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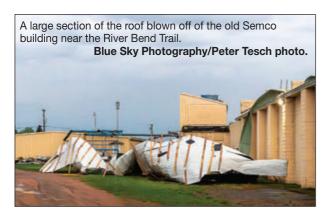
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THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025 VOLUME 70, ISSUE 21

# Thursday night storms mark the beginning of summer storm season



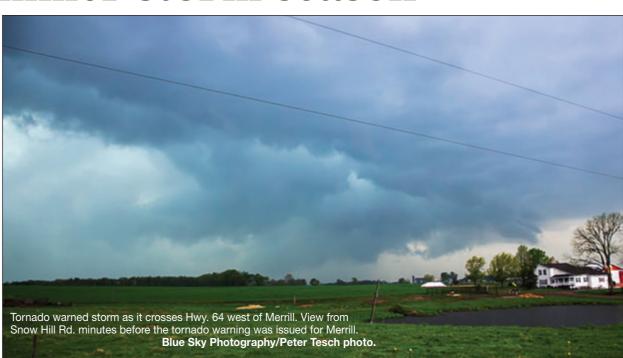
#### BY TINA L. SCOTT **EDITOR**

Despite severe thunderstorm warnings and a tornado warning for the Merrill area last Thursday evening, May 15, 2025, which canceled or

postponed multiple area events, the Merrill area didn't suffer too much storm damage in this first round of early summer storms.

The most significant

See STORM page 7



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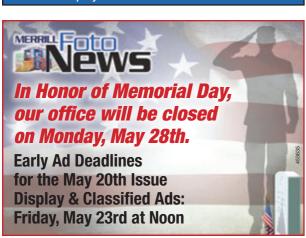
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# **Cooler weather doesn't keep community** away from Food Truck-a-Palooza



BY TINA L. SCOTT **EDITOR** 

Cold rainy early morning weather didn't stop the community from turning out for Merrill's second annual Food Truck-a-Palooza at the Merrill Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 17, 2025. The lure of a huge variety of food options, craft and vendor sales,

live music, and fun drew visitorsincluding many of the four-legged variety—to check out everything available. Families, couples, and individuals came out, many with their dogs, for the family-friendly event.

"I feel that it was a great turnout from the community," said Hallie Savall, Social Media Specialist/ Fairgrounds Coordinator for the City

of Merrill. "The feedback that has been given has been very positive and encouraging for next year's Food Truck-a-Palooza."

With 30 food trucks and 65-70 craft vendors, organizers changed the layout a bit, and attendees approved. "We are hearing a lot of praises about

See **FOOD** page 8

# **Local sorority to award** their final scholarship

BY TINA L. SCOTT **EDITOR** 

Beta Sigma Phi is an international women's social, cultural, and service organization founded in 1931. The name comes from the Greek words for "Life, Learning, and Friendship," which form

the cornerstone of the organization's mission. It was established as a way to provide educational and social opportunities for women who were unable to attend college at that time.

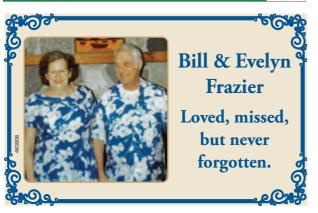
The organization was founded on April 30, 1931,

See AWARD page 2





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Pet of the Week

Meet Otis! He is looking for a home to call his own! Otis is a gentle boy who loves to get attention, go for walks and . is great with other dogs! Otis is a Husky/ Dalmatian mix and is about 1 year old. Otis is sweet as can be and is going to make someone so happy!

Visit all the adoptable animals at Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours: Mon-Sat 12-4PM; Sun 12-2PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit • us on the web at www.furrypets.com.





James Peterson Son of Nathan and

**Gera Peterson** James is in the 6th grade at

Trinity Lutheran School. He was nominated by Principal Scott Johnson

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?



History. I get to learn about the past. What is your favorite part of school?

I probably like lunch the best because I get to take a break from class and get to talk with all my friends.

What would you like to do/become someday? I'd like to become part of the Coast Guard or

work on a Charter boat. I like the sunsets. James has shown leadership in many ways this school year. He is a

student that goes above and beyond in his academics. He stands up for what is right (even when it is not the popular opinion) and treats others as God would want them to be treated. James is always willing to lend a hand to a teacher or a friend.



#### **AWARD** from page 1

by Walter W. Ross, then officially incorporated in 1932 in Missouri, and has grown substantially over the decades. By the mid-1970s, it had expanded to more than 10,000 chapters worldwide with over 250,000 members across 15 countries. In 1995, the organization reached a significant milestone when it initiated its millionth member in California.

Beta Sigma Phi operates with a focus on three main

- 1. Social connections and sisterhood
- 2. Cultural appreciation and education
- 3. Service to community

The organization is structured with local chapters that are grouped into city councils. These city councils coordinate activities between chapters and organize larger events. Each chapter typically elects officers including a president, vice president, recording secretary, treasurer, and corresponding secretary. Representatives from each chapter serve on the city council.

Beta Sigma Phi chapters hold social activities and raise funds for a variety of philanthropic causes.

Beta Sigma Phi first started in Merrill on July 13, 1949. "It started with one chapter and it went up to—I think there were seven was the most chapters at one time," said Joan Koch-Joni to all of her sorority sisters-longtime member of Beta Sigma Phi and current member of the Laureate Alpha Delta chapter. Koch was a charter member of the newly-formed Xi Alpha Nu chapter along with 12 other ladies in May 1970.

In 2023-2024, the Merrill Council, called the Merrill Beta Council, included five chapters: Laureate Kappa (Honorary Members), Wisconsin Phi Master, Laureate Alpha Delta, Preceptor Alpha Beta, and Xi Alpha Nu. Delegates from each active chapter represent their chapter on the Council and Council officers are elected and then rotated with oneyear terms. The Beta Council met three times annually and all but the honorary members pay dues to belong. The Laureate Kappa chapter has since ceased to exist, with its remaining members absorbed into another chapter.

"The chapter names have changed over the years as new chapters are formed, and old chapters move up to different levels," Koch said.

The Beta Council then budgets for a Founder's Day celebration with dinner and flowers, organizes and holds an All Sorority Social, and organizes and holds a Christmas Brunch. The sorority also raises funds and makes donations to help support various charitable causes, including the Beta Sigma Phi State Project, Beta Sigma Phi International Endowment Fund, Beta Sigma Phi International Loan Fund, to local projects (such as the city flower garden projects here in Merrill) and then annually has given a Beta Sigma Phi Scholarship to a Merrill High School (MHS) graduate.

Within the Council, individual chapters typically met monthly and held their own events, including social gatherings, couples' socials, dinners out, breakfast gatherings, movie and pizza nights, fish fries, and Christmas parties, with the members rotating who would play hostess for each meeting or gathering, typically in her own home. After a short business meeting, many gatherings included some type of theme, program, or cultural component, often with guest speakers or special guests, along with coffee and perhaps dessert. In April 1951, Beta Sigma Phi even held a Spring Formal dance at the Eagles Club in Merrill. Over the years, the sorority has held rummage sales, ice-cream socials, potluck dinners, steak fries, style shows, annual baby photo contests, and participated in Crazy Days events, among other activities. They have supported a wide variety of worthy causes in the Merrill area community, and many local organizations have received donations from the sorority-from DARE and Pine Crest Nursing Home to the Merrill Youth Hockey Association and the high





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#### First donation to layette

Davi Kunza (left), treasurer for Beta Eta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority, presents Tina Rampart, local coordinator for Baby Shower for Life, with the first donation to the on-going effort for the community project. Tina is holding her son. Baby Shower for Life is sponsored by the Merrill sub-chapter of Wisconsin Right to Life and the area Lutherans for Life are intended to provide area mothers and families in need with layettes for their newborn babies. Rampart indicates that there is a need for such a project and for more information, Tina can be reached at 536-2572. . . Foto News

Another clipping ... this one from the March 28, 1990, Merrill Foto News showcasing just one of the many philanthropic causes the Beta Sigma Phi sorority helped support through the years. Merrill Foto News.

school graduation party to Baby Shower for Life. All were focused on supporting the improvement of society and the world around them, particularly in their local Merrill-area community.

One of the earliest mentions of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority in print includes a photo and caption on the Society pages of the March 8, 1950, edition of The Merrill Daily Herald, showcasing members of the sorority who held "a Gay Nineties party [that was the 1890s and back when the first term simply meant joyful] first beginning at the home of Mrs. L.F. Trantow" and featuring a group of the ladies "in their colorful costumes."

Over the years, one particularly popular event which helped fund the notable annual Beta Sigma Phi Scholarship—was the Bridge Marathon, and mention of the annual Beta Sigma Phi Bridge Marathon in Merrill was found in the Sept. 1, 1950, edition of the same newspaper as the ladies were planning for an October event. This referenced the event of the prior year, signifying that this Marathon has been a core activity within this women's organization since its very beginnings in Merrill and was a highly-regarded social event.

Playing bridge was a frequent and popular pastime for many of the ladies. "We paid starting out, I think it was 50 cents a time," Koch said. "We played eight or nine months

"Bridge Marathon gave me the opportunity to become active in the sport," said current Preceptor Alpha Beta chapter member Nancy Arndorfer. "I hadn't played before ... I was a complete beginner of the game. It gave me an opportunity to make new friends, being new to town-

See AWARD page 3

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#### AWARD

from page 2

making friendships and getting support for the game from knowledgeable players. I still play and enjoy the game.'

"One thing I enjoyed was the Thank You Party our group held at the end of the year, usually at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church," Koch said. "All who had played in the Marathon that year were invited. We played about three rounds, with regular partners, or mixing it up with different players. Then we announced the three highest scorers from all of the players for the year, served mouth-watering desserts, and had sign-up sheets for the next year."

"The Bridge Marathon committee met in June to plan for the next year taking lists of current players and thinking of new names to call, asking them to sign up. Then came the job of making out the schedules."

Frequently, the winners of each year's Bridge Marathon were also announced in the newspaper.

the

Originally,

guidelines for the Merrill Beta Council/Beta Sigma Phi Scholarship dictated that the scholarship recipient should be a graduating Senior of Merrill High School who would be attending a school of higher learning of his or her choice, with preference given to a child or grandchild of a Beta Sigma Phi member. The scholarship recipient would be selected by a committee comprised of one member from each chapter in the Merrill Beta Council and the award, although based in part on "scholarship, talent, character, and service' was intended more "to honor the scholarship recipient" than to fulfill the financial need of the winner. The recipient could use the scholarship funds for whatever they needed.

Beginning in the 1950s, members were initiated into the sorority on a regular basis and Beta Sigma Phi was a growing and thriving part of Merrill's society scene. But at a certain point. initiations declined and now, every one of its members is retired and a great many its members have passed away.

This year Beta Sigma Phi will award its very last scholarship.

There are so few bridge players anymore, Koch said, and with the membership aging, we don't have the means to raise funds for the scholarship anymore as an organization. Most of the chapters in Merrill are down to about 10 members, she said. "In my groupwe're the oldest one, we have four people that are 90 and over. Most of us are between 85 and 90 [years old]." Koch said they've been discussing how long they can continue as a group.

Koch said also this year,

"For the first time, we don't have an application [scholarship application) from a Beta Sigma Phi member."

"I guess we'd be down to great grandchildren," she said, "so there probably aren't any."

In talking with the scholarship coordinator at MHS, they learned there are "a lot of applications for scholarships that don't get awards," so the sorority asked to have this final scholarship awarded to a MHS graduating female who is pursuing a career in education. She said the original scholarship was formed with a focus on education, so that way this final award will honor that intent. Also for the first time, Beta Sigma Phi is asking a group of teachers at MHS to select the final recipient of the scholarship award.

