

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1956
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THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025 VOLUME 70, ISSUE 23



BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

The Lincoln County Rodeo Association (LCRA) is back to bring Lincoln County another exciting year of professional rodeo. The three-day Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo (WRPR) starts Friday, June 6, 2025, and runs through Sunday, June 8, at the Merrill Fairgrounds.

For an action-packed western family fun weekend, the event will welcome professional cowboys and $cowgirls from \, around \, the \, U.S.-and \, a \, few \, professionals$ with local roots, as well - to showcase their talents and compete in roping, riding, and bucking events that aren't for the faint of heart. From barrel racing to team roping, tie down roping, breakaway roping, and steer wrestling, as well as bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, and bull riding, they've got it all. The cowboys and cowgirls competing will focus on speed, form, times, and just hanging on, with many events culminating in a rider's launch into the air and a dirt landing, all for attendees' entertainment and cash and prizes on the rodeo circuit. In WRPR tradition, Gary Van Der Geest Memorial Saddles will also be awarded to the All Around Cowboy and Champion Barrel Racer.

But it's not all just contestants, horses, steers, and bulls kicking up dust in the arena. Family-friendly events are always included and make for lots of fun for the kids. Plus there will be music in the evenings, tractor pulls, on-site vendors, the queen coronation, food on the grounds, and more!

For more information and a complete event schedule, go to wrpr.org.







The first girl to complete the 5K approaches the finish line.

Joseph Frederick photo.

Girls on the Run culminates in 5K run

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

Girls on the Run at Washington School in Merrill is comprised of third and fourth grade girls. This year marks the end of the fourth year the group has been active at Washington, and after talking with several girls in the group, it quickly became clear this group is more than just a cross country team-and it's about a lot more than running. One third grader shared how much she likes the group because it is positive and there is very

little negativity within the group.

Programming includes time for a healthy snack after school, playing games, and guided conversations between the adult leaders and the girls. On the day I was observing, the discussion centered around peer pressure, how to stand up for yourself without being a bully, and other social and emotional components of healthy and assertive behaviors, in age-appropriate terms. The focus of the group extends to fostering positive body image and other key components related to research-based healthy

adolescent development for girls.

The girls love the running, especially those who are athletic, but they also join because their friends are in the group, which they said makes it a lot more fun.

The Girls on the Run group includes a strategy book the leaders use as a tool, and the girls get journals that correlate with the topics the leaders facilitate.

Girls on the Run expanded to Prairie River Middle School last year,

See RUN page 7





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Native musician connects PRMS fifth graders with cultural heritage

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

Prairie River Middle School fifth graders experienced the musical traditions of Wisconsin's Native American culture on Thursday, May 15, 2025, when Frank Montano performed in their school cafeteria.

Montano, a flute player from the Red Cliff Reservation, demonstrated

traditional Native Woodland instruments for the students. The performance connected past and present, as Montano has family ties to the community dating back decades.

"His own sons attended Merrill High School during the 1970s and 1980s," said Matthew Rethaber, a teacher at Prairie River Middle School. "Now, 50 years later, Montano returned to

the Merrill community to express the importance of preserving Native traditions and sharing Indigenous voices with younger generations."

musical The program complemented ongoing lessons in Rethaber's classroom, where students explore local musical heritage.

See MUSIC page 2



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MUSIC from page 2

"The event was part of a larger unit in my general music class, where students have been learning about Wisconsin's diverse musical traditions through a collection called Down Home Dairyland," said Rethaber. "This educational resource highlights a wide range of folk and traditional music styles from across the state, helping students connect with local culture through sound."

Students were particularly engaged when Montano showed how his instruments could recreate sounds from nature.

"I thought it was cool how many different instruments he used and how he played a variety of sounds for us," said one fifth grader after the performance.

Among the instruments featured was a rain stick created from a Mexican cactus, demonstrating how natural materials become musical tools.

"During his presentation, Montano demonstrated the unique tones and textures of his Native Woodland flutes," said Rethaber. "He captivated the students by imitating animal calls and showing how each instrument is crafted to reflect nature."

The educational value extended beyond music alone, offering lessons about cultural heritage and diversity while introducing students to traditional Native American artistry.

"Montano's performance was more than just a musical demonstration; it was a powerful lesson in cultural respect, creativity, and the value of diversity in education," said Rethaber.

The performance gave Prairie River students hands-on musical а experience while deepening their understanding of Native cultural traditions that continue to thrive in Wisconsin.

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Campus **News**

Baumann named to Spring 2025 Dean's List at Wisconsin Lutheran College

Arabella Baumann of Merrill, a Sophomore at Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC), has been named to the college's Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester. Arabella is a graduate of Northland Lutheran High School. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must carry a semester grade point average (GPA) of 3.6 or higher.

Wisconsin Lutheran College is an independent, nationally ranked Christian college located in Milwaukee, which prepares students for lives of Christian leadership and is recognized for its academic excellence and superior student experience. wlc. edu.

Evans makes the President's List at Western Technical College

Clayton Evans of Merrill was named to Western Technical College's President's List of High Distinction for the Spring 2025 term. To be included on the President's List, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher and carry six or more credits in an associate's degree or technical diploma program.

Local students named to University of Minnesota Twin **Cities Dean's List**

The following area students were named to the 2024 fall semester Dean's List at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities:

• Emma Ford, Athens, a Junior at Carlson School of Management

· Caleb Norton, Merrill, a Sophomore at College of Design

To qualify for the Dean's List. students must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 GPA.

UW-Whitewater announces Dean's List

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER Life's Meaning

Dear Reader,

There's something about growing older-about all the experiences we gather, the places we've been, and

the people we've met along the way-that helps a person gain perspective. With time, our thoughts, wisdom, and knowledge begin to intertwine, forming a clearer picture of life's meaning.

Now that I've reached this stage, it all makes sense. Everything that has happened—both the joys and



the chaos-has happened for a reason. Even in the midst of life's turbulence, through moments of struggle and uncertainty, there was always a way forward. And in the end, there is always something better waiting on the other side.

So take heart, my fellow travelers on this journey! Take heart because, despite the challenges, we shall prevail. Instead of dividing and marginalizing, we will embrace and uplift.

> PATRICK J. WOOD Publisher Author of "Reflections" a new book now available on Amazon.





More than 3.500 students at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater earned a spot on the Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester, including the following Merrill students:

- Jordan Brzoznowski
- McKenna Meyer
- Caitlynn Pehlke
- Lucas Reist

· Gavin Wroblewski These students have demonstrated their academic abilities by receiving a grade point average of 3.4 or above in a single semester.

Local students named to Dean's List at UW-Superior

The following area stuends were named to the University of Wisconsin-Superior Dean's List for

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|OBITUARIES|

Darleen M. Klebenow Kniess



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Darleen M. Klebenow Kniess went to her Heavenly Home on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at the age of 84. Darleen was born March 13, 1941, to the late Alvin and Eleanor (Steidinger) Wendt. She married Kenneth Klebenow on December 27 1958. He preceded her in death

on December 2, 2002. She married Everett 'Év' M. Kniess on September 29, 2018. He preceded her in death on November 9, 2023. Darleen worked for the Merrill Area Public Schools food service

department for 23 years. Darleen was a member of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Gleason.

Darleen enjoyed taking people to their medical appoint-ments through the Commission on Aging and volunteering with the Food Pantry at church. In their younger years, her and Kenny enjoyed polka music and polka dancing. She also belonged to a card club. One of Darleen and Ev's favorite pastimes was four wheeling. She also enjoyed shopping trips with her daughters.

Survivors include her daughters, Linda (Rick) Dorn, Laurie (Mark) Folz, and Kristine (Robert) Reichelt; stepchildren, Laurie (Frank) Frederick, Sandy (Tim) Reader, Russell Kniess, and Debbie (Scott) Bagley; 12 grandchildren; 8 step grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; 7 step great-grandchildren; twin sister, Doreen Gaeu Berndt; brother-in-law. Vess Kniess; and special friends, Jeannie Storm, Barb Steffenhagen, and Mary Ann Greitenhardt. Darleen was preceded in death by her husbands, Kenneth Klebenow and Everett 'Ev' Kniess; parents, Alvin and Eleanor Wendt; niece, Tami Gaeu; and several other brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law of Darleen, Kenneth and Ev.

The funeral service for Darleen will be held at 6:00 P.M Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at St. John Lutheran Church, Merrill. Rev. Greg Laska will officiate. Burial will take place at a later date in Snow Hill Cemetery, Town of Scott, Lincoln County. The visitation will begin at 3:00P.M. Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at the church.

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

David B. Smith Jr.



David B. Smith Jr., Merrill, died Wednesday, May 28. He was 87 years old. He was born in Wausau on

March 31, 1938, the oldest child of David B. Smith, Sr and Katharine Stone Smith. Dave grew up in Merrill where he was an outstanding athlete playing football, basketball, baseball and running track. He was a high school football All-American and a proud member of the Merrill football

Silver M Club - earning his Golden M in 2005. Dave attended Beloit College and, after serving in the Army National Guard, transferred to the University of Wisconsin Madison where he earned a degree in Economics. He was also a member of Chi Psi fraternity.

He married Kathalyn Ann Way, a Merrill High School classmate who once told her mother she "wouldn't date Dave Smith if he were the last man on earth." They were married 63 years and raised two children.

Dave spent his career in the paper industry, working summers at Wausau Paper Mills in Brokaw. He spent his entire professional career with Weyerhaeuser which took him and his family to the west coast. He progressed from working in Personnel in paper mills in Aberdeen and Everett, Washington, eventually joining the corporate office in Tacoma. There he oversaw the corporate purchasing department and retired at an early age as Vice President of Labor Relations. Dave served on the board of directors at Wausau Paper Mills, Church Mutual, and the local BMO Harris bank in Merrill.

