@gmail.com](mailto:bereanbaptisttomahawk@gmail.com)

Associated Clergy of Tomahawk “Pastor’s Corner”



We have a red fox that passes through our yard. On one occasion, my husband watched it try to catch a grey squirrel. Unfortunately for the fox, the squirrel was able to scamper up a tree – out of the fox's reach. It looked up at the tree for a moment and then loped off to find something else for dinner.

Recently we saw the red fox limping along with a back leg held off the ground. We wondered how he got injured and if his leg would heal. We knew having a bum leg would hamper his ability to hunt for food.

Navigating through life can be a real challenge. Some of us struggle more than others. Sometimes we struggle because of the choices we have made. Sometimes we struggle because we have not developed good life skills.

Sometimes it is by no fault of our own. Circumstances that we have little control over keep us forever behind the eight ball. There is never enough money for necessities, and it is a decision between food, medicine, rent or gas money. I know because I have been there.

I have been on public assistance – as a child and as an adult with a family. There have been times when we had very little to eat. I have been homeless but did not wind up sleeping on the streets because some friends found out and we wound up living with them for three months. I have failed in relationships and am divorced. I have worked low paying jobs with little to no benefits.

I understand what it means to not have enough. I also understand what it means to be looked down on because of it. Sometimes we begin to look down on ourselves. We feel worthless. A failure. We begin to believe we don't deserve anything better.

You are not your circumstances. You are a precious gift of God to this world. An amazing person with special abilities and talents. A person made in the Image of God. As such, you have the ability to love. To be a peacemaker. To experience and share joy. You are capable of problem-solving and making good decisions. You can receive and grant forgiveness.

Jesus said, "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father knowing about it. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows." Matthew 10:29-31

You are of great worth. You are loved. You are more than you know.

Pastor Lisa A. Weaver  
Tomahawk and Spirit United Methodist Churches

Church DIRECTORY



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## OP-ED

## February is Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month

**BY RYAN HUSEBY**  
TOMAHAWK HIGH  
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



At Tomahawk High School (THS), we proudly offer a variety of career pathways to students. Pathways specialized in career fields such as Business, Marketing, Architecture and Construction, Culinary Arts, Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Graphic Design, Healthcare, Information Technology, Manufacturing, Education and Training, and Transportation Technology.

Over 38 Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses are available to students. Additionally, students also have access to complete advanced training, college credits, industry certifications and work based learning programs through the career pathways.

THS students have a unique opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school. Through CTE courses, students can currently accumulate more than 53 college credits, a number that continues to grow each year as we build our CTE programming. Our dual credit courses provide students a head start with their post graduation plan, helping them build career-ready skills and save both

time and money. Those entering the workforce immediately benefit from advanced training, setting them apart from other entry-level candidates and increasing their career mobility. Students pursuing university or technical college education may also reduce their tuition costs by successfully completing dual credit courses.

Notably, THS students surpass the state average in dual credit course completion, with 56.6% of our students participating compared to the state average of 25.7%. THS had 409 dual credit course enrollments in the 2023-24 school year.

Students also take advantage of the opportunity and earn industry-recognized certifications in fields such as computer programs, OSHA Safety, Culinary ServSafe, health and child care, welding, automotive safety, Microsoft Office,

computer aided design, Adobe Design Suite, Certified Nursing Assistant, Fire Fighter 1 and Youth Apprenticeship. These certifications showcase skills valued by employers.

THS students exceeded the state average for students earning at least one industry certification. Students earned 144 certifications in the 2023-24 school year. According to the Association for Career and Technical Education, such certifications aid in hiring, retention, and career advancement while also preparing students for postsecondary education and the workforce.

Work-Based Learning (WBL) programs are a great environment for students to gain industry-specific and employability skills under the direct mentorship of a professional. One such program, Youth Apprenticeship (YA), is sponsored by the Department of Workforce Development and mirrors adult apprenticeships. YA students are paid employees, working at least 450 hours during the school year while completing job-related coursework for high school credit. Students work with employers to complete the required job specific skills certification list during their employment. With over

43 participants in 2023-24 school year, THS has one of the highest YA enrollments in the area and exceeds the state participation average.

To celebrate CTE Month, THS is hosting a Guest Speaker Blitz, featuring professionals from a variety of industries who will share insights about their career paths. These sessions provide a valuable opportunity for students to gain firsthand knowledge about different professions and the steps required to be successful. Presentations will be held in various CTE classes and during Resource Hour. THS students interested in attending should connect with their CTE teacher or school counselor for more details.

We encourage families to have career conversations with their students. Share your professional journey – discuss what has been important to you in your career, the challenges you've faced and what you might do differently to reach your goals. These discussions can provide valuable lessons and inspire students as they navigate their Academic and Career Planning decisions.

Let's make the most of CTE Month by exploring opportunities and preparing for a bright future!

## PUBLISHER'S LETTER

### The Fragility of Life

Dear Reader,

The other day, I had a close call that left me reflecting deeply on how fragile life truly is. I was a passenger in a car, riding along on a snowy day. The roads were slick, and we were descending a steep hill when we encountered a stationary car in the middle of the road. To avoid a collision, our driver veered into a snowbank and



Shaken but unharmed, we got out to assess the damage. As I stood there, I saw other vehicles attempting to navigate the hill, at speeds too reckless for the conditions. I waved to warn them to stop and turn back, knowing the danger they faced. Thankfully, our car was still operational, and we managed to drive away carefully. Later that day, I learned that a massive pileup had occurred in that very spot. Numerous vehicles were involved, and I couldn't help but feel fortunate to have avoided the catastrophe.

This experience got me thinking. Life is unpredictable. You wake up in the morning with plans, but everything can change in an instant, with no warning whatsoever. Those 15 seconds as we swerved away from the stalled vehicle could have been our last moments. But it wasn't. For others, tragically, it was.

Life is so fragile. There are no guarantees, no flashing signals warning us when our time is up. One moment we're here, and the next, we're not. This realization isn't meant to instill fear but to inspire gratitude. Each day we're given is a gift—precious, fleeting, and worth cherishing.

Let's not take it for granted. Let's love fully, live purposefully, and appreciate the time we have. Because in the blink of an eye, everything can change. We can't control when or how the end comes, but we can make the moments we still have truly count.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
Publisher

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

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The Dun-Rite Exteriors logo features a stylized house icon composed of three vertical bars of increasing height. To the right of the icon, the text "dun-rite" is written in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, with "EXTERIORS" in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font below it. To the right of the logo, the text "FREE ESTIMATES" is displayed in a bold, all-caps, sans-serif font. Below this, the address "Tomahawk" and the phone number "715-453-4200" are listed in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the advertisement, a dark horizontal band contains the text "Servicing the Tomahawk and surrounding area with Quality Products & workmanship for over 20 years!" in a white, sans-serif font.



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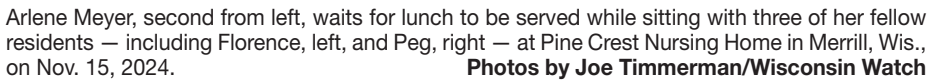
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FROM PAGE 1

“I love it here,” she said.  
“I sincerely do.”

- Iowa County closed its nursing home in 2022 after failing to find a buyer.



