MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

CHAMBER CHATTER

WISCONSIN'S CRANBERRY COUNTRY Tomah

January 2018

2018 Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony

Each year, the Chamber recognizes those in our community that make a difference. We look for businesses that contribute ad individuals who dedicate their talents to Tomah. At the Chamber, we believe that our community is worth living in because of the people who comprise it. We want to acknowledge, honor and truly thank the people of Tomah for their valuable actions. Please join us on Monday, February 26th, 2018. This is our night to put the work aside and celebrate accomplishments. We will have great food, excellent entertainment, a recap of the year behind us and insight into the year ahead, and the celebration of who we are.

Please look in this newsletter for your opportunity to nominate individuals and businesses for the various awards that we will present on the evening of February 26th.

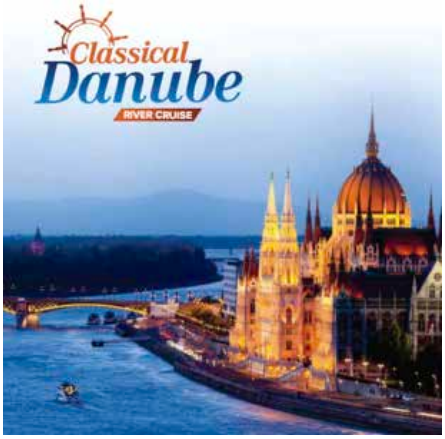
Mayoral Forum

As in years past, the Tomah Chamber will again put together a mayoral forum. This public event is your opportunity to hear directly from the candidates running for Mayor of Tomah. The Tomah Chamber and Visitors Center does not endorse a candidate, but rather feel our role is to provide a platform for each voter to learn from the candidates and form their own opinion before casting a vote. Look for more details to come while we work with the candidates to select a date, time and location for this event.

Luxury Travel at an Affordable Price

9 days, 7 nights, and 4 countries! We're putting together a group travel experience for a river cruise down the Danube in October 2018. We've partnered with Indus Travel to offer you an international travel opportunity at a great price!

As our economy becomes more and more global every day, we believe it is important to learn about and experience different cultures. By helping you to explore the world and educating our population, we'll be able to further our mission of fostering a cohesive environment where our businesses, families and community can prosper. This trip is designed to offer education, tourism and cultural experience whether you're traveling to explore business opportunities or just looking to get away on an exciting vacation!



You do not need to be a member of the Tomah Chamber to take advantage of this opportunity. Just give us a call at 608-372-2166 to sign up for one of our upcoming Informational Meetings to find out more! Informational Meetings will be held at the Tomah Chamber & Visitors Center on February 15 at 10 am and March 7 at 5:30pm.

More information on the Classical Danube River Cruise is available on pages 9-12 of this newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP & BOARD

Number of Current Members: 352

December Renewals

7 Rivers Figure Skating Club: 3 years
Alderman Property Management, Inc.: 33 years
Bauernfeind Business Technologies: 20 years
Don Tralmer: 41 years
Fairway Outdoor Advertising: 33 years
Family Vision Center of Tomah: 11 years
First United Methodist Church: 9 years
Flying Wheels Roller Rink, Inc.: 11 years
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church: 15 years
Hilliker Tree Farm LLC: 24 years
Hilltop Lodge, LLC: 9 years
J & R Variety, LLC: 17 years
Joe & Carrie Martinez: 27 years
Manpower: 26 years
Marilyn School of Dance, LLC: 27 years
Microtel Inn & Suites: 12 years
Midwest Fuels: 23 years
Morgan Stanley: 20 years
Pizones: 10 years
State Farm / Holthaus Insurance: 11 years
Timberwood Bank: 41 years
Tomah Area School District: 32 years
TRICOR Insurance: 38 years

New Members

Joline Powell
St. Matthew Church

Current Chamber Board

BOARD OFFICERS:

President- Donna Evans
Derek Burnstad
Jeff Gray
Michelle Hagman
Robin Pierce
Kyle Von Haden

BOARD DIRECTORS:

Dennis Coffey
Curt DeBoer
Kyle Evans
Paul Harms
Connie Hurd
Griffin Moe
Kevin Ravenscroft
Kim Voigt
Colleen Woggon

EX OFFICIO:

City of Tomah- Roger Gorius
VA Medical Center- Matthew Gowan
WTC: Tomah- Kim Granum
Fort McCoy- Tonya Townsell
Tomah School Dist.- Cindy Zahrte

Chamber & Visitors Center Tomah

HEADSHOT EVENT

January 25 at the Tomah Chamber & Visitors Center

15 MINUTE TIME SLOTS | 10 AM - 6 PM
CHOICE OF BACKGROUND COLORS
(SHOWN IN PHOTOS ABOVE)

$40 MEMBERS
$50 NON-MEMBERS

Photos Taken by:

PICHETTE
PHOTOGRAPHY

If your business needs updated headshots or you just need a new headshot for your LinkedIn, Facebook, or other social media profile, call us at 608.372.2166 to sign up! Spots are limited.

January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 **Family Support Group** at TMH: Classroom B *6-7pm* *Happy New Year!*	**2**	**3**	**4** **Mental Health Support** at TMH: Classroom B *6:30-7:30pm* **Blood Drive** at First United Meth. Church | *11am-5pm*	**5** **Fish Fry** at the American Legion | *5pm*	**6** **Chili Supper** at the K of C Hall for Tomah Hist. Museum *4:30-6:30pm*
7	**8**	**9**	**10** **Ambassadors** at the Tomah Chamber | *Noon*	**11**	**12**	**13** **Basket Bingo Palooza** at the Tomah ACT *7pm*
14	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18** **Our Town Tomah** at the Tomah Police Dept. | *Noon* **Craft Beer Social** at The Break Room *6-8pm*	**19** **Fish Fry** at the American Legion | *5pm*	**20** **Relationship Sense** at Cranberry Country Lodge | *8:30am-Noon*
21	**22** **Strong Bodies Begins** at Tomah's Rec Park *Mon/Wed: 3pm & 5pm* *Tues/Thurs: 8am*	**23** **Long Range Planning** at City Hall | *5:15pm*	**24**	**25** **Headshot Event** at the Tomah Chamber | *10am-6pm* **Pre-Registration Req.**	**26**	**27** **Craft Beer & Chili** at the American Legion for CDAS *5-8pm | Live Music 8-10pm*
28	**29**	**30**	**31** **Communication & Customer Service** at WTC: La Crosse *8am-Noon*	*Happy New Year!*		

