

JANUARY 09

Jan. 6 - *Tomahawk Leader* reporter Cherie DuPlayee-Brown attended the touching memorial service for the recently found USS Grunion submarine that was lost at sea during World War II; a Tripoli man, Elmer T. Schumann, was among the 70 who perished. ... Lincoln County Sheriff's Department retiree Michael J. Ratkovich, Gleason, was appointed interim chief deputy sheriff after the death of Michael Soucy, Tomahawk. ... Tomahawk High School sophomore Dezarae Habeck will attend the historic presidential inauguration of Barack Obama as a People to People Program student ambassador ... Friends of Lake Mohawksin received a \$200,000 Aquatic Invasive Species and Prevention grant.

Jan. 13 - Derek Domke, 18, Tomahawk, was sentenced to life in prison for the death of Rochelle Anderson, 25, Irma, a convenience store clerk, and the armed robbery of a North Fourth Street gas station in March of 2008. ... Katie Decker, 18, Rhinelander, who was charged with concealing evidence in the April 2007 murder of Tracy Maurer, 42, Tomahawk, will head to trial in Oneida County Jan. 28-30. ... The new Nokomis Volunteer Fire Department training building is a reality. ... More than \$10,400 was raised for charities during Happy Snapper's third annual Polar Plunge.

Jan. 20 - Seth Louis, 26, Rhinelander, was sentenced to life in prison for the brutal 2007 homicide of Tracy Maurer, 42, Tomahawk; he's eligible for parole at age 75. ... "Sorry, this office is closed. We're short on staff, please come back." That's the sign of the economic times in the Lincoln County Register in Probate Office. A hiring freeze leaves an open deputy position unfilled. ... *Tomahawk Leader* Assistant Editor Abigail Bostwick took readers on an inside tour of the new Lincoln County Jail.

Jan. 27 - A dozen Harley-Davidson police motorcycles with sidecars made in Tomahawk led the parade in the famous "V" formation at President Barack Obama's Jan. 20 inauguration. ... Some \$22,500 in penalties was imposed for two violations following a six-month investigation into the tank explosion and death of three employees at Packaging Corporation of America (PCA) Tomahawk mill on July 29, 2008. ... Harley-Davidson Tomahawk Operations could see a reduction in jobs after the company announced it will cut 1,100 jobs companywide over two years. ... The Lincoln County Board has approved a temporary hiring freeze.

FEBRUARY 09

Feb. 3 - Adam Benner, 16, a Tomahawk student, is part of a 420-member delegation representing Team USA in Boise, Idaho, for the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games; local teacher, Bonnie Kahn, serves as a coach. ... Universal Industries, Inc.'s \$250,000 offer to purchase the 15,000-square-foot facility it rents from the city is well below the appraisal of \$570,000. The company reached a lease-to-buy agreement with the city to purchase the building and grounds for \$651,900 in 2005. ... Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Brian Jopek, Merrill, Public Information Officer in Charge at the prison camp in Guantanamo, will be the guest on public radio. ... Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) Superintendent Sally Sarnstrom will retire June 30. The Board of Education voted to place an operational referendum question on the April ballot to allow the district to exceed its annual revenue limit by \$760,000 in 2009-10, \$675,000 in 2010-11 and \$690,000 in 2011-12 to "spare critical educational programming."

Feb. 10 - The 100-plus guardsmen Sapper Company departed for Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. At Camp Shelby, Miss., before deploying, they were invited to Brett Favre's home prior to the Super Bowl. ... The Tomahawk Finance Committee rejected the purchase bid from Universal Industries. ... A jury found Lonnie Hamann, 21, guilty of misdemeanor charges of battery and disorderly conduct and not guilty of felony aggravated battery of a Tomahawk man last year. ... MAPS issued 21 layoff notices to teachers ... CBS, NBC and ABC, serving the Wausau/Rhinelander area, will convert to digital-only broadcasting next week.

Feb. 17 - One resident was still unaccounted for five hours after firefighters responded to a structure fire called in around 2:30 a.m. Monday at a multi-residence apartment at 802 S. Tomahawk Ave. ... Adam Benner won three gold medals at the Special Olympics World Winter Games. ... A national peanut butter recall may be blamed for nine deaths, with illness showing up in 43 states. ... Near-record temperatures took a major hit on winter activities. ... Tomahawk High School received a \$35,000 engineer training grant. ... The expansion to the Lincoln County Courthouse is on hold pending approval from the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Feb. 24 - Kimberley L. Lloyd, 40, died in her upstairs apartment in a Tomahawk Avenue blaze Feb. 16. ... Katie Decker, 18, pleaded no contest to aiding a felon in the Tracy Maurer murder and two charges stemming from a burglary of a Rhinelander coffee shop on March 7, 2007; she will serve a 10-month jail sentence. ... The Lincoln County Board voted to sell the vacant Annex building in Merrill to Lincoln County Household Abuse Victim's Emergency Network (HAVEN), Inc. for \$65,000. ... A Merrill gas station owner can offer gas discounts to seniors again after a federal judge declared Wisconsin's 70-year-old minimum markup on gas unconstitutional. ... An error in the roof drainage system on the new Lincoln County Service Center led to water damage after a pipe backed up and froze. ... Joseph Kasmierski, 49, Wausau, a former Tomahawk man who spent 20 years in prison for murdering another Tomahawk man in 1983, is facing new charges of stalking and sexual assault of a woman he had dated.

