

# 2017 Year in Review

## Some hometown stories from the Tomahawk Leader

Summaries of just some of the stories published in the *Tomahawk Leader* during 2017:

### JANUARY 2017

**Jan. 3** – As 2016 drew to a close, Lincoln County Sheriff Jeff Jaeger recognized six employees, including five for their actions in July of last year following a police-involved shooting in Antigo that resulted in a high speed chase that ended in the Town of Pine River. ... Dr. Eric Dichsen said thanks as he moves from primary care to the emergency department. ... Thanks to a small army of volunteers willing to brave the cold and the generosity the Tomahawk community \$41,000 has been collected in the Red Kettle Campaign, heading into the final days, putting it within reach of this year's goal of \$45,000.

**Jan. 10** – New Year's Day marked the annual Tomahawk STAR Splash at the Happy Snapper. Some \$15,000 was raised with proceeds benefitting the STAR Foundation. ... Tomahawk native Mike Nelson has been promoted to senior vice president, Communications, CBS Television Stations. ... The governor announced Tomahawk Area Interfaith Volunteers (TAIV) will receive \$45,600 for an additional medium bus and another \$30,000 in operating expenses for the volunteer driver program. ... Tomahawk High School Business Education teacher Olivia Dachel is among 15 individuals, businesses and organizations statewide to receive the 2016 Governor's Financial Literacy Awards.

**Jan. 17** – The Tomahawk School Board unanimously agreed to put a one-sentence question to voters in the form of an operational referendum during the April 4 spring election, seeking authority to exceed district revenue limits by \$3 million in each of the next four years. ... The Daigles are no longer pursuing a conditional use permit for a 45-acre nonmetallic mine on some of their land in Skanawan. The request was removed from the Lincoln County Land Services Committee agenda because the family has sold the property to Mathy Construction Co., which owns an additional 80 acres to the east of the potential mining site. The new owner's plan for the land is unknown. ... Nearly 400 anglers turned out for the ice fishing contest on Lake Nokomis, sponsored by AMVETS Post 274 and NCO Club. Proceeds support the Wounded Warrior Program. ... The *Leader* introduced Chill Out, a new Winter fun and activity publication with information about snowmobiling, ice fishing, skiing and other winter activities, along with an extensive Calendar of Events.

**Jan. 24** – Fulfilling what he called a "lifelong dream," Nick Van Strydonk of Tomahawk won his second AMSOIL World Championship Snowmobile Derby in Eagle River by using his red No. 13 Polaris mod sled to hold off the pre-race favorite and his longtime friend, Cardell Potter, Camp Douglas, Wis., in a thrilling 30-lap race. ... In a community effort to promote positive choices, self-worth and understanding of individual differences, Tomahawk School District, Kinship of Tomahawk, Tomahawk ABC (anti-bullying group) and local church communities are hosting a Dignity Revolution event for students and families with guest speaker Bob Lenz. ... He might be new to patrolling the woods and water in the greater Tomahawk area, but new Department of Natural Resources Conservation Warden Patrick Novesky is certainly no novice when it comes to protecting Northwoods resources and enforcing outdoor rules.

**Jan. 31** – The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and the Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia, Penn., filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of four youth at Lincoln Hills School and Copper Lake School in Irma charging inhumane use of solitary confinement and pepper spray. ... Kwik Trip plans to open in Tomahawk Sept. 1. Demolition of the current buildings will start in February. The final tenants of North Bay Plaza – Tomahawk Appliance & Home and Sew 'n Vac – are settling into new locations. Meanwhile, John Kromm of Tomahawk Ben Franklin will lock up his store for the last time tonight. ... St. Mary's School is celebrating 100 years of Catholic education. ... January is National Mentoring Month. This week's *Leader* features information on Kinship of Tomahawk and more than 20 kids waiting for mentors.

### FEBRUARY 2017

**Feb. 7** – John Kromm reflects on the last 38 years at the helm of Tomahawk Ben Franklin. He suggests that existing businesses need support just as much as new businesses that are being attracted here. ... A Tomahawk couple, Mathew L. Dombrock, 30, and Crystal Dean, 28, face four counts of possession of THC (marijuana), possession of drug paraphernalia, disorderly conduct and neglecting a child after more than 20 syringes were found in one of their 7-year-old daughter's stuffed animals. ... The City of Tomahawk Finance Committee approved writing off \$6,566.91 in penalties and interest for special assessments charged The Bridge Inn restaurant and motel, which currently stands idle following the death of owner Andy Kaplanek. ... The Tomahawk Police chief says those turns into downtown parking spaces are not U-turns; chides the *Leader* for last week's editorial.

**Feb. 14** – A plea agreement was reached for Mary L. Robinson, Antigo, who was charged with Homicide by Negligent Operations of a Vehicle in the July 2015 death of Marcus Wydeven. ... Approximately 700 people gathered on Lake Alice for this year's Alice in Wonderland. ... Six area restaurants will vie in the second annual Empty Bowls fundraiser for Our Sisters' House

Temporary Homeless Shelter. ... Lincoln County Sheriff Jeff Jaeger invited residents to take part in a free FCC webinar dealing with unwanted communication, including robocalls. ... Norbert Paul turned 81 and hung up his apron after 53 years working in meat departments for various stores including his father's business in Athens and his final job at Great Lakes Foods, Tomahawk.

**Feb. 21** – Tomahawk Police Chief Al Elvins announced his department concluded an investigation into the sale, distribution and possession of controlled substances with the execution of a search warrant at a residence in the 100 block area of East Prospect Avenue, Tomahawk. Five adults were taken into custody: Michael A Dimmick, 36, Chandelle M. Wilke, 19, Drew M. Wampole, 19, Jesse Renn, 22, and Karo Bushor, 19. ... Tomahawk Elementary School Principal Penny Antell has been named "2017 Outstanding Administrator" by the Wisconsin State Reading Association, earning those honors in Milwaukee. ... The Lincoln County Sheriff welcomes Corey Brehmer as a new deputy.

