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Supervisors reject Pine Crest funding referendum resolution

Lincoln County back to square one regarding Merrill facility's future

BY JALEN MAKI AND TINA L. SCOTT
TOMAHAWK LEADER EDITOR AND MERRILL FOTO NEWS EDITOR

A proposed referendum related to the funding of Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill will not be on election ballots this fall. During its meeting at the Lincoln County Service Center in Merrill on Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors rejected a resolution that sought to place a binding referendum on ballots for the Tuesday, Nov. 5, election. Under the proposed resolution, if it had been approved by voters, Lincoln

County would have been allowed to exceed levy limits by \$5 million each year from 2025 to 2029 to fund operations, maintenance, repairs, updates, and debt service at Pine Crest. The resolution had been approved by the County's Administrative and Legislative (A&L) and Finance and Insurance Committees by a 7-2 vote in a joint meeting earlier this month. The rejection of the resolution comes about six weeks after an agreement for Lincoln County to sell the Merrill facility fell through. In July, Merrill Campus LLC and Senior Management Inc., the

organizations which were previously set to purchase Pine Crest from the County, terminated the Asset Purchase Agreement with Lincoln County in response to a lawsuit filed by Lincoln County District 7 Supervisor and People for Pine Crest member Donald J. Dunphy in May. The lawsuit, which Dunphy said was his "vehicle to keep Pine Crest from being sold," was dismissed in late July. **The proposed resolution** The proposed resolution was authored by Board Chair and District 10 Supervisor Jesse Boyd and co-sponsored by District 12

Supervisor Julie DePasse. According to the resolution, under the current management agreement between Lincoln County and North Central Health Care (NCHC), which manages Pine Crest, Lincoln County is required to provide NCHC with an annual cash stipend of \$440,000 to fund four full-time maintenance staff positions and to "bear the financial costs of routine facility maintenance and repair services for Pine Crest Nursing Home." The resolution said the sum of these obligations comes out to about \$900,000 each year. "NCHC is currently making the debt payment,"

the resolution stated. "However, Lincoln County is ultimately responsible for the debt service for Pine Crest Nursing Home, approximating \$630,000 annually through the year 2038." For "numerous years," the resolution said, Pine Crest expenditures have exceeded gross revenues, leading to the use of the facility's cash reserves and fund balances to cover losses. "Although this trend appears to have changed, there remains a risk of reoccurrence," the resolution stated. The resolution pointed to the State of Wisconsin's nearly \$1.6 million decrease

in annual supplemental and Certified Public Expenditure payments for Pine Crest. In response to operational losses, decreased supplemental funds, and "insufficient reserves," NCHC requested that Lincoln County provide an additional roughly \$1 million to cover the nursing home's estimated 2022 operating deficit, the resolution said. That allocation ultimately came from the County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The resolution said it is "anticipated that Pine Crest Nursing Home could

See PINE CREST FUNDING page 4

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Celebrating community services at Community Night Out

TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

Held last Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024, Merrill's annual Community Night Out event offered the community a chance to interact with, explore, and learn more about community services, equipment, staff, and a whole lot more. It was a great family-friendly event!



Officer McCaskill of the Merrill Police Department interacts with a young lady at the Community Night Out.

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Some kids even climbed up inside to see what it might be like to fly in a helicopter.



Community Night Out attendees got a chance to check out the Aspirus MedEvac helicopter. **Joseph Frederick photos.**

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County Board designates ARPA funding, approves borrowing for landfill

TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

In addition to the Pine Crest referendum issue, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors approved several other resolutions during its Aug. 20, 2024, meeting designating the use of the County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. As part of ARPA regulations, all funds must be obligated (defined as having "an order placed for property and services and entering into contracts, subawards, and similar transactions that require payment") no later than Dec. 31, 2024, or the money must be returned.

Marketing During the meeting, Supervisors voted 13-6, based on the recommendation of the County's Administrative and Legislative (A&L) Committee, to use \$302,182 previously earmarked as Marketing Designated ARPA funds as follows: 32,500 for a 1-year contract with Placer AI; 246,000 for a 30-month contract with Discover Wisconsin; \$2,600 for advertisement in Trail Tales; and \$21,082 in a reservation app and/or other related incidental costs. The County Board has previously indicated the goal of their recent branding efforts are to

market tourism and bring visitors to Lincoln County to visit/stay to increase sales tax and the Board felt these expenditures working through professional marketing sources would help effect that goal. The motion to approve the resolution to obligate these funds was brought by District 20 Supervisor Angela Cummings and seconded by District 12 Supervisor and Board Vice-Chair Julie DePasse. Chair Boyd requested a roll call vote after a voice vote was too close to tally. Supervisors Elizabeth McCrank, Derek Woellner, Andrew Zelinski, Laurie Thiel, Jesse Boyd, Julie

DePasse, Alan Bishop, Marguerite Lyskawa, Marty Lemke, Dana Miller, James Meunier, Angela Cummings, and Greg Hartwig (13) all voted in favor of the resolution, with Supervisors Donald Dunphy, Christine Vorpapel, Randy Detert, Ken Wickham, Joseph Dorava, and Eugene Simon (6) voting no.

River Bend Trail Supervisors also voted to designate \$75,000 of ARPA funds to the River District Development Foundation as a Beneficiary (a/k/a River Bend Trail). The A&L

See COUNTY BOARD page 3

MERRILL Foto News

In observance of **LABOR DAY**

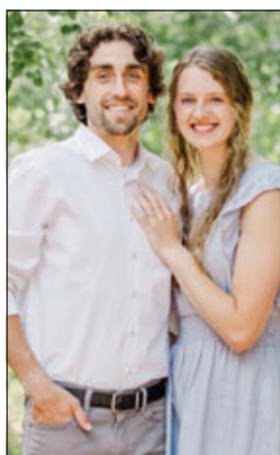
Our offices will be closed on **Monday, September 2nd.**

Early Ad Deadlines for The Sept. 5th Issue Display & Classifieds: Friday, Aug. 30th at 3pm

Three new teachers at Trinity Merrill

Trinity Lutheran School in Merrill will welcome three new teachers to the staff when classes begin this Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024. Mr. Bennett Reisler will be the 8th grade homeroom teacher and teach middle school social studies and religion, Mrs. Julia Arntson will be the fifth grade homeroom teacher and teach middle school science and art, and Mrs. Lisa Johnson will be the new kindergarten teacher.

Reisler is a graduate of Concordia University Wisconsin and formerly taught at Lutheran High School in Parker, Col., and Martin Luther High School in Greendale, Wis. He is a product of Lutheran schools for his whole educational career and is a second generation Lutheran teacher, as his entire family works in education. Recently



Mr. Bennett Reisler with his wife, Taylor.

Submitted photo.

married to his wife, Taylor, Reisler said the Call to teach at Trinity came as a blessing from the Lord when God opened doors professionally for both of them. "It was clear to me from the start of my conversations with leadership that the ministry

culture and focus at Trinity are special," Reisler said. "Throughout my process, the intentionality on relationships and boldness sharing the Gospel have been aspects of ministry that were evident and that I know are a gift to partner with." Reisler brings a passion and energy for both his subject matter and for developing student-family relationships. It's always his hope to have his students walk away having improved their skills and understanding, but more importantly, having grown their faith and joy for sharing God's love in their daily lives, he said. The Reislers are big fans of the outdoors, country music, reading, and sports, and Taylor's mother, aunts, and grandpa all currently attend Trinity Church.

Arntson graduated from Martin Luther College and was called to teach at Northland Lutheran High School following graduation. Now she is



Mrs. Julia Arntson with her husband, Devan.

Submitted photo.

looking forward to teaching at Trinity and learning more about each of the students, teaching them science, and sharing Jesus's love with them. Arntson said she accepted the position at Trinity because she wanted a career that involved her love of science, teaching, and Jesus. This position was a perfect fit, and being

across the street from her husband, Devan, was a perk too! Arntson lived in Quito, Ecuador, for a year, perfecting her Spanish and teaching Bible classes. She has traveled to 10 countries and 49 states.

Johnson comes to Trinity with more than 23 years of experience in the education ministry, including more than 17 years dedicated to early childhood, and said she is thrilled to be starting a new journey as Trinity's kindergarten teacher. Johnson is a devoted wife and mother of three. Her eldest child, Naomi, lives in Minnesota; her middle child, Lukas, is in heaven; and her youngest, Jayden, is set to begin his Junior year at MAPS this fall. While teaching is her passion, "Mrs. Lisa" also finds joy in expressing her creativity through watercolor and acrylic painting and other craft activities. She and her husband, Scott (a/k/a Principal Johnson), love their time camping with



Mrs. Lisa Johnson with her husband, Scott (who also happens to be the Principal). Submitted photo.

their three active dogs. Together, they are excited to be a part of Trinity's ministry opportunity in the community. Mrs. Lisa's favorite Bible verse is 2 Corinthians 9:12: "Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!" As she begins the new school year, she said she feels the joy of the Lord - especially in the opportunity to share Jesus with the children of Trinity School.

St. Francis Parish to run Discovering Christ video program

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Merrill recently announced plans to offer "Discovering Christ," an educational series aimed at persons who are searching for added meaning and understanding in their lives. The series will start on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024, and continue for seven weeks, ending on October 23.

"Discovering Christ" is an experience that invites participants to hear the good news and personally encounter Jesus Christ. Babysitting services will be provided for attendees with small children. The program is free and open to all.

Sessions will begin with a meal at 5:45 p.m., followed by a welcome address and

prayer. A video will be shown, followed by small group discussion. Evenings will end at approximately 8:30 p.m. A retreat will be conducted on Saturday, October 12, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Discovering Christ" is part of an educational series that was developed in Baltimore, Md. and is offered by ChristLife Ministries.

The program is different from most other faith formation and education programs because of its four-part meeting structure and its use of video training and discussions.

To register for the program, contact Kris Leggett at St. Francis Xavier Parish office, 715.536.2803.

Fueling success: Back-to-school nutrition advice for parents from a Registered Dietitian

As the new school year approaches, making sure your kids get the right nutrition is key to supporting their overall health and well-being. Mary Cherne Schoenfelder, a registered dietitian with Aspirus St. Luke's in Duluth, Minn., shares a few simple tips for parents to help their kids start the school year with healthy eating habits.

"Healthy foods are packed with vital nutrients that are crucial for a child's growth and development," said Schoenfelder. "A varied, nutritious diet helps establish healthy habits and positive relationships with food and our bodies." However, school-age kids have the lowest diet quality compared to other age groups, despite having the highest nutritional needs, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). To help parents make informed decisions, Schoenfelder shared her expert advice on how to nourish kids for a successful school year.

