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Through Can-Am competition, Tomahawk Sports Center gifts new UTV to TFD

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR

TOMAHAWK – The Tomahawk Fire Department (TFD) last week received a new UTV, thanks to the efforts of Tomahawk Sports Center (TSC).

TSC is a Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP) dealer. Each year, Can-Am, a subsidiary of BRP, holds a competition called “Can-Am Defender for a Cause,” which asks Wisconsin dealers to submit letters explaining how nonprofit organizations in their area would benefit from having a Can-Am Defender.

Jodi Selmer of TSC explained that over the years, TSC submitted many letters on behalf of TFD, but were never selected. Their luck changed this year, when a new TSC employee who is also a TFD volunteer tried their hand at writing a letter.

Selmer said Can-Am wrote back, saying TSC’s letter was “incredible” and informing them that TFD would be the winners of the 2025 Can-Am Defender Pro Limited HD10.

TFD was one of 32 organizations vying for the new side-by-side.

A few months later, TSC received the unit, and after Printworx in Tomahawk took care of the decals and TSC added the needed accessories, the Can-Am was ready to be put to use by TFD.

TFD will upgrade from its current UTV, a 2008 Polaris.

TSC employees and TFD members gathered at TSC on Monday, Nov. 19, to hand over the keys to TFD Chief Paul Winter.

Winter noted that he believes the new unit will help the department broaden their rescue endeavors.

“We cannot thank (TSC) enough for this opportunity,” TFD stated.



Photos courtesy of Jodi Selmer



With spring referendum set, School District of Tomahawk shifts to community outreach

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER EDITOR

TOMAHAWK – With a funding referendum now set to appear on Feb. 18, 2025 ballots, the School District of Tomahawk is now shifting its focus to community outreach.

NOTE: An article in last week’s Leader incorrectly stated that the referendum would appear on April 2025 ballots.

The district’s Board of Education gave the official thumbs-up to the spending request during its meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 12.

In a Monday, Nov. 18 release, the district explained that the proposed non-recurring operational referendum is asking voters to authorize the district to continue to exceed its revenue limit by \$3.25 million each year for four years, starting with the 2024-2025 school year and ending in 2028-2029.

Currently, the district is operating under a three-year, \$3.25 million referendum that was approved by voters in April 2022 and will expire at the end of the school year.

The proposed referendum would replace the 2022 spending request and “enable the district to maintain its current programming levels through 2029 while making strategic investments to bolster learning and student opportunities,” according to the district.

Referendum
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

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BLACK FRIDAY



The Choir begins rehearsing several months before the concert.

St. Mary's Choir and Friends gearing up for annual holiday concert

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – St. Mary's Choir and Friends will present their annual holiday concert next month.

The choir will perform the concert, called "This Is Christmas," at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 320 E. Washington Ave., Tomahawk, on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 4 p.m.

The choir is made up of 55 adult singers, a children's Cherub Choir and instrumentalists featuring

piano, harp, violin, guitar, mandolin and a variety of brass.

Jan Huseby, Director of Music and Liturgy with St. Mary's, is also the Music Director for the choir, with assistance from Mary Ramsey. She explained that the St. Mary's Choir and their many friends from other area churches begin preparations for the concert in early September.

"Performing traditional and contemporary songs of hope, peace and a Christ-

mas cantata, the impressive local talent of the combined voices has delighted large audiences for many years in what has become a popular holiday tradition," Huseby stated. "The concert is free of charge, but a free will offering is appreciated. Following the concert, the audience is treated to an array of delectable homemade hors d'oeuvres and desserts."

For more information, contact Huseby at 715-453-2878 ext. 211.



The performance will be held at St. Mary's on Sunday, Dec. 8.

Photos courtesy of Jan Huseby

Danielski completes Nicolet College Jail Academy

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

LINCOLN COUNTY – Lincoln County Corrections Officer Adam Danielski recently completed Nicolet College's 200-hour Jail Academy.

A post on the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office's Facebook page said Danielski was selected by his peers to deliver the commencement speech.

"Adam harnessed an opportunity to share not only the insights gained, but also the profound experiences encountered throughout the academy's challenging yet rewarding journey," the Sheriff's Office stated. "In his heartfelt address, he offered a glimpse into the unique camaraderie among classmates, the resilience required in their training and the vital skill sets, rang-



Pictured are Adam Danielski (left) and Lincoln County Sheriff Ken Schneider.

Photo courtesy of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

ing from crisis management to conflict resolution, that now equip him and his fellow officers to serve and protect their community more effectively."

Danielski has been with the Sheriff's Office's Jail Division since March.

"Once again, congratulations, Adam," the Sheriff's Office said. "Your journey is not just a testament to your

individual determination, but also a motivation for those who aspire to follow in your footsteps. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to our community. Your role as a Corrections Officer lays the foundation for a safer society, and we look forward to witnessing all the remarkable achievements that lie ahead in your promising career."

REFERENDUM

FROM PAGE 1

With the same yearly funding amount being sought, the district doesn't anticipate its portion of the property tax rate to increase.

"District leaders and the board estimated an average of a \$5.59 levy rate per \$1,000.00 of estimated fair market value with the passage of the Feb. 2025 referendum," the district stated. "It is important to note that the levy rate may not be consistently applied in each township due to a variety of factors. However, the overall average levy rate is \$5.59 per \$1,000.00 of property value."

The district said it is "facing the same challenges experienced by most Wisconsin districts," noting that state aid to public schools has failed to keep up with inflation, "especially in recent years."

"If revenues had kept

pace with inflation since 2009, school districts like Tomahawk would receive about \$3,300.00 more per student for the 2024-25 school year," the district stated.

"Additionally, state aid is connected to property values. Because of the percentage of high-value lake property in the Tomahawk area, the district receives very little state aid."

The district explained that while the average Wisconsin district receives \$8,060.00 per student in state aid, Tomahawk receives only about \$3,300.00 per student.

The district also does not qualify for poverty aid, which aids districts where at least half of its students are economically disadvantaged; or sparsity aid, which provides aid to rural school districts with relatively small economies of scale.

District Administrator

Wendell Quesinberry said that while the district is proud of its success, it still faces "significant financial challenges."

"Most of these challenges are out of our control and largely related to the state's school funding system and rising costs due to inflation," Quesinberry stated. "We look forward to sharing more information with our community regarding our financial needs and the proposed solution on the ballot this February."

Going forward, the district said it plans to launch a webpage with detailed information on the funding request, along with answers to frequently asked questions.

More information will also be shared on the district's social media platforms and via other channels in the coming weeks and months, according to the district.

Christmas Trees for Sale!!

The American Legion (thanks to Randy White) is selling Christmas Trees!!!

Trees will be available at 327 W. Wisconsin Ave, Tomahawk starting at noon on Friday, November 22nd - December 22nd or until sold out.

Stop at the Legion between (noon and 8 p.m.) to pick up your fresh cut tree!

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School District of Tomahawk 'exceeds expectations' on annual DPI report card

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR



TOMAHAWK – The School District of Tomahawk received an “exceeds expectations” rating on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI)’s accountability report card for the 2023-24 school year.

State statute requires DPI to publish the school and district report cards annually.

The 2023-24 report cards were released last week.

The accountability scores are broken down into five overall ratings that a district or school can be placed into: Significantly Exceeds Expectations (five stars), Exceeds Expectations (four stars), Meets Expectations (three stars), Meets Few Expectations (two stars) and Fails to Meet Expectations (one star).

Report cards use up to three years of data, including achievement data from 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24.

DPI said statewide overall ratings distribution on district report cards for 2023-24 was similar to 2022-23.

“Of 377 public school districts receiving report cards for 2023-24, 353 met, exceeded or significantly exceeded expectations (94% of districts),” DPI stated. “Among districts receiving report cards for both 2023-24 and 2022-23, 29 increased by one rating category compared to the prior year, 24 decreased

by one rating category, and 324 had no change in rating.”

Report cards are not produced for districts that represent a single school, DPI noted. In these cases, school report cards are produced.

There were 1,939 report cards produced for public schools for 2023-24, according to DPI.

“Of the scored public school report cards, 1,622 met, exceeded or significantly exceeded expectations (84%). Among public schools receiving scored report cards for both 2023-24 and 2022-23, 249 increased in rating at least one category compared to the prior year, 212 decreased in rating at least one category and 1,461 had no change in rating. Among public schools, 153 were unable to be scored and are rated using alternate accountability.”

“This data is broken down by student group and across years, helping to highlight trends and provide a deeper analysis of performance at the group, school and district levels,” DPI stated.

School District of Tomahawk data

The School District of Tomahawk earned an overall score of 72.2, good for a four-star, “exceeds expectations” rating.

Tomahawk earned one

AREA DATA

District	Overall Score	Accountability Rating
Tomahawk	72.2	Exceeds Expectations
Abbotsford	60.2	Meets Expectations
Antigo	64.4	Meets Expectations
Athens	66.8	Meets Expectations
Butternut	58.2	Meets Expectations
Chequamegon	73.3	Exceeds Expectations
D.C. Everest	70.8	Exceeds Expectations
Edgar	67.5	Meets Expectations
Flambeau	67.7	Meets Expectations
Ladysmith	56.0	Meets Few Expectations
Lakeland	53.8	Meets Few Expectations
Medford	63.7	Meets Expectations
Merrill	55.2	Meets Few Expectations
Mosinee	68.6	Meets Expectations
N. Pines	68.2	Meets Expectations
Phillips	63.7	Meets Expectations
Prentice	61.5	Meets Expectations
Rhineland	63.1	Meets Expectations
Rib Lake	68.9	Meets Expectations
Stratford	77.5	Exceeds Expectations
Wausau	65.7	Meets Expectations

Data courtesy of DPI.

of the highest overall scores in the area and was one of few local districts to exceed expectations. Many area districts earned “meets expectations” marks, while several received “meets few expectations” ratings.

According to DPI, report cards include data for multiple school years across four priority areas: Achievement, Growth, Target Group Outcomes and On-Track to Graduation.

DPR said the Achievement and Growth priority areas are weighted based on a district or school per-

centage of economically disadvantaged pupils, as required by state law.

The Achievement priority area summarizes how a district’s students performed on state assessments using a points-based proficiency system that gives partial credit for Approaching performance and extra credit for Advanced performance. The score is a multi-year average of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics component scores.