Following retirement, he attended everyone of his children's sporting events. He extended that practice to his grand-children, traveling across the country to watch countless high school and college basketball and volleyball games as well as curling matches and accumulating an impressive collection of travel coffee mugs, shirts, jackets, and sweatshirts of their college alma maters. He loved his family fiercely. Dave and Kay spent summers at the family cottage on Plum Lake, eventually buying Dave's family home in Merrill and relocating to Wisconsin full-time. He is survived by his wife, Kay, his daughter Stephanie L Smith, Wausau, his son David B. (Gail) Smith III, Lakewood, Washington; grandchildren, David B.(Kate Blackwell) Smith IV, Scottsdale, Arizona, Victoria (Matthew) Klinewski, Portland, Oregon, Anna Schellpfeffer, Woodbury, Minnesota, Joshua Schellpfeffer, Bloomington Minnesota, Jacob (Olivia McGovern) Schellpfeffer, Somerville, Massachusetts, and great granddaughter Beatrice Klinewski. He's further survived by his sisters Margaret (Michael) Mumma, Jefferson, Iowa, and Sarah (Bret) Miller, Naples, Florida and Sayner, Wisconsin, nieces, nephews and countless friends - especially those at the Eagles Club, Kwik Trip and the Merrill Post Office. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Thomas Smith. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. The family would like to thank Drs. Schwartz and Peter and the staff at Marshfield Clinic Weston Regional Center for their care and compassion. In lieu of flowers, the family asks memorials be directed to the charity of your choice. 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.

Mary Ann Ellis



Mary Ann Ellis, 88 of Merrill passed away on Sunday May 25, 2025 at Aspirus Hospital Palliative Care in Wausau. Mary Ann Was born 11/19/36 Waukesha Wisconsin to in Charles Hilkens and Eva Schoerner. She married Richard Ellis Sr. in Waukon IA on January 30, 1954. Mary Ann was a homemaker, short order cook at the Black Bear Restaurant in Medford and worked at Weinbrenner Shoe Company in Merrill. She enjoyed camping, fishing

hunting, gardening, cooking for large groups and spending time with her seven children and her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She made homemade gifts for everyone and lap blankets for 3 hospitals and 3 nursing homes despite being almost totally blind. She taught many people to cook bake, preserve food, butcher and fillet fish along with many crafts and life skills.

Mary Ann is survived by daughter: Roxanne (Thomas) Wirtz, Merrill, Sons: Richard Ellis Jr., Merrill, Bert Ellis, Merrill, Jeff (Teressa) Ellis, Holcombe, Jayson (Vickie) Ellis, Irma, Clay (Cheryl), Irma, Tracy Ellis, Holcombe.

A memorial service to be held at St Stephen's United Church of Christ in Merrill July 12, 2:00 pm, visitation at 1:00 pm.

John Buettgen Funeral Home of Wausau Mid Wisconsin Cremation Society is assisting with the arrangements.

Noreen V. 'Penny' Beyea



Noreen V. 'Penny' Beyea 98, of Merrill, passed away Sunday, May 25. 2025, at Bell Tower Residence.

Penny was born June 6, 1926 in Cleveland, daughter of William and Violet (Ostrander) Cawley. She married Lewis Lambrecht. He preceded her in death on December 15, 1992 She then married Leslie Beyea and he preceded her in death on January 5, 2009. Penny held various jobs. She

worked as a CNA at a hospital and a cashier in a grocery

store. While living in Merrill, she worked in the bakery at the former Red Owl. She was a great baker and could decorate cakes and cookies with perfection. Penny enjoyed playing cards with friends, especially Sheepshead, flower

Survivors include her children, Linda (John) Emerich, Ann Schneider, Edward (Vicki) Lambrecht and Mark (Julie) Lambrecht all of Merrill; 14 grandchildren, Paul (Isabel) Emerich, Michael (Becky) Schneider, Andy Schneider, Greg (Becky) Schneider, Cindy (Scott) Hopp, Carrie Fowler Kristie (Bill) Anderson, Justin Woller (Cindy), Brandor Schult (Amanda), Matthew (Bethany) Lambrecht, Nick Lambrecht (Melissa), Eric Ott, and Ryan (Katie) Ott; 18 great grandchildren; several great great grandchildren; and many friends. Penny was preceded in death by her husbands, Lewis and Leslie; grandson, Jeremiah Schult; son-in-law Michael 'Soupy' Schneider; sister, Pat (Richard) Bernhardt brother, Bill (Helen) Cawley; and several in-laws. A graveside service will be held at a later date.

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

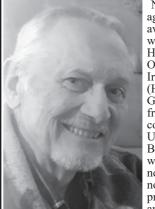
Faye I. Latzig

Faye I. Latzig, 88 yrs old of Rockford, IL died November 9 2024

Services will be held on June 21, 2025 at 11am at St. John's United Church of Christ, 401 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008.



Norman "Norm" L. Hodgson



Norman "Norm" L. Hodgson. age 73, of Gleason, passed away on Friday, May 23, 2025 while at the Aspirus Wausau Hospital. He was born on October 31, 1951, to the late Irwin "Irv" and Mary Jane (Hackbarth) Hodgson in Gleason, WI. Norm graduated from Merrill High School and continued his education at UW-Stevens Point, earning a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in Business Administration and Eco nomics. He spent most of his professional life in insurance and financial planning, where

he built lasting relationships and focused on helping clients find thoughtful, personalized solutions. He valued being accessible not just for his clients, but for his family and sought a balance that allowed him to be present for the things that mattered most. Norm married his soul mate, Mary (Jakubek) Porto, on October 4, 2008 at Our Savior's Church in Gleason, WI. She survives.

A devoted father and grandfather, Norm never missed a game, a track meet, or a chance to show up for his family He was steady and dependable, protective, generous with his time, and quietly proud of the lives his children and grandchildren were building.

Norm had a deep love for the outdoors. He was a lifelong hunter and a passionate fisherman. Whether spring and fall walleye fishing, Lake Michigan fishing, or ice fishing —he loved them all. He paid attention to the details, constantly honing his skills and adapting new techniques, whether that meant painting his own jigs or changing tactics on the water. He and his longtime fishing partner "Hoggie" competed in many walleye tournaments together and later expanded their dynamic duo to include Norm's sons. But more than catch-ing fish. Norm layord taking others fishing and arised dynamic duo to include Norm's sons. But more than catch-ing fish, Norm loved taking others fishing and enjoyed teaching, guiding, and spending the time with family and friends. He took pride in sharing the experience, and then later the catch, regularly hosting a fish fry bringing people together to enjoy a few old fashioneds, tell stories, and simply enjoy each other's company.

Norm also loved spending time in the woods. He was an Eagle Scout and had a remarkable sense of direction and could walk a stretch of land once and understand how it fit into the bigger picture, how it connected. He was an orienteer in the truest sense. Norm was a capable outdoorsman and spent time making firewood—a full process of felling cutting, and splitting that reflected his deep connection to the woods. He continued his family's maple syrup tradition, re

fining and improving the process with every season and he truly enjoyed sharing syrup with friends and family. Norm loved baseball playing hardball in his youth, coaching county league team as a young adult, and playing slow-pitch well into adulthood. He followed the Brewers faithfully and usually had the game on the radio or TV whenever available to listen to Bob Uecker calling the game.

Later in life, Norm returned to his hometown and served for a time as Chairman of the Town of Russell. He was proud to be part of the Gleason community and remained deeply rooted in it. He was also a man of quiet faith and strong con victions. He believed in quality, doing what was right, and keeping his word.

Norm was not one to seek attention. He carried himself with quiet confidence, a dry wit, and an authentic humility. He did not need the spotlight but rather he just needed to be there, doing his part. He will be deeply missed, but he leaves be hind a legacy rooted in presence, integrity, and love of family.

Norm is survived by his wife: Mary Hodgson of Gleason, daughter: Jessie (Todd) Schroeder of Fox Valley, WI, with their children: Kayla and Colton, sons: Jake (Sara) Hodgson of West Bend, WI, with their children: Cecelia and Lucille and Jon (Franny) Hodgson of Fox Valley, WI, with her son Jameson, step-sons: Bryan (Michelle) Porto, with their children: Ben and Lillian and Kevin (Jina) Porto, with their children: Isaac and Ethan and Kevin (Jina) Porto, with their children: Isaac and Ethan, step-daughter: Teresa (Tim) Hendrickson, brother: Ron (June) Hodgson of Gleason, nephews: Erik Hodgson, Ben "Beej" (Lori) Hodgson, Adam (Melanie) Hodgson and Cody Hodgson and niece: September (Matt) Murphy. He is further survived by his exwife and mother to his children: Sue Hodgson (Neubauer) and many good friends and neighbors. He is preceded in death by his parents and his faithful companion, his dog Laycee.

The funeral service for Norm will be held on Saturday, May 1. 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Merrill, with a visitation from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service, also at the church. Rev. David Szeto will officiate. Visitation will be held on Friday, May 30, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral Home at 301 Eagle Drive, Merrill. Burial will immediately follow the service and take place at the Luther Memorial Cemetery in Gleason. The family wishes to thank the very special family members, friends and neighbors in Norm's life, that were there to lend a hand or offer support in his time of need. Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation Service of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.taylorstine waid.com.



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|OBITUARIES|

Peter Ray Wiedenhoft

Peter Ray Wiedenhoft age 74 of Merrill passed away on Monday, May 19, 2025 at Aspirus Langlade Hospital under the loving care of his daughter and sister after losing a courageous battle with cancer and COPD.