Lincoln County started debating Pine Crest's future in 2022 while the board sought budget cuts. Then-board chair Don Friske noticed Pine Crest had for

Many ran “poor farms” or “poor houses” for residents experiencing poverty starting in the 1800s. Most states eventually created centralized nursing homes to serve older people and


More than a quarter of nursing home beds, on

The only remaining option the board sees: selling.

"We're horrible at it," he said.

Despite supporting county-owned nursing homes,

CONTINUES ON PAGE 7

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## NURSING HOMES

FROM PAGE 6

state officials don't always effectively communicate with counties, said Rene Eastman, vice president of financial and regulatory services at LeadingAge Wisconsin, an advocacy group for older adults.

Still, Eastman said, the recent Medicaid rate reimbursement hikes could ease financial pressures over time.

"If counties hung on for a little bit longer, they would really see the effects of that funding infusion, and they would see the increased need in their communities," she said.

**St. Croix County commits to nursing home**

St. Croix County Board Vice Chair Bob Feidler said his colleagues didn't seriously consider selling its nursing home. But a discussion about that possibility prompted opponents to flood an August board meeting.

The board voted against selling, deciding that nursing home revenue would likely grow, aided by higher Medicaid rates and a federal grant to open a dementia wing.

"All of a sudden, we went from what had been a negative revenue to barely a positive revenue, to a more solid projection," Feidler said.

Many Lincoln County residents hope their board will reach the same conclusion. But increased Medicaid rates alone won't cover needed costs outside of care, like renovating Pine Crest's building, Friske said. That would likely require a property tax increase.

"You can't just go on a whim, 'Hey, yeah, we're going to throw this extra money on the property tax,'" Friske said. "People are struggling."

County leaders have historically asked voters to support nursing homes through ballot measures.

Voters in Green County, for instance, approved an April ballot measure to continue funding their nursing home.

Portage County voters approved one referendum in 2018 and a \$20 million referendum four years later for the construction of a new nursing home — renovations that still haven't



Dora Gorski poses for a portrait in her new home, Nov. 15, 2024, in Wausau, Wis. She still participates in a group called "People For Pine Crest," which opposes a sale of Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill, where her late husband Ken spent the end of his life.

Photo by Joe Timmerman/Wisconsin Watch

started. Rising construction costs since the delay mean millions more are needed to fund the project, according to county board members who have blocked calls for a fresh referendum.

In Lincoln County, more than 80% of respondents to a 2023 Merrill Foto News and Tomahawk Leader online survey opposed selling Pine Crest.

But the board blocked two efforts to put Pine Crest's future on the ballot.

### How private homes profit: Cutting staff, benefits

Friske had gotten unsolicited calls from brokers even before putting Pine Crest on the market, as have officials in other counties.

Why buy a money-losing nursing home?

For-profits can't simply build new facilities. The state determines the need for nursing home beds in different communities — requiring newcomers to typically buy a license from an entity already operating a facility.

Deficits under government ownership don't mean private companies can't turn a profit.

They might find savings by rejecting applicants with behavioral issues who require costlier care. Counties that own a nursing home typically send higher-needs residents there. Counties that don't own a nursing home still pay to send such residents to another facility that will accept them.

Private owners frequently reduce staffing and benefits upon purchasing

county-owned facilities, Eastman said. Lower staffing correlates with poorer care.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services rates nursing home staff on a 1 to 5 scale, considering time they spent with residents and turnover.

The median staff rating at Wisconsin's county-owned nursing homes is 5, the highest possible, according to WPR and Wisconsin Watch's analysis. That's compared with a median rating of 3 at for-profit facilities in the state.

A sign outside of the Portage County Health Care Center touts its 5-star rating. Grace Skibicki, a resident of 13 years and a former care center nurse, recognizes that as impressive.

She expects care to decline if a chain with a lower rating purchases it. She wouldn't plan to stick around.

"It's really scary because you don't know what's going to happen to you," Skibicki said.

Staff are also waiting to see what their future holds.

Nursing home work can be grueling with modest pay, accounting for significant staff turnover across the industry. But county-owned nursing homes employ public workers who earn county benefits and access to one of the country's best-funded retirement systems. That may explain why

median turnover trends at Wisconsin's county-owned homes (41%) are lower than they are at for-profits (51%), WPR and Wisconsin Watch found.

Wisconsin's for-profit nursing homes drew a median of three substantiated complaints over the last three years, compared to a median of zero at county-owned facilities, which also fared better than for-profits and non-profits in health inspection and overall quality ratings.

Nursing homes owned by Lincoln, Portage and Sauk counties all rate above average, but county officials believe private owners could run them better.

Counties struggle to make quick decisions the fast-changing industry requires, Friske said.

Potential buyers named in Lincoln, Portage and Sauk counties all own multiple facilities across the state. Two own facilities in other states. That setup makes it easier for them to fund repairs or convert rooms to assisted living quickly without repeatedly asking taxpayers.

Care & Rehab Company, which initially sought to buy Pine Crest, owns six facilities in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Two share Pine Crest's "much above average" federal rating, but two others received "below average" ratings.

### People for Pine Crest

Dora Gorski kept her husband Ken at home for as long as possible.

Ken, a father, veteran, martial arts instructor and first responder, was often too proud to admit to falling — even when Dora woke up to find him on the ground.

She initially got help from neighbors and home health aides who warned her about his worsening dementia. Ken eventually ended up hospitalized and in need of a wheelchair.

When Dora realized she'd have no way to get him into their house upon their return, Pine Crest was her first call.

The woman in admissions knew Ken, who had taught her children aikido. Once he moved in, a maintenance worker recognized Ken as his former martial arts teacher. A caretaker told Dora she knew Ken, too — having worked with him as a phlebotomist.

It turned out that Arlene Meyer, a fellow first responder who had long known Ken, lived down the hall.

"It was people who not just knew him as a doddering old man who is barely able to talk," Dora said. "They knew him as a respected instructor."

Two weeks before Ken's death in Dec. 2023, Pine Crest hosted his 90th birthday party. His children, former students and friends, including Meyer, packed a community room.

"That meant a lot to Ken," said Dora, who still participates in a group called "People For Pine Crest," which opposes a sale.

"We own it. It's our place. We all take pride in it being here," she said.

The group spent 2023 urging the Lincoln County Board to keep the nursing home. Their flurry of petitions, yard signs, T-shirts, public testimonies, phone calls and emails didn't work. The board voted to sell to Care & Rehab.

But an attorney and ally on the county board noticed a language problem in the sale agreement and sued the county to halt the sale.

Care & Rehab backed out before the case could move

forward, offering People For Pine Crest a reprieve.

But Friske, who lost reelection this spring, sees a ticking clock. He expects Pine Crest will face a fiscal crisis that will force a closure unless it sells.

He resents any suggestion that his board colleagues don't care about those who depend on Pine Crest.

"The county board is not a congressman from Missouri, Arkansas and Texas, telling Wisconsin how to live," Friske said. "What's happening here is friends and neighbors who are elected to the county board. They live here, their families are here, we're all here."

Lincoln County has just two other nursing homes, both in Tomahawk and with lower federal ratings.

Dora Gorski, who lives 20 minutes from Pine Crest, said the short distance allowed her to eat breakfast with Ken most mornings. That routine would have been tough to maintain — doubling the length of her drive — had he lived in one of Lincoln County's two private facilities or the state veterans home in King, Wisconsin.

