



Hockey special section

Check out Pages 6-7 to find the Tomahawk Leader's special section celebrating the Tomahawk High School hockey team's State Championship!
Photo by Brad Repplinger

Lincoln County Correctional Sergeant charged with abuse, battery of female inmate

BY TINA L. SCOTT
MMC STAFF

MERRILL – Jason H. Meister, age 44, of Pearson [Langlade County], made an initial appearance in Lincoln County Court on Monday, March 10, via video conference from the Oneida County Jail, where he was in custody to face charges that he assaulted an inmate at the Lincoln County Jail in the course of his employment as a Correctional Sergeant there.

Meister is charged with one count each of abuse of residents of penal facilities and substantial battery, both Class I Felonies.

If convicted, Meister faces a maximum penalty of up to three years and six months imprisonment and/or up to a \$10,000.00 fine for each count.

The charges stem from an incident that occurred on Friday, Feb. 28 at the Lincoln County Jail in Merrill.

According to the Criminal Complaint filed by the Lincoln County District Attorney's office, Meister was involved in an altercation with a female inmate that resulted in the inmate requiring medical treatment at Aspirus Hospital Merrill.

Medical records confirm "Victim sustained two broken ribs and a laceration to her right eyelid area that required 10 sutures."

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) was called in to lead an independent investigation into possible excessive use of force by Meister.

"Victim stated that she was not physically resistive,



Meister
Photo courtesy of the Oneida County Jail

and while she was verbally aggressive and using profanities, she wasn't physically resisting the requests of the Lincoln County Jail correctional staff," the Complaint said. "Victim stated that she remembers having her head banged and felt extreme pressure on her head. Victim further stated that she was thrown onto a cell bunk and then dragged onto the ground, where Victim stated she was punched and kicked."

The Complaint goes on to detail surveillance video of the incident that was reviewed by DCI.

"In the video, a correctional officer, identified as Jason Meister, open [sic] the cell door to the cell that held Victim. Victim is observed standing at the cell door with her arms crossed. Meister entered the cell and as Meister enters the cell Victim steps away from the cell door. Meister is observed grabbing Victim by the hair or back of the head and slamming her head into the clear window of the cell. Meister is then observed throwing Victim down onto

the jail bench/bed. Victim's blood from her head can be observed on the wall as she was pulled from a standing position to the cell bench/bed. Meister then pulled Victim from the cell bench/bed to the cell floor. Meister deliver [sic] multiple punches and knee strikes to Victim's body. Victim is not observed being actively resistive or fighting back."

During the initial appearance, Lincoln County District Attorney Kristopher Ellis noted the disparity between the current law that charges an inmate who assaults another inmate with a Class H Felony while a correctional officer who assaults an inmate is charged with a Class I Felony, a lesser charge. He requested Meister be held on \$5,000.00 cash bond and said he wished he could request a higher bond under the circumstances.

Meister, who appeared without legal counsel, argued that he has family in the area and, as such, would not be a flight risk.

Lincoln County Circuit Court Judge Robert Russell presided over the court appearance and set a \$2,500.00 cash bond. In addition, he said Meister is to have no contact with the victim except for incidental contact in a confined setting, and Meister is prohibited from obtaining employment leading to his acting in a supervisory role.

Judge Russell said he would recuse himself from the case due to his working relationship with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office.

Meister
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



Historical Society seeking information on quilt

The Tomahawk Area Historical Society is seeking information on an item it recently received via donation. The organization was given an old, handmade by an unknown donor that had purchased it from a thrift shop. The quilt features what appears to be hand-drawn Wisconsin-related imagery, including sports and wildlife. "We know nothing about the history of this quilt and are hopeful someone may recognize it and provide some valuable historical information," the Historical Society stated. Those who have information about the quilt may contact the Historical Society at tomahawkhistsociety@gmail.com.

Photos courtesy of the Tomahawk Area Historical Society



Handwriting competition

In January, kindergarten through fifth grade students at St. Mary's School took part in the Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Competition. Pictured, from left to right, are the students who were chosen for the best printing and cursive writing, and whose work will go on to the national level: Cecilia Hock, Ellie Tollefson, Grace McMahon, Leo Amelse, Marlie Anderson and Zoe Lechleitner.

Photo courtesy of Juanita Skubal

THS students set to compete in SkillsUSA Wisconsin State Conference

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

MADISON – Tomahawk High School students are among those set to compete in the 52nd annual SkillsUSA Wisconsin State Leadership and Skills Conference.

The conference is slated to be held at the Alliant Energy Center and Madison Area Technical College (MATC) in Madison on Tuesday, April 1 and



Wednesday, April 2.

The Opening and Awards ceremonies will take place in the Alliant Energy Center's Veterans Memorial Coliseum, while the competitions will be held in the Exhibition Hall as well as at MATC, a re-

lease from SkillsUSA said.

The 2025 conference will feature more than 1,750 middle, high school, and college/post-secondary students 200-plus teachers and more than 300 industry volunteers working in over 75 competitions in a wide variety of areas.

"The Opening Ceremony is scheduled for 1 p.m.

SkillsUSA
CONTINUES ON PAGE 3

League of Women Voters: Candidate info available via Vote411

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

NORTHERN WISCONSIN – The League of Women Voters of the Northwoods (LWVNOW) and the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin (LWVWI) have published information on candidates running for office in the Tuesday, April 1 Spring Election.

The Vote411 Candidates Guide is available at www.Vote411.wi.org.

A release from LWVNOW said the guide includes responses from candidates on “their experience, why they are running for office, what they hope to accomplish for the voters and, if they are an incumbent, the highlights of their time in office.”

“All candidate responses will be used verbatim,” LWVNOW stated prior to the guide’s publication. “The LWVNOW will list all candidates, regardless of whether they respond to the above questions. For the statewide candidates who did not respond, the LWVWI will post their photos, websites and recorded interviews, if they are available.”

About LWVNOW

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

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



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Nicolet College announces lineup of upcoming community education classes

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

RHINELANDER – Nicolet College last week announced its latest Arts and Enrichment courses and programming.

A release from Nicolet said the spring/summer 2025 lineup “(offers) a range of opportunities for community members to connect with each other.”

“This season is brimming with classes and events designed to inspire, educate and bring people together,” Nicolet stated. “From astronomy, fishing and gardening to mosaics, ceramics and dance, the classes offer something for everyone.”

Nicolet said the Outdoor Adventure series invites participants to immerse themselves in the natural beauty of the Northwoods through various outdoor activities. Highlights include the return of the Musky Seminar, kayaking on Lake Julia, a photography hike on college trails, a Sunday brunch drawing event in the art lab and a transformative summer solstice yoga experience on the expansive college field.

“Step into the art gallery at the Northwoods Center, where you’ll witness ex-

Nicolet College’s community education classes aim to “enrich the lives of learners of all ages in the Northwoods.”
Photo courtesy Nicolet College

cellence from the college’s art labs in the annual student show,” Nicolet said. “Then, dive into the 38th Annual Northern National Art Competition, which allows locals to compete on a national stage to deliver an ambitious, wide ranging exhibit.”

The college noted that Nicolet Live! brings musicians, authors, films and theater productions to the world-class stage that enrich the community through arts and culture.

The spring theater production will be Reduced Shakespeare Company’s “All the Great Books (Abridged),” a roller-coaster ride through a compact compendium of the world’s great books, Nicolet said.

A new season of Learning in Retirement classes are also planned, which celebrate lifelong learning courses and activities created by and for retirees and older community members.

Learn more and purchase tickets online at www.nicoletcollege.edu/community.

Nicolet said class fees offset instructor pay and materials costs, noting that in its mission to serve all learners, the college offers scholarships for community classes.