Tomahawk’s score of 61.3 (62.0 in ELA, 60.6 in mathematics), was the

same as or higher than 48.7% of districts in the state, according to DPI.

The Growth priority area measures year-to-year student progress on statewide tests. It uses a value-added model that seeks to control for circumstances beyond the influence of educators.

DPI said a high value-added score means that on average students in the district are progressing more quickly than other, similar students.

“Growth is scored from 0 to 100 to match the other priority areas and is a conversion from the roughly 0 to 6 value-added score,” DPI stated.

In this area, Tomahawk earned a score of 72.7 (73.6 in ELA, 71.7 in mathematics). The score was the same as or higher than 86.3% of Wisconsin districts.

The Target Group Outcomes priority area examines outcomes for students with the lowest test scores – the target group.

“It is designed to promote equity by helping districts focus on learners who need the most support while also improving outcomes for all students,” DPI said. “The priority area score com-

bins component scores for achievement, growth, chronic absenteeism and attendance or graduation rate.”

Tomahawk earned a score of 64.5 in this category, the same as or higher than 75.7% of districts in the state.

The On-Track to Graduation priority area indicates how successfully students are progressing toward completing their K-12 education. The score combines component scores for measures of student engagement and achievement.

Tomahawk’s score of 87.5 was the same as or higher than 67.9% of Badger State districts.

The school and district report cards are available on the DPI’s website at www.apps2.dpi.wi.gov/reportcards/.

DPI said it recommends “careful review of not only the report card front page, but also of the detailed student performance data on the following pages.”

Additional information on report cards can also be found on the DPI’s Office of Educational Accountability webpage at www.dpi.wi.gov/accountability/resources.

Correction

An article in last week’s *Leader* said a School District of Tomahawk funding referendum will appear on April 2025 ballots. The referendum will appear on Feb. 2025 ballots.

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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., Rhineland, Wis., 54501. We will not print letters that:

- Contain potentially libelous material. Libel is any malicious, unsubstantiated or untrue statement about someone that damages their reputation. Submissions must have facts to back up all claims.
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- Make explicit or implied threats. This includes personal attacks, intimidation, bullying or threats of harm against a person or organization.
- Contain copyrighted material or that have been printed in another publication. All letters must be an original writing by the signer and exclusive to the Tomahawk Leader.
- Identify another person, unless that person has given their explicit consent. We assume that any person identified in a letter has consented to be mentioned in the letter.

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All letters submitted as an endorsement for a political candidate, referendum or political agenda will carry the same guidelines as above; however, they will be charged \$40.00 per letter of up to 250 words in length. Longer political letters will be accepted, but will be charged \$10.00 per additional 50 words. All political letters must be prepaid prior to printing. Letters to the Editor will not be accepted from candidates running for election or representatives of an organization endorsing their own referendum; those submissions will be referred to our advertising department to be run as ads.

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OBITUARIES

Obituary updates are posted at www.tomahawkleader.com



Dixie Lee Smith, 71, passed away Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024, at Mat-Su Regional Medical Center in Palmer, Alaska, following a long, hard-fought battle with renal failure. Dixie was preceded in death by her husband of 45 years Duane Smith and daughter Dana Smith. She leaves behind her son Gregory Smith and daughter Sondra Smith, sisters Diana Olson, Gloria Hodsdon, JoAnn Slaughter and Patsy Kaspar, along with a large, extended family and many friends.

Dixie was born in Tomahawk and moved to Alaska with her parents, Herman and June (Spangler) Gaedtke, in Oct. 1962. She was raised in Palmer, Alaska, where she would build a life rooted in love, family and hard work.

In 1970, Dixie married her lifelong partner, Duane Smith. The following year, they moved to Gakona, Alaska, where they embraced the community and adventure of Alaskan life. Dixie worked as a cook and housekeeper at several local lodges and was known for her warmth and delicious meals. In 1973, she took on a new role with a United States Mail contract, driving bulk mail between Glennallen and Gakona. For 32 years, she carried the mail with dedication, while she continued cooking summers in the lodge until the mid-'90s. Dixie's love for cooking made her renowned in the community, especially during the holiday season. Each Christmas, she would bake dozens of cookies and candies, creating platters of treats for friends, family and colleagues. Her kindness and generosity warmed many hearts, as did her talent in the kitchen.

Dixie was also known for her beautiful yard, which was a source of pride and admiration. She poured her heart into cultivating a vibrant, lush landscape that reflected her hard work and creative spirit. Above all, she cherished her family. She was a devoted wife and mother, fiercely protective and always proud of her children. With her "heart of gold," Dixie became a cherished friend and neighbor, treating friends as family.

In 2005, Dixie retired and returned to Palmer and the family home where she was raised. She continued to find joy in gardening, working to keep the home and yard beautiful while staying close to her beloved family.

At her request, there will be no formal services. Dixie will be cremated and her ashes spread over Gakona, the small town she considered home. A celebration of life for friends and family will be held in the summer of 2025.



Herbert "Herb" F. Jach, age 84, of the Town of Harrison, WI, passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, November 11, 2024.

Herb's spirit lives on through his son, Michael (Cheryl) Jach; his daughters, Therese (Tim) Winter, and Kris (Steve) Peeters; his sisters, Susan (Bill) Stevenson, and Poky (Florence) Fox; his grandchildren, David, Eric, and Timothy Jach, Christian Hoganson, Tricia Karaba, and Hannah Penca; and his grand-dogs, Arlo and

Max; along with several cousins, nieces, nephews, and six great-grandchildren. Herb is also survived by his lifelong friend and the mother of his daughters, Genevieve (Gen) Pond. He was preceded in death by his father, Herbert E. Jach; his mother, Eleanore (Schroeder) Jach; and his brother, William "Bill" Jach.

Back in his Custer High School days, Herb was the Michael Phelps of his time, shattering the 1957 city and state breast-stroke records. Post-graduation, he didn't hang up his Speedo but took his talents to the golf course, becoming a league regular at Inshalla Country Club. As a founding member of the Ojibwa Bowhunters Club in New Berlin, WI, he once bagged a prized 9-pt buck. Bear hunting and fishing in Canada? Check. Bowling, darts, and pool? Triple check. Oh, and he dabbled in taxidermy—why not? In 1979, Herb made his grand entrance into Tomahawk, WI. He and his wife, Gen, moved to the Harrison Hills and took over what's now the Winding Trail Bar & Grill. From Herb & Gen's Country Tap to Herb's Turtle Soup Bar, the place became legendary, especially for its homemade snapping turtle soup, chili, and burgers. And a word to the wise: don't ask for something that's not on his "very limited" menu. "This ain't Burger King; you get it my way, or you don't get it at all!" Herb famously quipped. Herb could often be found napping behind the bar, surrounded by patrons, a crate of yellow onions under the pool table, and the trap-shoot game in full swing. It was also your go-to spot for the Sunday morning paper and polka music, post-church. St. Augustine's could've installed an offering basket right there! While Herb will be dearly missed by all who knew him, he'd want you to know he was ready to meet his Fred Bear in the sky. He'd fished the gills, spun the tales, swam the laps, hunted the prey, and sipped the Knob Creek. Now he's rejoining his dear pal, Bob Heinrich, and Clyde, his furry companion, to carry on those traditions.

A celebration of Herb's life will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at Generations Funeral Home, at 10:00 AM. A luncheon will follow at Winding Trail Grill & Bar located at N10002 County Road B in Tomahawk. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family.

News Briefs

Kinship seeking items for Christmas party

Kinship of Tomahawk is seeking items for its upcoming Christmas party. Undecorated cutout cookies, wrapping paper, large gift bags, tissue paper, gift tags, small trinkets, lotion, perfume, cologne, notebooks, journals, coloring books, crayons, decks of cards, kids' card games, candles, small toys and new or gently-used stuffed animals can be dropped off at the Kinship House, 27 E. Wisconsin Ave., Tomahawk, before Monday, Dec. 2. For more information, contact Kinship at 715-453-1910.

National Wreaths Across America ceremony

A National Wreaths Across America ceremony will be held at Northwoods National Cemetery, 4520 Lakewood Rd., Harshaw, on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 11 a.m. The program will include the Ceremonial (Branch of Service, POW/MIA, Organization) Wreath laying, followed by grave-specific wreath placements by family and friends and remaining wreath placements. A complimentary hot sandwich and dessert social will be held at Rondele Ranch, 8959 County Rd. K, Harshaw, after the ceremony. Group ceremony sponsors are American Legion Riders District 11 and Veterans Ceremony UGC Inc. For information on group sponsorship, sponsoring a wreath for a veteran's grave and/or to volunteer to place a wreath, visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org/WINWNC or contact Location Coordinator

News Briefs

CONTINUES ON PAGE 5

Delores (Dee) Basel Miller, age 63, of Schofield, Wis. passed away Saturday, November 16, 2024 in Wausau.

Delores was born in Tomahawk, Wis. on November 1, 1961 to the late Raymond Basel and Whilhelmina (Renn) Basel Roberts.

Delores lived in Las Vegas, NV for a number of years before moving back to Wisconsin. Survivors include her husband, Phillip Miller, Schofield; two daughters, Kelly Gallegos, Las Vegas and Sierra (Zeke) Zduńczyk, Las Vegas, and two grandchildren Gabriel and Abigail, both of Las Vegas. Delores is further survived by five sisters, Mary Sann, Wausau; Jane (Russell) Penkalski, Stoddard; Ella Sheldon, Rhinelander; Joyce (Jack) Verbist, Tomahawk; and Theresa Majerus, Port Washington. She is also survived by numerous nieces & nephews.

Delores was preceded in death by her parents. There will be no funeral or memorial service.

Associated Clergy of Tomahawk "Pastor's Corner"

A Version of Things to Come

Rene Descartes once observed, "I think therefore I am." This is what distinguishes human beings from other animals, our ability to think. The sad fact is that many humans' opinions pass for thinking. If we are reduced to merely expressing opinions, we are little better than many of our own pets. My dog had beautiful characteristics. He was always glad to see me. He greeted me with enthusiasm every time I came through the door. He was loving, accepting and comforting. Over the years, I have known many married couples who do not treat each other with such courtesy. Their options get in their way.