The county hopes to keep some nursing home beds in Merrill, said current Lincoln County chair Jesse Boyd, but they won't be county-owned. He agrees with Friske's financial outlook.

"Right now, we're drowning," he said.

The county now has lined up a couple of potential buyers for Pine Crest.

If a sale proceeds? Pine Crest won't be the same, Gorski expects. For now it's "full of neighbors and friends and people from our community, people who love us and know us," she said.

"You don't find that in some big city, and you don't find that in a private, for-profit nursing home."

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Feb 12	6:40AM	10:47PM	4:52PM	11:10AM
Feb 13	6:59AM	11:33PM	6:00PM	11:54AM
Feb 14	7:15AM	12:15AM	7:07PM	12:35PM
Feb 15	7:30AM	12:55AM	8:11PM	1:15PM
Feb 16	7:46AM	1:34AM	9:16PM	1:54PM
Feb 17	8:02AM	2:14AM	10:21PM	2:34PM
Feb 18	8:20AM	2:55AM	---	3:17PM
Feb 19	11:27PM	3:39AM	8:42AM	4:02PM

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Notice is hereby given of a spring primary election to be held in Lincoln County on February 18, 2025, at which the officers named below shall be chosen. The names of the candidates for each office, whose nominations have been certified to or filed in this office, are given under the title of the office, each in its proper column, together with the questions submitted to a vote, for a referendum, if any, in the sample ballot below.

Information to Voters

Upon entering the polling place and before being permitted to vote, a voter shall:

- state their name and address
- show an acceptable form of photo identification\*
- sign the poll book\*\*

\*If a voter does not have acceptable photo identification, the voter may obtain a free photo ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

\*\*If the voter is unable to sign the poll book due to disability, a poll worker may write the word “exempt.”

If a voter is not registered to vote, they may register to vote at the polling place serving their residence if the voter provides proof of residence.

Where ballots are distributed to voters, the initials of two inspectors must appear on the ballot.

Upon being permitted to vote, the voter shall enter a voting booth or go to a machine and cast their ballot. The vote should not be cast in any manner other than specified here. Sample ballots or other materials to assist the voter in marking their ballot may be taken into the booth and copied. The sample ballot shall not be shown to anyone so as to reveal how the ballot is marked.

A voter who is a parent or guardian may be accompanied by the voter's minor child or minor ward.

An election official may inform the voter of the proper manner for casting a vote but the official may not advise or indicate a particular voting choice.

Assistance for Voting

A voter may select an individual to assist in casting their vote if the voter declares to the presiding official that they are unable to read, have difficulty reading, writing, or understanding English, or that due to disability are unable to cast their ballot. The selected individual rendering assistance may not be the voter's employer or an agent of that employer or an officer or agent of a labor organization which represents the voter.

Using the DS200 Optical Scan Voting Machine

The voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which he or she intends to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall write in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote and fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to the write-in line. On referendum questions, the voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to “yes” if in favor of the question, or the voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to “no” if opposed to the question.

When using the **electronic ballot marking device “ExpressVote”**, to mark an **optical scan ballot**, the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which they intend to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall type in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote. On referendum questions, the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select “yes” if in favor of the question, or the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select “no” if opposed to the question.

Spoiled Ballots

If a voter spoils an **optical scan** ballot, they shall return it to an election official who shall issue another ballot in its place, but not more than three ballots shall be issued to any one voter. If the ballot has not been initialed by two inspectors or is defective in any other way, the voter shall return it to the election official, who shall issue a proper ballot in its place.

After Voting the Ballot

After an official **paper ballot** is marked, it shall be folded so the inside marks do not show, but so the printed endorsements and inspectors' initials on the outside do show. The voter shall deposit the voted ballot in the ballot box or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit and shall leave the polling place promptly.

After an official **optical scan ballot** is marked, it may be inserted in the security sleeve, so the marks do not show. The voter shall insert the ballot in the voting device and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. If a central count system is used, the voter shall insert the ballot in the ballot box and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. The voter shall leave the polling place promptly.

The following is a sample of the official ballot:

Lincoln County

State of Wisconsin

February 18, 2025

Official Primary Ballot  
Nonpartisan Office and Referendum  
February 18, 2025

Notice to Voters:

If you are voting on Election Day, your ballot must be initialed by two election inspectors. If you are voting absentee, your ballot must be initialed by the municipal clerk or deputy clerk. Your ballot may not be counted without initials. (see end of ballot for initials).

General Instructions

If you make a mistake on your ballot or have a question, ask an election inspector for help (absentee voters: contact your municipal clerk).

To vote for a name on the ballot, fill in the oval next to the name like this:

To vote for a name that is not on the ballot, write the name on the line marked "write-in" and fill in the oval next to the name like this:

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

State Superintendent Vote for 1

Jeff Wright

Brittany Kinser

Jill Underly

write-in:

Referendum

To vote in favor of a question, fill in the oval next to “Yes,” like this: ☐

To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to “No,” like this: ☐

School District

“Shall the School District of Tomahawk, Lincoln and Oneida Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$3,250,000 per year beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and ending with the 2028-2029 school year, for non-recurring purposes, including expenses to maintain current educational programming and ongoing facility maintenance needs?”

Yes

No

Official Primary Ballot  
Nonpartisan Office  
and Referendum  
February 18, 2025  
For  
Lincoln County  
All Primary Contests

Ballot issued by

Initials of election inspectors

Absentee ballot issued by

Initials of Municipal Clerk or Deputy Clerk

If issued by SVDs, both must initial

Certification of Voter Assistance

I certify that I marked or read aloud this ballot at the request and direction of a voter who is authorized under Wis. Stat. §6.82 to receive assistance.

Signature of assistor

For Official Use Only

Inspectors: Identify ballots required to be remade:

☐ Overvoted

☐ Damaged

☐ Other

If this is the Original Ballot, write the serial number here:

If this is the Duplicate Ballot, write the serial number here:

