



Photo courtesy of WIAA

State Champions

Tomahawk hockey team beats Amery Co-Op for program's first title

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

MIDDLETON, WIS. – The Tomahawk High School hockey team won the 2025 Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) Division 2 State Championship at Bob Suter's Legacy20 Arena in Middleton,

Wis., on Saturday, March 8. The number one-ranked Hatchets defeated no. 2-ranked Amery Co-Op by a score of 5-3 to claim the program's first State title. Tomahawk's Jett Riley found the net 42 seconds into the game, giving the Hatchets an early lead, but Amery responded with a pair of goals – one in the first period and one in the second – to take a 2-1 advantage. Jonah Dickens and Brayden Lamer each scored a goal before the end of the second period, putting the Hatchets back up 3-2. In the third period, Sawyer Hanna and Reilly each tacked on a goal, extending Tomahawk's lead to 5-2. Amery Co-Op

found the net one more time to make the score 5-3, but the Hatchets ultimately held on to earn the State title. Tomahawk goalie Trevor Seliskar had 22 saves on the day. After winning the championship, the Hatchet skaters returned home to a warm welcome, escorted through town by local emergency services units as fans gathered along the streets to cheer them on. "What a great day for Tomahawk hockey, our school district and our community," said coach Dewey Reilly after the game. "To make it to State two years in a row and bring back the championship this year is

unbelievable. The grit and resilience that this team showed throughout this year's schedule, and especially through the post-season, is nothing short of phenomenal. I could not be more proud of the team." Reilly said the championship is "the culmination of years of hard work and determination, with this specific goal in mind for this group." "This was a special group, and they played their way to a historic ending," Reilly stated. "Thank you to the players, the coaching staff, the parents and all those from the community that have shown their support."

Local fire departments highlight use of mutual aid system on Northwoods fire call

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

MINOCQUA – Several local fire departments shared information on how they worked together on a recent Northwoods fire call. When the Minocqua Fire and Rescue Department was dispatched to a large structure-related incident on the western side of their coverage area on Sunday, March 2, they requested assistance by utilizing the mutual aid box alarm system (MABAS), a mutual aid measure that may be used for deploying fire, rescue and emergency medical services personnel in a multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-agency response. As a result, the Nokomis Volunteer Fire Department was requested to relocate an engine and crew of four members to Minocqua Fire Station #1 to cover any other calls in the area while the Minocqua units were occupied. "We settled right in, checked out their map of water fill sites (just in case), and hung around until they came home," the Nokomis department said on their Facebook page. "While we were gone, the Little Rice Fire Department was on standby at their station in case there were any calls in the southwest part of the county, including Nokomis."

Members of Little Rice Fire Department also assisted on the scene of the Minocqua-area call, joining units from Woodruff, Lake Tomahawk, Lac du Flambeau, Pike Lake, Newbold, St. Germain, Hazelhurst and Arbor Vitae in response via MABAS. Oneida County Medics 4 and 5 also assisted at the scene.



Several Northwoods emergency services units, including the Nokomis and Little Rice fire departments, provided assistance with a recent Minocqua-area fire via MABAS.

Photo courtesy of the Little Rice Fire Department



"Red and orange apparatus, side by side, at the ready," the Nokomis Volunteer Fire Department observed.

Photo courtesy of the Nokomis Volunteer Fire Department

Preliminary hearing set for Tomahawk woman charged with husband's homicide

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR

TOMAHAWK – A court appearance has been scheduled for a Tomahawk woman charged with stabbing and killing her husband earlier this year. Court records show that Michelle Marie Sanderson, 43, is set to appear in Lincoln County Court for a preliminary hearing on Wednesday, April 16 at 10:30 a.m., during which, Judge Robert R. Russell will determine whether or not sufficient evidence exists for the case to proceed to trial. Sanderson is accused of stabbing her husband, Richard "Ricky" Sanderson, 50, in the upper chest/lower throat area with a steak knife in the kitchen of their Tomahawk home on Thursday, Jan. 9. She then allegedly transported the victim to Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. According to a crimi-



Sanderson
Photo courtesy of the Lincoln County Jail

nal complaint, Michelle Sanderson told authorities that she found Richard Sanderson outside already injured, but a third party claimed they witnessed the couple arguing before seeing the alleged stabbing occur. Sanderson is facing one felony count of first degree reckless homicide, one misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer and one misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct, each with a domestic abuse modifier.



Honor Guard meat raffle
A meat raffle held at Castaways Bar and Grill in Tomahawk last month raised a total of \$2,760.00 for the Tomahawk Area Veterans Honor Guard. Pictured are Trish Beatty of Castaways with Honor Guard members Terry Baldowsky and Bruce Pfingsten. **Photo courtesy of Tom Garrigan**

Rhinelanders program to explore conversation topics related to Alzheimer’s, dementia

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER
RHINELANDER – Next week, the Alzheimer’s Association will host a program designed to help family and friends of those diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and dementia become more comfortable with difficult topics.
The Dementia Conversations workshop will be held at the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Oneida County, 100 W. Keenan St., Rhineland, on Tuesday, March 18, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
A release from the Alzheimer’s Association said topics to be covered will include:
• Why it is important to talk to one’s doctor about concerns about changes to memory, thinking and behavior as soon as they are noticed.
• How to encourage someone who is reluctant to talk to their doctor about memory concerns to do so.
• Strategies for how to talk to someone when there are concerns about their ability to drive safely and to develop a plan for



Alzheimer’s
CONTINUES ON PAGE 6

‘EMPOWERMENT FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES’
Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation to hold summit in Tomahawk

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – The Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation (LCEDC) will hold its 2025 Economic Summit in Tomahawk next month.

Founded in 1999, LCEDC is an independent nonprofit organization that supports economic and community development in the Lincoln County.

“LCEDC is focused on driving economic growth that elevates local communities and enhances economic well-being across the region,” LCEDC’s website states, noting that the organization works closely with businesses, government entities, community organizations and other likeminded stakeholders to identify and implement strategies that promote economic vitality.

This year’s summit, themed “Economic Empowerment for Rural Communities,” will be held at Inshalla Country Club, N11060 Clear Lake Rd., Tomahawk, on Tuesday, April 8, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

“Designed to empower and strengthen rural businesses and communities, the summit offers attendees the opportunity to engage in either a full or half-day of economic insights and educational sessions,” a release from LCEDC said. “Participants will gain valuable knowledge on key economic issues that drive



business and community success.”

The event will kick off with a morning focus on economic updates.

LCEDC said attendees will “receive essential economic updates from local governments and economic partners,” followed by a “State of the Economy” presentation from John Koskinen, Chief Economist for the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

The morning will conclude with a keynote spotlight from Mike Ward, Vice President of Business and Community Development with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), who will share actionable strategies for rural business and community empowerment.

Lunch will be provided by local food trucks, allowing guests to support local businesses while networking with fellow attendees.

The afternoon session will focus on economic education, with three different breakout session tracks allowing attendees to tailor their learning experience.

The sessions include:

- Managing Your Business. Topics include workforce retention, business resources and legal foundations.