**Feb. 28** – A 40-year-old Wausau man has died in an officer-involved death involving a Lincoln County Sheriff's Office deputy. The deputy responded to a vehicle in the ditch on County Road FF in the Town of Corning. The driver fired a weapon at the deputy. Return fire killed the suspect. The deceased has been identified as Shawn M. Igers of Wausau. (The deputy is later identified as Sam Steckbauer, with the department since 2010.) ... It was an exciting weekend as the best oval ice snowmobile racers around competed at the Tomahawk Speedway's inaugural Winter Hatchet Nationals. ... The Tomahawk High School Drama Department will perform the musical "The Wizard of Oz." ... Financial Director Dan Leydet told Lincoln County supervisors that the already low \$373,000 county contingency fund will be unexpectedly hit by a worker's compensation bill that has come in at \$87,000 more than anticipated. There's also a potential \$240,000 Social Services' out-of-home placement that was not budgeted for. ... Tomahawk Figure Skating Club presents "Road Trip Across America" ice show. ... Meet Gayle Bayne-Allison, the new Lincoln County district attorney. ... School bus vs. snowplow accident.

## MARCH 2017

**March 7** – A teenager from Milwaukee who received a \$300,000 settlement last fall in an abuse case at Lincoln Hills youth correctional facility in Irma has repeatedly been in trouble with the law ever since. The now 18 year old, is accused of stealing car keys from a woman while she was eating at a McDonald's in Milwaukee and then driving the vehicle without her consent. Four others implicated Kenyadi Evans in robberies and/or armed robberies, two of which involved beating the victims. ... Tomahawk coach Bonnie Kahn will be among the 210 athletes and coaches representing the U.S. at the 2017 Winter World Games in Austria March 14-25. The trip will mark the seventh time Kahn has taken part in the World Special Olympic Games. ... Last week's use of deadly force by a Lincoln County deputy leads to a true dichotomy. The victim, Shawn M. Igers, Wausau, had been in trouble with the law dating back to at least 1994. On the other hand, he has been listed on recent university honor rolls, including having a 4.0. He was a former editor of the school's newspaper and one of two student commencement speakers for his graduating class last spring.

**March 14** – Angels from St. Mary's School had their heads shaved to assist St. Baldrick's Foundation with funding for childhood cancer research, bringing in \$2,951. Over the years, St. Mary's Angels have donated \$36,280 to the foundation. ... He might be retired, but rest assured THS Coach Z (John Zuelsdorf) will not be doing much slowing down entering the next chapter of his life. ... John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced the results of a three-year investigation by local, state and federal law enforcement into the large scale trafficking of methamphetamine in central Wisconsin. To date, 19 people have pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Madison to conspiring to distribute methamphetamine. Some 127 pounds of meth was distributed, with a street value of over \$5.7 million. A number of those involved are from Merrill. ... The closing took place on the purchase of the Bridge Inn. ... Demolition is underway of the Northbay Plaza to make room for the new Kwik Trip. ... Park City Credit Union to renovate main Tomahawk branch office.

**March 21** – The Bridge Inn Restaurant and Bar will soon be up and running once again under a new name, Outboards Bar & Grill, the new owners, Billy Eastwood and Blake McMahon. ... Extensive details are published from the second public informational meeting the Tomahawk School District held in regards to the upcoming April 4 referendum. ... The driver of a pulp truck lost control at the intersection of Hwy. 8 and County Hwy. L, causing the load to spill, taking down a power pole. ... A Merrill man, 77, had to be airlifted from the New Wood following a logging accident off of Tower Road after he became pinned under a tractor. ... The head of Department of Corrections says they're committed to change at Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake Schools.

**March 28** – One would never know it based on her instant smiles and always-upbeat disposition. Over the last 36 years, Julie Thompson has lived with severe Crohn's Disease and now is facing a \$14,000 medical bill. Although struggling with her health, she found a way to continue to bring smiles to those around her. ... A panel of federal district court judges has ruled that the redistricting done in Wisconsin in 2011, in this case controlled by Republicans, was unconstitutional. The state has been ordered to redraw the lines by Nov. 1, 2017, in time for the 2018 elections. The Lincoln County Board of Supervisors voted 18-4 for a resolution to have a nonpartisan group handle legislative and congressional redistricting in the future. ... The Tobins purchased the *Tomahawk Leader* 35 years ago April 1. ... The *Leader* included a six-page section dedicated to Forestry and Wood Products with stories about New Land Value, Property Tax Data Shows Forestland Disproportionally Taxed; Ruffed Grouse Society Habitat Projects to Improve 1,789 Acres; Fire Can Be Good When Used As Forest Management Tool; Forestland Owners Have New Process for Challenging Tax Law Decisions; Nortax Investing in Future with New Facility in Merrill.

## APRIL 2017

**April 4** – A law-abiding citizen should be able to carry a concealed weapon, whether it's a taser or a gun, without a license, local state Assembly Rep. Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma) believes. Last week she and State Sen. David Craig (R-Town of Vernon), along with 39 other Republican co-authors, released a constitutional "Right to Carry" act as a way to simplify current Wisconsin

law that restricts concealed carry privileges to residents who have registered, completed firearms training and paid a fee. ... Lincoln County is looking for a new highway commissioner after a "no confidence" vote was given to current commissioner Kelly Reith. ... We reported on a study that's helping shed light on the elusive bobcat: Trappers are teaming with the Department of Natural Resources to GPS collar animals.