Koch said she and another member recently went to the library and the historical society and went through some of the scrapbooks, looking at the sorority and all the women involved through the years, going all the way back to when it was first formed in Merrill. "It's just amazing in memories," she said. She marveled at "how

formal we used to be" and all that has transpired with the groups of women she has known through the years as a part of Beta Sigma Phi. In Koch's own words, "[It] means a lot to us 'old ladies' that this long-lasting project will be recognized."

"We also want to honor the job Kay Slewitzke has done for the past 10+ years heading the program," Koch said. She has done so much to keep Beta Sigma Phi going, she said.

Koch said she isn't sure how long Beta Sigma Phi will continue to exist in Merrill. After more than 75 years in the community, times have changed, and the number of members is dwindling.

As an icon for women in American society and in particular in Merrill for the last 75 years, Beta Sigma Phi has impacted countless organizations and individuals with their donations, community involvement, and annual scholarships. While the final scholarship recipient will be honored this week at the Class of 2025 Scholarship Awards Night, the contribution these ladies have made to Merrill will not be forgotten.

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#### **PUBLISHER'S LETTER**

### Memorial Day: Honoring the **Ultimate Sacrifice**

Dear Reader.

As Memorial Day approaches, we pause to remember and honor those who gave

everything for our nation. Each Memorial Day, we stand in solemn gratitude for those who never returned home. The empty chairs at family tables. The children who grew up without a parent. The spouses who faced life alone. Their sacrifice echoes through generations and

forms the foundation of the liberties we often take for granted.

My own father was among those who answered the call of duty, serving our country in World War II to keep the world free from tyranny and oppression. He was fortunate to return home, but many of his comrades-in-arms did not. My family's military tradition continued with my cousin, who served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army until recently. He earned the distinguished Ranger tab, representing the pinnacle of military training and excellence. Men and women like him stand ready to defend our nation at a moment's notice, prepared to make the same sacrifice as those we honor on Memorial Day.

As we honor the memory of those who gave their lives for our country, we must also recognize the silent battles many of our veterans continue to fight long after their time on the battlefield has ended.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD, affects a significant number of those who have served, and it is a reminder that

> the cost of freedom is not always visible. These men and women carry wounds that can't be seen—a burden of trauma, memory, and sacrifice that continues well beyond their return home. Their courage does not end with deployment; it continues every day as they strive to

heal and find peace. As a nation, we owe them not only our gratitude but our unwavering support.

As we gather with family and friends this Memorial Day weekend for barbecues and celebrations, let us take a moment—a dedicated, mindful moment to remember why this holiday exists. Let us teach our children about sacrifice and service. Let us bow our heads in gratitude for those who died defending our values, our freedoms, and our way of life.

May we prove worthy of their sacrifice by being citizens who honor their memory not just on Memorial Day, but every day by living with purpose, protecting the freedoms they died for, and building a nation worthy of their profound sacrifice.

They gave their tomorrows for our todays. We will never forget.

PATRICK J. WOOD

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

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

#### | OBITUARIES |

#### Helen "Hossi" Eichsteadt Hostvedt



Helen "Hossi" Eichsteadt Hostvedt, was called to the Lord on Friday, May 9, 2025 at the age of 64. She was working out at the health club, doing what she loved, when complications arose.

Helen "Hossi" was born October 17, 1960 Marshfield, WI, to parents Don and Sally Hostvedt. She was the eldest daughter of three children. Helen "Hossi" graduated from Merrill Senior High School in 1979. She attended UW-La Crosse for

one year, majoring in art. She then attended Mid-State technical College in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, and received her associate degree in business.

In 1993, while working with American Security at Federal Cartridge in Anoka, Minnesota, she met Greg Wood. They developed a loving, caring relationship, and had been together for 32 years. She then took a job at Mercy Hospital as a security guard for more than 10 years. Finally Hossi landed an excellent job at Costco where she was a devoted, tireless employee for seven years, and was loved by everyone she met. Hossi was a caring, friendly person, with a great sense of humor. She devoted her life to fostering five Great Danes and adopting five. Hossi enjoyed taking walks with Greg and their dogs. They also took many motorcycle rides whenever they could. Her passion was working out at the health club and worshiping in church.

She was preceded in death by her loving mother, Sally Hostvedt; aunt Grace and uncle Maurice Brown. Hossi is survived by her lifelong partner, Greg Wood; loving father, Don Hostvedt; siblings, Sarah (Jeff) Monti and Jim (Kimberly) Hostvedt; nieces, Leah (Brent) Seavecki, Isabella (Dylan) Ruplinger, and Olivia Hostvedt; great nephews. Tayson Seavecki, Colton Ruplinger, Lawson Ruplinger Walker Ruplinger, and Briggs Ruplinger; and uncle Tom Hostvedt and many other family members and friends.

Join us to celebrate Helen's "Hossi" life from 3 to 7 pm on Friday, May 23, 2025, at Gearhart Funeral Home, 11275 Foley Blvd NW, Coon Rapids. Her final resting place will be in Merrill, WI next to her mother.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Hossi's name can be made to Upper-Midwest Great Dane Rescue or LifeSource Organ Donation or American Heart Association.

#### Lisa M. Hehling



Lisa M. Hehling, 57, of Wausau, passed away Saturday, May 17, 2025, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

Lisa was born July 4, 1967, in Merrill, daughter of James and Ruth (McDonald) Heisler. She worked for many years as an attendant at the Clark Gas Stations in Merrill and Wausau. Lisa enjoyed watching and playing softball, and camping and other outdoor activities. She loved watching her shows and games shows playing on the computer,

listening to music, and singing karaoke

Lisa was always giving to everyone even when she didn't have much. She loved socializing; everyone called her 'Ma' or 'Nana'. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, cooking and baking, and providing for her family She loved her animals especially Miley, Buster, Ginger, and

Survivors include her children, Mathew Heisler of Wausau, Mindy (Brad) Litzen of Rhinelander, and Katie (Derek) Palesh of Wausau; grandchildren, Marshall Barlowski, Emily Luedtke, Alexis Litzen, Buddy Litzen, Zacharie Litzen, Jesse Litzen, and Zander Palesh; siblings, James 'Skip' (Sheri) Heisler of Merrill; Lynn (Daniel) Jensen of Merrill, and John (Rhonda) Heisler of Montgomery, IL; and several nieces and nephews. Her love reached much further beyond her immediate family. She was mom, grandma, and sister to many other people.

Lisa was preceded in death by her parents, James and Ruth

Heisler; and her former spouse, Bill Hehling.

A celebration of life will be held from 11:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at Kitchenette Park - 211 East First St., Merrill, WI.

Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.taylorstinewaid.com.

We plan for a long life. We plan to do the things we *love*. We plan to watch our families grow. We pre-plan our final wishes with them and for them.



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#### Mabel I. Marquardt



Mabel I. Marquardt, 101, Village of Maine, died Friday, May 9, 2025 at home under the care of family and Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services.

Mabel was born March 24, 1924, in the town of Corning Rudolph and Emma (Krueger) Sabatke. She was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church, town of Berlin where she married Norman J. Marquardt on September 14, 1946. Together they farmed in the town of Maine

until 1976. She also held various part time jobs in the Merrill area. She was a long time member of Faith Lutheran Church formerly Zion Lutheran Church, in the Village of Maine where she taught Sunday School and assisted with the paper and cardboard recycling programs which raised funds to build the current church.

Survivors include: one son, Allen (Barbara) Marquardt, St Cloud, MN; one daughter, Joy Marquardt, Merrill; two granddaughters, Lisa (Christopher) Partyka, Blaine, MN, and Dr. Michelle (Travis) Cole, Seattle, WA; five great-grand-children, Hayden and Brynn Partyka, Blaine, MN, and Isaiah, Kelcie and Daxton Cole, Seattle, WA; and many nieces and nephews.

Mabel was preceded in death by her parents, husband Norman and brother Harold Sabatke.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 27 2025 at Faith Lutheran Church, Village of Maine with visita tion beginning at 9:30 a.m. until the time of services at the church. The Rev. Donald Love will officiate. Burial will take place in Maple Grove Cemetery, Village of Maine.

Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services or a charity of your

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinewaid

#### Rosalie Marie Jaeger



Rosalie Marie Jaeger, age 87 of Merrill, passed away on Friday, May 16, 2025, at her home, while surrounded by her loving family and under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services. She was born on June 16, 1937 to the late Frank and Rhonda (Cottrell) Kloth in Tomahawk Rosalie married Ronald Jaeger on November 21, 1987 at the Grace Baptist Church in Irma WI. He survives.

Rosalie worked at Specialty Packaging until her retirement

in 2002. Her grandkids meant the world to her and she cherished her time with them. Rosalie looked forward to family gatherings and holidays. She enjoyed a good game of Sheepshead and other card games with her friends and family. Rosalie would often listen to some relaxing acoustic guitar music and she loved watching and listening to live music concerts. She will be sadly missed, but her love and kindness will live on through her family.

Rosalie is survived by her husband: Ronald Jaeger, children Jerry Lee (Jessie) Duginski, Linda J. Goodman (Greg Baierl), Jason Lance (Shannon) Duginski, Joshua (Christina) Jaeger, Kevin (Tara), Bruce, Kraig (RaDell), James, Jamie Paul and Peggy (Joan) Jaeger, Dawn Honan and Joseph Gleason, grandchildren: Steven, Rachel (Joshua), Heather, Jessica, Devin, Caitlin (Ron), Erica, Randi Rae (Tom), Hunter (Alex), Lauren (Carson), Frank, Tiffany, Trisha Megan (Devon), Cian, Tanner, Mark, David, Kyle, Renee Jared, Tressa, Teanna, Ryan, Alicia, Leon Jr., Jerry Jr. Stephen, Jacob, Jesse, Austin (Emily), Zander (Michelle) Cordelia, Preston, Duncan and Aenea, great grandchildren Ryan Jr., Aliyah, Imran, Bella, James, Cade, Navaro, Rhyven, Joedeana, Madisen, Joseph, Loretta, Jaxxon, Parker Blake, Lance, Jayden, Leonard and Macie, great great grandchildren: Emalia and Rowan and sister: Carol (Bob) Kienbaum. She was preceded in death by her parents, son: Leon, grandchildren: Robert Goodman and Brandon James and siblings: Deana, Lorna, August, Roger, Frank, Ronald

The funeral service for Rosalie will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral Home at 301 Eagle Drive, Merrill. Pastor Andy Perry will officiate. Visitation will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service, also at the funeral home. Burial at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery will immediately follow the service.

Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation Services of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.tay



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#### **Dean Arthur Scott**



Dean Arthur Scott, age 87, of Merrill, passed away on Wednesday, May Wednesday, 14, 2025,



Seasons of Life in Woodruff, WI, while surrounded by his dear family. He was born on January 8, 1938, to the late Robert L. and Irene E. (Lucke) Scott in Bradford, IL. He attended and graduated from Bradford High School before proudly enlisting in the United States Marine Corps where he served as a helicopter mechanic.

his honorable

Following discharge from military service, Dean worked as a welder and fabricator for the majority of his adult life, most of that being with the Wood Chip Corporation of America in Merrill, WI where he designed, fabricated, and maintained various production equipment around the plant. Dean was an exceptionally skilled welder/fabricator and was regularly relied upon to custom design and fabricate many large projects over his career. Prior to that, Dean was a Superintendent overseeing a team that broke ground on the creation of the 1.148 ages reservoir for Painted Creek State creation of the 1,148 acre reservoir for Painted Creek State Park in Ohio that went on to support a 5,652 acre public

recreation area that many enjoy to this day.