Make fruits and veggies fun

Fruits and vegetables are rich in vitamins, minerals, and fiber, promoting healthy digestion and

overall wellness. To engage children, Schoenfelder suggests framing foods in an appealing and fun way: "Instead of labeling foods as 'good' or 'bad,' explain how different colors and types of foods benefit their health."

For example, teach children things like "red foods are good for our hearts" or "orange foods help us see in the dark." This approach not only makes eating healthier more interesting but also helps kids understand the positive impact of their food choices.

Build a balanced lunch

The right foods at lunchtime will help children stay focused and energetic throughout their day. Schoenfelder recommends including a mix of carbohydrates (such as grains, rice, and pasta) and proteins (like meat, fish, eggs, and nuts) along with a variety of fruits and vegetables.

Packing a lunch that looks appetizing can also encourage kids to eat. Avoid sending fruits that might become unappetizing by lunchtime and consider using fun shapes or colorful containers to make the

meal more engaging.

Ensure containers are easy to open and remember that many kids have limited time for lunch. "Packing nutrient-dense foods will help ensure they get the energy they need in the time they have," Schoenfelder said.

Don't skip breakfast

Breakfast is a crucial part of a child's day. "Kids who eat breakfast tend to perform better in school and have more energy," said Schoenfelder.

Whether preparing breakfast at home or utilizing the school breakfast program, aim for a mix of carbohydrates, protein, and fruits or vegetables.

Understand portion sizes and eating patterns

"I see parents put a lot of pressure on themselves to make sure their kids are eating enough," said Schoenfelder. "But kids will have different needs depending on their hunger and activity levels."

While parents choose the foods and timing, it's important to let kids have a say in deciding which foods to eat and how much. Balancing this approach

can be difficult, but it helps children develop healthy eating habits. Encourage children to listen to their hunger and fullness cues. As a general guideline, you can use the plate model as a guide: one-fourth carbohydrates, one-fourth protein, and half fruits and vegetables.

Support healthy eating habits at home

Schoenfelder emphasizes the importance of family meals. "Eating together not only models healthy relationships with food, but also strengthens family bonds. Kids who eat with their families tend to do better in school and have lower chances of engaging in risky behaviors later on."

By following these tips, parents can help their children develop healthy eating habits that support their well-being throughout the school year and beyond.

Mary Cherne Schoenfelder, MPP-D, RDN, LD, sees patients at Aspirus St. Luke's Clinical Nutrition in Duluth. If you are seeking extra help with your child's nutrition, talk with their pediatrician. They can help you connect you with a registered dietitian in your area.

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New 2024-25 Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) Teachers. Front row (floor) L to R: Julia Bant, Speech/Language at Kate Goodrich School; Heather Schmidt, Speech/Language for the MAPS District; Maria Pernsteiner, Leadership/ACP at Prairie River Middle School (PRMS). Middle row (sitting) L to R: Julie Schroder, Art at Merrill High School (MHS); Tammy Neeb, Special Education at MHS; Makayla Nelson, Kindergarten Teacher at Kate Goodrich; Megan Schimka, Science at MHS; Samantha Braun, Social Studies at MHS; Jayda Bushor, Fourth Grade at Washington School. Back row (standing) L to R: Chloe Morris, Special Education at Kate Goodrich; Amanda Page, Seventh Grade Social Studies at PRMS; Rachel Sippel, District Reading Specialist; Kayla Williams, Art at PRMS; Shawn Geier, STEAM Teacher at PRMS; Cody Terrell, Music/Band at PRMS; Taylor McFarlane, English at MHS; Hannah Horenberger, Social Studies at PRMS; and Eliza Moon, Fourth Grade at Washington School.

Tina L. Scott photo.

COUNTY BOARD
from page 1

Committee recommended the resolution to continue to develop the River Bend Trail within Lincoln County. In April the Board approved the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Planning of Wausau to Merrill Trail Corridor Plan which will extend the walking/biking trail between the two cities. While the Trail Corridor process is still at the Master Plan Stage (final design, property acquisition, development, and capital improvements to occur later), progress on the trail is contingent on funding, and the Board supports continuing the River Bend Trail to both the east and west and believes it will draw additional people to Merrill. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Park improvements

Next up the County Board voted to designate \$170,000 of ARPA funds for Forestry Park Improvement Projects to further facilitate Lincoln County's destination branding ("Lincoln County: Where the Northwoods Start and Your Adventure Begins") and increase tourism by improving Forestry Park Improvement projects "to highlight our unique characteristics and resources in our campgrounds, and increase attractiveness, usage, and increase fee potential." Some of the following projects, previously identified as having significant value to increasing park usage, were already completed or begun but costs exceeded initial estimates, so the ARPA funds would be used to prioritize as many of these projects as possible: an electric pump and shower at Tug Lake, adding a kayak launch to New Wood Park, repair of the New Wood Park bridge which is heavily used as part of the Ice Age Trail, development of additional trail heads, etc. The motion to approve carried by a voice vote.

Gravel acquisition

The Board also voted to designate \$250,000 of ARPA funds to acquire gravel - either through land purchase within the county or via other gravel acquisition expense - to be used for upcoming road projects in Lincoln County. The A&L Committee recommended the allocation. The resolution noted the current cost to produce gravel is \$4.90/yard, in which \$2.72/yard is crushing costs, and purchasing gravel from an outside entity costs \$9.50/yard, and there is an opportunity to purchase land that is expected to have approximately 640,000 - 1 million usable yards of pit run to produce high quality road gravel for future use and that having multiple access locations throughout the county also reduces hauling expenses. Should the purchase of the land not occur, there are other gravel acquisition expenses that would occur. The motion to approve carried by a voice vote.

Printing equipment and systems

Finally, the Board approved designating \$150,000 of ARPA funding to procure, configure, and deploy the County's outdated print equipment and related systems and services which are 7-10 years old. "Whereas, the capital improvement fund may not be able to cover the cost of an outright equipment purchase," the funds will be used "to offset the capital expense and labor to replace aging print equipment in the upcoming budgetary cycle and capitalization of the print equipment upfront will continue to limit the operational costs of printing and copying throughout all County departments to mirror current low costs of operation due to outright ownership." The "funding will be spent in its entirety on print equipment and related ancillary services in order to reduce costs by eliminating equipment

needed or improving efficiencies" and could include but is "not limited to, electronic secure fax, paperless document management process mapping and solutions, backlog scanning of physical records and applying proper retention schedules, and traditional mail services" the resolution said. The motion to approve carried by a voice vote.

Board approves borrowing up to \$4,030,000 for landfill

In the final resolution of the meeting, the Board voted unanimously to borrow up to \$4,030,000 to pay the cost of landfill expansion projects, acquisition of equipment, and other capital improvement projects and to issue general obligation promissory notes for this expense. The interest rate on the borrowing shall not exceed 4.50% and repayment of the borrowing is anticipated to take place over the next five years, resulting in an increase in the tax levy to Lincoln County residents in the years 2024 through 2029 for the payments due in the years 2025 through 2030.

"I just need everyone to understand that this is not optional. The DNR is telling us this is what you will do," said Angela Cummings, District 20 Supervisor and Finance and Insurance Committee member, during discussion about the landfill expansion expenses.

Board members discussed and explained that even if the County opted to close the landfill, they are required to hold money in trust in the unlikely event that the liner should fail at some point in the future, to cover cleanup costs. Solid Waste is already looking at tipping fees and adjusting those accordingly and is minimizing outside counties bringing garbage in, and they are making efforts to best utilize their resources. However, that just isn't enough money to cover the costs of the needed equipment, closing one

landfill cell, and opening a new one, and there are no other resources to tap into to generate the required funds.

"We really don't have much choice here," said Julie DePasse, District 12 Supervisor and Chair of the Finance and Insurance Committee.

The motion to approve the resolution passed unanimously on a voice vote.



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CIRCULATION AUDIT BY
CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

OBITUARIES

Darlene V. Raunio



Darlene V. Raunio, 76, of Tomahawk, passed away Friday, August 16, 2024 at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. Darlene was born March 1, 1948 in Chicago, Illinois, the daughter of Arvid and Evelyn (Nelson) Shellberg. She was united in marriage on June 22, 1968 to Larry Raunio in Chicago, IL and he preceded her in death on July 6, 2010.

Darlene is survived by her daughter, Lisa (Chris) Volkman, Sugar Camp; grandson, Elijah (Maddie Sowinski), Sugar Camp; granddaughter, Naomi (Ethan) Spears, Sugar Camp; sister-in-law, Judith Ranta-Menge, Merrill; nephew, Steve (Robbin) Ranta and their 2 girls, Jennifer & Sarah; niece, Lynn (Jon) Woller, Merrill and their 2 girls, Katie & Krista.

Memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at Krueger-Nimsgern Funeral Home with Pastor Josh Reese officiating. Visitation was held from 10:00 a.m. to time of service at Krueger-Nimsgern Funeral Home. Burial will be at a later date.

Online condolences for the family may be directed to www.nimsgernfuneral.com

Judith "Judy" Kay Chartier



Judith "Judy" Kay Chartier, age 80, of Merrill, passed away on Friday, August 23, 2024 at Bell Tower Residence in Merrill, with her family by her side and while under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services. She was born on October 18, 1943, to the late Frank and Frieda (Lechelt) Lee in Merrill. Judy attended and graduated from Merrill High School. She met Darrell Chartier and the two exchanged marriage vows in May of 1973, in Merrill. Sadly, Darrell passed away on December 2, 2018.

Judy worked in the purchasing department at Weinbrenner Shoe Factory in Merrill, before working at Graebel Van Lines as an accounts payable supervisor, until her retirement.

Judy always looked forward to shopping trips with her "girls" and friends, there were many deals to be had and many treasures to find! She was an avid bowler and enjoyed bowling on leagues with friends, as well as working on sewing projects at home. Judy looked forward to her special visits from her fur-buddy, "Cocoa". She adored her grandchildren and is remembered as a caring, giving and selfless woman that was also very strong-willed. She was a member at St. John Lutheran Church in Merrill.

Judy will be missed dearly, but never forgotten. Judy is survived by her daughter: Melissa (Troy) Bessert, granddaughters: Jordyn Chartier and McKenna (Nick Myre) Bessert, with great grandsons: Huxley and Holland and brother: John (Joyce) Lee, all of Merrill. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband: Darrell Chartier and brothers: David and Jim Lee.