CRAFT BEER TASTING & CHILI COOK-OFF

Proceeds benefit

CHASING DAYLIGHT ANIMAL SHELTER

SAT, JANUARY 27TH

TOMAH AMERICAN LEGION

5-8 PM | Tasting Time

8-10 PM | Live Music

- **$10** per person.
  Includes sampling of up to
  10 chilis and 10 local craft beers.
- Must be 21+ to attend.
- **First 300 people receive a tasting glass.**
- F&M Bank Beercation Getaway Package
  to New Glarus, Wisconsin raffle,
  AND more!

SUPPORT CDAS WHILE ENJOYING A NIGHT OF GREAT FOOD, CRAFT BEER + LIVE MUSIC!

Contact CDAS at
608-374-2112 or
info@chasingdaylight.org
for more information!

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

TORO®

F&M BANK

WISCONSIN'S CRANBERRY COUNTRY Tomah

CRANBERRY COUNTRY LODGE

BECAUSE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY AND HAPPY HOUSEHOLDS RELY ON JOYFUL RELATIONSHIPS...

The Tomah Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce a 2-part seminar series….

Great Relationship Sense!

Every committed couple needs it.

Lecturer and Relationship Coach Bill Schacht will engage participants in…

- Exploring and discussing common sense wisdom essential for couples to create and continually grow a loving, emotionally intimate, committed relationship.
- Learning and using distinct communication tools and interaction patterns essential to ensure consistent couple happiness and satisfaction.
- Illuminating strategies that successful couples use to keep their romantic and sexual relationship growing better and better rather than fading over time.

Saturdays from 8:30 – 12:00 PM
January 20, 2018
February 3, 2018

Location:
Cranberry Lodge 319 Wittig Rd.
Tomah, WI

Individual Tickets $25 per person

Corporate & Group Sponsor Discount Rate

70 tickets for $1,000
32 tickets for $500
15 tickets for $250
6 tickets for $100

TO PURCHASE TICKETS CALL GREAT RELATIONSHIP SENSE: 866-724-2000
OR GO TO WWW.GREATRELATIONSHIPSENSE.COM
FOR CORPORATE AND GROUP SPONSOR TICKETS
CALL GREAT RELATIONSHIP SENSE: 866-724-2000. SPACE IS LIMITED

Whitetail Ridge

Located between Sparta & Tomah on Hwy 21

Located in one of the most scenic areas of Fort McCoy... it's the place for Winter Family Fun!

- Snow Tubing
- Snowboarding
- Downhill Skiing
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Terrain Park Rails & Jumps
- Group & Birthday Parties

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Friday: 4:30 pm - 9 pm
Saturday: 10 am - 9 pm | Sunday: 12 pm - 6 pm

PINE VIEW
—RECREATION AREA—

U.S. ARMY MWR

www.mccoy.armymwr.com | 800-531-4703 | 608.388-4498/3517

$3 OFF
SNOWTUBING PASSES

Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. One coupon per customer. Not valid with any other promotion. Valid through March 31, 2018. TOMAH

$5 OFF
LIFT TICKET OR RENTAL EQUIPMENT

Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. One coupon per customer. Not valid with any other promotion. Valid through March 31, 2018. TOMAH

Chamber 101

Tuesday, February 6 at 9:00 am

NEW! Tomah Chamber & Visitors Center
310 N. Superior Ave. Tomah, WI

Join us for a cup of coffee and an overview of chamber member benefits.

Perfect for:

- New Members!
- Businesses considering becoming Chamber Members.
- Current members looking to more fully utilize their benefits.
- New staff!

For more information:
Call or email Siranda @ 608-372-2166 or sswiergosz@tomahwisconsin.com

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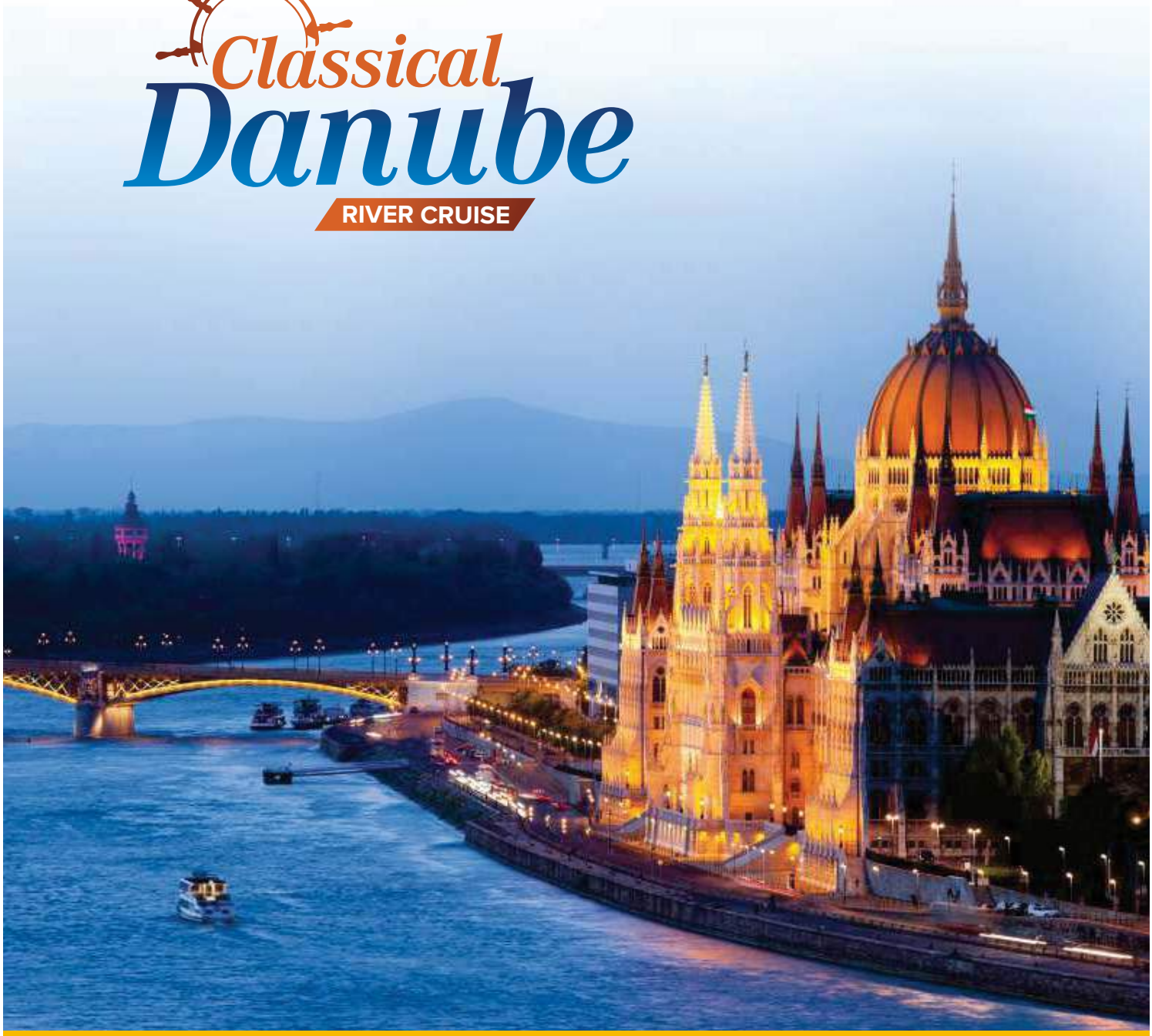
exceptional experiences!