Full scholarships are available for veterans for any class or event, and partial scholarships are available to anyone based on need. For more details, email ce@nicoletcollege.edu or call 715-365-4544.

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF’S REPORT

As reported by the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office Monday, March 10:

On 3/6/2025 a deputy was sent to the N700 block of STH 64 in the Town of Pine River for a reported property damage crash. Upon arrival, the deputy had found the crashed vehicle unoccupied. The deputy located the owner’s identification and began searching for him at his last known address. As the deputy was searching for the driver, the driver returned to the scene with a tractor and pulled the vehicle out. A short time later, the deputy saw the vehicle in operation on Poplar Rd. The deputy made an attempt to stop the vehicle, but the driver pulled into a private driveway and attempted to flee on foot. The suspect, a Merrill man, 53, eventually complied with the deputies’ efforts to detain him. In speaking with the man, the deputy observed signs of impairment and asked the man to do some sobriety tests. As a result of those tests, the man was arrested for a 4th offense of OWI, along with resisting/obstructing an officer and vehicle operator flee/elude officer. The subject was later booked into the Lincoln County Jail.

On 3/8/2025 the Sheriff’s Office received a complaint of a reckless driver traveling S/B on USH 51 near the 224 mile marker in the Town of Bradley. It was reported that the suspect vehicle was hitting the rumble strips and the middle lane regularly. A deputy located the suspect a short time later and observed similar driving behavior, prompting the deputy to stop the vehicle on USH 51 S/B near the 211 mile marker. The deputy made contact with the driver, a Hatley man, 55, and observed signs of impairment.

The deputy asked the driver to perform some sobriety tests, and as a result of those tests, the driver was placed under arrest for a second offense of OWI and resisting arrest. The driver was later booked into the Lincoln County Jail.

Deputies conducted 26 traffic stops and 44 security checks. Deputies responded to five car vs. deer crashes, one car vs. bird, and one car vs. unknown animal.

Driving complaints: Nine.

The 911 Center took four hang-up calls and five nuisance calls.

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

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MEISTER
FROM PAGE 1

The court then adjourned Meister’s initial appearance to allow time for him to get an attorney and for an out-of-county judge to be assigned to the case. Once the new judge is assigned, the adjourned initial appearance will be scheduled.

Meister subsequently posted his bond earlier this month and was released from custody.

This case has not been concluded. Unless a judgment of conviction is entered, the defendant is presumed innocent of all charges.

A March 10 press release from the DCI said, “As a result of an internal investigation, the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office has terminated Mr. Meister’s employment as a correctional sergeant with their agency.”

“The Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office is fully cooperating with the investigation,” the release said.

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Cub Scouts tour Highway Department

Tomahawk’s Cub Scouts Pack 548 recently had the opportunity to tour the Lincoln County Highway Department. The Scouts thanked Lincoln County Highway Commissioner Jason Lemmer for providing them with the tour.

Photo courtesy of Christina Schultz

News Briefs

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.

Open Arms Community Meal to reopen April 1
Open Arms Community Meal, served each Tuesday at St. Mary’s Corpus Christi Center, 320 E. Washington Ave., Tomahawk, will reopen on Tuesday, April 1 at 5 p.m. All are welcome. For more information, call Teri at 715-218-7776.

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.

SKILLSUSA
FROM PAGE 1
on April 1, with competition set up and event briefings held throughout the day,” the release said. “The State Championships will commence April 2 at 7:30 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. All contests are conducted under the direction of industry experts, trade associations, and labor organizations that are set to industry standards.”
The Closing Ceremony, including the presentation of awards, will start at 6:30 p.m. The first-place winners will go on to compete in the National SkillsUSA Championships in Atlanta, Ga., in June.
The public is encouraged

to attend the SkillsUSA Wisconsin State Championships for free.

About SkillsUSA Wisconsin
Founded in 1973, SkillsUSA Wisconsin, with more than 2,500 members in over 150 chapters, is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry representatives working together to ensure America has the skilled workforce needed to stay competitive. The diverse talent pipeline covers 120 trade, technical and skilled service occupations, mostly related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
More than 200 corporations, trade associations, businesses and labor unions support SkillsUSA

Wisconsin. Programs are integrated into career and technical education through a framework of personal, workplace, and technical skills grounded in academics. SkillsUSA also offers technical skill assessments and other workplace credentials.
“Helping each student excel and a solution to shrinking the skills gap, SkillsUSA is a national non-profit organization serving high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations,” SkillsUSA said. “SkillsUSA empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders, and responsible American citizens. SkillsUSA improves the quality of our nation’s

future skilled workforce by developing framework skills, including personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics. The SkillsUSA mission is built upon – and its success depends on – the commitment of members and partners to the following values: integrity, respect, responsibility, citizenship and service.
For more information on the State Leadership and Skills Conference, visit www.skillsusa-wi.org or email wisconsinskillsusa@gmail.com.

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TMS forensics team wraps up 2025 season

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER
TOMAHAWK – The Tomahawk Middle School (TMS) forensics team recently wrapped up its 2025 season.
Results are as follows.

Level one: Tomahawk
Jackie Wendorf, Mattelyn Fogtiene, Readers Theatre category, excellence rating.
Micah Cerkas, Prose, excellence.
Greyson Ksobiech, Nolan Ksobiech, Eli Larsen, Play Acting, merit.
Kindra Kallerud, Jordy Kelley, Vallyn Ott, Play Acting, excellence.
Abbigail Doleshal, Delaynie Doleshal, Readers Theatre, excellence.
Marley Dean, Avielle Kromm, Avery Suchomel, Readers Theatre, excellence.
Ruby Foster, Skye Scheffler, Readers Theatre, excellence.
Alaina Stogbauer, Sloane Eisenman, Kortney Busterud, Readers Theatre, excellence.
Molli Feltes, Mya Loka, Play Acting, excellence.
Matilda VanAsten, Gabriella Ulrich, Elena

Van Ryen, Readers Theatre, excellence.
Emma Perdue, Maddilyn Nieman, Readers Theatre, excellence.

Level two: Crandon
Jordy Kelley, Vallyn Ott, Kindra Kallerud, Play Acting, merit.
Molli Feltes, Mya Loka, Play Acting, excellence.
Micah Cerkas, Prose, excellence.
Alaina Stogbauer, Sloane Eisenman, Kortney Busterud, Readers Theatre, excellence.
Marley Dean, Avielle Kromm, Avery Suchomel, Readers Theatre, excellence.
Abbigail Doleshal, Delaynie Doleshal, Readers Theatre, excellence.
Jackie Wendorf, Mattelyn Fogtiene, Readers Theatre, excellence.
Harper Kuntz, Emma Perdue, Readers Theatre, merit.
Matilda VanAsten, Gabriella Ulrich, Elena Van Ryen, Readers Theatre, excellence.
Ruby Foster, Skye Scheffler, Readers Theatre, merit.

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Letter to the Editor Policy
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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• Make explicit or implied threats. This includes personal attacks, intimidation, bullying or threat of harm against a person or organization.
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OBITUARIES

Obituary updates are posted at www.tomahawkleader.com




Sylvia M. Betka, 81, of Tomahawk, passed away peacefully Monday, March 10, 2025 at the Season of Life Hospice House in Woodruff with her family by her side. Sylvia was born Nov. 29, 1943 in Chicago, Ill., the daughter of Laurie and Ailie (Maki) Davidson. She was first married to Stanley Stichmann in 1961, then married Tom Betka March 10, 1984 and he preceded her in death in 1993. Sylvia worked in the office at the Cheese Factory in Brantwood. She then worked at Golden Age Nursing Home in housekeeping and then become a secretary. She worked some odd jobs before getting hired at Owens-Illinois, now known as PCA. She became very involved in the union as a union steward and then became the union secretary. She was also a member of the Women's Network. Sylvia enjoyed playing baseball in her younger years, shooting pool, deer hunting and fishing (she and her late husband Tom were members of Musky Masters). She was an avid gardener, avid reader, bird watcher and enjoyed watching the Green Bay Packers, going to a few games with her daughter Deb. She had a special place in her heart for Alaska; she and Tom traveled there several times. After retirement, she was involved with the Red Hats and had a group of lady friends that would get together often. Also, Sylvia, Mary, Terri and Sandy went on several adventures together. Most of all, Sylvia treasured spending time with family and friends.