**April 11** – Tomahawk School District's non-recurring, operational referendum seeking \$3 million per year for four years passed on its first attempt as part of the April 4 spring election. City of Tomahawk Common Council incumbent Alderwoman Patricia Haskin headed off opposition from challenger Steven R. King in District 1. Loyetta Dennis is the new clerk in the Town of Skanawan. Incumbent Town of King clerk, Donna Edwards, outdistanced her opponent, former clerk, Andrea Michaud, 174-74. Donald Fritcher chose not to run again for chairman, with Robert Kressel, a current supervisor, elected. ... The seventh annual free Tomahawk Community Easter Dinner, sponsored by St. Paul Lutheran Church, will take place at Rodeway Inn and Suites. ...

**April 18** – Wisconsin Public Service will begin work on upgrading its Grandfather Falls hydroelectric dam after receiving the necessary approvals from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. Construction will result in the replacement of the dam's two wood stave penstocks. ... The Tomahawk and Merrill Police Departments are investigating after multiple churches were reported broken into following the Easter holiday weekend. ... Years after the Spirit Reservoir was drawn down three feet and then six feet to address structural safety concerns with the Spirit Dam on County Road E, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company is set to begin a major repair project to install a number of 60-foot-long steel sheet pilings. ... Tomahawk High School was recognized as a Pacesetter for the fourth year in a row. ... Volunteering brings Roger Glocke local, state recognition.

**April 25** – Tomahawk High School Assistant Principal Ryan Huseby has been selected to step in as principal when Scott Swenty retires at the end of June. ... Focused on removing minor children from a drug-endangered environment, law enforcement officers, including members of the Merrill Police Department and Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, conducted a search warrant at an allegedly known and ongoing drug trafficking house at 300-1/2 Genesee St., Merrill. Among those arrested were Shawn R. Boyd, 45, Merrill, Justice Stadler, 22, Tomahawk; and Tyler Hedges, 22, and Sierra Bacher, 19, also of Merrill; Austin Heil, 19, Edgar; and two unidentified juveniles. Boyd is charged with a felony of maintaining a drug trafficking place, and misdemeanors of possession of drug paraphernalia and three counts of neglecting a child. ... Perhaps you're due some money! Look for the listing of Unclaimed Property posted by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue in this week's *Leader*.

## MAY 2017

**May 2** – Eli Wurl and Courtney Theiler were crowned king and queen of the Tomahawk High School Prom. Court members included Rachel Dallman and Garrett Schulz, Delaney Langdon and Jake Ruid, Elena Wallenfang and Kole Woodall, and Macey Loka and Justin Skubal. ... While tragic, Lincoln County District Attorney Galen Bayne-Allison says the officer-involved shooting death of Shawn M. Igers, 40, Wausau, on Feb. 27 was justified. In fact, he says Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy Sam Steckbauer "acted in what was, under the circumstances that existed at the time, a restrained manner." The finding follows an independent investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Criminal Investigation. ... There are so many special events going on in Tomahawk in the coming days: There's a fundraising dinner and historical night supporting TAIV (Tomahawk Area Interfaith Volunteers); a public concert concludes the Parish Mission at St. Mary's Church; Terry Bucaro Dance Studio will celebrate 30 years with a "Dancin' Through the Decades" recital; Ogema Our Town Association presents its "Senior Follies"; and the Associated Clergy of Tomahawk have a full day and evening of activities to commemorate the National Day of Prayer.

**May 9** – A gentleman's agreement has been reached to sell Inshalla Country Club to a Tomahawk buyer as owner John Hein prepares to retire after more than 30 years running the clubhouse and 18-hole golf course. The Tomahawk buyers are Jason and Melissa Kahle (with financial backing by Bill Mark), who plan to continuing running it as a family-oriented business. ... Skylar Witte's message is the "Sky's the Limit." Crowned Miss Wisconsin USA last September, Skylar, who has strong family ties to Tomahawk, will be on stage at the 66<sup>th</sup> annual Miss USA pageant. ... Artwork, wine, live music and store specials will greet downtown visitors during Tomahawk Main Street's Spring Fling and Art Walk. ... Be ready for some entertainment and humor on the basketball court as the Harlem Wizards basketball team comes to town to raise funds for Kinship of Tomahawk's mentoring program.

**May 16** – THS Assistant Principal Ryan Huseby was officially named the new Tomahawk High School principal and Wendell Quesinberry, current principal at Lincoln Hills/Copper Lakes Schools, was named as Huseby's replacement by the Tomahawk School Board. The board also approved \$170,000 in capital projects, renewed a contract with Taher Food Service and approved the negotiated agreement of 1.26 percent base wage increase with the TEA and NEST employees. ... The Liquor Store is sold; Fusion to open storefront in downtown.

**May 23** – Recent storms dampened spirits, damaged structures and toppled trees. The *Leader* featured a scene where a river was cut out of nowhere at the end of the driveway at the Gina and Paul Hensel residence on Lake Nokomis Road. ... Tomahawk High School drama students will perform the play "Humpty-Dumpty is Missing: Case of the Fallen Egg." Middle School students also have opened their greenhouse to the public. ... Honoring our heroes; The *Leader* had four-plus pages dedicated as a veterans' tribute; included was a story about how a bronze marker for Col. Vern Kamin, a veteran of both World War I and II, was found, refurbished and returned to his gravesite. We met an Eagle Scout candidate who repainted the tank in Veterans Memorial Park, with information about the tank's history. There was a full page list of Tomahawk area veterans who served and, in some cases, lost their lives in World War I. Plus, a list of Tomahawk area men who died in service in the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Cold War.

**May 30** – Among the many trophies awarded at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Tomahawk Main Street Memories Car Show were: People’s Choice: Gary Mesenberg of Tomahawk with his 1949 Hudson Ratrod Pick-Up. Best in Show was a tie between Mary and Larry Heise of White Lake with their 1955 Pontiac Star Chief and Rick Jamroz from Mosinee with his 1950 Dodge Tow Truck, towing a 1947 Dodge Pick Up. ... The Tomahawk School District and community alike came together to dedicate a special trail system in late nature writer Allan Bell’s honor that will provide the public and students a special place to learn about and connect with nature. ... THS students along with multiple agencies in the community, including the Tomahawk Police Department, Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office, Lincoln County coroner, Generations Funeral Home, Spirit Medical Transport, Tomahawk EMS, Oneida County Med 4, and both the Tomahawk and Nokomis Fire Departments, put on a mock accident for upperclassmen to demonstrate the deadly consequences that driving impaired or distracted can cause.