When he wasn't working, Dean recharged and fed his soul by getting his hands in the soil and tending to his multiple vegetable gardens at the FFA garden plots on the East end of Merrill. Having always dreamed of owning his own farm, Dean was beyond passionate about all things organic gardening and was extremely knowledgeable when it came to best practices. Undoubtedly, Dean was well respected in the gardening community and was regularly cought out for the gardening community and was regularly sought out for his gardening wisdom. As a lifelong learner, Dean enjoyed studying everything gardening related; from soil composition, composting, companion planting, and crop rotation to permaculture, and working with what nature provides to produce the best results. Dean was also a beekeeper for some time in his youth. With never enough time in the day, and oftentimes burning both ends of the candle, Dean always cherished time to relax with family and friends when possible. He was a naturalist and strived to do things in harmony with nature as much as possible, in all aspects of his life. Dean was a man of strong faith and found his connection with God strongest while with nature, toiling the land, and reaping the harvest from which the Good Lord provides. He was a strong-willed, smart, and loving man; a natural teacher that always had a story to tell. It goes without saying, but Dean will be deeply missed and thought of often; especially when a garden needs planting or tending without saying, but Dean will be deeply missed and thought of often; especially when a garden needs planting or tending. Dean is survived by his children: Tammy (John) Sawyer of Plover, WI, Daniel (Dianne) Scott of Illinois, Heidi (James) Gipson of Wellsville, Missouri, Robert (Stephanie) Scott of Scottsdale, AZ and Jeremy (April) Scott of Merrill, WI, along with the mother of his children: Linda Scott. He is further survived by fifteen grandchildren and ten great grandchildren and sister: Delores Driscoll. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister: Rosalie (Marvin) Schuck. The family wishes to extend their sincere gratitude for the

The family wishes to extend their sincere gratitude for the amazing care, support, and compassion that was shown to Dean and his family during his stay at Seasons of Life Hospice in Woodruff, WI. The facility and staff were amazing and very compassionate.

A Celebration of Life for Dean will be held on June 7, 2025 at 10am at Brookridge Church of Plover, WI. In lieu of flowers, it would be greatly appreciated if donations were made in Dean's name to the Monk Botanical Gardens of

Wausau, WI at monkgardens.org.

Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation Services of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.tay lorstinewaid.com.

#### **Ruth Helen Grell**



Ruth Helen Grell of Marathon, formerly of Merrill, Wisconsin passed away peacefully at the age of 99.

Ruth was born on January 18, 926 to August and Margaret (Jaeger) Schleif in Pine River where she was born and raised. A Funeral Service will be held on Thursday May 22 2025 at 7:00 PM at St. Stephen Lutheran Church (512 Mcclellan St, Wausau, WI 54403) with Pastor Karoline Schwantes Officiating. Visitation will be held on Thursday

May 22, 2025 from 4:00 PM until the hour of service at the church. Entombment will be held on Friday May 23, 2025 at 11:00 AM at Restlawn Memorial Park Cemetery. Helke Funeral Home is assisting the family.

#### Daniel E. Kniess

Daniel E. Kniess, age 86, passed away on Sunday, May 18, 2025 at the Aspirus Merrill Hospital. A full obituary will be posted in next weeks paper.

The funeral service for Dan will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the Luther Memorial Church in Gleason. Pastor Greg Laska will officiate.

The visitation will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service, also at the church Burial will take place at a later date.

Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation Services of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online

condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.tay lorstinewaid.com.

# LCHS March Honorariums

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

Elaine Marnholtz by Trudy Livesey and Thomas Betka; Lizzie the dog by Cooper & Family; Jackie Hawley by Rick & Judy Lombard; Duke & Mazie Schneider by Matt Wadzinski; Barbara Zoellner by Janet Beyer; Carl Berndt by Peggy & Bob Bauman; Skyla Komorowski by Robert & Debra Brown; Dave, Jean, and Johanna Osness by Phyllis Buch; Vera Leitzke by Kristina Heyl; Ken Tupa Sr. by Randy

Tupa and Allison & Zach Wayda; Ann Krueger by Peggy & Bob Bauman; Guy Hornburg by Peggy & Bob Bauman: John Stevenson by Todd & Angelia Johnson; Cindy Kimmons by Phil & Cookie Drew: Kenneth Marth by Donna, Andy, Renee, Dave and Peggy, Saree and Tom, Sarah, Connie and Lee; Peggy Callahan by Tammy Latzig; Otis by Jane & David Chapleau; Suzie Richwalski by Karen Richards; and Mary Lou Danner by Mary & Craig Romer.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

#### **SUDOKU** 2 3 9 6 8 5 3 3 9 8 4 2 9 6

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Tariffs HAVE NOT **Affected Our Prices** The Price On All **In Stock Monuments Have Not Changed.** 

- Custom Etching
- Pre-Need Monuments
- Final Dates & Inscriptions
- Custom Cemetery Work



715-536-6654

EMAIL US: merrillmonument@gmail.com STORE HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 9am-Noon & 1pm-4pm



DATE SIGNED: May 12, 2025 Electronically signed by Robert R. Circuit Court Judge

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

MICHAEL GALKIN Order Setting Time to Hear Petition for Special Administration (Formal Administration)

Case No. 2025 PR 11 A Petition for Appointment of a Special Administrator was filed. Administrator was file THE COURT FINDS:

The decedent, with date of birth March 1951 and date of death December 30 2023 was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 2100 E. 6th Street, Merrill. WI 54452

THE COURT ORDERS: 1. The petition be heard at the Lincoln County Courthouse 1110 F Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Branch 2, before Robert R. Russell, Court Official, on June 24, 2025 at 11:00a.m.

You do not need to appear unless you object. The petition may be granted if there is no objection.

2. Notice by publication is required. Notice by publication is required. If you require reasonable accommoda

tions due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0342 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.
Maggie Cash

Zimmer & Rens LLC 15850 W. Bluemound Road, Suite 204, Brookfield, WI 53005 Phone 414-296-8295 / Bar #1116376 Published 5/22/25, 5/29/25 & 6/5/25

WNAXLP

#### Merrill Area Public Schools Special Board of Education Meeting

April 21, 2025 – Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Blake at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Education room Board members present: Ashbeck, Blake, De Rizzo, Hornischer, Liberty,

Proulx, Smith, and Woller. Board absent: Gremler. present: Superintendent Murray, MAPS Administrators, Recorder Fuchs.

Blake announced an executive (closed) session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes

Sections 19.85(1) (a); (f) where par. (b) applies; and, 118.125 for the purpose of applies, and, 116.123 for the purpose of conducting hearings on recommended student expulsions that may involve discussions of confidential student records, and to discuss other matters involving student records and personal histories that, if discussed in public, would likely have a substantial adverse effect on the reputations of the persons discussed. The purpose of the closed session is the following: conduct two (2) student expulsion hearings, deliberate, and act regarding the same. Blake asked for a contemplated motion to go into closed session. MOTION by Proulx, second by Hornischer. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote. second by

MOTION by Ashbeck, secon Hornischer to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Ron Liberty

Board Clerk RL/sf

(The official minutes in their entirety are available by calling (715) 536-4581, by visiting www.mapsedu.org, or by visiting the MAPS District Office at 1111 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin.) WNAXLP Published May 22, 2025

# Please send announcements, news briefs.

photo submissions and letters to the editor to:

tscott@mmclocal.com

#### |LEGALS|

BY THE COURT DATE SIGNED: April 29, 2025 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Michael James Dietzler

**Notice to Creditors** (Informal Administration) Case No. 2025 IN 29 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

An application inistration was filed. for informal The decedent, with date of birth 10/17/1941 and date of death

04/11/2025, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 402 E. 3rd Street, Merrill, WI 54452. 3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is August 8, 2025.

5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, F Probate, Wisconsin, Room. Register Jay Dietzler 230130 Birch Ridge Ct.

Wausau WI 54403 715-432-9913

Published May 15, 22 & 29, 2025

WNAXLP

### 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 ty Plan Commission of the City of errill, Wisconsin, commencing at <u>6:00</u> p.m. on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 1004 East First Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, on the following proposed matters, to wit;

1.) Lincoln County, 801 N Sales Street, requesting rezoning from Public to Thoroughfare Commercial, addresses of 607 N Sales Street and 2100 E 6th Street, located in the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin. Lega described in PIN# 251-3106-182-0229 Anyone having any questions regarding the hearing should contact Zoning Administrator, Darin Pagel at 536-4880.

Dated: May 14, 2025 CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN By: Lori Anderson-Malm City Clerk

Published May 22 & 29, 2025

Class B Combination License
The following business has applied to
the City of Merrill to renew their liquor
license for the licensing period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 inclusive Casa Amigos Mexican Restaurant, LLC, Yareldi Gutierrez, Agent, Casa Amigos Mexican Restaurant, LLC, N2410 State Hwy 107, Merrill.

ished May 22, 2025 WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: May 1, 2025 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer

Probate Registrar STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Paul D. Kudick **Notice to Creditors** 

(Informal Administration) Case No. 25-IN-21 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: for

An application ninistration was filed. informal 2. The decedent, with date of birth May 20, 1966 and date of death October 28 2024, was domiciled in Merrill, Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N1068 Coming

Road. All interested persons waived notice.
 The deadline for filing a claim agains the decedent's estate is August 15, 2025

County Courthouse, 1110 East Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.

James C. Koppelman of Schmitt & Koppelman, S.C. 1029 East Main St., P.O. Box 176 Merrill, WI 54452 715-536-8371 Bar No. 01001643

Published May 8, 15, 22, 2025

WNAXLP

# **MEETINGS &**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES** 

· Alanon Meetings

- Mondays at 7 p.m. at Ascension Episcopal Church, 218 Pier St.

 Alcoholics Anonymous (Open meeting) - Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at St. Stephens UCC, 903 E. 2nd St.

· Alcoholics Anonymous (Open meeting) - Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 1708 E 10th St.

· Alcoholics Anonymous (Closed meeting) - Fridays at 11:30 a.m. at St. Stephens UCC, 903 E. 2nd St.

 Alcoholics Anonymous (Open meeting) - Saturdays at 9 a.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 300 Logan St.

 Alcoholics **Anonymous (Closed** meeting) - Sundays at 9 a.m. at Park City Credit Union, 501 S. Pine Ridge Ave.

 Dinner@Five at St. Stephens UCC - Mondays at 5 p.m.

 GriefShare grief support group- Mondays at 5 p.m. (Mar. 10-Jun. 9, 2025) at Trinity Lutheran Church, 107 N. State St.

For more information, contact the event sponsor or location.

Merrill Area Public Schools Special Board of Education Meeting April 28, 2025 – Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Blake at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Board members present: All. Board members absent: None. Others present: Superintendent Murray and Recorder

MOTION by Proulx, second by Woller to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Kevin Blake for President. Motion carried unanimously.

Board President for the 2025-2026 term is Kevin Blake.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Paul Proulx for Vice President. Motion carried unanimously. Board Vice President for the 2025-2026 term is Paul Proulx.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Hornischer to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Ron Liberty Board Clerk, Motion unanimously. Board Clerk for the 2025-

unanimously. Dogra 2022
2026 term is Ron Liberty.

1 iberty, second by MOTION by Liberty, second by Hornischer to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Jon Smith for Board Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously. Board Treasurer for the 2025-2026 term is Jon Smith.

MOTION by Hornischer, second by

Ashbeck to approve the board goals, as stated, for the Board of Education for the next fiscal year (2025-2026). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Woller to

hold one regular monthly board meeting on the 3rd or 4th Wednesdays of each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m., with adjustments as needed. Motion carried

unanimously.