Classical Danube

RIVER CRUISE



Come learn more at an Informational Meeting!

USA - PASSAU - REGENSBURG - PASSAU - LINZ - MELK - WEISSENKIRCHEN
VIENNA - BRATISLAVA - ESXTERGOM - BUDAPEST - USA

February 15 at 10:00am or March 7 at 5:30pm
Tomah Chamber & Visitors Center

Tomah Chamber & Visitors Center

For reservation and bookings contact:
Siranda Swiergosz
Membership & Events Coordinator

Tomah Chamber & Visitors Center
Phone: 608.372.2166 (main line)
Email: sswiergosz@tomahwisconsin.com

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exceptional experiences!

• **TOUR NAME**

CLASSICAL DANUBE

• **TOUR DAYS**

09 DAYS / 07 NIGHTS

• **TOUR TYPE**

RIVER CRUISE

• **TOUR DATES**

OCT 23- 31, 2018

This 9-day journey connects Passau, the so called “Three Rivers City” on the Inn, Ilz and Danube rivers, with the Hungarian metropolis, Budapest, also known as the “Queen of the Danube”. This is an exceptional journey through four of Europe's most important countries, three world-famous capital cities, and through diverse landscapes such as the “Schlogener Schlinge” below Passau, the picturesque, myth-enshrouded Wachau region, and the Danube-knee at Visegrad (the Hungarian Wachau), with imposing religious structures along the banks of the rivers, such as Melk Abbey and Esztergom Basilica. A highlight of the cruise is a visit to the 2,000-year-old Bavarian town of Regensburg.

• **TOUR PRICE**

Oct 23-31, 2018	**Lower Deck Haydn C-4** (X2 Cabins)	**Lower Deck Haydn C-1** (X3 Cabins)	**Middle Deck Strauss B-4** (X2 Cabins)	**Middle Deck Strauss B-1** (X14 Cabins)	**Upper Deck Mozart A-1** (X12 Cabins)	**Upper Deck Mozart Suite** (X4 Cabins)
Per person on twin sharing basis	**US$ 2899**	**US$ 2999**	**US$ 3049**	**US$ 3099**	**US$ 3299**	**US$ 3599**
Single Supplement	**US$ 450**	**US$ 499**	**US$ 899**	**US$ 1499**	**US$ 1950**	**US$ 3499**

TOUR LODGING INFO

07 Nights' Accommodation
Accommodation will be provided on a twin sharing basis

CITIES	NIGHTS	VESSEL
Cruise	07 Nights	Amadeus Elegant

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Cruise the Danube in the Amadeus Royal vessel
- Explore the 2,000-year-old Bavarian town of Regensburg
- Enjoy enchanting Passau, home to elegant colored buildings and graceful arcades
- Visit Melk, an important wine-growing region with picturesque villages and hilltop castles
- Discover the capital city of Austria, Vienna

TOUR PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Visa fees if applicable
- Optional activities
- Items of personal nature, tips & gratuities
- Travel insurance
- Any type of beverage other than Tea and coffee
- All items not mentioned as being included

TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES

- Accommodation at listed river cruise or similar
- Daily breakfast while on the cruise
- 06 lunches on board
- 07 dinners on board
- Cocktail reception
- Welcome Dinner
- Captain's Gala Dinner
- Experienced English speaking cruise director
- 24-hour coffee station
- Onboard entertainment
- In-stateroom infotainment center
- Complimentary use of onboard bicycles
- Fitness room (open 24 hours)
- Non-smoking environment (smoking permitted on the Sun Deck)
- All port charges
- All applicable Local taxes
- **Round trip International airfare from CHICAGO**
- Air taxes and fuel surcharges
- Arrival and departure transfers

AMADEUS PACKAGE:

USD $200.00/per person

Includes the following services: Wine, draft beer and soft drinks for lunch and dinner as well as bottled water in cabins (replenished daily), WIFI, Wireless AMADEUS-Audio-Guides by Quiet Vox for all excursions

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exceptional experiences!