Initials of inspectors who remade ballot

WNAXLP

7700

Legals

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CIRCUIT COURT  
LINCOLN COUNTY  
Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust Plaintiff,  
v.  
Brian D. Jones, et al. Defendants.  
Case No. 2020CV000006  
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE  
By virtue of a judgment of foreclosure made in the above-entitled action on September 8, 2021 in the amount of \$184,873.35, I will sell at public auction, located at the main entrance of the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main Street, Merrill, WI 54452, on  
March 12, 2025  
At 10:00 AM, all of the following described premises, to wit:  
ALL THAT PORTION OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 34 NORTH OF RANGE 6 EAST LYING EAST AND NORTH OF HIGHWAY 51 RIGHT OF WAY, IN THE TOWN OF BRADLEY, LINCOLN COUNTY, WISCONSIN, EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PARCEL:  
A PARCEL OF LAND BEING A PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 34 NORTH, RANGE 6 EAST, OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, LINCOLN COUNTY, WISCONSIN, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT A BERNTSEN MONUMENT MARKING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 11, THENCE S. 00 DEGREES 51' 23" W. ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 11 A DISTANCE OF 2630.74' TO A BERNTSEN MONUMENT MARKING THE WEST QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 11, THENCE S 37 DEGREES 57' 12" E. A DISTANCE OF 1885.70' TO AN IRON PIPE ON THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STATE TRUNK HIGHWAY "107" AND THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, THENCE S. 65 DEGREES 50' 55" E. ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 133.28' TO AN IRON PIPE, THENCE LEAVING SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE ON A BEARING OF N 00 DEGREES 02' 34" E. A DISTANCE OF 60.63' TO AN IRON PIPE, THENCE N 02 DEGREES 35' 20" E. A DISTANCE OF 68.27' TO AN IRON PIPE, THENCE N 04 DEGREES 15' 27" E. A DISTANCE OF 102.91' TO AN IRON PIPE, THENCE N 04 DEGREES 13' 02" E A DISTANCE OF 259.27' TO AN IRON PIPE, THENCE N 02 DEGREES 07' 03" W A DISTANCE OF 178.81' TO AN IRON PIPE NEAR THE SOUTHERLY SHORE OF LACERTE LAKE, THENCE S 67 DEGREES 33' 05" W NEAR SAID SOUTHERLY LAKE SHORE A DISTANCE OF 135.58' TO IRON PIPE, THENCE LEAVING SAID SOUTHERLY LAKE SHORE A DISTANCE OF 135.58' TO AN IRON PIPE, THENCE LEAVING SAID SOUTHERLY LAKE SHORE ON A BEARING OF S. 01 DEGREES 59' 22" W A DISTANCE OF 562.74' TO AN IRON PIPE AND THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, TO INCLUDE ALL LANDS LYING BETWEEN THE ABOVE LAKE SHORE MEANDER AND A NORTHERLY EXTENSION OF THE LATERAL LINES TO LACERTE LAKE. EXCEPT HIGHWAYS. SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS, RIGHT-OF-WAYS AND RESERVATIONS OF RECORD. Street Address: N9018 County Road S, Tomahawk, WI 54487  
Tax Key No. 0043406113998  
THE PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD AS IS AND SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL REAL ESTATE TAXES, SUPERIOR LIENS OR OTHER LEGAL ENCUMBRANCES.  
TERMS OF SALE: CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK or CERTIFIED FUNDS, payable to the Clerk of the Courts (10% down payment at sale, balance due within ten (10) days of Court approval; down payment to be forfeited if payment not received timely). Buyer must comply with minimum bidder qualifications as set forth in Wis. Stat. § 846.155. Buyer to pay applicable Wisconsin Real Estate Transfer Tax in addition to the purchase price.  
Ken Schneider  
Sheriff of Lincoln County, Wisconsin  
Codilis, Moody & Circelli, P.C.  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
(414) 775-7700  
50-19-02088  
NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.  
Published February 12, 19, 26, 2025  
WNAXLP

7700

Legals

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CIRCUIT COURT  
LINCOLN COUNTY  
RIPCO CREDIT UNION  
121 Sutliff Avenue  
Rhineland, WI 54501  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
NICOLE A. JOSLIN A/K/A NICOLE JOSLIN  
602 S. Tomahawk Avenue  
Tomahawk, WI 54487  
Defendant.  
Case No. 24-CV-165  
Hon. Robert R. Russell, Br. 2  
SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION  
THE STATE OF WISCONSIN TO: Nicole A. Joslin a/k/a Nicole Joslin  
You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you.  
Within forty (40) days after February 5, 2025, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the Complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to:  
Lincoln County Clerk of Circuit Court,  
Lincoln County Courthouse  
1110 E. Main Street, Suite 200  
Merrill, WI 54452  
and to Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is:  
Weld Riley, S.C.  
500 Third Street, Suite 800  
P.O. Box 479  
Wausau, Wisconsin 54402-0479  
You may have an attorney help or represent you.  
If you do not demand a copy of the Complaint within forty (40) days, 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 in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.  
Dated 1/22/2025.  
WELD RILEY, S.C.  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
BY: /s/ JOHN A. CRAVENS  
State Bar #1001261  
PLEASE DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE, INQUIRIES AND PLEADINGS TO:  
Amy L. Unertl  
Weld Riley, S.C.  
500 Third Street, Suite 800  
P. O. Box 479  
Wausau, WI 54402-0479  
(715) 845-8234  
Published February 5, 12, 19, 2025  
WNAXLP

7700

Legals

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPOINT  
NICOLET COLLEGE  
DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that applications are being accepted for **four (4)** positions on the Nicolet College District Board from individuals residing within the Nicolet College District.

Appointments will be made in accordance with the Board Appointment Committee's Plan of Representation, which specifies categories of membership as well as geographic areas, gender, and minority representation within the district. Following is a list of openings:

ONE (1) EMPLOYER MEMBER  
ONE (1) EMPLOYEE MEMBER  
ONE (1) ADDITIONAL MEMBER  
\*ONE (1) INTERIM EMPLOYER MEMBER

\*The interim employer position will fulfill a term through **June 30, 2027**, and must reside in Vilas County.

All positions will commence on or about July 1, 2025, upon certification of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board. Positions will carry a three-year term expiring June 30, 2028.

An **EMPLOYER MEMBER**: is defined as someone with the authority to recommend any of the following: hire, transfer, suspend, discipline, lay-off, recall, adjust grievances, promote, discharge, assign, or reward. The exception is a person who acts in the capacity of an officer or agent of a labor organization, even though that person may have the power to hire, etc. At the time of their appointment, employers also must be actively engaged in business and employ others.

An **EMPLOYEE MEMBER**: is defined as a person who is employed but does not meet any of the criteria in the Employer category. The only exception to these criteria is that a person who acts in the capacity of an officer or agent of a labor organization is considered an Employee even though that person may have the power to hire, etc. as listed in the Employer section above.

An **ADDITIONAL MEMBER**: All residents of a technical college district are eligible to serve as an additional member of the college.

- At least one (1) of the positions must be a female
- At least two (2) of the positions must reside in Oneida or the portion of Langlade that is within the Nicolet College District.
- At least one (2) of the positions must reside in Vilas County or the portion of Iron County that is within the Nicolet College District

Board Member Category Definitions:

In the appointment process, equal consideration is given to the general population distribution within the Nicolet College District, as well as to the distribution of women and minorities.

**Note:** No two (2) members of the Nicolet College District Board may be officials of the same governmental unit, nor may any district board member be a member of the school board which employs the SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR MEMBER, which is currently Rhineland School District.

Please refer to the following Nicolet College website for an application and additional information, <https://www.nicoletcollege.edu/about/board-trustees/board-appointment-process>

Application forms must be received at the address below no later than **Monday, February 24, 2025, at 4 p.m.**; along with at least (2) letters of recommendation supporting his/her candidacy.

All applicants **MUST** participate in the public hearing of the District Board Appointment Committee on **Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 3 p.m.**

To accommodate any candidates unable to participate on this date and be interviewed, a second meeting and public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 3 p.m. If all candidates are able to appear at the first meeting, the second meeting will be canceled.