## **JUNE 2017**

**June 6** – Ninety-nine members Tomahawk High School’s graduating Class of 2017, along with retiring Principal Scott Swenty, bid farewell to a Tomahawk School District Sunday as they all start the next chapters of their lives. The *Leader* published a Graduation Keepsake edition featuring senior pictures, post-high school plans, more than \$280,000 in scholarship awards, graduation scenes and well wishes. ... THS seniors closed out their years in the Tomahawk School District with a daylong community service project. ... A Merrill police officer cruiser collided with 9-year-old boy. ... A new director is named at Tomahawk Public Library to replace the soon-to-leave Mary Dunn (but later resigns from the position).

**June 13** – An Irma man died in a boating accident on the Wisconsin River near Veterans Memorial Bridge in Tomahawk. A passenger, Justin J.J. Kimmons, 23, Irma, had entered the water to prevent the boat from striking the Aquatic Arts’ dock. When the engine was restarted he was still in the water on the back side of the boat and was struck by the propeller, causing fatal injuries. ... A total 175 runners took part in the Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce’s seventh annual Rockin’ Tomahawk half marathon/5K. Gleason’s Dylan Schielke captured the overall half marathon championship. Madison’s Nichole Bathe was the overall runner-up and was the top female for a second year in a row. ... 2017 marks the centennial of Finland’s independence. With Brantwood’s strong ties to Finland, a community celebration was planned with the presentation of a Finnish play, “Eino and Toivo,” at Palmquist’s “The Farm.” ... Rep. Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma) and Rep. John Nygren (R-Marinette) stopped in Merrill to discuss a new education budget proposal they co-authored to replace the governor’s proposal. ... Blind and autistic, Matthew Price, Tomahawk, who also has Synesthesia, performed a free concert at the Tomahawk Library.

**June 20** – A school bus driver for 26 years, James T. Schmit, 51, Tomahawk, was formally charged in Lincoln County Court with three felony counts of improper behavior involving a 15-year-old female student who rode his bus the last day of school. Schmit was charged with Child Enticement-Sexual Contact, Abduction of Child-Detaining and Stalking. Judge Jay Tlusty set a \$100,000 cash bond. ... Kevin Chiapuzio, 47, Ironwood, Mich., died and another person was transported by ambulance after a motorcycle and automobile crash on Highway 51 south of County Highway L. ... Several resignations, including that of Tomahawk Middle School Principal Paul Kurth, were accepted by the Tomahawk School Board. The board also voted to increase the base pay for a beginning teacher to \$39,000. ... The *Tomahawk Leader* honored John, Peggy and Andy Hein, retiring owners of Inshalla Country Club, with the prestigious Distinguished Service Award (DSA) at the 2017 Community Awards Banquet. Dan Reiter, THS guidance counselor, and Olivia Dachel, a Business Education teacher, were honored with 2017 LEADERShip Awards. Alan Van Strydonk and Nancy Swan of Erv’s Sales & Service received Employer of the Year. With employees lured to the banquet to help honor their boss, those who had worked at Tomahawk Ben Franklin were surprised when former business owner, John Kromm turned the tables and they were named 2017 Employees of the Year. Graduating senior and co-valedictorian of the THS Class of 2017, Andrew Cook was named Outstanding Youth LEADER of the Year. Also honored were members of the Tomahawk Area Historical Society, which received the *Tomahawk Leader’s* Community Appreciation Award. In addition, Kinship of Tomahawk’s mentoring program presented its own Mentor of the Year to Margaret Harry.

**June 27** – The Tomahawk School District will be welcoming 17 visitors from the Peking University High School International Program (PKUHS), Dongli District, in Tianjin, China. Students and chaperones will be attending classes at Tomahawk High School and Treehaven during their stay. ... Louisiana-Pacific thanked Tomahawk’s 150 employees as SmartSide Siding marks 20 years. ... The Nokomis Fire Department hosted a multi-agency live burn training exercise.

## **JULY 2017**

**July 4** – Tomahawk’s Pow Wow Days parade already boasts some 75 entries. ... City funding has been cut and the Tomahawk Lions Club is finding it increasingly more difficult to put on its impressive July Fourth Pow Wow Days parade and fireworks display. Businesses have been asked to contribute, and the public can help by sending a donation. ... The Tomahawk Historical Society marks 30 years with a TomaWalk historical walk downtown and museum displays. ... Park City Credit Union is breaking ground for its new 26,000-square-foot headquarters in Merrill. ... Camp American Legion to dedicate the Wetzel Trail Memorial Wall.

**July 11** – Tomahawk Police Chief Al Elvins announced the execution of two search warrants related to the sale and distribution of illegal substances. Two adult males were taken into custody on felony drug charges. ... Wendell Quesinberry, recently hired as THS assistant principal, has now been approved as Tomahawk Middle School principal instead, following the resignation of Paul Kurth. ... The Tomahawk City Council is considering an ordinance to prohibit left turns mid-block for east and westbound traffic on West Wisconsin Avenue. The ordinance would prohibit those frequent turns one sees by cars going in one direction and then turning into a parking space on the opposite side of the street. ... The “Bradley Farm Road/Kings Road Drainage issues” gurgled to the top when homeowner Fred Bartz, Bradley Farm Road, told city’s Board of Public Works he’s been dealing

with the problem for seven years with \$10,000 to \$20,000 in damage to his property. ... Samuel Pressure Vessel Group (formerly Northland Stainless) has invested in new equipment and plant upgrades as part of an ongoing improvement initiative at its Marinette, Wis., and Lebanon, Va., facilities. The local company, which has added new skill-based compensation; productivity incentive bonus and a new leadership team, is accepting applications now for fabricators and welders.