Contact:
Siranda Swiergosz
Membership & Events Coordinator
Tomah Chamber & Visitors Center
Phone: 608.372.2166 (main line)
Email: sswiergosz@tomahwisconsin.com

Classical Danube - OCT 23- 31, 2018

1)Passenger Details: (Please write your name exactly as stated on your passport)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Salutation _____ DOB: _____

Passport # _____ Exp. Date: _____ Citizenship: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Country: _____ Telephone: _____

Rooming with _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Salutation _____ DOB: _____

Passport # _____ Exp. Date: _____ Citizenship: _____ Email: _____

2) Deposit & Payments: (accepted payment options are Visa and MasterCard)

No of Person _____ Total Amount: _____ Deposit: _____ Balance: _____ Balance payment deadline 23rd Jul 2018

Mode of Payment _____ Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

3)Declaration - I agree on behalf of all persons on this booking form to accept the unaltered Booking Conditions, Important Information and warrant that I have the authority of all persons named on this Booking Form to make booking subject to these conditions. I am over 18 years of age.

- A non refundable deposit of $500.00 per person, plus insurance premium if you opt for it, is due at the time of registration
- Balance payment and registration deadline - 23rd Jul. **2018**
- Tours are fully non refundable (both deposit and final balance) for any reason once submitted to Indus Travels
- Prices subject to change only if fuel surcharges go up, in which case additional charge may have be levied.
- Cancellations need to be submitted in writing on or before the registration deadline.

Passenger hereby acknowledges that all travel, and in particular international travel, carries certain risks, that passenger is voluntarily undertaking this optional recreational and educational activity, and that the Released Parties (as defined below) shall have no liability for property damage, loss or theft; illness, personal injury or death of any person; third-party liability; or fines or other punitive measures for breach of public laws (each a "Loss"). Passenger hereby agrees to assume all risks of any Loss arising out of the trip that passenger is undertaking in connection with this agreement (the "Trip") or any activity related to the Trip.

Passenger, on behalf of its heirs, survivors and assignees and any estate administrator, trustee, or the like, hereby releases Indus Travels and **Tomah Chamber & Visitors Center** and each of their officers, directors, agents, employees, members, affiliates, successors and assignees (the "Released Parties"), from any and all liability for any Loss. In no event shall any of the Released Parties be liable for any special, consequential or punitive damages. Indus Travels, and **Tomah Chamber & Visitors Center** reserve the right, in their discretion and without notice, to cancel, advance or postpone any scheduled event connected with the Trip and shall have the right to, but shall not be obligated to, substitute another event and shall not be liable for any refund, loss or expense whatsoever to any passenger, event participant, (or person intending or desiring to participate in an event) or any other person by reason of any such cancellation, advancement or postponement. No refund shall be made to any passenger who does not complete the Trip for any reason.

Passenger hereby acknowledges that it is strongly recommended that passenger purchase comprehensive insurance for trip cancellation or interruption, accident, emergency medical services and evacuation, and baggage damage, loss or delay through passenger's insurance agent or travel agent. Passenger hereby further acknowledges that **passenger is responsible for obtaining a valid passport and all required visas** and other travel documentation and inoculations.

Passenger hereby consents to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the courts in, and agrees that any action at law or in equity arising out of or relating to the Trip shall be filed only in, the state or federal courts located in BC, Canada. Passenger hereby consents and submits to the personal jurisdiction of such courts for the purposes of litigating any such action. If any of the provisions of this Release of Liability/Disclaimer shall be unlawful, void, or for any reason unenforceable, then such provision shall be deemed severable from the other above provisions and shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any of the remaining provisions. This Release of Liability/Disclaimer is the entire agreement between Indus Travels, and **Tomah Chamber & Visitors Center** on one part and passenger on the other relating to the subject matter here of and shall not be modified except in writing signed be each there of.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SPOTLIGHTS

Maximize Your Membership

BY SIRANDA SWIERGOSZ

Workforce. That seems to be the topic on everyone's mind these days. Whether the concern is not being able to find enough workers, or challenges with finding candidates with the right skills; businesses all over the region are struggling to find the talent they need. With this in mind, we are moving into 2018 with a focus on workforce. We will be leading a project to help connect businesses with the resources they need to solve their workforce issues. We will be working to develop local training opportunities for people to develop their soft skills as well as up-skill their technical skills. We will also be promoting what a great place this is to work, live and raise a family. One way to help with the worker shortage is to attract and retain talent in our community.

Additionally, we will be working to change the mindset of what a modern workforce looks like. Our workforce today does not and cannot look like it did 10 or 20 years ago. We need everyone who can work, and wants to work to have that opportunity. This means working with individuals that might have barriers to employment, such as a disability or a criminal record or poor work history. Many resources exist to help individuals overcome these barriers as well as to help businesses make reasonable accommodations. Workforce problems are not a one-way street. Businesses are not just victims of a poor workforce, and employees are not just victims of poor work-environments. This is a problem that will require us all to work together toward the goal of a thriving local workforce.

We're actively looking for businesses that are interested in partnering with us on this initiative. If this is a topic of interest to you, I would ask you to please call or email me at 608-372-2166 or sswiergosz@tomahwisconsin.com to discuss what workforce issues you're seeing in your business and how you would like to be involved.

On Base at Fort McCoy

BY THERESA FITZGERALD

Whitetail Ridge Ski Area

The Whitetail Ridge Ski Area has many activities open to the public during the winter season. Downhill skiing & snowboarding challenges skiers of all ages, from the novice to the experienced on the slopes supported by the National Ski Patrol. Enjoy downhill slopes with a vertical drop of over 185 feet. Snowboarding your thing? Come check out the terrain park. Grab a tube and head down one of the five snow tubing runs. The 800-foot-long slope, is sure to be a thrill! There is a warming hut at the bottom of the hill - to keep you warm in between runs. Cross-country skiing is also available with over 5 miles of scenic country on groomed trails. The abundant wildlife often make appearances on the beautiful trails. Whitetail Ridge offers a number of special events each season in addition to its usual activities. Special events planned for this season include:

- Snowshoe 5k (Jan. 6) — A 5k walk with snowshoes through the woods.
- Winter Extravaganza (Jan. 20) — An outdoor bash featuring a variety of contests for all ages & skill levels.
- Cardboard Classic (Jan. 27) — Build a sled out of cardboard & race it.
- Moonlit Snowshoe tour (Feb. 3) – A guided tour through the woods with three different trails to choose from.
- Military Appreciation & Chili Cook-Off (Feb. 10) — Specials for military members & Families; a chance for members of the public to show their appreciation. The Chili Cook-Off will be during the day.