MARCH 09

March 3 - THS's wrestling team made school history by winning three state individual wrestling championships, including senior Nick Hagar's fourth state crown. ... The state is expected to receive at least \$3.7 billion of the \$789 billion in federal funds for health care, education, infrastructure and other needs. ... The U.S. Postal Service has approved a 2-cent increase for a first-class stamp to 44 cents, effective May 11. ... Work on the estimated \$7 million North Fourth Street and Veterans Memorial Bridge reconstruction projects will begin in the fall of 2011 and last through the summer of 2012, halting only during winter.

March 10 - Fire Chief John Peeters said the fire that led to the death of Kimberley Lloyd likely originated in the living room of a neighbor's apartment sometime before it was called in at 2:41 a.m. ... Lori Koppelman is the new Tomahawk Main Street Inc. director. ... The Tomahawk School District will add 15 minutes to the beginning of school to make up time lost as a result of inclement weather this winter. ... Prior to further discussions about selling the former Harley-Davidson plant on Oneida Drive, the city of Tomahawk will be seeking answers to why tenant Universal Industries, Inc. has fallen behind some \$110,000 in payments.

March 17 - Tomahawk is eligible for upwards of \$800,000 in stimulus funds to replace a stretch of North Fourth Street south of Veteran's Memorial Bridge. ... Visitors can tour the new \$9 million, 30,000-square-foot Lincoln County Jail during a ribbon-cutting ceremony. ... Daniel Laughnan, 47, Mosinee, is in jail after an armed robbery of Aurora Pharmacy in downtown Merrill and making a bomb threat call to Wal-Mart to divert officers' attention from the pharmacy. ... Elizabeth Burmaster, current state superintendent of public instruction, has

accepted the position of new president at Nicolet College, following this summer's retirement of Adrian Lorbetske. ... The Tomahawk School Board has approved over \$377,000 in cuts.

March 24 - Lillian Durkes, 1, Tomahawk, died March 17 when a car her mother was driving went through an intersection in Wausau and was hit by a bus. ... HAVEN kicked off a capital campaign to raise funds for a much-needed new facility. ... The nationwide housing market crunch first started hitting home in the Tomahawk area as Louisiana-Pacific (LP) announced ongoing temporary layoffs. ... The Wisconsin State Historical Society has denied Lincoln County's plans to remodel its more than 105-year-old Courthouse. ... A new silent sports club is forming.

March 31 - The two Rhinelander teenagers charged in connection with the homicide of Tracy Maurer at her Tomahawk apartment in 2007 were in Lincoln County Court. Heather Ward, 19, pleaded no contest to felony murder as a party to the crime of armed burglary. As part of a plea agreement, Ward will be required to tell her account of what occurred the night Maurer, 42, was brutally attacked and stabbed to death. Seth Louis, 26, Rhinelander, confessed and has since been sentenced to life in prison for killing Maurer. Katie Decker, 16, Rhinelander, pleaded no contest for hiding a bag of bloody clothing and later lying about how she came into its possession. ... Green Bay Packer legend LeRoy Butler was in Tomahawk to receive a \$2,000 contribution raised through Lincoln Hills School for his foundation.

APRIL 09

April 7 - Peter Schmit, a Tomahawk student, Jacquelyn Gaedtko, Tomahawk teacher, and Steven Jopek, a Merrill student, were recipients of Kohl Scholarship and Fellowship recognition. ... New numbers released by the state Department of Workforce Development show Lincoln County's unemployment rate rose at the second highest percentage of any county statewide in February, from 9.4 percent to 12.2 percent. ... Experts believe hundreds of thousands of fish may have died, or a 70 to 80 percent decimation of the entire Big Eau Pleine reservoir (between Wausau and Stevens Point) fish population as the result of a massive winter fish kill.

April 14 - Lincoln County Sheriff Jeff Jaeger has announced the promotion of Lt. Nate Walrath to chief deputy. ... Lincoln County law enforcement was ready and waiting should the driver of a stolen plane have landed here. The man accused of stealing a plane in Canada and flying across three states was apprehended in Missouri. ... Kevin Koth is the new Bradley chair, replacing Jack Huston who did not seek re-election. New supervisors in the town of King are Bess Wurster and Mark Edwards.

April 21 - Two years after Tracy Maurer was found stabbed to death, the last of three charged in connection with her murder was convicted in Lincoln County Court. Katie Decker, 18, Rhinelander, will serve three months in jail and five years of extended supervision for being party to first-degree reckless endangerment. Her then-boyfriend, Seth Louis, 26, Rhinelander, was recently sentenced to life in prison for committing the April 7, 2007, murder. ... Harley-Davidson corporate said decreased revenue and a worldwide decline in motorcycle sales have led to the decision to cut another 400 manufacturing positions. ... The Tomahawk School Board approved eliminating one teacher position (Becki Plath) and learned upwards of \$500,000 in stimulus money could be available in Title I and special education funding. Retirements were accepted from elementary teacher Terry Derleth (33 years), high school art teacher Bob Jensen (37 years) and high school and middle school art teacher Judy SanFilippo (13 years). ... A town of Somo man took his own life by gunshot while parked at a gas station in Tripoli. ... Lincoln County Corporation Counsel Nancy Bergstrom was reprimanded by the Wisconsin Supreme Court Office of Lawyer Regulation (OLR), following an investigation into the county's handling of state reimbursements for child support enforcement services. ... Tomahawk School District has enrolled in the state Wisconsin Green and Healthy Schools recycling program.