MOTION by Woller, second by
Hornischer to appoint Paul Proulx as
representative to the CESA #9 Board of Control Motion carried unanimously MOTION by Proulx, second by Woller to appoint Kevin Blake as WASB Delegate and Mike Hornischer as the Alternate Delegate, Motion carried unanimously, Blake called for a motion to adjourn into executive (closed) session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes under Section 19.85(1)(b); (c); and (f) where par. (b) applies for the purpose of considering, and taking action as appropriate, regarding the resignation or dismissal of professional employee, including ssible evidentiary hearing and possible evidentiary hearing and discussions related to personnel issues of the employee. MOTION by Proulx, second by Hornischer to adjourn into closed session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Ashbeck to reconvene into open session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

MOTION by Smith, second by
Hornischer to accept the resignation of Rebecca Brown Human Resources Specialist. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Woller
to adjourn at 6:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

**Board Clerk** 

RL/tlw

(The official minutes in their entirety are available by calling (715) 536-4581, by visiting www.mapsedu.org, or by visiting the MAPS District Office at 1111 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin. Published May 22, 2025

TOWN OF PINE RIVER, LINCOLN COUNTY NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR LICENSE

LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that the following applications have been filed with the Clerk for the Town of Pine River.

RETAILERS CLASS "B"FERMENTED

MALT BEVERAGE: Sheryl Chism, Agent, Chism Trail Ranch LLC, N1200 Liberty Rd, Merrill, WI 54452. RETAILERS CLASS"B" AND "CLASS

B"FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGE AND INTOXICATING LIQUOR: William Robert Naef, Bill's Bar, N1594 Hwy 64, Merrill, WI 54452 se recycle. Amanda Herdt, Clerk Published May 22, 2025

The May 13th, 2025 Council Minutes are in draft form until approved at the next scheduled meeting. The minutes are available for viewing on the bulletin board outside the City Clerk's Office and ances are available on the City of Merrill website: https://www.ci.merrill.wi.us/

Published May 22, 2025 WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: May 12, 2025 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF KENNETH G. MARTH d.o.d. February 23, 2025 Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)

Case No. 25-IN-28 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: for An application administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth March 15, 1951 and date of death February 23, 2025, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of W4649 Spring Lake Road, Merrill, WI 54452.

3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is August 22,

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

James C. Koppelman of Schmitt & Koppelman, S.C.

1029 E Main St, PO Box 176

1029 E Main 51, 7 0 50.... Merrill, W1 5445 2 715-536-8371 Bar No. 01001643 Published May 15, 22 & 29, 2025 WNAXLP

Merrill Area Public Schools Regular Board of Education Meeting April 16, 2025 - Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Blake at 5:33 PM in the Board Room. Board members present: Ashbeck, De Rizzo, Hornischer, Liberty, Proulx, and Blake. Board members absent: Gremler Smith and Woller. Others present: Superintendent Murray, MAPS Administrators, Student Reps Black and Wagenaar, approximately 33 people from the staff and community and

Recorder Woller.

Jacqueline Gremler here at 5:34 p.m.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the 2025-2026 Support Staff and Teacher Handbooks. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Gremler, second by

Hornischer to approve the offering and funding of a Smart Start Summer Reading Program in August 2025 for students needing summer reading intervention. Motion carried unanimously

MOTION by Liberty, second by Gremler to approve the 2025-2026 Elementary Student Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Hornischer to approve the 2025-2026 handbook/course descriptions for Prairie River Middle School as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by
Hornischer to approve the 2025-2026
high school student handbook/ agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Liberty

to approve the budget revision and purchase of BenQ boards for Pine River School for Young Learners in the amount not to exceed \$17,000. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Hornischer, second by

Ashbeck to approve the printer purchase for the Graphics Department from Up and Running Solutions using CTE incentive grant funds. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Proulx, second by Ashbeck to approve the Pool Employee

Handbook Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Hornischer, second by

Proulx to approve the renewal of the
health insurance with Aspirus Health

Plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the renewal of the dental insurance for FY26 with rates remaining the same as presented. Motion carried

unanimously.

MOTION by Hornischer, second by Gremler to approve the renewals for voluntary benefits as presented. Motion

carried unanimously.

MOTION by Hornischer, second by Proulx to approve the revisions and second reading of Policy 4120 Employment of Support Staff, as noted to remain in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act. Motion carried

unanimously.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Liberty to approve the Purchase Order for Safe and Civil Schools training for \$20,000 and the purchase of training materials of the control of the purchase of training materials of the control of the con approximately \$10,810 and travel expenses to be determined for the training facilitators for the 2025-2026 school year using Title IV and II funding. Motion carried unanimously.

Hornischer left the meeting at 6:17 p.m MOTION by Proulx, second by Ashbeck to approve changing May 23, 2025, to a school day for all students and approve the revised 2024-2025 school calendar. Motion carried (Hornischer was not

present for the vote).
MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the sale of the 450 decommissioned HP Laptop to Repower Buyback Company. Motion carried (Hornischer was not present for the

vote).
MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to change the May meeting date one week earlier to May 14, 2025, and subsequently moving the May committee meetings one week earlier to May 7, 2025. Motion carried (Hornischer

was not present for the vote).
Hornischer returned at 6:21 p.m.
The Board was informed of Neola's
Volume 33, Number 2 Technical Corrections that were made to our

policies.
MOTION by Liberty, second by
Hornischer to approve consent agenda items a through d, which includes minutes of the March 19, 2025, meeting; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$2,796,696.01; donations totaling \$7,034.00; and, the attached personnel report, contingent upon release of contract for hirings and upon the satisfaction of the appropriate liquidated damages for resignations, if applicable.

Motion carried unanimously.

Blake called for a MOTION to adjourn into executive (closed) session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes under Section 19.85(1)(c); (f) except where par. (b) applies which. The purpose of the applies which. The purpose of the closed session is to discuss increasing Youth Apprenticeship (YA) funding and wages for 2025-2026; to conside and wages for 2025-2026, to consider and act upon parental requests for student opt out of state assessments, including the potential for a closed session(s) to review the specifics applicable to the affected student(s) if the discussion of such in open session would be likely to have an adverse effect upon the reputation of such student(s) pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats. Any such closed session(s) shall be immediately followed by reconvening in open session for further consideration and, ultimately, action upon the parental requests. MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

MOTION by Proulx, second by
Hornischer to reconvene into open

session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote

a roll call vote.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve a \$2/hour increase for the YA Program Coordinator and YA Assistant Program Coordinator and YA Assistanti paid out of the Youth Apprenticeship grant funds. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Hornischer, second by Ashheck to approve the parental requests for Students A, B and C to opt out of state assessments. Motion carried

unanimously.

MOTION by Hornischer, second by Ashbeck to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

**Board Clerk** 

RL/tlw

(The official minutes in their entirety are available by calling (715) 536-4581, by

visiting www.mapsedu.org, or by visiting the MAPS District Office at 1111 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin.) Published May 22, 2025 WNAXLP

#### MERRILL AREA BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Boy, Emerson Oliver Christian, born to Jaydin Eternicka and Christian Lee of Gleason.

#### **MAY 9, 2025**

Girl, Anderson "Andi" Ruth, born to Leah Griesbach and Cody Griesbach of Merrill. Boy, Nickolas Arthur David, born to Michelle Watson-Dye and John Arrowood of Antigo. Boy, Samuel Thomas, born to Becca Bergmann and Michael Bergmann of Wausau.

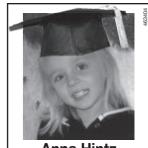
#### **MAY 13, 2025**

Boy, Waylyn Allen Lee, born to Zoe Berna and Justin Peterson of Merrill.

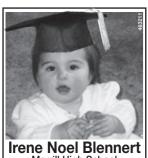




# Class of 2025 \* The Best is Yet to Come!



Anna Hintz Merrill High School We are so proud of you! Love, Your Family



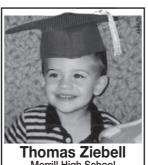
Merrill High School We are so proud of you! ove, Mom & Dad, Mickenna, Nichola Evelyn, Papa & Nana Schneider



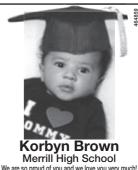
**Haley Rindt** Merrill High School Congratulations! We are so proud of you! Love, Mom, Dad & Kelsey



**Beniamin Thom** Merrill High School Congrats! We are so proud of you! Love, Mom & Dad



Merrill High School
"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord..." Jeremiah 29:11 Kurt, Mom, Emma, Claire & Jacob



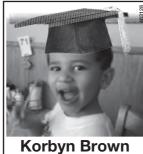
Korbyn Brown
Merrill High School
e so proud of you and we love you very much
p reaching for the stars, the future is yours! Mom, Matt, Braxtyn & Kamdyn



Isabella Schoerner Merrill High School Mom & Dad Love you. Jordyn, Gabby, Kelcee & Cole



Madi Skic Merrill High School We are very proud of you! Keep reaching for those dreams, we love you!! Love, Dad, Mom, Kenna & Ollie



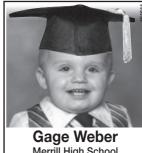
Merrill High School sings for a bright future. Love, Nana



**Sebastian Trevino** Merrill High School We love you, we are so proud of you, keep smiling always. God Bless you always Mom. Grandma, Sister, Uncles Claudia, Ivan, Josue



**Katie Heckendorf** Merrill High School We are so proud of you! Love, Dad & Mom



Merrill High School Always Believe in Yourself! Congratulations! Proud of you! Love, Meia



Hailey Krueger versity of Wisconsin - Stevens Poir We are so proud of you and all your accomplishments. Love, Dad, Mom & Madisyn



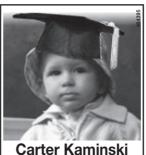
John Myszka Merrill High School We love you "Junie" XOXO! XO Dad, Mom, Matt, Ben, Katie & Liam



Elizabeth Barker Merrill High School Way To Go! We are so proud of you! Love, Mom, Dad, Siblings & Dino



**Connor Rajek Klug** Merrill High School Love you young man
Dad, Grama, Grampa & John



Carter Kaminski Merrill High School We are so proud of you! Love, Mom & Dad



Leah Freyer Bridges Virtual Academy You will do amazing things! Love you Mom, Dad, Ben, Emily & Ruby



**Gracie Lessor** Merrill High School Congratulations Gracie! We are so proud of you! Love, Grandma & Grandpa



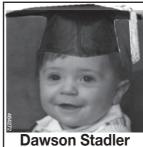
**Madison McCoy** Merrill High School From giggles to bows From crayons to caps Go chase your dreams Shine bright, my sunshine! Love, Mom & Eric



**Kaytlyn Joy Hulke** Merrill High School Grandma & Grandpa Hulke



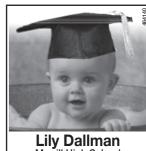
Connor Rajek Merrill High School Good Job Buddy! We love you! Mom, Jake, Jayce, Saylem & Storm



Eau Claire North High School Your drive & determination inspire us all. Good Luck at Stout. Grandma Deb Stadler-Gapko



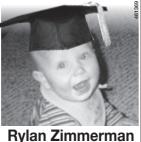
Merrill High School tions! We are so very proud of you Love, all of your family & friends



Merrill High School Every journey starts with one step, congrats on completing your first step! Love, Mom & Dad



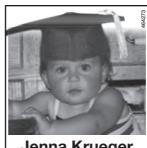
Sophi Schmidt Merrill High School Congratulations Sonhil Love you. Papa & Nana



Merrill High School We are so proud of you! Love, Mom & Dad, Blake, Cole & Mckenzie



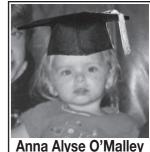
**Qemal Alimi** Merrill High School You did it! We are so proud of you Love, your family



Jenna Krueger Merrill High School We are very proud of you! Love, Mom & Dad



Kaden Hannemann Merrill High School We are so proud of you! Congratulations! Love, Mom, Dad, Tanner, Parker & Preston



Anna Alyse O'Malley Merrill High School We are so proud of you! Love & kisses, U CAN!