All dates are tentative and subject to weather conditions. Pine View Recreation Area, Whitetail Ridge, and all events are open to the public.

Armed Forces Day Open House

Mark your calendars to attend Fort McCoy's Armed Forces Day Open House Saturday, May 19, 2018. Plans are underway for the annual event which is free and open to the public. All activities will take place in the historic Commemorative Area.

WISCONSIN'S CRANBERRY COUNTRY

Tomah

ADVERTISE WITH US

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION, YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS, OR NEWS!

space is only available for current chamber members

cost per page	*ad format*	*due to chamber*
ONLY $25 FULL COLOR	PDF or JPEG (OTHERS UPON REQ.)	A WEEK PRIOR TO MONTHS END

Ads are placed in the order that they're received. Send ads to info@tomahwisconsin.com

BENT PADDLE BREWING CO.

Tomah Area Cancer Support, Inc.

Craft Beer Social

With Patrick from Bent Paddle Brewery

Thursday, January 18th from 6-8pm
@ The Break Room Sports Bar & Grill,
Tomah, WI

Patrick will be on hand to answer any questions you might have about Bent Paddle Brewing and their beers. He might even have a suggestion or two?

not only will you get to try some amazing beers, you will also be helping Tomah Families affected by Cancer. For every Bent Paddle product sold, a portion of our proceeds will be donated to Tomah Area Cancer Support (TACS). Raffles and a silent auction with 100% going to TACS.

SPORTS BAR
THE Break Room
TOMAH, WI
& GRILL

Find out how we are Bending Tradition®
BENTPADDLEBREWING.COM
PADDLE RESPONSIBLY

@BENTPADDLEBEER

Adventure Awaits

at the

55th Annual Banquet

February 26th

Cranberry Country Lodge

Cocktails 5pm | Dinner 6pm

Live music by Under Paris Skies

Performance by Marilyn School of Dance

Formal Invite to Follow

Chamber & Visitors Center

Tomah

PREVIOUS ANNUAL BANQUET AWARD RECIPIENTS

Previous Military Member of the Year Winners

2006 1158th Transportation Company U.S. Army
2007 COL Gina Mason-Haberlin & CWO Harold Haberlin
2008 Pete Peterson (SMSgt-Ret)
2009 Major John Stocynski
2010 Tomah Veterans Memorial Committee
2011 Challenge Academy Cadets
2012 Veterans Assistance Foundation, Inc.
2013 CSM Dee Ann Dunstan
2014 COL Steven Nott
2015 The Legion Firing Squad
2016 Ken Larson and Family

Previous Community Service Award Winners

1965 Lawrence Szabo
1966 Donald Kortbein
1967 John Graf
1968 Lyle Coates
1969 Stan Zdrojowy
1970 Harv Protz
1971 Robert Steele
1972 Bill Holloway
1973 Joyce Mades
1974 Bill Holloway
1975 Bert Barry
1976 Betty Gilbertson
1977 Harris Allen
1978 Harold Alston
1979 Geraldine Asp
1980 John & Joan Hanson
1981 Keith Penniston
1982 Lawrence Fredrickson
1983 Pete Kuchar
1984 Tim Vernier
1985 Burnstad's, Northtowne Center
1986 John Peterson
1987 Joyce & Frosty Mades
1988 W P & L, Band Box Cleaners
1989 7-Up, Mega Foods
1990 F & M Bank, Hardware Hank
1991 Steele's, Tom Flock
1992 Jolene Feddersen
1993 Daniel Frantz
1994 Lawrence Powell
1995 Brian B.J. Rice
1996 Gregg Hagen
1997 Ed Thompson
1998 Phillip Schreiner
1999 Cyndy Hall
2000 Roy Skogen
2001 Dale & Shelly Trowbridge
2002 Don & Gwen Nelson
2003 Diane Pergande
2004 Sharon Larkin
2005 Baldwin Lloyd
2006 Dr. Bridget Owens
2007 LaVerne & Lloyd “Feets” Cramer
2008 Western Technical College
2009 John Hanson
2010 Joe Protz
2011 Donna Evans
2012 Rose Berry
2013 Judy Demming
2014 Cathy Coffey
2015 Jeff Cram
2016 Peter Malinger & Tim Malinger

Previous Member of the Year Winners

1965 C. E. "Pete" Bean
1966 Lester Gordon
1967 Dr. H.E. Wilkinson
1968 Gary Meyer
1969 Harley Sime
1970 Lloyd McCaskey
1971 Arnold Fick
1972 Pete Groothius
1973 Bill Schroeder
1974 Wayne "Bud" Johnson
1975 Pat Livengood
1976 Donald Kortbein
1977 E.A. Soderstrom
1978 Tomah School Athletes
1979 Harv Protz
1980 James Ebert
1981 Earle Fisher
1982 David Schreier
1983 Jubilee Committee
1984 Martin Noth
1985 Tomah Fire Dept.
1986 Drs. Kozarek, Landmann, Mubarak
1987 Pat Giesler
1988 Ruth Strozinsky
1989 Tomah Memorial
1990 Masonic Lodge
1991 Brian Evans
1992 Cardinal IG
1993 VA Medical Center
1994 Tomah Journal
1995 Norris-Vernier Motor Sales
1996 Tomah Pizza Hut
1997 Burger King
1998 Toro
1999 Magnum Radio
2000 Hilliker Tree Farm
2001 WCOW Radio
2002 Oakdale Electric Coop
2003 Tralmer's Sales & Service
2004 CenturyTel
2005 Ralph Cox
2006 Nodji and Jim Van Wychen
2007 J&R Variety
2008 Ground Round Grill
2009 Culver's of Tomah
2010 Burnstad's
2011 Exopac, LLC
2012 F & M Bank
2013 Gray Electric
2014 Farmer Construction
2015 Toro Co.
2016 Peking Chinese Restaurant

Previous Ambassador of the Year Winners

2015 Joe Martinez
2016 Don & Gwen Nelson

Previous Young Professional of the Year Winners

2012 Melissa Olson
2013 Tina Thompson
2014 Liz Weaver
2015 Sara Gigous

2017 Chamber Awards Nomination Request

The Greater Tomah Area Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for our Annual Awards Banquet.