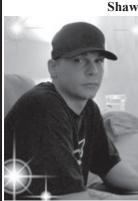
Peter was born in Merrill on April 2, 1951 to the late Raymond and Juanita (Pfister) Wiedenhoft. He was employed in carpentry and maintenance most of his life and was always

ready to lend a helping hand to anyone who needed it. He made friends easily and was quite a storyteller and jokester. He loved the outdoors and spent most of his free time fishing, hunting and picking wild mushrooms. He also enjoyed a good game of pool or playing the slot machines, but most of all he treasured the time spent with family and friends. Peter is survived by his daughters Tina Wiedenhoft (David

Brewer), Lisa Wiedenhoft and son Eric Wiedenhoft, siblings: Elva Prentice, Maxine (Kenneth) Jones and Steven (Brenda) Wiedenhoft, 7 grandchildren and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by the love of his life Diane Bushar, his parents, sister Judy Krause, brothers Larry and Allen Wiedenhoft and brothers-in-law Jim Prentice and Sheldon (Skip) Krause. Peter's family would like to extend a special thank you to caregivers at Hospice and Aspirus Langlade Hospital.

In accordance with Peter's wishes, no services will be held. Strasser-Roller Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

Shawn R. Maki



Shawn R. Maki, 36, of Kaukauna, passed away Fri-

day, May 16, 2025. Shawn was born August 4. 1988, in Wausau, son of Leslie Maki and Jennifer (Mulford) Maki. He worked for Ahlstrom-Munksjo Thilmany Mill in Kaukauna for several vears. He had a great work ethic and quickly moved up in the company. He recently took a job as a 3rd hand in the machine room.

Some of Shawn favorite pastimes were working on his pickup truck, fishing, downhill skiing. He also enjoyed going

to fairs: playing the games and riding the rides. Most of all, Shawn enjoyed spending time with his son, Layne. He was a goofball who was always smiling. Shawn was great with the family and the kids.

Survivors include his mother, Jennifer Mulford Maki of Kaukauna; father, Leslie 'Les' Maki of Wakefield, MI; sisters, Kayleigh Maki of Kaukauna and Gina Jaeger of Merrill; aunts and uncles, Jeffery (Caroline) Mulford of Merrill, Casey (Danielle) Mulford of Merrill, Alex (Zach) Rhode of Merrill, Zack Mulford of Madison, The Rev. Laurie 'Uncle Buddy' Maki, Jr. of Ishpeming, MI, Lee Maki of Gwinn, MI, Larry (Lynn) Maki of Ewen, MI, Lee Maki of Gwinn, MI, Larry (Lynn) Maki of Ewen, MI, Laura Krznarich of Wakefield, MI, and Lynn Hill (Lowell Anderson) of Ishpeming, MI; great uncle, Eino (Jeanne) Maki of Downsville, WI; nieces and nephews, Kennedy, Dawson, Madison, Evelyn, and Cody; and many cousins. Shawn was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Ronald Mulford and Marie Beasley; paternal grandparents, Laurie O. Maki, Sr. and Jean Maki; aunts, Lois Maki (wife of The Rev. Laurie 'Uncle Buddy' Maki Jr.) and Janice Maki (wife of Lee Maki); and several great grandparents. A celebration of Shawn's life will be held at a later date.

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

Roger Buckaloo

Roger Buckaloo, age 88, of Stevens Point, passed away on May 29, 2025. Private services are being held. Arrangements provided by Ascend Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Weston

David A. Knospe



David A. Knospe, age 54, of Merrill, passed away on Thurs-day, May 29, 2025, at his home, while surrounded by his loving and supportive family and while under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services, after a long battle with cancer. He was born on September 10, 1970, to Thomas and Sheryl (Severt) Knospe in Merrill. David at-tended and graduated from Merrill High School. David met his best friend and soul mate, Shelly Varsho, and the two exchanged marriage vows on September 5, 2005, a

union lasting almost 20 years.

David was a man that wore many hats. He was a machinist did woodworking projects, was an airplane mechanic and enjoyed flying the airplanes. He would always look forward to the next road trip on his motorcycle, something that gave him a sense of peace and relaxation, he especially loved riding in the Fall and taking in all of the beautiful scenery. David also enjoyed going on hikes and playing a few rounds of golf. He enjoyed and appreciated the outdoors, and would stop to admire and comment on the little things in life. His family was his world. David's kids have many good memories of him, whether it was working on his projects in the garage, watching the storms roll in or sitting around the campfire, enjoying the beauty of nature. He also would volunteer his time with the food pantry, and was always about helping others. David had a positivity that left an impression on all who met him. Even in his darkest times, he would see the silver lining. He had great dad jokes that he told and had a witty sense of humor. David will be missed dearly, and was a blessing to his family and friends.

David leaves behind his parents: Thomas and Sheryl Knospe, wife: Shelly Knospe, daughter: Arwen, son: Treg. sisters: Sue (Daren) Catlin and Kathy (John) Koehler, brother: Jon (Aimee) Knospe, mother-in-law: Juanita Varsho all of Merrill, brother-in-law: Shawn Varsho, sister-in-laws Kristy (Aaron) Kelly of Marshfield and Kimberly (Jason) Knaack of Minnesota, nephews: Tyler (Morgan) Catlin, Michael Catlin, Andrew (Chandra) Koehler, Logan Knospe, Landon Knospe, and Isaac Knaack, nieces: Katie (Mitchell) Badeau, Krissy (fiancé, Ashton Polega) Koehler and Naom and Miriam Knaack, along with numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, cherished friends and loved ones, also his dogs Chance and Zippy. He is preceded in death by his grandparents: Matt and Virginia Severt and Eliza and James Knospe and cousins: Jared Severt, Nate Knospe, Sarah Severt and Michael Knospe, uncles: James, Steve and Bruce (Carol) Severt.

The funeral service for David will be held on Friday, June 6 2025, at 11:00 a.m., at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Merrill. Rev. Justin Smoot will officiate. Visitation will be held on Friday, June 6, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service, also at the church. Burial at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery will immediately follow the service.

David's family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you for the love and support that cousin Amy had shown David throughout his treatments, doctor visits, and much more. They also want to thank Dr. Peterson and the oncology staff at the Aspirus Cancer Center for their care and compassion, and to UW-Madison for being able to give David more time with his beloved family.

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



Thomas William "Steamboat" Schmidt, aged 69, passed away on May 21, 2025, in Wausau, WI. Born on October 23, 1955 Tom was known for his outgoing and helpful nature. He had a profound love for the outdoors, often found cooking on his specially crafted BBQ pit, with his beloved dog, Harley, by his side.

Tom leaves behind a legacy of love and friendship, survived by his life companion, Jean Pflieger; his mother, Donna Buss; sister, Connie (Tim) Noragon; brother, James (Rae) Schmidt; son, Nicholas (Liz) Schmidt; and his cherished grandchildren, Ivar and Evelyn He was preceded in death by his father, Orville Schmidt, and stepfather, Robert Buss. Professionally, Tom dedicated many years to the construction industry before retiring. His work not only showcased his skill but also his commitment to building a stronger community. Tom's life will be remembered for his vibrant spirit, his readiness to lend a hand, and his enduring love for his family and friends. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Muriel Leona Kopetzky



Muriel Leona Kopetzky, age 93, of Merrill, passed away on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at her home while surrounded by her family and under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services. She was born on April 24, 1932, and was the daughter to the late Ellsworth P. and Alma L. (Pankow) Annis Sr. Muriel grew up in Merrill and attended and graduated from Merrill High School. She met the love of her life, Dale

Duane Kopetzky, and the two were united in marriage on May 23, 1953, in Merrill. Sadly, he preceded her in death.

Muriel enjoyed being a homemaker, but also enjoyed working outside of the home in various jobs, including being a unit secretary and a nurse's aide. When they were younger, Dale and Muriel would look forward to traveling, going on bus tours and casinos. She was an excellent baker, and enjoyed sharing her treats with family and friends. Muriel would also make sure that you had a few Werther's in your pocket! She spent a lot of quality time with Dale and the kids after his retirement. Muriel liked to do crossword puzzles play cribbage and Farkle, and crocheted. She loved watching the cardinals and she was the family babysitter for many years. She was also an avid Packer and Brewer fan.Muriel adored her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was a lifetime member at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill, her faith was an important part of her life. Muriel is remembered as being a strong-willed woman that was always honest about her thoughts and feelings. She will be sadly missed, but the memories will never be forgotten. Muriel is survived by her children: Teresa, Michael (Renee)

Mark (Amy), Patti (Russell), James, Jill (Norman) and Jonathon (Loretta), grandchildren: Jesse, Josh, Amanda, Adam, Jennifer, Jaquelin, Tyler, Kaitlyn, Megan, Ben, Shelby, Olivia and Claire, great grandchildren: Keegan, Kierra, Alayna, Brianna, Logan, Brady, Ava, Hayden, Piper and Brooks, brother: James Annis, and numerous nieces nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her par-ents, husband: Dale, siblings: Charles Annis, Delores Neuman, Ellsworth Annis Jr., Robert Annis, Philip Annis, Donna Ziglinski, Larry Annis and Carol (John) Krueger.

The funeral service for Muriel will be held on Tuesday, June 17th, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. Rev. Scott Gustafson will officiate. Visitation will be held on Monday, June 16th, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral Home at 301 Eagle Drive in Merrill, and again on Tuesday at the church from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service. Burial at Snow Hill Cemetery, town of Scott, will immediately follow the ser vice.

In lieu of flowers, please direct donations in Muriel's name to Trinity Lutheran Church or Trinity Lutheran School.