• Financing Your Business. Discussions on funding options, government contracts and securing capital.

• Marketing Your Business. Strategies for budget-friendly marketing, comparing different marketing methods and collaborating with marketing partners.

The closing presentation will focus on empowering economies through entrepreneurs.

LCEDC said the summit will conclude with “an insightful discussion led by experts from the UW-Madison Division of Extension, focusing on the critical role of entrepreneur-led businesses in rural economic success and how communities can support them effectively.”

Tickets and additional information are available at www.lincolncountyedc.org/event-details/2025-economic-summit. Early registration is encouraged.

Sponsorships are also available. View the event page or contact the LCEDC for more information.

“Don’t miss this engaging and informative event designed to drive economic growth and success in rural communities,” LCEDC stated.

For more information, contact Sara Guild, LCEDC Executive Director, at Director@lincolncountyedc.org or 715-390-0747.

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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.

LCVSO holding Tomahawk visits

Lincoln County Veterans Service Officer Matthew Pultz will be available at Tomahawk City Hall, 23 N. 2nd St., on 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.

Grace Lutheran blood drive

A blood drive, sponsored by the American Red Cross, will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 108 W. Somo Ave., Tomahawk, on Tuesday, March 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Appointments are recommended, but not necessary. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit www.redcrossblood.org. A photo ID or Red Cross ID is required. The Red Cross will provide free A1C testing on all successful blood donations during March, August and November to screen for prediabetes and diabetes.

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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.

VFW dance

A dance will be held at VFW Post 2687, 203 S. 4th St., Tomahawk, on Saturday, June 7 from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Gary Buchannon will be featured.

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. More than \$2,500.00 has been raised. The individuals involved with the fundraising effort thank those who have donated, as well as Park City Credit Union.

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Tomahawk Ambassadors Becky Jaecks, Jennifer Turkiewicz, and Deb Tomaszewski, along with Tomahawk Regional Chamber Director Charis Lau, recently welcomed LandVest to Tomahawk. Amanda Weyh, Jeff Olson and Jessica McAdams from LandVest gave the Ambassadors a tour of their Tomahawk office and explained all the services available.

Photo by Andy Tomaszewski

Tomahawk Ambassadors welcome LandVest to community

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – The Tomahawk Ambassadors recently toured the new Tomahawk office of LandVest, a Massachusetts-based company that enables their clients to make informed decisions about real estate.

A release from the Ambassadors said LandVest, founded in 1968, is one of New England’s longest-operating independent real estate firms, dedicated to marketing the most distinctive properties across New England and the Adirondacks.

The company is also the largest timberland broker in the United States.

Additionally, their team offers real estate appraisal and consulting, fiduciary real estate services, and forest management.

“Here in Tomahawk, five employees from LandVest’s team specialize in appraisal work,” the release stated. “This includes multi-parcel and highway improvement, eminent domain expert witness testimony, conservation easements, timberland and recreational land appraisals, as well as

GIS mapping and analysis. With over 100 years of combined experience, and the support of team members across the country, the Tomahawk team is well equipped to offer a wide range of services.”

LandVest’s Tomahawk office is located next to the Verizon office at 1621 N. 4th St.

“Check out their website, www.landvest.com, and reach out to the Tomahawk office to see how LandVest can guide you in making informed decisions about your land assets,” the release said.

Lincoln County Deputy Bradley Weeks recognized for efforts as Drug Recognition Evaluator

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

LINCOLN COUNTY – A Lincoln County Sheriff’s Deputy was recently recognized for his efforts as a Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE).

Deputy Bradley Weeks this month received a 2024 DRE Outstanding Performance Award from the Wisconsin Association of Chiefs of Police DRE Program after conducting a pair of “unusual drug influence evaluations” last year – one in August involving inhalants, and another in September with hallucinogens, the Sheriff’s Office said.

“The hallucinogen evaluation involved psilocybin mushrooms, which was rare, but the inhalant evaluation was remarkable,” the Sheriff’s Office stated.

According to the Sheriff’s Office, the inhalant evaluation involved a woman who had crashed her car, used nitrous oxide and was taken to a hospital. Weeks responded to the hospital, issued field sobriety tests and made the arrest before conducting a drug recognition evaluation.

“A blood sample was obtained and sent to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) for testing,” the Sheriff’s Office said. “The lab believed that the detection of nitrous oxide in the blood was not



Photo courtesy of the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office

possible for a routine traffic investigation because its half-life was only five minutes, and the blood wasn’t obtained until about an hour after its use.”

WSLH then contacted a lab in Pennsylvania and learned that the detection window may be longer than previously known. The lab also provided specific information regarding specimen collection, storage, testing intervals and timely testing, and nitrous oxide was ultimately detected in the blood sample.

“This case that Deputy Weeks investigated significantly added to what we know about nitrous oxide detection in the blood and provided valuable information to the scientific and law enforcement communities, as well as recommendations for collection, specimen handling and testing, which reflects great credit upon him, the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office and the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) program,” the Sheriff’s Office stated.

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF’S REPORT

As reported by the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office Monday, March 3:

On 2/25/2025 deputies were dispatched to an address in the N6500 block of 1st St. in the Town of Birch for an intoxicated female making a disturbance. It was reported that the female was throwing stuff around the garage and caused some damage. Deputies arrived on scene and detained the suspect, a Merrill woman, 21. Deputies spoke with the R/P, who indicated they did not want the suspect arrested for criminal damage to property. This was the third call within a short period of time involving the same subject and similar circumstances. The suspect was placed under arrest and later booked into the Lincoln County Jail for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

On 2/27/2025 a deputy was sent to the area of USH 51 and USH 8 for a reported car vs. deer crash with injuries. When the deputy arrived on scene, they spoke with the driver of the car, a Tomahawk man, 40. The driver stated he was N/B on USH 51 when a deer crashed through the window of the driver’s side door and struck the man in the shoulder. The driver was complaining of shoulder pain and was later transported by Tomahawk EMS to Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital.

On 03/1/2025 deputies were sent to an address in the N3200 block of STH 17 in the Town of Schley for a domestic disturbance where a father and son were fighting. It was reported to be a physical altercation where the son had punched his father in the face. Deputies arrived on scene and separated the two, including the father, a Merrill man, 49, and his son, 24, also from Merrill. It was

reported that the two men were drinking when the fight broke out, and the father received substantial injuries. The father refused medical treatment. The son was arrested and brought to the Lincoln County Jail, where he was booked for substantial battery with a domestic

enhancer.

Deputies conducted 32 traffic stops and 12 security checks. Deputies responded to two car vs. deer crashes.

Driving complaints: One.

The 911 Center took no hang-up calls and no nuisance calls.