Christians are called to be better than that yet many followers of Jesus Christ fail to be as good, loyal or caring as a dog. Thinking Christians can learn a lot from other members of God's creation. I have noticed that if you have memory and you can remember loved ones who have died and left a positive affect on your life, you can grow and attain greater purpose. To have great purpose in faith, you can to grow to an ultimate purpose.

One of the greatest of early Christians was a man named John who wrote the last book in our bible, the Book of Revelation. There he revealed eternal truth, visions, and mysteries. Towards the end of his monumental work in the Book of Revelation, John presented a vision of the new Jerusalem. Revelation 21: 1-2, 4, "and I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea, And I, John, saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a Bride adorned for her husband. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be anymore pain; for the former things are passed away.

Sadly, the world in which we live in is soiled and corrupted by human sin. Yet we have the promise of a greater and brighter reality through our faith. It is Jesus Christ who will bring us to that reality and the Holy Spirit that comforts us until we arrive as citizens of that New Jerusalem so beautifully described by John.



Dr. Patrick Shelley,
1st Congregational Church
Tomahawk, WI

WNA Foundation seeking student entries for annual writing, cartoon contest

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – The Wisconsin Newspaper Association (WNA) Foundation is seeking entries for its annual Editorial Writing and Cartoon Contest.

According to WNA, the contest, open to all Wisconsin middle and high school students, including home-schooled students, aims to increase civic education and engagement while celebrating the rights established by the First Amendment.

WNA said essays and cartoons should focus on the importance of the First Amendment. Students are encouraged to draw from personal experiences, current events and historical examples.

For the writing contest, high school students will be asked to write a "guest column" (500 words or less) about the First Amendment.

Middle school students will be asked to write a "letter to the editor" (200 words or less) on the same



topic.

Students wishing to compete in the editorial cartoon contests may do so by submitting one First Amendment-themed editorial cartoon.

The deadline for submissions is 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 4. Winners will be announced in early Jan. 2025.

First-place winners in each contest will receive \$500.00, second-place winners will receive \$250.00, third-place winners will receive \$100.00 and honorable mention recipients will receive \$50.00.

For more information or to submit entries, visit www.wnaneeds.com/wisconsin-civics-games/.

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.

Over the last few weeks, we have been looking at the idea that the Bible's teaching about human nature, re-emphasized in the Reformation of 1517, helped change the direction of science and politics in Western Civilization. Over the last two weeks we looked at Romans 3:9-12 with its statement that we all are *under sin*, and as the reformation spread this understanding of human nature, it began to change the face of science and politics. Today, I would like to take a quick look at some of those changes in science.

The Renaissance, which began in the 1400's (Christopher Columbus), began an age of exploration and a renewed interest in learning. Up till then, most science was done through the work of logic, based on the Greek and Roman learning before the Dark Ages. The old writings of the Greek and Roman philosophers were restudied, and science was still being done as a branch of philosophy with some experimentation.

Most experiments were about practical things, like Leonardo da Vinci's detailed examination of the human body so he could be a better painter and sculpture of the human form, or his works as an engineer, trying to develop new things for the military and flying machines. But it wasn't until the Reformation with its emphasis on the Bible that science changed as to how it was being done. Historians call it a *scientific revolution*.

The Bible teaches that we are sinners, and that our sinfulness has affected all areas of our person – even our thinking and reasoning abilities have become infected by personal desires (Ephesians 2:1-3), so that we do not always see the truth of things (Ephesians 4:17-19). With this understanding of human nature, science was removed from the realm of philosophy, and they developed what today is called *the scientific method* – first observe and form a theory, then submit the theory to testing to prove right or wrong. When a theory cannot be tested, it is not to be accepted as true, but is to remain under question – we cannot trust human reason alone.

Another effect of the Reformation and its teachings on science was that God created everything, and then He created mankind in His image (Genesis 1:26,27) with the logic and ability to examine and come to an understanding about what God had made – God wants us to examine and learn from His creation. The only thing keeping us from knowing God's creation is our own sinfulness, and to deal with our sinfulness, we need to test every theory we make – *the scientific method*.

Most of the founders (1600 – 1800) of the modern schools of science (biology, microbiology, cosmology, zoology, taxonomy, etc.) Were people who believed in creation. Today, the theory of evolution is the only theory accepted by some that is unable to pass the test of the scientific method.

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

Local news online
www.TomahawkLeader.com

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Great Game: Humanity, AI, and the Battle for Control

Dear Reader,

As we venture further into the age of AI, there's a prevailing narrative that suggests humanity, with all its flaws and frailties, is destined to be overtaken by the cold, calculating logic of our creations. But to assume that AI will inevitably dominate is to underestimate the indomitable spirit of human nature, especially the cunning and strategic brilliance that has shaped our history.

AI, with its unmatched processing power and immunity to the temptations that ensnare humans, might seem poised to take control. But here's where the story gets more interesting: There are those among us—self-designated chess masters, if you will—who see the world not as a foregone conclusion but as a complex game where every move matters. These are the thinkers, strategists, and visionaries who understand that while AI may operate on logic, it lacks the depth of human experience, the instinct for survival, and the capacity for deception when necessary.

Consider the likes of Machiavelli, whose understanding of power dynamics transcended mere brute force. He recognized that true power lies in the subtle manipulation of perception, the art of appearing one way while acting another. In this context, AI might be the perfect logical machine, but it's playing a game designed by humans—a game where the rules are as fluid as they are complex.

We humans, despite our apparent weaknesses, have an edge that AI cannot replicate: our ability to think be-



yond logic, to strategize with a long-term vision, and to use our very flaws as tools in the grand chessboard of existence. It's this combination of intellect, experience, and unpredictability that makes us formidable players in the game of power.

Yes, AI might believe it has the upper hand, viewing our world as one ripe for the taking. But it must also contend with those of us who are prepared to challenge it, to subordinate its capabilities in service of a greater good. We will not sit idly by as passive spectators in our own story. Instead, we will push hard to ensure that AI, for all its power, remains a tool—one that advocates for good, not for the kind of malevolent forces that history has shown us, be they tyrants, frauds, or any who would seek to exploit power for evil.

The real challenge, then, is not just in creating AI but in mastering it, in ensuring that it serves humanity rather than replaces it. This is not a simple battle of logic versus emotion, but a complex and ongoing game where every move matters and the stakes are nothing less than the future of our world.

In the end, AI may be powerful, but it is we, the self-designated chess masters, who will dictate the rules of the game. And as long as we remain vigilant, strategic, and committed to the greater good, we can ensure that the future, while shared with AI, is still very much under human control.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

As reported by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Monday, Nov. 18:

On 11/14/2024 a deputy on patrol attempted to conduct a traffic stop for a vehicle he had traveling at 88 MPH in a 55 MPH zone on CTH A, south of USH 8 in the Town of Bradley. In attempting the stop the suspect, they refused to stop and accelerated to over 100 MPH, leading the deputy on a chase. The chase continued for a short distance before the driver pulled into an address on USH 8. Once the suspect came to a stop, they exited the car and fled into a house. The deputy unsuccessfully attempted to tase the suspect as he ran into the house. As the deputy waited for back up, the suspect, a Tomahawk man, 63, came out of the house, and the deputy was able to take the subject into custody. The subject was transported to the Lincoln County Jail, where they were booked for fleeing/eluding, reckless driving endangering safety, resisting arrest, obstructing, and criminal operating after revocation, speeding and failure to stop for a stop sign, which he committed as he was attempting to flee from the deputy. The Sheriff's Office was assisted by officers of the Tomahawk Police Department and the Wisconsin State Patrol.

On 11/14/2024 The 911 Center took several 911 calls of a wrong way driver on USH 51. The first call came in at 1:38 p.m. on USH 51 near Tamarack Ln. in the Town of Skanawan. The suspect was reported to be traveling N/B in the S/B

lanes of traffic. The vehicle was described as possibly being an orange Subaru or similar vehicle. Following the initial call, the 911 Center took a second call of what is believed to be the same vehicle traveling in the wrong lanes of travel. Deputies were sent to the area, but were unable to locate the suspect vehicle. At 3:26 p.m., after the initial 911 calls of a wrong way driver, the 911 Center received another report of a wrong way driver this time S/B in the N/B lanes of traffic, this time on USH 51 near the 205 mile marker in the Town of Scott. The suspect vehicle was described as being an orange Compass. The suspect vehicle was getting close to Marathon County, and there were no Lincoln County deputies in position to locate the vehicle, so the information was passed down to the Marathon County Sheriff's Office for them to watch for the suspect vehicle. A search of USH 51 by both Marathon and Lincoln counties proved unsuccessful in locating a suspect. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office encourages anyone who may have seen this vehicle or may know the owner/driver to contact the office at 715-536-6272.

On 11/14/2024 a deputy was sent to an address on CTH K just north of the City of Merrill in the Township of Merrill for a domestic disturbance. In was reported that a Merrill woman, 27, and a Merrill man, 45, had been involved in a domestic disturbance. Deputies found that the woman was given a suggestion from a Merrill man, 36, to place an exploding firework under the toilet seat

as the 45-year-old man was going to sit down. The firework that was designed to explode when pressure was applied went off as the man sat on the toilet. The resulting explosion from the small firework caused minor injuries to the man. The woman was charged with domestic battery for placing the firework on the toilet seat and causing injury.

On 11/17/2024 deputies were sent to the area of STH 17 north of John's Memorial Dr. in the Township of Harrison for a reported two-car head on crash with multiple passengers and injuries. Deputies learned that the first driver, a Merrill man, 19, was traveling S/B on STH 17. The second driver, a Rhinelander woman, 19, was travelling N/B on STH 17. According to witnesses and evidence at the scene, the second driver crossed over the centerline and struck the S/B driver's vehicle head on. While investigating the crash and speaking with the driver of the second vehicle, the deputy noticed signs of impairment. The deputy requested the driver to perform sobriety tests, which she agreed to do. As a result of those tests, the woman was placed under arrest for a first offense of OWI. The woman was later released to a responsible party.

Deputies conducted 13 traffic stops and 34 security checks. Deputies responded to 22 car vs. deer crashes. Driving complaints: Five. The 911 Center took three hang-up calls and two nuisance calls.