April 28 - Andrew Flynn and Courtney Ernst were crowned Junior Prom king and queen. ... Ministry Health Care will eliminate about 90 jobs across its system, including seven in the Northwoods. ... The city of Tomahawk will be oiling Canada goose nest eggs this spring in an effort to control the local population and possible future E. coli outbreaks. ... Christine Brown was recently named executive director of the National Phenylketonuria (PKU) Alliance a lifelong genetic disorder affecting two of her children. ... Lonnie Hamann, 22, Wausau, was sentenced to 15 days in jail and 18 months' probation for his part in badly beating two men in a Tomahawk tavern parking lot in 2008. ... Tamra Anderson has been named executive director of the Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce. ... The Tomahawk Solid Waste and Recycling Committee learned the contractor in charge of collecting the city's recyclables and trash can no longer afford to do so. ... The United States Department of Homeland Security has declared a public health emergency in response to recent Swine Influenza A (H1N1) outbreaks in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

MAY 09

May 5 - Tomahawk Community Award recipients include AJ Theiler, Distinguished Service Award; Terry Bucaro, LEADERSHIP Award; Kaye Mathwich and Bonnie Kahn, Tomahawk Special Olympics founders, *Tomahawk Leader* Community Appreciation Award; Nick Hagar, Youth LEADER of the Year; Jean Richert, administrator, Golden LivingCenter-Golden Age, Employer of the Year; Peter Schmit, Youth LEADER of the Year. ... Louisiana-Pacific Corporation (LP) announced it will restructure manufacturing operations at three of its siding mills, including Tomahawk, resulting in 12 local lay-offs. ... The city of Tomahawk Parks and Recreation Committee plans four visioning and planning sessions to develop a long-range plan for the city's park system. ... Tomahawk Main Street took the next step in its revitalization efforts with the announcement of five buildings that will undergo façade improvements: Rodeo Saloon, What's Brewin', Kevin Urmann's State Farm Insurance, the new American Family Insurance (the former Moose Trader) and the H&R Block and adjoining new antique store, Been Around the Block. ... Jason D. Schirmer, 26, was found guilty of felony substantial battery in a 2008 Tomahawk assault. ... Lincoln County employees may voluntarily reduce their hours per pay period by 20 percent by taking voluntary, unpaid leaves without having to contribute more to their health insurance or have deductions from vacation or sick leave. ... The Park City Credit Union Board appointed Val Mindak as president/CEO, replacing retiring William C. Johnston.

May 12 - Pat Haskin was recognized as one of the state's 2008 Main Street Volunteers of the Year. ... Debbe Kinsey was hired as the new executive director of the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce. ... New findings show 12.7 percent of Lincoln County residents are currently unemployed, over double the 6.1 percent unemployment rate at the same time a year ago.

May 19 - Valedictorian Jonathan Foster, salutatorian Peter Schmit, along with third and fourth honor students, Sadie Mitten and Martha Toede addressed the THS graduating class of 111 students. ... Lisa Snyder has been selected as the new MAPS superintendent. ... The governor signed a statewide smoking ban that takes effect July 5, 2010. ... MAPS accepted a proposal for the sale of the former Midway Elementary School and property in Gleason to Scott Ullman for \$53,200. ... A report released by the Tomahawk Police Department shows violent crime doubled over the past year and illegal drug use remains prevalent in the community. ... Lincoln County Highway Commissioner Randy Scholz indicates Lincoln County has received approximately \$1.5 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for pulverizing and repaving 6.1 miles of County Road CC.

May 26 - While 1,100 General Motors dealers recently received letters saying they will have to go out of business when their contracts expire, Tomahawk can rest assured that Heritage Chevrolet is not one of them, dealer/operator Roger Schlegel noted. ... It took almost 60 years, but Richard Devinger of Tomahawk was finally recognized for his bravery and the wounds he sustained during the Korean War, receiving the Korean Service Medal and Purple Heart. ... Nicholas Erwin was sentenced to just under five years for the broad-daylight, drug-fueled home invasion he and Terence Cole, 30, Irma, committed in the town of Bradley early last year in an effort to steal the prescribed painkiller, oxycontin.

JUNE 09

June 2 - The 15th annual Main Street Memories Car Show was held Memorial Day weekend. ... The death of Nicole M. Hedges, 29, Tomahawk, found at a women's shelter in Merrill, has been ruled an accidental drug overdose. ... A temporary 90-day hiring freeze was lifted by the Lincoln County Board to allow for hiring of a new administrative coordinator after John Mulder resigned to become the city administrator in Hermantown, Minn. ... Two Rhinelander-area parents are charged with felony first-degree reckless homicide and child neglect after an autopsy showed their 10-month-old daughter died of an overdose of a controlled substance. ... Tomahawk High School and Middle School were honored with the 2009 Governor's School Health Awards.