**July 18** – Tomahawk School District teacher Stacy Bolder is the winner of the HGTV Smart Home 2017 home and prize package valued at more than \$1.5 million. She also won all the home's furnishings, a 2017 Mercedes-Benz GLE 550e 4MATIC and \$100,000. ... Cody Jenson, 24, Tomahawk, faces four felony counts of attempted first degree intentional homicide, first degree reckless injury, first degree recklessly endangering safety and aggravated battery-intend great bodily harm for a stabbing that occurred in the Town of Bradley. ... Gabby Jahn, 18, Tomahawk, had no idea her wish was about to come true while attending the Lincoln County Pullers truck and tractor pull at the Tomahawk Speedway. A large ESPN camera crew was in attendance, recording footage for a fake documentary about "The Rebirth of a Racetrack." They were really there to capture her reaction to being granted a wish to meet NASCAR racer Danica Patrick in Daytona where the professional racer was competing in the Coke Zero 400 at the Daytona International Speedway. ... A 70-year-old man was arrested for a seventh offense OWI. ... Mary Dunn is retiring as Tomahawk Public Library director. ... Northern Sight Vision Clinic is breaking ground for a new eye clinic across from Shopko Hometown. ... The Lincoln County Board recognized the Bierman Family Foundation, Inc. of Merrill for the gift of \$305,000 for the purchase of an armored rescue vehicle the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office will utilize

**July 25** – A new project, "Wisconsin Remembers: A Face for Every Name," brings the human loss from the Vietnam War closer to home. Wisconsin is the fifth state to collect a photo for each deceased veteran from Wisconsin. Portrayed in 17 panels are the 1,161 faces from hometowns throughout the state, including Lincoln, Oneida and Price county. The display was at the Tomahawk American Legion Hall. ... The City of Tomahawk Common Council voted 3-1 with one abstention to amend the local ordinance to prohibit mid-block left turns on West Wisconsin Avenue. ... Dave Knapstein calls Tomahawk Appliance & Home's move into the former Northern Bear Antique Mall at 205 W. Wisconsin Ave., "a work in progress." ... We're Squealing with Delight" is this year's theme for the Lincoln County Fair at the Festival Grounds in Merrill. ... The public is invited to attend the German Settlement Picnic and Open House in the town of Spirit, Price County.

## AUGUST 2017

**Aug. 1** – The Tripoli School reunion draws 138 attendees, with two alumni from the graduating class of 1942 and alumni all the way to the class of 1969. ... City of Tomahawk Public Works Director John Cole and Jim Borysenko, P.E., with REI engineering, met with landowners who have been affected by drainage issues and flooding in the Kings Road/Bradley Farm Road area. ... Tomahawk's police chief was not particularly amused by one's household's attempt to circumvent a local municipal code limiting the number of dogs or cats residents can keep on their premises. ... A truckload of free food will be given away at SARA Park as part of the Feeding America program. ... There was rash of property thefts. ... This week's *Leader* is packed with five pages of Back to School information for the Tomahawk School District and St. Mary's schools. There are teacher photos, a district staff roster, supply lists, open house dates, new principals and much more.

**Aug. 8** – Tomahawk's Kwahamot Water Ski Club hosted the Division 2 Show Ski National Championships. The Aquaducks from Burlington were the ultimate winners. ... Unpaid bills from last year caused the city of Tomahawk to pause as it considered the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Fall Ride application for next month's big event. ... Kevin Monroe's body was found in his Merrill apartment Jan. 12, 2016. Now 18 months later charges have officially been filled against his son, Tyler Monroe.

**Aug. 15** – Tomahawk Middle School physical education teacher and athletic director Stacy Bolder has been hired for the vacant Tomahawk High School assistant principal position. ... The Log Church in Tripoli celebrates its 100-year anniversary. ... Tomahawk Pharmacy plans to move next to Steigerwaldt Land Services, renting the former The Feed Mill on North Fourth Street, Tomahawk. ... Members of the Tomahawk Historical Society invite the public to the stone shelter in Bradley Park. After lunch, A.J. Theiler will share the history of the park and Lake Mohawksin. ... *Tomahawk Leader* publishes the official Tomahawk Fall Ride Guide with all sorts of information about events, music and other entertainment, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Never Forgotten Honor Flight and Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation (some of this year's beneficiaries), and the VFW M\*A\*S\*H events. We look at the importance of the Harley-Davidson plants in town and how you can take a test ride on a 2018 Harley-Davidson. There's also information paying tribute to the late Bubba Troutman.

**Aug. 22** – This week's opening of a Kwik Trip in Tomahawk marks the company's 531<sup>st</sup> store. ... Seven-year-old Dominick Larnard-Hegman is the child behind the temporary stop signs at the intersection of Anna and Wilson streets in Frenchtown. He was hit by a pickup truck July 30, leading to family concern about visibility at the intersection. ... The Sus family plants roots deeper in the community, now locally owning, operating two convenience stores. ... Matt Turkiewicz completes project for Eagle Scout honor.

**Aug. 29** – Convicted murderer, 53-year-old Mark J. Bucki, Merrill, appeared in Lincoln County Court for an evidentiary hearing, pleading that the court grant him a re-trial. In April of 2014 Bucki was convicted of first degree intentional homicide, hiding a corpse, and strangulation and suffocation in the murder of his estranged wife, Anita. ... Tomahawk School District's new teachers have already attended a teacher orientation and taken a field trip. Students arrive Friday, Sept. 1. ... A story about Simon Zuiker in the La Crosse Tribune in January 1974 probably put it best. It noted that the federal mediator, who had just helped settle the largest strike in local Trane Co. history, had a blue collar background instead of a lawyer's briefcase. "Sam" Zuiker came from extremely humble beginnings in Harrison. He died in Golden Valley, Minn., at the age of 95. ... Nicholas and Amanda Glaeser, graduates of Tomahawk High School, now make their home in Dickinson, Texas. They spent the weekend of Aug. 25 in Eau Claire attending a family wedding. While they were in Wisconsin, their home state of Texas was pummeled by Hurricane Harvey. They decided to ask the people of Tomahawk for donations to take home for hurricane victims. The response was incredible.