Surviving are her daughters, Debra Stichmann, Rhinelander; Dawn (Gene) Horwath, Tomahawk; sons, David (Trudy) Stichmann, Brantwood; Dale Stichmann, Tomahawk; 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild on the way.

She is preceded in death by her parents and a great-grandson, Kyle.

Memorial services for Sylvia were held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 16, 2025 at Krueger-Nimsgern Funeral Home, Tomahawk, with Chaplain Michele Rein officiating. Visitation was held from 12 p.m. to time of service at 2 p.m.

Online condolences for the family may be directed to www.nimsgernfuneral.com.



Ruth E. Komarek, age 77, of Westboro, Wis., passed away on Sunday, March 9, 2025, at Rib Lake Health Services. Ruth was born in South Milwaukee, Wis., on Oct. 17, 1947, to the late Randall and Joyce (Wesley) Thompson. She was married to Ronald Komarek on Feb. 10, 1969; he survives.

Ruth attended Rawson Avenue Grade School in South Milwaukee, the Greenlawn School in Oak Creek, Wis., and the Parkway School in South Milwaukee until her family moved to a farm in Manawa, Wis. There, Ruth attended Spring Brook Elementary School and the Manawa High School. Her family later moved to a farm in Iola, Wis., where she was a 1965 graduate of the Iola-Scandinavia High School. In 1966, she moved with her family to South Milwaukee. Ruth was employed at Allen-Bradley and then Briggs & Stratton. While working at Briggs & Stratton, she became friends with the girls from Rib Lake, Wis., and while visiting the area, she met the love of her life, Ron Komarek, in 1968. Ruth moved to the Northwoods when they were married in 1969. She was a devoted mother who loved raising her four boys with Ron. She enjoyed baking, cooking, and sewing...many quilts and clothing were made with love by Ruth.

Survivors include her husband of 56 years, Ronald Komarek; her sons, Greg (Lisa) Komarek, Ted (Amy) Komarek, and Ray (Sarah) Komarek; her siblings, Ray Thompson, Charles (Nola) Thompson, Barbara (Peter) Jacobson, and Julie Austin; her sisters-in-law, Barbara Thompson and Jacquelyn Thompson; and her brother-in-law, Steve Cournia. Ruth is further survived by her grandchildren, Samantha (Clayton) McTaggart, Katie (Cole) Harvey, Autumn Komarek, Eli Komarek, Ethan Komarek, Joyce Komarek, Brianna (Drew) Rohde, and Alyssa Schellin, in addition to two great-grandbabies due in August and September.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Randall and Joyce; her son, Ronald Komarek Jr.; her brothers, Randall Thompson and infant Paul Thompson; and her sister, Paula Cournia.

A private celebration of life gathering will be held at a later date.

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



William "Will" Ray Bright, 69, of Tomahawk, and a former Rhinelander resident, passed away on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at Country Terrace in Tomahawk.

Will was born in Sault St. Marie, Michigan, on Nov. 14, 1955, to Stanley and Kathryn (LaMothe) Bright. He attended schools in Sault St. Marie and was a 1974 graduate of Sault St. Marie High School. After graduating, Will began working for his father at the family's music store. This led to his love for music for the rest of his life. He worked for his father for ten years and then he moved to Sturgeon Bay, Wis., where he taught music and played with the group Rising Sun, and later with Dessert Skies, he and Sherry later played as a two-piece band called Renaissance, playing at various locations in the Northwoods. Will was united in marriage to Sherry Bushey in 1981. The couple lived in Sturgeon Bay until 1987 when they moved to Tripoli. Will moved to Rhinelander in 2012. Will enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping.

He is survived by his best friend, of 45 years, Sherry Bright of Tripoli, sister, Kathryn (Paul) Hunyady, of Florida, brothers, Stanley (Mona) Bright of Florida and Ernie Bright, of Michigan, and a brother-in-law, Jimmy Clow of Michigan. Will is further survived by and will be dearly missed by the Bushey family and by nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister, Debbie Clow, brother, Ernest Wright, and sister-in-law, Judy Bright.

Will didn't want a funeral. He loved music and getting together with friends for jam sessions. A celebration jam session will take place at the Lynne Town Hall, located at 5102 Willow Rd., Tripoli, in the Willow Region on Saturday, May 17, 2025, from 12 p.m. until 4 p.m. This will be a fun get-together with an open mic acoustic jam session. Nothing would put a smile on Will's face more than seeing people getting together to play music and enjoy the day remembering him.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Hildebrand Funeral Home and Cremation Specialists, 24 E. Davenport Street, Rhinelander, Wis., 54501, 715-365-4343. Everyone is invited to sign the online condolence at www.hildebrandrussfh.com.



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Pastor Charles Scheele
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Morning Service - 10:45 am Sunday
Mid-week Bible study - 7:00 pm Wednesday

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Fr. Aloysius Anthony, Pastor
Mass times: Saturday 6 p.m.
Sunday 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Confessions: Saturdays, 9 a.m.;
Anytime by Appointment

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic
Pier-Willow
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at 5209 Willow Road
Fr. Aloysius Anthony, Pastor
Saturday 4 p.m. Mass

St. Augustine Catholic
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Harrison • 715-453-2561
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Reg. Serv. 9:30
Facebook Live Stream 9:30

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in person & 10:30 Online Via Zoom

Trinity Lutheran Church
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Pastor Scott Holobeck
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11am Bible Study

Associated Clergy of Tomahawk

"Pastor's Corner"

Rest is God's Gift

We as a society worry too much and do too much. We need downtime, but often feel guilty about taking it. We need to rest physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually.

We only need to read what Jesus did when the crowds pressed hard against him. He found a deserted place to find rest and restoration. King David wrote in Psalm 62 "Our soul finds rest in God." Every creature needs time to rest—even God!

We also need to be silent, alone and pray, praise and trust God. He doesn't want us to be weighed down by worry. We cannot meet everyone's needs.

The restless soul is never satisfied with wealth or success. Our successes and achievements do not define us. Jesus is saying "Come to me. He will take our burdens and give us rest." (Matthew 11:28).

Sometimes stillness can accomplish what motion and effort can't. God tells us in Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God." The Hebrew verb "be still" also is translated "cease striving." I can attest that striving is not what God wants. When we pull ahead of God, we miss His plan, and we miss His blessing. It takes time in prayer with God to discern His plans for us. His plans are always better than ours.

Everyone needs to take time to rest. God commanded it. He created the whole world in six days and saw that resting of the seventh day was a good idea. (Genesis 2:2) We don't need permission to rest. It's built into our DNA. And its one of our Ten Commandments.

Our life must include a balance of work and rest. The older I get the more I need the rest part. How is your balance of work and rest?

Only God can restore us. But restoration takes time. We saw the devastation in North Carolina from the massive floods last year, and we have seen the destructive fires in California. It will take time to restore those communities, and maybe even more time to restore the hopes and fears of their people, but God will not abandon any of us.

Remember God led the Israelite's, conquered by the Babylonians, who destroyed Jerusalem, back home after their captivity. God can restore us. If things have been broken and beyond repair, God assures us he can rebuild our shattered pieces. He will give us a new life.