June 9 - The Tomahawk girls' 4x200m relay team (Anna Sudbury, Brianna Weyers, Emily Miller and Kellan Flynn) placed fifth at the WIAA state track and field meet in La Crosse. ... Kevin L. Krugel, 31, Antigo, was arrested for providing the heroin used by a Tomahawk woman the day she was found deceased at a woman's shelter in Merrill May 2. ... The Tomahawk Board of Public Works nixed proposed downtown bump-outs designed to slow traffic speeds to provide safer crosswalks. ... The Tomahawk Common Council voted to pick up the fee for rising cost of recycling and. ... Over just the past two months, the Tomahawk Police Department has responded to more than half the number of suicide attempts as were reported in the city in all of last year.

June 16 - Tomahawk will welcome 500 to 800 bicyclists during an overnight in the 24th Great Annual Bike Adventure Along the Wisconsin River (GABAARW). ... Fifteen years after a proposal to mine minerals in the township of Lynne was abandoned, a new company, Tamerlane Ventures of Blaine, Wash., is making a push to have the opportunity re-examined. ... The Rhinelander School Board rejected a proposal to co-op girls' hockey with Tomahawk, citing anticipated travel costs. ... After 16 years as parish director at St. Augustine of Harrison and St. John Baptist of Bloomville, Michele Rein has been appointed parish director of St. Albert the Great in Land O'Lakes and St. Mary of Phelps. ... Ramona Pampuch will be appointed Lincoln County Board District 4 supervisor, taking over for Carl Short, who resigned due to health reasons. ... Some local Girl Scouts are touring New Zealand after three years of fundraising.

June 23 - Kevin Krugel, 31, Antigo, has been ordered to stand trial on charges of first-degree reckless homicide and delivery of narcotics after he was accused of providing a Tomahawk woman heroin, leading to an overdose and her death. ... Through the combined efforts of a \$100,000 Louisiana-Pacific Foundation grant, the city of Tomahawk and community members alike, the nearly two-mile Old MT&W Railroad Hiking and Walking Trail that now connects SARA Park to the Tomahawk School District was dedicated.

June 30 - Heather Ward, 20, Rhinelander, will serve five years behind bars and an additional five years of extended supervision for assisting Seth Louis, 26, Rhinelander, on the night he broke into Tracy Maurer's residence and stabbed her repeatedly - an estimated 80 times. Ward stood watch outside the apartment and helped him change out of bloody clothing. ... Ryan Petrouske, 25, Tomahawk, was found innocent of charges in a 2008 assault of two men outside a North Fourth Street tavern.

JULY 09

July 7 - The drought that has plagued the northern region of the state for the past five years and caused water levels to plummet on area reservoirs and lakes is now being compared to conditions that haven't been experienced since the 1930s. ... A record number - 576 - participated in Tomahawk's July 4 Pow Wow races this year. ... Dolores Martens, age 81, was crowned the 2009 Tomahawk Lions Club Pow Wow Days Queen. ... Through a design rendering provided by the state Main Street Program, the owners of the Rodeo Saloon will be matching improvements made to the interior of the building to upgrades now planned for the outside. ... Following more than a decade in prison, a convicted sex offender, Jesse Brackett, 33, will be released into the Merrill community July 15. ... Victoria A. Newbauer of Tomahawk has been elected to the Department Guard of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

July 14 - The Tomahawk Area Historical Society dedicated its new Boat House, holding the then-futuristic Tomahawk Boat Manufacturing Company race boat built in 1961. ... The runway of the Tomahawk Airport will be extended by approximately 400 feet. The project will entail adding a slight curve to Loop Road, which is located on existing airport property. ... The Oneida County Mining Oversight and Impact Committee is gathering information before making any decision on whether to reopen the possibility of mining in the town of Lynne. ... RaeAnn Brixius, 15, Tomahawk, was crowned 2009 Lincoln County Fair Queen. ... The Tomahawk Police Department has released the name of a 24-year-old sex offender, Adam Hess, who recently moved to Tomahawk. ... Elizabeth "Libby" Burmaster has begun her duties as president of Nicolet College.

July 21 - The body of a 66-year-old male was recovered from Fish Lake in the Harrison Hills region. James Columbo, St. Louis, Mo., was vacationing when he drowned while fishing. ... F-M Enterprises, Merrill, in partnership with Graham Architectural Products, Pennsylvania, has pledged to create some 60 new jobs in Merrill over the next two years. ... Harley-Davidson, Inc. reported decreased revenue, net income and diluted earnings per share for the second quarter of 2009. Industry-wide retail sales of heavyweight motorcycles in the U.S. declined 48.1%. As a result of the lowered shipment volume, a further reduction this year of approximately 700 positions in the hourly production workforce will be implemented. Harley-Davidson will also be reducing the non-production, primarily salaried headcount, by an approximate 300 additional positions. ... A 10-cent increase in student lunch fees will be likely when the Tomahawk School Board meets. Due to decreased enrollment, the district will eliminate one bus route, saving some \$100,000. George Pobuda, high school special education teacher, is retiring after 30 years of service. ... University of Wisconsin-Marathon County will offer associate degree classes in Merrill this fall. ... The Tomahawk Area Foundation for Youth (TAFFY) board approved \$43,500 in scholarships.