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PUBLISHER
Patrick J. Wood
publisher@mmclocal.com

GENERAL MANAGER
Tim Schreiber
tschreiber@mmclocal.com

EDITOR
Jalen Maki
jmaki@mmclocal.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Jeff Schulz
jschulz@mmclocal.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE
Marie Towne

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Terri Moericke
circulation@mmclocal.com

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

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Letters to the Editor must include the writer's full name, address and other contact information (only name and town of residence will appear in print and online). We will not accept a letter from an unidentified source. Letters should be no more than 250 words and may appear in our weekly print issue. Letters may be edited by our staff for length, clarity and facts. Any or all stated facts must include a substantiating source. Letters appear as space allows. Editorial staff determines what content is published. There is no guarantee of publication. The Tomahawk Leader will only print letters that address a specific issue or article that may be of interest to the bulk of our readers. Letters can be submitted to leadernews@mmclocal.com or Tomahawk Leader, 24 W. Rives St., Rhinelander, Wis., 54501. We will not print letters that:

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Northwoods Boy Scouts hold District Summit at TMS

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – Scouting America’s Samoset Council held their 2nd annual Northwoods District Summit at Tomahawk Middle School (TMS) on Saturday, March 1.

More than 40 Scouts and 30 adults from Tomahawk, Merrill, Wausau, Antigo, Rhinelander, Hurley, Phillips, Boulder Junction and Ironwood, Mich., were in attendance.

Events for the day commenced with scouts completing swimming requirements for upcoming summer camp.

Stations for Cub Scout Hour included beekeeping and honey, scout games and six essentials for day hikes.

Adults also had training opportunities, focused on campfire programs and supporting Scouts on their path to Eagle Rank.

Scouts had the chance to earn Coin Collecting, Communications, and Photography badges.

The Cub Scout District Pinewood Derby was also included in the day’s events. The top three Northwoods District racers were Ben Schultz, Jonah Raith and Theo Heier.

Best gas mileage car was registered to Luca Kaehne.

Kid-voted car awards were presented to Jonah



Photos courtesy of Christina Schultz

Raith (Best Paint Job), Hayden Barney (Most Original), Nathan Schultz (Most Patriotic) and Theo Heier (Best Scout Theme).

VFW Post 2687 representatives voted for the Best in Show Car, which was awarded to Jax Noske for his tiger car. VFW representatives presented the Best in Show Car and Fastest Car with a Challenge Coin.

Adult leader awards from around the district were announced. Local Troop and Pack leaders receiving recognition included Forrest VanAs-

ten, Northwoods District Award of Merit; Maya Sigl, Firestarter; Jeremy Wendorf, Committee Chair of the Year; James Schultz, Scouter of the Year; Laura Heier, Den Leader of the Year; and Christina Schultz, Scouting Champion.

The day concluded with dessert: a 40-foot banana split, built in a rain gutter.

“Special thanks to TMS, TMS janitorial staff, Trig’s, Kwik Trip, Samoset Council and the VFW for supporting this event,” Schultz said.



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Eight Tomahawk musicians qualify for State Music Festival

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

EAGLE RIVER – On Saturday, March 1, Tomahawk High School (THS) musicians traveled to Northland Pines High School for a Solo and Ensemble Festival.

THS students performed in 25 events.

In Class B, Toby Scott and Brock Fischer earned a bronze medal on their brass duet; Jozlyn Bills and Cheyenne Sakowicz took a Silver on their flute-clarinet duet; and gold medals were earned by LJ Plantenberg and Elliot O'Connor on a saxophone duet and by Dixie

Foster on a trumpet solo.

In Class A, silver medals were earned by Sarah Kallerud, clarinet solo; Elliot O'Connor, jazz improv solo; Tamara Stenberg, xylophone solo; Greta Kurth, musical theater; Julia McGovern, vocal solo; Sadie Ruder and Greta Kurth, vocal duet; the tenor-bass ensemble of LJ Plantenberg, Elliot O'Connor, Galen Schmidt, Finn Colburn, Dominic Boos and Damian Ramirez; and the soprano-alto ensemble of Aliyah Nelson, Kaylee Roberts, Julia Fries, Emma Schiltz, Kami Gabrich, Madeline



Pictured, back row, from left: Naomi Nelson, Julia Fries, Maddie Long, Elliot O'Connor, Finn Colburn, Galen Schmidt, Damian Ramirez; row two: Kami Gabrich, Aliyah Nelson, Sadie Ruder, Ayla Lewison, Phoebe Hrdina, Dominic Boos; row three: Brock Fischer, Toby Scott, Jozlyn Bills, Cheyenne Sakowicz, Kaylee Roberts, Landon Plantenberg, Scarlet McKenzie; front: Tamara Stenberg, Ryu Fuszard, Dorian Stefan, Audrey Sneed, Greta Kurth, Cedar Hoffman, Dixie Foster, Ella Hilgendorf. Not Pictured: Julia McGovern, Audrey Graber, Sarah Kallerud, Emma Schiltz.

Photo by Corey Colburn

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Melvin Companies, a well-established gravel, excavation and underground utilities company in Abbotsford and Medford for 93 years, is hiring an Operations Manager to join our team. This “hands on” position involves diverse tasks such as job coordination, ensuring safety standards are met, managing regulatory compliance, handling sales, overseeing employment recruitment and training.

The ideal candidate will have supervisory experience, preferably in the underground utilities, gravel and excavation sectors. With a 90-mile work radius, this position offers a significant perk — the chance to be home almost every night.

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Please send resume to the address below or submit it through our website melvincompanies.com



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All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex or national origin

449207

Long and Phoebe Hrdina. Gold medals were earned by Scarlet McKenzie, saxophone solo; Kaylee Roberts, vocal solo, Ayla Lewison, vocal solo; Dorian Stefan, vocal solo; and the soprano-alto ensemble of Ryu Fuszard, Greta Kurth, Ella Hilgendorf, Cedar Hoffman, Dorian Stefan, Ayla Lewison, Audrey

Sneed, Naomi Nelson, Sadie Ruder, Aubrey Graeber and Julia McGovern.

Finally, eight Tomahawk musicians earned gold medals and will also advance to State. Five of the events were for art song vocal solos performed by Cedar Hoffman, Ella Hilgendorf, Sadie Ruder, Greta Kurth

and Galen Schmidt. Additionally, Ella Hilgendorf qualified on her musical theater performance, and the duos of Julia Fries and Madeline Long and Scarlet McKenzie and Ella Hilgendorf each qualified with their vocal duets.

The State Music Festival will be held on Saturday, May 3 at UW-Stevens Point.

ALZHEIMER'S FROM PAGE 2

when “retiring” from driving becomes necessary.

- The importance of

making legal and financial plans for the future.

- The necessity of planning ahead, learning about community resources and

developing a supportive care team.

“Alzheimer’s disease affects nearly seven million people in the United States,” the Alzheimer’s Association stated in a release. “It is the most common form of dementia and causes memory, thinking and behavior problems that interfere with daily living. However, the earliest signs are often dismissed as part ‘getting older,’ and the conversation with family and friends about those changes can be challenging and uncomfortable.”

Registration for the program is requested.

To register, contact Julie St. Pierre at 715-352-4091 or jstpierre@alz.org; call the Alzheimer’s Association 24/7 Helpline at 1-800-272-3900; or visit www.bit.ly/DCONVORHI.