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

Buying or selling - the Classifieds can work for you. Call 715-536-7121

Win \$100 in **Merrill Masons Clean Up Our Parks Contest**

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

recently announced they are holding a Clean Up Our Parks Contest, an event they plan to hold annually, and they will be awarding three \$100 prizes to winners at the end of the summer. The rules are simple, and the intent is clear. Merrill Virginia Falls Masonic Lodge #226is holding the contest help beautify area to parks and public spaces encouraging by area community members to help keep parks clean, but to take it a step further by helping to clean them up when visitors see a need, and they're offering the possibility of prize money for those that do.

or public space, and you can win money!

2. In the video, state The Merrill Freemasons your name(s): "Hello my/

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www.taylorstinewaid.com



CAMPUS from page 3

academic achievement during the Spring 2025 semester:

· Rachel Welch, Gleason

 Ally Hoock, Merrill To be named to the Dean's List, students must have completed 12 degree-seeking semester credits and achieved at least a 3.50 GPA (on a 4.0 scale). Founded in 1893 as a teacher's college, **UW-Superior offers** more than 50 program offerings, select graduate and online programs, Division III athletics, and community-focused research and continuing education.

The Rules:

1. Make a video of you and at least one friend picking up trash in a Merrill, Antigo, or Tomahawk park

our name is _ We are helping with the Merrill Masonic Cleanup." State the name of the park or name/location of the public space.

3. In the video, show faces of the people as they are picking up and disposing of the trash. Also show the park sign or public space signage.

4. Videos should be longer than 30 seconds.

5. Submit your video before August 31, 2025. You can submit your video via direct message to the Merrill Masons Facebook [facebook.com/ page merrillmasons] or directly to a member of the Merrill Virginia Falls Lodge #226.

For questions, contact the Merrill Virginia Falls Masonic Lodge directly via direct message on their Facebook page.



Pictured are Klug and Lincoln County Sheriff Ken Schneider. Photos courtesy of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office.

Klug receives Sheriff's Letter of Commendation for actions after February crash

An area teen was recently recognized for his actions following a vehicle crash that occurred in February.

Page 6

According to a post on the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Facebook page, on Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, Noah Klug, 17, was driving by the scene of a crash that was later identified as fatal. When Deputy Vogel arrived on scene, she observed Klug giving chest compressions.

"Noah was calm and collected and provided her with an update on what he had done so far in checking for a pulse and other signs of life and initiating CPR," the Sheriff's Office said. "Noah

identified himself as being certified in CPR, and coordinated in handing over lifesaving measures to Deputy Vogel and other emergency responders.'

The Sheriff's Office said Klug remained on-scene and provided information upon request.

"We are impressed with his composure and his actions, given the seriousness of the situation and the fact that he is 17 years old," the Sheriff's Office said. "Noah's actions reflect great credit upon himself, his family, and the members of this community. Congratulations, Noah, on receiving the Sheriff's Letter of Commendation."



St. John Lutheran School announces 2024-2025 fourth quarter Honor Roll

HIGHEST HONORS (4.0): Poppy Geisler, Ella Humphrey, Macie Lange, Molly Literski, Delana Podeweltz, Natalie Sir, Julia Skaar, Ever Smith, Madilynn VenRooy, Esther Verpoorten, Christian Voigt

HIGH HONORS (3.76-3.99): Joshua Hanson, Ruby Hoffman, Ellyana Ineichen, Garik Peterson, Adalyn Schooley, Isabella Sprague, Samuel Szeto, Job Verpoorten

HONORS (3.5-3.75): Genevieve Burtman. Claire Canne, Abner Gremler, Brvnlee Heidemann. Gemma Hoffman, Evie Klug, Lola Klug, Mason Klug, Malayna Kufahl, Lillian Mattson, Isabelle Podeweltz, Caleb Steinagel, Joanna Szeto, Lee Voigt

VOLUNTEER! DONATE! Your local animal

shelters can always use a helping hand

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



LEGALS

BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: May 29, 2025 Electronically signed by Robert R.

Circuit Court Judge STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Ryan P. Burns

Ryan P. Burns Order Setting Time to Hear Petition for Special Administration (Formal Administration) Case No. 2025 PR 13

A Petition for Appointment of a Special Administrator was filed.

Administrator was filed. **THE COURT FINDS:** The decedent, with date of birth 07/02/1961 and date of death 03/11/2025 was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W10236 County Road M, Merrill, WI 54452.

THE COURT ORDERS: 1. The petition be heard at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Branch 2, before Robert R.

Russell, Court Official, on July 2, 2025

Russell, Court Official, on July 2, 2025 at 11:30a.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. Publication of this notice is notice to any intersected persons whose networks of the second

interested persons whose names of addresses are unknown. The names or addresses of the following interested persons (if any) are not known or reasonably ascertainable:

Scott Burns 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

251 E. Wisconsin Ave Bar #1000041 Published June 5, 12 & 19, 2025

BY THE COURT DATE SIGNED: May 30, 2025

Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer Probate Registrar STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Bonnie Woller Notice to Creditors

(Informal Administration) Case No. 2025-IN-33 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 02/04/1962 and date of death 03/07/2025 was domiciled in Lincoln County. State of Wisconsin. with a mailing address of 1408 River Street, Merrill, WI 54452.

3. All interested persons waived notice 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is September 12,

5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Register in Probate. Tori Smith (Woller) 416 N 6th Ave., Wausau WI 54401

715-571-8499

Published June 5, 12 & 19, 2025 WNAXLP

Notice is hereby given that the following application for a license to deal in intoxicating liquor has been filed with the Harding Town Clerk.

Name: Bobbie Jo and Jeromy's Newood Tap, LLC, N2805 County Rd E, Merrill WI 54452

Kind of License Applied For: Class B Combination

Location of Premises to be Licensed: Bobbie Jo and Jeromy's Newood Tap, N2805 County Rd E, Merrill WI 54452

Date: May 28, 2025 Kristy Ament, Clerk REMEMBER TO RECYCLE

Published June 5, 2025 WNAXLP



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lincoln County Social Services Committee will be holding a public hearing for the purpose of soliciting input & reactions to the Preliminary Social Services Budget for 2026 The hearing will be held at the:

Lincoln County Service Center Room 247/248 801 N. Sales Street, Merrill, WI MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025 • 4:30 pm

Administrator was filed. THE COURT FINDS: The decedent, with date of birth March 7, 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 E. Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Branch 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. If you require reasonable accommoda-tions due to a disability to participate reasonable 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 BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: 05/19/2025 /S/HON. GALEN BAYNE-ALLISON CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, BR I STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 25-CV-71 IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF Dylan James Elli

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Dylan James Ellis To: Dessire June Ellis

Birth Certificate: Dylan James Ellis IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit

Wisconsin Judge's Name: Hon. Galen Bayne-

Allison Place: Lincoln County Courthouse-Br 1 1110 E. Main St, Merrill, WI

If you require reasonable accommoda-

Please note that the court does not

Court of Lincoln County, State of

Date: 07/10/2025 Time: 8:40 AM

tions due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0319 prior to the scheduled court date.

provide transportation

WNAXLP provide transportation. Attorney Gordon E. Stillings

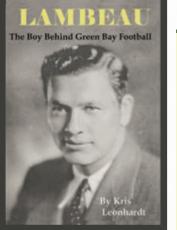
Neenah, WI 54956 Phone 920-725-5305

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Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Foto News a newspaper published in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin. Published: June 5, 12 & 19 WNAXLP

LIQUOR AND BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS TOWN OF RUSSELL LINCOLN COUNTY JULY 1, 2025 to JUNE 30, 2026 License Period CLASS B COMBINATION LICENSE GLEASON BOWLING CENTER N5353 STATE HIGHWAY 17 GLEASON WI 54435 Christine Pahls-Schram, Agent MA'S PLACE, LLC N5375 STATE HIGHWAY 17 GLEASON WI 54435 Jennifer Guldan-McCurry, Agent GLEASON COMMUNITY CLUB, INC N5335 BAYER ST GLEASON WI 54435 Ronald Forster, Agent <u>CLASS B BEER</u> SLED SHED GLEASON, LLC W1859 CAMP DOFRING RD GLEASON WI 54435 Leah Strand, Agent GLEASON AREA LIONS CLUB N5179 BRADLEY ST GLEASON WI 54435 Charles McCrory, Agent CLASS A BEER & CLASS A LIQUOR Old Time General Store & Mercantile, LLC N5342 STATE RD 17 GLEASON WI 54435 Ronald Forster, Agent Published June 5, 2025 WNAXI P

Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of this meeting. Please contact the county clerk, at 715-539-1019 or chris.marlowe@co.lincoln.wi.us, as early as possible so that proper arrangements can be made. Requests are kept confidential

Published June 5, 2025

TOWN OF CORNING **MERRILL, WI**

NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

The Board of Review for the Town of Corning will meet at the Corning Town Hall, N1569 Hwy 64/107 Merrill, WI 54452

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Property owners wishing to make a formal objection to an assessed valuation must obtain an objection form from the Town Clerk and schedule an appointment 48 hrs. in advance of hearing.

Contact Rick Hass 715-536-3432

Open book for the Town of Corning will meet Monday June 16, 2025 from 3:00 to 7:00 PM at the Corning Town Hall, N1569 Hwy 64/107 Merrill, WI 54452

The full notice of the Board of Review can be found on the website www.townofcorningwi.com

Published June 5 & 12, 2025

WNAXLP

WNAXLP



and just completed their second year there.