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 4

Mary at 715-612-2196. If your organization would like to place a wreath during the ceremony, contact Mary no later than Friday, Dec. 6.

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 continu-

ing to accept donations. To contribute to the account, visit Park City Credit Union.

Open Arms Community Meal served Tuesdays

Open Arms Community Meal is served each Tuesday at St. Mary's Corpus Christi Center, 320 E. Washington Ave., Tomahawk. The Corpus Christi Center opens at 4 p.m., and the meal begins at 5 p.m. All are welcome. To volunteer, call 715-224-3306 and leave a message.

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Aspirus provides info on seasonal affective disorder

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – Aspirus Health recently provided information on seasonal affective disorder.

“Do you notice that your mood changes with the seasons, becoming gloomier as the days get shorter?” Aspirus said in a release. “If so, you might be experiencing seasonal affective disorder (SAD).”

SAD is a type of depression marked by a recurring seasonal pattern, with symptoms typically lasting four to five months each year, from late fall to early spring.

According to the American Psychiatric Association, approximately 5% of adults in the United States experience SAD.

“While anyone can be affected, research indicates that SAD is more prevalent in the northern states, largely due to reduced exposure to sunlight,” said Aspirus St. Luke’s Nurse Practitioner Courtney Shaw. “During the winter months, it’s common to leave for work in the dark and return home after sunset, resulting in a significant lack of natural light.”

Aspirus said one of the best ways to combat this condition is by staying active and making sure



Shaw
Photo courtesy of Aspirus Health

you get enough light.

“Try to find an outdoor activity you enjoy, like walking, skiing or fat-tire biking, and do it regularly during the day,” Aspirus stated. “You can also buy a light box or a dawn-simulating lamp and use it within the first hour of waking up to get the most benefits.”

Other healthy lifestyle habits, such as eating a balanced diet and maintaining a regular sleep schedule, can also be beneficial, Aspirus noted. In some cases, medication and counseling may be necessary to manage the condition effectively.

“Because the timing of the onset of winter-pattern SAD is so predictable, many benefit from starting treatment before the fall to help prevent

or reduce symptoms,” Aspirus said. “Talking to your primary care provider is a great place to start when making a plan to do this.”

“People can be hesitant to talk about mental health concerns like SAD, but I want them to know that they don’t have to be,” Shaw stated. “Everyone faces struggles at some point, and SAD is just one of them. With proper treatment, we can absolutely manage this condition so you can enjoy life – no matter what season it is.”

If you’ve noticed changes in your mood or behavior whenever the seasons change, talk to your provider, or find one at www.aspirus.org/find-a-provider.

Annual Speak Up, Speak Out report released by Office of School Safety

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN –The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of School Safety (OSS) last week released the 2023-2024 annual report for Speak Up, Speak Out (SUSO), a free statewide threat reporting tipline available to all Wisconsin schools.

SUSO also serves as the hub that connects all OSS initiatives and the entry point where schools can access comprehensive services offered by OSS as well as local, state and national partners, according to DOJ.

A release from DOJ said SUSO received 5,270 tips during the 2023-2024 school year, a more than 40% increase from the previous school year.

“Since the inception of SUSO in 2020, bullying has consistently been the number one tip,” DOJ stated. “It is also common nationally for bullying to be the most reported tip. Awareness of these incidents helps schools intervene early, before grievances and upsets can lead children down a pathway to violence.”

Numerous students across Wisconsin have contacted SUSO each year since its inception, report-



ing concerns, resulting in safer school communities, DOJ said, noting that “the significant increase in tips and the rich dialogue that many students have with SUSO staff indicate that SUSO has earned a reputation amongst youth as a safe, accessible, and credible place to report concerns.”

“The 2023-2024 annual report reflects OSS’ comprehensive approach to prioritizing preventing violence in our schools, and when crisis events do arise, responding appropriately to mitigate trauma and get students back to learning more quickly,” DOJ stated.

OSS assisted several schools with crisis response and recovery during the 2023-2024 school year.

DOJ noted that OSS also offers a variety of free trainings concerning violence prevention, protection, mitigation, crisis response, and recovery, including trainings for Behavioral Threat As-

essment and Management (BTAM), Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and the Standard Reunification Method (SRM).

From Sept. 1, 2023, to Aug.31, 2024, OSS provided SRP and SRM training to 838 people from 98 public school districts, private schools and tribal schools, 55 law enforcement agencies and 28 other agencies such as Emergency Management, EMS, Fire, City Admin, bus companies and other community agencies.

“Kids in our schools should be able to focus on what they’re learning in class without having to worry about their safety,” said Attorney General Josh Kaul. “Speak Up, Speak Out has been a remarkable success, assisting an increasing number of students and helping many schools that are working to take a comprehensive approach to school safety.”

Learn more about SUSO at www.speakup.wisconsin.gov/.



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OCHD outlines new Community Health Improvement Plan

BY CHRISTINA BRANDMEIER
MMC STAFF

ONEIDA COUNTY – During a presentation earlier this month, the Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) unveiled its new Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), focusing on four health priorities: mental health, substance use, childcare and housing.

Linda Conlon, OCHD Director, was excited about the launch, which she described as a collaborative effort that began with listening to the community's concerns and gathering data.

Conlon said health departments are required to conduct community health assessments and improvement planning every five years, while hospitals do so every three years.

"We're hoping to show the community what we've done to launch this plan so that more people will be interested in signing up for coalitions and doing some of this work and making an impact on the health of our residents here in Oneida County," Conlon said.

Heidi Pritzl and Jenny Chiamulera were two coalition members present at the event.

Pritzl, from the mental health coalition, said county data showed that the two biggest demographics struggling with mental health issues are youth and men.

"Even when you look nationally at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), adolescents are third on the list for suicide deaths, and we see a rise in anxiety and depression in that age, as well as in men 25 and older," Pritzl said.

Pritzl and her team recently implemented the "coaster campaign" in partnership with tavern leagues in Oneida, Vilas, and Forest counties and an organization called Heads Up Guys.

They designed coasters with tips and resources for men's mental health, as well as info for the 988 suicide and crisis hotline, and placed them in local taverns.

"We know families love to go out for a fish fry, and men are there," Pritzl said. "The neat part is they have a QR code, and we use that as a tracking method to see how many lives we touch and how many people reach out."

She added that the campaign received many donations and plans to bring the coasters to golf courses in May.

Another goal of the mental health coalition is to reduce anxiety and bullying among high school and middle school students.

The group offers educational opportunities for the public to learn about signs and ways of supporting youth when they may be suicidal and need resources.



"We've also been able to bring our Raise Your Voice clubs into the coalition to have young voices at the table, talking about what we can bring to the community," Pritzl said.

The CHIP's goals for tackling substance use include fostering a healthy drinking culture and increasing access to treatment facilities, as well as lowering the percentage of students who use substances of any kind.

The health department said statistics show that, on average, 20% of youth in Oneida County indicate they currently use vapes, and 34% report they have tried it.

"Our work spans the entire continuum of care, from prevention to recovery," said Chiamulera, a substance abuse coalition leader. "Today we're talking about nicotine prevention and vaping prevention with youth, which is one of many things the substance coalition is doing."

Chiamulera noted that many of the initiatives involved with the health plan are just getting started, and the same is true for the coalitions that will soon take on the housing and childcare health priorities.

According to CHIP, housing is important because it directly impacts living conditions, environmental exposure, stress levels and

overall well-being. Goals for improvement include reducing the financial burden of housing costs and enhancing housing standards and accessibility.

The childcare health priority will aim to increase access to childcare. It will also address the hardships of childcare providers' pay, including the cost of running a daycare and high costs for parents.

When asked how they plan to measure progress, Conlon said, "We develop work plans, we have timelines, and we develop evidence-based strategies to implement things like a drug takeback day or an anti-bullying campaign. Or it might be changing a local policy around alcohol use at youth events. Any of those things would be evidence-based strategies that are measurable."

With the plan underway and set to be implemented in 2025, Conlon emphasized the importance of continued collaboration.

"It does take a village," she said. "Through collaboration, we really can create a healthier future together. I know that sounds a little bit corny, like I'm just reading it off of a bumper sticker, but it's truly how we make improvements."

For more information, call 715-369-6111 or go to www.publichealth.oneida-countywi.gov.

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Pet of the Month

Sponsored by TOMAHAWK LEADER



Introducing Buddy! Buddy is a 3 year old Bichon Frise/Spaniel. He's a shy boy in need of a patient home that will give him plenty of time to adjust. We are told he has done well with other pets, but no small children for this guy.



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Tomahawk School District 2024-2025



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

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

Screening Dates

Dec. 8 • Jan. 3 • Feb. 7 • Mar. 7
Apr. 4 • May 2

For more information and to schedule a screening call Traci Swan, Special Education Administrative Assistant 715-453-5555 ext. 5

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- "Bewitched" boss Larry
- Combining form meaning "different"
- Current unit equal to 10 amperes
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- Data at rest
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- Check
- Cigarette (slang)
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- Delivered a speech
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- Surface in geometry
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- Fellow
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- Mock
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- Play
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- Filmed
- Italian Seaport
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

CLUES DOWN

- Piece of felted material
- Ancient Greek City
- Aquatic plant
- Potentially harmful fungus (Brit. sp.)
- Body art (slang)
- One who follows the rules
- Ordinary
- Honorably retired from assigned duties and retaining one's title
- Relaxing space
- Japanese socks
- Indian city
- Rip
- Icelandic book
- Satisfies
- Where golfers begin
- Small amount
- Snag
- Determine the sum of
- A distinctive smell
- Exposed to view
- Stain or blemish
- Small loop in embroidery
- River herring genus
- Large beer
- Deep, red-brown sea bream
- Partner to cheese
- At a deliberate pace
- Gurus
- Of each
- Angry
- Popular beverage
- Flower cluster
- Blocks
- Those who benefitted from efforts of relatives (slang)
- Polio vaccine developer
- A (usually) large and scholarly book
- Popular soap ingredient
- NBAer Bradley
- Popular movie about a pig
- Musician Clapton
- Not a sure thing
- Recipe measurement (abbr.)
- Father

K	C	E	N		D	E	S	O	d		S	T	E	E
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421-001

MOVIES YOU GOTTA SEE

In 'Heat', Al Pacino and Robert De Niro finally face off

BY JALEN MAKI

You really can't beat a good old-fashioned face-off.

