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THS announces winners of 3rd annual Darlene Wurl History of Tomahawk essay contest

BY COOPER KELLEY
THS SOCIAL STUDIES
TEACHER

TOMAHAWK – On Thursday, Dec. 19, the winners of the 3rd annual Darlene Wurl History of Tomahawk Essay Writing Contest were announced in the Tomahawk Middle School (TMS) cafeteria.

Darlene Wurl was an educator in Tomahawk and dedicated her life to children, with an emphasis on their writing and language skills.

In conjunction with the Tomahawk Area Historical Society, Pat Pietilla and Tomahawk High School (THS)'s English/Language Arts and Social Studies departments, this has become an annual tradition to remember Darlene Wurl and the history of our community.

Over the course of the first semester of the school year, students took part in a process of writing about different historical events, people or themes in Tomahawk. During this time, students were able to visit the Historical Society on Tuesday, Nov. 5. From this, students were able to tour the facility and formulate ideas for their paper.

Students also had the opportunity to access the Tomahawk Public Library, books about Tomahawk and the Learning and Media Center at the high school.

After receiving submissions from students of the Class of 2027, a grading panel picked the top essay, along with 2nd and 3rd places.

Andrew Voermans took

Essay Contest
CONTINUES ON PAGE 5



Pictured, from left: Kay Kissinger Wolf of the Tomahawk Area Historical Society; essay contest winners Exxie Walbeck, Phoebe Hrdina and Andrew Voermans; Patricia Pietilla of the Historical Society; and THS Social Studies Teacher Cooper Kelley.
Photo courtesy of Ryan Huseby



Pictured is Mark Moran of Antique Appraisals at a recent event in Colby, Wis.
Contributed photo

Tomahawk Community Theater to host antique appraisal fundraising event

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER
EDITOR

TOMAHAWK – Tomahawk Community Theater (TCT) is gearing up to present its first major fundraising event next month.

A program featuring Mark Moran of Antique Appraisals will be held at the Tomahawk High School auditorium, 1048 E. King Rd., Tomahawk, on Saturday, Feb. 15 at 11 a.m.

Moran is the author of more than 25 books on antiques and collectibles, including the 800-page annual *Warman's Antiques & Collectibles*, and has appeared as a guest expert on *Antiques Roadshow*.

According to the *Antiques Roadshow* website, Moran conducts community events that involve appraisal of antiques, collect-

ibles and decorative arts in the upper Midwest.

"Formerly senior editor of *Antiques and Collectibles Books* for Krause Publications in Iola, Wis., he has also been a contributing editor for *Antique Trader* magazine," the website states.

Moran has also served as editor of *Antique Review East* magazine; as producer of *Atlantique City*, an antique show held in Atlantic City, N.J.; and as editorial director of F+W Media's *Antiques Group*. He has bought and sold antiques for more than three decades, specializing in vintage folk art, Americana and fine art.

"He was also a newspaper editor and reporter for three decades," the website says. "He has been active

Fundraiser
CONTINUES ON PAGE 5

2024 "Fill The Need" Food Drive Winners

For the last 27 years Heritage Chevrolet has asked you to fill a new Chevrolet Silverado for the benefit of the Tomahawk and Nokomis Food Pantries.

Merchant	2024 Prize	Value	Winner
Lincoln County Cycles	Troy Built Sidewalk Edger	\$500	Mary Smith
Heritage Chevrolet	\$500 Heritage Chevrolet Gift Card	\$500	Neil Pietenpol
Ingman's Service	Oregon Pressure Washer	\$400	Gary Hill
Tomahawk Sports Center	Skidoo Snowmobile Jacket	\$350	Carrie Douglas
Bethel Excavating & Northern Wisconsin Land Services	10 Yards Road Gravel Delivered in Tomahawk Area 10 Yards Top Soil Delivered in Tomahawk Area	\$300	Debra Ohm
Bootleggers Lodge	Tomahawk Experience Dinner for Two	\$150	Judith Olson
Just 4 U Fitness	Joint (couple) 3 mo. Special w/ Access Card Single Person 3 mo. Special w/ Access Card	\$145	Daelynn Lombardo
Woodland Lakes Realty	Hampton Bay Fire Pit	\$125	Joanne Breitenfeld
Sideways Wine & Craft Beer	\$100 Gift Certificate	\$100	Suzette Oelke
Northwoods Community Realty	\$100 Gift Certificate	\$100	Mark Peterson
Tomahawk Pharmacy	Adirondack Chair	\$100	Gary Failing
Absolute Electric	Gift Basket	\$100	Bill Schulz
Ingman's Service	\$100 Chamber Bucks	\$100	Heather Feizer
Roots Hair Salon	Toro Battery Operated Trimmer	\$70	Alise Jablonsky
Loop Hole	\$60 Gift Certificate to Roots Salon	\$60	Zeke Zehner
Kevin Urmann State Farm Insurance	\$50.00 Gift Card	\$50	Steve Loka
Hackel Plumbing	\$50.00 Gift Card	\$50	Kathy Tobin
Knot Haus	\$50.00 Chamber Bucks	\$50	Jane Schuller
Cerny's Greenhouse	\$50.00 Chamber Bucks	\$50	Bonnie Kahn
CIS Insurance Group	\$50 Chamber Bucks	\$50	Mary Carstensen
Coasters	\$50 Chamber Bucks	\$50	Robert Lanou
Billy Bob's	\$50.00 Main Street Bucks	\$50	Tim Haring
HMM Boutique	\$50.00 Main Street Bucks	\$50	Dave Arnott
Cheese Shoppe	\$50.00 Gift Certificate	\$50	Russ Kabak
	\$50 Gift Card to Scarlet Garden	\$50	Lori Peterson
	\$50.00 Gift Certificate	\$50	Zac Mohr
	\$50.00 G.C. for Billy Bob's & Gift Basket	\$50	Gene Borem
	\$50 Gift Card to HMM Boutique	\$50	Nellie Riedel
	Holiday Basket	\$50	Lynn Springer

Merchant	2024 Prize	Value	Winner
Erv's Sales & Service	\$50.00 Gift Certificate	\$50	Lesla Mackin
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Tilted Loon	\$50.00 Gift Certificate	\$50	Eleanor Schuetz
Tomahawk Eye Care	Routine Eye Exam	\$50	Roger Glocke
Tomahawk Family Restaurant	\$50 Gift Certificate	\$50	Lynn Derleth
Tomahawk Touch of Gold	\$50 Gift Card	\$50	Steve Kahle
Honeycomb L.O.F.T	\$25 Gift Card	\$25	Kay Oscar
	\$25 Gift Card	\$25	Jerry Klingner
	\$25 Gift Card	\$25	Greg Niemic
	\$25 Gift Card	\$25	Ryan Berg
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	\$25 Gift Certificate	\$25	Sherry Clements
	\$25 Gift Certificate	\$25	Derek Mohr
	\$25 Gift Certificate	\$25	Kelly Reith
WT Silverado	\$25 Gift Card	\$25	Eileen Bushar
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	\$25 Gift Card	\$25	Keith Hanse
	\$25 Gift Card	\$25	Darin Lucas
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Windmill Ice Cream Shop	\$25 Gift Certificate	\$25	Martin Webb
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WJQ	\$25 Chamber Bucks	\$25	Carol Ahles
	\$25 Chamber Bucks	\$25	Melody Schutte
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Scentability	\$25 Gift Certificate	\$25	Aaron Voelz
	\$25 Gift Certificate	\$25	Jeff Fisher
Subway	Package of 5 - \$5.00 off Coupons	\$25	Dennis Vandersnick
	Package of 5 - \$5.00 off Coupons	\$25	Dave Jorgensen
	Package of 5 - \$5.00 off Coupons	\$25	Renee McNamar



Fill the Need is co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Chevy Dealers, WJQ, Creative on Nokomis and Heritage Chevrolet.

FIND NEW ROADS / We would like to thank all those who participated in the 2024 Fill the Need Event.



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Rural homelessness and the fight to do 'more with less'

BY HALLIE CLAFLIN
WISCONSIN WATCH

NORTHERN WISCONSIN – Last winter, Eric Zieroth learned that multiple layers and a down blanket were the best way to keep warm while living in his car in far northwestern Wisconsin.

For over a year, he and his then-20-year-old daughter Christina Hubbell regularly parked in a corner spot at a public boat landing a mile outside Shell Lake, where they had spent most of their lives.

Now, because they are homeless, they have been ostracized for showering, parking and sleeping in public places.

Washburn County has no homeless shelters. Hubbell's job at a dollar store keeps them from relocating to a shelter in another county.

They are on a waitlist for a low-income housing unit.

Zieroth is awaiting a surgery that will allow him to get back to work.

If it weren't for his daughter, the former mechanic said he might consider committing a crime and getting booked into jail instead of spending another winter in the vehicle.

"There's no way I could do it again," Zieroth said. "I had to figure out something else this year."

In rural Wisconsin, homelessness is often hidden behind a veil of individuals and families who are couch surfing and sleeping in their vehicles.

Resources are few and far between, shelters are always full, and funding can be a significant challenge.

After falling for years, the state's estimated homeless population has been rising since 2021, surpassing 5,000 in 2024 for the first time since 2017.

In the 69 counties out-



Eric Zieroth unlocks the back gate of the apartment where he's staying as his dog, Bella, runs after him before driving to his storage unit with his daughter, Christina Hubbell, on Dec. 3.

Photos courtesy of Joe Timmerman/Wisconsin Watch

side Milwaukee, Dane and Racine, the homeless population increased from 2,938 individuals in 2023 to 3,201 in 2024 — and that's likely an undercount.

Those living in cars are often missed, and those sleeping on couches don't count because they're "housed," said Jenny Fasula, executive director of Wisconsin's Foundation for Rural Housing.

Despite accounting for over 60% of the state's homeless population in 2023, these mostly rural counties collectively contain just 23% of the state's supportive housing units, according to the Wisconsin Policy Forum.

Experts say such long-term housing support with on-site services is the best way to address chronic homelessness. But providing the option is an expensive, labor-intensive task for small, rural providers with limited funding.

Rural shelter providers across the state identified several solutions to the problem: Cutting out county governments as the middleman for state reim-

bursements, increasing the availability of new rental units, consolidating multiple definitions of homelessness, more consistent and proportional state funding and assistance with case management are just a few.