Each year, we strive to acknowledge some of the businesses and people who contribute to the quality of life we all enjoy. Help us select this years award winners by giving us their names and the reason you are nominating them on the form below. All nominations will be considered by a committee with the actual awards presented at the 55th Annual Banquet on Monday, February 26th, 2018.

Member of the Year

Presented to an outstanding Chamber business member for exemplary commitment and service to the organization in 2017.

I nominate _____ for these reasons _____

_____

Community Service of the Year

Presented to an individual person as recognition for contributions and service to the Chamber and the Community in 2017.

I nominate _____ for these reason _____

_____

Military Service of the Year

Presented to an individual/group as recognition for contributions and service to the community in 2016.

I nominate _____ for these reasons _____

_____

Chamber Ambassador of the Year

Presented to an individual Ambassador in recognition of their ability to establish new contacts, strengthen relationships and access information and resources on behalf of Chamber Members.

I nominate _____ for these reasons _____

_____

Nominations are due by Friday, January 26th, 2018.
info_@tomahwisconsin.com | fax: 608.372.2167 | P. O. Box 625, Tomah, WI, 54660

VA Home Loan

FAIRWAY
INDEPENDENT MORTGAGE CORPORATION

Buy the home you deserve with VA Financing

If you're a military veteran or still in active service, you may qualify for a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) loan. These often require no down payment and have lower closing costs, which can help keep your savings secure.

PROGRAM FEATURES

- **100% financing with full VA entitlement***
- **Limited closing costs**
- **VA financing fees that can be "rolled" into the loan amount**
- **No prepayment penalties**
- **Fixed- and adjustable-rate loan terms**
- **A variety of eligible property types, including Town Homes and VA-Approved Condos**

A down payment is required if the borrower does not have full VA entitlement, or if the loan amount is greater than $424,100.

Veronica Stewart
Mortgage Loan Originator
NMLS# 457233

FAIRWAY
INDEPENDENT MORTGAGE CORPORATION

Cell: 608-343-5615
Office: 800-216-3368
Fax: 715-384-7520

veronica.stewart@fairwaymc.com
www.fairwaytomah.com
1400 Superior Ave. Tomah, WI 54660

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

CLUB TIMBERWOOD
QUARTERLY UPDATE!
Winter
2017/2018

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Member FDIC

Protecting Your Identity

By Alicia Weinshrott, Personal Banker & Electronic Banking Administrator

As 2018 begins, we are given a fresh start. In the past few years, notice of security breaches and identity theft has become a hot topic. Almost daily, we hear of a new security breach that has occurred. A major topic in recent months has been the Equifax breach. It is scary to think that a company that holds so much personal information has been the victim of attack, putting millions of individuals at risk. Our customers turned to us to find out what they can do to protect themselves.

We hope that by providing tips for our customers we will make them aware of, and show them how to mitigate, the risk of identity theft if a fraudster does get ahold of their information.

We urge you to be proactive to make sure that your identity is safe and secure this year and in the years ahead. Tax time is a common time that fraudsters may use the information obtained to file tax returns. Follow these tips to help prevent tax ID fraud:

- **File early.** File your tax return as soon as you are able, giving criminals less time to use your information to file a false return.
- **File on a protected Wi-Fi network.** If you are using an online service to file your return, be sure you are connected to a password-protected personal network. Avoid using public networks like a Wi-Fi hotspot at a coffee shop.
- **Use a secure mailbox.** If you are filing by mail, drop your tax return at the post office or an official postal box instead of your mailbox at home. Some criminals look for completed tax return forms in home mailboxes during tax season.
- **Find a tax preparer you trust.** If you are planning to hire someone to do your taxes, get recommendations and research a tax preparer thoroughly before handing over all of your financial information.
- **Shred what you do not need.** Once you have completed your tax return, shred the sensitive documents that you no longer need and safely file away the ones you do.
- **Beware of phishing scams by email, text or phone.** Scammers may try to solicit sensitive information by impersonating the IRS. Know that the IRS will not contact you by email, text or social media. If the IRS needs information, they will contact you by mail first.
- **Keep an eye out for missing mail.** Fraudsters look for W-2s, tax refunds or other mail containing your financial information. If you do not receive your W-2s, and your employer indicates they have been mailed, or it looks like it has been previously opened upon delivery, contact the IRS immediately.

From Online Banking and E-Statements to CardValet, Timberwood Bank has the tools to help keep your finances safe and secure. Contact a Timberwood Bank Representative today to see if you are using all of the products and services that we have available.

Source for tax filing tips: American Bankers Association.

BREAK ROOM FAVORITES!

Courtesy Linda Erbs

Pasta e Fagioli

Ingredients:

2 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1/2 lb. spicy (or sweet) Italian sausage
1 medium yellow onion, finely chopped
2 medium carrots, peeled and finely chopped
2 ribs celery, finely chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
2 15-oz. cans Great Northern Beans
1 15-oz. can diced tomatoes
1 32-oz. box chicken broth
2 sprigs rosemary, leaves finely chopped
1 1/2 c. ditalini pasta (or other small shape)
Freshly grated Parmesan, for garnish
Freshly chopped parsley, for garnish

Directions:

In a large, deep pot over medium heat, heat oil. Add sausage and cook, breaking up with a wooden spoon, until cooked through, about 5 minutes. Stir in onion, carrots, and celery and cook until slightly softened, about 5 minutes.

Add garlic and cook until fragrant, 1 minute more. Season with salt and pepper, then add in beans (with their liquid), diced tomatoes, chicken broth, and rosemary. Bring to a boil, then stir in ditalini.