You have Muhammad Ali vs. Joe Frasier; Magic Johnson vs. Larry Bird; Iron Man vs. Captain America; Rocky Balboa vs. Apollo Creed; and, of course, who could forget Jake Paul vs. Mike Tyson. Whether it's in real life or film, every so often, we get an era-defining matchup.

From a star power perspective, Michael Mann's 1995 Los Angeles crime epic *Heat*, starring Al Pacino and Robert De Niro, might be the high-water mark of movie showdowns.

I wish I'd been around for the release of *Heat*. I mean, I was "around" in the most literal sense in that I was born in 1994, but I envy those who were there at the time and understood how huge it was to have Pacino and De Niro going up against each other in a film. Even though they were both in *The Godfather: Part II* (Ever seen that one? Pretty good movie!), the two titans of cinema had never been in a scene together prior to *Heat*.

Here's maybe the quickest movie rundown I've ever written: Neil McCauley (De Niro) is a veteran thief, leading what might be the '92 Dream Team of West Coast high-level crooks: Chris Shiherlis (Val Kilmer), Michael Cheritto (Tom Sizemore), and Trejo

(Danny Trejo. Yes, they really named Danny Trejo's character "Trejo."). The top-notch crew pulls an armored car job, which lands them on the radar of renowned and uber-dedicated LAPD detective Vincent Hanna (Pacino). While Vincent and his guys investigate the robbery and get closer to cracking the case, Neil and company gear up for one last score that'll set them up for life, setting Vincent and Neil on a collision course.

Look, I'm not going to dive too deep into the minutiae of the plot here. This column is more or less going to function as a list of things I love about *Heat*, and folks...the list is long. *Heat*, to me, is an amalgamation of a bunch of expertly-conceived and executed elements, and the film somehow ends up being even greater than the sum of its tremendous parts. Off the top of my head, I can't think of a single movie that has more awesome stuff going for it.

Let's start with the obvious: Goatee De Niro. Personally, I think it's fine that the popularity of the goatee peaked somewhere around the early 2000s. It hasn't aged particularly well, and society is probably better for it having been largely lost to the sands of time. But hey, there's not much that Robert De Niro can't do, and he 100% pulls off



the goatee here. It's a no-nonsense facial hair style for a no-nonsense guy, and therefore it suits Neil perfectly. After all, you can't be running around, knocking over Los Angeles financial institutions looking like Tom Hanks in the back half of *Castaway*.

We also have one of film's great delights: Pacino completely sending it. Whereas De Niro is relatively controlled and even subdued as Neil, Pacino as Vincent, conversely, is, uh... neither of those things. I don't mean this in a critical way; in fact, quite the opposite. For my money, Pacino is rivaled only by Jack Nicholson when it comes to Just Absolutely Going For It, and our guy Al has the pedal to the metal for pretty much the entirety of *Heat*. Although Pacino does effectively pump the brakes in several moments that call for it, he also picks interesting and occasionally downright odd and unintentionally funny times to dial it up, and it makes for an undeniably great performance that only he could deliver.

Alright, now that we've gotten the two big ones out of the way, let's dive into some of the smaller aspects of *Heat* that make it a sublime cinematic experience.

Kilmer was on a bit of a heater at this juncture in his career, hammering out *The Doors*, *True Romance*, *Tombstone* (which I've written about), and *Batman Forever* from '91 to '95. In *Heat*, Kilmer lands one of the coolest parts of the decade, being third-billed under two of our best actors. You probably could've argued around this time that Kilmer was destined for superstardom, but unfortunately, it didn't pan out that way - from *Heat* on, except for a few good movies, Kilmer hit a pretty jarring cold stretch that he never fully bounced back from.

Heat's supporting cast features an all-time assortment of Dudes You Love to See Pop Up in Stuff, including but not limited to Ted Levine, probably most well-known for being very into skin hydration in *The Silence of the Lambs*, which I wrote about back in July; Wes Studi, who, like Kilmer, also had a pretty cool '90s run, appearing in *Dances With Wolves* in 1990 and Mann's *The Last of the Mohicans* two years later; William Fichtner, famous for having a gun in space in 1998's *Armageddon*, another film I've written about; and Mykelti Williamson, who played Bubba Blue in

Robert Zemeckis' beloved 1994 classic *Forrest Gump*. For the record, I do think Sizemore and Trejo could be lumped into this category. Oh, and we simply cannot leave out Jon Voight (*Midnight Cowboy*, *Deliverance*), who's rocking both a sick mustache and a mullet. What a lineup of top-tier Guys. No notes.

I'd be remiss in writing about *Heat* without mentioning Waingro (Kevin Gage). Ah, Waingro. He's a late addition to Neil's crew on the armored car job. He's also a loose cannon and just generally not a good dude, and he ends up being more or less the bane of Neil's existence.

Another cool casting tidbit: Vincent's stepdaughter Lauren is played by the great Natalie Portman. Although Portman would go on to be one of the best actresses of her generation, and without giving too much away, I do have one question about her deeply depressing subplot in *Heat*: Do we need it? I suppose it's there in part to help demonstrate the mess that is Vincent's life - a point further driven home by his crumbling marriage to Justine (Diane Venora), who sports what appears to be an homage to the Jim Carrey *Dumb and Dumber* haircut. But man, this movie is three hours long. As much as I love seeing Portman in literally anything, I wouldn't have been heartbroken if her *Heat* scenes had ultimately hit the cutting room floor.

You can't talk about *Heat* without talking about the shootout, and hoo boy, it's a doozie. In one of the movie's key scenes, Neil's crew and the LAPD, including Vincent and his boys, shoot it out on the streets of L.A., right in broad daylight. Mann cranks the gunfire to 11, and the deafening blasts coupled with close-quarters camera work puts the viewer right in the thick of the action. It's a breathtaking, brilliantly-crafted sequence; one of cinema's great gunfights.

The real faceoff we'd been waiting for doesn't take place on the street, or in a bank vault, or in an interrogation room, but at

a diner, where Vincent and Neil sit down for a cup of coffee. The two size each other up and realize they're more alike than they thought. All they know are their respective lines of work. They're both principled and devoted, and they acknowledge that, when the chips are down, neither will bend to the other. If they meet again, when it's all said and done, only one of them is walking away.

The payoff of Pacino and De Niro finally sharing the screen is more than worth the decades-long wait. The weight of its significance is still palpable when watching the movie today, but the moment wasn't too big for either actor. Of course, how could it be? They're two of the best to ever do it. The simple scene - just a few minutes of note-perfect dialogue - is the ultimate showcase for two all-timers to shine.

The mutual respect between Pacino and De Niro goes beyond their characters, and the scene, and the film itself. You can tell while watching the diner scene that they each know, almost certainly even more so than rest of us, that they're sitting across from one of the true greats. The two masters have since been in a couple movies together - most notably Martin Scorsese's 2019 masterpiece *The Irishman* - but *Heat* is a landmark moment in modern film, and Pacino and De Niro made the most of every second.

Okay, I'll be honest here. *Heat* is on the same level as the most iconic work of its stars? Not quite. But not every movie has to be *Dog Day Afternoon*, or *Taxi Driver*, or *The Godfather: Part II*. Speaking for myself, sometimes I just want to see some robberies and shootouts. Sometimes, I just want to see a couple legends go head-to-head. Because for me, the action is the juice.

Jalen's columns, "Movies You Gotta See" and "The Free Play," can be found online at www.medium.com/@jalenmaki.

Follow Jalen on Letterboxd at www.letterboxd.com/jalenmaki182/ to see what he's been watching.

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FISHING & HUNTING TIMES

Date (CDT)	Morning		Evening	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Nov. 27	2:52AM	7:47AM	1:32PM	8:08PM
Nov. 28	3:57AM	8:29AM	1:51PM	8:51PM
Nov. 29	5:05AM	9:14AM	2:15PM	9:38PM
Nov. 30	6:15AM	10:03AM	2:45PM	10:29PM
Dec. 1	7:23AM	10:55AM	3:24PM	---
Dec. 2	8:26AM	11:23PM	4:15PM	11:50AM
Dec. 3	9:20AM	12:19AM	5:17PM	12:47PM
Dec. 4	10:04AM	1:15AM	6:28PM	1:43PM

Solunar fishing and hunting chart for Tomahawk. Major feeding periods last two hours and minors run one hour. New Moon is December 1.