An affidavit (application) form and instructions may be obtained from, and submitted to:

Kris Peeters  
Nicolet College  
PO Box 518  
Rhineland, WI 54501  
Telephone: (715) 365-4416  
E-mail: [kpeeters@nicoletcollege.edu](mailto:kpeeters@nicoletcollege.edu)  
Published February 12, 2025

WNAXLP

444029



LEGALS

Notice To Creditors7735

STATE OF WISCONSIN,  
CIRCUIT COURT,  
LINCOLN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
Herbert F. Jach  
AKA Herb Jach

Notice to Creditors  
(Informal Administration)  
Case No. 2025IN09

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 5-5-1940 and date of death 11-11-2024, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of N11737 Hwy 17 S., Rhinelander, WI 54501

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 16, 2025.

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

BY THE COURT:  
DATE SIGNED: January 24, 2025  
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer  
Probate Registrar

Form completed by:  
Therese A. Jach  
721 N. Brown St.  
Rhinelander, WI 54501  
715-490-2225  
Published February 5, 12, 19, 2025  
WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN,  
CIRCUIT COURT,  
LINCOLN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
IAIN H. GAMMIE  
DOD: 09/20/2024

Notice to Creditors  
(Informal Administration)  
Case No. 25-IN-05

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 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.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 9, 2025.

5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office, 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, 2025  
WNAXLP

LOCATION AND HOURS OF  
LINCOLN COUNTY POLLING PLACES

At the Spring Primary to be held on February 18, 2025 in Lincoln County, the following are the designated polling places:

PRECINCT

Town of Birch

Town of Bradley

Town of Corning

Town of Harding

Town of Harrison

Town of King

Town of Merrill

Town of Pine River

Town of Rock Falls

Town of Russell

Town of Schley

Town of Scott

Town of Skanawan

Town of Somo

Town of Tomahawk

Town of Wilson

POLLING LOCATION

Birch Town Hall, W4762 County Rd H

Bradley Town Hall, 1518 West Mohawk Dr

Corning Town Hall, N1569 State Rd 64

Harding Town Hall, N3246 County Road E

Harrison Town Hall, N10095 County Road B

King Town Hall, W4450 County Road A

Merrill Town Hall, W4594 Progress Ave

Pine River Town Hall, N1647 Deer Run Ave

Rock Falls Town Hall, W5895 Rock Falls Dr

Russell Town Hall, N5335 Bradley Street

Schley Town Hall, W1696 County Rd C

Scott Town Hall, N563 Lake Rd

Skanawan Town Hall, N8506 County Road H

Somo Town Hall, N12070 Fire Station Rd

Tomahawk Town Hall, Inter. Hwy 86 & Hwy. O

Wilson Town Hall, N10802 County Road CC

CITY OF TOMAHAWK

District 1, Wards 1-2

District 2, Wards 3-4

District 3, Wards 4-5

CITY OF MERRILL

District 1, Ward 1

District 2, Ward 4

District 3, Wards 5, 14

District 4, Wards 7, 9

District 5, Wards 8, 10

District 6, Ward 11

District 7, Wards 6, 12, 13, 16

District 8, Wards 2, 3, 15

• Contact your municipal clerk if you have any questions concerning your polling place.

• All polling places will open 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m.

• All polling places are accessible to elderly and disabled voters.

Christopher J Marlowe, Lincoln County Clerk  
Published February 12, 2025  
WNAXLP

CLASSIFIEDS

Firewood7244

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

Sporting Goods7260

GUN SHOW: February 14-16, 2025, Sunnyview Expo, 500 E. Cty Rd Y, Oshkosh, WI. Fri 3-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-3pm. Admission: \$8 (14 & Under FREE) Buy/Sell/Trade 608-752-6677 www.bobandrocco.com.

WINNEBAGOLAND SPORTSMAN'S RUMMAGE SALE! Sat March 1st. 8am-2pm Adm: \$3 New & Used Sporting Items Fond Du Lac Fairgrounds 920-922-2373 (2/24)

Miscellaneous Merchandise7266

BASEMENT FULL! Antiques, Fishing Gear, Keys, Locks Misc. Neenah 920-720-3286 (2/10)

BASEMENT FULL! Antiques, Fishing Gear, Keys, Locks Misc. Neenah 920-720-3286 (2/10)

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

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-425-2108 today!

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

HOMEGROWN BEEF NO IMPLANTS! Half \$3.05lb Quarter \$3.10lb call 715-470-0458 (am2/10n)

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

Dogs7272

AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER MALE PUP! Has Slight Heart Murmur Doesn't Bother Him. Friendly \$395 715-223-8803 (2/10)s

AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS \$675! AKC YELLOW/BLACK LAB PUPS \$800! GOLDEN/LAB CROSS PUPS \$400! Call 715-671-3092 (#267331) 2/10

AKC PEMBROKE WELSH CORGI PUPS! Born Nov. 16. Vet Ck'd Lovable \$500. 715-644-8704 (2/10)s

AKC YELLOW /BLACK LAB PUPS \$800! AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS \$675! GOLDEN RETRIEVER/ LAB CROSS PUPS \$400! Call 715-671-3092 (#267331)2/10

BOSTON TERRIER PUPPIES Males/Females Health Guar. Ready Now \$600 715-937-0916 (02/10)

CAVAPOO PUPS \$500 Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver 715-255-2661 (#269146)2/10)sm

CAVAPOO PUPS. Shots, Dewes, Wormed Vet Ck'd Health Guaranteed \$500 Call 715-470-0458 No Text (#509642) 2/10 amnw

German Shepherd/lab puppies: Good temperament, 3/4 German shepherd, German shepherd characteristics. Ready to go. \$250. Please call 715-445-1636

LAB PUPS FOR SALE 2 Silver 8 Choc. Call 715-379-7861 (2/10)

MOYANDOODLE PUPS! \$700 Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver 715-255-2661 (#269146)2/10)sm

PUREBRED GOLDENRETRIEVER PUPPIES! Registered shots, dewormed \$300 OBO. 715-773-1867 Greenwood WI. (2/17)

REGISTERD CAVALIER KING CHARLES PUPS. Shots, Dewes, Vet Ck'd Ready NOW Can deliver \$700 Call 715-470-0458 (#509642) 2/10 amsm

YORKI POM PUPPIES! Playful, Socialized, Attractive, Very People Friendly, Shots Ready Feb 7th. Parents on site\$350. 715-229-2964 (2/10)

Dogs7272

YORKI POO & HAVAPOO PUPPIES! DEW, Vet Ck'd and Shots. Tri Color Chocolate 715-937-4425 (2/10)

YORKI PUP! 1-M Born Dec. 35 Ready 2/12 \$700 Cash 715-299-1988 (2/10)

Miscellaneous Pet7278

PAWS 2 THINK helps feed local pets in need for those having financial 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

Hay and Straw7288

Hay grass mix, no rain. 800# round bales Beef & bedding \$25/per bale Horse \$35/ 50# small squares, small animal quality Delivery available DHF Fremont, WI 920-878-0005 No messages

Agriculture Services7292

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

Lots and Acreage For Sale7466

CRANDON WI. 106 Acre Gravel Pit for sale 3.5mil. Can divide Pit Stumpage Available Volume Discounts. Also 10 Acre on town rd. Power Available Land Contract Available \$89,000 Call 715-493-6121 (2/25)

Motorcycles7502

BUYING SALVAGE MOTORCYCLES-ATVS-WATERCRAFT 920-850-9299 Local Dealer Pickup

NOTICE OF QUOTATIONS

The Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department will accept quotations on the following materials:

One (1) 95 inch wide by 67 inch high by 65 foot long (95" x 67" x 65'), galvanized steel arch culvert delivered to the installation site between July 1, 2025 and August 31, 2025 with the actual date and time to be determined by May 31, 2025.