The memorial service for Judy was held on Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill. Pastor David Szeto officiated. Visitation was held on Wednesday, August 28, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service, also at the funeral home. Inurnment at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery will take place at a later date.

The family would like to give a huge "shout out" to the staff at Bell Tower for their excellent care and compassion shown to Judy and her family during her many years there. They truly made it a great place for her.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Judy's name to the American Alzheimer's Association.

Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.

Karen Jane Jaeger



Karen Jane Jaeger, age 79, of Merrill, passed away at her home on Monday, August 19, 2024, with her loving family by her side and under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services. She was born on October 4, 1944 to the late Edwin and Dorothy (Marquardt) Schultz in Marshfield, WI. Karen met the love of her life and soul mate, Alan Jaeger, and the two were united in marriage on February 9, 1990 in Merrill, a loving and adventure-filled union lasting

34 years. He survives.

Karen worked in the banking industry for most of her adult life, most recently as a teller at M&I Bank in Merrill, until her retirement. She loved traveling, and went so many places with friends and family, including Alaska, Hawaii, Africa, The Bahamas and 19 fishing trips to Canada! Karen was an outdoors woman and loved working in her gardens, fishing, deer hunting or just relaxing by the river at their home. In her younger years, Karen and Alan would go polka dancing and attend a party or two. She also enjoyed bird watching, playing solitaire, cribbage and working in her cross-word books. Karen was an avid reader and looked forward to a good book. She is remembered by family as a loving and caring woman, that was a wonderful wife, adored her bonus children and grandchildren, and was an honest and trustworthy person. Karen will be sadly missed, but the memories will remain.

Karen is survived by her husband: Alan Jaeger of Merrill, bonus daughters: Jeannie (Eric) Lokemoen of Merrill and Debi (Jeff) Bonnell of Merrill, bonus son: Daniel (Christina) Jaeger of Merrill, bonus grandchildren and great grandchildren, sisters: Judy Howard of Sun Valley, CA, Gerry (Wayne) Faude of Meridian, ID, twin sister: Carol Meier of South Dakota, Dolly Faulkner of Bethel, AK, Eileen (Bruce) Krenz of Athens, WI and June (Jim) Gempler of Meridian, ID, brother: Ed (Doreen) Schultz of Athens, WI, sister-in-law and good friend: Pam Kufahl, along with numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents: Edwin and Dorothy Schultz, father-in-law and mother-in-law: Alfred and Helen Jaeger, brothers-in-law: Nick Howard, Albert Meier and Harry Faulkner, as well as her baby doggie: "Bingo".

A Celebration of Life for Karen will be held at a later date.

Family requests that donations in Karen's name be sent to either the Lincoln County Humane Society or Wags of Wisconsin, as she had a deep love for animals and animals in need.

Karen's family would also like to extend appreciation to Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services for their care and support, shown to both Karen and her family during her last days.

Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.

LeaAnn Biggs



LeaAnn Biggs, 67, of Merrill, passed away peacefully August 19, 2024 at Azura Memory Care in Oshkosh.

LeaAnn was born December 7, 1956 to Ken (Bernice) Zimmerman and Grace (Ron) Goings. She graduated Merrill High School. She held many positions in local retail establishments with the most recent VIP Office Supply and Dave's County Market. She married Richard Biggs, December 2, 1977. She enjoyed camping with friends and family,

ATVing, sewing and quilting, being outdoors, reading mystery books and playing with her grandchildren.

LeaAnn is survived by her husband Richard; daughters Stacy (Corey) Opper, Stevens Point and Sarah (Jason) Yingling, Merrill; 4 grandchildren Keltin, Ashlan, Kyle and Bethany; sisters Cathy (Brian) Weiler, Mary Tesch, and brother Mark Zimmerman.

She was preceded in death by father Ken Zimmerman, mother Grace Goings, Sister Jean Reetz, brother Mike Zimmerman, and Grandparents Otto & Minnie Weisman.

Celebration of life will be held Saturday, September 14 at S & S Bar Banquet Hall, 418 Grand Ave, Merrill WI 1:00 to 5:00.

Karen A. Theilig (Sense)

Karen A. Theilig (Sense), age 67, of Merrill, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, August 22, 2024 at the Marshfield Medical Center in Weston, WI. She was born on May 30, 1957 in Merrill and attended and graduated from Merrill High School. Karen met Michael Theilig and the two exchanged marriage vows on September 15, 1990, in Merrill. He survives.

Karen worked for many years at Semco Menke in Merrill, and more recently, she worked part-time at Fleet Farm in Wausau. She looked forward to going to work there and enjoyed her co-workers very much. Karen was also an avid reader. Above all, she was the best mom to her fur-babies over the years. They meant the world to her and Princess will miss her dearly. Karen loved coming home to them and caring for them.

Karen is survived by her husband: Michael Theilig, brother: Ron (Barb) Sense and her beloved fur-baby: Princess. She was preceded in death by her parents, brother: Jerry Sense and three fur-babies: Dyna, Callie and Katana.

A Celebration of Life for Karen will be held on Wednesday, September 4, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill.

Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.

Nola Wilson



Nola Wilson found her peace on August 10, 2024 after her battle with dementia, diabetes, and a stroke.

Nola Ann was born in Pontiac, MI along with her twin sister Nancy May on April 21, 1945 to Leo and Eva Morris. She met Gerald (Jerry) Wilson in high school and married in November 1966. Together they had two daughters Pamela and Christine.

The family relocated to Edgar, WI in 1982, where they remained until both girls graduated high school. Jerry and Nola relocated to Merrill, WI where they remained for over 40 years. In 2020 they relocated to Stevens Point, WI to be closer to family.

Nola leaves behind husband Jerry and her two daughters Pam (Patrick) Swope, and Christine Wilson. She also leaves her grandchildren Mitchell (India) Wilson, Patrick Wilson, and Jordyn Swope, and her great-grandson Marlin. Also behind are her "no-brother-good-in-law" James Moore, Mosinee, Jim (Kristy) Moore, Mosinee, Scott (Tricia) Moore, Minnesota, Jay Moore, Round Lake, IL, and Jerry (Jenny) Moore, Utah, along with her grand-nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by both of her parents and her twin sister Nancy Moore.

The family wishes to thank everyone at Maple Ridge Memory Care where Nola resided during her final time with us, as well as Aspirus St. Michael's Hospital, Stevens Point and Inclusa Management Care Organization.

The family asks that remembrances are made in the name of Nola Wilson to the Humane Society, as Nola was a huge animal lover.

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PINE CREST FUNDING
from page 1

continue to sustain similar deficits in the foreseeable future" and noted that the facility requires roughly \$12 million in maintenance, repairs, and updates over the next decade.

Lincoln County does not maintain replacement reserve funds to cover these costs, according to the resolution.

The County's share of costs for operating, maintaining, repairing, and updating the nursing home, as well as guaranteeing debt service, is estimated to be \$20 million between 2025 and 2029, the resolution said, which led to the proposed \$5 million yearly funding request.

The \$5 million annual levy would have had an estimated \$186 tax impact per \$100,000 of the assessed

See PINE CREST FUNDING page 5

OBITUARIES

Estelle R. Klemp



Estelle R. Klemp, age 95, of Merrill, peacefully passed away in her sleep on Friday, August 23, 2024, at Bell Tower Residence while under the care of Compassus Hospice.

She was born on July 1, 1929, in Galloway, WI to the late Otis and Lorna (Bestul) Anderson. The family lived in Idaho for 2 years before they returned to Wisconsin and settled on a farm in the Town of Harding. She attended a one-room school in the country, then graduated from Merrill Sr. High School.

Estelle married Lyle Klemp in Merrill, WI in 1948, and they had 3 children; Mary (Rick) King, Rothschild; Robert (deceased); Zona (Joel) Lemanski, Marathon, WI. Estelle had 4 grandchildren: Tracy (Jason Steele) King, Jonathan (Nikki) Lemanski, Michael (Ashley) Lemanski, and Sarah (fiancée Sam Bougie) Lemanski, Appleton, WI. She also had 2 grand-dogs: Max and Roscoe and great-granddogs, Mac and Otis.

Estelle worked at the Hanson Glove Factory for several years and became a stay-at-home mom when the kids came along. She loved to sew and made many outfits for her growing family (we have the pictures!) and later she did sewing and alterations from home for the Corner Shop in Merrill. Her sewing skills were amazing and she had a talent for making the most difficult clothing alterations look easy. Her last job was doing ad lay-out for the Merrill Shoppers Guide/Foto News. She loved to bake pies (they were the best!) There was always something good baking in the oven. Estelle was an avid reader, and enjoyed reading books and magazines about history, as well as western stories and of course, the Ladies Home Journal and the Readers Digest! She was a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Merrill, WI.

Lyle and Estelle were 'snowbirds' to Mesa, AZ for many years and eventually became full-time residents. Estelle moved back to WI to Bell tower Residence to be closer to her brothers, sisters-in-law and many other family members.

We always said she was the 'fun mom' who put ice cream on hot cereal in the winter ("It's just like milk") and made popcorn or chips and dip with chocolate malts in the hot summer when dad was at work at the fire station ("It's too hot to heat up the stove"). There were always homemade cookies!

Estelle was always cheerful, happy, and had a smile for everyone right up to the end. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Estelle is survived by her two daughters, Mary and Zona; brothers, Roger Anderson and Marvin (Mary) Anderson, and sister-in-law, Halena Anderson and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Lyle, son Robert, sisters Joyce (Harlan) Baumgartner, Beulah Gorman, and brother, Lyle Anderson.

The funeral service for Estelle was held on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill. Chaplain John Bourke and Rev. Justin Smoot co-officiated. Visitation was held on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service, also at the funeral home. Entombment at Merrill Memorial Park immediately followed the service.

The service was recorded for those unable to attend in person and will be posted under her obituary on the funeral home website.

A gathering to remember Estelle will be held at a later date at Bell Tower Residence.

There are no words to express our love and thanks to all the staff at Bell Tower who have cared about and cared for Mom over the past nearly 10 years. They all are an amazing group for which caring and compassion know no bounds. We would also like to express our deep appreciation and thanks to the staff at Compassus Hospice who have cared for Mom over the past couple of months. Your support and compassion are treasured.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Estelle's name to either the Lincoln County Humane Society or Bell Tower Residence.

Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.

PINE CREST FUNDING from page 4

value of private property, according to the resolution.