#### Did You Know? **The Merrill Foto News** website contains photos that don't fit into our print edition.

#### **Visit Us Online!** merrillfotonews.com

#### **STORM**

from page 1

damage noted the roof of an old Semco building on Merrill's southeast side near the River Bend Trail, where a large part of the roof was blown off, most likely due to straight line winds.

There were also a few trees blown over in the area, with some outlying area residences reporting they lost power for about 24 hours.

The early-season storms were a good reminder to have a plan in place to respond to severe weather on short notice.



Beautiful blossoms on the left, storm damage where a tree was snapped off on the right. Joseph Frederick photo.



The Merrill Fire Department responded to a tree that was blown over and was hung up on power lines on W. First St. in the Sixth Ward.

Blue Sky Photography/Peter Tesch photo.

**Packaging Corporation** of America - Tomahawk Mill is excited to announce that Chase Klebenow, a student from Merrill High School, has been awarded a fullride scholarship to the **University of Wisconsin** - Madison, majoring in **Electrical Engineering.** 



To be awarded this scholarship, Chase completed the required application, submitted an essay on how the pulp and paper industry has impacted his life and why he should be chosen, interviewed, and went on a mill tour.

To maintain the scholarship, a 3.0 GPA is required. Chase will also be working at the Tomahawk Mill as a summer student for the 2025 summer and will have the opportunity to complete co-op/internship with PCA during his college career.

Future Tomahawk and Merrill High School students that are going to college for a degree in engineering can apply in the fall. Please speak to your guidance counselor regarding this opportunity.

Congratulations, Chase on this great accomplishment! Pictured (L to R): Jordan Renn HR Manager, Don Gennrich Mill Manager, Chase Klebenow, and proud parents Keith and Sara Klebenow.

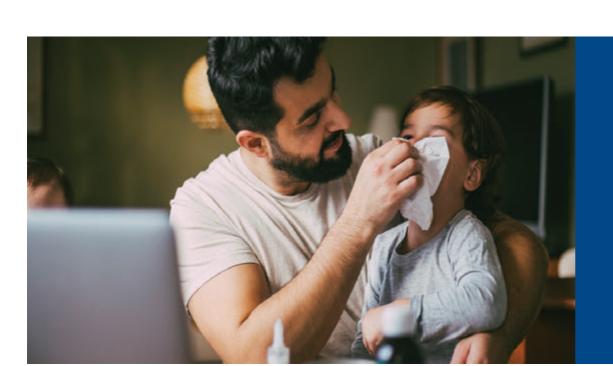
# Better begins, even in unexpected moments.

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aspirus.org

#### **FOOD** from page 1

the layout and entertainment," Savall said.

Entertainment included live music by Brad Emanuel and the Northwoods Skitchers, as well as Coyote Karaoke.

"The turnout was bigger than last year—it was spread out over the whole fairgrounds," Mayor Steve Hass said. "Hallie and I were concerned with the cooler weather, but the people showed up."

By comparison, "Last year, there were 15 trucks and 45 craft vendors," he said.

"Six trucks sold out of food," Hass said. "If the weather would have cooperated, I think more would have sold out.'

"I'm very thankful for the support from the community, the amazing sponsors, and volunteers that contributed to help make the event successful," Savall said.

In a separate interview, Hass said the same thing. "We couldn't have done this without the sponsors, volunteers, and city departments," he said. "There was a lot [of work done] behind the scenes."

Nearly 20 volunteers helped plan, organize, and orchestrate the event, Hass said.

"It is a learning experience," Savallsaid, "and we hope to continue to make this an event everyone looks forward to year after year." Mark your calendars, as the date for next year's event has already been set. Merrill's Food Truck-a-Palooza 2026 will be May 16, 2026.







### **Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar** Volunteer. May 22 - Veterans May 26 - Memorial May 30 - Library Social

Be social. **Enjoy the arts.** Learn. Participate in or volunteer for your community

events!

Coffee & Conversation at Pine Ridge Restaurant May 23 - Merrill High **School Graduation** May 24 - A Taste of Jamaica Food Truck at The Creative Spirit May 26 - Memorial

Day Ceremonies at St.

**Francis Xavier Cemetery** 

**Day Ceremonies** at cemeteries in surrounding areas May 29 - Veterans Coffee & Conversation at Pine Ridge Restaurant May 29 - KamBray's Mobile Restaurant at The Creative Spirit

Hour at T.B. Scott Free Library May 30 - June 1 Merrill Youth Baseball **Tournament** 

May 31 - The Foxfire at **Stoney Acres Farm** June 2 - Chamber Golf Classic

For more information, go to: merrillchamber. org/events or contact the event sponsor.

Plautz's

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Saturday & Sunday Breakfast 7am-11am

mimosas & Biooay Mary's Mondays

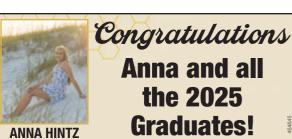
\$5 Burger & Home Fries Dine-in only & additional toppings are extra.

Sunday & Tuesday **Broasted Chicken** 12 Noon-8pm

Friday

Fish Fry 12 Noon-8:45pm Red Granite Bar & Grill Order Online - Check wait times or just stop in! Find us on f





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**DINNER SPECIALS FOR MAY/JUNE** 

**TUESDAY NIGHTS MAY 27TH - HAMBURGER** STEAK W/MUSHROOM GRAVY

**FRIDAY NIGHTS MAY 23RD -BLUEGILL** 

JUNE 3RD - LIVER & ONIONS | MAY 30TH - WALLEYE **DINNER SERVED FROM 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM** 

Visit our Website! 584.localfoewi.com





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JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> **JACKPOT IS** \$812+ BUNGO

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# Open to the public to attend

y 26, 2025

If there is bad weather the ceremony will be moved to the st on 601 Johnson Street.

rt playing. Ceremony will begin at 11:00 AM.

OST 1638 and Auxiliary.













## **MERRILL MONUMENT**

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We will be closed Saturday, May 24th and Monday, May 26th for Memorial Day.

Text\* or call: 715-536-8351 • parkcitycu.org \*Messaging and data rates/fees may apply. Federally insured by NCUA.











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905 N. Center Ave., Merrill, WI 715-536-5821 Open 7 days a week at 11:00 am

Oak Park 2402 E Main St, Suite 8 Merrill, WI 715-539-0441 www.oakparkmerrill.com Dr. Steven DeMille & Dr. Ed Long













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# Merrill Memorial Day Event ~

When: Ma

Where: Veterans Memorial Cemetery off Thielman Street.

Northwood's Veterans Pos

Time: 10:30 AM the Merrill City Band will sta

Sponsored by the VFW F

# Mental Health Awareness Month: Aspirus shares tips to manage stress and build resilience

"Just like we listen to our body when we are hungry, we can learn to recognize emotional cues like stress or overwhelm."

> Jessica Schaefer, licensed clinical therapist with Aspirus Health

One in five adults in the United States experience mental illness each year according to the National Alliance on Mental Health, yet many hesitate to seek help because of stigma, fear, or uncertainty. This May, in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month and the 2025 theme "Turn Awareness Into Action," Aspirus Health is encouraging individuals to take meaningful, everyday steps toward emotional well-being.

Jessica Schaefer, a licensed clinical therapist with Aspirus Health, says one of the most effective ways to begin improving well-being mental through emotional selfawareness. By tuning in to our internal cues throughout the day, we can address feelings like stress or overwhelm before they

"Just like we listen to our body when we are hungry, we can learn to recognize emotional signals," Schaefer said. "Taking a short pause or giving yourself space in the moment can prevent those emotions from building."

From there, Schaefer encourages people to reflect on how they're currently coping. While it can be tempting to push difficult emotions aside, avoiding them can lead to increased stress over time. Confronting those feelings early, either through personal reflection or with the help of a provider, can support long-term wellness.

Reaching out for help, however, is not always easy. "It is completely normal to feel uncertain about seeking help," said Schaefer. "We may never feel fully ready. But often, taking action despite the discomfort is how healing begins."

For those looking to support someone else, Schaefer recommends leading with empathy and curiosity. Instead of offering advice right away, start by asking what the person needs. "Everyone experiences support differently. What helps one person may not feel right for another. Meeting people where they are is key."

In addition to seeking building support, resilience can start with small but powerful habits. Practices like noticing moments of gratitude or surrounding yourself with emotionally supportive people can help you feel more grounded, especially during challenging times.

"This Mental Health Month, I want people to know they do not have to stay stuck," Schaefer said. "Support is available, and even one small step can begin to shift things for the better."

If you are feeling overwhelmed or unsure where to start, your primary care provider can be a helpful first connection. Learn more about behavioral health services at Aspirus Health by visiting www.aspirus. org/mental-healthtreatment-counseling.



# LOYEE PRICING FOR ALL



2025 RAM 1500 Rebel Sale Price \$58,654\*



2025 Ram 1500 Laramie Crew Cab



2025 Jeep Grand Cherokee Sale Price \$40,835\*



2025 Jeep Wranglar Sale Price \$33,043\*



2025 Jeep Campass Lattitude Sale Price \$28,701\*



Sale Price \$47,643\*



**3000 EAST MAIN STREET MERRILL** Phone: (715) 536-2833 LOCATED 1/2 MILE WEST OF **HWY. 51-64 INTERCHANGE** Visit our web site at www.bricknersparkcity.net



#### **|AUCTIONS &** REAL ESTATE

# ANOTHER LIVE AUCTION WITH COL. RENÉ BRASS WWW.colrene.net

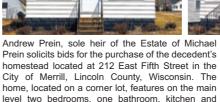
#### (Sun., June 1st ) (Starts 10:30 AM) (View 9:30) (Lunch) Owners are moving!

Crandon, WI 6.5 miles on County Rd. W to County Rd. Q, then 5 miles to 1391

Truck: F800 scissor lift dump contractor truck, Trailers, Mowers: zero turn, swisher pull behind 15 Firearms: (see website for full list) ammo Collector Car: 1922 Buick "looks great" Motorcycle: Kawasaki Ninja Boats, Tools, Farm Implements, Home Contents, Sporting Goods, Yard Equipment, Green House: (complete growing operation) solar panels, 10k watt grow lights, computer controllers & more!

Terms: Cash or good check, credit cards. Sales tax charged on some items. Not responsible for loss or accidents. Settlement made before removing items. Conditions: Sold as is, where is. Announcements made on auction day take precedence over printed material. R.W.A. Col. Rene' Brass #424, Col. Robert St. Louis #450, St Louis Auctions LLC 6728 Whitefish Lk. Rd., Three Lakes, WI 54562. PH: 715-367-1668





home, located on a corner lot, features on the main level two bedrooms, one bathroom, kitchen and living room and two additional rooms on the upper level. There is a detached 1 car garage. The premises may be inspected on Saturday, May

31st from 9:00A M -4:00P M. The premises and improvements are being sold in an AS IS condition without any warranties or representations of any



nature whatsoever. All bidders are encouraged to thoroughly inspect the premises and may make their bid contingent upon an inspection. Title to the premises shall be conveyed by warranty deed except restrictions, reservations, easements, agreements, covenants and rights-of-way of record.