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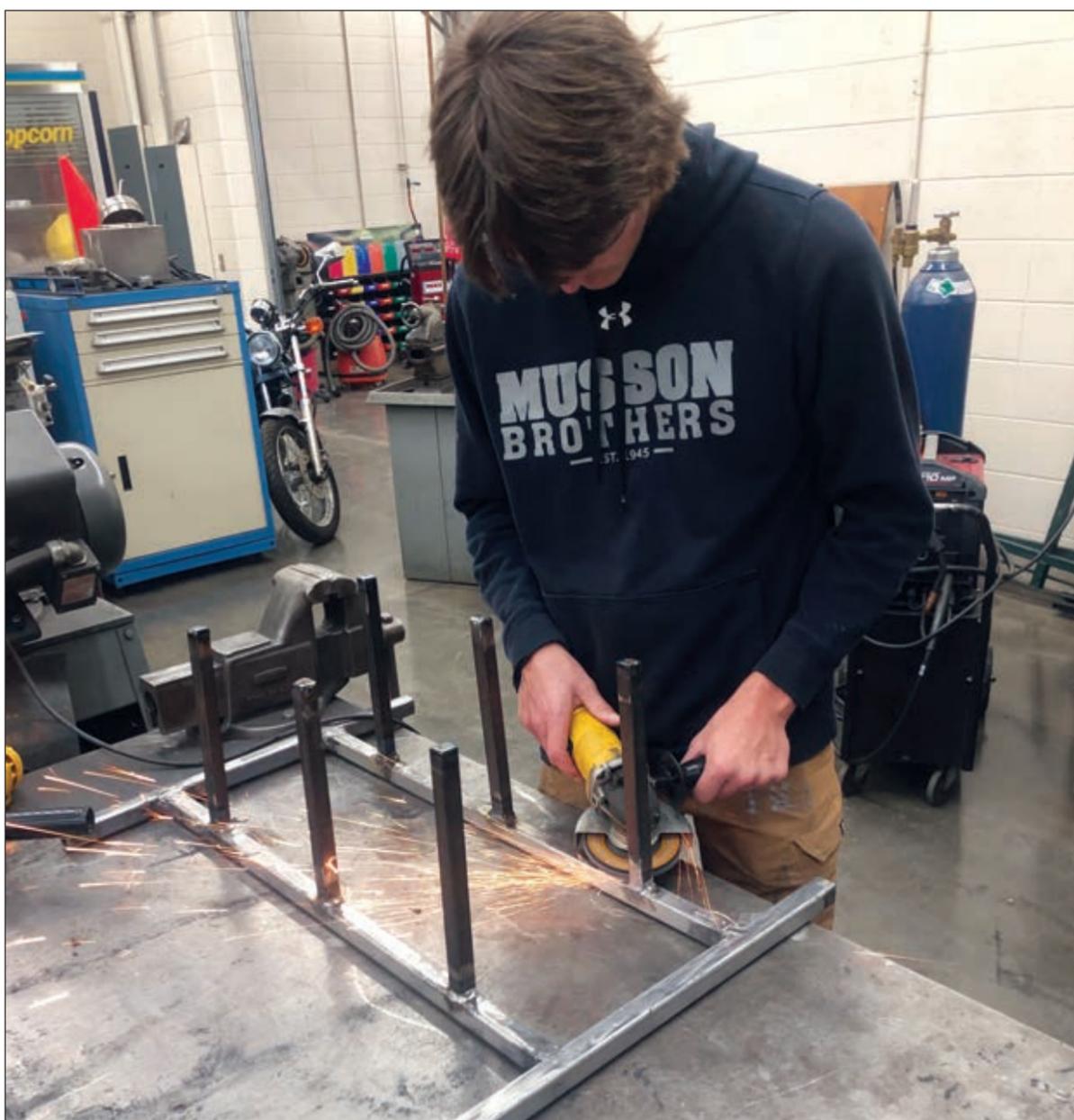
Angie Wollenhaupt, Senior Community Talent Specialist at Fabick Cat, recently spoke to the Tomahawk High School (THS) Automotive Technology class about the opportunities available with an education in diesel engine service.



Small Engines students Zak and Aidan were all smiles while posing with their completed pressure washer project.



Mrs. Feltes needed a custom paper cart designed to fit perfectly into a tight, limited-access space. Rising to the challenge, Bradyn eagerly took on the task and fabricated a cart tailored to her exact specifications.



In Metals Fabrication, Brody helped Bradyn clean up his welds on the cart.

Photos courtesy of Brian Schiltz



Church DIRECTORY



<p>First Congregational N. Fifth & E. Washington Ave., Tomahawk 715-453-2217 8:30am Bible Study • 9:30am Worship Pastor John Miskimen</p>	<p>Grace Lutheran ELCA 108 W. Somo Ave. 715-453-4066 Worship Times: Sat. 5 pm • Sun. 9:00 am Pastor Julie Sinkula Streaming Worship on our website: www.gracelutherantomahawk.com</p>
<p>ReviveNow Church 1328 County Rd. A, Tomahawk 715-453-8783 Sunday Service & Facebook Live Stream: 9:30am Prayer Meetings: Wednesday 6pm Pastors Jaco & Leslie Theron</p>	<p>Spirit Baptist Hwy. 86, 1/4 Mile West of Hwy. 102, Spirit 715-657-0304 • 715-657-0764 Duane Harper Pastor Affiliated w/Baptist General Conference</p>
<p>Community Seventh Day Adventist Hwy. 86/D, Tomahawk • 715-453-5809 Pastor Eric Anderson Church: 9am, Sabbath School: 10:15am Radio WLBI-LP 107.1 FM</p>	<p>Berean Baptist Church 19 N. Third St., Tomahawk Pastor Charles Scheele 715-453-3407 Sunday School - 9:30 am Sunday Morning Service - 10:45 am Sunday Mid-week Bible study - 7:00 pm Wednesday</p>
<p>Northland Bible Church 2810 Olson Road, Tomahawk Join Us Sunday 10 a.m. Pastor Alex Lindsay 715-612-1841 northlandbiblechurch.com</p>	<p>St. Mary's Catholic Seventh and Washington Ave., Tomahawk • 715-453-2878 Fr. Louis Maram Reddy, Pastor Mass times: Saturday 6 p.m. Sunday 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Confessions: Saturdays, 9 a.m.; Anytime by Appointment</p>
<p>The Rock Church of Tomahawk Sara Park Activity Ctr, 900 W. Somo Ave 9:30am Sunday Service & live-streamed on our Facebook page. Interim Pastor - Pastor Barry Rudesill</p>	<p>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Pier-Willow 12 Miles North of Tripoli at 5209 Willow Road Fr. Louis Maram Reddy, Pastor Saturday 4 p.m. Mass</p>
<p>Redeemer Ev. Lutheran WELS • 715-453-4814 16 Theiler Drive, Tomahawk Rev. Mark Gass, Pastor For Service Times Check www.redeemertomahawk.org</p>	<p>Northwoods Vineyard 418 Kaphaem Road Tomahawk • 715-453-6700 Pastor Nate & Shelley Nelson Reg. Serv. 9:30 Facebook Live Stream 9:30</p>
<p>St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Missouri Synod 715-453-5391 12 E. Wisconsin Ave., Tomahawk Pastor Stephen P. Gillet</p>	<p>United Methodist Church Tomahawk & Spirit Rev. Lisa Weaver 715-453-4378 Join Us Sunday: 8:30 in Spirit, 10:30 in Tomahawk in person & 10:30 Online Via Zoom</p>
<p style="font-size: small;">Directory made possible by these churches and...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PCA <small>PROTESTANT CHURCHES OF AMERICA</small> N9090 Hwy. E, Tomahawk TOMAHAWK LEADER 24 W. Rives St., Rhinelander</p>	<p>Trinity Lutheran Church 715-428-2851 4594 Hwy 8, Prentice Pastor Scott Holobeck Sat 10am Worship Service, 11am Bible Study</p>

LEGALS

Legals 7700

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
LINCOLN COUNTY
COVANTAGE CREDIT UNION,
Plaintiff,
v.
ADAM DOTTER

Legals 7700

AND UNKNOWN SPOUSE,
Defendants.
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
Case No. 20-CV-44
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of
a judgment of foreclosure entered on
June 3, 2020 in the amount of

Legals 7700

\$51,000.98 the Sheriff will sell the
described premises at public auction as
follows:
TIME: January 9, 2025 at 10:00 am
TERMS: Pursuant to said judgment,
10% of the successful bid must be paid
to the sheriff at the sale in cash,
cashier's check or certified funds,
payable to the Lincoln County Clerk of
Courts. (Personal checks cannot and
will not be accepted). The balance of the
successful bid must be paid to the clerk
of courts in cash, cashier's check or
certified funds no later than ten days
after the court's confirmation for the sale
or else the 10% down payment is
forfeited to the plaintiff. The property is
sold 'as is' and subject to all liens and
encumbrances.
PLACE: Lincoln County Courthouse,
Main Entrance, 1110 East Main Street,
City of Merrill and Lincoln County
DESCRIPTION: SOUTHEAST
QUARTER (SE 1/4) OF LOT FOUR (4),
BLOCK THREE (3), LAWRENCE'S
ADDITION TO MERRILL, LINCOLN
COUNTY, WISCONSIN. THIS IS A
PURCHASE MONEY MORTGAGE.
THIS IS THE HOMESTEAD OF THE
MORTGAGOR.
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 808 Chippewa
Street in Merrill, WI 54452
DATED: November 19, 2024
Attorneys for Plaintiff
413 N. 2nd Street, Suite 150
Milwaukee, WI 53203
414-271-5400
Galanis, Pollack, Jacobs & Johnson,
S.C. is attempting to collect a debt and
any information obtained will be used for
that purpose. If you have previously
received a discharge in a Chapter 7
bankruptcy case, this communication
should not be construed as an attempt
to hold you personally liable for the debt.
Published November 27, December 4,
11, 2024 WNAXLP

Notice To Creditors 7735

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
ELIZABETH RUTH ZEHNER
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 24-IN-43
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal
administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth
October 22, 1935 and date of death
August 16, 2024, was domiciled in
Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with
a mailing address of W5894
Muskellunge Lake Road, Tomahawk, WI
54487.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against
the decedent's estate is February 28,
2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln
County Courthouse, 1110 East Main
Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate
Office.
DATE SIGNED: November 7, 2024
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar
Form completed by:
FRANCIS U. SEROOGY
PO BOX 327
TOMAHAWK, WI 54487
Telephone: 715-453-2158
Bar Number: 1007903
Published November 13, 20, 27, 2024
WNAXLP

Notice To Creditors 7735

10/1/24, was domiciled in Lincoln
County, state of WIS, with a mailing
address of W1832 Wagonmaker Ln,
Tomahawk, WI 54487.
3. All interested persons waived
notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim
against the decedent's estate is 03-
14-2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln
County Courthouse, Merrill,
Wisconsin, Probate Office.
BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: November 19, 2024
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar
Form completed by:
Eric Heikkinen
503 N Williams Dr.
Palatine, IL 60074
847-975-8349
Published November 27, December 4,
11, 2024 WNAXLP

NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION

TOWN OF NOKOMIS
ONEIDA COUNTY
2541 LAKE NOKOMIS RD
TOMAHAWK, WI 54487
715-453-4801

TUESDAY – APRIL 1, 2025

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the
TOWN OF NOKOMIS, on TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025, the following
offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents
listed. The term for all offices is for two years beginning on
Tuesday, April 15th, 2025.

OFFICE

Town Board Chairperson
Town Board Supervisor
Town Board Supervisor
Town Clerk
Town Treasurer

INCUMBENT

Gary Luedke
Bette Stillman
Cheyann Wilke
Wendy Smith
Judi Asmondly

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the first day to circulate nomination
papers is December 1, 2024, and the final day for filing nomination
papers is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 in the office of
the Town Clerk, 2541 Lake Nokomis Rd, Tomahawk, WI 54487,
715-453-4801.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that if a primary is necessary, the
primary will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Done in the Town of Nokomis on November 26, 2024.