Reduce heat to medium and cook until pasta is al dente, about 8 minutes. Taste and adjust seasoning if necessary.

Serve in bowls garnished with Parmesan and parsley.

Highlights from 2017

March Employee Jeans Donations went to Tomah Special Olympics, presented on St. Patrick's Day.

Boys & Girls Club Lemonade Day

Tractor Pull Volunteers...

Jenny, Andrea & Kristi

National Coffee Day with Lori, Sara, Elizabeth, and John

Chelsea & Brooke

Robert celebrated his 70th Birthday! Pictured with Kevin & Cody.

2017 Neighbor for Neighbor Harvest Challenge Donation

Timberwood Bank University

A new scholarship program for Tomah High School graduating seniors.

Find announcements, pictures and more on our Facebook page.

We are excited to present a new financial education opportunity for students! We recognize the need for financial literacy among our soon-to-be adults and want to help them prepare for their financial future. This seven-week program is our way to give back to our students and our community, helping them to be successful.

Classes will be held at Timberwood Bank on Wednesday evenings, February 14 through March 28, 2018. Topics include budgeting, savings, credit, loans, insurance, and planning for the future.

Application and additional information is available in the Resource Center of timberwoodbanks.com. Space is limited for this no-cost program with scholarship opportunities from $250 up to $1,000.

Application Deadline: January 12, 2018

Parents or students can contact us with any questions, (608) 372-2265.

Employee Anniversaries

Andy Doyle - 5 years
Sara Gigous - 1 year
Robert Holmes - 14 years
John Kenworthy - 14 years
Mandy McPeters - 1 year
Brenda Meyer - 14 years
Lori Miller - 14 years
Brooke Oliver - 5 years
Andrea Peterson - 7 years
Kevin Ravenscroft - 8 years
Melissa Santell - 1 year

Club Timberwood's Merchant of the Quarter

Superior Automotive

1231 N Superior Ave, Tomah | (608) 374-3493 | superiorautomotivetomah.com |

Club Timberwood Members: *Free tire rotation with an oil change.*

We are pleased to present a new Club Timberwood Merchant this quarter … Superior Automotive in Tomah! Superior Automotive is a family-owned, locally-operated automotive maintenance and repair service center owned by Tony and Paula Backes.

Tony has been an auto tech since he was 18 years old and he and Paula chose to open their own business in 2008. Tony, Paula and their employees strive to give you the best automotive experience possible. Superior Automotive has the technology and equipment necessary to effectively diagnose and fix your vehicle.

Superior Automotive offers full automotive service for all vehicle makes and models at an affordable price. Do not let your car repair and maintenance stress you out … Just follow the maintenance schedule in your owners manual to maximize the mileage and use of your car. When problems arise, do not hesitate to contact Superior Automotive where you can count on quality service in a timely manner.

From new tires and tire maintenance to oil changes and transmission repair, you can depend on the auto technicians at Superior Automotive to do a great job and do what is right for you as their customer.

Superior Automotive is proud to be a member of the Tomah Area Chamber of Commerce. You can find Tony and his team at their new location in north Tomah, 1231 N Superior Avenue.

Is your business a Club Timberwood Merchant? Call us today and find out how you can sign up!

Timberwood Staff Spotlight

Tempestt Bezemek

Customer Service Representative

Hobbies/Interests: boating, fishing, traveling, reading

What is your role at Timberwood Bank? Customer Service Representative. In this role we are usually the first point of contact the customer has, so it is our responsibility to ensure we make a first great impression. We help with an assortment of transactions from deposits, withdrawals, to loan payments, and more.

What movie are you ashamed to admit you love? Twilight

Are you messy or organized? At work - organized, but my closet at home is a disaster!

What aspect of your role at Timberwood Bank do you enjoy the most? The customer interaction. I always enjoy hearing about our customers, you really get to know them on a personal level.

What phobias do you have? Deathly afraid of frogs!!!!!

Biggest pet peeve? When people answer a question with a question.

What do you like most about Timberwood Bank? I love the overall support that each department gives to one another. It's definitely a team atmosphere.

Happy New Year!

Customer Service Representatives
Jamie Bair, Chelsea Hericks, Melissa Troutt, Nicole Hartman, Tempestt Bezemek, Melissa Santell, Courtney Pearsall, Jill Dahlke

Personal Bankers
Brooke Oliver, Kristi Betthauser, Alicia Weinshrott

Executive Chairman Robert Holmes
President & CEO Kevin Ravenscroft

Loan Officers
David Taylor, Kristi Arzt, Brent Olsen, Andy Doyle, Stephanie Woods, Tom Trautsch

Receptionists
Linda Erbs and Jenny Kochie

Operations
Rachel Oakes, Lori Miller, Elizabeth Zweifel, John Kenworthy, Matt Fries, Sally Spangler, Sara Gigous, Andrea Peterson, Brenda Meyer

Loan Support
Tressa Poirier, Mandy McPeters, Cody Mlsna, Colleen Bolchen, Jan Rewey, Pat Marten
Not Pictured: Kristine Schultz

Names Listed Left to Right

FROM THE CEO

New Year's Resolutions

BY TINA THOMPSON

Every year on January 1st, we take time to reflect on the time that is behind us and peer ahead in wonder at the fresh new year ahead of us. When we look back on 2017, we think of often think of all of the behaviors we would like to correct for 2018. Maybe you want to exercise more, go back to school, maybe you're going to try a new diet, or fix your finances, find your dream job or maybe you want to find a new way to give back, whatever it is your looking to do differently, follow these steps to put your plan in to action:

1. Find passion in whatever it is you want to do. Few people can stick to something if they feel no emotion for it. Even if you don't feel excited for the workout that you know you need to get out of bed for, you can find joy in completing the workout and how good your body feels when you're done.

2. Visualize your results. When you focus your mind on success, you eliminate the opportunity for negative thoughts of failure to creep in. Your actions will follow where your mind leads them.

3. Stick to it. Success is all about consistency. You are what you repeatedly do. Even on the days when you don't feel like it. Even on the days when you really want to buy that pair of Ugg boots that you didn't budget for. Buy the boots only when you have the money saved for them.