Federal funding and HUD

Since 2009, HUD — the main federal agency that handles homelessness — has targeted permanent supportive housing programs with long-term, sustainable services like case management for federal funding.

The national shift from temporary housing programs reflects a widely adopted "housing first" approach — that the security of a permanent shelter is the first, necessary step before people can address the root causes of their homelessness.

While permanent housing programs effectively lowered Wisconsin's homeless population in both rural and urban areas before the pandemic, the shift hasn't been easy for rural shelters that are strapped for resources.

"As a shelter, when you have 50 people, it's impossible to have the funding to hire case managers that are really involved and able to really assist people," said Michael Hall, a former Waupaca County shelter worker and director of Impact Wisconsin — a non-profit providing housing and recovery services in a six-county rural region.

Restrictions on federal funding and multiple definitions of homelessness are another barrier for rural homeless providers, said Millie Rounsville, CEO of Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency.

The federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines homelessness specifically for youth as minor children who "lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence."

But HUD defines homelessness in multiple categories including: 1) an individual or family who is immediately homeless and without shelter and 2) those at imminent risk of homelessness.

Homeless children and families in the rural region surrounding Superior tend to be doubled up in some kind of housing, Rounsville said.

While they often meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless, they are considered category two homeless under HUD's definitions.

But in order to qualify for HUD-funded Rapid Rehousing programs, individuals must fall under category one.

"The funding needs to be flexible," Rounsville said. "We can't assume that every community across the country has the same need."

It's a housing issue

Rural Wisconsin is lacking affordable, habitable homes.

Providers in Rusk County, Taylor County, Bayfield County and Waupaca County said without low-income options, they often can't get people into permanent housing.

"As fast as units open up, they get filled," said Kimberly Fitzgerald, interim director of the Rusk County Lighthouse shelter. "In Ladysmith specifically,



Christina Hubbell runs the laundromat's hot water to melt her frozen laundry detergent after picking up her winter clothes from a storage unit she shares with her father, Eric.

there are next to no rental units. So even if somebody did get approved for the housing program, where are we going to put them?"

Rural areas are also home to the state's aging housing stock, which can mean higher energy bills.

"People stereotype them to think 'Oh, we have these programs because people don't know how to manage their money.' It's not that," Fasula said. "These are folks that come in that just have a crisis. ... They don't have anything to fall back on. Any little hiccup is a big impact for them financially."

While working to eventually afford an apartment in Shell Lake, Hubbell is making \$13.50 an hour at the Dollar General, but only scheduled to work 20 hours a week. The living wage calculation for one adult in Washburn County is \$19.45 an hour working 40 hours a week, according to the MIT living wage calculator.

State funding

In the state's 2023-25 biennial budget, the Legislature rejected Gov. Tony Evers' recommendations to spend some \$24 million on emergency shelter and housing grants, homeless case management services and rental assistance for unhoused veterans.

The Legislature also nixed \$250 million Evers proposed for affordable workforce housing and home rehabilitation grants.

The state funds two main grants for homeless shelters and housing annually.

The State Shelter Subsidy Grant (SSSG) receives around \$1.6 million per year, and the Housing Assistance Program receives \$900,000.

But for small shelters like Taylor House — the only homeless shelter in rural Taylor County — the funding is "pennies," said Adam Schnabel, the shel-

ter's vice president.

The facility has a continuous waitlist.

The north central Wisconsin shelter with a 17-person capacity received \$10,000 from SSSG this year, Schnabel said.

That's around \$588 per person. But four emergency shelters in Milwaukee with a combined capacity of around 392 received \$400,000 from the \$1.6 million grant total — \$1,020 per person.

The state's Recovery Voucher Grant Program awarded \$760,000 to grantees in 2024 to provide housing to those experiencing homelessness and struggling with opioid use disorders.

Half of these funds went to three providers in Dane, Milwaukee and Waukesha counties.

Another state resource is the Homeless Case Management Services (HCMS) grant program, which distributes up to 10 \$50,000 grants per year to shelters and programs that meet eligibility requirements.

While helpful, these pots of money quickly run out, and many of them don't cover operating costs or wages.

Small shelters face county-level hurdles

Some shelter workers and advocates say in rural Wisconsin, homelessness is addressed only to the extent that their local governments and administrations are willing to acknowledge the issue and get involved.

Providers in several rural counties noted that there aren't any shelters that are owned or operated by local governments.

Washburn County Social Services can only direct homeless residents to the Lakeland Family Resource Center.

Hall and Schnabel said local governments need to be more involved in their work, whether that be providing a county employee to serve as a shelter director, or simply making better use of their limited resources.

Schnabel added that small shelters often cannot pay their directors a decent wage, resulting in frequent staff turnover.

Taylor House has had four directors in the last 18 months, he said. The inconsistency leaves "a bad taste" in the mouth of those reviewing their grant applications.

Some counties are much more willing than others

RURAL
CONTINUES ON PAGE 3



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RURAL
FROM PAGE 2

to utilize Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) — a state program aimed at addressing substance abuse and mental health needs.

The program allows counties to contract employees and case managers who provide services such as skills development and peer support.

The county can bill those expenses back to the state through BadgerCare.

But some county officials are unwilling to engage in the program, Hall said.

He added that allowing local shelters that serve those covered under BadgerCare to bill the state directly for these services instead of relying on the county to initiate it “would solve the problem tomorrow.”

Hall also noted that county governments can use their opioid settlement funds to provide housing and shelter to those with eligible needs, yet some have instead spent it on other things.

Waupaca County, for example, told Wisconsin Watch it has spent nearly \$100,000 in opioid settlement funds on awareness campaigns, training, a counselor position and equipment that helps local police quickly identify narcotics.

Another challenge is that some small communities reject homeless shelters, assuming they will bring negative footprints.

The small city of Clintonville approved an ordinance last winter enforcing a 60-day limit on local hotel stays in a six-month period, citing drug concerns, disorderly conduct and disturbances.

Many homeless individuals in the area are put up in those hotels.

“We’re trying to figure out, what are we going to do with those 50 people this winter when the police departments come through and say they have to get out,” Hall said.

Shunned by their community

While still homeless, Zieroth and Hubbell were fortunate enough to find a temporary place to stay as the weather gets colder — a small room in the unfinished basement of an acquaintance who didn’t want to see them living out of their car.

They insist on paying the homeowners \$50 a week — all they can afford — for letting them stay in the basement.

Zieroth uses his skills as a mechanic to fix things around the property, and Hubbell picks items up for them at the Dollar General whenever she can.

Once healed, he wants to get back to work and acquire a property of his own, but his first priority is his daughter.

After getting on her feet, Hubbell hopes to go to cosmetology school in Rice Lake.

“She has her whole life ahead of her and experience has taught me that some real bad beginnings get really good endings, and she deserves a good one,” Zieroth said.

Ambassadors hold ribbon cutting ceremonies at Animal Clinic, Main Attraction

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – The Tomahawk Ambassadors recently held ribbon cutting ceremonies at a pair of local businesses.

Animal Clinic of Tomahawk

The Ambassadors welcomed the Animal Clinic of Tomahawk to their new location at 86 Hometown Dr. in Tomahawk.

The Animal Clinic of Tomahawk was purchased by Dr. Julie and her husband, Chris Germano, in Feb. 2012.

“Offering small animal medical care, pet wellness programs, and new diagnostic machinery, they look forward to continuing to serve Tomahawk and the surrounding communities for all their pet service needs,” the Ambassadors said.

Main Attraction Hair Salon

The Tomahawk Ambassadors welcomed the Main Attraction Hair Salon to their new location at 114 W. Wisconsin Ave. in downtown Tomahawk.

Angie Nelson and Patti Daigle opened the salon in 2002. When Patti retired in 2019, it gave sisters Angie and Jenny an opportunity to become business partners, combining more than 26 years of experience.

“The business completed a big ‘facelift’ at their new location, and you will enjoy the ‘spa-like’ experience with their beautiful, calming color scheme,” the Ambassadors said. “The salon is full-service, offering hair cutting, coloring, and perming, as well as nail service and pedicures. Stop in or call 715-453-3303 to schedule your appointment and enjoy pampering atmosphere.”



Ambassadors Jennifer Turkiewicz, Dawn Nelson, Bunny Kluka, Kathy Rankin, Becky Jaecks, MaryLu Voermans and Deb Tomaszewski, as well as Jeffrey Johnson and Charis Lau from the Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the Animal Clinic of Tomahawk to their new location.



Ambassadors Kathy Rechsteiner, Voermans, Kluka, Tomaszewski, Rankin and Jaecks, along with Lau, welcomed Main Attraction Hair Salon to their new location. Photos by Andy Tomaszewski

Lincoln County seeking citizen participation on commissions

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

LINCOLN COUNTY – Lincoln County is currently accepting applications for citizen participation on several commissions.

Citizen positions on the Civil Service Commission, the Civil Service Grievance Committee, the Veterans’ Services Commission and the Local Emergency Planning Commission are open.

To qualify for the posts, candidates must be Lincoln County residents age 18 or older. Candidates also may not hold any elective or appointive public

position or office of any sort, as required by state statute.

The Local Emergency Planning Committee does allow elected or appointed officials to participate.

Veterans Services Commission candidates must be veterans.

Terms vary and are staggered, with one term on each commission ending each year.

“Current commission and committee members in good standing are normally given first preference if they choose to serve another term,” the Lincoln County website

states. “All appointments are the call of the county board chair.”

Letters of interest can be submitted to Lincoln County Clerk Christopher Marlowe via mail at 801 N. Sales St., Suite 201, Merrill, Wis., 54452; or via email at Chris.Marlowe@co.lincoln.wi.us.

The application deadline is Monday, Jan. 13 at 4 p.m.

To view the posting on the Lincoln County website, visit www.tinyurl.com/3rm7zurt.

For additional information, contact Marlowe at 715-539-1019.