Sealed quotations will be accepted until 3:00 p.m., Thursday, February 27, 2025. Quotations will be opened and read at 3:30 pm that day. Quotations will be prepared for consideration by the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee at the March 10, 2025 Forestry Committee meeting.

For further information and specifications, contact the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department, 801 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin. Phone (715) 539-1034.

The Committee reserves the right to reject any or all quotations and accept any quotation or portion thereof they deem most advantageous to Lincoln County.

Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee  
Published February 12, 2025  
WNAXLP

NOTICE OF QUOTATIONS

The Lincoln County Highway Department/Committee is seeking to contract with an individual or entity to perform the following pulverizing jobs, supply asphaltic material, and emulsion oil:

**Pulverizing the following roads:** 1.54 miles on CTH A from Hwy. 51 to CTH A North, 2.11 miles on CTH U from USH 8 to CTH A, 1.5 miles of CTH C from CTH JJ to CTH K, 1.48 on CTH E miles from Hwy. 86 south to the bridge going over the Spirit River and Town Roads, there may be LRIP/CHI Projects.

**Supply Asphaltic Material:** Purchase approximately 35,000 tons of asphaltic material (LT Mix, PG 58S-28 and MT Mix, PG 58S-34) for WisDOT, County Road and Town Road projects. Some of these projects are part of the LRIP, TRI, and CHI programs.

**Emulsion Oil:** Purchase an approximate total quantity of +/-65,000 gallons of Emulsion Oil including application, to be applied on various roadways within the County and any Towns that request Chip Sealing, which may include LRIP Projects.

Detailed specifications and instructions may be obtained from Jason Lemmer, Lincoln County Highway Commissioner (715.539.2554) at the Highway Department (100 Cooper Street, Merrill, WI 54452), or online at [www.co.lincoln.wi.us](http://www.co.lincoln.wi.us). Proposals must conform to the requirements of the specifications and instructions.

Proposals must be received by the Highway Department on or before 2:00 PM on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 and will be publicly opened at the Highway Department Office located at 100 Cooper Street, Merrill at 2:10, 2:15, and 2:20 PM that day.

Published February 5 & 12, 2025  
WNAXLP

Fishing Report: Deep ice should lead to good late-season, early spring action

BY GEORGE LANGLEY

NORTHERN WISCONSIN – We have been blessed with mostly normal winter weather lately, and this has resulted in some great ice conditions out there. It looks like we've got some typical cold for February coming this week.

Those going out will find 20 to 26 inches of ice on most bodies of water. People are driving out there with abandon – which is a very nice change from last year!

Walleye fishing is good for this time of year, with anglers still getting some fish in the late evenings using tip-ups, and the after-dark bit is still hot. Some of the lakes on the Chain have been productive for fish, especially in the holes and in deeper water. Thicker ice has meant that we can now get around better for those longer jaunts out to those better spots. On the larger lakes with more depth, daytime jigging with vertical jigs tipped with minnow heads is getting much better. Look for 20 to 35 feet of water in some relation to rock bars and drop-offs.

Northern fishing has also been good. Look for the panfish spots to produce the best northern fishing, generally in or near weeds. The greener the weeds, the better. As we have mentioned many times, a great way for an afternoon of fishing is to set up for the evening – tip-ups for northerns with large shiners and then one jigging pole, fishing for bluegills or perch.

Panfish action has been pretty good for everything, with both bluegills and perch in those weeds, and crappie fishing in deeper water. Waxies or red spikes work very well for both of these fish. Vertical jigging with waxies on small, flashy jigs, along with tip-downs tipped with small minnows, work well. Crappie fishing remains the favorite now, right up until the ice-out comes in April.

It's so nice to have a “normal” ice fishing year, and to be looking at what seems to be a normal weather pattern for this time of the year. Get out there and enjoy this ice and this weather. We've built it so deep that we're sure to have a great late-season coming for that panfish bite. With this in mind, we should have a fantastic early spring fishing season, too!

Good luck and good fishing!

USDA, DNR: Wolf depredates pet dog in Lincoln County

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOWN OF PINE RIVER – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) last week announced that a wolf depredated a pet dog in the Town of Pine River in Lincoln County.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services verified the depredation on Sunday, Feb. 2.

DNR said it encourages pet owners to monitor for wolf activity and exercise increased vigilance when pets are outside for extended periods of time, especially at night or during times of low visibility.

The DNR partners with the USDA Wildlife Services department to investigate reported conflicts with wolves.

Interactive maps, past reports and damage payment information are available on the DNR's website at [www.tinyurl.com/f89rsbw5](http://www.tinyurl.com/f89rsbw5).

Livestock producers who suspect a wolf or bear has depredated or is harassing livestock can contact USDA Wildlife Services at 1-800-228-1368 (northern Wisconsin) or 1-800-433-0663 (southern Wisconsin).

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# Middle school wrestling: Tomahawk competes in Crandon scramble

## FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

CRANDON – On Monday, Feb. 3, the Tomahawk Middle School wrestling team competed in an eight-

team scramble in Crandon. Also taking part were Crandon, John Muir Blue, MHLT, Rhinelander, Wabeno/Laona, Three Lakes

and Florence. No team scores were kept. The following Tomahawk wrestlers came away with at least one victory on the night: Brayden Nowak,

RJ Guzman, Brantley Budzynski, Dustin Dermer, Charlee Lund, Cooper McMeekin, Hector Luna Perez, Christian Hock, Adam Massa, Hallie

Pierce, Pryce Roberts, Layton Taves, Victoria Towle and Latrell Williams.

**This week’s action**  
The middle school

Hatchet grapplers were back in action on Tuesday, Feb. 11, for a conference scramble in Wisconsin Rapids.

140552

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF TOMAHAWK  
FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Referendum Election Details

At an election to be held in the School District of Tomahawk on February 18, 2025, the following proposed Revenue Limit Resolution of the School Board will be submitted to a vote of the people:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET TO EXCEED REVENUE LIMIT BY  
\$3,250,000 PER YEAR FOR FOUR YEARS FOR NON-RECURRING PURPOSES

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the School District of Tomahawk, Lincoln and Oneida Counties, Wisconsin that the revenues included in the School District budget be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$3,250,000 per year beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and ending with the 2028-2029 school year, for non-recurring purposes, including expenses to maintain current educational programming and ongoing facility maintenance needs.

Ballot Text

The question will appear on the ballot as follows:

“Shall the School District of Tomahawk, Lincoln and Oneida Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$3,250,000 per year beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and ending with the 2028-2029 school year, for non-recurring purposes, including expenses to maintain current educational programming and ongoing facility maintenance needs?”

Explanation

The referendum election ballot will ask District electors to vote “yes” or “no” on the referendum election question as set forth above.

A “yes” vote on the question is a vote to authorize the School District of Tomahawk budget to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$3,250,000 per year beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and ending with the 2028-2029 school year, for non-recurring purposes, including expenses to maintain current educational programming and ongoing facility maintenance needs.