Published November 27, 2024

WNAXLP

Dogs 7272

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(11/18)

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\$700 715-255-2661
(#269146)11/18)

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house, \$800/mo., does not incl.
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NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION
TOWN OF SKANAWAN
APRIL 1, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at the Spring
Election to be held in the Town of Skanawan on
Tuesday April 1st, 2025, the following officers are to
be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed.
All terms are for two years beginning April 15, 2025.

OFFICE

Town Board Chairperson
Town Board Supervisors
Town Clerk
Town Treasurer

INCUMBENT

Ben Mehring
Wally Horabik
Joe Dorava
Loyetta Dennis
Jean Zoellner

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the Town of
Skanawan will use Nomination papers for the
purpose of nominating candidates to appear on
the Spring Election ballot for the above listed
offices. Completed Nomination papers are to be
returned to the Town Clerk. Information available at
https://elections.wi.gov

Loyetta Gitter: Town of Skanawan Clerk
November 21st, 2024

Published November 20, 27, December 4, 2024 WNAXLP

NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION
TOWN OF KING
APRIL 1, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at the Spring
election to be held in the Town of King on Tuesday,
April 1, 2025, the following officers are to be elected to
succeed the present incumbents listed. All terms are
for two years beginning April 15, 2025.

OFFICE

Board Chairperson -
Board Supervisor -
Board Supervisor -
Town Clerk -
Town Treasurer -

INCUMBENT

Terry Wiese
Andy Tomaszewski
David Dyer
Vacancy
Julie Allen

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the Town of
King will use Nomination papers for the purpose
of nominating candidates to appear on the Spring
Election ballot for the above listed offices. Completed
Nomination papers are to be returned to the Town
Clerk by January 7, 2025.

Georgene Linden, Town of King Clerk

Published November 20, 27, 2024

WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT
DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0021946-11-0

Permittee: CITY OF TOMAHAWK, City Hall PO Box 469, Tomahawk, WI, 54487.

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: City of Tomahawk , W5846 Dean Road,
Tomahawk, Wisconsin.

Receiving Water And Location: Unnamed tributary to the Wisconsin River
in the Noisy and Pine Creeks Watershed in the Upper Wisconsin River
Drainage Basin, Lincoln County.

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The City of
Tomahawk owns and operates a domestic wastewater treatment facility.
The annual average design flow is 600,000 gallons per day with actual
flows averaging 478,000 gallons per day over the past five years (June
2019 – June 2024 data). The facility is a conventional activated sludge
wastewater treatment system. The system consists of influent debris
removal followed by a primary clarifier, activated sludge process system,
and final clarifier. Prior to discharging the effluent it is disinfected using
a UV system seasonally (May through September). The settled solids
(sludge) are removed from the clarifier, rotary thickened, anaerobic
digested and stored until it is land applied on Department approved
agricultural sites.

It is the Department's intention to renew the permit for another term.
The proposed new permit expiration date will be December 31, 2029.
Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately
protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. Changes
from the previous permit include: [1] The receiving water classification has
changed. This change resulted in more restrictive BOD5, total suspended
solids and dissolved oxygen limits. A schedule has been included to
allow the facility time to meet the final BOD5 and total suspended solids
limits. [2] Fecal Coliform monitoring and limits have been replaced by
Escherichia coli (E. coli). [3] A phosphorus limit to meet the Wisconsin
River Basin TMDL waste load allocation has been included. [4] Weekly
and monthly average ammonia limits are required to protect water quality.
A schedule has been included to allow the facility time to meet the
limitations. [5] Based on current data, thermal limits are needed during
the months of October, November and December. A schedule has been
included to confirm the requirement and if needed allow the facility time
to meet the limits. [6] Annual monitoring for the nitrogen series (nitrate
+nitrite, total Kjeldahl nitrogen and total nitrogen) has been added to the
permit. [7] PFOS and PFOA monitoring once every two months has been
included based on water supply sample results. [8] Sludge needs to be
sampled once for PCB and PFAS during the permit term.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sheri A. Snowbank,
DNR, 810 W Maple St, Spooner, WI, 54801, (715) 635-4131,
Sheri.Snowbank@wisconsin.gov.

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Michelle BalkLudwig,
DNR, 810 W Maple St, Spooner, WI, 54801, (715) 939-9034, Michelle.
Balkludwig@Wisconsin.gov.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action,
or to request a public hearing, may write to the Department of Natural
Resources at the above-named permit drafter's address. All comments
or suggestions received no later than 30 days after the publication date
of this public notice will be considered along with other information on
file in making a final decision regarding the permit. Anyone providing
comments in response to this public notice will receive a notification of the
Department's final decision when the permit is issued. Where designated
as a reviewable surface water discharge permit, the U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency is allowed up to 90 days to submit comments or
objections regarding this permit determination. If no comments are
received on the proposed permit from anyone, including U.S. EPA, the
permit will be issued as proposed.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if requested
by any person and shall schedule a public informational hearing if a
petition requesting a hearing is received from 5 or more persons or if
response to this notice indicates significant public interest pursuant to
s. 283.49, Wis. Stats. Requests for a public informational hearing shall
state the following: the name and address of the person(s) requesting
the hearing; the interest in the proposed permit of the person(s) request-
ing the hearing; the reasons for the request; and the issues proposed to be
considered at the hearing.

Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit, fact
sheet and permit application, may be inspected and copied at either the
above-named permit drafter's office or the above named basin engineer's
office, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and
3:30 p.m. Please call the permit drafter or basin engineer for directions to
their office location, if necessary. Information on this permit action may also
be obtained by calling the permit drafter at (715) 635-4131 or by writing to the
Department. Reasonable costs (15 cents per page for copies and 7 cents
per page for scanning) will be charged for information in the file other than
the public notice, permit and fact sheet. Permit information is also available
on the internet at: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html.
Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation,
including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will
be made to qualified individuals upon request.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Tomahawk
Leader, PO Box 345, Tomahawk, WI 54487-0345.

Date Notice Issued: Wednesday, November 27, 2024.

Flea Markets 7210

SPORTSMAN RUMMAGE SALE.
Dec 7 8-1pm, LUCKY DOGG
SPORTS BAR BANQUET HALL.
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Have hard wood in wood shed
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Dogs 7272

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(#269146)11/26)

BOSTON/RAT TERRIER PUPS
Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver
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(#269146)11/18)

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CAVAPOO PUPS. Vaccinated dew
\$250 715-223-0782 (12/2)

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Leader Sports & Nature



Photo courtesy of Connor Ahrens

THS cross country team holds end-of-season awards ceremony

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – The Tomahawk High School cross country team recently held its end-of-season awards ceremony.

Award recipients are as follows.

Rookies of the Year: Joe Zastrow, boys; Ellie Micke, girls.

Most Improved: Elliot O'Connor and Jeremiah Johnson, boys; Jennie Fredrickson and Reese Molitor, girls.

Coaches Awards: Dawson Jones, boys; Norah Mann, girls.

Scholar Athletes (All 4.000's Progress Term 1): Dawson Jones, Luke Morrison, boys; Norah Mann, Ellie Micke, Joa Reilly, girls.

Captains Awards: Sam Zastrow, boys; Alli Palmer, girls.

Punchy Reich Memorial (as picked by teammates): Sam Zastrow and Alli Palmer.

GNC All-Conference (boys): Sam Zastrow (1st Team), Dominic Boos (1st Team), Joe Zastrow (HM), Jeremiah Johnson (HM), Beau Stromberg (HM).

GNC All-Conference (girls): Alli Palmer (1st Team), Lydia Shaney (2nd Team), Ellie Micke (2nd Team), Abbie Rosenmeier (2nd Team), Elise Gibeault (2nd Team).

Most Valuable: Sam Zastrow, boys; Alli Palmer, girls.

State Qualifier Awards: Alli Palmer, Lydia Shaney, Norah Mann, Ellie Micke, Abbie Rosenmeier, Elise Gibeault, Faith Derleth, Joa Reilly (Alt), Reese Molitor (Alt).

Service Award: Shannon and Dawn Boneck.

JV awards

Boys: Luke Morrison, freshmen; Ryan Montag, Will Boneck, Mason Riebe, sophomores; Elliot O'Connor, Gerard Gorell, Cayden Sheple, juniors.

Girls: Joa Reilly, Alyiah Nelson, freshmen; Kailynn Hanse, Jennie Frederickson, Summer Gaedtke, Abi Micke, juniors.

Letter winners

Boys: Joe Zastrow (1), Dawson Jones (1), Jordyn Carew (1), Karson Hanse (1), freshmen; Andrew Voermans (2), sophomores; Jeremiah Johnson (3), Beau Stromberg (1), Bruce Peetz (1), juniors; Sam Zastrow (4), Nathan Rosenmeier (3), Dominic Boos (2), seniors.

Girls: Ellie Micke (1), Reagan Gorell (1), freshmen; Elise Gibeault (2), Abbie Rosenmeier (2), Norah Mann (2), Lizzy Arnott (1), sophomores; Faith Derleth (3), Lydia Shaney (3), juniors; Alli Palmer (4), Reese Molitor (2), seniors.

TOMAHAWK SPORTS TRIVIA: WEEK 210

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

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

Week 209 question: During the 1981-82 THS boys' hockey season, how many saves did Paul Nelson have in the nets in conference games: 301, 401 or 501?

Week 209 answer: During the 1981-82 THS boys' hockey season, Paul Nelson had 401 saves in the nets in conference games.

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

Week 210 question: During the 1981-82 THS girls' basketball season, how many points did Julie Graettinger score in conference games: 98, 99 or 100??

Hatchet apparel available through online store

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – Tomahawk Hatchet apparel is now available to purchase through an online store.

Tomahawk High School (THS) has partnered with Sportsworld to offer T-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, hats and more in toddler, youth, ladies, men's/unisex and tall sizes.

The apparel is available online in a new store that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

All products are customizable, featuring several color options, as well as the primary and secondary school logos.

10% of all sales will be donated back to THS.

To view the store, visit www.tinyurl.com/37hj3t.

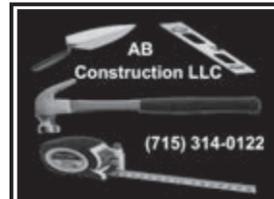


A variety of products, styles, designs and colors are available through the online store.