Continued debates lead to lack of resolution

During the Tuesday Board meeting, lengthy debates on the "right" amount to ask for in a referendum led to lack of resolution on the issue and a failed resolution overall, with some Supervisors maintaining Pine Crest didn't need funding of \$5 million per year but that a lower number was more reflective of the County's current needs to continue operating the nursing home and that maintenance was primarily what needed to be funded because the nursing home had now become profitable. Some Supervisors maintained

that because Lincoln County is ultimately responsible for all of the costs of the maintenance and operation of Pine Crest, putting forth a referendum that only included maintenance items was unrealistic and that increases in State reimbursement reflected in 2023 and 2024 can't be relied upon for the future.

Two proposed amendments to the original resolution for referendum language for lesser amounts failed. The first brought by Dunphy and seconded by District 9 Supervisor Christine Vorpapel proposed amending the resolution to seek to exceed the tax levy limits by \$1.5 million for 10 years to fund capital improvements only with the management agreement with NCHC to be paid by current levy and the debt service remaining on the addition to the building to be paid by Pine Crest

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Meaning of Labor Day

Dear Reader,

As summer begins to wane and the promise of autumn lingers in the air, we find ourselves on the cusp of another Labor Day. To many, this holiday may simply signify the end of vacation season, marked by parades, barbecues, and perhaps a final trip to the beach. However, beyond the festive atmosphere and political speeches lies a deeper, more profound significance.



Labor Day was instituted to honor the contributions of the everyday worker—the men and women who rise each morning, don their uniforms, and perform the myriad tasks that keep our society functioning smoothly. It's a day dedicated to the recognition of the sweat and resilience of those who tirelessly contribute to our collective well-being.

Historically, Labor Day emerged from the labor movement in the late 19th century, a time fraught with industrial strife and the struggle for workers' rights. It was a time when workers came together to demand fair wages, reasonable hours, and safer working conditions. Their efforts laid the groundwork for the labor protections many of us take for granted today.

But beyond its historical roots, Labor Day serves as a poignant reminder to pause and reflect on the value of hard work. It's a moment to appreciate the quiet dignity of those who grind it out day after day, doing whatever it takes to provide for their families. These are the individuals who form the backbone of our communities—the teachers, nurses, factory workers, farmers, and countless others whose labor often goes unnoticed, yet is essential to our daily lives.

As we enjoy the holiday's festivities, let us also take a moment to honor the spirit of Labor Day. Let's remember that it is not just a day off, but a day to celebrate the perseverance, skill, and hard work of our fellow citizens. May we carry this appreciation with us throughout the year, recognizing that every contribution, no matter how small, is worthy of respect and gratitude.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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

revenues. The amendment was defeated 6-14 on a roll call vote with Supervisors McCrank, Woellner, Dunphy, Vorpapel, Bishop, and Dorava voting yes and Supervisors Anderson-Malm, Zelinski, Thiel, Boyd, Detert, DePasse, Lyskawa, Lemke, Miller, Meunier, Wickham, Cummings, Simon, and Hartwig voting no.

The second amendment brought by District 22 Supervisor Greg Hartwig, seconded by District 21 Supervisor Eugene Simon, proposed amending the resolution to seek to exceed the tax levy limits by \$3.98M/year for five years. That amendment was defeated 10-9 on a roll call vote with Supervisors McCrank, Zelinski, Thiel, Vorpapel, DePasse, Bishop, Miller, Dorava, Simon, and Hartwig voting yes and Supervisors Woellner, Dunphy, Boyd, Detert, Lyskawa, Lemke, Meunier, Wickham, and Cummings voting no. [Supervisor Anderson-Malm had been appearing by phone and was no longer on the call, having been excused for the rest of the meeting as she was traveling.] Despite having a slight 10-9 majority, the amendment failed because such a resolution and/or amendment required 75% of the full Board's approval to pass.

The original resolution for a referendum to exceed tax levy limits by \$5 million per year for five years (resolution 2024-08-45) that had been brought by Supervisor DePasse and seconded by Simon then

also ultimately went to a vote and was also voted down. A roll call vote of 8-11 defeated the measure with Supervisors Zelinski, Thiel, Boyd, Detert, DePasse, Lemke, Miller, and Hartwig (8) voting yes and Supervisors McCrank, Woellner, Dunphy, Vorpapel, Bishop, Lyskawa, Meunier, Wickham, Dorava, Cummings, and Simon (11) voting no.

Now the Board is back to square one and will need to figure out how to proceed. A number of options may be considered, but getting a referendum on the Nov. 5 ballot is no longer one of them. For the short term, Lincoln County Chairman Jesse Boyd said the Board may look to use the remaining ARPA funds to pay for the NCHC contract in 2025. "We had to pay \$1.2 million from ARPA 'extra' last year because they didn't get the State Supplemental in 2022," Boyd said. "If the transfer of ARPA funds to the General Fund happens to pay contract fees with North Central Health Care, over a third of the total ARPA dollars we received will have gone to NCHC. If State Supplemental doesn't come in and NCHC states they need more money ... After this year, there is no more ARPA money left; everything has to be allocated by the end of 2024, and we don't have money to backfill the losses." Any such allocation of ARPA funds will need to be approved by the County Board prior to the end of December.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legals

7700

CITY OF MERRILL
1004 EAST FIRST STREET
MERRILL, WI 54452

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

All persons interested will be given an opportunity to be heard at a public hearing to be held by and before the City Plan Commission of the City of Merrill, Wisconsin, commencing at **6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 1004 East First Street, Merrill, Wisconsin**, on the following proposed matters, to wit:

1.) Wendorf Construction Inc., requesting approval of a Preliminary Plat of Tall Pines Subdivision per M.M.C. Sec. 111-114, located in the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin. Legally described in PIN# 251-3106-122-0147.

2.) Wendorf Construction Inc., requesting rezoning of Tall Pines Subdivision, located in the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, from Industrial to R-1 Residential for the construction of single family homes per M.M.C. Sec. 113-38, with the exception of lots 29 and 30 being rezoned to Thoroughfare Commercial per M.M.C. Sec. 113-40. Legally described in PIN# 251-3106-122-0147.

Anyone having any questions regarding the hearing should contact Zoning Administrator, Darin Pagel at 536-4880. Dated: August 19, 2024

CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN

By: Lori Anderson-Malm

City Clerk

Published August 22 & 29, 2024

WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: August 19, 2024

Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer

Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY

Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)

Case No. 2024 IN 28

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ANITA S. BARLAU

DOD: 10/20/2023

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 04/22/1939 and date of death 10/20/2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W9351 Natzke Road, Merrill, WI 54452.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 11/29/2024.

5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 East Main St., Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.

Mary M. John

Eaton Law, LLP

513 Grant St. Wausau, WI 54403

Telephone: 715-843-8700

Bar Number: 1019515

Published 8/29/24, 9/5/24 & 9/12/24

WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: August 20, 2024

Electronically signed by Galen Bayne-Allison, Circuit Court Judge

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY

Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing

Case No. 2024CV000097

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF CINDI LOU KARAU

By (Petitioner) Rachel L. Hahn

By (Co-Petitioner) Daniel S Karau

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

From: Cindi Lou Karau

To: Cindi Lou Fick

Birth Certificate: Cindi Lou Karau

IT IS ORDERED:

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin:

Judge's Name: Hon. Galen Bayne-Allison

Place: Branch 1 Courtroom, Lincoln County Courthouse, 1100 E Main St, Merrill, Wisconsin

Date: 09/25/2024

Time: 8:30 a.m.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0319

prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Merrill Foto News, a newspaper published in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin.

Published 8/29/24, 9/5/24 & 9/12/24

WNAXLP

Published August 29, 2024

WNAXLP



JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROPERTY

The Merrill Area Public School District will be accepting Offers to Purchase regarding the sale of the vacant Jefferson Elementary School Property located at 1914 W. Jackson Street, Merrill, Wisconsin until 4:00 p.m. on October 21, 2024.

Interested buyers can obtain the sales information packet at the MAPS Central Office building located at 1111 N. Sales Street during regular business hours or can call 715-536-4581, ext. 10002 for more information.

Published August 29, 2024

WNAXLP

Trinity Merrill Block Party



More photos online merrillfotonews.com



The petting zoo at Trinity Merrill's Block Party was a popular draw for the kids, along with face painting, free popcorn and cotton candy, bouncy houses, and more!

Joseph Frederick photo.

Joseph Frederick photo.

Pet of the Week



Meet **Jessie!** This doll is looking for a home to call her own! She is great with people but seems to be picky about other female dogs that she likes. She loves to snuggle and to get all the pets! **Jessie** is just over 8 years old and ready to find a nice cozy couch to nap on with you!

Visit all the adoptable pets at the **Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours: MON.-SAT. 12-4 PM & SUN. 12-2 PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit us at www.furrypets.com.**

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WMC & Johnson Financial Group launch annual contest to determine "Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin"

MADISON - Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) - the combined state chamber and manufacturers' association - and Johnson Financial Group are again partnering to host a contest to determine the "Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin." The popular competition highlights Wisconsin's robust manufacturing industry, which contributes over \$71 billion in total economic output to the state. This year, the contest organizers are refreshing the program with a new logo and rebranded website as a nod to the modernization of the manufacturing industry as a whole. The ninth annual contest will culminate by crowning a Wisconsin-made product as the Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin.



"Wisconsin is home to nearly 500,000 men and women who are employed by our thousands of manufacturers," said WMC President & CEO Kurt R. Bauer. "This contest highlights not only the cool products made in our state, but also the entrepreneurship and work behind each product. Our manufacturers are the best in the country, and we have a great opportunity to underscore their contributions to our economy, the high-paying careers they create, and the innovative, necessary products they make."

"Each year, we are reminded of the creativity and spirit of Wisconsin's workforce, and we are proud to support an initiative that brings well-deserved recognition to the men and women who make Wisconsin truly great," said Johnson Financial Group CEO, Jim Popp. "The contest showcases the diverse and innovative products made in Wisconsin and also highlights the significant impact our manufacturers have on the global stage."

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY 9 (CESA 9) is currently accepting bids to replace existing asphalt shingles with GAF shingles and properly dispose of all discarded materials. GAF licensed contractors only may apply.

RFPs may be picked up at the CESA 9 office or requested via e-mail to bplautz@cesa9.org. All proposals must be postmarked or dropped off at 304 Kaphaem Road, Tomahawk, WI 54487 by 3:30pm CST on September 27, 2024.

Prospective bidders may call Bryan Plautz at 715-218-0770 with questions pertaining to the project or to request an appointment to view the project.