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1B2046



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To apply or for more information please contact Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

449248

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Long-Term Care Administrator's Week

As we celebrate Long-Term Care Administrator's Week in March, I want to honor the invaluable partnership between home health agencies and long-term care facilities. Together, we strive to ensure that residents receive consistent, quality care that promotes their well-being and respects their individual needs.

Long-term care administrators are at the heart of this collaboration, tirelessly managing their facilities to create safe, comfortable environments for residents. Their role requires both skill and

compassion as they oversee daily operations, support their teams and ensure the best care possible for each resident. Working alongside these dedicated administrators, home health agencies bring additional expertise and specialized services to residents, helping them maintain independence, manage chronic conditions and enjoy a higher quality of life.

This partnership enhances residents' care by providing a continuity of services, whether it's skilled nursing, physical therapy or personal care. It also gives families peace of mind, knowing their loved

ones are receiving the best possible support in every aspect of their health. Let's take this week to celebrate and thank long-term care administrators for their dedication and their partnership with home health agencies, which together help create a supportive, compassionate environment for our community's most vulnerable individuals. Sincerely,

Amy Nowak
Hospice Administrator, Compassus
Rhineland
Arbor Vitae

Park City Credit Union awarded five-star rating by BauerFinancial

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

MERRILL – Park City Credit Union (PCCU) recently announced that it has been awarded a five-star rating from BauerFinancial, a leading independent financial rating agency since 1983.

A release from PCCU said a five-star rating is “classified as Superior, indicating exceptional financial strength and security.”



“BauerFinancial's ratings are based on several factors, including capital ratios, asset quality and overall financial stability,” PCCU stated. “A five-star rating signifies that Park City Credit Union is well-capitalized and operating with strong financial

health, providing members with confidence in the security and reliability of their financial institution.”

“We are honored to receive this five-star rating from BauerFinancial,” said Val Mindak, PCCU President/CEO. “This recognition reflects our ongoing commitment to financial strength, responsible management, and, most importantly, serving our members with the security and

trust they deserve.”

PCCU said it “remains dedicated to helping members achieve their financial goals while maintaining the highest standards of stability and service.”

Park City Credit Union has locations in Tomahawk, Merrill, Minocqua and Rhineland.

For more information about PCCU, visit www.parkcitycu.org.

Trig's receives Creative Choice Award at NGA show in Las Vegas

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

LAS VEGAS, NEV. – The National Grocers Association (NGA), the trade association representing the independent supermarket industry, last week revealed the winners of its annual Creative Choice Awards.

Among the award recipients is Trig's, which operates five grocery stores in northern Wisconsin, including one in Tomahawk.

A release from Trig's said the award “recognizes outstanding marketing and merchandising programs

from independent grocery retailers across the country.”

“Recipients of the Creative Choice Awards gain respect throughout the industry and receive national recognition at the NGA Show,” Trig's stated.

The NGA Show was recently held in Las Vegas, Nev.

“Judged by a panel of industry experts and trade press members, the contest features various categories where the judges determine category winners based on creativity, clarity, innova-

tion and effectiveness of each entry,” Trig's said.

Trig's event submission, dubbed “We've Got Crab Claws” and featuring Frenchy's Stone Crab Claws, received first place in the Local, Specialty or Emerging Products and Fresh Meat/Seafood categories.

“The Creative Choice Awards showcase the incredible innovation and ingenuity of independent grocers,” said Bob Jaskolski,

President and CEO of T.A. Solberg Company Inc. “We have a very creative team of that rises to the task of delivering that innovation and showcasing new products for our guests. Our history of Creative Choice Awards is evident of Trig's commitment to our communities.”

Trig's has been awarded NGA Creative Choice Awards in 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2024 and 2025.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Human Body Design

Dear Reader,

When we stop to think about the design of the human body, we might find ourselves wondering if it could have been crafted more efficiently. Consider the everyday processes of hydration and nutrition: why must we spend so much of our lives urinating or expelling waste from our bodies? Couldn't we have been designed to hydrate through the skin, or metabolize food directly into energy without the need for waste?

It's a curious thought experiment—imagining a body that functions without the need to “offload” its excesses, freeing us from the sometimes inconvenient realities of biological maintenance. Wouldn't it be wonderful to live unencumbered by these daily rituals, focusing solely on the higher pursuits of life?

Yet, when we reflect more deeply, we realize that the human body as it is designed is nothing short of miraculous. It's a complex, harmonious system where countless processes—digestion, circulation, respiration—work in synchrony to sustain us. These so-called inefficiencies might actually be part of the greater design, teaching us humility and grounding us in the rhythms of life. They remind us of our interconnectedness with nature and the delicate balance we inhabit.

Could there have been a “better” design? Perhaps. But then, would we be the same creatures we are now—resilient, adaptable, and marvelously imperfect? Perhaps the true genius of the human design lies not in its flawlessness, but in its resilience and ability to grow through imperfection.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

Author of “Reflections” a new book now available on Amazon.



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www.cnaads.com *Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018

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March 15, 2025
10:00 AM**

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Antigo, WI 1440 Saratoga St.
Saturday, April 5th, (10AM) (Showings by appointment)

This well maintained 2 bedroom home with newly remodeled kitchen, features a walk in pantry, like new appliances, main floor laundry, near new furnace & hot water heater, plus a full basement. Enjoy a 3 season porch and a large deck. Also included is a 4-stall garage for storing all of those toys. Property is nestled on 1.47 +/- acres & property is located near Saratoga Park.

Terms: Terms: 10 % down payment (non-refundable) added to winning bid & to be paid day of auction. Closing in 45 days or upon paper completion. Bidders must request bid form by calling St. Louis Auctions LLC. 715-367-1668. (6728 Whitefish Lk. Rd., Three Lakes, WI 54562). **R.W.A.'s:** Col. Rene' Brass #424, Col. Robert St. Louis #450.

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NEW LISTING: 109 N CALIFORNIA ST, Merrill: Are you looking city lot with your next home? Well, here it is. 100x142 lot is great for this 4-bedroom home with office, main floor laundry, and deck out back. The 2-car garage is attached, and there is a nice sized storage shed in the back yard. **\$124,900**

REDUCED: 1009 E Main St, Merrill: Great City of Merrill Commercial Spot in the heart of Merrill. Located on Merrill's Main Street, just west of the courthouse. There are so many possibilities for this one. Formerly a dance studio, this could be great for retail or office space. Upstairs was also used in part of the dance studio but could be made back into an apartment or living space. The basement also has usable space along with tons of storage. There is a back entrance garage space, public parking lot in back and adequate street parking in front. **\$114,900**

NEW LISTING: 27 Acres Cty Rd G Merrill: Just a nice piece of land! Approximate 27 acres per Lincoln County Tax bill. The front half is field, and the back half is wooded. Great place for hunting or build on. Adjoining home and adjoining 40 acres also listed. **\$89,000**

NEW LISTING: 40 Acres Sunrise Rd Merrill: 40 acres, wooded just a few minutes east of Merrill. A great place to hunt, build or go for a hike. Adjoining home on 29 Acres and additional 27 acres also available. **\$109,900**

| FISHING TIMES | | | | |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Date (CDT) | Morning | | Evening | |
| | Minor | Major | Minor | Major |
| Mar 12 | 5:05AM | 9:51AM | 3:48PM | --- |
| Mar 13 | 5:22AM | 10:32AM | 4:54PM | --- |
| Mar 14 | 5:37AM | 10:52PM | 6:00PM | 11:12AM |
| Mar 15 | 5:52AM | 11:32PM | 7:04PM | 11:51AM |
| Mar 16 | 6:08AM | 12:11AM | 8:09PM | 12:31PM |
| Mar 17 | 6:25AM | 12:52AM | 9:15PM | 1:13PM |
| Mar 18 | 6:45AM | 1:34AM | --- | 1:57PM |
| Mar 19 | 7:10AM | 2:20AM | --- | 2:44PM |

Solunar fishing chart for Tomahawk. Major feeding periods last two hours and minors run one hour. New Moon - March 29.