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 24 W. Rives St., Rhinelander, WI 54501
 Phone: 715-453-2151

PUBLISHER
 Patrick J. Wood
publisher@mmclocal.com

GENERAL MANAGER
 Tim Schreiber
tschreiber@mmclocal.com

EDITOR
 Jalen Maki
jmaki@mmclocal.com

ADVERTISING SALES
 Jeff Schulz
jschulz@mmclocal.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE
 Marie Towne

SUBSCRIPTIONS
 Terri Moericke
circulation@mmclocal.com

General E-mail:
leadernews@mmclocal.com
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Letters to the Editor Policy
 Letters to the Editor must include the writer’s full name, address and other contact information (only your name and town of residence will appear in print and online). We will not accept a letter from an unidentified source. Letters should be no more than 500 words and may appear in our weekly print issue. Letters may be edited by our staff for length, clarity and facts.

The Tomahawk Leader will only print letters that address a specific issue or article that may be of interest to the bulk of our readers.

Letters can be submitted to leadernews@mmclocal.com or Tomahawk Leader, 24 W. Rives St., Rhinelander, Wis., 54501. We will not print letters that:

- 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.
- Support discrimination on any grounds. This includes, but is not limited to, discrimination based on age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion or culture.
- Are vulgar, profane, obscene or otherwise offensive.
- 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



Carol J. Ruplinger, age 90, a lifelong resident of Tomahawk, passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024, surrounded by her family. Carol was born on Dec. 16, 1934, in Tomahawk, to the late Eugene and Othelia (Schmidtke) Schmit Sr. She was married to Alvin P. Ruplinger on Jan. 9, 1954; he passed away on May 21, 2014. After Carol retired from Bradley Bank, she volunteered at the hospital and provided Holy Communion to the patients and was very active at St. Mary's Church with multiple volunteer activities. Carol loved to knit and crochet and provided countless prayer shawls through the local Prayer Shawl Group at St. Mary's and was an active member of the Knitting Guild in Minocqua. She enjoyed sewing, quilting, gardening, and made countless beautiful baskets. She also loved reading and sunny days.

Survivors include her children, Jackie, Tom, Paul, and Jane, their families, many grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren. Carol is also survived by her sister, Barbara Theiler. She was preceded in death by her parents, Eugene and Othelia; her husband, Alvin; her infant son, Daniel; her brother, Eugene Schmit Jr.; and her sisters, Marion Landers, Maxine Woods, and Nancy Landers.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation in support of Tunnel to Towers Foundation or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Funeral services for Carol Ruplinger will be on Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025, at 11 a.m., at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Fr. Aloysius Royan Anthony will officiate. The family will receive friends for visitation from 9 a.m. until the time of services at 11 a.m. Burial will be held at Calvary Cemetery in the spring.

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



Donald "Don" Joseph Boschke, Jr., age 63, beloved son of Maxine Boschke, loving brother of Bonnie Anderson, and Michelle (Donnie "Bush") Bushar, passed away on December 21st 2024 in Punta Gorda, FL. He was waiting to be picked up at the airport to begin his annual 3 week holiday vacation with family. Don was born on September 27th 1961 in Milwaukee Wisconsin. He lived in Tomahawk then Rhinelander Wisconsin. Don was also known as "Boschko" and "Uncle Wilson".

Don worked for Tomahawk Live Trap for 33 years as a shipping manager. He enjoyed working for and growing with the company. He also enjoyed the people he worked with. Don was an outgoing, fun loving person. His favorite things outside of work were the Packers, golf, Elvis, and spending time with family and friends.

Don is further survived by a niece and 3 nephews, Michael (Amanda) Goetz, Jessica Goetz, Daniel (Macy) Goetz, and Joseph Renner. Grand nieces and nephews are Skylar Goetz, Lily Young, Ezra Goetz, Lennon Goetz, Riley Renner, and Landen Goetz, along with numerous cousins including Marnie Miszewski of Florida.

Don was preceded in death by his father, Donald Joseph Boschke, and his beloved dog Buck.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date in WI. Details to be announced via www.MullinsMemorial.com

Memorial Contributions in memory of Donald "Don" Joseph Boschke, Jr., are suggested to Helping Paws Animal Sanctuary, 10060 Mallory Pkwy E, Unit D, Saint James City, FL 33956 www.helpingpawsanimalsanctuary.com as this was his favorite charity, founded by his cousin Marnie.

Mullins Memorial Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Cape Coral, is entrusted with final care.



Lynn E. Brown, age 79, of Tomahawk, WI, passed away on Monday, December 16, 2024, at the Legacy of the Northwoods Assisted Living in Eagle River, WI. Lynn was born in Wausau, WI, on November 3, 1945, to the late Walter and Doris (Krueger) Kropla. She was married to Richard Brown on February 2, 1963; he survives.

Lynn was a 1964 graduate of the Tomahawk High School. She worked at Sacred Heart Hospital for some time while she was in school and later worked at Johnson Level & Tool where she was employed for over 30 years. Lynn was a faithful and active member of Grace Lutheran Church. She enjoyed camping. Her and Richard would camp on their way to and from Alaska. In her younger years, Lynn coached girls softball. She had a love for horses, sharing a horse named "Happy" with her son, Tod. Lynn was a friend to everyone she met and will be missed by all.

Survivors include her husband of over 61 years, Richard Brown; her grandchildren, Katie "Katie Bug" Felch, Olivia "Livvy" Brown, MaKayla Becker, and Alden Brown; her great-grandchildren, Paisley, Kaelynn, Baylee, and Camden; her brother, Tom Kropla; her sister, Janet Lowe; and her best friend, her dog, Sadie. She is further survived by many nieces, nephews, and extended family members. She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Doris; her son, Tod Brown; her brother, Fred Kropla; and dear family members and friends.

Memorial services for Lynn Brown were held on Monday, December 23, 2024, at 11:00 AM, at Grace Lutheran Church. Rev. Julie Sinkula officiated. The family received friends for visitation from 9:00 AM until the time of services at 11:00 AM. Inurnment will take place at the Prairie Rapids Cemetery. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family. You may view Lynn's obituary and leave online condolences at generationsfuneral.com.

Associated Clergy of Tomahawk "Pastor's Corner"

Hope is a word that's especially important for many people experiencing an uncertain future. Hope describes the feeling that things will turn out for good. A trust that what we seek in the future will be a reality. Things might not be the same, but there is the understanding that God can bring something good out of the challenges.

The symbol often used for hope is an anchor. This image comes from Hebrews 6:19-20;

"¹⁹We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, ²⁰where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

An anchor is a wonderful symbol for hope because it gives that solid feeling of being grounded and not swayed by the tides of life. Jesus is that anchor of hope for us. Jesus is the one who redeems and reconnects us with God. In the Jewish faith, the high priest would enter the inner sanctuary once a year to offer a sacrifice on the day of Atonement. Jesus is that high priest who, through his death and resurrection, destroyed the veil between God and us once and for all. Jesus gave us hope in that we are redeemed and reconnected to God through our baptismal promise of new life in Christ. So, it is this hope that reminds us that even as we struggle in our daily lives, we are loved and forgiven. God is with us, "Emmanuel," now and we have hope of life with God one day where there will be no sin and death.

What does hope look like? It looks like building someone up instead of tearing them down, about giving more than taking, helping rather than hurting and complimenting rather than complaining. Hope is experienced when we are the change that we want to see.



Hopeful blessings,
Pastor Julie Sinkula
Grace Tomahawk



Mitchel Charles Hipler passed away suddenly on Dec. 29, 2024 at the age of 66. Mike, as most knew him, was born on June 2, 1958 in Germany to Helga and Richard Hipler. Mike lived a good portion of his life in Tomahawk. He graduated from Tomahawk High School in 1976 and furthered his education at Northland College-Ashland and University of Wisconsin-Madison. Mike went on to become a pharmacist for his entire career. He was an outdoorsman,

loved fishing the Jersey City Flowage and anywhere he lived, when he got the chance. Most recently Mike lived in Waunakee, Wis., with his son Joseph.

Mike was preceded in death by his mother and father, Helga and Richard, his paternal and maternal grandparents, and his youngest brother Allen.

Survivors include his son Joseph of Waunakee, Wis., his brother Don (Naomi), Tomahawk, his niece and nephew, Katie and Alex, his aunt Ingrid and three cousins, Tom, Mark and Michelle, along with many friends in the Northwoods area.

A visitation and memorial service will take place on Jan. 10, 2025 beginning at 10 a.m. at Krueger-Nimsgern Funeral Home in Tomahawk. A gathering will take place immediately afterwards at Castaways Bar & Grill.



Carl F. Theiler, age 89, a lifelong resident of Tomahawk, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Thursday, January 2, 2025, following a brief illness.

Carl was born on April 22, 1935, to the late Carl and Nell (Winker) Theiler. He married the love of his life and the apple of his eye, Barbara J. Schmit, on June 23, 1962. Carl attended Tomahawk High School and graduated from Marquette University in 1957. After six months with the U.S.

Army, he went to work for the Department of Natural Resources and stayed with the state agency for four years. He left the DNR to go into real estate and logging on his own, a venture which lasted six years, and then became Lincoln County's first zoning administrator in 1968. In 1972, Carl became the Executive Secretary for the Timber Producers Association of Michigan and Wisconsin (now known as the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association) where he represented and lobbied for loggers and the forestry industry, produced a monthly magazine and organized the annual Lake States Logging Congress. He was instrumental in planning, designing, and procuring the wood products used to build the association's home offices in Rhinelander. Carl retired from the TPA in 1997. At an early age Carl developed a passion for being in the woods which endured throughout his lifetime and that was evident in his smile any time he spoke of it. His happy places were the family hunting shack, his Somo cabin and tree farm, and especially his bar room at home, and he found great joy in sharing these places with others. His welcoming spirit and love of people quickly turned strangers into friends. There was nothing he loved more than sharing stories, usually with a cold beer in his hand and a twinkle in his eye. Carl lived a full and blessed life focused on the things that were most important to him—family, friends, the woods, Tomahawk, and Marquette basketball. Carl will be deeply missed by his family, but we will honor his memory by living as he did – treating each day as a gift, treasuring family and friends, showing kindness to all, and sharing stories, laughter and love.

Carl is survived by his wife, Barbara, their children, Julie (Chris) Kainz, Connie (Mick) Norgren, Kris (Kent Dobson) Theiler, Andy (Becky) Theiler, Sara (Jeff) Salewske, and Stacy (Jay) Romant. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren – Jessica (Joe), Natalie (Jonathan), Nathan (Christina), Holly (Brad), John, Josie, Sam (Jaci), Sydney (Joey), Sophie, Carl, Kylee, Ruby, and Coco; two bonus granddaughters – Madeline (Wyatt) and Meredith; and two great-granddaughters – Jia and Lilli.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Nell, and his siblings, Sister Katherine Theiler, Ralph Theiler, Harry Theiler, Viola Schmit, and Nell Anne Virgil.