CESA 9 reserves the right to accept and/or reject any or all bids. Contractors will be required to provide a certificate of insurance and accept all applicable legal responsibility.

CESA 9
304 KAPHAEM ROAD
TOMAHAWK WI 54487
715-453-2141

Any product that is manufactured in Wisconsin qualifies for the contest, and nominations will be accepted starting on Aug. 19, 2024, at the new website: madeinwis.com.

WMC and Johnson Financial Group have partnered together for this contest since 2016, and Wisconsinites have cast over one million votes since its inception. Over a thousand products representing a wide array of industries have been nominated over the years, and winning products have included beverage dispensers, firetrucks, cranes, motorcycles, military vehicles, robotic carts, rifles, and even kringles.

Following the nomination period from Aug. 19 through Sept. 6, a popular vote will determine the Top 16 products that will be placed in a bracket-style tournament called Manufacturing Madness. Products will compete against one another in head-to-head match-ups, and the products that receive the highest votes in each match-up will advance to the next round. Manufacturers, consumers, employees, and other Wisconsinites are encouraged to vote once per day, per device through the rounds of voting.

This year's Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin will be announced at WMC's Business Day in Madison event on Oct. 17.



Rep. Tiffany announces September telephone town hall

Congressman Tom Tiffany (WI-07) announced he will host a telephone town hall on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024 at 7 p.m. to answer questions on

redesignating the Apostle Islands to Wisconsin's first National Park, the economy, border, and more.

"Telephone town halls provide a convenient way to ask any questions you have, right from the comfort of your home," said Congressman Tiffany. "I look forward to answering your questions, clarifying any misinformation about elevating the Apostle Islands to a national park, and discussing solutions to the issues facing Wisconsinites."

Constituents in Wisconsin's Seventh District may join the call by dialing 833.946.1523 at the time of the event. The event will approximately last one hour.

NOTE: Congressman Tiffany's telephone town halls are subject to last-minute cancellations. Updates will be posted to Congressman Tiffany's page on Facebook.

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Sausage Crumbles Chorizo - Fully Cooked Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY 69¢ a lb	Cream Cheese Original 4-8 oz. ONLY \$5.99	Cherry Pie Filling 21 oz. ONLY \$1.49
Pizza Supreme Frozen 26 oz. ONLY \$2.99	Shredded Cheese Cheddar-Monterey Jack 5 lbs. ONLY \$9.99	Mountain Dew Purple Thunder Zero Sugar 12-12 oz. ONLY \$3.99
Cotto Salami Sliced - Frozen 16 oz. ONLY \$1.29	American Cheese Sliced - Yellow 5 lbs. ONLY \$6.99	Baked Beans Zero Sugar 27.5 oz. ONLY \$1.29
Turkey Whole - Frozen 16 lbs. ONLY 99¢ a lb	Cheddar Cheese Mild 5 lbs. ONLY \$1.99 a lb	Potato Chips Cheddar-Sour Cream 72 ct - 1.12 oz. ONLY \$15.99
Pork Chops Int. Cut - Uncooked Frozen 10 lbs. ONLY 99¢ a lb	Swiss Cheese 7 lbs. ONLY \$2.49 a lb	Sausage Links Bacon-Pork - Uncooked Frozen 8 oz. ONLY 79¢
Chicken Breast Skinless, Boneless Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY \$1.99 a lb	American Cheese Loaf w/Jalapeno Peppers 5 lbs. ONLY \$4.99	Polksa Kielbasa Fully Cooked - Frozen 13 oz. ONLY \$2.49
Tator Tots Golden Brown'd - Frozen 32 oz. ONLY \$2.29	Sausage Patties Original - Fully Cooked Frozen 30 oz. ONLY \$2.99	Turkey Breast Oven Roasted, Sliced, Frozen 16 oz. ONLY \$1.29
Chicken Breast Nuggets - Breaded Fully Cooked - Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY \$1.89 a lb	Fish Sticks Breaded - Uncooked Frozen 10 lbs. ONLY \$15.50	Waffle Fries Uncooked, Frozen 22 oz. ONLY \$1.99

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LOOK FOR OUR 2024-25 Made In Wisconsin Magazine



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ADVERTISING DEADLINE: OCT. 2, 2024
Publishes October 30, 2024

Chalk the Pavilion



Area artists begin their efforts to add their artistic touch to the concrete outside the Agra Pavilion at Chalk the Pavilion last Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024.



This little guy is pretty excited participating in the events at Chalk the Pavilion. Joseph Frederick photos.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUGUST 4, 2024

Boy, Ezra Lee, born to Emma Buhr and Dakota Buhr of Schofield.

AUGUST 6, 2024

Boy, Jasper Richard, born to Caitlyn Heller and Joshua Heller of Merrill.

| BRIEFS |

LCHS July Honorariums

The Lincoln County Humane Society would like to thank everyone who donated in honor of a loved one in July:

Marlene Benzinger by Todd & Angelia Johnson, Randy & Vivian Schlueter; Eugene Bondioli by Rocky & Laura Kolka, Thomas & Carole Hoge, Mary Ann Kufahl; Eugene Rowe by Sally Yellstrom; Joe Folta

by Peggy & Bob Bauman; Ardys "Archie" Crohn by Sarah Wolff; Wyle & Liam by Melissa & Lawrence Price; Mary Kufahl by Mariann & Steve Hanig; Jacqueline Pahls by Debbie Kufahl; and Gordon Geiger by Rich & Cheryl Bohnsack, Barb & Wayne Kaboord.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

LCHS July Donors

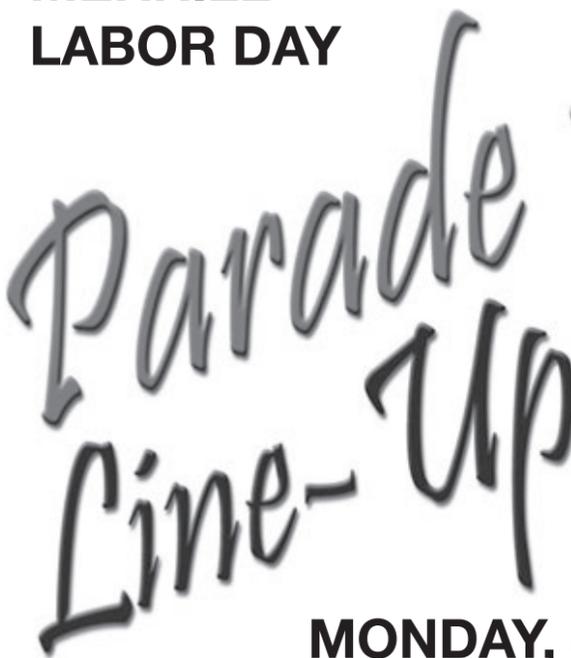
The Lincoln County Humane Society (LCHS) would like to thank the following donors for their support in July!

Meghan Stevenson; Dean Barker; Kerry Hass; Brian Jossart; Heidi Aschbrenner; Ruth James; Chad Gnweuch; Nadine Appel; United Parcel Service Oasis; Cecil Ballou; Tomahawk Farm & Flea Market; Nancy Lubke; Janet Selnes; Pamela Welch; Russell & Nancy Putnam; Kendra

Hawley; Bill Grissom; Tracy Weaver; Town of Schley; Ruth Schmidt & Tim Rheinschmidt; Darlene Raunio; Ronald & Beth Kautz; Mark Smith; Ivy Catlin; Sharayah Lee; Tasha Jaeger; Paypal Giving Fund; UnitedHealth Group; Peter Lokemoen; Karen Wojciechowski; Amy Marthenze; Linda Tompach; Hilary Scully; and June Barker.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

MERRILL LABOR DAY



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2024

Parade Line-up 9:00am

Parade Begins 10:00am

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. VFW COLOR GUARD & RIFLE SQUAD POST 1638 | 16. CORNING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT | 30. GRANDPA BOB GIRLS |
| 2. BOY SCOUT COLOR GUARD | 17. PINE RIVER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT | 31. TOMAHAWK TRAIL SEEKERS ATV CLUB |
| 3. AMERICAN LEGION COLOR GUARD | 18. HAMBURG FIRE AND EMS DEPARTMENT | 32. DAVE'S SEPTIC |
| 4. VFW POST 1638 LADIES AUXILIARY | 19. DNR FIRE TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT | 33. GIRLS ON THE RUN |
| 5. MAR-LIN POST #10203 | 20. BERLIN-HAMBURG LIONS | 34. LINCOLN COUNTY HIGHWAY |
| 6. DAV CHAPTER 29 | 21. MERRILL AQUA JAYS SWIM TEAM | 35. LINCOLN GUN CLUB/BLUEJAYS TRAP TEAM |
| 7. AMVETS PRES & WHITE CLOVER PRINCESS | 22. ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL | 36. HAUNTED SAWMILL |
| 8. LINCOLN COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL | 23. CUB SCOUT PACK # 503 | 37. OPERATING ENGINEERS #139 |
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| 11. LINCOLN COUNTY DEMOCRATS | 26. BIKES FRIENDS | 40. ODC, INC |
| 12. U.S. POLITICAL OFFICIALS | 27. GRACE & SOPHIE'S PUMPKIN PATCH | 41. MARCHING JAYS SEMI |
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SPECIAL NOTE: All Of The Fire Departments Shall Line Up On Main Street, Between State Street And Genesee Street.

It Would Be Greatly Appreciated If All Units Would Enter The Parade Line-Up By Going South On State Street, Toward The Merrill Manufacturing Company Parking Lot, Entering The Lot From The West Side And Going To The East Side (Genesee Street) And Receive Instructions From A Uniformed Parade Official.

All Horses Are To Unload On The Street South Of The Merrill Manufacturing Company Parking Lot And Have Copies Of Their Coggins Report For The Official There. Those Without Their Coggins Report Will Not Be Allowed To Participate In The Parade.

All Motorized Units Shall Line Up In The Merrill Manufacturing Company Parking Lot And Beyond. The Parade Starting Point Is At The Intersection Of Genesee Street And Main Street. The Parade Shall Go East On Main Street North On Polk Street, East On Second Street, South On Mill Street And East On Main Street. All Motorized Units Are Asked To Proceed East To Sales Street, Turn North To The Fairgrounds, Or May Drop Out Of The Parade At Center Avenue (The Courthouse).

All Marching Units May Enter The Parade From Main Street, By Unloading At The Brooke's Dance Parking Lot And Proceeding East At The Starting Point As Directed.

All Units Not Registered May Still Enter The Parade, But Should Have Signs With Their Name Clearly Identifiable For The Judges On Their Units.