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**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
MARATHON COUNTY**

Plaintiff(s):
Recovery Exchange, LLC
485 Cayuga Rd
Cheektowaga NY 14225
-vs-
Defendant(s):
ERIC SCHMALFUS
212 PIER ST. APT 1
MERRILL WI 54452-2470

**Publication Summons and Notice
(Small Claims)**
Case No. 2205SC000236
If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-261-1000 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

**Publication Summons and
Notice of Filing
TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE
AS DEFENDANT(S):**
You are being sued by the person(s) names above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following small claims court: MARATHON County Courthouse Telephone Number of clerk of court: 715-261-1000 Address: 500 Forest Street, Wausau, WI 54403 on the following date and time: Date: 03/26/2025 Time: 10:00 a.m.

If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property. You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court **before** the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) names above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in the county.

Plaintiff/Attorney:
Electronically Signed by
MEGHAN P. MACKELLY
3/3/2025
Law Firm and Address:
Dobberstein Law Firm, LLC
225 S. Executive Dr. Suite 201
Brookfield, WI 53005
Plaintiff's/Attorney's Telephone Number:
262-641-3715
Attorney's State Bar Number:
1037746
Published March 12, 2025 WNAIXLP

Name Change7730

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
LINCOLN COUNTY**

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
Riley West Olson-Sliwinski
By (Petitioner) Riley West Olson-Sliwinski

**Notice and Order for
Name Change Hearing**
Case No. 25CV18

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: [First] Riley
[Middle] West
[Last] Olson-Sliwinski
To: [First] Riley
[Middle] West
[Last] Sliwinski
Birth Certificate: [First] Riley
[Middle] West
[Last] Olson-Sliwinski

IT IS ORDERED:
This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin:
Judge's Name: Hon. Galen Bayne-Allison
Place: Lincoln County Courthouse- BR 1 Courtroom
1110 E. Main St., Merrill, WI 54452
Date: 03-31-2025
Time: 10:30am
If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0319 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: 02/19/2025
/s/ Hon. Galen Bayne-Allison
Circuit Court Judge, BR 1
Published March 5, 12, 19, 2025 WNAIXLP

Notice To Creditors7735

**STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT,
LINCOLN COUNTY**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RICHARD PAUL THUSIUS

**Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)**
Case No. 2025IN17

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 1-12-1939 and date of death 1-31-2025, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of N11445 County Road A, Unit 19, Tomahawk, WI 54487.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is June 20, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: March 4, 2025
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar
Form completed by:
Dennis Thusius
N9994 Deer Path Lane
Tomahawk, WI 54487
262-227-9261
Published March 12, 19, 26, 2025 WNAIXLP

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements7005

IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY and suffered an infection between 2020 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727

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THS students take part in Nicolet College Competition Day

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

RHINELANDER – Tomahawk High School (THS) students earlier this month took part in Nicolet College's High School Competition Day.

As part of the competition, high schoolers from around the Northwoods go head-to-head in a variety of subjects, demonstrating their skills while networking and meeting peers and professionals in the content area they participated in.

THS students who placed are as follows:

Automotive Competition: Fletcher Baumann, Electrical Top Score.

Cosmetology, Beauty Behind the Madness: Makayla Schiltz, 1st; Lauren Hansmann, 2nd.

Electro/Industrial Mechanical Technology, Robot Pick and Place Competition: Nathan Fisher and Jax Loka, 2nd.

Fire and Emergency Services, Public Safety Challenge: Montgomery Oelke, Connor VanderWyst, Anita Ziert, Lydia Ziert, 3rd.

Health Occupations: Mind and Body Challenge:



Kinsley Lange, Ella Peissig, Kylie Peissig, Alicia Voermans, 3rd.

Information Technology, Build a Website: Apollo Davis, Johnathan Feltes, Elias Repinski, Damian Ramier-Gonzales, 1st.

University Transfer Liberal Arts, Flash Fiction: Kael Oates, 1st.

University Transfer Liberal Arts, Physics and Engineering STEM Bridge Design Challenge: Kashton Brigham and Hailey Marheine, 1st.

University Transfer Liberal Arts, Social Problem

Shark Tank (Sociology): Jonah Dickens, Brayden Lamer, Colton Sesler, 1st.

University Transfer Liberal Arts, Still Life Drawing Competition: Leni-Mareike Lange, Value Characteristic Top Score.

Welding Technician, Welding Competition Finals (78 total participants): Nathan Kurth, 1st, individual; Trevor Schumann, 17th, individual; Nathan Kurth, Trevor Schumann, Team Weld, 2nd; Nathan Kurth, Trevor Schumann, 2nd, Interview/Job Raffle.



Photos courtesy of Brian Schiltz

Tiffany's office accepting submissions for Congressional Art Competition

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – U.S. Representative Tom Tiffany (R-Wisconsin) last week announced that his district office is accepting submissions for the 2025 Congressional Art Competition.

All students in Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District in grades 7 through 12 are invited to participate.

A release from Tiffany's office said entries must demonstrate a Wisconsin theme.

The winning student from the 7th District will



Tiffany

have their piece hung in the United States Capitol Building for one year and will be

able to attend a congressional reception in Washington, D.C. Other winners of the competition will have their artwork displayed in Tiffany's Wausau and D.C. offices.

Submissions must be mailed or hand-delivered to Tiffany's Wausau office, 2620 Stewart Ave., Suite 312, Wausau, Wis., 54401, by Friday, April 18 at 5 p.m.

Each entry must be original in concept, design and execution and may not violate U.S. copyright laws.

"The Congressional Art

Competition is a great opportunity for young artists in northern and western Wisconsin to have their own work displayed in the U.S. Capitol," Tiffany stated. "I am looking forward to seeing how each student presents Wisconsin through their submission."

For more information on competition guidelines, visit www.tiffany.house.gov/congressionalartcompetition or contact Maggie Cronin at 715-298-9344 or maggie.cronin@mail.house.gov.