A “no” vote on the question is a vote to deny the School District of Tomahawk the authority to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$3,250,000 per year beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and ending with the 2028-2029 school year, for non-recurring purposes, including expenses to maintain current educational programming and ongoing facility maintenance needs.

In the event a majority of the electors voting on the question vote “yes”, the District will be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$3,250,000 per year beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and ending with the 2028-2029 school year, for non-recurring purposes, including expenses to maintain current educational programming and ongoing facility maintenance needs; if a majority vote “no” on the question set forth above, the District will not be so authorized.

Location and Hours of Polling Places

Information as to the location of the polling places is available in the District Office at 1048 East King Road, Tomahawk, Wisconsin.

**All polling places will be open at 7:00 A.M. and will close at 8:00 P.M. All polling places are accessible to elderly and disabled voters.<sup>1</sup>**

If you have any questions concerning your polling place, contact the municipal clerk:

Town of Little Rice, Chris Sully 3737 County Rd Y, Tomahawk WI 54487 715-224-2591 Tuesdays 10am – 2pm	Town of Nokomis, Wendy Smith 2541 Lake Nokomis Road, Tomahawk, WI 54487 715-453-4801 Tues, Thurs. 4:30-7pm, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday 8-10am	Town of Skanawan, Loyetta Gitter N8506 County Rd H, Irma, WI 54442 715-966-2605 By appointment
Town of King, Georgene Linden W4450 County Rd. A, Tomahawk, WI 54487 715-908-0001 By appointment	Town of Rock Falls, Diane Chambers W5895 Rock Falls Dr., Irma, WI 54442 715-536-5039 By appointment	Town of Harrison, Kathy Voermans N10455 County Rd D, Tomahawk, WI 54487 715-453-3395 By appointment
Town of Bradley, Kari Kiser Box 325, Tomahawk WI 54487 715-453-3326 Monday 8am-4pm, Tues-Thurs 8am-12:30pm	Town of Wilson, Jane Kaczmarek PO Box 566, Tomahawk, WI 54487 715-453-6090 Tuesdays 8-12	Town of Birch, Megan Webb W4762 County Rd H, Irma, WI 54442 920-723-0673 By appointment
City of Tomahawk, Amanda Bartz PO Box 469, Tomahawk, WI 54487 715-453-4040 Monday – Friday, 8am-12pm, 1pm-5pm	Town of Tomahawk, Jesse Hoffman W8904 State Hwy 86, Tomahawk, WI 54487 715-254-4651 By appointment	

<sup>1</sup> THIS NOTICE MUST CONTAIN A STATEMENT ABOUT THE ACCESSIBILITY TO THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED FOR EACH POLLING PLACE. IF ANY POLLING PLACES ARE NOT ACCESSIBLE OR IN COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW, CONTACT THE ELECTIONS COMMISSION.

Notice of Meeting of the School District Board of Canvassers

By no later than 9 a.m. on the Tuesday after the election, the school district board of canvassers shall convene, pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 19.84, for the purpose of conducting the school district canvass pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 7.53(3). This meeting will be open to the public pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.81-89.

Information to Electors<sup>2</sup>

Upon entering the polling place and before being permitted to vote, an elector shall:

- state their name and address
- show an acceptable form of photo identification\*
- sign the poll book\*\*

**\*If an elector does not have acceptable photo identification, the elector may obtain a free photo ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.**

**\*\*If the elector is unable to sign the poll book due to disability, a poll worker may write the word “exempt.”**

If an elector is not registered to vote, they may register to vote at the polling place serving their residence if the elector provides proof of residence.

Where ballots are distributed to electors, the initials of two inspectors must appear on the ballot.<sup>3</sup>

Upon being permitted to vote, the elector shall enter a voting booth or go to a machine and cast their ballot. The vote should not be cast in any manner other than specified here. Sample ballots or other materials to assist the elector in marking their ballot may be taken into the booth and copied. The sample ballot shall not be shown to anyone so as to reveal how the ballot is marked.

An elector who is a parent or guardian may be accompanied by the elector’s minor child or minor ward.

An election official may inform the elector of the proper manner for casting a vote but the official may not advise or indicate a particular voting choice.

Assistance for Voting

An elector may select an individual to assist in casting their vote if the elector declares to the presiding official that they are unable to read, have difficulty reading, writing, or understanding English, or that due to disability are unable to cast their ballot. The selected individual rendering assistance may not be the elector’s employer or an agent of that employer or an officer or agent of a labor organization which represents the elector.

Where Paper Ballots are Used

On referendum questions, the elector shall make a mark (X) in the square next to “yes” if in favor of the question, or the elector shall make a mark (X) in the square next to “no” if opposed to the question.

Where Optical Scan Voting is Used

On referendum questions, the elector shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to “yes” if in favor of the question, or the elector shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to “no” if opposed to the question.

When using an *electronic ballot marking device* (“*Automark*,” “*ExpressVote*,” *Clear Access* or “*ImageCast Evolution-ICE*”) to mark an **optical scan ballot** on referendum questions, the elector shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select “yes” if in favor of the question, or the elector shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select “no” if opposed to the question.

Where Touch Screen Voting is Used

On referendum questions, the elector shall touch the screen at “yes” if in favor of the question, or the elector shall touch the screen at “no” if opposed to the question.

After Voting the Ballot

After an official **paper ballot** is marked, it shall be folded so the inside marks do not show, but so the printed endorsements and inspectors’ initials on the outside do show. The elector shall deposit the voted ballot in the ballot box or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit and shall leave the polling place promptly.

After an official **optical scan ballot** is marked, it shall be inserted in the security sleeve, so the marks do not show. The elector may insert the ballot in the voting device and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. If a central count system is used, the elector shall insert the ballot in the ballot box and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. The elector shall leave the polling place promptly.

After an official **touch screen ballot** is cast, the elector shall leave the polling place promptly.

Spoiling Ballots

If an elector spoils a **paper or optical scan** ballot, they shall return it to an election official who shall issue another ballot in its place, but not more than three ballots shall be issued to any one elector. If the ballot has not been initialed by two inspectors or is defective in any other way, the elector shall return it to the election official who shall issue a proper ballot in its place.<sup>4</sup>

The elector may spoil a **touch screen** ballot at the voting station before the ballot is cast.

The following is a sample of the official ballot:

Official Referendum Ballot  
February 18, 2025

Notice to Voters:

If you are voting on Election Day, your ballot must be initialed by two election inspectors. If you are voting absentee, your ballot must be initialed by the municipal clerk or deputy clerk. Your ballot may not be counted without initials. (See end of ballot for initials).

Instructions to Voters

If you make a mistake on your ballot or have a question, ask an election inspector for help. (Absentee voters: contact your municipal clerk).  
To vote in favor of a question, make an "X" or other mark in the square next to "Yes," like this: ☒  
To vote against a question, make an "X" or other mark in the square next to "No," like this: ☒

School District

Question: Shall the School District of Tomahawk, Lincoln and Oneida Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$3,250,000 per year beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and ending with the 2028-2029 school year, for non-recurring purposes, including expenses to maintain current educational programming and ongoing facility maintenance needs?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Persons with questions regarding the referendum election should contact Wendell Quesinberry, District Administrator.