Thank You For Your Cooperation.

Any Questions, Please Contact Merrill Park And Recreation At 715-536-7313.

Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

Aug. 29 - Gazebo Nights Concert: Copper Box
 Aug. 31 - HonkyTonk Highway at Rock Island Resort
 Sept. 1 - Bingo at VFW
 Sept. 2 - Merrill Labor Day Parade
 Sept. 2 - Merrill Lion's Club Labor Day Car Show

at Merrill Festival Grounds
 Sept. 5 - Bingo at St. Francis School
 Sept. 7 - Hillside Alive at Normal Park
 Sept. 7 - Community Wide Rummage Sales
 Sept. 7 - St. Francis Xavier Sportsmens Banquet

Sept. 7-8 - Paper Cities Kennel Club AKC All-Breed Dog Shows, Tests and Trials at MARC
 Sept. 12-15 - Northwoods Fall Ride in Tomahawk
For more information, go to: merrillchamber.org/events or contact the event sponsor.

Still Reckless



Still Reckless, winners of the 2022 Hodag Pickoff Band Contest made their Thorogood Thursdays Gazebo Night debut at Normal Park last Thursday, Aug. 22, 2024.



Putting their hands together for a little country music.



Last week's concert drew a good-sized crowd of country music lovers to Normal Park. Joseph Frederick photos.

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More photos online merrillfotonews.com



The Thorogood Outlet Store in Merrill recently donated 30 pairs of boots to the Haunted Sawmill. The Haunted Sawmill is run by the Friends of Vincent Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization with a mission to help young people in Merrill and the surrounding communities gain access to activities, outings, and events they may not have been able to afford on their own. Many local kids often volunteer for their main fundraising event around Halloween, the Haunted Sawmill. Through this event, the Friends of Vincent have donated money back to the community by helping youth with scouting and supporting youth with a Merrill High School scholarship, the Backpack for Kids campaign, school trips, and Explorer Post outings and events. Those that accepted Thorogood's donation of boots said, "We are so very appreciative. This amazing donation really helps. There were a lot of kids without proper footwear or who simply could not afford the cost of boots." Thorogood is proud to support the local communities and donate to those in need!

Photo courtesy of Weinbrenner Shoe Company.

Consider social media guidelines before students head back to school

As parents review school supply lists and consider back-to-school routines, Aspirus Health encourages parents to think ahead to expectations around their children's social media use. "While social media may help kids stay connected with friends and family, it can also be a conduit for mental health issues and disrupted sleep patterns," said Eunju "EJ" Cho, a Doctor of Nursing Practice at Aspirus Oxford Clinic.

Anxiety and Depression: During adolescence, the brain undergoes significant development. Unfortunately, this is also when social media use tends to increase among students. Studies have linked social media to increased rates of anxiety and depression.

Addictive Algorithms: Many social media apps use algorithms that encourage prolonged usage. This can lead to excessive screen time, negatively impacting attention span and sleep quality. According to United States Health and Human Services, one-third or more of girls aged 11 to 15 say they feel "addicted" to certain social media platforms and over half of teenagers report that it would be hard to give up social media.

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Types of home insulation and where to install them

When thinking about renovating their homes, homeowners may imagine changing wall colors, expanding room sizes or upgrading appliances and fixtures. However, unless people take inventory of the less glamorous components of the home, such as structure, plumbing, heating and cooling, and insulation, other improvements may be for naught.

A home insulation project certainly doesn't offer the wow factor of a kitchen remodel, but insulation serves a vital function in the house that helps keep people comfortable and reduces energy consumption. Insulation is typically placed in areas where air escapes, such as between the stud cavities inside the walls and in the attic, and serves to slow

and reduce heat transfer.

The U.S. Department of Energy says between 50 and 70 percent of the energy used in homes is for heating and cooling. By improving home insulation, homeowners can make their homes more comfortable, consistent and efficient. In fact, the ENERGY STAR program overseen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says homeowners stand to save an average of 15 percent on heating and cooling costs by adding proper insulation. To do so, homeowners can take a crash course in home insulation and find the products that fit their needs.

Blanket batts and rolls

Blanket batts and rolls typically are constructed with fiberglass, so proper safety

gear, such as a mask and gloves, is needed when handling them. Installing this type of insulation is relatively easy since the materials are designed to fit the standard width between studs, rafters and floor joists.

Loose fill

Loose fill is usually made of fiberglass or cellulose (recycled paper fiber). It is blown or sprayed into place with pneumatic equipment, according to The Home Depot. Loose fill can be ideal for hard-to-reach areas in attics or inside wall cavities. It's good for adding insulation to irregularly shaped areas. Since it requires special equipment, this is a job best left to professionals.

Sprayed foam

Sprayed foam is just as the name implies, a foam

made from polyurethane, polyisocyanurate, cementitious, or other materials that are applied by a spray container. DIYers who need only small applications can use canned products. Large quantities are pressure-sprayed by professionals.

Foam board/rigid foam panels

Ideal for unfinished walls, such as basement or foundation walls, floors and ceilings, these are boards of polyurethane or polystyrene. Foam boards tend to reduce energy consumption more effectively than other types of insulation.

Homeowners considering upgrading their insulation or amending existing insulation should do their homework on the type of insulation that will be most effective for their homes.



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Fall Home Improvement Guide 2024

5 tips to prepare for window replacement

Winter is coming, and for millions of people who reside in areas of the country that see the mercury drop considerably between December and March, that means prioritizing staying warm. Inefficient or aging housing materials may compromise your ability to do just that.

Drafts from doors, poorly protected attics and basements and aging windows may force heating systems to work extra hard to maintain interior temperatures.

Replacing old windows can make a home quieter by blocking out exterior noises. Consumer Reports also notes that new windows are often easier to clean and maintain than older varieties.

Many homeowners are interested in replacing their windows, but may not know where to start. These



guidelines can help the process along.

1. Get several estimates. Ask for recommendations from neighbors or other

people in your area on which companies they used to install their replacement windows. When you interview the prospects,

ask several questions about *See*
REPLACEMENT
page 16

Did you know?

Homeowners with an eye on home improvement projects should know that kitchens and bathrooms tend to be the most costly rooms to renovate. An affiliate of the National Kitchen and Bath Association told Architectural Digest in 2023 that kitchens and bathrooms require the most labor-intensive renovations, which contributes significantly to the high costs of such projects. Labor is indeed a significant cost when renovating a home, as the Construction Labor Market Analyzer indicates labor cost percentages in construction are between 20 and 40 percent of the total budget of a given project. The final cost of any renovation project will depend on a host of variables unique to each home, including the square footage of the room being remodeled and the materials homeowners choose. However, homeowners looking for less costly renovations may want to consider revamping their dining rooms and closets, each of which are projects that can make a difference and tend to require a less significant financial commitment than projects like kitchen and bath remodels.



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Fall Home Improvement Guide 2024

How to maintain hardwood floors

Hardwood floors have long been sought after by home buyers. In its 2019 "Remodeling Impact Report," the National Association of Realtors revealed that new

wood flooring was the fourth most popular project to attract buyers.

Of course, hardwood floors aren't just for buyers. Homeowners who already

have hardwood floors know just how impressive these floors can be, especially when they're well maintained. Maintaining wood floors is not necessarily as straightforward as it may seem, and homeowners may benefit from a tutorial on how to keep the floors under their feet looking good.

To polish or not to polish?

Polishing floors is an inexpensive way to keep them looking good. But the home improvement experts at BobVila.com note that not all floors can be polished, and determining which ones can depends on the finish. Floors with waterproof barriers such as urethane will benefit from routine polishing. However, floors with penetrating finishes like tung oil will need to be waxed rather than polished.

What finish is on the floor?

The Hardwood Distributor's Association recommends a simple way for homeowners to determine which type of finish is on their hardwood floors. Homeowners are advised to rub a finger across the floor. If no smudge appears, then the floor is surface sealed. If a smudge is created, then the floor has been treated with a penetrating seal. The

HDA also notes that recently installed wood floors are likely surface sealed.

How often should floors be polished or waxed?

Wood flooring professionals recommend polishing floors that can be polished once every few months. Waxing wood floors does not need to be done as frequently, and most can benefit from a fresh coat of wax every 12 to 18 months.

What can I do on a daily basis?

Some simple tricks and daily maintenance can help wood floors maintain their impressive look.

- **Utilize floor mats.** The HDA notes that floor mats near entryways can reduce the time it takes to clean hardwood floors and reduce the wear and tear they endure. For example, tiny particles like dirt can scratch the floor and contribute to the kind of minor damage that adds up to significant scarring over time. Floor mats near entryways ensures that most of that dirt never makes it to the wood floors.

- **Vacuum without a beater bar.** Some vacuums contain beater bars, which are designed to pick up human hair, dog hair and other things that conventional vacuums

may not be able to pick up. The HDA advises vacuuming without the beater bar, as it can contribute to small scratches in the floor. Sweeping with a high-quality broom or microfiber cloth is another way to pick up dirt without damaging floors.

- **Use manufacturer-recommended cleaning products.** Local home improvement stores sell a host of hardwood floor cleaning products, but the HDA notes that many flooring

manufacturers now sell their own hardwood floor cleaners designed specifically for their floors. These products are likely homeowners' best bets. Homeowners who can't find them can seek recommendations from a local flooring retailer.

Hardwood floors are attractive for many reasons. And they look even more stunning, and last much longer, when homeowners make an effort to maintain them.



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Did you know?

Planning plays an integral role in the home improvement process, and it's perhaps a more time-consuming component of renovations than homeowners realize. According to the "2024 U.S. Houzz & Home Study" from Houzz Research, homeowners spent almost twice as much time planning their kitchen renovations in 2023 as it took for the projects to be completed. The researchers behind the report found that the average time spent planning a kitchen

renovation in 2023 was 9.6 months, while the building took 5.1 months. Additional projects featured a similar disparity between the time to plan and the time to build. For example, homeowners spent 8.1 months planning living room renovations, which then took an additional 4.1 months to complete. Even smaller projects like closet renovations required ample planning (6.5 months) that more than doubled the time required to complete the project (3.1 months).



REPLACEMENT from page 14

how they go about installing the windows. Questions can include:

- How long will the project take?
- Will I need to remain home during the process?
- Do you discard of old debris?
- What is the protocol for installation during inclement weather?

2. Research permits. Most home renovation projects need to be approved by the local municipality. Go to the permit office and find out the requirements. Some window contractors will include securing permits in

the cost of the project. After the project is completed, an inspector will come by and ensure the work was done according to code.