The end of the school year for Girls on the Run culminated with a 5K run on the River Bend Trail in Merrill, and peers there to cheer them on. This year's Girls on the Run 5K was held on Sunday, May 18, 2025, when the Merrill Girls on the Run groups joined 17 other area groups at the Agra Pavilion in Merrill to celebrate confidence and their own strength and to run. More

running buddies, and community runners all hit the River Bend Trail. The excitement, encouragement, and teamwork made for a positive event for everyone involved, from the first girl who crossed the finish line to the very last.

at 715-218-1644 or email jgartmann@mmclocal.com

ADVERTISING ADLINE ULY 23, 2025

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aspirus.org

"ASK A PASTOR" INTERFAITH PANEL

Are you curious about "church", but not sure about "going to" church yet? Do you have questions you'd like to ask pastors,

but not sure how to?

Then this free, family friendly event is for you!

Five Local Pastors will be at the **AGRA** Pavilion on

Wednesday, June 18 from 6:00-8:00 pm

There will be an "Ask It" Basket

so people can anonymously submit questions for the pastors to answer.

The goal is to give people an opportunity to talk to followers of Jesus without the pressure of having to walk into a church building.

Snacks & beverages will be provided. All are welcome!

*The pastors will be speaking "on their own" and are not representatives of their entire denominations, but simply one view within their respective denominations.

Lincoln County June Dairy Breakfast



Sunday, June 8, 2025 • 8:00 am - Noon

Please join us in recognizing the dedicated dairy producers and families whose hard work and innovation put nutritious and delicious dairy products on our nation's tables. Their contributions to our health, economy and future keep us growing strong, and we thank them for all they do!



Breakfast includes:

Buttermilk and Potato Pancakes, Cheesy Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Links, Real WI Cheese Curds, **Chocolate & White Milk, Cranberry & Orange Juice, Coffee, Ice Cream**

Adults: \$10.00 Children 6-11: \$5.00 5 & Under: Free

Dairy Fun Activities:

Horse Drawn Wagon Rides, **Grampa's Farm Petting Zoo Comes to You** Live Music by: Neon Thursday **Raffle Baskets**



Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

Jun. 5 - Veterans Coffee & Conversation at Pine **Ridge Restaurant** Jun. 5 - Open Mic at Sawmill Brewing Company Jun. 5 - Karaoke at Hy-Da Way Bar Jun. 5-7 - Athens Area Garage Sales Jun. 6 - Los Magueyes Mexican Grill at The **Creative Spirit** Jun. 6 - Mattea Joy performs at Stoney Acres Farm in Athens Jun. 6-7 - June Barrel Show at Chism Trail Ranch

Jun. 7 - Gleason Area Lions Club Golf Outing at X to C

Jun. 7 - 18 Strings performs at Stoney Acres Farm in Athens Jun. 7 - Apex Angels & Warriors Second Annual Open House in Gleason Jun. 7-8 - Wisconsin **River Pro Rodeo at Merrill Fairgrounds** Jun. 7-8 - Free Fun Weekend at Council Grounds State Park Jun. 8 - June Dairy Breakfast at the MARC Jun. 8 - Bingo at VFW

Jun. 11 - Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser at **Eagles Club** Jun. 11 - Team Trivia Nights at Sawmill **Brewing Company** Jun. 12 - Veterans Coffee & Conversation at Pine Ridge Restaurant Jun. 12 - Open Mic at Sawmill Brewing Company Jun. 12 - Karaoke at Hy-Da Way Bar Jun. 14 - Fill the Gazebo Jun. 18 - Merrill City **Band at Normal Park**

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







Wisconsin residents encouraged to "be bear aware" this spring

As the weather warms and people across the state begin spending more time outside, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is encouraging the public to be bear aware and take steps to prevent potential conflicts with black bears this spring.

"Every spring, Wisconsin's estimated 24,000 black bears emerge from their winter torpor and leave their dens in search of food and potentially new territory," DNR said in a release. "These explorations sometimes cause unexpected interactions between black bears and the public. Bears are normally solitary forest animals, but their powerful sense of smell can lead them into urban areas in search of food, especially in the spring and fall."

To avoid potential conflicts, DNR said it's important to recognize what attracts black bears and take steps to reduce these attractants whenever possible. Black bears are known for returning to locations where they've found good food sources, so prevention is the best tactic.

Although black bears are much more common in the northern half of the state, southern Wisconsin has seen more black bear activity in recent years.

"No matter where in Wisconsin you live or play, follow these basic steps from our friends at BearWise to avoid attracting black bears around your home or campsite," DNR said.

• Never feed or approach bears. Never feed a bear, whether intentionally or not. The risk of unexpected interactions increases when bears begin to associate people with food. If bears find a consistent food source around people or people actively feed a bear, the bear will make a habit of visiting the area or approaching people.

• Secure food, garbage, and recycling. Food and food odors attract bears, so don't reward them with easily available food, liquids, or garbage.

• Remove bird feeders when bears

are active. Birdseed and grains have lots of calories, so they're very attractive to bears. Removing feeders is the best way to avoid creating conflicts with bears.

• Never leave pet food outdoors. Feed pets indoors when possible. If you must feed pets outside, feed in single portions and remove food and bowls after feeding. Store pet food where bears can't see or smell it.

• Clean and store grills. Barbeque grills and picnic tables often have leftover food scraps or residues on them that can attract black bears. Clean surfaces after use in public spaces to reduce negative human-bear interactions. Store clean grills and smokers in a secure area that keeps bears out.

• Alert neighbors to bear activity. See bears in the area or evidence of bear activity? Tell your neighbors and share information on how to avoid bear conflicts. Bears have adapted to

See **BEAR** page 11



SAVE \$350 when you transform your patio into an outdoor oasis.

Gleason Bowling Center.

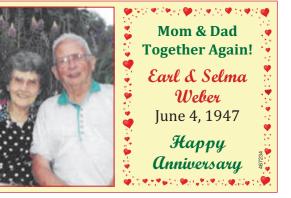
Pet of the Week



Meet **Nash!** He can be shy at first but once he warms up he likes to get the attention. **Nash** has been around other dogs, cats and kids and was good. **Nash** is still working on his house training and is crate trained. He knows how to sit and will need someone who has the time to keep working with him. **Nash** loves to go for walks and to cuddle.

SPONSORED BY Dave's County Market 300 E. First St. Merrill, WI Visit all the adoptable pets at the Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours: MON.-SAT. 12-4 PM & SUN. 12-2 PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459,

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Sunday, June 8th, 7:00 a.m12:00 p.m.	Neillsville	Four Star Ag & Four-Star Dairy • W4198 Pine Creek Rd • Neillsville, WI 54456	Adults: \$8.00 • 5-12 \$4.00 • 4 and under-Free
Sunday, June 8th, 6:00 a.m12:00 p.m.	Medford	Taylor County Fairgrounds • Hwy 13 & WI-64, Medford, WI 54451	Adults: \$7.50 • 5 and under-Free
Saturday, June 14th, 7:00 a.m11:00 a.m.	Gilman	Gilman Village Park • 300 Park Dr, Gilman, WI 54433	13 and over \$8.00 • 6-12 \$4.00 • 5 and under-Free
Saturday, June 14th, 7:00 a.m11:00 a.m.	Owen Withee	Withee Lions Pavilion • 514 Division St, Withee, WI 54498	10 and up \$10.00 • 5-9 \$5.00 • 4 and under-Free
Saturday, June 14th, 7:00 a.m11:00 a.m.	Pittsville	Grass Ridge Farm LLC • 7916 Apple Rd • Pittsville, WI 54466	\$10.00/person 13 years and older • \$5.00 for 5-12 year old • 4K and under-Free
Saturday, June 14th, 10:00 a.m1:00 p.m.	Portage County	Dairy-palooza • Feltz's Dairy • 5796 Porter Dr, Stevens Point, WI 54482	
Sunday, June 15th, 7:00 a.m12:30 p.m.	Loyal	Hornland Farms • N6952 County Rd K • Loyal, WI 54446	13 and over \$8.00 • 6-12 \$4.00 • 5 and under-Free
Sunday, June 15th, 7:00 a.m12:00 p.m.	Marshfield	Bauer's Breezy Acres • Steven & Becky Bauer Family • 10695 Mill Creek Dr, Marshfield, WI 54449	\$10.00 ages 12 and up • \$5.00 ages 5-11 • Free-ages 4 and down
Saturday, June 21st, 8:00 a.m12:00 p.m.	Auburndale	Auburndale High School • 10629 N Rd, Auburndale, WI 54412	\$10.00 Adult • \$5.00 age 5-9 • Free-4 and under
Sunday, June 22nd, 7:00 a.m12:30 p.m.	Thorp	Bill & Bridget Ciolkosz Dairy • N16329 Koser Ave, Thorp, WI 54771	Free Will Donation
Sunday, June 22nd, 7:00 a.m12:00 p.m.	Colby	Verhoef Family Farm • 225703 Pecan Rd, Colby, WI 54421	\$6.00 per plate • 5 and under-Free
Sunday, June 29th, 8:00 a.m12:00 p.m.	Marathon County	Miltrim Farms Inc • 115315 Township Rd, Athens, WI	\$10.00 Adult • \$5.00 Ages 5-11 • Free-ages 4 and under
Sunday, June 29th, 7:00 a.m1:00 p.m.	Greenwood	Phil &Eliza Ruzic Farm • N9031 Sidney Ave • Greenwood, WI 54437	13 and over \$8.00 • 5-12 \$5.00 • 4 and under-Free
Sunday, June 29th, 7:30 a.m12:00 p.m.	Waushara County	Sheadview Dairy • W215 State Rd 21, Berlin,WI 54923	Adults \$10.00 • Children 4-10 \$5.00 • Children 3 and under-Free

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Nicolet Bank in Merrill participated in the "Power of Community Week" put on by the Wisconsin Bankers Association and this year chose to gather donations for the animals at the Lincoln County Humane Society to give back to their local community. Here some of Nicolet Bank's Merrill employees are gathered iwith their donations. Submitted photo.