Done in the School District of Tomahawk  
on February 12, 2025  
Deborah Velleux  
District Clerk



# Leader Sports & Nature



Pictured, from left, are Brayden Larson, Jack Amelse and Alli Palmer.  
Photos courtesy of Ryan Flynn



Alli Palmer and family



Brayden Larson and family

## Signing Day held for Palmer, Larson, Amelse

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – A Signing Day was held on Wednesday, Feb. 5 for three Tomahawk High School (THS) students who will be continuing their athletic careers at the next level.

Alli Palmer will be competing in cross country at UW-River Falls, Brayden Larson will be playing football at UW-Oshkosh and

Jack Amelse will be playing football at UW-Stevens Point.

The Tomahawk High School Activities Department in a release said it is “pleased share and congratulate three student-athletes from our senior class of 2025 on their commitments to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level.”

“We have had the pleasure

of watching each of you grow up within our community, represent our school on the playing fields and in competitions, and we cannot be more proud and happy for you on your future endeavors,” the department stated. “Congratulations and best of luck on your new journey. Once a Hatchet, always a Hatchet, as you continue into your next phase of life.”



Palmer and teammates



Larson, Amelse and teammates



Jack Amelse and family



Photo courtesy of Dane Borchardt

## Hatchet grapplers capture conference title in dominant fashion

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

MINOCQUA – The Tomahawk High School boys’ wrestling team delivered a dominant performance at the Great Northern Conference (GNC) Tournament at Lakeland High School on Saturday, Feb. 7, bringing home the conference title.

After an undefeated 5-0 season in conference dual meets, the Hatchets capped off their dominance by winning the tournament with an impressive 457 team points, well ahead of

second-place Mosinee (319) and third-place Medford (289).

Hudson Evans (165 lbs.), Blake Younker (190 lbs.) and Nathan Norman (215 lbs.) claimed individual conference championships.

In addition to their champions, nine other Tomahawk wrestlers earned All-Conference honors.

Second-place finishers were Tyler Waller (106), Jack Derleth (132), Walter Horabik (138), Zander Zehner (144), Fletcher Bauermann (150) and Miles Mc-

Gowan (157), while Zach Larson (120), Harmon Hoffman (126), and Ethan Gibeault (HWT) earned third place.

With 12 All-Conference wrestlers, the Hatchets showcased their depth, determination and teamwork throughout the tournament.

### This week’s action

The Tomahawk grapplers will now turn their attention to the Regional tournament in Hayward on Saturday, Feb. 15.

## TOMAHAWK SPORTS TRIVIA: WEEK 220

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@mmlocal.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 219 question: Who did the 1983 THS softball team defeat in the first round of Sectionals: Nekoosa, Cadott or Ellsworth?

Week 219 answer: The 1983 THS softball team defeated Cadott 7-4 in the first round of Sectionals. Cadott did not pitch their number one pitcher, Sally Peters. They were saving her for the second game. Tomahawk scored seven times in the first inning for the win. Tomahawk went into the game with a 10-6 record.

Congrats to Ann Zacharias for being the first to correctly answer last week’s question!

Week 220 question: Who did the 1983 THS softball team defeat in the Sectional finals: Nekoosa, Ellsworth or Unity?



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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.



# Girls' wrestling: Lady Hatchets compete in Eau Claire, Merrill

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

EAU CLAIRE – The Tomahawk High School girls' wrestling team recently competed in Eau Claire and Merrill.

## Eau Claire

The Lady Hatchet grapplers traveled to Eau Claire on Saturday, Feb. 1, to take part in a tournament.

The Tomahawk girls ultimately earned third place out of 28 teams. With 274 points, the Hatchets finished behind only Forest Lake, Minn., (374.5 points) and Apple Valley, Minn. (281.5 points).

This strong result was especially significant, as the Lady Hatchets avenged earlier losses this season to Merrill (269 points) and Eau Claire North (206 points), surpassing them in the final standings.

The team's success reflects their growth and resilience, as they continue to compete at a high level against top-tier teams. Individual achievements were spread across the roster, with several wrestlers earning notable placements.

Schertz, McGovern and Haring each finished 13th, while Cerkes, Roberts and Voermans took 9th. Gabrich placed seventh, Kraklow and Rosenmeier earned sixth, and Thompson and Long claimed fourth. Giebeault and Peissig also earned strong second-place finishes. Waring, Palmer and Molitor contributed with solid performances as well.

## Merrill

The Lady Hatchets deliv-



Alicia Voermans took ninth place in Eau Claire.



Cadence Thompson was among Tomahawk's first-place finishers in Merrill.



Molitor gets the pin in Merrill.

ered an impressive performance at the Merrill Invitational on Friday, Feb. 7.

The team finished in sec-

ond place with 249 points, narrowly behind the host team, Merrill, who took the top spot with 259 points.

Photos by Ella Peissig

The Lady Hatchets surpassed the number one-ranked Wausau West team, who finished with 239 points, marking a significant achievement for the squad.

This strong showing highlights the continued improvement and growth of the Lady Hatchets throughout the season.

The team had numerous standout performances at the tournament. Lydia Shaney finished in 11th place, while Abbey Carr and Reese Molitor took 10th. Camryn Kraklow secured 8th place, followed by Norah Mann, Grace Waring and Alicia Voermans, who all finished in seventh. Julia McGovern finished in sixth place, while Aubrey Tollefson earned fifth. Abbie Rosenmeier fought hard to take fourth place. Kaylee Roberts, with her continued improvement, finished third, while Elise Gibeault, Payton Haring and Kami Gabrich all earned second-place finishes.

Lady Hatchets who secured first-place finishes were Kylie Peissig, Cadence Thompson, and Gracie Long.

The Lady Hatchets strong performance is a direct result of their hard work, dedication, and coachability. With every meet, the team continues to improve in technique, endurance and strategy.

## This week's action

The Tomahawk girls' wrestlers will take part in the WIAA Regional at Wausau West High School on Friday, Feb. 14.



Both of Tomahawk's 400 free relays made the podium.

# Tomahawk swimmers take second place at GNC meet

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

RHINELANDER – The Tomahawk High School boys' swim team set 23 personal records at the Great Northern Conference (GNC) meet in Rhinelander on Friday, Feb. 7.

Rhinelanders set eight new conference records in their 463-point win. Tomahawk finished second with 235 points, while Shawano/Seymour (Div. I) rounded out the top three with 168 points.

All three Hatchet relays finished second, to secure silver medals. Members of those teams were Sam Zastrow, Jack Amelse, Zach Germano, Connor Germano, Dane DeKiep and Bruce Peetz.

Every single Tomahawk

swimmer had a personal best, with Zach Germano dropping four seconds in his second-place finish in the breaststroke.

Both of the Hatchets' 400 free relays made the podium, while the 200 medley relay just missed the school record by .41 seconds.

Coach Theresa L'Esperance noted that the boys are "planning on breaking that record next week."

Several new swimmers also contributed to the scoring. Nathan Rosenmeier showed his prowess in the 100 breaststroke, and Brock Fischer also reduced his 500 time significantly.

"Michael Lucas is new to swimming, and he revealed that swimming is quite fun," L'Esperance stated.



Pictured is Sam Zastrow swimming the fly in the medley. Photos courtesy of Theresa L'Esperance

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