3. Change up the appearance. Look at the type of hardware you have around the home and other fixtures. Choose windows that have locks or latches that can match those features for continuity of style. Think about choosing a different style or frame color of the window, or a different type of window to improve efficiency and function.

4. Research top window manufacturers. It's tempting to purchase windows based on price alone, but replacement windows are often a decision that only

has to be made once or twice for the life of the home. Invest in durable windows that will have staying power. Consumer Reports offers unbiased reviews on various window brands and can help homeowners make sound decisions.

5. Prepare for installation. Clear pathways, remove window treatments and disconnect window alarm systems. Plan for one to two days of installation, advises Andersen Windows and Doors. Keep pets and children away from work areas.

Replacement windows can be a smart investment. New windows can improve the look of a home, reduce heating costs and can keep interior spaces comfortable.



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Located at 1015 Cedar St., Wausau, WI (from Bridge St. & N. 12th Ave., 3 blocks South on N. 12th Ave. to Cedar St., then 1 block East)

Note: James was a lifelong collector of antiques and collectibles. This auction is a must attend for the avid collector of quality antiques. This is a very partial list - See website for full list & photos.

Antiques & Collectables: Furniture: 6 1/2 oak step back kitchen cupboard; round oak table & 4 chairs; oak buffet w/mirror; commode w/towel bar; oak arm chair; ornate oak curved glass china cabinet w/ claw feet; oak curved glass curio cabinet; maple commode w/towel bar; ornate settee w/2matching chairs & ladies head arms; marble top commode; tiger oak commode w/towel bar; misc. parlor tables; several rockers; **Clocks & Lamps:** Seth Thomas grandfather clock; Polairs 31 day grandfather clock; several Sessions mantle clocks; 3 oak gingerbread mantle clocks; Regulator wall clock; Art Deco wall clock; cuckoo clocks; other misc. clocks; ornate hanging lamps; ruby glass lamps; GWTW lamps; kerosene lamps; floor lamps; **Glassware & Pottery:** lg. asst. of depression glassware (pointsettia pattern-green & pink); FireKing nesting bowls; Ruby glass; gold trim berry bowl w/sauce dishes; Hull Red Riding hood pottery; Fenton; carnival glass; lg. spongeware bowl; Monmouth 3 gal. crock; RW 5 gal. jug; stone bean pot; wash basin & pitcher; iron stone pitchers; lg. asst. of cookie jars; **Misc. Antiques:** counter top radios; wall mount coffee grinder; marble based candle holders; good asst. of collectible wall prints & pictures; yard long pictures; nail kegs; lg. asst. of cast iron cookware (Griswold, Wagner, etc.); old telephone; bird cages, copper boiler; 2 acoustic guitars; watering can; collection of gnomes; chickens & ducks; misc. smalls; lanterns; cameras;

Household: Whirlpool dryer; Maytag washing machine; Frigidaire freezer; GE refrigerator/freezer; GE gas stove; 3 pc. bedroom set w/double bed, chest of drawers & dresser/desk w/mirror (spinning wheel design inset); full size bed; day bed; wooden dinette w/4 chairs; wooden armoire, 2 flat screen TV's, silverware; copper cookware (new); Tombstone pizza oven; bookshelf; VCR's;

Outdoor Items & Tools: Earthwise elec. roto-tiller; Poulan push lawn mower; asst. of lawn & garden tools; step ladders; red wagons; LP cylinders; scroll saw; asst. of hand tools; wood stove; other misc. **James W. Strek Estate**

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GUIDELINES from page 8

Eating Disorders: The unrealistic body image standards propagated by social media can have a lasting effect on children and teens. Social media has contributed to a rise in eating disorders.

"Before kids head back to school, this is a great time for parents and children to discuss together what's acceptable and what's unacceptable content," said

Cho. Here are some recommended tips to help guide children through today's digital era:

- **Open Dialogue:** Instead of outright blocking content, engage in open conversations about acceptable and unacceptable online material. Establish a platform for discussing online experiences and uncertainties.
- **Moderation Over Restriction:** Encourage a balance between online and offline activities, setting realistic limits on screen

- **Digital Literacy:** Teach children to critically assess online content, question its authenticity, and understand its potential impacts.
- **Privacy and Sharing:** Emphasize the importance of privacy settings and cautious sharing of personal information.
- **Model Responsible Behavior:** Demonstrate responsible social media usage to instill good habits in children.
- **Family Media Plan:** Collaborate with children to create a family media

plan that outlines screen time limits, app usage, and appropriate times for using social media.

• **Mindful Sleep Habits:** Establish a tech-free time before bedtime to encourage healthy sleep patterns for the entire family.

By fostering open communication, setting healthy boundaries, and encouraging critical thinking, parents and caregivers can guide children to navigate the digital landscape with confidence.

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Merrill Ice Reflections skaters represent at national State Games of America

Nine skaters from the Merrill Ice Reflections Figure Skating Club competed at the national State Games of America competition that took place in San Diego, Cal., from July 17-21, 2024, with two coaches also attending. The event brought together athletes from all across the United States.

Athletes qualify for this biannual Olympic-style event by earning gold, silver, or bronze medals at the Badger State Games in the previous two years. Those who qualify then have the opportunity to compete on a national stage at the State Games of America.

Merrill skaters also had the honor of attending the Opening Ceremonies and taking part in the parade of athletes, a memorable experience for all involved.

Competition results for Merrill skaters

Merrill Ice Reflections Figure Skating Club participants and their placings at the national State Games of America are:

- **Montana Grabowsky**-coaching
- **Madison Altman-Wendt**-coaching and skating
- 1st Place - Adult Silver Jumps
- 4th Place - Adult Silver Free Skate

- **Willow Bathke**
- 1st Place - Basic 6 Elements
- 2nd Place - Basic 1-6 Showcase
- 6th Place - Basic 6 Program
- 5th Place - Aspire Low Duet: Liv & Maddie
- **Emily Freyer**
- 1st Place - Pre-Preliminary Spins
- 1st Place - Excel Pre-Preliminary Compulsory Moves
- 1st Place - Pre-Silver Solo Pattern Dance
- 2nd Place - Pre-Juvenile Duet/Trio: Sylvester, Tweety, and Granny
- 4th Place - Excel Pre-Preliminary Free Skate
- **Leah Freyer**
- 1st Place - Pre-Juvenile Jumps
- 1st Place - Pre-Juvenile Compulsory Moves
- 1st Place - Pre-Gold Solo Pattern Dance
- 2nd Place - Excel Pre-Juvenile Plus Free Skate
- 2nd Place - Pre-Juvenile Spins
- 2nd Place - Pre-Juvenile Duet/Trio: Sylvester, Tweety, and Granny
- 7th Place - Senior Step Sequence
- **Ruby Freyer**
- 1st Place - Preliminary Spins
- 1st Place - Bronze Solo

- Pattern Dance
- 2nd Place - Excel Preliminary Compulsory Moves
- 2nd Place - Pre-Juvenile Duet/Trio: Sylvester, Tweety, and Granny
- 3rd Place - Preliminary Jumps
- 4th Place - Excel Preliminary Plus Free Skate
- **Lilly Hoffman**
- 1st Place - Aspire 3 Free Skate
- 1st Place - No Test Duet: Yogi Bear and Boo Boo
- 4th Place - Aspire 3 Compulsory Moves
- 4th Place - Aspire High Jumps
- 5th Place - Pre-Silver Solo Pattern Dance
- 5th Place - Aspire High Spins
- **Sophia Volpe**
- 1st Place - Aspire 2 Free Skate
- 1st Place - Aspire 1 Compulsory Moves
- 1st Place - No Test Duet: Yogi Bear and Boo Boo
- 4th Place - Pre-Silver Solo Pattern Dance
- 5th Place - Aspire Low Spins
- 5th Place - Aspire High Jumps
- **Kelsey Rindt**
- 5th Place - Aspire Low Duet: Liv & Maddie
- 6th Place - Aspire 1 Compulsory Moves



Merrill Ice Reflections Figure Skating Club skaters at the San Diego Ice Arena. L to R: Leah Freyer, Ruby Freyer, Montana Grabowsky, Sophia Volpe, Lilly Hoffman, Emily Freyer, Kelsey Rindt, Haley Rindt, Madison Altman-Wendt, and Samantha Lombardo from Timberline Figure Skating Club. Not pictured: Willow Bathke. Deena Grabowsky photo.

- 8th Place - Aspire 1 Free Skate
 - 7th Place - Aspire Low Showcase
 - **Haley Rindt**
 - 2nd Place - Pre-Juvenile Compulsory Moves
 - 2nd Place - Juvenile Jumps
 - 2nd Place - Open Juv/Young Adult Duets: Nemo & Dory
 - 4th Place - Pre-Juvenile Spins
 - 5th Place - Novice Step Sequence
 - 6th Place - Pre-Juvenile/Juvenile Emotional Showcase
 - 13th Place - Excel Pre-Juvenile Plus Free Skate
- The next State Games of

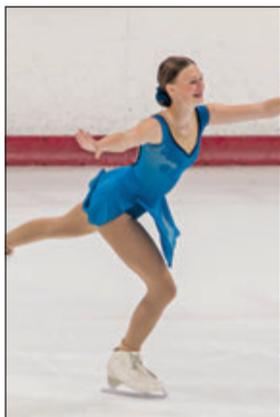
America will be held in Happy Valley, Penn.

Develop your skating skills

The Merrill Ice Reflections skaters practice and prepare for competitions at the ice rink in the Merrill Area Recreation Complex (MARC) in Merrill, and a new season of skating is about to begin.

The Merrill Ice

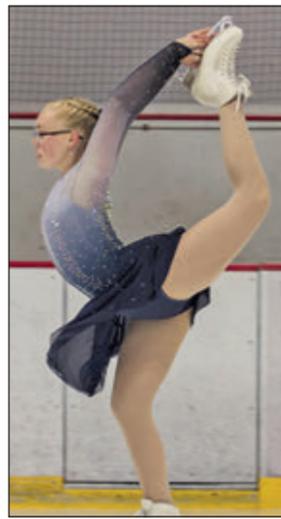
Reflections Figure Skating Club will host a Registration Night on Wednesday, Sept. 18, from 5-8 p.m. at the MARC for the new season. Learn to Skate classes will be available on Wednesday nights, with sessions offered at either 5:30 or 6:30 p.m. "Don't miss this opportunity to join us for a season of skating and fun!" Merrill Ice Reflections members said.