Andrew Prein reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any bid he deems most satisfactory in his sole discretion. Terms of sale: \$2,000 within seven (7) days of notification of acceptance of bid and balance of bid price in cash at time of closing, with closing to be within thirty (30) days of notification of acceptance of bid. All bids shall be sealed in an envelope marked "Prein Estate House Bid" and sent by first class mail to Attorney Craig J. Nienow at N5041 County Road JJ, Irma, WI 54442

Bids will be examined on the 10th day of June, 2025. The successful bidder, if any, will be notified on or before the 17th day of June, 2025.

#### |CLASSIFIEDS|

#### Rummage Sales This Week

Garage Sale: 1201 Jackson St #15. Downsizing. Thur & Fri 5/22 & 23, 9a-5p; Sat 5/24, 9a-12. Nice end tables, Kitchenware, Much More. No Clothes.

Garage Sale: W5561 Joe Snow Rd. Fri.-Mon. May 23-26, 8-6. Something for Everyone

**Garage Sale** Wed.-Sun. 8-5. 700 S Alexander St. Boy Baby Clothes, Boys & Girls Kids Clothes, Misc.

**HOSTA SALE** - Waupaca Still just \$5 each! Friday - Sunday May 23 - 25 8am-3p

**OVER 100 VARIETIES Blues** Minis-GIANTS, Sun-Tolerant Fragrant, Gold & Variegated. South of Waupaca Hwy K past Red Mill. Left on East Rd N1850 East Rd Waupaca

Rummage Sale: 1003 Superior St. Thurs.-Sat., 9-4 Household, Camping, Vintage.

W5706 Hillside Dr. Thur & Fri 9am-4pm, Canning jars, saws, Makeup Vanity, Adult Household Rhubarb, Furniture.

Wausau: 1134 S. 17th Ave. 5/31, 8a-3p Big Sale
Handcrafted Metal & Wood Art
Free-Form Metal Art: flowers, wheels & water pumps.
Salvation Woodworks: handturned wood bowls, charcuterie boards & wooden benches.

#### Rummage Sales Upcoming

**Estate/Rummage** Sale: W7251 Rose Len Ct. Thurs 5/29, Fri 5/30 & Sat 5/31 from 8-6. Items include fishing poles, lures, tackle boxes, and other fishing equipment; collectibles; Houshold items.



#### **GARAGE SALE KITS NOW AVAILABLE**

Let Garage Sale Gale

help you with your sale! Kit Includes:

- garage sale signs
- 140 pricing stickers3 balloons
- · How to have a successful
- garage sale pamphlet
  1 coupon for \$5 off you NEXT classified ad!

ONLY \$5.00 PER KIT!\*

\* With the purchase of a classified ad.

Available at: **Merrill Foto News** 2011 E. Main St., Merrill

#### Estate Sales

Estate Sale 801 Cedar St. Merrill. Moving to Arizona selling everything. Call to get list of what is for and make appointment to come view items, 715-921-6191

LOYAL ESTATE SALE W4119 Capital Dr. TH 5/22 thru SAT 5/24, 8a-5p. Collectibles: cookie jars, figurines music boxes; yard tools & equip

ment, HH, furniture & more Firewood

**DRY OAK** & Hard Maple, \$250/cord. Over 15 mi is extra. Have hard wood in wood shed over a year old. Clean & no bark.

Lawn and Garden 7250

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Full service small engine repair. Snowblowers, tillers, mowers, chainsaws, log splitters & more. North Central Power Equipment 4001 Dixie Ave, Wausau 1 mile north of Fleet Farm off Hwy K, east on Emery Dr to South on Dixie 715-370-3002

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AKC Pug Puppies: AKC Registered Pug Puppies for sale Shots and dewormed. Ve checked. 3 males and 3 fe-males. Fawn colored. Ready to go 5/23. \$1,500. Call or text 715 587-1288



Shepherd Puppies German Purebred, good temperament, black/tans. Ready and need to find a good home! Asking \$500. Purebred. Please call. 715-445-1636

MINIATURE English Golden Retriever pups 25-38 lbs as adults. Vaccinated & dewormed, 1 yr guarantee. Delivery avail. partway, \$700-\$900. Call or text 715-889-5018.

Purebred Jack Russell puppies. First shots and dewormed. \$400 each 715-536-7630

Miscellaneous Agriculture 7290



Hyline Layer Hens: 2,000 92 week old Hyline Hens laying at 75%. Will sell a few or all, quantity discount available. If you are a first time hobby farmer looking to purchase a few for your back yard, we can set you up with some feed, shavings and a nes at an extra cost. Also selling laying nests and 5 120x30 brand new cold frame greenhouses with 2 fans per barn at \$13000 per barn. Barns will be disas sembled with their parts marked Selling while birds and supplies last! Call Edi at 715-937-1429

#### **Agriculture Services** 7292

Hand Crafted Garden & Storage Sheds, Garages & Cabins.

Many Styles and Options. Sizes from 8' x 8' up

to 15' x 40' are available Call BAKER BARNS, LLC 715-873-3338 mile North of Gleason, Hwy 17

Apartments for Rent 7400

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Coin-op laundry facility. <u>CALL NOW!</u> 712-580-5360 or Toll Free 855-441-8688 Certain income



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7433 **Storage Space for Rent** 

# Gatewood Heights Storage

call or text 715-581-5125

W4769 Gatewood Heights

Tomahawk, WI 54487 Storage Units: Special Summe Sale!!! Immediate Rentals avail

able!! Pay in full for 6 months ge a 10% discount! Pay in full for 1 year get a 15% discount! Al units are 12x30 and have the option for electrical hook up for additional price. Located off of Hwy 8 and Hwy 51 just north of Tomahawk. Right next to Or-ganique Clinic. Call or text 715-581-5125 Or www. Gatewood heightsstorage.com

#### Miscellaneous Recreational 7530

PARK CITY CREDIT UNION -MERRILL TWO 2022 SEA-DOOS MODEL: 64NB ID# YDV12066I122 and ID# YDV21275J122 HOURS: 4.5 & 5.1

and 2022 TRITON TRAILER, MODEL: WAVE-2 ID# ATCSM1110NH202651 MINIMUM BID \$10,700

OR BEST OFFER
Please contact Ashley @ 715-536-8351 Ext. 4821 Or Trish @ 715-536-8351 Ext. 4233

#### 7110 **General Employment**

WANTED:

Person to do detailing on a Ram truck, inside and out. Person(s) to cut up downed trees on home property (10-15 trees), bonus- you can keep the wood. Person to make up 10 hanging flower pots, we have the pots. And person to maintain flower beds around deck. Call 708-259-3173

#### **Skilled Trades**

**Experienced Diesel Mechanic:** \$30+/hr, M-F 7am to 5pm. Health, Life & Disability Insurance, Tool & Cell phone allowance, Housing available. Send resume to Waldvogel Trucking, W7622 State Hwy 47, Antigo, WI 54409, or call 715-489-3674

#### **General Labor**

Quality Homes of Irma, WI is seeking a full-time experienced carpenter with a meticulous eye for detail with a heavy background in drywall, carpet/trim work & fram-Pay based on your set of skills. We are seeking a positive team based member who doesn't mind longer hours, to stay on top of our customer base in order to maintain a positive clientele & overall business. Call 715-453-6613 to APPLY TODAY!

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# YOU

**The Merrill Foto News** website contains even more stories and photos that don't fit into our print edition.



www.merrillfotonews.com

# **Wisconsin State Park** System 2025 Annual **Property Implementation** Plans available

Each spring, Wisconsin State Park System properties with significant planned management activities develop Annual **Property Implementation** Plans (APIPs) to outline scheduled forest and habitat management treatments, recreation and infrastructure developments, and other property management actions.

The 2025 APIPs are now available online. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) invites the public to explore the plans and direct any

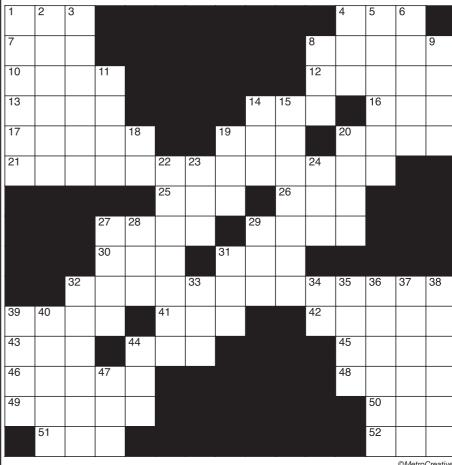
questions or comments to the respective property manager.

All planned treatments and developments outlined in the APIPs have been authorized and are consistent with the property master plans, which were developed with public input. The annual implementation plans do not include routine maintenance or minor actions such as mowing, building maintenance, inventory, or field surveys.

Activities featured in this year's APIPs include construction of a new

entrance station and an accessible kayak launch at Potawatomi State Park, trail re-namings at Council Grounds State Park, and an accessible access route at Interstate Park, as well as projects across the state such as campground and trail development, prescribed burns, and invasive species control activities.

Your interest in Wisconsin's public lands and input is valued, and the Wisconsin DNR thanks you for supporting responsible forest management and outdoor recreation opportunities.



22. Northern Italy city

23. Klutz

24. Type of tree

27. Witnessed

29. \_\_ Mahal

(Scottish)

37. Speaker

38. Specifying

28. Popular breakfast food

31. BoSox legend Williams

33. Atom or molecule type

34. The Constitution State

35. Chest to store clothes

36. Type of solution

39. Formerly (archaic)

40. Wiseman and Krom are

44. The bill in a restaurant

32. Professional drivers

#### **CLUES ACROSS**

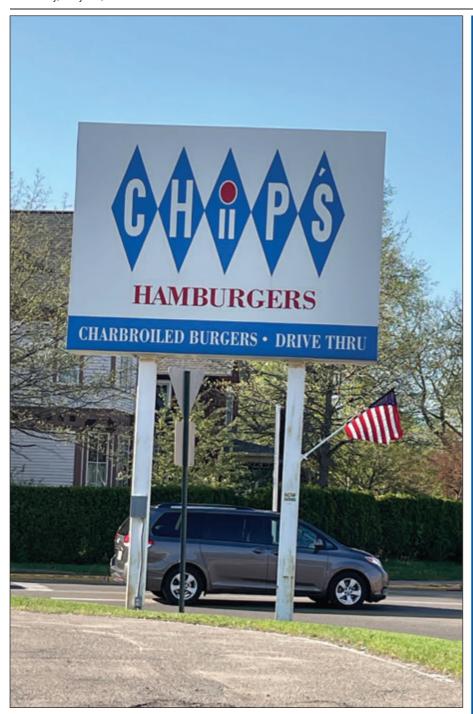
- 1. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 4. British thermal unit
- 8. Refrain from harming
- 10. Galls
- 12. Leg bone
- 13. Rhine distributary
- 14. Recipe measurement
- 16. Chap
- 17. Useful book
- 19. Mountain Time
- 20. Snakelike fishes
- 21. Places where people live
- 25. US, Latin America,
- Canada belong to 26. Periodical
- 27. A type of sense
- 29. A way to get possession of
- 30. Everyone has one
- 31. Body art
- 32. Mr. October
- 39. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- 41. Head movement
- 42. Jeweled headdress 43. VCR button
- 44. A way to change color
- 45. Basketball move 46. Upright stone slab
- 48. Forest-dwelling monkey
- 49. Pulsate steadily 50. Negative
- 51. Sino-Soviet bloc (abbr.)