July 28 - The Redbird FMX, a full motion flight simulator, has been purchased by a group of investors, KTKV Flyers, Inc., for the Tomahawk Regional Airport. ... Tim Meehan, Pine Crest Nursing Home administrator is Lincoln County's interim administrative coordinator.

AUGUST

Aug. 4 - The WIAA is proposing doing away with football conferences altogether and forming seven divisions based upon school enrollments. ... A wolf attacked a family pet dog, a German shorthair, in the back yard at the Felser residence on County Road CC. ... Voters in the Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) district approved just over a \$10 million property tax levy for the 2009-10 school year.

Aug. 11 - A proposal put before the Tomahawk Board of Public Works by the state Department of Transportation (DOT) would

move up by one year the North Fourth Street Bridge replacement project. ... The Tomahawk Area Foundation For Youth (TAFFY) made an \$8,000 contribution to offset funds allegedly stolen from Tomahawk Boy Scouts Troop 548 in 2008 by its former treasurer, Kerri Gallenbeck. ... A Tomahawk woman is accused of prostitution and keeping a place of prostitution in the city. ... A 39-year-old Gleason man faces felony charges of having sexual intercourse with one daughter and sexually assaulting another.

Aug. 18 - The Tomahawk Finance Committee will look at making up a nearly \$100,000 shortfall projected in the 2010 city budget. ... The Tomahawk man involved in the city's largest drug bust pleaded guilty to related felony charges. William J. Gauthier, 50, was charged with manufacturing/delivering cocaine and possession with intent to deliver marijuana. ... The Tomahawk School Board approved a 10-cent lunch price increase. Given the current economic position, pay in 2009-10 for non-union and non-certified staff was frozen at the 2008-09 level.

Aug. 25 - Daigle Brothers, Inc. will receive \$150,000 in economic development tax credits for construction of a 22,000-square-foot expansion and the purchase of a CNC Plasma Table and related equipment that costs \$2.43 million and is expected to create 20 jobs. ... Carol M. Yahrk, 80, Three Lakes, died after the vehicle she was a passenger in crossed the centerline on State Hwy. 8 near County Road U and struck a westbound vehicle nearly head-on. ... The Tomahawk Common Council approved moving up the start date to replace Veterans Memorial Bridge and North Fourth Street to shortly after the 2010 Tomahawk Fall Ride for MDA. ... Plans are moving forward on renovations and construction of Lincoln County's historic Courthouse with the Wisconsin State Historical Society agreeing to let the county construct an addition to house operations including a jury room. ... Six area residents were charged after authorities uncovered a methamphetamine lab in full operation in southern Lincoln County.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1 - Lincoln Community Bank in Merrill has pledged \$15,000 over three years for the Lincoln County HAVEN, Inc. domestic abuse shelter's "Moving Forward With Hope" campaign. ... Two Tomahawk residents were arrested after a bizarre run-in as officers searched for Chad R. Kort, 37, at a cabin in the town of King. His girlfriend, Michelle R. Ruether, 35, would not allow the deputy to enter the cabin and later loaded a large box into her mini van which was thought might contain Kort but instead held her 9-year-old daughter. Kort was eventually found sleeping under a tarp by a woodpile in the area.

Sept. 8 - A proposed \$11.26 million Tomahawk School District levy, up 6.7% from last year, will be before district taxpayers at the annual meeting. ... Oneida County Sheriff Jeff Hoffman announced a new Workender Program that allows qualified inmates to serve by participating in community service work crews. ... Tomahawk Community Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated its 80th anniversary.

Sept. 15 - Lawrence A. Morren, 77, Tomahawk, remains in critical condition after a Sept 2 car crash in the town of Bradley. ... The terms "TWLTLs" (two-lane configuration with middle two-way left turn lanes) and "roundabouts" were introduced by the engineering firm overseeing next year's North Fourth Street and Veterans Memorial Bridge redesign and reconstruction. They also noted daily traffic counts do not meet standards for federal funding for the current four-lane configuration. The bridge itself will be closed after next year's Fall Ride, with work finished by July 1, 2011. Utility work will begin in the summer of 2010. North Fourth Street construction will be done in stages and the road will predominantly remain open to traffic. ... The local Salvation Army will institute a food backpack program to help feed 20 of the neediest school families over weekends. ... This year's Thrilla on the Grilla rib cook-off raised \$9,000 for non-profit organizations. ... The Tomahawk School Board raised the bar for high school juniors and seniors who want the privilege of participating in lunchtime open campus and touched on the possibility of having post-Memorial Day weekend graduations. ... State Patrol Trooper Bryan E. Wrycha of Tomahawk was given a Lifesaving Award for actions taken Feb. 6, 2009, when a man collapsed in Oneida County.