Pastor Carolyn Rauschert

Associated Clergy of Tomahawk





Timothy "Tim" C. Prebeg, age 66, of Tomahawk, passed away on Sunday, March 9, 2025. Tim was born on Jan. 12, 1959, in Perrysburg, Ohio, to the late Joseph and Marilyn (Johnson) Prebeg. He was later married to Joyce Hammersley on July 7, 2018; she survives.

Tim grew up and attended school in Perrysburg, Ohio, graduating with the class of 1977 at Perrysburg High School. He had moved to Tomahawk in 1982 and started work at the Owens-Illinois Paper Mill where he worked until his retirement a few years ago. Tim enjoyed gardening and playing cards and loved the Green Bay Packers and Milwaukee Brewers.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce Prebeg, of Tomahawk; his son, Cody West, of San Diego, Calif.; his brothers, Dan (Marie) Prebeg, of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and Joe Prebeg, of Madison, Wis. He is further survived by many nieces and nephews.

Tim was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Marilyn; and his brother, John Prebeg, of Merrill, Wis.

A private family gathering for Tim will be held at a later date.

Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family.



Amanda L. Hilgendorf, age 37, of 704 Leather Court, Tomahawk, passed away peacefully at her home Wednesday, March 12, 2025 surrounded by her family.

Amanda was born Jan. 13, 1988 in Tomahawk to Brent and Lisa (Johnson) Roberts. She graduated from Tomahawk High School in 2006. She excelled in basketball, volleyball, and softball. Amanda married the love of her life and best friend, Greg Hilgendorf on Feb. 14, 2009; this loving union produced two amazing sons, Brody and Hunter. She loved being a mother and enjoyed watching the boys in all of their activities. She also enjoyed fishing, vacations on the beach, boating, and her new home on the water. She worked for the Tomahawk School District as a paraprofessional for seven years and had a love for all kids. Most of all Amanda loved being a mother and cherished all of her family.

Surviving Amanda is her husband, Greg; two sons, Brody and Hunter; her parents, Brent and Lisa Roberts; a brother, Brock (Chelsea) Roberts; maternal grandmother, Carol Johnson; paternal grandmother, Ceil Roberts. She is further survived by a niece Avery and a nephew to arrive soon. Amanda is also survived by her father and mother-in-law, Gary and Joan Hilgendorf.

The Mass of Christian Burial was offered Monday, March 17, 11 a.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church. Fr. Aloysius Anthony officiated. Burial took place in Calvary Cemetery. The family received friends at the Corpus Christi Center of St. Mary Catholic Church Sunday from 4 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. A prayer service was held at 7:30 p.m. in the Corpus Christi Center. The visitation continued Monday morning from 10 a.m. until the time of mass at 11 a.m. in the church. Krueger-Nimsgern Funeral and Cremation Service assisted for the family.

PUBLISHER’S LETTER

Luck O’ The Irish

Dear Reader,

Another Saint Patrick’s Day is upon us, and for one day, everyone — Irish or not — joins in the celebration. On this day, we revel in the so-called “luck of the Irish” and pass it along to everyone we meet.

But what is luck, really? Some see it as pure serendipity — good fortune striking at random, being in the right place at the right time. Luck, in this sense, feels fleeting, unpredictable, something that happens to you rather than something you create.

Yet, there’s another kind of luck — the kind that isn’t random at all. It’s the luck that comes from hard work integrity, and a commitment to doing what’s right. This kind of luck isn’t just stumbled upon; it’s earned. It’s built through perseverance, through lifting others up rather than stepping over them. It’s the luck that carries not just the fortunate individual but those around them as well.

Of course, there’s also another version of luck — the kind that comes at the expense of others. The luck of those who cut corners, take advantage, and push others down to climb higher. But that kind of luck is hollow, fleeting, and never truly fulfilling.

So this Saint Patrick’s Day, may you find yourself on the right side of luck — the kind that brings joy, kindness, and goodwill to all. May your blessings be many, your troubles be few, and your heart be as full as a pint of Guinness.



PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher
Author of “Reflections” a new book now available on Amazon.

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.

We have been looking at the question, *How did we get the Bible?* and the value of a translation of the Bible over a paraphrase of the Bible. For today I would like to look at the question, *Why is it important that we would even have the Bible?*

If there is a God who created all things; would it not be to our advantage to know *why* He created us and *who* He is? These are the great questions of religion, but can religion, run by people, give to us the answers? Can philosophy give to us the answers? Can science give us the answers? If all we have is what philosophers, scientists, and religious people can reason out, then we will never know the answers.

The problem with philosophy, science, and religion is that their authority is mankind itself. Our knowledge is limited to what we can see and hear, which we must further think through. But what if we did not see or hear the whole thing, or we thought we saw or heard something that really was not there – will our conclusions about what we thought we saw or heard be able to arrive at the truth?

Over the years, I have been the victim of what others assumed about me; it is not pleasant being the brunt of negative assumptions. I have found it harder to get rid of negative assumptions than it is to establish what is true. We see this same problem with assumptions when it comes to the fields of philosophy, science, and religion.

I love science and I love to read about it. I also love to read history, and history reveals some pretty dark ideas that at one time were called modern science.

Are you familiar with the *Human Zoo* that was set up in the 1904 St. *Louis World’s Fair*, all done in the name of science, based on the *assumptions* of evolutionary theory? Or how about the African pygmy that was kept in a cage with chimpanzees at the Bronx Zoo in 1906 in the name of science and the assumptions of evolution. Even in more recent history, the cry, *Follow the science*, much of which is today discredited and recognized to have been more about following a biased opinion. Philosophy and science does not have the answers, because it is based on human thinking and its limitations.

But what if the God who created everything, told us the answers to these questions, would it be worth our time to listen to Him and learn? Wouldn’t knowing *why* God created us, and His *purpose* and *design* in creation make life easier for us? If we knew *why God created us*, and *who He is*, life would be easier for us, less mysterious, and we would know how we should live so we might enjoy what this God has created. But then, the God who created all things has spoken to us, it is the Bible.

In previous articles, I presented why we can trust the Bible to be God’s Word to us. Why will we not read it?

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Solutions based on accurate information

Thank you to the County and Foto News for publishing a correction to the Ad Hoc Report Chart. Please note another error has been found. The County was informed of this on Feb. 24, 2025. As of March 2, 2025 it had not been acknowledged or corrected.

For the year 2023, the revenue was understated by \$1,597,382.00, and the expenses were understated by \$39,135.00. The affect of these errors changes the “income/deficit column” from a negative (\$1,108,704.00) to a positive \$449,543.00; a difference of \$1,558,247.00. In my mind significant.

Once again it is unfortunate that another published financial statement by the County is incorrect. It makes me wonder what information can we trust?

This stands out even more as the

information from the People For Pine Crest has been categorically dismissed time and time again, when it is in fact more accurate. Audited accurate – no. I will leave that to the experts.

Instead of spending time double and triple checking who is right, let’s use our efforts to find solutions based on accurate information and get to work on keeping the Pine Crest Nursing Home county owned.

Thank you.

We are our brother’s keeper

Dear Editor,

In regard to your March 5, 2025 article, “Pine Crest Nursing Home: Looking back at 11 years of financials,” I would like to clarify the debt service issue. Lincoln County will have to pay that debt whether Pine Crest is sold or not sold. It is a Lincoln County debt.

Will the \$268,434.00 for salary and fringe benefits for Lincoln County employees responsible for Pine Crest Nursing Home be eliminated if Pine Crest is sold? How many Lincoln County employees will become unemployed? If these employees are not discharged, is there a savings?