In lieu of flowers, we know Carl would love it if you share a beer and a story with friends and family. If you're interested in doing more, the family suggests donations to the Ronald McDonald House, the Maryknoll Sisters, Our Sisters' House, or the Tyler Kahle Memorial Field (both local organizations) all causes that were close to Carl's heart.

Services for Carl Theiler will be held on Friday, Jan. 10, 2025, at 3 p.m., at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Fr. Aloysius Royan Anthony will officiate. The family will receive friends for visitation from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. A private burial will be held at Calvary Cemetery at a later date.

Krueger-Nimsgern Funeral & Cremation Services is assisting the family. Online condolences for the family may be directed to www.nimsgernfuneral.com.

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**ESSAY
CONTENTST**
FROM PAGE 1

first place, followed by Phoebe Hrdina and Exxie Walbeck.

'Tomahawk Logging History' by Andrew Voermans

"I wonder what logging was all about back then?" Turns out back when Tomahawk first became a city, it was known for its big logging industry which is mainly the reason for it being a boomtown then. But there were some interesting things about the logging like the development of it and the role of our town founder William H. Bradley.

Back in 1886, Bradley alongside three railroad companies put together the Tomahawk Land and Boom Company, which Bradley became the first president of. In accordance with the organization they built some logging camps two miles south of the present day city. This is where they constructed a dam from 1886-89 to form a lake for logs to be stored and sorted for mills down the river. In 1888 they also built a mill and through a treaty with the Chippewa tribe that lived in the region, logging was able to operate. Alongside this mill where many other mills that were constructed in the area from 1889 to 1890.

According to the Genealogy Trails, "At the heyday of the lumber industry here the annual cut at Tomahawk ran from 60,000,000 to 75,000,000 feet of lumber with about 25,000,000 shingles." This meant there had to have been a lot of people living in Tomahawk for this to even be possible, and there was. With roughly 2,000 occupants, Tomahawk became a boomtown and was given the nickname

"Magic City" when it was incorporated in 1891.

To sum it all up, logging was a very significant part of Tomahawk's history even before it had been incorporated. As logging had sparked the popularity of the area, which allowed for William Bradley to call Tomahawk another city in the beautiful northwoods of Wisconsin. In fact, the city purchased, in 1910, "Hog's Back" from the Bradley Co. for \$10,000.00 which has 105 acres of virgin pine, and they later renamed it to Bradley Park in honor of William Bradley's dedication to the city's development.

'Washington Square Park' by Phoebe Hrdina

What now occupies Washington Square Park on North 4th St., Tomahawk is a dream park that has been in the making since 2021 and is now complete. It is now an all inclusive park with wheelchair access and a splash pad. This essay will be talking about what came before the dream park many years ago, the Washington School and its infamous fire, and how it affected the Town of Tomahawk, Wis.

In February of 1907, the city of Tomahawk unanimously voted to issue \$40,000.00 in city bonds to obtain funding to build a new school. This high school was built at Washington Ave. and 4th St., at the location of Washington Square Park. This building was a high school until December of 1958, when a new high school was opened on Kings Road. The old building was renamed the Washington School, and it was then used as an elementary school.

The Washington School was destroyed by a fire on Saturday, Aug. 12, 1978. The fire started around

1:18 a.m., people passing by noticed smoke coming from the building. Around 36 firefighters from Tomahawk, Merrill, Rhineland, and the Town of Nokomis responded and fought the fire for about 90 minutes before it was under control. The cause of fire was ruled "accidental" by then-State Deputy Fire Marshall Leslie A. Mayer. No specific accidental cause was reported, but arson was ruled out after investigating. Lester Hanke, Tomahawk's Fire Chief at the time, was quoted in the Tomahawk Leader article saying the building "was just a-glowing" when firefighters arrived.

When the fire was at its peak, firefighters were pumping 4,500 gallons of water every minute from three nearby hydrants. They estimated that 200,000 gallons of water was used to put out the fire. Around 6,000 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose was utilized by the firefighters that were fighting the flames. Although Hanke and two other firefighters received injuries that Hanke described as "superficial," no one was seriously hurt during the fire. Over the next few days firefighters kept checking in on the building to make sure another fire wouldn't happen again.

At the time the school was destroyed in the fire, it housed around 450 children in grades three through six. Most of the damage occurred on the top two floors of the three-story building. The Tomahawk Leader said the loss was around \$1.5 million, making it the most expensive fire to occur in Tomahawk.

In summary, Washington Square Park now stands as a welcoming, all-inclusive, community park which symbolizes the resilience in Tomahawk. Once home to the historic Washington School, which we tragically

lost in a 1978 fire, the park represents both the town's past and enduring spirit. The park now stands on a plot of history that Tomahawk will never forget.

'Who made Tomahawk Happen?' by Exxie Walbeck

Population of 3,336 residents. That is how many people are in Tomahawk, Wis. Many people wouldn't be able to live here without William Henry Bradley, the founder of Tomahawk. Bradley was known for his entrepreneurial spirit and his vision for development. Because of this, he played a huge role in shaping this town and making it the town it is today.

William Bradley was born on Feb. 25, 1838, in Bangor, Maine. When he was seventeen, he went on a trip with his father's funds to go out West to seek employment, where he went to work on a farm as a common laborer. During this time, he stayed on the farm, making only a small \$1.00 a day, but he continued to work on the farm for three years until he returned home.

After a while, he went back out West to satisfy his passion. He worked on various lines in Dubuque, Iowa, and Janesville, Wis., and he would go to the Au Sable River in Michigan in the wintertime. Once he finished that, he built a mill at Manistee and had connections with Wheeler, Hopkins & Co. After a while, he found Tomahawk, the one town he cherished the most.

William focused mostly on Tomahawk, changing it to the town it became. He helped make churches, schools and shops. He also was responsible for the publication of the newspaper. But he didn't do this for himself, he did it for the town and he wanted to

make a safe place for people today.

William Henry Bradley's legacy continues to profoundly impact Tomahawk, serving as a lasting tribute to his pioneering vision and commitment to progress. His leadership and dedication played a key role in

the town's establishment, and his efforts have shaped its ongoing development. Today, Bradley's influence remains deeply embedded in the community, ensuring that his contributions will be remembered and celebrated for generations to come.

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FUNDRAISER
FROM PAGE 1

as an appraiser of antiques and fine art for more than 20 years."

Tomahawk event

A release from TCT said that as part of the Tomahawk event, those inter-

ested are encouraged to register and provide a brief description of the item(s) they wish to have appraised by Moran.

TCT said it is aiming to have up to 100 item submissions, with an average of appraisal time of four minutes per item.

Participants can register

up to two items at a cost of \$15.00 per item. To register items, contact Kathy Rechsteiner at 920-217-6643.

TCT noted that although many kinds of items can be appraised, prohibited items include weapons, coins, paper money, fine jewelry and Beanie Babies.

Antique vendors will be

present at the event.

There will be a \$5.00 entry fee at the door.

For more information about TCT's antique appraisal fundraising event, visit the group's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/tomahawk.communitytheater/.

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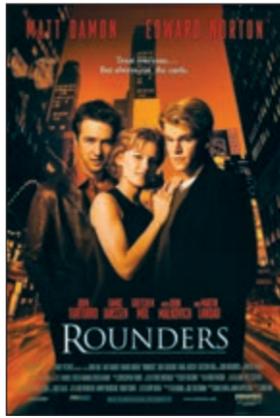
MOVIES YOU GOTTA SEE

They just don't make 'em like 'Rounders' anymore

BY JALEN MAKI

Some of my favorite movies are about different worlds. I don't mean this in an *Avatar* or *Star Trek* sense; I'm talking about universes that exist alongside our own, completely unbeknownst to us.

Take the (incredibly awesome) *John Wick* franchise, for example. The *Wick* films take place in the criminal underworld of assassins, and they let us explore another realm of existence that's carrying on right under our noses. The idea that people around us are leading drastically different lives than ours without us even knowing it is pretty



intriguing, and movies that open our eyes to these universes are among the most fun to watch.

The 1998 drama *Rounders*, directed by John Dahl,

gives us a glimpse into another fascinating underworld: one that revolves around high-stakes poker.

Rounders stars two of the 1990s' rising young actors: Matt Damon and Edward Norton. Damon had just taken home an Oscar for co-writing *Good Will Hunting* with Ben Affleck a few months before *Rounders*' release, and Norton had broken onto the scene with an unforgettable performance in 1996's *Primal Fear*, which earned him an Oscar nod for Best Supporting Actor. Damon and Norton would each eventually star in several massive and culturally-impactful

films over the next decade (*Saving Private Ryan* and the *Ocean's* and *Bourne* series for Damon; *American History X* and *Fight Club* for Norton) before going on to be two of the most beloved and respected actors of their generation, and *Rounders* catches both of them right before their respective peaks.

In *Rounders*, Damon plays Mike McDermott, a New York City law student who makes money on the side by playing underground poker. Mike's a small-timer, but he's got the skills and ambition to be one of the best. At the beginning of the film, he's got his eyes on a World Series of Poker win somewhere down the line. Mike buys into a no-limit Texas hold 'em game run by Russian mobster Teddy KGB (John Malkovich doing what can best be described as "an accent, all right"). Mike ends up putting his entire \$30,000.00 bankroll in play on one hand against Teddy and loses it all. The loss is both financially and emotionally devastating for Mike, and he vows to walk away from cards for good and focus solely on getting his law degree. His mentor, legendary "rounder" (full-time poker player) Joey Kanish (the great John Turturro), offers to stake Mike to help get him back on his feet, but Mike declines. Nine months later, Mike's driving a delivery truck part-time to make ends meet. It's a job, as Mike describes it, that's handed down from Kanish to rounders who forget the cardinal rule: always leave yourself outs.