52. Unit of work

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Island
- 2. Pittsburgh ballplayer
- 3. Chemical compound 4. Indicates density of data
- (abbr.)
- 6. Wild, long-legged sheep
- Engine additive
- 9. "CSI" actor George
- 11. Stony waste matter 14. Thyroid-stimulating
- hormone
- 15. Pores in a leaf's epidermis 18. Digraph
- 19. Married woman
- 20. Peripheral
  - 47. Tennis shot E B C 8 S S 0 Ν В О В 1 1 S T E L A M A 1 8 B E C N A T A A I T E B V N a o n BEGGIENYCK20N T A T O D 3 3 E L F T A K E D A M B A O G H B O B H O D B M S L E E Г S A A J 9 2 T I B I B A A S A U T 8

I B K S Ι ∀ Ч Т



The Lincoln County Humane Society (LCHS) would like to thank Chip's Hamburgers for hosting the "Paws for a Cause" fundraiser! Chip's ran the fundraiser from Feb. 1 to Mar. 31, collecting donations from customers. Special thanks to everyone who donated during this drive. "We are so lucky to have such an amazing community and support system for our little shelter!" LCHS staff said. "And to even go a step further with how amazing Chip's has been to our shelter, since 2021 for the 'Paws for a Cause' fundraiser, Chips has collected \$34,289 for the pets through your donations! Thank you all so much for all of your continued support!"

Tina L. Scott photo.





MERRILLFOTONEWS.COM

#### **Baumgart Waste Removal**

is looking for Drivers with a Class B CDL License for

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(4) 10 Hour Days - OT opportunity on Friday's

**Open Positions: 1st Shift • All Production Areas** 

Fill out an application online at: mitchellmetalproducts.com/about/career-opportunities

Or stop in and pick up an application at: **Mitchell Metal Products** 905 South State Street, Merrill, WI 54452

# **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Looking for a new career?

Your local community newspaper is the best place to look.

# **Join the Lincoln Production Crew** in Merrill, WI!

**Lincoln Wood Products has proudly** provided work in Merrill for over 75 years, crafting high-end windows and doors sold across the U.S. Be part of a legacy of quality!

### Why Join Us?

- Starting Pay up to \$22/hr.
- First Shift Only keep your evenings free!
- Seniority Incentives & Annual Shoe Allowance
- Transfer Incentive & OT after 8 hours daily
- Health Deductible = \$750 Individual/\$1,500 Family





#### **3 WAYS TO APPLY**

- 1. Apply in person at 1400 W. Taylor Street
- 2. Email your resume to gebeyer@lincolnwindows.com
- 3. Go to www.indeed.com to search vacancies @ Lincoln





- Crew Member \$19.79 - \$21.29/HR
- Maintenance Tech 2nd Shift \$30.10 - \$32.35/HR

#### APPLY IN-PERSON

**Two Merrill Locations:** 605 N. Ohio St. I 1815 Water St. Questions? Call: 715-722-1884

- Possible OT on Friday
- Attendance BONUS (Up to additional
- Retirement & Life **Insurance**

\$1.50/hr)

- Paid Holidays and **Vacations**
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**Individual:** \$84/Month Spouse:

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# Aspirus provides access to emergency stroke treatment through telestroke services

Improving outcomes through faster stroke intervention

"Every minute that goes by is 1.9 million neurons that we lose. Time is brain, so every minute counts."

> Dr. Philip Bovet, Emergency Medicine Physician at Aspirus Health

Stroke is a leading cause of disability and death in the United States, and for rural communities, timely treatment can be a significant challenge. During Stroke Awareness Month, Aspirus Health is highlighting how telestroke technology is helping bridge that gap and bring expertlevel care to patients closer to home.

Telestroke technology connects emergency teams with neurologists through secure video conferencing, allowing stroke patients to be evaluated and treated faster.

"Telestroke gives us access to a neurologist in the



Dr. Philip Bovet, Emergency Medicine Physician at Aspirus Photo courtesy of Aspirus Health.

Emergency Department when we want to discuss the patient's condition," said Dr. Philip Bovet, Emergency Medicine Physician at Aspirus Health. "We can have their consultation right away, which makes treatment quicker and more effective."

When a stroke is caused by a blood clot, known as an ischemic stroke, medications like TNK (a clot-busting drug) can be used to dissolve the clot and restore blood flow. But

the effectiveness of this medication depends heavily on how quickly it's administered.

"Every minute that goes by is 1.9 million neurons that we lose," said Dr. Bovet. "Time is brain, so every minute

Telestroke enables emergency teams to act fast, even during busy shifts, and can reduce the need to transfer patients to larger facilities.

"It's been very helpful knowing that when we have a stroke patient come in, we have the security of a neurologist who's available on the screen right away," he said. "It helps put me at ease knowing I have a specialist taking care of the patient, too,"

Dr. Bovet, who grew up in Antigo, said he's proud that advanced stroke care is available in the region he calls home. "Knowing that technology like this is available here for family and friends is a great asset to have in our community."

#### **Know the Signs. Act Fast.**

Stroke symptoms can include sudden numbness, confusion, trouble speaking, vision problems, dizziness, or severe headache. If you or someone else is experiencing these signs, call 911 immediately.

For more information about stroke care at Aspirus, visit aspirus.org/stroke-care.

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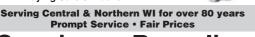
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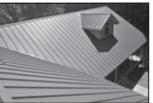
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# **Bridges Virtual Academy graduates 46 students**

Bridges Virtual Academy (BVA), a virtual charter school in the Merrill School District serving Grades K4–12, held its Class of 2025 Graduation Ceremony Friday evening, May 16, 2025, in the Merrill High School Auditorium.

There were 46 graduates in this year's BVA Class of 2025 including: Noah Adler, Sister Bay; Blake Beatty, Schofield; Hailey Becker, Athens; Malayna Beernink, Beloit; Kaitlynn Bevers, Racine; Ella Biemann, Hartland; Lucas Christensen, West Allis; Elianna Clauser, Union Grove; Mason Derfus, Madison; Madelyn Eckes, Kaukauna; Maxx Eliason, Green Bay; Cameron Fanslau, Shawano; Leah Freyer, Merrill; Elijah Haag, Sobieski; Avery Hamre, Stevens Point; Ava Hanthorn, Germantown; Claire Healy, Oak Creek; Gavin Holzem, Merrill; Giovanna Hughes, South Milwaukee; Rayanne Jacobson-Burdick, Athens; Noah Joyner, Merrill; Emily Kevilus, Prentice; Allison Klesmith, Tomhawk; Eli Kloehn, Clintonville; Laura Leonardson, Sussex; Alison Long, Appleton; Meara Marinan, De Pere; Carly Matiash, Oshkosh; Sophia Meyer, Whitewater; Moriah Mueller, Minocqua; Donavin Muenchow, Merrill; Autumn Palmer, Merrill; Ban Plambeck, Germantown; Princeten Pyan, Merrill; Elle Rangle, Pine River; Joshua Short, Green Bay; Kyle Smith, Baraboo; Tucyr Smola, Medford; Connor Sohre, Germantown; Claire Steffes, Mineral Point; Jonnaki Thorstad, Madison; Luke Thorstad, Madison; Tate Thorstad, Madison; Lily Ullman, Merrill; Carolina Vega-Martinez, Madison; and Grant White, Merrill.

Twenty-five of these graduates were able to participate in the Graduation Ceremony in person.



A graduation ceremony was held last Friday, May 16, 2025, for the Class of 2025 Bridges Virtual Academy. Shown are the students who were able to attend the ceremony in person. Congratulations, graduates! **Submitted photo.** 



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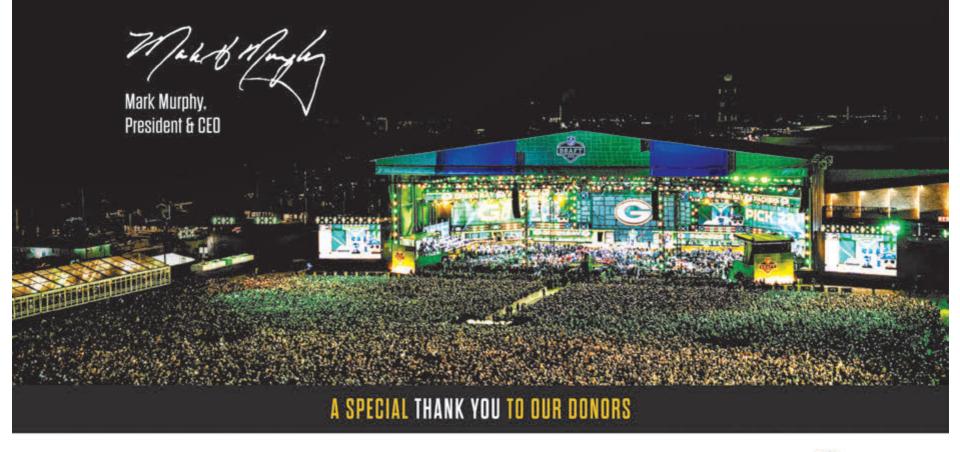
### **GREEN BAY PACKERS FANS**

Thank you for being a part of the 2025 NFL Draft. I could not be prouder of the Packers organization and our community for this incredible event. There were countless memorable moments and special experiences throughout the whole week. It was a privilege to be a part of it.

As I approach my retirement in July and look back at my time with the Packers, the 2025 NFL Draft is certainly among my proudest accomplishments. But the credit for hosting this event so successfully belongs to our entire community and I want to express my gratitude to so many who contributed:

- To the NFL, for believing Green Bay and our community could host this event. You understood our vision and helped bring it to life.
- To Discover Green Bay and PMI for being our partners on the local organizing committee. We were proud
  to work alongside you.
- To our host committee who helped raise the funds to bring the Draft to Green Bay. Thank you to our donors for your unwavering support.
- To Governor Evers, Travel Wisconsin and our elected officials at the state level. You appreciated the impact
  the Draft could have as a statewide event and your support was instrumental in making it happen. We look
  forward to seeing the impact of this event for years to come.
- To our local municipalities: the City of Green Bay, Village of Ashwaubenon and Brown County. So many departments played a critical role in ensuring a smooth, safe event, especially public safety and first responders. We appreciate all you do.

Most of all, thank you to Packers fans, Wisconsinites and visitors from near and far. You showed your pride in this team and this region. You showed up, provided a warm welcome to new friends (even those cheering for other teams) and created an unforgettable atmosphere here at Lambeau Field and Titletown. We're grateful to have the greatest fans in sports.





































# Merrill High **School Youth Apprenticeship Program**

On May 7, 2025, the Merrill High School Youth Apprenticeship (YA) Program honored its Student Stars at a celebratory banquet held at the Eagle's Club. Surrounded by friends, family, mentors, and employers, students were recognized for outstanding achievement in developing career readiness skills at their work sites.

"These students have gone above and beyond in their commitment to learning and growth," said YA Coordinator Linda Murray. "They're not just building skillsthey're building their futures."

Out of the 93 students participating in the program this school year, 12 were selected to receive this honor. "It's inspiring to see how far these students have come in such a short time. Their drive and professionalism are beyond their years," one mentor said.

This year, a new honor was introduced: Mentor of the Year. Greg Gressens, a mentor for YA students at Brickner's Park City, was given the award. Greg has served as a dedicated mentor for YA students at Brickner's since the program's inception.

"Greg's impact goes far beyond the workplace," said YA Coordinator Steve Hintze. "He leads by example, inspires confidence, and truly invests in the success of every student he mentors."

"It's been incredibly rewarding to watch these students grow," Gressens said, "not just in their skills, but in their confidence. I'm honored to play a small part in their journey."

The YA Program is a rigorous one- or two-year elective, statewide program for high school Juniors and Seniors that combines academic and technical instruction with mentored, paid, onthe-job learning that makes a real world connection for students. Youth Apprentices work a minimum of 450 hours at their YA worksite each year of their program and

take related high school or college classes to enhance their worksite experiences. They earn one credit for each semester they successfully participate in YA, and at the completion of their apprenticeship, they receive a Certificate of Occupational Proficiency from the State of Wisconsin, an accomplishment that is recognized by both employers and colleges alike.