## SEPTEMBER 2017

**Sept. 5** – Hannah Schmit, a 2013 graduate of Tomahawk High School, has been accepted for a Fulbright Scholarship to the Czech Republic. ... Tomahawk pauses each Sept. 11 to remember the nearly 3,000 lost lives, the affected loved ones and the heroes who stepped forward during the 9/11 terrorist attacks on U.S. soil in 2001. This year's 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary event will be held Monday, Sept. 11. ... Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake superintendent returns to prior role as education director. ... Lincoln County Sheriff's Office will welcome another sergeant investigator. ... Convicted sex offender Charles Eugene Becker, is charged with another felony sex crime involving a child. ... Retirement doubleheader at Merrill library. ... Northwoods Vineyard Church and Sacred Heart Hospital Foundation are offering a free Medical Clinic.

**Sept. 12** – Residents of the School District of Tomahawk will have a chance to hear about the 2017-18 proposed budget, ask questions and vote on an advisory levy at the district's annual meeting. "In this budget we are anticipating a \$9.75 mill rate, which is an increase from the \$8.04 last year. Of course this anticipated increase was expected, and is mainly due to the approved \$3,000,000 operational referendum passed in April," notes Superintendent Terry Reynolds. ... United States Sen. Tammy Baldwin met with management at Samuel Pressure Group in Tomahawk to discuss investing in local communities through new legislation aimed at boosting apprenticeships and providing tax relief for innovative manufacturers. ... Man threatens Tomahawk and Rhinelander police, EMTs. ... Twenty-five former Spirit-Hill-Ogema 4-H queens gather for this year's 75th annual fair. ... Harley-Davidson rolls out eight new cruiser motorcycles in largest-ever product development project. Some new models will be available to ride in Tomahawk at this year's Fall Ride. ... Town of King residents invited to celebrate the service of Bob Steigerwaldt and Henry Wiedeman.

**Sept. 19** – The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office continues to investigate a Fall Ride motorcycle crash in the Town of Bradley. At 12:52 a.m. a county deputy on patrol came across the crash at County Road L and Theisen Road. Both operators were ejected from their motorcycles. Dan Reimert, 43, Tomahawk, was airlifted to the Marshfield Medical Center. The second operator, a 63-year-old Mercer man, was treated at Ascension Sacred Heart Hospital and then taken into custody for a felony fourth offense of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated. ... A 57-year-old Wausau woman died in a crash in the Town of Scott. Preliminary information indicated a pickup truck operated by a 16-year-old Irma teenager failed to stop for the stop sign on Joe Snow Road at County Road Q about 3 p.m. and collided with a southbound SUV being driven by Joan Lehman. ... Both the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) and the Tomahawk VFW, which handle different parts of the multiple-day Tomahawk Fall ride event, were thrilled by this year's turnout. ... Someone was counting: 732 motorcycles took part in this year's Tomahawk Fall Ride Thunder Parade. ... Dan Soderstrom, Climax, Mich., won the Fall Ride raffle 2017 Harley-Davidson FLHTCU Electra Glide Ultra Classic motorcycle valued at \$21,000. ... Two Tomahawk men and another with local ties are among 25 individuals arrested by Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) Human Trafficking Bureau agents, with the aid of local and federal law enforcement, in stings to arrest sex traffickers, "johns" and child abusers, Attorney General Brad Schimel announced.

**Sept. 26** – A power outage in the city of Tomahawk probably led many to an unproductive hour or so at the beginning of a workday. But for city Director of Public Works John Cole the outcome bordered on catastrophic. A lightning strike took out a transformer that feeds power to the city wells. ... "Disney" is the overall theme for THS Homecoming 2017. ... It will soon cost Lincoln County residents more to own that vehicle that's sitting in the driveway or garage. County Board supervisors approved a new \$20 annual vehicle registration fee. ... Kings/Bradley Farm Road work addressing flooding and drainage issues that have plagued a certain part of the city of Tomahawk for years began Monday. ... The Tomahawk Chamber receives a \$35,000 tourism grant to help fund Phase 2 of marketing efforts. ... Ties That Bind Us symposium empowers women to take control of their own health.

## OCTOBER 2017

**Oct. 3** – The gridiron boys from Tomahawk fought back against a persistent Rib Lake/Prentice football team to win the 2017 Homecoming game at Hatchet Field 58-46. ... Read about the community support that continues to help build Tyler Kahle Memorial Field, with its new press box and soon-to-be-covered bleachers. ... Tomahawk Fire Chief John Peeters noted the single-family home, owned by Jim Krueger, Rapel Road, was totally involved when firefighters arrived about 3:15 a.m. Sunday. ... The *Leader* published "Stop the Violence: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month" pages. ... Larry Mathein announces his candidacy for Oneida County sheriff.

**Oct. 10** – The new steel wall running the entire length of the Spirit Dam would certainly be an impressive sight to behold, that is, if it had not been built underground. Employees from Staab Construction were recently working to finish up a big part of Phase 1 construction being done to address safety concerns at the dam. ... Fatalities – Sunday, Oct. 8, Jeffrey R. Hill, 62, Gleason, was traveling north on State Road 17 near Old Hwy. 17 in the Town of Schley when his vehicle left the roadway, struck a driveway embankment and rolled over. ... Daniel Reimert, 43, Tomahawk, who was injured in a motorcycle accident during this year's Tomahawk Fall Ride, died Oct. 3 at St. Joseph Hospital, Marshfield. ... Tomahawk Middle School eighth graders got to check out local manufacturing industries firsthand during in the sixth annual Heavy Metal Tour as part of Wisconsin's Manufacturing Month. ... Tomahawk High School German teacher Allison Shantz is excitedly organizing Tomahawk's German-American Partnership Program exchange for the third time. Seventeen students from Carl-Benz Gymnasium will be staying with local families in Tomahawk for two weeks.