4. Plan ahead. When you're prepared, you set yourself up for success and reduce the opportunity for excuses to dominate.

5. Be patient. Real change doesn't happen over night. Real change takes more time that you will expect. Real change can take a full year. They say it takes 21 days to form a habit. I say that is complete hogwash. I say it is different for everyone. Don't put so much pressure on yourself to completely change your habits in three short weeks. Just focus on the day in front of you.

6. Forgive yourself. There will be stumbles along your path. There will be days when you make a mistake or deviate from your resolution. Those are the days when you must remember that perfection is unattainable. Be kind enough to yourself to forgive yourself and move on to the next day. Then, go right back to your plan.

The New Year is a great time to remind ourselves that we can start over and explore. Change can be a scary thing, but it can also be invigorating and exciting. Change is the land of new opportunity. Change is your chance to rewrite your story. I hope the new year finds each of you embracing all of the magic that change can represent.

HOLIDAY FUN

Tomah Police Department

The Tomah Police Department held its 2nd annual Shop with a Hero event. 25 special kids from the Tomah area were able to spend an evening with local hero's from the police, fire, and ambulance departments in our area. Those involved included police agencies from Tomah, Sparta, Fort McCoy, Wilton, VA, Cashton, and the Wisconsin State Patrol, along with the Tomah Fire Dept, and the Tomah Area Ambulance Dept. The money for the event was donated for a second year in a row from a special local hero who wished to remain anonymous. A special thank you to those that volunteered to help wrap the presents and thank you to Walmart for supplying the venue as well as everything to wrap the gifts.

Tomah Lioness Club

The Tomah Lioness Club held their annual Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, December 9th from 8-11 a.m.! What a wonderful turn out, so much fun for all ages!

Tomah Memorial Hospital

Thanks to area residents who remembered more than 800 family members and friends during a special holiday event at Tomah Memorial Hospital Sunday, Dec. 3. A crowd of more than 150 packed the hospital's classroom to attend the annual Hospice Touch "Love Light Tree" program. The ceremony included music and lighting of the Love Light tree outside the hospital, plus the public reading of names of more than 800 area residents who are no longer with loved ones. This year's program marked the 27th year Hospice has held the Love Light event in Tomah.

Tomah's VA Medical Center

Staff members of the Tomah VAMC shared in the spirit of the holidays as they delivered gifts and caroled throughout the medical center just before Christmas.

AROUND TOWN

F & M Bank & C.D.A.S.

F&M Bank was more than happy to donate to Chasing Daylight Animal Shelter's upcoming event Craft Beer Tasting & Chili Cook-Off. Make sure you save the date to this event on January 27th at the American Legion!

Timberwood Bank & Neighbor for Neighbor

Timberwood Bank employees presented their donation to the Neighbor for Neighbor, Inc. for their Harvest Challenge. Director Doug Staller mentioned they were raising funds for a new, larger freezer in order to accommodate their needs. We hope their goal was met!

Gundersen Health Systems

Hundreds of residents in Monroe, Jackson, Juneau, Adams and other counties seeking expert cancer care will soon be able to receive their care closer to home. Gundersen Health System has announced plans to build a 5,200 square-foot Comprehensive Cancer Center at their soon-to-be constructed Gundersen Tomah Clinic adjacent to the new Tomah Health facility.

Tomah Memorial Hospital

Congratulations to TMH registered nurse Abbey Rose, BSN, RN, the recipient of the first DAISY Award at TMH. Tomah Memorial chief nursing officer Tracy Myhre, MSN, RN, (PHOTO - left) presented the award to Abbey following an event at the hospital Dec. 6.

MBE CPAs

MBE CPAs' Brett Leibfried has passed the Uniform CPA Exam becoming a Certified Public Accountant in Wisconsin. Brett is a 2015 graduate of UW Whitewater and has been an associate with the firm for 2 years. He is from Baraboo and now enjoys working in the city he grew up in.

Marcus Ho-Chunk Cinema

Did you hear there was a new Star Wars movie released in December? (If not, you may live under a rock)... The Star Wars Fandom came out in full force (pun intended) for the premier at Tomah's Marcus Ho-Chunk Cinema! Many guests attended the sold out premier on Thursday, Dec. 14th. Pictured below is just a few of those attendees having some fun with the Darth Vader holiday decoration in the lobby.

MEMBERSHIP TIERS

Lead

BRICKL BROS.
Designers | Construction Managers | Builders

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HIGH PERFORMANCE PACKAGING

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TIMBERWOOD BANK

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Tomah Memorial Hospital
TomahHospital.org

TORO

UNIMIN
Tunnel City

Influence

Brenengen Auto
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GUNDERSEN HEALTH SYSTEM

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Partnership Bank

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TACU Credit Union

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Walmart

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All American Do it center

Band Box Cleaners & Laundry Inc.

Blackberry Hill Inc.

CARDINAL IG

CARDINAL TG

The City of Tomah

CliftonLarsonAllen

Cranberry Country Lodge

General Stamping & Metalworks

GERKE EXCAVATING

HO-CHUNK GAMING TOMAH

KWIK TRIP

LYNX Lemonweir Valley Telcom

MBE CPAs

Meca sportswear

Papa Murphy's Take N Bake Pizza

School District of Tomah Home of the Timberwolves

TRICOR INSURANCE

Walmart Distribution Center

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Carmichael & Quartemont, S.C.

Coldwell Banker River Valley, Realtors

DBS GROUP Design-Build Solutions

Denny's

FirstWeber Realtors

Habelman

Happy Kobirth

HO-CHUNK CINEMA Marcus Theatres

Homeland Cheese

Johnson of Wisconsin Transport, Co., Inc. Tomah, WI

Keene's Transfer Tomah, WI

The Meat Smyth LLC

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MWR

Ocean Spray

Schreier's Deeres Quality Used Tractors

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Atrium Centers Inc.
Customer centered. Employee owned.

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Yoga Leaf

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Carlson Advisors

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Chitwood Nicol & Matthews
Excellence in Dentistry

Culver's

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HI CRUSH

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World Finance