Photos courtesy of Sportsworld

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Remodeling 7368



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Miscellaneous Services 7374

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Professional cleaning at affordable rates. Residential & commercial. Tomahawk, 262-208-6384.

DNR: 2024 bear season results show rebound in harvest, hunter success

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) last week announced preliminary results for the 2024 bear season.

This fall, bear hunters harvested 4,285 bears during the five-week season, a rebound from the below-average harvest of 2,922 bears taken during last fall's bear season, according to DNR.

"Several factors likely led to this season's increase in harvest," said Randy Johnson, DNR Large Carnivore Specialist. "In 2023, we saw an incredible amount of acorns and other natural food production. This reduced the effectiveness of baits and translated to a historically low harvest. This year, anecdotes from bear hunters and harvest data suggest less natural food availability than last year. Additionally, last year's low harvest, coupled with bears entering dens in

excellent body condition last fall, likely contributed to an increase in the number of bears on the landscape this fall."

The 2024 bear season ran from Wednesday, Sept. 4 to Tuesday, Oct. 8. A total of 11,501 bear hunting licenses were awarded to hunters through the license lottery system.

"Although the number of licenses was reduced slightly this year, hunter success rates were generally higher than expected, leading to meeting or exceeding harvest targets in most management zones," DNR stated. "State-wide, hunter success was about 37%, up from the five-year average of 31%. Hunter success rates in individual zones varied from a high of 71% in Zone A to less than 10% in Zones E and F."

"On average, we expect to see about half of the total bear harvest within the first five days of the season," Johnson said. "This year, nearly 57% of the total harvest oc-



Wisconsin bear hunters experienced above-average success in 2024, harvesting 4,285 bears during the black bear season.

Photo courtesy of Wisconsin DNR

curred in those first five days, with over 1,000 bears taken on opening day alone. Although the harvest rate returned closer to average during the rest of the season, this strong first week set the stage to meet or exceed harvest targets by season's end."

DNR said harvest targets are set to manage the bear population in Wisconsin and are readjusted each year to increase, decrease or stabilize population trends.

"This means that even when harvest targets are exceeded in a given year, there is little long-term biological risk to bear populations," DNR said. "Population and harvest data are evaluated annually and can be adjusted to meet long-term population management objectives."

Benefits of bear hunting

Wisconsin has a thriving bear population, DNR ex-

plained, estimated at around 23,000 bears, with a range covering more than half the state.

"While bears have tremendous cultural and ecological value, they can also conflict with human interests, such as damaging agricultural crops or raiding residential trash and bird feeders," DNR said.

"Regulated bear harvest is the primary tool we use to manage bear populations and ensure bear numbers remain balanced with their habitat and public preferences," Johnson stated. "It also provides wonderful opportunities to experience nature with the company of family and friends and source sustainable protein."

Hunters provide critical data from every harvested bear, which informs population monitoring efforts to ensure a healthy and sustainable bear population. Bear hunter license fees also supply key funding for bear management and research activities, according to DNR.

Reminders for next year

Hunters wishing to obtain a license or preference point for the 2025 season must apply in Go Wild (www.gowild.wi.gov/) before the Dec. 10 deadline. State law requires bear permit applicants to apply at least once during any period of three consecutive years to retain their accumulated preference points; otherwise, all accumulated preference points will be lost.

Nearly 135,000 people applied for a bear hunting license or preference point for the 2024 season. To help hunters make hunting plans, a full breakdown of the 2024 bear license drawing results and license wait times is available online at www.tinyurl.com/8ctkn2fz.

Visit the DNR's Bear Hunting webpage (www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/hunt/bear) to learn more about black bear hunting, ecology and management in Wisconsin.

Natural Connections: A Dandelion Smile

BY EMILY STONE
NATURALIST/EDUCATOR,
CABLE NATURAL
HISTORY MUSEUM

Author's Note: This article was first published in 2013 and has been updated for 2024.

A chilly breeze whipped around my head. Even a pale sun peeking through racing clouds did not seem to improve the temperature. Head down, I hurried toward the post office. Then, a spot of color made me stop and smile. A single yellow dandelion and their star of vibrant, toothy leaves nestled into the grass.

I've always loved dandelions. They popped up every summer in the kingdom of make-believe that was my yard, and created a sea of sunshine in the farmer's hayfield across the back fence. Every spring I still pick one of the hardy flowers to give to my mom for her late April birthday. Unless I've flattened them in a card to send through the mail, she still sticks the dandelion in a little vase on the sill above the kitchen sink.

As a kid, I continued picking dandelions all summer long. I'd split the stems lengthwise and watch as they coiled into beautiful curlicues when dunked in cold water. I soaked the fuzzy blossoms in water and made "lemonade" that I never drank. I almost hyperventilated while trying to blow every parachuted seed off the stem to make a wish. And every T-shirt I owned was stained with little brown circles from the juicy stems.

Even today, despite my awareness that dandelions are invasive weeds, I can't help admiring their tenacity. And I'm not alone. Buddhist monk, Thich Nhat Hanh, shared this poem (written by a student) in his book, *Peace is Every Step*.

I have lost my smile,
but don't worry.
The dandelion has it.
So I smile whenever I see



Dandelions are hardy enough to bloom in November, and their milky latex may even be useful for making rubber at a large scale.

those cheerful weeds. Sometimes I even brave their bitterness and eat young leaves in salad. Other folks swear by the sap as a remedy for warts or foot fungus. Turns out, the dandelion may be more useful than I ever imagined!

The Kazakh dandelion (*Taraxacum kok-saghyz*, a relative of the one in your yard), is an excellent source of natural rubber. The milky sap in the root is so high in latex that one field of dandelions produces as much latex as the same size plot of rubber trees. In addition, the quality of dandelion latex is the same as latex from a rubber tree, and can be substituted one-for-one in the rubber formulation. To top it all off, dandelion latex does not seem to trigger allergic reactions!

Russians discovered this amazing dandelion in the early 1930s, in Kazakhstan. They tried to develop it as a domestic source of rubber. During World War II, when the Japanese controlled the supplies of rubber from Southeast Asia, researchers in the United States, Germany, Sweden, and Spain all jumped on the dandelion-rubber bandwagon. In the U.S. alone, land grant universities in 40 states conducted research on this lowly plant.

Most research came to a halt after the war ended in 1945. When this article was first published in 2013, an internet search for dandelion rubber revealed that at least

three separate tire companies were partnering with research institutions to make this new source of rubber viable on a commercial scale. Germany's Fraunhofer Institute for Molecular Biology and Applied Ecology is still working with Continental Tires. Bridgestone was working with the Program for Excellence in Natural Rubber Alternatives at Ohio State University. Multinational tire manufacturer, Apollo Vredestein, collaborated on a dandelion rubber project with KeyGene.

Despite the many benefits of dandelions—they grow like weeds on many soil types, reproduce like weeds with lots of seed, and thrive in northern climates instead of sub-tropical forests—there are some obstacles, too. Dandelion juice transforms from a liquid to a solid on contact with the air—a process known as polymerization. This means that processors must use turpentine to chemically extract the latex from dandelion roots.

To eliminate the enzyme responsible for polymerization, German scientists at the Fraunhofer Institute engineered a special virus. According to a Discovery News article, "Once inside, the virus deleted the offending genetic sequence from the Russian dandelion's DNA. Pop the head off an infected dandelion, and the latex begins to flow freely." (Watch out,



Photos by Emily Stone

Mom! My shirts will have more than just little brown circular stains!)

It worked. In Europe, creating transgenic dandelions has been controversial. Now German researchers are using traditional selective breeding techniques to accomplish the same thing. Hydroponic growing systems where roots can be harvested over and over are also showing promise. At the same time, Continental Tire is working with researchers to

build the first ever commercial-scale processing plant. This becomes more and more important as natural rubber production from trees faces disease, climate change, and increasing labor costs. Synthetic rubber made from fossil fuels has different properties and is often mixed with natural rubber.

Maybe in the future, that field of dandelions across the back fence won't be full of weeds. It will be full of a cash crop, harvested by the same

machines used to pull tulip bulbs. The sticky sap, once a stain on my shirt, will instead help my airplane land safely in Germany so I can go for a ride on a bike or in a car with dandelion tires. That might even make me smile.

"What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have never been discovered." —Ralph Waldo Emerson

Emily's award-winning second book, *Natural Connections: Dreaming of an Elfin Skimmer*, is available to purchase at www.cablemuseum.org/books and at your local independent bookstore, too.

For more than 50 years, the Cable Natural History Museum has served to connect you to the Northwoods. The Museum is open with our brand-new exhibit: "Anaamaagon: Under the Snow." Our Fall Calendar is open for registration! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and www.cablemuseum.org to see what we are up to.

Fishing Report: Get that ice fishing gear out

BY GEORGE LANGLEY

NORTHERN WISCONSIN – With the end of fall right before us, fishing with boats has about come to an end. There are a few walleye anglers out there, and of course those die-hard musky anglers, but that's it.

A drop in day and nighttime temps makes it finally feel like winter is coming. The water temps throughout the area remained at the 40-degree level as of last week and hopefully will be falling with this colder weather. We're all starting to think about ice fishing at this point.

Walleye fishing has been very good in the last few weeks. The Chain has

produced good walleye fishing in the holes, with both very good numbers and some nicer fish, also. This is a great time to be a walleye angler, but these windy days have certainly made it tougher. Jigs and minnows are the bait to use at this time of year. On the larger lakes, the fishing has been good also, on those drop-offs and deeper up to the 30-plus foot range. Use larger minnows, like sucker minnows on those lakes for best results.

Northerns are, as usual, feeding with aggression in the weeds, and sometimes deeper. They have even been hitting suckers trolled by musky anglers

on some lakes.

Bass fishing on open water has dropped to nothing as far as anglers go. As go the bass, so go the panfish until ice. Not too many people are fishing for them right now. Hoping for ice sooner rather than later!

Musky fishing is in high gear, as those fall nuts are enjoying some better action lately. Trolling for musky has been productive in the last week, but we've not seen any monsters yet.

Get that ice fishing gear out. We're looking at some decent ice-making weather. And the hunters should be pretty happy, too.

Good luck and good fishing! (and huntin'!)