There's a specific type of movie out there I like to call "jargon movies," and they're oftentimes underworld movie-adjacent. In sports films like *Moneyball*, or finance world films like

The Big Short, or military-focused films like *Full Metal Jacket*, the subject matter is usually pretty intricate and occasionally downright confusing, meaning at times, the majority of the audience might not have any idea what anyone is talking about because the characters are using hyper-specific terminology – hence the "jargon" moniker. As both an underworld movie and a jargon movie, *Rounders* has a leg up in forging a deeper connection with the viewer. Mike serves as the film's narrator, cluing us in on not only the ins-and-outs of poker, but the realm surrounding the game – its norms, its players, its social and class structures. Mike's insight helps us better understand this universe and Mike as a person and poker player. In the fantastic opening scene, Mike's painfully honest, describing in detail his thought process at the table and what ultimately led to him going bust. *Rounders* deftly executes what any good jargon film does: it makes an otherwise niche subject not only accessible to the general public, but genuinely interesting. In *Rounders*' case, it's all but intoxicating.

The key to jargon movies, in my opinion, is to grab the viewer's attention from the jump, because if you don't, they can easily be bored or confused into giving up on the movie. The opening scene of *Rounders* is a master class in setting the hooks in the audience early, and the film keeps us on the line by shortly thereafter introducing us to Worm (Norton, who's dizzyingly great in *Sleazeball Mode* here). Worm is Mike's best pal, and the two go way back – they've been playing cards and running all sorts of scams together since

their school days. Mike picks Worm up after he's released from prison for distributing stolen credit cards, and Worm's crestfallen to hear that Mike lost it all and packed it in. Whereas Mike always played poker straight-up, Worm hustles and cheats his way to wins – something he's both excellent at and proud of. Worm's dishonesty has gotten him into more than one jam in his life, but Mike has always had his back, and Worm's always had his. In school, Worm took the fall for a grift that both he and Mike were involved in, and he got expelled for it. Everyone has had a friend like Worm: A pain in the neck, but loyal and charming enough to always be forgiven.

Before Worm went to jail, he owed a pretty substantial gambling debt, and now that he's out, it's time to pay up. Mike lets Worm play on his credit at a local club to help him start working towards getting back in the black, but Worm ends up running a pretty big tab in Mike's name. Worm also finds out that local pimp Grama (Michael Rispoli) had bought up all of his debt while he was incarcerated. Grama's backed by Teddy KGB, meaning that if Worm and Mike don't pony up, they're in the worst kind of trouble with the worst kind of people. With Mike and Worm owing \$15,000.00 to Grama in five days, Mike dives headfirst back into poker, going on a marathon session of games to try to win enough money to get them in the clear. The saga culminates with a superb one-on-one showdown between Mike and KGB, where Mike is literally playing for his life.

Someone watching *Rounders* for the first time might not necessarily buy into the idea that Mike is a prodigious poker player. I mean, sure, he cleans up some games while he's trying to square the Grama/Teddy KGB debt, but overall, it might've seemed like poor judgment, or even hubris, the led him to bet his whole bankroll against the Mad Russian. But in a tremendous and pivotal scene with Kanish, Mike reveals his secret: there was a reason he went all-in, and it puts Mike's fateful decision that night into perspective.

Folks, they simply do not make 'em like *Rounders* anymore. Okay, that's probably a bit of an exaggeration, but compared to decades past, such movies are much rarer. Smaller-budget, made-by-adults-for-adults dramas and thrillers with a few A- or B-listers, a solid supporting cast, and a fresh script have largely gone by the wayside in favor of colossal-budget movies based on intellectual property (IP) owned by major studios – your Marvels, DCs, and Star Wars of the world. Don't get me wrong, I like those movies, too, but their popularity has come at a cost. Films based on IP have had the film industry in a chokehold for the better part of the last 20 years,

Rounders
CONTINUES ON PAGE 7



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ROUNDERS

FROM PAGE 6

and the loss of physical media, like DVDs and Blu-Rays, due largely to the popularity of streaming has meant theater releases are where studios have to make their money now. These factors mean studios don't often fund several lower-budget movies that might combine for a meager profit when sales of physical media are factored in later. Instead, they're more apt to dump huge sums of money into single projects hoping for a return in-kind at the box office. Think the two most recent *Avengers* movies: they had staggering budgets, but they're two of the most financially-successful movies ever made, meaning Disney had a pair of massive pay-days off just two films. This, by and large, is the modern mainstream movie-making formula.

Damon and Norton cut their teeth and made their names on films like *Rounders*; now, you're lucky to see half a dozen similar movies released theatrically a year. But what a lot of those IP movies largely lack, *Rounders* has in spades. The world of *Rounders* is dripping with swagger, brought about by an assortment of unique and interesting characters delivering lines of cool, slick dialogue peppered with in-the-world lingo. It's the kind of stuff you won't often find in huge franchises, and it's what Hollywood is sorely missing.

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.



Pictured, back row, from left: Galen Schmidt, Dominic Boos, Damian Ramirez-Gonzales; front: Ryu Fuszard, Ayla Lewison, Julia McGovern.

Photo courtesy of Corey Colburn

Six THS singers selected for 75th annual Dorian Vocal Festival

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

TOMAHAWK – The Tomahawk High School (THS) Music Department last week announced that six THS choir members – four seniors and two juniors – have been invited to sing in the 2025 Dorian Vocal Festival.

The festival will be held at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, on Sunday, Jan. 12 and Monday, Jan. 13.

Tomahawk's Julia McGovern, Dominic Boos, Damian Ramirez-Gonzales, Ryu Fuszard, Ayla Lewison and Galen Schmidt will join over 900 other high school singers from nearly 300 schools across the up-

per Midwest at Dorian, the largest select vocal festival for high school students in the nation.

During the two days of the festival, the students will be led and taught by members of the Luther College choral faculty. At the conclusion of the festival, the singers will be part of the Grand Concert at 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 13.

The concert, featuring The Luther College Nordic Choir and auditioned high school soloists, is scheduled to be livestreamed on the Luther College Music Department YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@MusicAtLuther/.

FISHING TIMES

Date (CDT)	Morning		Evening	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Jan 8	1:19AM	5:52AM	11:14AM	6:19PM
Jan 9	2:41AM	6:46AM	11:43AM	7:15PM
Jan 10	4:01AM	7:45AM	12:23PM	8:15PM
Jan 11	5:16AM	8:46AM	1:13PM	9:16PM
Jan 12	6:20AM	9:47AM	2:17PM	10:17PM
Jan 13	7:09AM	10:46AM	3:28PM	---
Jan 14	7:46AM	11:14PM	4:44PM	11:41AM
Jan 15	8:14AM	12:07M	5:58PM	12:31PM

Solunar fishing chart for Tomahawk. Major feeding periods last two hours and minors run one hour. New Moon - Jan. 11.

Church DIRECTORY

First Congregational
N. Fifth & E. Washington Ave.,
Tomahawk 715-453-2217
8:30am Bible Study • 9:30am Worship
Pastor John Miskimen

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

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

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

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

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

Northland Bible Church
2810 Olson Road, Tomahawk
Join Us Sunday 10 a.m.
Pastor Alex Lindsay
715-612-1841
northlandbiblechurch.com

St. Mary's Catholic
Seventh and Washington Ave.,
Tomahawk • 715-453-2878
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Mass times: Saturday 6 p.m.
Sunday 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Confessions: Saturdays, 9 a.m.;
Anytime by Appointment

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

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic
Pier-Willow
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at 5209 Willow Road
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Saturday 4 p.m. Mass

Redeemer Ev. Lutheran WELS • 715-453-4814
16 Theiler Drive,
Tomahawk
Rev. Mark Gass, Pastor
For Service Times Check
www.redeemertomahawk.org

St. Augustine Catholic
Intersection of D & B,
Harrison • 715-453-2561
Fr. Aloysius Anthony, Pastor
Sunday 8:00 a.m. Mass

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran
Missouri Synod
715-453-5391
12 E. Wisconsin Ave.,
Tomahawk
Pastor Stephen P. Gillet

Northwoods Vineyard
418 Kaphaem Road
Tomahawk • 715-453-6700
Pastor Nate & Shelley Nelson
Reg. Serv. 9:30
Facebook Live Stream 9:30

Directory made possible by these churches and...
PCA
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
N9090 Hwy. E, Tomahawk
TOMAHAWK LEADER
24 W. Rives St., Rhinelander

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

Trinity Lutheran Church
715-428-2851
4594 Hwy 8, Prentice
Pastor Scott Holobeck
Sat 10am Worship Service,
11am Bible Study

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Info: Sunnie 715-612-5866

PICK UP A TOMAHAWK LEADER AT THESE NEWSSTANDS

- TOMAHAWK
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- R-Store BP
- Trig's
- Marathon
- Tomahawk Shell
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- Kwik Trip
- Corner Mart
- Viegut's Self Service
- Wagner Shell
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LEGALS

Legals 7700

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
LINCOLN COUNTY
BMO Bank N.A.
Plaintiff,

v.
Daniel A. Woodard, et al.
Defendants.
Case No. 2024CV000075

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a judgment of foreclosure made in the above-entitled action on August 15, 2024 in the amount of \$120,807.45, I will sell at public auction, located at the main entrance of the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main Street, Merrill, WI 54452, on
January 15, 2025

At 10:00 AM, all of the following described premises, to wit:
LOT ONE (1) AND THE EAST 40 FEET OF LOT TWO (2), BLOCK THREE (3) OF THE PLAT OF J.M. SMITH'S FOURTH ADDITION TO THE CITY OF MERRILL, LINCOLN COUNTY, WISCONSIN.
Street Address: 700 Douglas Street, Merrill, WI 54452
Tax Key No. 2513106110019

THE PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD AS IS AND SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL REAL ESTATE TAXES, SUPERIOR LIENS OR OTHER LEGAL ENCUMBRANCES.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK OR CERTIFIED FUNDS, payable to the Clerk of the Courts (10% down payment at sale, balance due within ten (10) days of Court approval; down payment to be forfeited if payment not received timely). Buyer must comply with minimum bidder qualifications as set forth in Wis. Stat. § 846.155. Buyer to pay applicable Wisconsin Real Estate Transfer Tax in addition to the purchase price.

