



Newman Catholic looks to return to top of 8-player heap

SPORTS, 2B

WAUSAU DAILY HERALD

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Loud sounds have hidden health risks



When using power tools, lawn equipment or other machinery, wear properly fitted earplugs or earmuffs from the start, rather than waiting until the noise becomes uncomfortable. PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

Noise pollution a serious but often forgotten hazard

Laura Coco
San Diego State University | THE CONVERSATION

The human body is remarkably good at getting used to the environment around it. You’ve probably experienced this if you’ve ever gone to a matinee and emerged from the dark theater into sunshine. Your eyes sting, so you squint and shield your face until they adjust to the bright sunlight. • In the same way, the body can grow accustomed to constant noise. With repeated exposure to traffic, leaf blowers, construction, loud music, crowded restaurants, fitness classes and sporting events, you can become accustomed to loud environments. Over time, what once seemed unusually loud may barely register.

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Hearing damage is only part of the story. Noise acts as a stressor, activating the autonomic nervous and endocrine systems and affecting heart rate, blood pressure and other physiological processes.

Wausau West magazine earns Gold Medalist honor

Nida Tazeen
Wausau Daily Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

WAUSAU – Wausau West High School’s Publications Lab and its student-produced magazine, “Warrior’s Word,” earned a Gold Medalist rating from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association after receiving a score of 960 out of 1,000 in the organization’s Medalist Critique review.

The recognition was awarded in September, according to a community announcement. Student publications from across the United States, Canada and other countries participate in the annual judging process.

“To earn that score and get this level of acknowledgement at the national level is just an amazing accomplishment,” Wausau West Publications Lab advisor W. Keith Roerdink said. “I’m so proud of the students on staff that contributed to this. It’s a truly talented group that is passionate about what they do and it shows.”

The award recognized the first- and second-semester editions of “Warrior’s Word” published during the 2025–26 school year. The magazine also received All-Columbian honors in the Essential, Verbal and Visual categories.

Judges commended the publication’s reporting, writing and coverage.

“The diverse coverage entices readers. The writers address topics through substantive research and interviewing; the outstanding interviewing skills result in thoughtful, in-depth quotes. All topics are covered responsibly and with maturity. Reading your magazine vividly takes you on a journey to high school life.”

National recognition for student journalism

The Gold Medalist distinction is one of the top honors awarded through the Columbia Scholastic Press Association’s critique program. According to the announcement, the 960-point score placed “Warrior’s Word” among the highest-rated student publications evaluated through the review process.

The magazine’s recognition reflects work produced throughout the school year by students involved in reporting, writing, photography, design and magazine production.

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One year on, Trump’s Gaza plan stalled

REUTERS

JERUSALEM – President Donald Trump’s year-old plan to end the Gaza war has stalled, with Israel mounting near-daily attacks and occupying around two-thirds of the shattered enclave where Palestinians face dire conditions.

The initial phase resulted in a ceasefire on Oct. 10, 2025, and secured the release of the last remaining hostages

seized in Hamas’ 2023 attacks on Israel, along with freedom for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and detainees held by Israel.

But other goals, including disarming Hamas, securing Israeli withdrawal and rebuilding Gaza, appear far from reach.

What was in the plan?

The first phase of Trump’s 20-point plan included a suspension of all mili-

tary operations, Israeli withdrawal from part of the enclave, hostage and prisoner releases and a surge in aid.

Later phases foresaw Hamas disarming and new governance by a Palestinian body overseen by the Trump-led Board of Peace. Israel would gradually withdraw, handing territory to a temporary International Stabilization Force, or ISF.

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An EU and U.N. assessment estimated Gaza recovery and reconstruction needs at \$71.4 billion over the next decade. BASHAR TALEB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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