**Oct. 17** – An assault on a female instructor at Lincoln Hills School Wednesday brought on a sheriff's investigation, media coverage and an intense reaction from current and former staff who say it's nothing new. Records from the Lincoln County

Sheriff's Office, indicate that department has responded to 22 calls involving student battery on staff so far this year. And, many more go unreported. ... This week's Tomahawk Leader has 10 pages dedicated to a tribute for area Emergency Services personnel, including law enforcement, fire departments, ambulance personnel and more. ... The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) has announced that this year's 36<sup>th</sup> annual Tomahawk Fall Ride raised \$117,533 for the organization. ... Pete Wurl was honored with the Lifetime Service Award; John Krueger's support led to the Spirit Award; and Nick and Amanda Glaeser were the recipients of the Ambassador Award at the Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting and awards night. ... Spirit Baptist Church celebrates 125 years.

**Oct. 24** – InSun Lee, a South Korean native, is serving her life's calling for missionary work right here in the Northwoods as the new pastor at United Methodist Church, Tomahawk, and the Town of Spirit. ... In light of recently publicized employee injuries caused by student attacks at Lincoln Hills School, two local state elected officials are urging the U.S. District judge who instituted restrictions on the use of solitary confinement, pepper spray and restraints to reverse his decision. State Sen. Tom Tiffany (District 12) and State Rep. Mary Felzkowski (District 35) told Chief Judge James D. Peterson, Western District of Wisconsin, that despite "a good faith effort," "the order you placed on the Department of Corrections (DOC) is not working." ... Our Sisters House is reflecting on two years of welcoming those in need of a temporary home. ... The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office has identified Kevin Ives, 51, Tomahawk, as the ATV operator killed after colliding with a black bear while riding on County Road CC in the town of Wilson. ... Michael Todd Norman, 54, Tomahawk, was arrested by the Wisconsin State Patrol Wausau Post for operating a motor vehicle under the influence, fifth offense.

**Oct. 31** – Breaking news – Major lockdown at Lincoln Hills School: As of Tuesday morning, Oct. 31, 2017: The Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) has begun a facility-wide search of Copper Lake School/Lincoln Hills School. The search is being conducted by Division of Adult Institutions correctional officer trainees and Division of Juvenile Corrections youth counselor trainees. Division of Adult Institutions staff and DOC's Incident Management Team are providing support as the search is underway. ... The Oct. 31 *Tomahawk Leader* includes comments from inside Lincoln Hills, from an employee talking about student attacks on staff last week that sent five staff members to the emergency room. The person talks about how attacks and being put in the security unit can be a "badge of honor" for some of the offenders. ... You'll find a wonderful 3-part-, 40-page special "Then & Now" history and progress section in the Oct. 31 *Tomahawk Leader*. ... Heidi O'Hare has accepted the position as Tomahawk Public Library director. ... Former governor of Wisconsin, Martin Schreiber, who's coming to speak in Tomahawk, shares some stark realizations in his book, "My Two Elaines: Learning, Coping, and Surviving as an Alzheimer's Caregiver." But the book also is filled with sweet moments, humor and tips for others who are on a similar journey. ... The Lincoln County Health Department, one of fewer than 200 departments so far, is awarded national accreditation. ... The governor appoints Amy Kevin Klein as Price County Circuit Court judge. ... Large numbers of students are in the Junior Battle of Books program.

## NOVEMBER 2017

**Nov. 7** – This week's *Tomahawk Leader* is filled with veteran stories, information on Veterans Day programming and heartfelt thanks from our community. We have some personal reflections and a timeline line of the distinguished service of Lt. Col. John R. Hofmann, a 1962 graduate of Tomahawk High School, who flew 222 missions in Vietnam and traveled the world in service to his country. And, there's a feature story on Maurice Norman, a World War II veteran who loved drawing cartoons and doodled on the envelopes of letters he sent home. That work landed him a job on his Navy ship and has influenced his career ever since. ... Ascension Medical Group Tomahawk and Sacred Heart-Saint Mary's Hospitals invite community members to meet their new providers at the Tomahawk hospital. ... An estimated 50 to 60 Division of Adult Institutions correctional officer trainees and Division of Juvenile Corrections youth counselor trainees, along with Department of Corrections personnel and local staff undertook a facility-wide search of Lincoln Hills School/Copper Lake School juvenile correctional institutions in Irma over the course of two days last week. The search came less than a week into Wisconsin Juvenile Corrections Administrator John Paquin's, appointment as interim superintendent at Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake. In an interview at the facility's roadside entrance where barricades were set up to limit outside access to the grounds, Paquin said the search had been well received by staff who have faced growing concerns about their own safety. ... Bobby Darren, an internationally-known country music musician and singer with Tomahawk ties, recently received the Rural Roots Music Commission's "Real Country Music CD of the Year" award.

**Nov. 14** – The Tomahawk High School girls' swim team finished in fourth place at the WIAA Division 2 State Championship in Madison. ... Tomahawk School Board member Christine Brown and her family are moving to the Eau Claire area, so she will not be able to complete her term in office. ... Motion Picture fake money has been circulated in town. We did some research and found out more. The story is shared in Kathy's Column. ... This week's *Tomahawk Leader* has our very first "Women Who Hunt" pages. Along with the Hunter Widows craft fairs and the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Venison Feed. ... Pack a Shoebox for children around the world who may have never received a gift before. Collections are at Northwoods Vineyard Church, Tomahawk and Merrill Bible Church. ... THS students plan a community meal to raise funds for a Disney trip to learn from professional chefs.