The Wonderful Waters of **Lincoln County**

BY TOM BOISVERT

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LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION PROGRAM MANAGER

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is shining a spotlight on the state's exceptional water resources through its Healthy Watersheds, High-Quality Waters (HWHQW) initiative. Launched in 2022, this statewide effort highlights Wisconsin's most pristine lakes, rivers, and streams-and Lincoln County is standing out. The HWHQW initiative, part of the WDNR's Water Quality Program, is designed to protect and promote the state's healthiest watersheds and the water bodies they contain through 2030. The goal is to ensure Wisconsin's waters remain clean, vibrant, and ecologically rich for generations to come. Thanks to comprehensive assessments that include trout stream classifications, water quality monitoring, and biological surveys, Lincoln County has been identified as a leader in water quality. In fact, the county is home to 42 highquality lakes, streams, and rivers-many of which feed into the Wisconsin River

and support clean water downstream. According to the WDNR's Watershed Health Index-developed in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-85% of the county's 27 watersheds rank as statewide Watershed Protection Priorities, and 93% are priorities within the Wisconsin River Basin. These rankings reflect the county's strong natural land cover, including forests and wetlands, which play a crucial role in keeping water clean and ecosystems healthy. Healthy watersheds do more than support fish and wildlife-they also manage flooding, help recharge groundwater, and improve stormwater infiltration. Protecting these systems means preserving essential services that benefit every resident of Lincoln County. However, the WDNR emphasizes that continued stewardship is vital. Pressures such as development, erosion, and pollution must be carefully managed safeguard these natural assets. to To learn more about the Healthy Watersheds, High-Quality Waters initiative, visit the WDNR's website at: dnr.wisconsin. gov/topic/SurfaceWater/HQW.html



|CLASSIFIEDS|

Dogs

Livestock

Rummage Sales This Week 7200

DEB'S UNIQUE BOUTIQUE GARAGE SALE 2023 Greenbud Rd, Kronenwetter

TH 6/5 & FRI 6/6 8a-4p SAT 6/7 8a-noon Quality women's clothing & shoes; Coach & Myra purses; artificial flowers; yarn; child's wooden table & chairs; child's wooden rocker; crocks; coolers; sleeping bags; set of golf clubs; Earnhardt col-

lectibles; formal dresses; mi-crowave; apt-sized fridge; wooden changing table & more!

Tomahawk: Friday, 6/6-Saturday, 6/7, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Downsizing sale! Everything needed to furnish your cabin. Lots of misc. house-hold & decor, antique table & cupboard, ski rack, grill, bikes, fishing rods, gardening, plants & hostas, too many items to list! 63 E. Birch-wood Ave. (Behind Kwik Trip)

Wausau, 810 N. 8th Ave. Garage sale: June 5-6, 8-5pm, Old and new fishing and misc. items.

Yard Sale Merrill, W4743 Pine Ave. Thurs. - Sat., June 5-7, 8-6. Saddle, Bureau, Shelf, each \$20 Table and 4 chairs \$50, Weights, house plants, books, pillows, and so much more!

Rummage Sales Upcoming 7202



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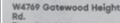


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Dogs

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Someone's waiting for you... in classifieds

Free Trap Shoot Tuesdays

The Lincoln County Sports Club, located at W5071 Schulz Spur Rd. in Merrill, has announced it will hold Free Trap Shoot Tuesdays, every Tuesday during the month of June from 6 to 8 p.m. This opportunity is open to both youth and adults, and no experience is necessary. "You don't need to know how to trap shoot, as we will have experts on hand to assist," organizers at the Lincoln County Sports Club said.

The Lincoln County Sports Club will provide all the guns, ammunition, and clays.

"All you need to do is show up," organizers said. "Who knows ... you may really like it!"

This is a great opportunity for youth considering joining the Merrill Bluejay Trap Team in years to come to see if they like it and to get some pointers and practice in advance of next year's season.

The Pool is Open



The Bierman Family Aquatic Center located at the Merrill Area Recreation Center opened for the summer season on Tuesday, June 3, 2025. Tot Time is offered in the morning (pre-registration required - Call 715.536.7313). Regular swim session runs 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For more information and current pricing, go to the "Merrill Park and Recreation" Facebook page or call 715.536.7313. Children under age 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

Photo courtesy of the City of Merrill.

BEAR from page 9

living near people; now it's up to us to adapt to living near bears.

Know what to do if you encounter a bear

If a black bear is near your home or cabin, from a safe location, try to scare the bear away by making loud noises (like clanging pots and pans together) or throwing objects in the bear's direction, DNR said.

"Black bears tend to avoid interactions with people if escape is possible, so make sure it has a clear escape route-never corner a bear," SNR said. "Do not turn your back to a bear or run away. Once the bear is gone, remove any items that may have attracted the bear in the first place."

If you encounter a black bear while in the woods, stay calm and do not run.

"Wave your arms and make loud noises to scare it away," DNR stated. "Back away slowly and seek a safe location from where you can wait for the bear to leave. Never approach a bear. For your safety, do not attempt to break up a fight between a pet and a bear." If unable to resolve a recurring issue with a nuisance bear, contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Wildlife Services toll-free lines: • USDA Wildlife Services, Northern Wisconsin: 800.228.1368 (in-state) or 715.369.5221. • USDA Wildlife Services, Southern Wisconsin: 800.433.0663 (in-state) or 920.324.4514. For more information about avoiding unexpected interactions with black bears, visit the DNR's Black Bear Management webpage at dnr.wisconsin. gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/ bearmanagement.

Diesel Mechanic Needed

Looking for a motivated candidate for a **diesel mechanic**. Duties would include performing routine maintenance, diagnostics and repair on both tractors and trailers. Would prefer a current CDL, but willing to train. It would be 40-50 hours a week, no weekends. We are a family-orientated, growing company looking for an addition to our team. Pay will be based on experience; updated pay scale, benefits available.



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WisDOT reminding motorists to keep Adopt-A-Highway volunteers safe

The Wisconsin Department o f Transportation (WisDOT) is reminding drivers to focus on the road ahead to keep Adopt-A-Highway volunteers safe.

Page 12

WisDOT initiated the Adopt-A-Highway program in 1991 to allow groups to volunteer and directly support the state's antilitter program. These volunteers routinely collect trash and recyclables along Wisconsin roads.

"We are grateful to the thousands of Wisconsinites



who generously volunteer each year to pick up trash and recyclables along the roadside," said WisDOT Kristina Secretary Boardman. "For nearly 35 years, Wisconsin's Adopt-A-Highwav program has truly blossomed as nearly 15,000 volunteers participate in the program each year. Their pride to

keep our state beautiful map should inspire all of us to properly dispose of trash."

In 2024, Wisconsin Adopt-A-Highway groups collected more than 170 tons of trash and recyclables, and nearly 5,500 volunteer hours were reported last year to help pick up trash, according to a release from WisDOT.

"WisDOT encourages to get people more involved," the release said. WisDOT's interactive

shows highway segments maintained by Wisconsin's 3,000 Adopt-A-Highway groups, but more than 2,700 miles of state highway are still available for adoption.

Adopt-A-Highway workers are asked to clean up their assigned two-mile state highway segment at least three times per year. All volunteers must be at

See DOT page 14

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome letters to the Editor, a chance members of the for community to comment on issues of concern to them. All letters must be original, not duplications of letters addressed to public officials or written by others. The views and opinions expressed are those of the letter writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of this publication. its publishers. Editor, or staff. Please see our complete Letter to the Editor Policy at https:// merrillfotonews.com/ *letter-to-the-editor-policy/.*

To the Editor:

Much confusion and misstatements have clouded the Pine Crest Nursing Home sale debate. I have been approached by residents of District 21, and others, questioning the potential sale. This information is my personal opinion, based on financial records of Lincoln County.

The potential sale has little to do with quality care. Such questions are covered by the State, via Department of Health Services (DHS) rating records. A record of the care history is available from DHS.

Why was the previous sale cancelled? A member of the Lincoln County Board disagreed with the Board's previous vote to sell to a competent buyer. That cost the County taxpayers more than \$8 million dollars, or more, depending on the entirety of the potential sale and maintenance of the facility. Who is now responsible for ongoing maintenance another Valley County looking to divest their taxpayers of a similar operation.

Lincoln County is not able to increase resident numbers due to lack of licenses and funding for expansion.

> - E. Richard Simon Merrill, Wis.

To the Editor:

There have recently been huge and wide-ranging cuts to the federal budget. Most of the headlines have focused on the reduction of staff. The justification for these cuts has been the need to eliminate waste or fraud. However, not all cuts have involved staff, and many have not eliminated waste or fraud.

The Merrill Food Pantry recently received a letter from the Hunger Task Force, an organization developed to combat hunger in the United States. We recently learned the U.S. Department of Agriculture has halted \$500 million in deliveries to food banks nationwide. This money had been intended "to purchase food from American farmers and ranchers and send it to emergency food providers."

The cut in funding will have an immediate and drastic impact on Wisconsin. Orders for almost 1.1 million pounds of healthy food including milk, eggs, cheese, pork, chicken, and turkey have already been canceled. The result of these cuts is that those who are most in need of assistance, including elderly citizens and large families, will go hungry. Cutting funds to feed our neighbors is both cruel and short-sighted and will inevitably lead to huge unanticipated costs and preventable human suffering. If you agree, please call and write to our representatives in Washington in both the House and the Senate Demand that the funds they appropriated in the federal budget to feed the hungry be restored immediately. The poorest and most vulnerable citizens of our country should not be the victims of random, illconceived budget cuts. - Thomas Mueller, Pastor Mike Zahn, Pastor Mike Southcombe, Gracie Bernal, Dick Duginski, Deb Page, Sister Celine Goessl, and Allan Crevier Merrill, Wis.