Sept. 22 - Motorcyclists responded to the nice weather (temps in the 70s) as an impressive crowd was reported in Tomahawk for the 28th annual Fall Ride for MDA, some saying numbers were bigger than years' past. ... Four new Hatchet Hall of Fame members include Dave Devenport, DeAnn Janeczko, Dennis Sweeney and Jeff Zehner. ... A public informational meeting will be held for town of Nokomis residents on coordination of land use planning and issues affecting the economy and environment in that township. ... Road crews began work on a \$268,000 Wisconsin River Bridge project east of Tomahawk on US Hwy. 51. ... Members of the Lake Alice Association work to create a comprehensive plan that will be used to protect the resource for generations to come. ... A community celebration of the investiture of Elizabeth Burmaster as president of Nicolet College was planned. ... Typo, the *Tomahawk Leader* office cat, is taking on the duties of an advice columnist.

Sept. 29 - A tire and part of an engine discovered in the Pacific Ocean earlier this month are helping a Tomahawk native find some closure in the death of his brother that occurred over 50 years ago. On Oct. 14, 1955, U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Richard Theiler of Tomahawk and 1st Lt. Paul Smith of Texas departed from Yuma County Airport in Arizona for Los Angeles International Airport in a T-33 trainer plane and were never heard from again. A report of the accident later suggested the plane plummeted into the ocean after a possible flameout occurred. ... Kerri Gallenbeck, 34, formerly of Tomahawk, will spend 45 days behind bars and was ordered to pay some \$7,700 in restitution after stealing from the Tomahawk Boy Scouts Troop 548 in 2008. Gallenbeck used troop funds to pay her rent, utility bills and for cash. ... Ellis Casper, 60, the chief of police in Bayfield, was arrested for first offense operating while intoxicated while driving on Hwy. 51 Sept. 18, testing with an alcohol content of 0.14 percent. ... Jacob Jarvensivu and Lindsay Terkelsen served as king and queen of Tomahawk High School's Homecoming. ... Depending on precipitation heading into freeze-up, officials say some water could again be held back on area reservoirs this winter to offset the effects of an ongoing drought that has now reached historic proportions. ... Lincoln County has partnered with Langlade, Marathon and Wood counties to provide aging and disability resources services to local citizens.

OCTOBER

Oct. 6 - The Department of Defense has released the name of a 26-year-old Rhinelander soldier who was killed in Afghanistan Oct. 2. Sgt. Ryan Adams suffered mortal wounds when enemy forces in the Logar province carried out a rocket-propelled grenade attack on the vehicle he was in. Adams was taking part in his second tour of duty with the Tomahawk-and-Rhinelander-based 951st Sapper Engineer Company that deployed to Afghanistan earlier this year. The attack left seven others from the Wisconsin National Guard injured. ... In an email sent to the city, the DOT states traffic data as well as state and federal highway design practices support a three-lane configuration for

the North Fourth Street reconstruction project. ... As of Sept. 30, Lemke's Tomahawk Foods closed. The grocery store will reopen later in October as Tomahawk IGA with Chuck Swan, former owner from 2001-04, back at the helm. ... A 4-year-old boy from the Spirit area is recovering from critical injuries sustained in a Sept. 18 ATV accident in Price County. Dan Nelson and his son, Sam, were hit by an SUV on their ATV while driving from a farm field along the edge of the road.

Oct. 13 - The Tomahawk Common Council will weigh a proposal put forth by the DOT to reduce the number of traffic lanes on North Fourth Street to two through traffic lanes and one center, left turn only lane. The design would include sidewalks and biking lanes. The DOT is covering 80% of the newly estimated \$2.1 million project. At a 20% match, the city will be responsible for around \$420,000. The state estimates the city's portion would more than double if the project were reconfigured to accommodate additional lanes. ... Wisconsin has begun receiving its first allocations of the H1N1 vaccine, with the first nasal-spray vaccine going directly to local health departments and larger health care systems to vaccinate health care professionals. Hand sanitizer units are posted by the Tomahawk School District gyms and cafeterias, classes are partaking in fewer group activities and buses are cleaned daily. ... Sally Pfund, a physical education teacher and coach for Merrill High School, suffered a massive stroke during surgery for an aneurism and died. ... The Friends of Lake Mohawksin outlined its \$267,000 campaign to fight the aquatic exotic species Eurasian water milfoil that was first discovered in the lake in 2001. ... Jo Branca, a 2001 THS graduate, now of California, will appear on "Wheel of Fortune."

Oct. 20 - Some 3 inches of snow fell last Monday. ... Tomahawk officials agreed to move forward with the DOT proposal to reconstruct North Fourth Street as a three-lane road. The preliminary plan includes two 12-foot-wide through lanes, a 16-foot center left-turn lane and an additional nine-foot section on each side for a bike lane (right turn lane) and gutter. Seven-foot-wide terraces will extend along each side of the street, as will five-foot-wide sidewalks. Up to three roundabouts are still being studied. ... Tomahawk Community Bank staff and board of directors are working closely with the FDIC and Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) to satisfy and monitor changes stemming from standard examinations conducted in late 2008 and early 2009. ... Harley-Davidson will discontinue its Buell motorcycle brand and divest the recently acquired MV Agusta line, based in Varese, Italy, as part of its long-term business strategy. Third-quarter income fell 84% to \$26.5 million, or 11 cents a share, from \$166.5 million, or 71 cents a share, a year ago. ... Cong. Dave Obey got a first-hand look at American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds at work on a six-mile stretch of County Road CC. ... Meeting at the Harrison Town Hall, the Tomahawk School Board learned this year's 13 student enrollment drop was less than the anticipated 40. ... Michael A. Destaercke, 18, Green Bay, was charged with homicide by negligent operation of a vehicle in a September fatal crash in the town of Bradley that killed Carol M. Yahr, 80, Three Lakes. ... Gabriel E. Rocah, 21, Bonnie T. Wolff, 23, both of Tomahawk, and Glenn H. Hammarberg, 26, Rothschild, were taken into custody on preliminary charges of burglary, with an enhancer for going armed during a burglary of a residence on County Road Y. ... Michael E. Ravn will replace Gerald Whitburn as chief executive officer of Church Mutual Insurance Co., Merrill, in mid-January.