Leader Sports & Nature



Middle school wrestling awards ceremony
The Tomahawk Middle School wrestling team held the their pizza party and awards presentation on Tuesday, March 4. The following TMS wrestlers were award winners for the 2025 season: Layton Taves, MVP, 6th Grade; RJ Guzman, MVP, 7th Grade; Charlee Lund, MVP, 8th Grade; Spencer Baumann, Most Takedowns, 6th Grade (11); Hallie Pierce, Most Takedowns, 7th Grade, (21); DJ Dermer, Most Takedowns, 8th Grade (19); Hallie Pierce, Most Pins Overall (10); Victoria Towle, Don Hendrick Award; Lexi Palmer, Most Improved Wrestler; Layton Taves, Perfect Attendance. Not pictured: Lexi Palmer. **Photo courtesy of David Bellile**

DNR accepting artwork for 2026 stamp contests

COURTESY OF THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WISCONSIN – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is now accepting artwork entries for the Wild Turkey, Pheasant and Waterfowl Stamp Design Contests.
The winning designs will appear on the 2026 collection of stamps.
Each year, local artists from around Wisconsin compete for an opportunity to showcase their talents, commemorate their work and promote wildlife conservation across the state.
The winners of the 2025 contests were Robert Leum of Holmen, Wild Turkey and Pheasant; and Jon Rickaby of Suamico, Waterfowl.
Hunters are required to purchase a species-specific



The DNR is now accepting artwork entries for the 2026 Wild Turkey, Pheasant and Waterfowl Stamp Design Contests. Jon Rickaby created the winning 2025 waterfowl stamp.
Photo courtesy of Jon Rickaby/Wisconsin DNR
stamp to legally harvest any of these game birds in Wisconsin. The sales of these three stamps generate hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for species management throughout the state, including habitat management, restoration, education and research projects.
Stamp design entries must be received or postmarked by Friday, Aug. 1. Judging will take place on Saturday, Aug. 23 at the

Waterfowl Hunters Expo in Oshkosh.
All stamp contest applicants should review the contest rules carefully to ensure the eligibility of their entries. Artwork must meet technical requirements to be properly processed and prepared for judging and display.
Rules, entry information and reproduction rights agreements are available on the DNR's Wildlife Stamp Funding and Stamp Design Contest webpage at www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/stamps.
Stamp contest applicants are strongly encouraged to obtain insurance for their artwork if shipped and to confirm the delivery of their submission directly with the stamp contest coordinator.

Applications for 2025 elk hunt now open

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER
WISCONSIN – The application period for the 2025 elk hunt is now open.
The application period opened on Saturday, March 1 and will continue through Saturday, May 31.
In a release, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said this year, there will be increased opportunity within the Black River Elk Range, as both antlered and antlerless harvest authorizations will be available through the state licensing process.
Applicants are required to select a zone when applying (the Black River Elk Range or Clam Lake Elk Range). This year's elk quota for the Black River Elk Range will be four antlered elk and five antlerless elk. The Clam Lake Elk Range quota will be eight antlered elk, with 50% available to



Ojibwe hunters.
For individuals who select Black River Elk Range during the application process, the first four randomly drawn applicants will receive an antlered harvest authorization. The next five applicants drawn will have the option to accept an antlerless authorization. If the applicant declines an antlerless authorization, another applicant will be drawn as a replacement until the five antlerless harvest authorizations are accepted. Any applicant who declines an antlerless authorization may still apply in the future.
“As a reminder, only Wisconsin residents can be issued an elk license, and only one authorization can be issued (regardless of sex) per person in their lifetime,” DNR stated.
Winners will be notified by early June.

Fishing Report: Last stretch of winter action

BY GEORGE LANGLEY
NORTHERN WISCONSIN – With game fishing season officially wrapped up, the focus remains on panfish, and there's still plenty of great ice fishing left!
Despite some warmer temperatures creeping in, the ice base is holding strong at 20 to 28-plus inches across the area. Conditions are still safe for now, but it's always important to check shoreline ice and areas with current. As we move deeper into March, an auger extension is still useful, but we're starting to see some changes with the warming trend.
Crappies continue to be found along the weed edges in six to nine feet of water. The bite has been best during late afternoon and evening, with small vertical jigs tipped with waxies or crappie minnows producing solid numbers. If you can find a good school, you can have a very productive outing.
Bluegill action remains steady, with fish suspending a bit deeper. A 32nd oz. jig tipped with waxies or red spikes is the go-to presentation. Lighter lines and subtle movements are key to triggering bites, as fish can get a bit finicky this time of year.
The perch bite is improving as they continue to hang out deeper, favoring the deep mud flats. If you're looking for larger perch, using crappie minnows, or rosy reds will help weed out the smaller ones. The bite is a little inconsistent, but when they turn on, they're hitting hard.
The weather forecast suggests we've got some pretty warm days and nights coming, with some chances of rain and snow in the mix, too. While morning ice remains firm, expect slush in the afternoons, particularly in areas that see a lot of sun exposure. Things are pretty sloppy out there now, with all the snow we got last week.
Ice fishing is still going strong, but with spring approaching, it's important to be mindful of changing conditions. The next couple of weeks should provide some great late-season panfish action if we can get past the sloppy days. Now's the time to enjoy the last stretch of winter fishing before we start dreaming of open water.
Good luck and good fishin'!

TOMAHAWK SPORTS TRIVIA: WEEK 224

The Tomahawk Leader will feature one local sports trivia question per week, provided by the late Bob Skubal, coach, historian, and author of “History of Tomahawk Sports.” Email leadernews@mmclocal.com if you know the answer!

The first person to tell us the correct answer each week will have their name published in the paper if they wish, along with their correct answer to the question.

Week 223 question: Who was the 1983 Lumberjack Conference Player of the Year: Tina Bellile, Leslie DeBels or Stephanie Teal?

Week 223 answer: The 1983 Lumberjack Conference Player of the Year was Stephanie Teal.

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

Week 224 question: The 1983 THS boys' cross country team did not qualify a team or individual for the State meet. This was the first time in how many years: Nine, 10 or 11?

Wisconsin residents can purchase an elk license application online through the Go Wild license portal or in person at a license sales agent. The application fee is \$10.00 and is limited to one per person. The DNR recommends that all applicants check and update their contact information to ensure contact with successful applicants.
For each application fee, \$7.00 goes directly to elk management, monitoring and research. These funds also enhance elk habitat, which benefits elk and many other wildlife. If selected in the drawing, an elk hunting license costs \$49.00.
Before obtaining an elk hunting license, all winners must participate in a Wisconsin elk hunter education course. The class covers Wisconsin elk history, hunting regulations, biology, behavior and scouting/hunting techniques.
The 2024 inaugural elk hunt in the Black River Elk Range was a success, with hunters harvesting four of the four-bull quota early in the season. Bull-only quotas and hunting have been provided every fall since 2018 in the Clam Lake Elk Range.
For more information on the elk hunt, visit the DNR's elk hunting webpage at www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/hunt/elkhunting.

Spruce budworm defoliation continues

BY LINDA WILLIAMS
DNR FOREST HEALTH
SPECIALIST, WOODRUFF

WISCONSIN – The spring and summer of 2024 brought another round of severe defoliation from spruce budworm. One silver lining in the cloud: Symptoms weren’t as prevalent as in 2023.