Ken Schneider
Sheriff of Lincoln County, Wisconsin
Codilis, Moody & Circelli, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
(414) 775-7700
50-24-00732
NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.
Published December 18, 25, 2024, January 8, 2025
WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
LINCOLN COUNTY
COVANTAGE CREDIT UNION,
Plaintiff,

v.
ADAM DOTTER
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 \$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 ¼) 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, 18, 25, 2024; January 8, 2025
WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
LINCOLN COUNTY
PHH Mortgage Corporation
Plaintiff,

v.
Estate of Linda L. Wilson, et al.
Defendants.
Case No. 2024CV000094

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a judgment of foreclosure made in the above-entitled action on October 21, 2024 in the amount of \$32,187.98, I will sell at public auction, located at the main entrance of the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E.

Main Street, Merrill, WI 54452, on
January 29, 2025
At 10:00 AM, all of the following described premises, to wit:
LOT 5, BLOCK 2, MAP OF WISCONSIN VALLEY LUMBER COMPANY'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF MERRILL, LINCOLN COUNTY, WISCONSIN.
Street Address: 203 N. Foster Street, Merrill, WI 54452
Tax Key No. 34-0126-003-686-00-00 a/k/a 251-3106-104-0190

THE PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD AS IS AND SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL REAL ESTATE TAXES, SUPERIOR LIENS OR OTHER LEGAL ENCUMBRANCES.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK OR CERTIFIED FUNDS, payable to the Clerk of the Courts (10% down payment at sale, balance due within ten (10) days of Court approval; down payment to be forfeited if payment not received timely). Buyer must comply with minimum bidder qualifications as set forth in Wis. Stat. § 846.155. Buyer to pay applicable Wisconsin Real Estate Transfer Tax in addition to the purchase price.

Ken Schneider
Sheriff of Lincoln County, Wisconsin
Codilis, Moody & Circelli, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
(414) 775-7700
50-24-00808
NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.
Published January 8, 15, 22, 2025
WNAXLP

Legals 7700

MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS 7720

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN
402 South Park Drive - PO Box 213
Tomahawk WI 54487
715-453-4233

NOTICE OF MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15th, 2025, 10:00 A.M.
HOUSING AUTHORITY OFFICE, 402 SOUTH PARK DRIVE, TOMAHAWK, WISCONSIN
Published January 8, 2025
WNAXLP

CLASSIFIEDS

Firewood 7244

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

Sporting Goods 7260

GUN SHOW: January 10,11,12, 2025 Waukesha Expo, 1000 Northview RD. Waukesha, WI. Fri 3-8pm, Sat 9am-4pm, Sun 9am-3pm \$8 (Under 14 FREE) Buy/Sell, 608-752-6677 www.bobandrocco.com

Dogs 7272

After Christmas Sale: Purebred Jack Russell Terrier puppies. First shots and dewormed. \$275 each. 715-921-2989

AKC GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES! 2-M \$400 Serious inquiries only! DOB 11/13 Very nice pup. Shots DEW 715-304-1097 (12/30)

AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES. Ready Now Shots Vet Ck'd \$450! 715-721-6407 (1/6)

AKC REG. CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIAL PUPS. DOB 10/24 Shots, DEW, Vet Ck'd \$800. Call 715-644-5726 (1/6)

AUSSIE DOODLE PUPS Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$300 715-255-2661 (#269146)1/6)nw

Australian Shepard Black Tri M-\$175 Blue Merle F-\$275 11 Weeks Old. Wanted to buy Manx puppy M/F 920-905-4665 (1/6)

BICHAPPOO KING CHARLES CAVALIER MIXED PUP. Adorable Faces Shots DEW Vet Ck'd \$450 715-669-5928 (1/6)

BOSTON/RAT TERRIER PUPS Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$500 715-255-2661 (#269146)1/6)s

Dogs 7272

Dogs 7272

BOSTON TERRIER PUPPIES
Maels/Females Health Guar.
Ready Now \$600 715-937-0916 (01/13)

CAVAPOO PUPS \$700
Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver 715-255-2661 (#269146)12/30)nw

For sale COLLIE PUPPIES! Shots DEW Marion area \$120 715-754-5214 (12/30)

MINI GOLDENDOODLE PUPS! \$700 Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver 715-255-2661 (#269146)1/6)nw

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PUGALIERS PUP CAVALIER KING CHARLES Mixed with PUG PUPS. DOB 10/24 Shots, DEW, Vet Ck'd \$600. Call 715-644-5726 (1/6)

REGISTERD CAVALIER KING CHARLES PUPS. Shots, Dew, Vet Ck'd Ready NOW Can deliver \$700 Call 715-470-0458 (#509642) 1/6 am

SHITZO TEDDYBEAR PUPS! Cute Shots Dewormed \$600 call after 6pm 715-669-3356 Thorp WI. (1/6)

WHOODLE PUPS Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$600 715-255-2661 (#269146)1/6)s/m

Miscellaneous Pet 7278

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

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

A Shower A Day

Dear Reader,

Today I took a shower, as I do almost every day. It's something so routine, we rarely give it a second thought. But there's a certain comfort in that simple act—feeling clean, refreshed, and ready to face whatever the day or night may bring. Yet, we often take these small, everyday luxuries for granted.



destroyed lives and shattered peace.

A daily shower won't solve this crisis, but it reminds us of the life we hope the people of Ukraine — and all oppressed people — might one day return to. A life where peace prevails, and where, after all the chaos, they can enjoy something as simple as...a

There are millions around the world who don't have this privilege. The people of Ukraine, for instance, have been robbed of such normalcy as they endure brutal and unjust attacks—simply for not being Russian. This tragedy, is a nightmare that has

quiet shower in the morning.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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

Aspirus Health announces top baby names of 2024

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – Aspirus Health last week announced the top baby names of 2024, as chosen by families across the health system.

"This year, the names Henry and Evelyn topped the list for boys and girls, reflecting timeless and elegant choices by parents in our community," Aspirus said in a release.

Out of a total of 2,911 live births at Aspirus facilities



during the 2024 calendar year, 1,427 were baby girls, according to Aspirus.

The top boys' names for 2024 were Henry, 47; Oliver, 29; and Liam, 28.

Evelyn, 23; Charlotte, 21; and Violet, 19, were the top

girls' names.

In comparison, last year's most popular names included Levi, Oliver and Hudson for boys and Amelia, Harper and Emma for girls.

"Aspirus Health continues to be a part of this joyous moment for families by supporting safe, healthy deliveries across our system," Aspirus stated. "The names reflect not only a love for classic and meaningful names, but also the diversity and creativity of families throughout our region. Aspirus Health is proud to be a trusted partner in delivering exceptional care to mothers and their newborns. With comprehensive maternity services, Aspirus ensures a safe and personalized birthing experience for all families.

For more information about Aspirus birthing services, visit www.aspirus.org/birthing-services.

Alzheimer's Association workshop to provide information, tips on healthy aging

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

RHINELANDER – The Alzheimer's Association is offering a workshop to help people age well.

"With the new year come new resolutions to live a healthier lifestyle," a release from the Alzheimer's Association said. "These resolutions have the potential to impact our brain health, in addition to our physical health. At any age, there are lifestyle habits we can adopt to help maintain or even potentially improve our health. These habits may also help to keep our brains healthy as we age and possibly delay the onset of cognitive decline associated with Alzheimer's disease."

The "Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips from the Latest Research" program will be held at the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Oneida County, 100 Keenan St., Rhineland, on Tuesday, Jan. 21 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Aging
CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

Tomahawk Area Interfaith Volunteers Annual Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2025 @ 2:00pm
Tomahawk Senior Community Center Community Room
113A So. Tomahawk Ave.
RSVP by Calling 715-453-8200 or Emailing: taivdirector@gmail.com

Ask the PASTOR

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

Christmas has come and gone and the new year has started. It is common to take something obvious, like the start of a new year, to start something new in an attempt to improve ourselves. May I suggest something for this year? How about planning this year to *read the Bible for the sake of learning*?

You will note that I did not say, *Read the Bible through this year*. I said, *Read the Bible for the sake of learning*.

There are many programs encouraging us to read through the Bible in one year, but when we do that, how many times do we read through it fast to accomplish our day's assigned goal, and gain nothing from it? For many years, I read through the Bible every year. Doing this, I learned many things and became familiar with the stories of the Bible *because I had read them often enough* over the years. But a friend of mine once told me something that enabled Him to become very familiar with the Bible's *teachings*; it was to *read the Bible for learning*.

To *read the Bible for learning* may mean that we do not read *all* of the Bible in one year, but we are more likely to learn from the books of the Bible that we have read. What this looks like is this; rather than reading a book of the Bible once, you park on that book and read it over, and over, and over. You may read it through three to six times before you move on to the next book of the Bible. Generally, by the third time through the book, you have become familiar with the story line of the book, which frees your mind to notice *the thought flow of the writer* as the Spirit of God had directed him write it down; it is then that you begin to notice things you may have otherwise missed. I recommend reading a book five or six times, reading it with a pen and paper handy so you can write down anything that sticks out in your reading.

There are some books of the Bible that I have found more profitable to me in reading this way than others. Let me mention a few of them for you. The *Gospel of John* focuses on the person and teachings of Christ. *Colossians* focuses on who Jesus is and how we should live for Him. *Hebrews* is a theological discussion on who Jesus is, what He did, what He continues to do, and how we should live in light of these facts. *Romans* is a discussion of the theology of our salvation, with chapters 12 through 16 focusing on how we should live because of our salvation. *Galatians* is a warning against adding religious works to God's grace. And *Proverbs* is a collection of the general principles of life.

All of the Bible needs to be read, so might I also add that while you are doing a *focused reading* of a book of the Bible, also be reading *through the Bible*. May you know God's blessings in this work.

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

Wreath-laying ceremony honors fallen veterans

BY CHRISTINA BRANDMEIER
MMC STAFF

HARSHAW – There’s no shortage of holiday events in the Northwoods, but one held on Saturday, Dec. 14, was perhaps among the most meaningful.

As part of National Wreaths Across America Day, community members gathered at Northwoods National Cemetery in Harshaw to place Christmas wreaths on the graves of veterans. Organizers said the event remembers the fallen, honors those who serve and teaches the next generation the value of freedom.

“[It’s about] paying tribute to the sacrifice and service of our veterans [and] coming together to express our gratitude and respect,” said Mary Ingman, who, along with Bob Smith, coordinated the local event.

Ingman said this is the fifth year of holding Wreaths Across America ceremonies at Northwoods

National Cemetery, and this year, they were one of 4,909 participating locations in the United States.