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of the facility? The County taxpayers, as the home is a voluntary business operation owned by the County and any maintenance falls on the Operational taxpayers. expenses cannot be financed by bonding, so yearly maintenance costs will require "borrowing" to keep the facility operational.

The home will require complete roofing а update, according to the Maintenance Department, and there is no budget room to pay for that potential multi-million dollar possibility, and recent repairs have gobbled up the general maintenance budget.

In the last 20+ years, county-run homes have declined to just 22 facilities. Recent news shows, yet

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BY TINA L. SCOTT, EDITOR

Prairie Pines Country Store plans major expansion, targets spring 2026 construction

a significant expansion that will nearly triple the size of their operation, with construction tentatively set to begin in spring 2026. Store manager Matthew Martin said the new facility will be "just shy of 12,000 square feet," compared to their current 4,700 square feet.

The original plan was to begin building this summer, but they ran into a wetland issue, Martin said. "But we recently had a meeting with the DNR to resolve that.'

Now construction is set to begin in spring 2026, with a move-in date targeted for spring 2027. The expansion addresses the store's biggest challenge: "A lot of that is just a lot more storage capacity, especially in our coolers and freezers. That's where

Prairie Pines Country Store in Gleason is planning we've been the tightest for the last 10 years," Martin cherries, peaches, peaches, and apples from orchards said.

Seasonal offerings are current focus

At Prairie Pines, right now, the focus is flowers and plants. Seasonal products are in high demand. "We are full-time into flowers like hanging baskets, porch planters, and then we have a lot of individual flowers," Martin said.

The flower season will taper off in the next few weeks, but Prairie Pines has begun preparing for fall mums. Martin's family raises about 750 mums as "a nice family project," he said.

Fresh fruit from across the country

Fresh fruit season follows in late June and early July. Prairie Pines sources blueberries, sweet across the country through September. "Most of that we're working directly with orchards, so this fruit isn't sitting in a warehouse facility for two weeks and then getting shipped to us," Martin said.

Local produce season coincides with fresh fruit arrivals. Prairie Pines stocks locally grown vegetables and maintains a signup book for customers wanting whole cases at better pricing.

The seasonal cycle rounds out with canning tomatoes, pumpkins, and squash as fall approaches.

Since opening in 2001, Prairie Pines has served as both a community resource and a destination for tourists traveling Highway 17. Prairie Pine Country Store, located at N5448 St. Hwy. 17 in Gleason, is open Monday through Saturday and closed on Sundays.

715-873-4840 STOP IN AND ENJOY OUR FRIENDLY, AGREEABLE SERVICE!



email: jgartmann@mmclocal.com



Four students at Trinity Lutheran School were awarded the Principal's Honor Roll at their Eighth Grade Graduation ceremony in May. This award is given to students who were on the Honor Roll for 16 straight quarters in grades 5-8 at Trinity. L to R: Principal Scott Johnson, Emmie Steinagel, Jillian Severt, Willow Harmon, and Kayla Klimek. **Submitted photo.**

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AUCTIONS

ESTATE AUCTION • JUNE 14 • 10 AM EXPO Center, 303 N. Sales St., Merrill (Merrill Fairgrounds) See website for directions. Watch for signs!!!

Guns, guns, guns, Ammunition, Various Coins, Jewelry TOOLS: A very large variety of hand tools, Craftsman sockets sets, wrench sets & many others. Air compressor, generator, drill press Craftsman toolbox, other toolboxes, air tools, grinders, sanders, saws, extension cords, saw blades, yellow shop lights, large old pulley, chain saw blades, gas cans, misc lawn & garden tools, yard trailer. We are still unpacking! HOUSEHOLD: Christmas and Easter decorations, lighted cabinet, some Pyrex, and more!

Please go to www.dwollerauctionsestatesale.com to see all the photos AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Cash, good check, or credit cards. Not responsible for loss or accidents. Everything sold as is, where is. No warranties or guarantees. Announcements made on auction day take precedence over printed material. Buyer's premium. WI Registered Auctioneer WI Lic #3081 TRULY SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!!!

A NOLAN SALES AUCTION On the Real Estate & Personal Property of STEVE ROOKE 165590 JUNCTION ROAD, WAUSAU, WI 54403

SATURDAY, JUNE 28th TARTING AT 11:00 AM LUNCH AVAILABLE ON GROUNDS

STARTING AT 11:00 AM LUNCH AVAILABLE ON GROUNDS LOCATED: 7 miles east of the intersection of Hwy 29 & 51 at Wausau (Weston) on Hwy 29 to exit 177 at County Road J, then north on "J" approx. 8 miles to Junction Road, then east on Junction Road approx. 1/2 mile to the site. Watch for auction signs. 10+/- ACRE COUNTRY PROPERTY consisting of a beautiful brick

10+/- ACRE COUNTRY PROPERTY consisting of a beautiful brick 2-story home with 2 bedrooms down, 4 bedrooms up, 2 full baths including sauna & jacuzzi tub in main floor bath, country kitchen, living room w/wood-burning fireplace, family room, main floor laundry, and full basement w/LP furnace, electric hot water heater, 200Amp electrical. Many recent updates. Outbuildings consist of a 46'x72' machine shed w/13' door; 28'x70' 3-sided storage shed; 164'x76' steel shed; 20'x37' shop; and a 100'x46' steel shed w/7 garage doors 11'6" wide, 3 heated stalls, and an 18'x20' car port. There is approx. 23,628 sq. ft. of rentable storage space. Property includes a spring-fed pond, 27' deep, 3 acres tillable.

REAL ESTATE TERMS: Seller shall have seven (7) days to accept or reject bids on the real estate. Buyers will be expected to put down ten percent (10%) of the high bid on the day of sale with the balance due at closing in thirty (30) days. Offers will be written as cash offers not subject to financing, and the transactions will be closed by a title company to guarantee clear title. Taxes will be prorated to the day of closing. Property is being sold "As Is" with no warranties of any kind other than that the property shall be free and clear of all liens and encumbrances.

OPEN HOUSE: Will held on **FRIDAY**, **JUNE 13th** from **4 to 6 PM** with a member of Nolan Sales present to answer questions about the property.

TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: 2017 John Deere 4066M tractor, 4x4, D170 loader, industrial tires, iMatch quick hitch, 192 hrs - like new, sn: 1LV4066MPHH101185; John Deere pallet forks; 66" Rock bucket like new; Woods 66" box blade; Ford 2N tractor; Troybilt Mustang XP zero-turn mower, 60" cut, 25hp Briggs & Stratton motor; Stihl MS25 chain saw; Stihl MS271 chain saw; Stihl battery powered chain saw; Milwaukee Power Tools: Sawz- All, Skill saw, Power sanders, Nail guns, Drill Doctor; Craftsman 18 gal. shop vac; Porter Cable air compressor; Honda 2800 psi gas-powered pressure washer; Swisher 14.5hp 20" snowblower; Swisher walk-behind gas-powered string trimmer; Floor jacks; Little Buddy LP heater; Aluminum load ramps; Chicago electric chainsaw sharpener; Bosch skil saw; Bolt cutters; Bar clamps; Battery chargers; Jack stands; Pipe wrenches; Wrench sets; Craftsman chest-type tool box; Extension cords; Wagner 404 Plus power sprayer; Caulk guns; Router table; Table saw; DeWalt XPS miter box saw; Polisher; 130 mig welder. LAWN & GARDEN: VS 485C underwater viewing system; Wheelbarrow; Assorted step ladders; Extension ladder; Garden tools; Aluminum furniture dolly; Backpack sprayer; Stihl FS86 string gas trimmer; Yard Man 31cc gas blower; Assorted gas cans; 25 lb. LP tanks; Yard cart for lawn mower; 20 gallon spray tank w/ pump; Assorted Pine lumber; Scotts fertilizer spreader; Handheld seed spreader; Electric chain saw; Char-Broil grill; Ice Fishing Equipment, including Tip-ups, Portable Ice Shack, Fishing poles. TRUCK: 2002 Ford F150 Pickup, 4x4, ext. cab, 5.4 Triton motor, auto, air, power windows, 182,220 miles, runs excellent. HOUSEHOLD & ANTIQUES: Amish-made gueen-size bedroom set; Double steel bed w/brass arch; Walt Disney steel lunch box; Assorted old toys, some in boxes; Clown-N-Up pinball game; Old pictures; Antique cupboard; John Sexton & Co. crock; Horse collar; Handcrank coffee grinder; Geneva hand fluter; Kitchen pan carousel. GUNS: Remington 700 bolt action w/Bushnell variable scope; Benelli 12ga, shotgun, 3-1/2", automatic: Marlin .22 automatic w/scope. Sale clerked by Nolan Auction, Inc. Regular auction terms - cash or personal check. Everything sold as is, where is. No Warranties. If you have property to trade or sell, contact our office.



Trinity Lutheran School announces 2024-2025 fourth quarter Honor Roll

Students are recognized on the Trinity Honor Roll for a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.5 and higher. An*indicates a 4.0 GPA.