I am also a Lincoln County resident concerned about the residents of Pine Crest who receive their care through the Medicaid program. These individuals need this five-star Skilled Nursing Facility that does not discriminate based on ability to pay. It represents a fundamental message, that we are our brother’s keeper.

As a community, we are committed to the welfare of all citizens.

Thank you for your attention to our seniors.

Victoria Bender
Tomahawk

Local news online – www.TomahawkLeader.com

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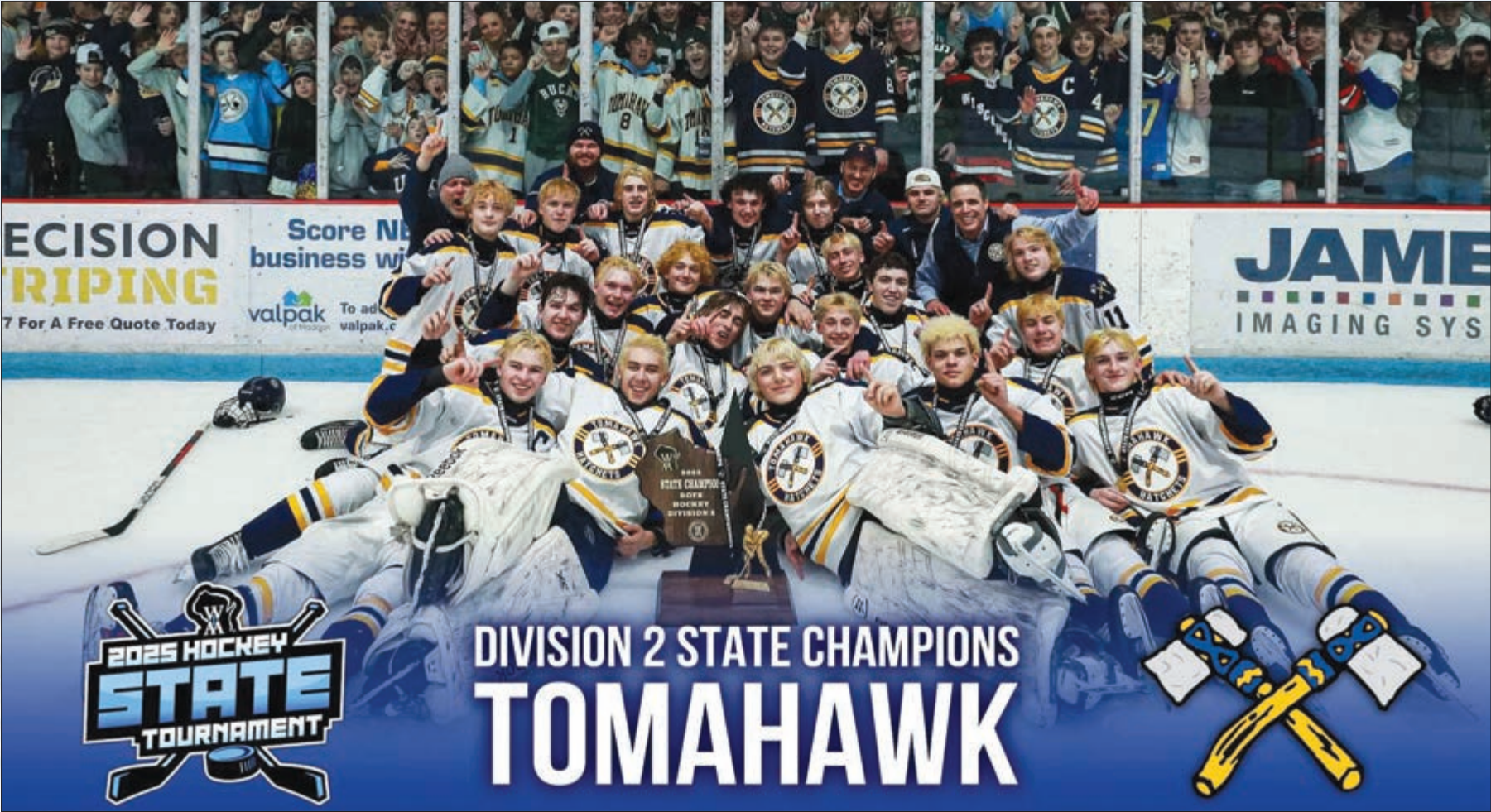


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STATE CHAMPS!



Photos by Brad Repplinger

Tomahawk High School hockey team wins program’s first State title

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – 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, defeating Amery Co-Op by a score of 5-3 for the program’s first State title.

The Hatchets received a warm welcome after the win, with local emergency services units escorting their bus through Tomahawk as fans gathered along the streets to cheer them on.

The team has received a tremendous amount of love and support from the Tomahawk community, as well as an official commendation from the City of Tomahawk.

Following are highlights from Hatchet skaters’ incredible season.

Tomahawk finished the season with 25 wins and three losses – the best record in school history.

For the second year in a row, the Hatchets were Great Northern Conference (GNC) champions, ending the season with a 7-0 record in the conference. Tomahawk also went 3-0 to win the GNC Tournament for the first time and is 19-1 in GNC play over the last two seasons.

The Hatchets were also Sectional champs for the second-straight year, as well as Academic Sectional champions, with a team grade point average of 3.81.

Seven Hatchet pucksters were awarded All-GNC honors: Austin Lamer, Jonah Dickens, Brayden Lamer, Jett Reilly, Trevor Seliskar, Sawyer Hanna and Jake Albert.

Austin Lamer was named GNC Player of the Year, while Dewey Reilly received the GNC Coach of the Year award.

Austin Lamer is now THS’s all-time points leader with 230.

Jett Reilly set a single-season points record with 78.

For the second time, Austin Lamer earned the Joe Piskula Top D2 Defenseman Award.

Jonah Dickens was recognized with the Shawn Carter Top D2 Forward Award.

Coach Dewey Reilly was a finalist for the Wisconsin Hockey Coaches Association (WCHA) Coach of the Year award, and Austin Lamer was a finalist for WCHA Player of the Year.

Brayden Lamer was named the Wisconsin Prep Hockey (WiPH) D2 Player of the State Tournament.

Congrats Hatchets!



Thank you to the following local business

- Heritage Chevrolet
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- Louisiana Pacific Corporation
- The Loop Hole LLC
- Crossbridge Community Bank
- Northwoods Community Realty
- Kracker Barrel
- Tomahawk Sports Center
- Foley’s Tree Service





TOMAHAWK 5 AMERY CO-OP 3



CITY OF TOMAHAWK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Municipal Commendation

Boys' Hockey: State Championship Victory

WHEREAS; on Saturday, March 8, 2025, the Tomahawk Hatchets Boys' Hockey team completed their season with a victory over Amery High School earning its first Division 2 WIAA State Championship; and

WHEREAS; the dedication, teamwork, and effort of the team members and coaches constitutes significant accomplishments, meriting public recognition and accolade; and

WHEREAS; it is appropriate to publicly congratulate the Tomahawk Hatchets High School Boys' Hockey team and to express our community support.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by virtue of authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tomahawk, I, Steven E. Taskay, do hereby commend the team players, coaches and their families, fans and support staff of Tomahawk High School for their individual and team efforts during their championship season, and on behalf of the City's governing body and all of its citizens, do hereby bestow this special Municipal Commendation for the Tomahawk Hatchets Boys' Hockey team, as witness and acknowledged by the Tomahawk City Council.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have here set my hand and caused the City of Tomahawk to be stamped. Done in the City of Tomahawk, this tenth day of March in the year two thousand twenty-five.

Steven E. Taskay

Steven E. Taskay
Mayor

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- Tomahawk Lions Club
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DATCP: Apply for Agriculture Youth Council by March 31

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER
WISCONSIN – The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is reminding students to apply now for the next Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council.