Another severe year of defoliation causes additional stress on trees. Even though there was a lot of rainfall last spring, it’s still stressful for the trees to face repeated years of defoliation by spruce budworm before they begin to decline and die.

Spruce budworm is a native insect with periodic outbreaks that defoliate spruce and balsam fir. In the spring of 2024, caterpillars were feeding earlier than normal. Then,

they pupated, and moths emerged to mate and lay eggs. The caterpillars then created webbing, and defoliation became noticeable as clipped needles stuck in the webbing turned rusty red.

Outbreaks occur every 30 to 50 years and last an average of 10 years. Our previous outbreak ran from 1970 to 1980, and our current outbreak began approximately in 2012. Unfortunately, it appears populations are still going strong, and it’s uncertain when they will collapse again. Whether climate change plays a role in outbreak duration is also undetermined.

Mature balsam fir and spruce are preferred hosts, although younger trees can be defoliated as well. Repeated defoliation causes top-kill and can eventually cause whole-tree mortality.



Defoliation can make trees look brown and eventually grey as the dead foliage washes off the tree.

Balsam fir stands (or stands with a heavy component of balsam fir) are often more severely impacted.

After about three years of significant defoliation or additional years of lighter defoliation, dieback may be seen in the tops of trees. If trees are missing more than 75% of their needles,

or if the stand has been heavily defoliated for over three years (including the current year), salvage harvests should be considered to capture value from affected trees and remove dead trees.

Homeowners with just a few spruce or fir trees to protect can treat them with insecticide. The biological insecticide Btk and general insecticides can be sprayed on the new needles early in the spring to control the caterpillars.

Defoliation is often most



Webbing created by the spruce budworm caterpillar holds needles and frass and protects the caterpillar. A pupa hangs from the branch. **Photos by Linda Williams, Wisconsin DNR**

severe in the upper portions of the tree, so homeowners should plan accordingly to make sure the entire tree is treated. Tree care companies may have equipment that can reach the tops of

trees. Treatments need to take place early in the spring when the caterpillars are still small. In Wisconsin, that means treatments generally need to take place in early to mid-May.

New invasive pest discovered in Wisconsin

BY ART KABELOWSKY
DNR OUTREACH AND
COMMUNICATIONS, FITCHBURG

Last year, a new invasive insect – the elm zigzag sawfly (Aproceros leucopenia) – was detected in Wisconsin for the first time.

In the months following the initial Wisconsin discovery, in Portage County on July 4, the pest was subsequently detected in at least 20 additional Wisconsin counties.

Samples sent to the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service confirmed the Portage County detection to be elm zigzag sawfly. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection reports that there are no current or planned federal or state quarantines for elm zigzag sawfly.

The pest feeds only on elm trees (Ulmus spp.). In many cases, the feeding causes only minor cosmetic damage. However, the insect does have the potential to cause significant defoliation in some localized cases. Repeated severe damage can weaken trees and lead to branch dieback, potentially impacting the long-term health and value of landscape and forest trees.

A distinctive trait of elm zigzag sawfly (EZZ) is the meandering zigzag pattern chewed by young larvae in elm leaves. Older larvae consume a greater amount of leaf material, creating large notches in leaves.

Elm zigzag sawfly, native to parts of East Asia, was first detected in Europe in 2003 and in North America in 2020 (in Quebec, Canada). It was first found in the United States in Virginia in 2021 and has been moving westward, with detections confirmed in at least 10 states.

The EZZ population consists entirely of females. They reproduce through parthenogenesis, laying viable eggs without mating.

The insect can create multiple generations in a single year, and each generation can contribute to the defoliation of a single tree. One to four generations in a single year have been reported in eastern states. Each generation can contribute to the defoliation of a single tree.

Adults are capable of long-distance dispersal and have been observed moving up to 56 miles per year. Cocoons are sticky and can attach to man-made items such as vehicles and outdoor furniture, creating a nuisance and further facilitating long-distance movement.

Elm trees produce an abundance of leaves and can generally tolerate some insect feeding without any concern. In many cases, doing nothing to control an elm zigzag sawfly infestation may be an appropriate course of action. Management may be warranted to help preserve the health of high-value trees.



An adult elm zigzag sawfly discovered in Oshkosh on July 26, 2024. **Photo by Bill McNee, Wisconsin DNR**



Chinese elm trees in the cCty of Waupaca show moderate to heavy defoliation from elm zigzag sawfly infestation. The invasive pest was discovered last summer, its first detection in Wisconsin.

Photo by Jordan Westrick, Wisconsin DNR

Larvae can be blasted off leaves with a stream from a garden hose, or can be squashed, hand-picked or scraped into a container of soapy water. However, these labor-intensive options are most appropriate for small landscape trees.

Organic and reduced-impact spray options can include insecticidal soap, horticultural oils, pyrethrins, Spinosad and azadirachtin—the same options commonly used to control other sawfly pests. Multiple applications will likely be needed to maximize effectiveness, and these options could be most appropriate for smaller trees that can be sprayed more easily.

In many infestation situations, it may be best to consult a certified arborist to assess tree health and discuss management options.

Visit the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension website (www.tinyurl.com/59tdc3uy) for more information about the species, including management options.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Unsheared sheep
5. Rock TV channel
8. Streetcar
12. Concerning
14. Expression of recognition
15. Greek goddess of youth
16. An iPad is one
18. Adult beverage
19. Manning and Wallach are two
20. Makes a petty verbal attack
21. Tyrion Lannister's nickname
22. Pointed ends of pens
23. Wristwatches
26. Body part
30. Made a mistake
31. Adjusted
32. Turkish honorific title
33. Yell
34. Historic Alabama city
39. Cub
42. Type of sea bass dish
44. To call (archaic)
46. Unfortunate
47. Separate oneself from others
49. Hero sandwiches
50. Former OSS
51. Open spaces in a forest
56. Innermost brain membranes
57. Fortune
58. Hunting expedition
59. Doomed queen Boleyn
60. Peyton's little brother
61. Type of wrap
62. Scottish tax
63. Soviet Socialist Republic

64. An increase in price or value

CLUES DOWN

1. Works of body art
2. Abba __, Israeli politician
3. A desert in Asia
4. Eat greedily
5. Doomed French queen
6. Beat
7. One who survives on blood
8. As a consequence
9. Counted on
10. Acquired Brain Injury Behavior Science
11. Unclean
13. One who does not drink
17. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago
24. __ student, learns healing
25. Bacterial skin infection
26. Expresses surprise
27. What one says on a wedding day
28. Crony
29. Where you entered the world (abbr.)
35. Unit of length
36. Side that is sheltered from the wind
37. More (Spanish)
38. Autonomic nervous system
40. Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris
41. Statements that something is untrue
42. Greek alphabet letter
43. Suspends from above
44. Popular types of cigars
45. Girls
47. U.S. philosopher and logician
48. Nocturnal hooved animal
49. Relaxing spaces
52. From a distance
53. Form of Persian
54. Amounts of time
55. Trigonometric function

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It's a good time to work on oak trees

BY ART KABELOWSKY
DNR OUTREACH AND
COMMUNICATIONS,
FITCHBURG

WISCONSIN – For a little while longer, it remains an ideal time to perform trimming, cutting and brush removal work on and near oak trees.