The ceremony, led by Commander Casey Crump, Ret. — U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, began at 11 a.m.

It included a presentation of colors by the event sponsors, the American Legion Riders Association and the Wisconsin District 11 Veterans Ceremony-U.G.C., Inc.; an invocation by Reverend Charles Sheffler; the Pledge of Allegiance by the American Legion baseball team, the Rhinelander Post 7 Rebels; and the National Anthem by Jake Kriesel.

Wreath laying began at 11:30 a.m., with wreaths sponsored by community members and businesses. Wreaths Across America describes sponsoring a veteran’s wreath as “a personal gift of gratitude and remembrance for someone who served this country so that we can be free.”

When placing the

wreaths, participants were encouraged to say the veteran’s name “to ensure that the legacy of duty, service, and sacrifice is never forgotten.”

Sheffler also spoke on this year’s theme, “live with purpose,” the Northwoods Honor Guard fired a three-round volley and Ginny Buzzell performed “Taps.”

The event concluded with a complimentary luncheon and dessert social at Rondele Ranch.

“As we have continued to grow every year, we could not put on this event without the support of our volunteers, wreath sponsors and the numerous media outlets, as well as the businesses, organizations and individuals who sponsor the event and luncheon following the ceremony,” Ingman said.

According to Ingman, the National Wreaths Across America in Maine reported that participants placed three million wreaths in 2024.



On the snow-covered ground, rows of graves with Christmas wreaths honor fallen veterans on Wreaths Across America Day held at Northwoods National Cemetery in Harshaw.

Photos by Dave Melancon

This year’s National Wreaths Across America Day will be Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025.

There is a wreath match

until Jan. 17. For each sponsored wreath, Northwoods National Cemetery will receive a free wreath. Matches will only be honored through online orders

or by mail.

To sponsor a wreath, visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/WINWNC.

For more information, call 715-612-2196.



At the ceremony, Reverend Charles Sheffler spoke on the 2024 theme, “living with purpose.”



When placing the wreaths, participants are encouraged to say the veteran’s name to ensure that the legacy of duty, service and sacrifice is never forgotten.



An Honor Guard member prepares to place a Christmas wreath on a veteran’s grave.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Hand (Spanish)
- 5. Siskel and __, critics
- 10. Seaman
- 12. Chemical weapon
- 14. One who eliminates
- 16. They precede C
- 18. Baseball stat
- 19. Americans’ “uncle”
- 20. Cassia tree
- 22. Surround
- 23. Crisp and Pebbles are two
- 25. A sudden very loud sound
- 26. Affirmative
- 27. Disadvantage
- 28. Corpuscule count (abbr.)
- 30. OJ trial judge
- 31. New York art district
- 33. Become more bleak
- 35. Upstate NY city
- 37. Clarified butters
- 38. One who witnesses
- 40. Condemn
- 41. __ juris
- 42. Natural
- 44. Prohibit
- 45. Swiss river
- 48. Greek war god
- 50. 5 iron
- 52. New Zealand mountain parrot
- 53. Scandinavian surname
- 55. Follows sigma
- 56. Doctor of Education
- 57. Spanish be
- 58. One that feeds on bugs
- 63. Tooth issue
- 65. Get into
- 66. Lumps of clay
- 67. Overly studious student

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Variety of Chinese
- 2. Boxing’s GOAT
- 3. Japanese classical theater
- 4. Prayer
- 5. Inspire with love
- 6. Ballplayers’ accessory
- 7. Retailer payment system
- 8. More raw
- 9. Atomic #81
- 10. Fencing sword
- 11. Hostilities
- 13. Sea dweller
- 15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
- 17. Businessmen
- 18. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 21. Loud devices
- 23. Make a soft murmuring sound
- 24. One point west of due south
- 27. Trout

- 29. Type of grass
- 32. South American plant
- 34. Letter of the Greek alphabet
- 35. Not secure
- 36. Traveler
- 39. Sweet potato
- 40. Period after sunrise and before sunset
- 43. Some are choppy
- 44. Asian country
- 46. Genus of mosquitoes
- 47. Cool!
- 49. Shrill, wailing sound
- 51. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 54. Within
- 59. Unhappy
- 60. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 61. Videocassette recorder
- 62. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 64. It cools a home

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

As reported by the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office Monday, Dec. 23, 2024:

On 12/19/2024 the Sheriff’s Office 911 Center received a call of a vehicle parked partially in the road on USH 8 near CTH CC in the Town of Bradley. The R/P advised that they suspected the driver of the vehicle to be intoxicated. Upon arrival the deputy made contact with the driver a Tripoli woman, 22, and observed signs of impairment. The deputy asked the

driver to perform sobriety tests, which she refused to do. As a result, the woman was arrested for a first offense OWI. She was later released to a responsible party.

On 12/19/2024 a deputy on patrol stopped a vehicle on USH 51 near the 204 mile marker for expired registration on the vehicle. The deputy made contact with the driver, a Merrill man, 31. In making contact, the driver advised he didn’t have a valid driver’s license. Further checking revealed

that the driver had a revoked driver’s license and a warrant for his arrest. The driver was placed under arrest and transported to the Lincoln County Jail for the warrant.

Deputies conducted 26 traffic stops and 52 security checks.

Deputies responded to nine car vs. deer crashes.

Driving complaints: Eight.

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

Leader Sports & Nature



Veterans Pool Tournament funds donated to NFHF

On Veterans Day weekend in November, the 1st annual Veterans Pool Tournament was sponsored by Cockatiels Bar and Grill, Floyd's Timber Tavern and VFW Post 2687. Misty Bergsrud and Sadie Heitschmidt organized the tournament, the only one in Wisconsin that raises money for the Never Forgotten Honor Flight (NFHF). "With amazing support from the community, we were honored to present Mr. Jim Campbell from NFHF with a check for \$10,000.00," said Bob Soward, VFW Post 2687 Commander. "This will sponsor 20 veterans on their own Never Forgotten Honor Flight. We would like to thank all the sponsors and players for making this possible." Pictured, from left: Sadie Heitschmidt, Joe and Misty Bergsrud, Jim Campbell, VFW Commander Bob Soward and Quartermaster Dan Sennett.

Photo courtesy of Bob Soward

Friends of Lake Mohawksin among members of statewide wake-enhanced boating coalition

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – A coalition with a focus on protecting Wisconsin's lakes from the impact of wake-enhanced boating is now the largest of its kind in state history, and several of local groups have joined, including one from the Tomahawk area.

A release from the coalition said the effort, which began with five groups about five months ago, has expanded to 60 Wisconsin-based groups from all over the Badger State.

Local coalition members include Friends of Lake Mohawksin, Oneida County Clean Waters Action, Oneida County Lakes and Rivers and the Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association.

Wake boats are boats with more power, larger ballast tanks and the ability to create bigger waves, according to the Manitowoc County Lakes Association. The boats are growing in popularity because they are better for sports like wake surfing, the organization said.

"We all understand the damage wake-enhanced activity is having on our waterways, lakes and prop-

erty values," said activist Dr. Fred Prehn. "It's time to realize this activity, which causes lake bottom sediments to be disturbed and the loss of fish habitat, is not good for the economic engine that outdoor recreation brings to Wisconsin. It's time for our legislators to understand the importance of putting into statute criteria that protect our lakes."

Cody Kamrowski, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, said the "organic growth of the coalition is a testament to just how many Wisconsin care deeply about protecting our lakes and rivers."

"Something must be done to preserve these treasures for generations to come," Kamrowski stated. "The coalition now represents thousands of Wisconsinites that have made this a top priority."

"The coalition continues to grow at an incredibly rapid pace," said Jeff Meessmann, board member of the environmental advocacy group Last Wilderness Alliance. "In the last month alone, 14 new members have joined. As the coalition grows, each member lends their expertise to the

cause. One member may focus on damage to shoreline, while another has expertise in enacting local ordinances."

Local governments and lake associations have also begun to address the damage done by wake-enhanced boating. This past year, nearly three dozen towns have passed prohibitions on the wake-enhanced activity, according to the release.

Mike Arrowwood, Chairman of Walleyes for Tomorrow, said the coalition "(plans) to continue this growth to show the Legislature there is an organic movement in support of managing these activities for the benefit of all Wisconsinites."

"The continually expanding coalition represents Wisconsin fishing experts and enthusiasts, advocates for local control, lake property landowners, sailors, those concerned with spreading invasive species and others," the release stated. "All are concerned about the devastating impacts of wake-enhanced boating on Wisconsin's glacial lakes and other waterways."

The release said the coalition will be active in the new Legislative Session.

Fishing Report: Now that we've got the ice, bring on the snow

BY GEORGE LANGLEY

NORTHERN WISCONSIN – We had a great week of fishing from Christmas to the New Year. Those warm temperatures early on made it easy to decide to go out – and the fishing was good!

We lost an inch or two off some lakes, but now this cold is just building us more ice. We're seeing from 10 to 14 inches throughout the area now. This is another year where you should check the ice you're on often – especially if you're not familiar with the lake. Vehicles? We're seeing them everywhere, but that doesn't mean it's safe or smart. Check the ice at your location, and be safe, people!

Walleye action has been good throughout the area. We saw things start this

year rather shallow but then move deep, and it seems those deep weed edges are the key now. Tip-ups set with suckers or shiners at the weed edges work great. Late afternoon and evening are the best times, as you're intercepting the fish moving back and forth for feeding. Evening/night is definitely the best time for walleye right now.

Northern fishing has been great, and the fun thing about these guys is they're hitting in the middle of the day. Use tip-ups set with large shiners near or over the weeds, and fish for these guys while you're waiting for the walleye bite to start. The deeper the weeds and the bigger the bait, the better.

Panfish action has been good, with bluegill and

crappie hitting well. Look for these guys suspended in the deep water now – try the holes on any body of water and look in the 10'-12' plus range. Vertical jigs set with waxies or tip-downs set with minnows or Rosie Reds are working great. Perch are hitting pretty well near the bottom over muddy areas – so again, look deep.

While we'd love to see some big snow now that we've got solid ice, we'll just have to be grateful for the winter we have. At least we have ice. At least there's no slush! Realistically, it's still early in the season, so bring on the snow. We'd love to get some snowmobiling, skiing and snowshoeing in yet this year, too!

Good luck and good fishin'!