Applications will be accepted through Monday, March 31.
A release from DATCP said students who will be seniors during the 2025-26 school year should apply. To apply, students need to complete an electronic application including a brief essay and one-minute video explaining their current involvement in agriculture and their future goals.

“Governor Tony Evers declared 2025 as the Year of the Kid in Wisconsin, emphasizing the importance of creating opportunities for students to prepare for their future,” DATCP stated. “The goals of the council are to highlight agricultural-related careers, share resources available for farmers, provide insight in agricultural policy development and increase networking opportunities for students.”

“I value the connections I have made with the advisors and mentors through the council,” said Rylee Brattlie, a council member from Cambridge. “The Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council has educated me on the different career paths offered by agriculture.”

The council meets virtually each month of the school year to listen to presentations, engage in discussions and connect with professionals across the agriculture industry. Members serve a one year on the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council and receive a certificate at the end of their term.

“The Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council has provided me with the opportunity to explore various different aspects of agriculture,” said Madison Wise, a council member from Greenleaf. “Each month presents a new topic that will help you to expand your knowledge of Wisconsin agriculture.”

DATCP seeks to have 15 members on the council from across the state.

To learn more and access the application, visit www.AgYouthCouncil.wi.gov.



WPS Foundation accepting applications for technical college scholarships

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER
WISCONSIN – The Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) Foundation is now accepting applications for its technical college scholarships.

A release from WPS said the Foundation has increased funding for its technical college scholarships, with a total of \$25,000.00 available through this year’s program to “(help) even more students take their next steps toward career success.”

Scholarships are awarded to help eligible students work toward completing a



one-year technical diploma or two-year associate degree program.

High school seniors living in the WPS service area can receive a technical college scholarship to attend one of six select technical schools full-time next fall: Fox Valley Technical College, Lakeshore Technical College, Mid-State Technical College, Nicolet Tech-

nical College, Northcentral Technical College and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.
“The WPS Foundation’s technical college scholarships are part of its commitment to enhance education and support area students,” WPS stated.
Last year, the scholarships helped 25 students begin working toward careers in fields such as electric power distribution, engineering, human resources and information technology, according to WPS.
Interested students can apply for a scholarship on the foundation’s website at www.tinyurl.com/mty6ahux.
Applications will be accepted through Wednesday, April 30.
WPS said each scholarship awarded is for an average of \$750.00. Recipients are selected based on academic achievement, school and community leadership activities and financial need.
The WPS Foundation has donated more than \$6 million through all of its scholarship programs since it was founded in 1964, helping thousands of students pursue college degrees or technical diplomas.

Wisconsin DMV warns consumers of rise in online vehicle sale fraud

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER
WISCONSIN – The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) earlier this month said it has noted a “troubling trend in the number of scams by vehicle sellers posing as car dealers online.”

According to a release from WisDOT, DMV’s Dealer and Agent Section tracks this activity, investigates consumer complaints and offers tips to customers.

“The fraud scheme starts online as a fake storefront,” explained DMV Dealer and Agent Section Chief Maura Schifalacqua. “An individual creates a website or a social media profile claiming to be a Wisconsin dealership. Stock images or photos of real vehicles and real Wisconsin dealerships are included to make the website seem legitimate. However, there is nothing legitimate about it. The advertised vehicles may be listed at below market value causing interested consumers to take the bait.”

WisDOT said there are similarities with each case known as dealer cloning: fake websites or social media pages, cars priced below market value and no in-person contact with the seller.

Wisconsin DMV is aware



of multiple cases that follow this pattern, with fraudulently created websites or Facebook profiles alleging to be legitimate Wisconsin dealerships, according to WisDOT.

“In one case, the business never existed,” Schifalacqua said. “In many cases, the fraudster interacts with the consumer by phone or email. The buyer might receive a bill of sale and several photos of a vehicle and agree to purchase by wire transfer, believing the seller will ship the car to them. After the wire transfer is completed, the seller stops all contact, and the customer eventually realizes they’ve become a victim of fraud.”

WisDOT recommends taking the following precautions to keep safe while buying a vehicle from a dealer:

- Watch for numerous spelling or grammatical errors on the seller’s website or manipulated photos of

a business or vehicle. This could tip you off to a cloned dealer site or unprofessional (and possibly unscrupulous) dealer.
• Research the dealership ahead of time including verifying phone number, address, email and other contact information.
• Review WisDOT’s active dealers list to verify licensed dealers at www.wisconsin.dmv.gov/dealerlist. The list includes motor vehicle dealers and motorcycle dealers who are properly licensed to sell. This list is updated daily and readily available to the public.
• Review vehicle purchasing information on WisDOT’s website at www.tinyurl.com/yuwpw92a.
• Visually inspect the vehicle before buying and inspect the required Wisconsin Buyer’s Guide.
• Ensure the selling dealer uses a Motor Vehicle Purchase Contract as required by Wisconsin law.
• Refrain from sending money by purchasing gift cards or other suspicious payment methods encouraged by the seller.
• If you wish to make a wire transfer to the seller’s bank, independently verify the bank’s contact information. You may inform the bank you wish to verify the legitimacy of the seller before sending a wire transfer.
• If something doesn’t feel right, walk away from the purchase.
If you are the victim of a scam involving a motor vehicle sale, you may:
• Speak to WisDOT’s DMV Dealer and Agent Section by filing a dealer complaint: www.wisconsin.dmv.gov/dealercomplaint.
• Report internet-based crime: www.ic3.gov.
• Consider filing a police report with the local law enforcement agency where you reside.
• Speak to AARP’s Fraud Watch Helpline and find Fraud Victim Support Groups (all ages accepted): www.tinyurl.com/p65dx-dtx.
• Request a free credit report and research identity theft prevention: www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action.
In 2024, DMV’s Dealer and Agent Section’s Field Investigation Unit investigated 1,259 consumer complaints and returned approximately \$1.7 million dollars to car buyers. The unit’s responsibilities include consumer complaints, dealer inspections, unlicensed dealer investigations, and title and odometer fraud.
For further information, visit www.wisconsin.dmv.gov.

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- Forestry Department

To view Job Descriptions and To Apply, please visit Lincoln County’s career opportunities at: www.co.lincoln.wi.us/jobs or call Administration at (715) 539-1010.

PRICE COUNTY

County Veterans Service Officer

Price County is accepting applications for the position of County Veterans Service Officer in the Price County Veterans Service Department. This position plans, directs, and organizes efforts to assist Veterans, their families, and survivors regarding benefits available to them through the Federal Veterans Administration, the Wisconsin State Department of Veterans Affairs, and county and local resources.

This is a management position in which the employee plans for the daily operations of the office, supervises the support staff in implementation, applicable benefit preparation, and maintains a flow of information and services to the Veteran community of Price County. This includes coordinating benefits with other departments, local, state and federal. The County Veterans Service Officer serves as the Veterans and their dependents advocate to local, state, and federal programs and benefits. This position takes direction from the County Administrator and the Executive Committee.

This is a full-time, exempt position with a starting annual salary of \$64,209.60 (Grade 9), and full benefits package. Benefits include Wisconsin Retirement System with 6.95% employer match, income continuation insurance, choice of multiple health insurance plans including a zero deductible plan, 22 days of paid leave within the first year, 10 paid holidays per year, paid maternity/paternity leave, and quarterly employee lifestyle enhancement reimbursement perk. Dental/vision, flex spending, WI Deferred Comp, life, short-term disability, accident, and cancer/critical illness coverages are available.

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

Completed applications must be received by the Price County Office of Administration by April 9, 2025, to be considered for this position.

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LEGALS

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.