The risk of deadly tree diseases such as oak wilt, a fungal disease spread by beetles attracted to fresh wounds, increases in the spring. That's why the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) urges landowners and crews to avoid working on or near oak trees from April 1 through July 15.

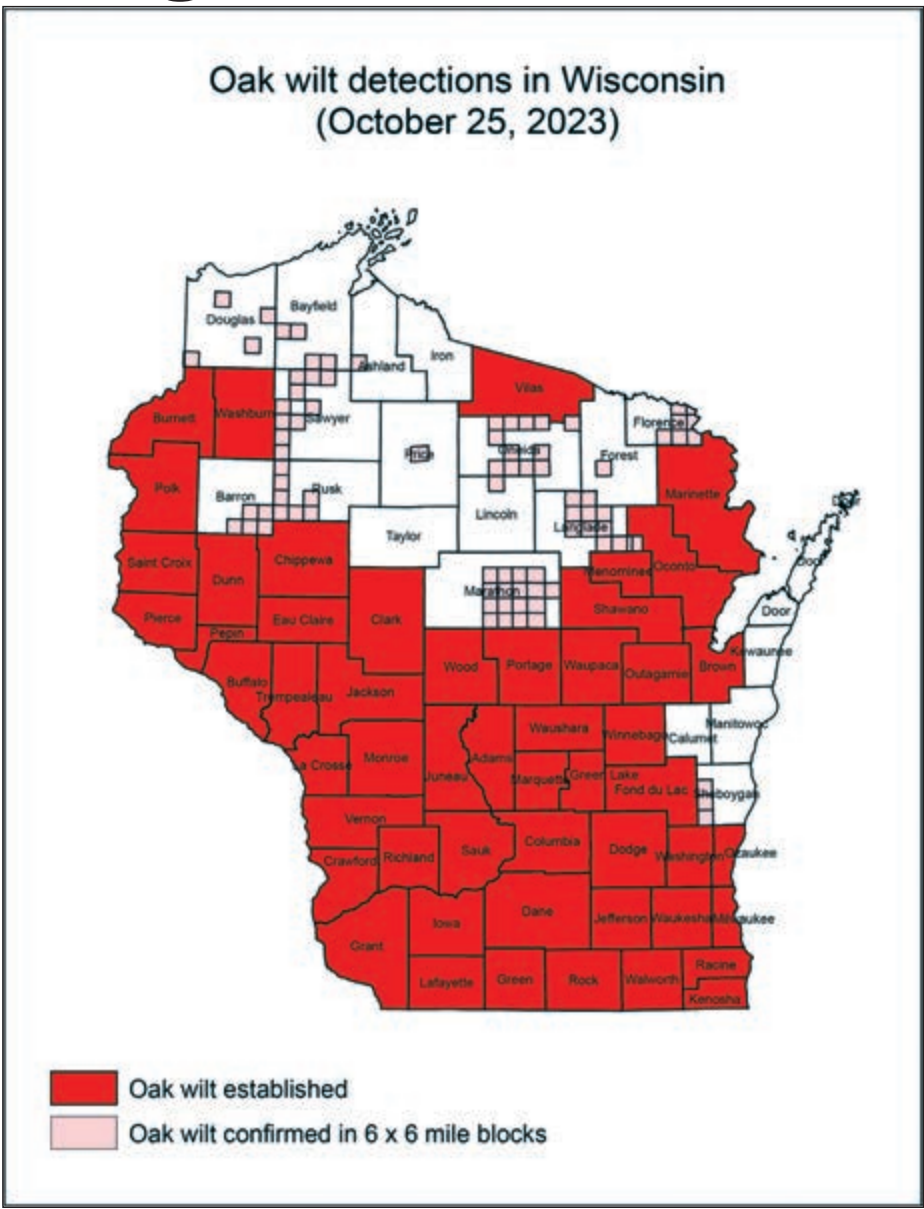
Oak wilt is Wisconsin's most destructive oak disease, killing thousands of healthy trees annually. It's common in the lower two-thirds of the state and has been spreading further north each year. When a red oak is infected with oak wilt, it will die that year. The disease also stresses trees in the white oak group, often fatal with bur oaks and swamp white oaks.

Another plus about winter work: With leaves off the trees, it's much easier to find areas that might need pruning or other work.

And, perhaps most of all, it won't prompt Linda Williams to stop her car!

Williams is the DNR's Forest Health Specialist for the Northeast region. During the high-risk period for oak wilt infection, she is always on the lookout for ways to save an oak tree – sometimes an entire stand.

And you can be sure she'll



pull her car over to make the save.

Once, Williams got a report that a work crew was pruning oak trees along a roadway in June, the heart of the danger period. She visited the site and told the crew how pruning oaks at that time could lead to oak wilt infection, which would leave them with a lot of expensive and time-consuming work cutting down the dead tree(s).

The pervasive and deadly disease has been found in 66 of Wisconsin's 72 counties



Sap-feeding beetles in the Nitidulidae family are the primary insect vectors in the spread of oak wilt. They feed on infected trees and then carry the fungus to fresh open wounds on healthy oaks.

Photo by Wisconsin DNR

even damaged bark. Once a single tree is infected, the disease can spread to kill adjacent oak trees through their interconnected root systems.

"After speaking to the crew, they sent one crew member back to the garage to get some (tree pruning sealer) paint," said Williams. "(They) painted the wounds that they had made that morning, and all other pruning wounds that they created throughout the day. A positive outcome – none of the trees got oak wilt."

This year, in early July, she pulled over in the middle of a trip to speak with a county crew that was starting work to remove trees in a right-of-way. Some were dead, and some were alive. The trees weren't oaks, but oaks were nearby.

"If they had dropped those trees, it definitely would have broken branches in nearby oak trees, which would have

put them at risk for getting oak wilt," Williams said. "After talking to the crew, they contacted the commissioner to discuss options. They decided to delay that work until after July 15. They left and went to (work in) an area of the county with little to no oaks."

It was a good example of Williams' goal to remind crews all over the state that if they are cutting down trees that aren't oaks – ash trees killed by emerald ash borer, for instance – those trees may damage oaks as they fall.

"Doing that work like this after July 15 will minimize the risk to oaks in the area," she said. "You can protect the oak and still get your work done by doing the work now (or) before April 1."

Also, she reminds work crews that performing mowing and cutting work on rights-of-way with boom mowers (also known as flail, rotary bar, batwing or chop mowers) during the high-risk period can lead to inadvertent but deadly damage to the bark of nearby oak trees.

Williams also said that just in case crews prune or accidentally wound oak trees during the high-risk period, they should carry fungicidal tree wound paint and immediately cover all exposed wounds.

Learn more about oak wilt in Wisconsin and what you can do about it on the DNR's webpage at www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/foresthealth/oakwilt.



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