LCHD reminding public of blastomycosis risks, symptoms

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

LINCOLN COUNTY – The Lincoln County Health Department (LCHD) is reminding the public of the risks and symptoms of blastomycosis, also known as "blasto."

LCHD noted in a release that although the risk of getting the fungal infection is low, every year there are individuals in Lincoln County who get blastomycosis.

"Lincoln County is in the top five counties for the highest incidence rate of blastomycosis in Wisconsin," LCHD stated. "Furthermore, from 2013-2022, 40 individuals in Lincoln County tested positive for blastomycosis, 21 of (whom) ended up hospitalized."

LCHD said the fungus that causes blastomycosis lives in moist soil with decaying wood and leaves.

"Wooded areas that are close to water are prime settings for the fungus to live," LCHD explained. "Only under exact conditions of humidity, temperature and nutrition can the fungus grow and produce spores that can be inhaled when soil is disturbed. With a warmer than usual late fall and early winter, we should be aware of the potential risk of conditions being favorable. People likely also spent more time outdoors



due to the milder temperatures."

LCHD added that it is important to know that blastomycosis symptoms typically do not occur until two to 15 weeks after exposure, and symptoms can mimic other respiratory illnesses, like the flu or acute bacterial pneumonia, making it difficult to diagnose.

Usually, blastomycosis symptoms resemble those of a lung infection, but it can affect other body systems, including skin and bones, according to LCHD.

Blastomycosis symptoms may include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, chest or back pain, feeling very tired and skin sores that may look crusty and growing in size.

About half of people infected will not have any symptoms. People with a weakened immune system or a chronic illness are more likely to show symptoms.

"Your risk increases if you participate in outdoor activities like farming, clearing brush, construction, riding all-terrain vehicles, gardening, hiking, hunting and camping," LCHD stated.

"Given the significant overlap with other respira-

tory illness symptoms, it is important for patients to follow up with their primary care provider (PCP) or other provider if respiratory symptoms are not improving or worsen, and to be sure your provider is aware of activities that may increase your exposure to blastomycosis," said Dr. Michael Clark, MD, LCHD Medical Advisor.

"If you are having these symptoms and think you may have blastomycosis, be sure to talk to your healthcare provider right away," LCHD said. "People are usually treated with antifungal medicine. Early recognition and appropriate treatment can minimize illness. Although there are no formal recommendations to prevent blastomycosis, if you have a weakened immune system or are elderly, you may want to consider wearing a dust mask when taking part in activities in which the soil is disturbed or avoiding these activities altogether."

A "Blastomycosis: Trends in Lincoln County 2013-2022" data brief was published last year and can be found at www.co.lincoln.wi.us/health/page/blastomycosis-blasto.

For more information contact LCHD at 715-536-0307 or visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/blastomycosis.htm.

TOMAHAWK SPORTS TRIVIA: WEEK 215

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

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

Week 214 question: During the 1982 THS girls' softball season, Tomahawk defeated Three Lakes 16-0, and their

pitcher threw a no hitter. Who was that pitcher: Nancy VanStrydonk, Carmen Schoone or Sue Hanson?

Week 214 answer: During the 1982 THS girls' softball season, Sue Hanson threw a no hitter in the 16-0 victory over Three Lakes.

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

Week 215 question: Who was Lumberjack Conference Player of the Year for Tomahawk baseball in 1982: Jeff Zehner, Terry Clements or Jeff Olson?

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Natural Connections: Wilson's Warbler 'wow'

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

with their rakish black eye masks, shouted witchety-

back on my steering, since we were coming up to a cor-

jured these Wilson's Warblers with her poem.

As they bounced like fresh popcorn through the willow and alder thickets near the river's edge, the Wilson's Warblers perfectly matched the descriptions of their behavior in the bird guides. They tend to stick to the understory, unlike other warblers who will pause on a high perch to belt out a song. Surrounded by leaves, the Wilson's Warblers pluck caterpillars and aphids off the bushes, and if a flying insect catches their eye, they'll take to the wing to nab it, returning to nearly the same perch.

after people (eponyms)..."

This decision is not without controversy, but I'm in favor of the change for the simple reason that it feels quite arrogant to call any wild being a possession of someone. Despite the name's implication, Alexander Wilson doesn't have any ownership over the Wilson's Warbler, and never believed he did. Although Mary Oliver died several years before the AOS's decision, I think she would have agreed. The last line in her poem, after delighting in observing the bird's behavior and being able to identify them, was "a name is not a leash."



Wilson's Warblers are bright yellow with a little black cap.

Photo by Rhododendrites

Gathered around a bonfire on the Winter Solstice, the hostess asked us each to share one moment from the past year that made us go, "Wow!" Being residents of the Northwoods, we had each experienced many such moments, she acknowledged, but in the interest of time, we must choose just one. "Wow" moments flickered through my memory with the same warmth and brightness of the campfire's flames. Despite the fact that my year had included rafting the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, my favorite "wow" moment happened on a river much closer to home.

One lovely afternoon last May, I set out with a friend to paddle an upper section of the Namekagon River. Flights of "mackerel sky" clouds patterned the sky, but plenty of blue shone through. The white blossoms of highbush cranberries and wild cherry trees accented the bright greens of brand-new leaves.

witchety-witchety from deep within the alders. Dark gray Eastern Kingbirds darted off their perches to catch recently hatched insects. And Gray Catbirds announced their locations with loud mews.

As we reveled in the vibrant life coursing through the spring evening, while also gaining satisfaction from being able to identify so many birds, a Mary Oliver poem came to mind.

"Don't mind my inexplicable delight / in knowing your name, / little Wilson's Warbler" she wrote.

I quoted this poem to my friend, and then focused

ner and then a potentially tricky slide down an old, submerged dam under a bridge. As I swung us wide into the corner to make it a straight shot, a burst of twittering, movement, and flashes of yellow in the alder shrubs drew my attention. Squinting, I thought I spotted a black cap on one of the tiny heads, and quickly pulled into an eddy.

Sure enough, our binoculars revealed a flock of half-a-dozen or more little birds, "yellow as a lemon, with a smooth, black cap..." as Mary Oliver described them. Laughing in delight, we felt like we'd just con-

That poem, titled Bird in a Pepper Tree, must have been written on a trip to Mexico or Central America, where both the range of the pepper tree and the winter habitat of Wilson's Warblers overlap. Each spring, the birds leave this narrow refuge and fan out across the continent toward breeding grounds in the far north. Males tend to migrate faster and earlier, rushing north to claim breeding territories ahead of the females' arrival. Indeed, the little flock, each with a very distinct black cap, all appeared to be males.

And yet, by some magic, Mary's poem and these handsome little warblers were tied together in a moment that made us say, "wow!"

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 Winter Calendar is open for registration! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and www.cablemuseum.org to see what we are up to.

DNR seeking public comment for ATV/UTV mapping, communication grant project application

FOR THE TOMAHAWK LEADER

WISCONSIN – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public comment for a grant project application to support ATV/UTV mapping and communication.

A release from DNR said the application stems

from new funding created through 2023 Wisconsin Act 67 (www.docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/proposals/sb239).

"The funding is designated for groups participating in the ATV Enhancement funding program," DNR stated. "It will support projects pertaining to the acquisition and

maintenance of statewide digital information application software for providing safety, regulatory and riding opportunity information to ATV/UTV riders."

The funding will also support the acquisition of communications equipment, technology and the production of maps, ac-

cording to DNR.

The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding the draft project application (www.apps.dnr.wi.gov/doclink/forms/8700-369.pdf) by Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Lt. Jacob Holsclaw, Wisconsin DNR

Off-highway Vehicle Administrator, 1300 W. Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire, Wis., 54701-6127 or Jacob.Holsclaw@wisconsin.gov.

"Based on the comments

received, the DNR may revise the grant project application and provide a summary of the DNR's consideration of the input received," DNR said.

News Briefs

Grace Lutheran blood drive

A blood drive, sponsored by the American Red Cross, will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 108 W. Somo Ave., Tomahawk, on Tuesday, Jan. 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Appointments are recommended, but not necessary. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit www.redcross-blood.org. A Red Cross ID or a photo ID is required.

Tomahawk Area Interfaith Volunteers Annual Meeting

The Tomahawk Area Interfaith Volunteers Annual Meeting will be held at the Tomahawk Senior Community Center, 113A S. Tomahawk Ave., Tomahawk, on Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 2 p.m. To RSVP, call 715-453-8200 or email taivdirector@gmail.com.

City of Tomahawk winter parking ban

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

Donations to cover student lunch debts being accepted

A Park City Credit Union account established to cover student lunch debts

at the School District of Tomahawk is continuing to accept donations. To contribute to the account, visit Park City Credit Union.

Open Arms Community Meal closed until April

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

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@MetroCreative Level: Intermediate

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AGING

FROM PAGE 8
The workshop will cover seven areas of lifestyle habits that are associated with healthy aging: Sleep, smoking, mental health, cognitive activity, physical

health and exercise, diet and nutrition and social engagement.

"In each area, we will discuss what we know and what we can do, drawing on current research, to improve or maintain overall

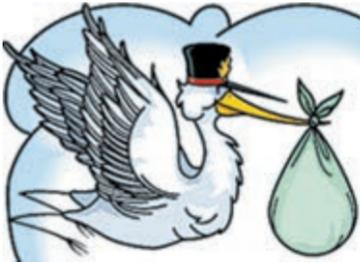
health in each area," the Alzheimer's Association stated. "This program is designed for individuals of any age who are looking for information on ways to age as well as possible."

Registration is request-

ed. For more information or to register, contact Julie St. Pierre at 715-352-4091 or jstpierre@alz.org; call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 1-800-272-3900; or visit www.bit.ly/HLYBBRHJan21.

FIRST BABY

of 2025



Congratulations!



Noah Ezra Roberts is the Lincoln County First Baby of 2025.

Noah was born on Friday, January 3, 2025 at 2:19 p.m. at Marshfield Clinic at the Weston Center. He weighs 7 lbs, 14 oz and is 20 inches long.

Noah's proud mom and dad are **Bethany Williams and Corey Roberts.** His big sisters are **Emma Cater, Addilyn Roberts, and Charlie Roberts.**

The Foto News and Tomahawk Leader, along with the following Lincoln County merchants, will present the following prizes to the parents of the first baby born in the year 2025.

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