Notice To Creditors7735

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
WNAXLP

Notice To Creditors7735

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

DATE SIGNED: March 10, 2025
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar
Form completed by:
Attorney Corinna T. Fischer
Goyke, Tillisch & Fischer, LLP
2100 Stewart Avenue, Ste. 140
Wausau, WI 54401
Telephone: 715-849-8100
Bar Number: 1115525
Published March 19, 26, April 2, 2025.
WNAXLP

CLASSIFIEDS

Rummage Sales This Week7200

TOMAHAWK- 2541 Lake Nokomis
Rd. Friday, April 4, 10-6; Saturday,
April 5, 10-3. Four flea marketers
clean-out sale.

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT,
LINCOLN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
WILLIAM B. KRAFT

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 25 IN 19

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal
administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth
November 9, 1953 and date of death
July 13, 2024, was domiciled in
Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin,
with a mailing address of W8644
Silver Birch Road, Tomahawk, WI
54487.
3. All interested persons waived
notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim
against the decedent's estate is June
27, 2025.

NAME Change7730

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT,
LINCOLN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
RICHARD PAUL THUSIUS

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

Notice To Creditors7735

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT,
LINCOLN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
RICHARD PAUL THUSIUS

NOTICE OF QUOTATIONS

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

One (1) 4-wheel drive utility terrain vehicle with tracks

Sealed quotations will be accepted until Thursday, April
3, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. Quotations will be opened and read
at 3:15 p.m. the same day. Quotes will be prepared for
consideration by the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and
Parks Committee at the April 14, 2025 Committee meeting.

For further information and specifications, contact the
Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department,
801 N. Sales Street, Suite 106 Merrill, WI 54452,
(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 March 19, 2025
WNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST

Notice is hereby given that public testing of the
ExpressVote and DS-200 voting equipment
being used in municipalities within Lincoln
County for the April 1, 2025 General Election
is scheduled from 8:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m. on
Saturday, March 22, 2025 through Wednesday,
March 26, 2025. All towns and cities in Lincoln
County will be testing their voting equipment
through the Municipal Clerk's Office within
these times. For specific times pertaining to an
individual municipality please contact the clerk
for that municipality. Specific times will also
be posted on all municipal bulletin boards and
websites where available.

Published March 19, 2025
WNAXLP

LINCOLN COUNTY
NOTICE TO ALL DOG OWNERS

Pursuant to Chapter 174 Wisconsin Statutes and Lincoln County
Ordinance 88, and as amended by Ordinance Chapter 12, every
owner of a dog more than five months of age on January 1 of any
year, or five months of age within the license year, shall annually
obtain a license. Current certificate of rabies vaccination must be
presented when obtaining a dog license.

Penalty: Upon citation for unlicensed dogs shall be a forfeiture of
\$100.00.

LICENSE FEES Before 3-31 After 3-31
Dog, Male or Female \$30.00 \$65.00
Neutered or Spayed Dog \$10.00 \$25.00
Kennels (1ST 12 Dog Tags) \$35.00 \$35.00 + \$5 per dog

Dog licenses must be obtained from your Municipal Clerk.

Lincoln County Board of Supervisors

Published March 19, 2025
WNAXLP

Make plans now to fight
spongy moth in 2025

BY BILL MCNEE
DNR FOREST HEALTH
SPECIALIST, OSHKOSH

WISCONSIN – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is encouraging property owners to examine their property for spongy moth egg masses and plan for action, if needed.

There is still time to seek out spongy moth egg masses on your property and take action before hatching takes place, generally in April or May. Each spongy moth egg mass contains hundreds of eggs that will hatch into hungry, leaf-eating caterpillars this spring.

Large numbers of these invasive caterpillars can be a tremendous nuisance. They can eventually cause tree mortality if the trees have



Large egg masses are seen on a tree at the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit in 2021.

Photo by Bill McNee, Wisconsin DNR

previously been stressed by other spongy moth defoliation events, drought or other stressful conditions.

Spongy moth egg masses are tan-colored lumps about

the size of a nickel or quarter and are found on trees, buildings and other outdoor objects. They may also be found in protected places such as firewood piles and birdhouses. Egg masses produced in 2024 will feel firm and appear darker in color than older egg masses, which appear faded, feel spongy and do not contain viable eggs.

Property owners who have oak, birch, crabapple, aspen, willow and linden (basswood) trees should be particularly watchful because the caterpillars prefer these species. However, they will feed on many other kinds of trees and shrubs.

Predict impacts with
egg mass surveys

An egg mass survey (www.tinyurl.com/72z9tekd) can help property owners and communities predict the level of defoliation in 2025 and determine if active management is needed. A “Protect Your Trees From Spongy Moth” video is available online at www.vimeo.com/954026170/2557def7b3 to assist property owners in conducting predictive egg mass surveys.

Wisconsin experienced a wetter-than-average spring in 2024, and this was favorable for diseases that killed large numbers of spongy moth caterpillars. Sites where heavy caterpillar mortality was

Spongy Moth
CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

Miscellaneous Pet7278

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Homes For Sale7454

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Miscellaneous Transportation7574

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Leader Sports & Nature

Lincoln County Land Services Department highlights efforts to stabilize eroding shorelines

BY TOM BOISVERT
CONSERVATION
PROGRAM MANAGER

LINCOLN COUNTY – The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) provides funding through the Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) Program to support conservation efforts across the state.

Each county in Wisconsin receives funding to implement projects aligned with the county’s Land and Water Resource Management Plan. These projects vary in scope, but all share the same goal: to protect and preserve Wisconsin’s valuable soil and water resources.

Shorelines facing significant erosion may be eligible for assistance through the SWRM Program. In 2024, several shoreline stabilization projects were completed on Lake Nokomis, Lake Mohawksin and Lake Alice.

The Lincoln County Land Services Department, in collaboration with DATCP, helps landowners develop site-specific construction plans and oversees the completion of these projects. Local contractors, including Northwoods Landscaping, Marquardt Excavating and Construction and D.R. Thomas Landscapes, all completed projects in 2024.

These projects successfully stabilized eroding shorelines, preventing further release of sediment and nutrients into nearby waterbodies.

Shoreline erosion can be a significant environmental concern, as it may lead to the loss of valuable land, degradation of aquatic habitats and water quality issues. By stabilizing eroding shorelines, these projects help protect water quality by reducing the negative impacts of sedimentation and nutrient runoff.



On Lake Nokomis, landowner Troy Christensen noticed significant erosion along his shoreline.

“Our shoreline and the hill leading down to it were showing major signs of erosion,” he explained. “A neighbor mentioned a potential cost-share program through the Lincoln County Land Services Department that we could take advantage of.”

During the initial site visit, Lincoln County staff confirmed the extent of the erosion, with an estimated eight feet of shoreline lost in recent years. Additionally, the adjacent hillside was near vertical and lacked vegetation to stabilize the exposed sand face.

To address these issues, Lincoln County staff, in coordination with DATCP, developed a construction plan that included rock riprap, geotextile bag walls and native plantings to stabilize the shoreline. The geotextile bag walls, which are made of durable fabric, were strategically placed along the shoreline to prevent further erosion. Over time, the bags will integrate with native vegetation, which is planted within the structure. As the plants grow, their roots will reinforce the fabric and stabilize the area, helping to secure the soil and prevent future erosion. These methods stabilize the toe of the shoreline while promoting the re-establishment of native vegetation on the adjacent hillside.

In order to maximize program funds, Lincoln County utilized a competitive bidding process for the project.

“The staff at the Lincoln County Land Services Department put together a detailed report and managed the bidding process,” Christensen stated. “Once the bids came in, we chose Marquardt Excavating and Construction, and we couldn’t be happier with the outcome.”

The SWRM Program not only provides financial assistance but also offers guidance to landowners throughout the project.