The 16 program areas available through Wisconsin's YA Program are: agriculture, food, and natural resources; architecture and construction; art, a/v technology, and communications; business; education; finance; government and public administration, health science; hospitality, lodging, and tourism; human services; information technology; law, public safety, corrections, and security; manufacturing; marketing; science, technology, engineering, and math; and transportation, distribution, and logistics.

Employers hire apprentices for a variety of reasons including being able to recruit potential employees and shape the quality of their workforce, developing partnerships with Merrill High School, building great employee loyalty, and creating positive PR by helping youth with employment and education.

Students become apprentices because they earn a paycheck while learning from skilled professionals. Also they become more organized and efficient with their time, increase career awareness and improve future employability, and develop the necessary skills needed for entry-level employment. In some program areas, they begin working towards a Registered

Businesses and/or students interested in more information about participating in the YA Program in the 2025-26 school year can contact YA Coordinators Linda Murray or Steve Hintze at 715.536.4594.



MHS Youth Apprentices (YA) honored as Student Stars. Front row, L to R: Maya Paulus, YA at Nicolet Bank; Anna Hintz, YA at Trinity Lutheran Early Learning Center; Marley Krueger, YA at Brooke's School of Dance; Takiyah Sell, YA at Dave's County Market; Jocelynn Broullire, YA at Organique Clinic; and Joseph Jensen, YA at Walmart. Back row L to R: Shannon Murray, MAPS Superintendent of Schools; Noah Moore, YA at Geiss Meat Service; Russell Gruetzmacher, YA at Gruetzmacher Enterprises; Brandon Skomars, YA at Gold Medal Cattle Company; Kaden Hannemann, YA at Brickner's Park City; Shaddock Schmidt, YA at Walmart; and Brad Potter, Merrill High School Associate Principal. Missing from photo: Evan Fredericks, YA at Brickner's



From L to R: Greg Gresens, Youth Apprenticeship Mentor at Brickner's Park City named 2024-2025 Mentor of the Year; Kaden Hannemann, Youth Apprentice; and Jim Brickner, Owner of Submitted photos. Brickner's Park City.

# We will remember ... Memorial Day cemetery ceremonies

BY TINA L. SCOTT **EDITOR** 

Ceremonies remembering American's fallen veterans will take place at cemeteries throughout the area on Monday, May 26, 2025.

#### St. Francis Xavier Cemetery

The Merrill City Band will play at 10:30 a.m. as the community gathers at the veterans memorial located in the St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, 2700 Thielman St. in Merrill. (Bring your own lawn chair.)

This year's program will include opening remarks from Corey Dornbrack from Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Schmitt-Manecke-Donner Post 1638 and an invocation by St. Francis Xavier Deacon Jim Arndt, music by the Merrill City Band, and the traditional laying of the wreaths. New this vear, a flyover is planned during the ceremony, new permanent displays and tributes to our fallen heroes will be unveiled, with an emphasis on

local veterans, and U.S. Congressman Tom Tiffany will be the keynote speaker. Wisconsin State Assemblyman Calvin Callahan will also be in attendance to provide a cemetery certification. The program itself begins at exactly 11 a.m.

In case of inclement weather, the program will move to the Northwoods Veterans Post at 601 Johnson St. in Merrill

#### Other area cemetery ceremonies

Outside of the city of Merrill, VFW Post 10203 from Hamburg will honor veterans at many area cemeteries, with the schedule as follows:

- 9:00 a.m. Salem Town of Hamburg, Cty. Rd. A & Grass Creek Ln.
- 9:14 a.m. St. Paul's, Town of Hamburg, Cty. Rd. L
- 9:23 a.m. St. John's, Town of Hamburg, Cty. Rd. L & Deer Creek Ln.
- 9:32 a.m. Fromm's, Town of Hamburg, Cty. Rd. L & Schoolhouse Ln.

- 9:45 a.m. St. Peters, Little Chicago, Cty. Rd. A
- 10:10 a.m. Berlin Friedensheim, Ctv. Rd. A & Valley Ln.
- 10:24 a.m. Rib View, Town of Stettin, Cty. Rd. O
- Stubbe Hill, Cty. Rd. A & Big Hill Ln.
- 10:45 a.m. -Taegesville, Berlin, N. 72nd Ave.
- 10:58 a.m. Maple Grove, Naugart Dr.
- 11:14 a.m. St. Paul's Naugart, Town of Berlin, Berlin Ln. & Naugart Dr.
- 11:29 a.m. Trinity, Town of Berlin, Cty. Rd. FF & Hwy. 107
- 11:44 a.m. St. Paul's Hwy. 64/107 & Farmingdale Rd.
- 11:58 a.m. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Leafy Grove Rd. & Cty. Rd. M

For questions about the VFW Post 10203 Hamburg schedule, call Commander Terry Krueger at 715.218.3696.

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# Merrill High School ngSportsSchedule

#### Boys Baseball (Varsity, JV, & JV2) Thurs. May 22 D. C. Everest (IV2) Thurs. May 22 D. C. Everest (Varsity & JV) 5:00 pm Tues. May 27 Medford (JV) 4:30 pm Medford (Varsity) Tues. May 27 5:00 pm Away Tues. May 27 Medford (JV2) 6:15 pm Stevens Point Black (JV2) Wed. May 28 Away 4:30 pm Girls Softball (Varsity & JV) 4:30 pm Thurs. May 22 Lakeland Union (Varsity) 4:30 pm Tues. May 27 Antigo-Regional (Varsity) **Boys Golf (Varsity & JV)** Tues. May 27 9:00 am Trapp River Golf Course (Varsity) Girls Soccer (Varsity & JV) 5:00 pm Thurs. May 22 Pool Play #1 (JV) Thurs. May 22 Pool Play #1 (Varsity) 7:00 pm Tues. May 27 Pool Play #2 (Varsity) 7:00 pm Away Thurs. May 29 Pool Play #3 (Varsity) 5:00 pm **Boys Track & Field (Varsity & JV)** Thurs. May $2\overline{2}$ 4:00 pm Tues. May 27 Bloomer (Varsity) Away 4:00 pm Away Girls Track & Field (Varsity & JV) Thurs. May 22 Wausau East (IV) 4:00 pm 4:00 pm Tues. May 27 Bloomer (Varsity) Away <u>Trap Team (Varsity)</u> 4:30 pm Tues. May 27 Practice for Conference (Games) Club Pre-Conference (Set-Up) 4:30 pm The Sports **PROTECTING** Calendar of events



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# Movie Land free outdoor movie nights return this summer

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

Local families will have three opportunities to enjoy free outdoor movies this summer as Movie Land presents its "Movie Night Under the Stars" series for 2025 at locations around Merrill.

Dylan Thomas, the owner of Movie Land and event organizer, announced the 2025 schedule featuring three familyfriendly films at two different venues.

All events will run from 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., with movies beginning at dusk. The schedule includes:

- Friday, July 11 at Normal Park featuring "UP"
- Friday, Aug. 1 at the Airport Terminal Building featuring "Top Gun Maverick"

• Friday, Aug. 15 at Normal Park featuring the live-action "Beauty and the Beast"

Each event will offer different activities for families before the film begins.

"Face painting will be going on at all three events," said Thomas. "The popcorn trailer will be attending two of the events, possibly the July 11th as well."

"The Fire Department will be attending the July 11th event at Normal Park," he said. "They're bringing one or two of their fire trucks out for a show and tell. Park City Credit Union will be bringing some toys for the kids to play with and so forth too."

The Cub Scouts will have a food concessions fundraiser at this event and donations are also welcome.

On Aug. 1, using the Airport Terminal Building for the venue presents a unique opportunity. Thomas said that event will feature "a static airplane display for everyone to see." The Lincoln County Humane Society will have a food concessions fundraiser at this event and will also welcome donations.

At the final free Movie Land event on Aug. 15, "Lincoln County Sheriff's Department will be bringing their SWAT truck and a Police SUV for a show and tell," said Thomas. Park City Credit Union will return with activities for children. Food concession beneficiaries for this event are still to be determined; however, donations to benefit the Rotary Club of Merrill and Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes-Camp Birch

Trails would be welcomed.

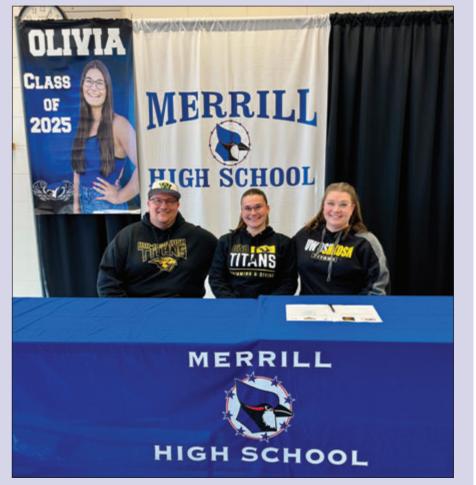
In case of rain, alternative locations have been arranged. In the case of inclement weather, the July 11 and Aug. 1 events would move to Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes, while the Aug. 15 showing would relocate to the MARC in the event of bad weather.

Thomas emphasized all three events are completely free. "No admission fee! Free to everyone!" Thomas said. However, attendees may wish to bring along cash for concessions and donations to area organizations, and attendees should bring their own blankets and chairs to these events.

For more information, residents can visit the "Merrill's Movie Land Event" Facebook page.



On April 23, 2025, Olivia Pajtash signed an agreement to swim for the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Swim Team. She plans to major in Nursing.



Olivia's parents, Seth and Stephanie Pajtash were there for the signing. Not pictured but also present were friends, family members, and Kristie Winter (MHS Varsity Swim Coach), Megan Cihla (Club Coach), and Dan Kufahl (MHS Soccer Coach) who were all there to support her. Athletic Director Christopher Hahn coordinated the signing event.

Submitted photos.

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Jazlin Severt, a Junior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week for the week of May 22, 2025. Jazlin has been competing in Track and Field since eighth grade and joined the Varsity team as a Freshman. She competes in the shorter sprints—100, 200, and 400 meters—as well as relays and high jump. Her favorite is "the thrill of the 4x400. It's a lot of fun having everyone cheering for you on the track," she said. She also joined the MHS Tennis Team last year, playing JV singles, and hopes to make Varsity this season.

At school, Jazlin is Vice President of the Junior Optimist Club (President next year), was recently inducted into the National Honor Society, and is in Raise Your Voice, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Student Council, and writes for the Bluejay Beat. She's active in Youth Group and volunteers for events at Trinity Lutheran Church.

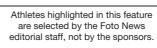
In her free time, Jazlin enjoys reading, writing, running, and hanging out with friends. Over the summer, she helps with her family's day lily growing business.

The daughter of Karli and Jesse Severt of Merrill, Jazlin has a 4.0 GPA and plans to attend UW-LaCrosse or UW-Green Bay to major in biology or health science, with goals to pursue physical therapy, occupational therapy, or a physician assistant program.

Congratulations from these sponsors:







Jazlin Severt

Please direct comments or suggestions to fotonews@mmclocal.com

#### **CAMPUS BRIEFS**

#### Merrill students named to NTC Fall 2024 President's List

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) announced their President's List for outstanding academic achievement for the fall 2024 term. Dawson Schulz, Dominic Rice, and Jessica Allen, all of Merrill, were named to the President's List. All are enrolled in a post-secondary program and earned a 3.75 grade

point average (GPA) or above and successfully completed a minimum of six credits during the fall term.

#### Jaworski graduates from Minnesota State

Rachel Jaworski of Athens, graduated from Minnesota State University with a BS in Marketing during their spring commencement exercises in Mankato on Friday, May 9, 2025.

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