**Nov. 21** – They had been friends for at least four years. Eric Lee Moen, Wausau, had been at the Ramp home on West Mohawk Drive in Tomahawk many times before, including several times this summer. He was at the home again Thursday late afternoon and talked to family members before Charles Ramp, 52, got home. There was no indication anything was amiss. But everything changed once Charles Ramp got home. Moen, 32, exited the house. Several minutes later Ramp went outside, too. Moen then allegedly shot him with a .20-gauge shotgun multiple times while he stood in his driveway. Ramp died at nearby Ascension Sacred Heart Hospital. Moen is charged with felony First Degree Initial Homicide. ... Tomahawk High School drama students' one-act play, "Gossip," earned All-State honors, an Ensemble Award and individual recognition at state competition at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. ... Santa's arrival and Shop Small Saturday will be celebrated Nov. 25. ... Man with knife is in six-hour standoff in Town of Crescent. ... Sen. Tiffany and Rep. Felzkowski say TV white space could be answer to broadband

woes.

**Nov. 28** – Christine Brown, who represents the City of Tomahawk on the Tomahawk School Board but has moved from the area, resigned her position on the board effective Nov. 14. Brown’s normal term ends in April of 2019; anyone wishing to complete her term will need to run for election this spring. ... The Tomahawk Salvation Army has kicked off its annual Bell Ringing Campaign and is still looking for volunteer bell ringers. ... The Cassian senior dining site needs volunteers. ... Local nursing homes gain director (Colinda Nappa) who has 30 years of healthcare experience.

## **DECEMBER 2017**

**Dec. 5** – Approval was given by the Tomahawk Planning and Zoning Commission to the Town of Bradley for a conditional use permit to construct a “refuse transfer station and recycling collection center” at the Bradley Town Hall with stipulations that the town would guarantee it would address any unexpected odor problems and clean up any litter that ends up along the road. ... Questions and comments on everything from poor Internet service to wolves to the Lincoln Hills juvenile correctional facility were shared at State Rep. Mary Felzkowski’s Listening Session in Tomahawk. ... The Northwoods Tobacco-Free Coalition (NWTFC) conducted 31 tobacco compliance checks in Lincoln County; three stores sold tobacco to a minor for an illegal sales rate of 11.1 percent, up from last year’s 10.0 percent. ... The Tomahawk Figure Skating Club presents “A Holiday Celebration on Ice” at the SARA Park Ice Arena.

**Dec. 12** – *Tomahawk Leader* features our fun Holiday Cheer insert with recipes and Christmas carols, plus greetings from the Tomahawk Leader and area businesses. ... Tomahawk Area Interfaith Volunteers (TAIV) will not be accepting a grant for a second vehicle at this time. ... The Tomahawk Common Council approved a net levy of \$5.47 million on taxable property within the city limits. ... Anyone interested in throwing a hat into the ring for the April 3, 2018, election has until 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2 to file the necessary paperwork. The opportunities are with the following entities: Tomahawk School Board, City of Tomahawk, Town of Bradley, City of Merrill, Lincoln County Board of Supervisors and Municipal Judge for cities of Merrill and Tomahawk. ... 2018 capital improvement program street maintenance projects, particularly Kings Road reconstruction and storm water issues on South Tomahawk Avenue and recreation trail (abandoned rail road right of way), will be the topic of a special City of Tomahawk Board of Public Works community meeting.

**Dec. 19** – Jon Schenk Jr., 45, Tomahawk, was sentenced in the Lincoln County Circuit Court to seven years in the Wisconsin state prison system for the series of robberies he committed during the spring of 2017 around the Easter holiday, spanning Lincoln County in the cities of Tomahawk and Merrill. ... Faced with a deteriorating road infrastructure and some \$6.2 million in identified needed repairs, the Tomahawk Common Council will consider a resolution authorizing an advisory referendum for the April election. It would ask voters if the city should levy a 0.5 percent (1/2 cent on the dollar) Premier Resort Area Tax (PRAT) sales tax on items and services sold, leased and rented through tourist-related retailers. ... St. Mary’s Catholic School held its annual Christmas Program at St. Mary’s Catholic Church. Students performed the play, “Beneath a Shining Star.” ... Snowmobile clubs in the Tomahawk area have been busy working to pack and freeze low lying areas in hopes of opening some portions of trails in Lincoln County heading into the holiday season. Vilas, Price and Oneida counties opened some of the Snowmobile trail systems this past weekend. At this time, Lincoln County has opened the Hiawatha/Bearskin Trail in Tomahawk so riders can access the trails from the trailhead at SARA Park. ... Thousands of wreaths are laid by tombstones at Veterans Memorial Cemetery in King. Joining in the effort is Mary Ingman. A photo features the gravesite of Willis Gessler of Tomahawk.

**Dec. 26** – Lincoln County Administrator Randy Scholz has informed the Lincoln County Board he is the candidate of choice for the Chippewa County administrator, with a decision slated Jan. 9. ... The Tomahawk Dance Team will perform at this year’s Liberty Bowl. ... A 58-year-old Chippewa Falls man was arrested on Hwy. 8 and 17 at about 4 p.m. for driving under the influence, seventh offense. ... With temperatures dipping to minus-23 and a wind chill of minus-40, Oneida County’s Health Department announced warming facilities. ... Tomahawk Community Bank President and CEO Kathy Rankin began her banking career as a teller 40 years ago in 1977. ... Tomahawk STAR Foundation will host its annual STAR Splash New Year’s Day, Monday, Jan. 1, with brave souls jumping into the icy waters off the shore at The Happy Snapper. ... Tomahawk Elementary School students present their all-school holiday program.