“We wouldn’t have been able to complete this project without the support of the Lincoln County Land Services Department and the cost-share assistance available,” Christensen said. “The service they provide through this program is invaluable.”

While this article highlights shoreline stabilization, there are many other types of conservation projects eligible for funding through the SWRM Program.

Recent projects have supported local farmers in stabilizing erosion on crop fields, implementing managed grazing systems, reducing feedlot runoff, decommissioning wells and constructing environmentally-friendly stream crossings.

Depending on the type of project, landowners may be eligible for financial assistance covering 50%, 70% or even 90% of the project’s total cost, based on available funds.

For more information on the SWRM Program in Lincoln County, please contact Tom Boisvert, Conservation Program Manager, at 715-539-1054 or via email at thomas.boisvert@co.lincoln.wi.

Fishing Report: Dreaming about open water

BY GEORGE LANGLEY

NORTHERN WISCONSIN – While ice fishing is coming to an end, we’ve still got a bit of time to get out there. We’ve seen some sunny shorelines pull back during this last week of really warm weather, but as long as you can get on the ice, the fishing has remained very good!

The nice thing right now is that action has moved to the shallow water. If you’re wanting to fish deep, especially for perch, look for places where the water is flowing from on top of the ice down into the holes. The fish gather in these spots, as this water is oxygenated. As a general rule, anywhere you see this happening, you’re going to find some fish.

As always, this is the time of the year that begs caution. We’re seeing anywhere from 15 to 25 inches of ice out there on most bodies of water, depending on the lake and location. While this week doesn’t look to be bringing too much really warm weather, conditions can change quickly. Stay vigilant and be very wary of areas with current, like close to the channels on the chain.

Crappies continue to be found along the shallow weed edges in six to nine feet of water. Action has been best during early morning or late afternoon and evening, with small vertical jigs tipped with waxies or crappie minnows producing solid numbers.

Bluegill fishing remains steady, with fish suspending a bit deeper, but again we’re hearing reports of shallow action, too. A small jig tipped with waxies or red spikes is the go-to presentation. With these guys, the lighter the tackle, the better.

The perch action has been good, and while they are still being caught over the deeper mud flats, we’re finding them up in the shallower water now, too. If you’re looking for bigger perch, using larger rosy reds will help keep the little guys off your line. They can be tricky to find, but when you do, you can expect fantastic numbers.

The weather forecast looks a little psychotic for this week, with the possibility of some snow on Wednesday. Welcome to March in Wisconsin! That’ll definitely make things messy out there. But we’ve got consistently cold nighttime temperatures for the foreseeable future, which makes getting around in the mornings easier as things firm up overnight. Expect it to be easier to get out there than it is to get back in.

Now is the time of the year to start dreaming about open water. While it looks like we’ve got at least another couple of weeks on the ice, it’s never too early to start checking out your warm-weather rods and reel. Clean and oil those reels up and replace old line. And if you’ve got any broken tips or guides left over from last year, now is the time to get those taken care of. Hopefully this is one of those years where we go from standing on the ice to standing in a boat nice and fast.

Good luck and good fishin’!



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	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Mar 19	7:10AM	2:20AM	---	2:44PM
Mar 20	11:29PM	3:08AM	7:42AM	3:34PM
Mar 21	12:33AM	4:00AM	8:23AM	4:27PM
Mar 22	1:32AM	4:54AM	9:17AM	5:21PM
Mar 23	2:21AM	5:49AM	10:21AM	6:17PM
Mar 24	3:01AM	6:44AM	11:35AM	7:11PM
Mar 25	3:32AM	7:38AM	12:53PM	8:04PM
Mar 26	3:58AM	8:30AM	2:14PM	8:56PM

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

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Willow Flowage 2025 APIP now available for public review, comment

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WILLOW FLOWAGE – The annual Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area Annual Property Implementation Plan (APIP) is now available for public review and comment.

According to a release from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area (www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lands/willowflowage) develops an APIP and Monitoring Report to outline scheduled and completed forest and habitat management treatments, recreation and infrastructure developments and other property management actions.

The 2025 APIP is now available for public review and comment at

Photo courtesy of Wisconsin DNR

nyurl.com/mv5nrhjp until Wednesday, April 2.

The public is invited to explore the plan and direct any questions or comments to Willow Flowage Property Manager Adam Wallace at Adam.Wallace@wisconsin.gov or 715-892-0143.

“All planned treatments and developments outlined

in the APIP have been authorized and are consistent with the 2016 property master plan, which was developed with public input,” DNR stated. “The annual implementation plan does not include routine maintenance or minor actions such as mowing, building maintenance, inventory or field surveys.”

According to DNR, a key update in this year’s implementation plan includes the introduction of camping reservations and associated registration fees at the Willow Flowage Scenic Waters property.

“This change aims to provide campers with predictability when staying at remote water-access campsites and aligns with camping operations on other DNR-managed flowages,” DNR said. “Online campsite reservations are planned to open in 2025 for the 2026 camping season.”

View Appendix 4 in the Willow Flowage APIP for more information on the planned changes.

“We appreciate your interest in the Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area and value your input,” DNR said.

TOMAHAWK SPORTS TRIVIA: WEEK 225

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 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?

Week 224 answer: The 1983 THS boys’ cross country team did not qualify a team or individual for the State meet for the first time in 10 years.

No correct answers to last week’s question were submitted. Better luck this week!

Week 225 question: During the 1983-84 THS boys’ hockey season, Tomahawk played in four overtime games. Who was the fourth overtime game against: Wausau West, Wausau East or Rhinelander?

SPONGY MOTH FROM PAGE 10

seen last summer are unlikely to have high numbers of egg masses unless the population was very high. If many of the egg masses are dime-sized or smaller at a site, it is likely that the outbreak will end this summer.

Treat or remove egg masses

When current-year egg masses are found, treat or remove those safely within reach. Consider contacting an arborist or forester about

management options if large numbers of masses are present and cannot be removed.

Treating or removing egg masses will help to reduce the intensity of tree defoliation and nuisance caterpillars next summer. Property owners have two options:

- Gently scrape egg masses into a container of soapy water to soak for a day or two before throwing them in the trash. The DNR has produced a short instructional video (www.youtube.com/shorts/sdkwpMfIGZU).
- Spray the masses that

are safely within reach with horticultural, mineral or neem oil that is labeled for application to trees. Some products are specifically formulated for use against spongy moth egg masses. These oils are available online and at many local garden centers, hardware stores and big-box stores. Please note that oils can be applied only when temperatures are consistently well above freezing. Do not use motor oil or other lubricants, as they can harm the tree and become a pollutant.

Other treatment options

Planning for an aerial spray of larger forested areas in the spring should begin immediately. An aerial spray guide (www.tinyurl.com/3mn2jxht) is available to advise organizers. In recent years, for-hire applicators have used airplanes, helicopters and drones to apply insecticide from the air.

Please note: The state of Wisconsin does not offer a state-sponsored or cost-share program for treating private property to prevent defoliation by spongy moths.

Insecticide treatments, including foliage sprays and soil and trunk injections, may be a suitable control option after the caterpillars have hatched. A professional treatment is likely needed when there are high numbers of egg masses on large trees. Insecticide treatments are most effective when the caterpillars are small (mid-May to early June in northern counties).

Visit www.spongymoth.wi.gov for additional information about suitable options this spring, including

physical controls and insecticide applications that can be applied by a property owner or tree-care business.

Soil and trunk injections of insecticide are an option for protecting small numbers of larger trees and are done in the spring. Property owners interested in these injections should contact a tree care business well in advance of the treatment. Directories of for-hire arborists can be found on the Wisconsin Arborist Association and International Society of Arboriculture websites.

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