Oct. 27 - Universal Industries owner Emil Johnson wants to relocate his current Tomahawk-based, highly specialized welding business to the outskirts of Merrill. In recent months, the city of Tomahawk rejected Johnson's purchase bid of \$250,000 for the 15,000-square-foot, leased building and 22 acres. The company had planned to double the size and add 20-25 positions. ... A resolution drafted by Oneida County two decades ago to allow mineral exploration on county forests will serve for a new proposal to mine a deposit located in the town of Lynne. Tamerlane Ventures Inc., Washington, plans to pursue the 5.6 million to 8 million-ton-zinc deposit near the south end of Willow Lake. ... ATV clubs, city officials and community members gathered to discuss creating an access trail or route. ... The total proposed Lincoln County budget of some \$51.8 million includes a tax levy of \$12.8 million, reflecting a 5.3 percent increase. An initial \$989,000 deficit was whittled down to about \$303,000, thanks to reorganization and staff sharing, reductions in projects, payroll adjustments and elimination of some contracted services. ... Some \$100,000 was raised for the Muscular Dystrophy Association at the 2009 Tomahawk Fall Ride.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 3 - Tomahawk volleyball is making school history as the team heads for state. ... After a yearlong deployment in Afghanistan, the 100-plus Guard members with Tomahawk-and-Rhineland based 951st Sapper Engineer Company are anticipated back in Wisconsin sometime during the last week of November. ... Local health departments were made aware that the supply of the H1N1 vaccine available nationwide and in Wisconsin could remain limited during the next several weeks. ... A fire destroyed the Buffalo Spirit Gas Station in the town of Merrill. ... Citing concern over how the township of Birch handles its finances, town Clerk Mary Verheyen announced she is resigning. ... Tomahawk Postmaster Theresa Cernoch received her second distinguished Benjamin Award.

Nov. 10 - Tomahawk American Legion is celebrating its 90th anniversary. Efforts are underway to pay tribute to soldiers killed in action and who otherwise paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. ... A story talks about the USS Tomahawk, a World War II vessel named after this area, that was only recently scrapped. ... Incumbent Tomahawk Mayor Bob Lee will seek re-election in April. ... Steigerwaldt Land Services announces its expansion into Hayward.

Nov. 17 - Tomahawk-native-turned-successful-Hollywood-actor/director/writer, Jay Leggett, is creating a documentary film about "the hunting shack" and will be filming at this year's Tomahawk Venison Feed. ... The School District of Tomahawk and Tomahawk Education Association jointly announce the settlement of the 2009-11 master agreement with a salary increase of 2.2 percent this year and a .75 increase for the 2010-11 school year, resulting in a 3.95 percent total package increase each year of the contract. Additional components of the settlement include an increase of 45 hours per year in daily contract time, which equates to an increase of 15 minutes per day. A committee will be established to study health insurance options and health retirement accounts. ... The Lincoln County Board passed the 2010 budget at \$51,791,254 and accompanying \$12.8 million levy. The levy reflects a 5.38 percent increase from 2009. Equalized valuation in the county went up 1.21 percent, from \$2.385 billion in 2009 to \$2.414 billion in 2010. ... Chuck Groff and Kathryn Groff were arrested following a Merrill meth lab bust.

Nov. 24 - After serving 10 months in Afghanistan, the homecoming for the 951st Sapper Engineer Company was held at Rhineland High School. Earlier in the day, soldiers disembarked from their buses briefly as they traveled through Tomahawk. The tour was described as a dangerous one: searching for and dismantling improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The unit lost one member: Sgt. Ryan Adams, 26,

Rhineland. His fellow soldiers made a private stop and each laid a rose at Adams' gravesite and added his name to an engraved listing of soldiers killed in this and other wars. His joins Stephen G. Martin under the header "War on Terrorism-Iraqi Freedom." ... The Sacred Heart Hospital campus in Tomahawk, serving as a pilot, went live with a new electronic health records (EHR) system. ... Charges against the local woman accused of prostitution in the city were dropped in Lincoln County Circuit Court. ... The Mitch and Jolene Myers family told how they're dealing with recent news that one of their 4-year-old twins has brain cancer and how the community has rallied behind them. ... Merrill Mayor Doug Williams will not seek a third term.