Lilly Hoffman.



Leah Freyer.



Emily Freyer.



Sophia Volpe.



Leah, Emily, and Ruby Freyer Trio.

Photos courtesy of Merrill Ice Reflections Figure Skating Club.



Legion Baseball Team 2024. Front row L to R: Cam Wallin, Cooper Wendorf, Kaiden Henrich, Connor Cortright, Brady Norton, and Nick Palacek. Back row L to R: Coach Dan Wendorf, Jackson Blomberg, Carter Kaminski, Kory Page, Brady Kanitz, EJ Weix, Sam Reimann, Ben Thom, Isaak Clapper, and Coach Zach Wendorf. Missing from photo: Dawson Schulz, Carter Baade, Noah Klug, and Quinten Kurtzahls. Submitted photo.

Merrill Legion Baseball

The Merrill Edward Burns Post 46 Legion Baseball Team finished their 2024 season just short of a State Tournament berth after a loss to Medford in the Regional Championship. The team finished the season with a 12-12 record in a loaded Wisconsin Valley Conference over the summer, splitting games with every valley team except Wisconsin Rapids. They also won the

Championship at their home tournament for the first time in many years.

Post 46 was led by a very strong group of Seniors who have played (and won) a lot of games in their careers. They were also complemented by a great mix of talented underclassmen that will keep Merrill Baseball strong for the foreseeable future. Second Baseman, Cooper Wendorf, was

the lone All-Conference selection this season to go along with six other finalists from the team.

Merrill Post 46 Legion Baseball would like to sincerely thank all of the players, families, fans, and supporters for another great season and would like to invite everyone to the ballpark next summer to support the team.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the donors, hole sponsors, and volunteers for supporting our 14th Annual Merrill Baseball Golf Outing.

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Merrill Fun in the Sun draws swimmers from a dozen schools

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The 2024 Merrill Fun in the Sun Relay Outdoor Swim Meet was held at the Bierman Family Aquatic Center at the Merrill Area Recreation Complex (MARC) on Thursday, Aug. 22, 2024. The event drew 12 teams from high schools across central Wisconsin and was the kick-off event for the high school swim season. "It's really a unique opportunity for teams to have some fun and get everybody swimming in a low stress but high energy environment," Merrill Girls

Varsity Swim Coach Kristie Winter said. "Coaches are able to get a good view of where their teams are at [and] what technique they need to work on to prepare for the rest of the season, while swimmers get to bond as a group and integrate their newer swimmers on the team."

With combined scores, the Merrill Girls finished in fourth place as a team overall.

Merrill Girls results

The highest performing Merrill team in each event was as follows:

- Event 1 Women 200

Yard Medley Relay - Third place with a time of 2:02:23: Addison Jirovec, Olivia Pajtach, Marissa Miles, and Claire Jirovec.

- Event 2 Women 400 Yard Medley Relay - Fifth place with a time of 5:14:20: Deylah Schulz, Katelyn Klimek, Caroline Durbin, and Emily Winter.

- Event 3 Women 500 Yard Freestyle Relay 50,100,150,200 - Seventh place with a time of 5:54:04: Claire Jirovec, Brenna Jirovec, Patricia Priebe, and Emily Winter

- Event 4 Women 400 Yard Medley Relay 4 x 100 IM -

Second place with a time of 4:44:59: Olivia Pajtach, Addison Jirovec, Caroline Durbin, and Marissa Miles.

- Event 5 Women 200 Yard Butterfly Relay - Third place with a time of 2:05:09: Olivia Pajtach, Addison Jirovec, Caroline Durbin, and Marissa Miles.

- Event 6 Women 200 Yard Freestyle Relay - Seventh place with a time of 2:05:72: Brenna Jirovec, Katelyn Klimek, Patricia Priebe, and Emily Winter.

- Event 7 Women 200 Yard Backstroke Relay 2,3,4 front dive - Sixth place with a time of 2:24:83: Patricia

Priebe, Deylah Schulz, Brenna Jirovec, and Addison Jirovec.

- Event 8 Women 200 Yard Breaststroke Relay - First place with a time of 2:22:68: Olivia Pajtach, Claire Jirovec, Emily Winter, and Marissa Miles.

- Event 9 Women 400 Yard Freestyle Relay - Seventh place with a time of 4:35:34: Brenna Jirovec, Katelyn Klimek, Caroline Durbin, and Claire Jirovec.

Combined Team Scores

1. Stevens Point 346
2. DC Everest 287
3. Wausau West 284
4. Merrill High School 269
5. Colby/Abby 218
6. Lakeland Union High School 200
7. Trident Swim and Dive 172
8. Antigo Red Robins 160
9. Wisconsin Rapids 154
10. Marshfield High School 148
11. Mosinee High School 76
12. Tomahawk High School 44



Patricia Priebe swimming in the 500 Freestyle Relay.



Kate Klimek swims her leg of the 400 Medley Relay.



Caroline Durbin and Emily Winter look on as Kate Klimek dives in over Deylah Schulz in the 400 Medley Relay.

Peter Tesch photos.

More photos online
merrillfotonews.com

Bluejays kick off football season with a big 34-14 win

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Bluejay Varsity Football Team kicked off their season last Friday night, Aug. 23, 2024, with a non-conference game in Osceola.

"The Bluejays came out firing to take an early lead against Osceola Friday night, but by halftime they had dropped to a 14-8 deficit," said Jason Wadzinski, Merrill Varsity Football Head Coach.

During the first quarter, Merrill's Aidan Houghton made a touchdown on a 33-yard pass from Aiden Lonsdorf, and made good on the two-point conversion. But in the second quarter Merrill remained scoreless and Osceola put two balls in the endzone, scoring two touchdowns for their team,

failing on the first two-point conversion but succeeding on the second.

In the third quarter, Aiden Lonsdorf tied things up with another touchdown and a failed two-point conversion. Score: 14-14. Then the Bluejays were off and running. They landed another touchdown, complete with two-point conversion, followed by another - no two-point conversion on that one - but now the score was 28-14 in favor of the Bluejays. And Merrill didn't let up, scoring another touchdown in the fourth quarter on an Aiden Lonsdorf six-yard run. The two-point conversion failed, but by then the game was a wrap, and the Bluejays were ecstatic.

"After halftime adjustments and a steady offensive run game led by Aiden Lonsdorf, Callum Wheeler, and Jax Hanson, the

Bluejays came roaring back to take a 34-14 win," Coach Wadzinski said. "Merrill starts the season 1-0 with a big win over a tough non-conference opponent."

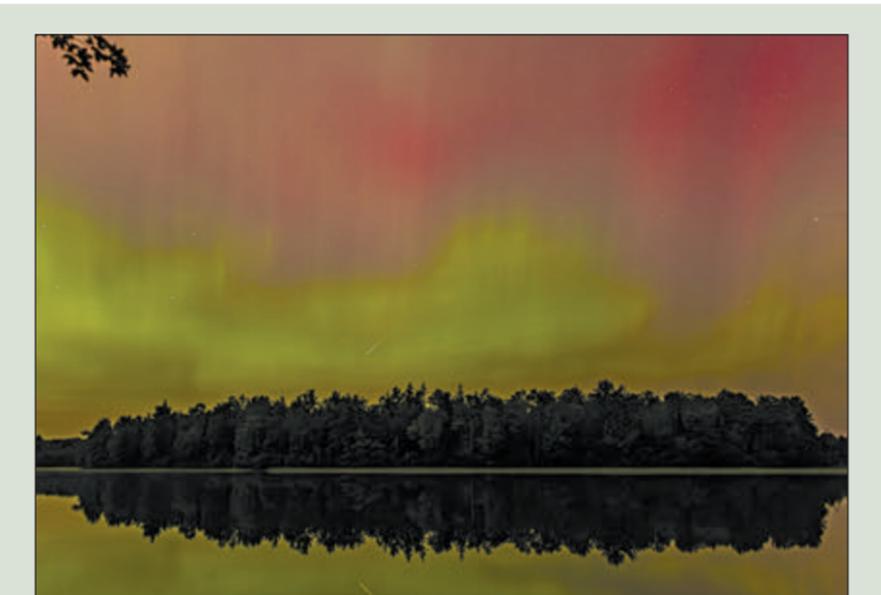
The home opener for the Bluejays will

be Thursday, Aug. 29, at 7 p.m. against Crandon at Jay Stadium. Come on out and get ready for some hometown football!

Box score
Merrill 34 @ Osceola 14

2024 Merrill High School Fall Sports Schedule

Boys Football (Varsity, JV, and JV2)			
Thurs., Aug. 29	Crandon (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Thurs., Sept. 5	Mosinee (JV2)	Away	5:30 pm
Cheer Team (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs., Aug. 29	Crandon (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Girls Swim & Dive (Varsity and JV)			
There are no scheduled events for this week.			
Girls Tennis (Varsity and JV)			
Thurs., Sept. 5	Wausau East (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:00 pm
Girls Volleyball (Varsity, JV, and JV2)			
Thurs., Aug. 29	Marshfield (JV2)	Away	4:00 pm
Fri., Aug. 30	UW Stout-Invite (Varsity)	Away	8:30 am
Sat., Aug. 31	UW Stout-Invite (Varsity)	Away	8:30 am
Tues., Sept. 3	Mosinee (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:00 pm
Tues., Sept. 3	Antigo (JV2)	Away	4:00 pm
Thurs., Sept. 5	D. C. Everest (JV & JV2)	Away	5:30 pm
Thurs., Sept. 5	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Boys Soccer (Varsity and JV)			
Thurs., Aug. 29	Lakeland Union (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs., Aug. 29	Lakeland Union (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Tues., Sept. 3	Shawano Community (JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Tues., Sept. 3	Shawano Community (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Thurs., Sept. 5	Stevens Point (JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Thurs., Sept. 5	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Girls Cross Country (Varsity and JV)			
Thurs., Aug. 29	Rhineland (Varsity)	Away	10:00 am
Thurs., Sept. 5	Nine Mile Meet (Varsity & JV)	Away	5:05 pm
Boys Cross Country (Varsity and JV)			
Thurs., Aug. 29	Rhineland (Varsity)	Away	10:00 am
Thurs., Sept. 5	Nine Mile Meet (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:30 pm



Peter Tesch captured the varying colors in the night sky as the Northern Lights put on a beautiful show the evening of Monday, Aug. 12, 2024. This is his favorite. "There is also a meteor with a reflection on the water," Tesch said.

Blue Sky Photography LLC/Peter Tesch photo.



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