DECEMBER

Dec. 1 - One teenager died and another remained in critical condition after a car crash in the town of Pine River outside of Merrill. Terrance G. Oleson, 18, Merrill, was racing another vehicle driven by David J. Brandenburg, 19, Merrill, at speeds up to 100 mph. Oleson did not stop for a stop sign at the intersection with Center Avenue, lost control and the vehicle entered the west ditch and rolled several times. Both he and his passenger, Jordan Buehler, 18, Merrill, were ejected. Buehler later died. Oleson remained in critical condition. ... Preliminary reports on the 2009 deer harvest in the Tomahawk area indicate an overall drop of about 50 percent from last year's opening weekend registration numbers. ... Hunting in the Newwood area, Andrew Vittone, 15, Kenosha, harvested a rare piebald buck. ... Despite the ongoing global economic downturn, Northland Stainless, Inc. is continuing to produce some impressive pressure vessel fabrications at its facility in Tomahawk. ... THS drama students earned a prestigious Ensemble Award at the State Theater Festival.

Dec. 8 - The man who pled guilty to stabbing a Tomahawk woman, Rochelle Anderson, to death in 2008 wants to change his plea. Derek Domke, 19, has filed a motion in Lincoln County Circuit Court to withdraw his guilty plea to charges of first-degree homicide and armed robbery. He also requested to be re-sentenced. ... Kevin Grenzer of Tomahawk is asking hunters to send their unused deer back tags and/or letters to his Save WI Deer Hunt campaign to be shared with the DNR. ... The Oneida County Health Department reports the first H1N1 influenza-related death in that county. ... Water levels on Tomahawk area reservoirs are still not where many would like them to be, but conditions heading into freeze-up this winter are in much better shape than one year ago. ... DNR Secretary Matt Frank sent a letter to the Natural Resources Board pulling a 16-day deer season proposal off the board's December agenda to give more time for review of the results of the 2009 hunt. ... A Merrill teen has been charged with two felonies related to a street race that resulted in the death of another teen. David Brandenburg, 19, was charged with two felony counts of first-degree reckless endangerment. ... Daniel Laughnan, 48, Mosinee, was sentenced to serve prison time for charges related to a forceful robbery of a Merrill pharmacy earlier this year. ... Law enforcement is investigating a burglary of an estimated \$15,000 to \$20,000 from the Minocqua Appliance and Electronics Store.

Dec. 15 - Between seven and nine inches of snow fell, leading to the opening of some snowmobile trails. ... There was an armed hold-up at the Holiday East Gas Station, Merrill. A male clerk, 20, was struck as two masked subjects entered the store; one armed with a handgun. They demanded money and cigarettes. A large amount of the stolen money and cigarettes were later found dropped in an alleyway adjacent to the store. ... The Lincoln County Planning and Zoning Committee approved an ordinance for County Board review in early 2010 involving Universal Industries' rezone request in the town of Scott for a highly specialized welding business currently located in Tomahawk. ... The Tomahawk School District reported the number of students receiving free or reduced rates on meals is at an all-time high - 40 percent of the student population. ... The Lincoln County Sheriff's Department replaced its old SWAT vehicle. ... Harley-Davidson will keep its plant in York, Penn. ... Good Samaritan Health Center Foundation pledged \$10,000 pledge to HAVEN. ... A new name, new logo were announced for the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce & Information Center.

Dec. 22 - Merrill police arrested four people for their involvement in the armed robbery of the Holiday Gas Station, Merrill, on Dec. 12. Investigators were told that money taken during the robbery was used to purchase marijuana and ecstasy, and that the drugs were being sold out of a Merrill residence. ... Two Merrill men, Steven M. Wrzesinski, 30, and Paul JJ Rasmussen, 28, were arrested at the scene of an active meth lab in Lincoln County. ... Kevin L. Shaw, 48, Merrill, was arrested for armed robbery, battery and criminal damage to property after police found a 35-year-old man who was beaten, who allegedly took cash and other property from him. ... A local teacher and her students are helping Mexican orphans.

Dec. 29 - Work on the Veterans Memorial Bridge replacement project got underway as employees with Midwest Engineering Services (MES), Appleton, conducted boring samples below the existing structure. ... William P. Titschler, 22, Oxford, died from injuries suffered in a snowmobile crash in the town of Bradley. ... Tomahawk City Clerk-Treasurer Paul Garner's plans to retire following the April election; and long-time City Attorney Fran Seroogy is considering staying on in his post. Both positions will become appointed instead of elected. ... Joe Fink will retire as Merrill Postmaster at the end of January. ... Merrill police made two additional arrests in connection to the Dec. 12 armed robbery of the Holiday Gas Station in Merrill. Maurice Bell, 23, and Cheri Stone, 26, both of Merrill, were taken into custody on charges of being party to the crime of armed robbery. ... Lincoln County Board supervisors approved transferring the reins of Normal Park to the city of Merrill. ... With an average 12 inches of snow or so on the ground, area snowmobile trails (to the north in Lincoln County), snowshoe, downhill skiing (including Camp 10 Ski Area) and cross country trails are open. ... There will be at least a couple new faces on the Tomahawk Common Council, Lincoln County Board and definitely within the City of Merrill, with another week left to file nomination forms for the April election. Tomahawk Alderman Jim Brimacombe is among those who will not seek re-election. There's lots of activity developing for Merrill city posts, too, where two incumbents have filed non-candidacy papers: Sue Kunkel and Paul Proulx will not seek re-election.