FIFTH GRADE

Easton Baade Brinlee Brazeau Eli Clerveaux* Grace Dupke Evie Gilbert Paul Huth Liam Myszka Joseph Renzelmann Stevie Wells

SIXTH GRADE

Emma Baumann Brady Bostrom Hunter Bostrom Alivia Hockett Emma Krombholz Abigail Nelson James Peterson Owen Scheffler Laney Schmidt Oliver Weinkauf

SEVENTH GRADE Amber Blennert Mariah Dupke Adeline Huth* Asa Laabs Melia Lee* Amiya Lipke-Bauman Breckyn McDonough Chloe McKeen Fiona McKeen EIGHTH GRADE Emily Amelse Rebekah Hagemeister Willow Harmon * Kayla Klimek * Lexee Laabs TyLynn Osness Aubrey Renzelmann Jillian Severt EmmieSteinagel*

AUCTIONS

A NOLAN SALES AUCTION On the Potato Equipment of MATT ARROWOOD N5112 HILL ROAD, BRYANT, WI 54418 FRIDAY, JUNE 20th

STARTING AT 11:00 AM LUNCH AVAILABLE ON GROUNDS LOCATED: Northeast of Antigo 9.8 miles on WI-52 to Hill Road, then north on Hill Road to the site. Watch for auction signs.

TRACTORS: John Deere 8420 tractor, full front weights, inner wheel weights, quick hitch, 540/1000 Ig & sm pto, 4 remotes, std 18spd power-shift trans, new tires all around, 380/90R50 rears, 8511 hrs, sn: RW8420P031344; John Deere 8320 tractor, MFWD, 14.9R50 duals, 540/1000 Ig & and power chift trans inper wheel weights, 11071 hrs.

Ig & sm pto, 4 rear remotes, std 18-spd power-shift trans, inner wheel weights, 11971 hrs. **POTATO EQUIPMENT:** Lockwood 2-row high-capacity air head harvester, 45 & 42 mm belted web, VFD drives, 1000rpm pto, Cummins power unit for air head & hyd; Lockwood 2-row Mark Air harvester, all belted web, needs air head bearings, and a power unit to run fan; Lockwood 36" selfpropelled bin piler, 240V single-phase, 45' boom, new wired remote, all rubber belt; Spudnik 30" self-propelled utility piler, 240V single-phase, 24' boom, all-rubber belt; Milestone 72" all-hydraulic seed cutter w/hyd adjust sizers, variable speed elevator, hyd wheel drive, on-board knife sharpeners, leveling jacks, 230/480V 3-phase; Harriston 2001 6-row disc-hiller w/34" or 36" spacing, sn: 20645; Spudnik 910 60" dirt eliminator/sizer, 230/480V 3-phase, self-propelled; Ever Rain 4"x1250' hard hose w/Nelson 200 Big Gun; 36"x10' roller inspection table; John Deere V-ripper sprayer track remover; 20' in general chain-bottom potato box; Double L 30"x25' conveyor, 240V single-phase, leveling jacks, on caster wheels; Kerian 50" potato sizer, 4-lane exit, on caster wheels, 120V single-phase; 2022 Tong potato de-stoner/clod remover, needs 480V 3-phase, all VFD controlled; Tong de-stoner rock bucket stand; Case 78" produce bucket for skidsteer; Bauman 90" skidsteer produce bucket; 26"x7' potato scrub brush washer, 120V single-phase; 20"x8' roller inspection table, 120V single-phase; Lockwood 24"x14' conveyor, 240V single-phase; 20"x8' roller inspection table, 120V single-phase; Lockwood 24"x14' conveyor, 240V single-phase; Ag Engineering Dammer Diker, 6-row 34" rows, w/2 rows of shanks, gauge wheels; Double L 851 4-row windrower, 45mm & 42mm, belted web has gauge wheels, RH discharge; Kvernland UN3300 Underhog 6-row

DOT from page 12

least 11 years of age or in the 6th grade on two-lane highways and 16 years of age on four lane highways. No other persons should be on the work site. Each group must provide one adult supervisor for every five or six volunteers.

Automated forms on the Adopt-A-Highway website streamline reporting cleanup efforts. County highway crews gather the bagged materials for proper disposal. As part of the program, WisDOT furnishes safety vests. highway worker signs, a safety training video, trash bags, and two permanent identifying signs the group. Groups do not work in dangerous areas like medians, bridges, or steep

SALE CONDUCTED BY

PO Box 486, Marion, WI 54950 * (715) 754-5221 or 1-800-472-0290 Tim Nolan & Gerald "Sonny" Nolan, Reg. WI Auctioneers, Lic. #165 & #142 Visit our website at www.nolansales.com for photos. 34" row potato planter, new cup belts, new 20" notched covering disc, row markers, 110 gallon in-furrow application system; Double L 853 4-row harvester, Galaxy table, high flotation tires, 45mm & 42mm, belted web; Milestone 30" seed treater/duster, 120V single-phase; 2000 gallon nurse tank on semi pup trailer w/2" gas motor & hose, new pump & hose; Lockwood 36" screen sizer roller inspection table w/belted web incline conveyor and chain discharge conveyor for "B" potatoes; (34) 18"x20' smooth wall ventilation culverts; (8) Funnels fans.

POTATO TRUCKS: Ford 9000, tandem axle, auto trans, 3208 Cat motor, 20' Double L beltbottom box, no tarp; Ford 8000, tandem axle, auto trans, 3208 Cat motor, 20' Logan belt-bottom, self-contained hydraulics, wet kit, w/auto-roll tarp, 62680 miles; Mack Model R, tandem axle, auto trans, 22' Double L belt-bottom box, pto pump on truck, w/roll tarp; Int. Fleet Star 2070A, diesel, tandem axle, auto trans, D466 motor, Lockwood 20' chain-bottom box, w/roll tarp; Int. Fleet Star, tandem axle, auto trans, 500ci gas motor, Lockwood 20' chain-bottom box, w/roll tarp; International S1900, tandem axle, auto trans, 500ci gas motor, new steerers, 53000 miles, w/auto-roll tarp; Mack Model R, tandem axle, 20' 801 Double L belt-bottom box, MaxiTorque extended range trans, no tarp; Mack RD6885, TDRL 10-70 manual trans, quad axle, 24' 4200 Spudnik potato box, belt-bottom, pto pump, w/auto-roll tarp, hauls 800 bu of grain.

FARM EQUIPMENT: Gallenberg 750XT AireGlide sprayer, 4wd, 120' booms, high output foam marker, new Raven system; Brillion 9-shank Soil Commander chisel plow, new 22" front blades & bearings last fall, sn: 179458; Wilmar Loadrunner 16-ton dry fertilizer tender/grain cart on tandem axle semi-trailer chassis; Hiniker 15' stalk chopper, 1000pto, sn: 4003-0081-100; Clark GCX25E forklift, 4500 lb. lift, LP engine, new brakes & lights, sn: GX230E-0475-9372FB, 8030 hrs; Case 16' offset disc, new 28' blades and bearings last fall; Kuhn Krause 8200 disc, rock-flex, 36', hyd level/ depth control, walking tandem, sn: 8200-36X-2094.

SPECIAL ITEMS: 500 gallon diesel tank w/new 110V pump w/ outrigger and in-line filter; (2) 200 gallon oil tanks on stand for 15-40 motor oil & hydraulic oil; 110 gallon antifreeze tank on stand; 2016 Yamaha Wolverine UTV, 4x4 750 cc, blown motor.

ONLINE BIDDING will be available at https://www.equipmentfacts.com and https://www.proxibid.com. There will be a 2.5% BUYER'S PREMIUM with a cap of \$750.00. Sale clerked by Nolan Auction, Inc. Regular auction terms - cash or personal check. Everything sold as is, where is. No Warranties. If you have property to trade or sell, contact our office. SALE CONDUCTED BY

NOLAN SALES LLC

PO Box 486, Marion, WI 54950 * (715) 754-5221 or 1-800-472-0290 Tim Nolan & Gerald "Sonny" Nolan, Reg. WI Auctioneers, Lic. #165 & #142 Visit our website at www.nolansales.com for more photos. slopes, WisDOT said.

"WisDOT reminds drivers to buckle up, put the phone down, and follow speed limits on Wisconsin highways, especially when these volunteer groups are working along the roadside," WisDOT said.

Learn more at *w i s c o n s i n d o t . g o v / adoptahighway*.

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466629

Merrill's Track and Field Team makes steady improvements, ends season with personal records

BY TINA L. SCOTT **EDITOR**

Throughout the 2025 spring season, the Merrill Bluejays Track and Field Team continued to make steady improvements, with athletes growing stronger, running faster, jumping further and higher, and throwing further as the weeks progressed. In the end, with a crew of athletes going as far as Sectionals, many of these athletes ended the season on all-time highs, continuing to exceed their own personal-best records from the weeks prior.

Wisconsin Valley Conference (WVC) Meets

"The Merrill Bluejays Track and Field Team put on a stellar performance at their meets on Tuesday, May 6, 2025," said Alec Oestreich, Merrill Track and Field Head Coach. The girls were competing in the WVC True Team Meet, while the boys competed in the WVC Relay Meet. The events gave Merrill athletes the opportunity to showcase individual achievements along with strong teamwork in the relay events, he said.

"At the girls True Team Meet, leading the charge for the Bluejay girls' sprint squad, Hannah Klinger completed the 100m dash, sprinting to a fantastic time of 14.03 seconds, marking a new season best," Oestreich said.

In the long-distance events, "Caroline Durbin demonstrated remarkable stamina and determination in the demanding 1500-meter run, crossing the finish line with a commendable time of 5:53.59," he said. "Karlee Ravn also contributed with a solid effort in the 600-meter run, clocking in at 2:02.66."

"The girls' 4x100m relay team (Jaz Severt, Takiyah Sell, Hannah Klinger, and Maddie Robbins) showcased their speed and seamless handoffs, achieving a season best time of 55.27. The girls' 4x400m relay team (Jaz Severt, Mia Smith, Hannah Rell, and Lauren Zuelsdorff) battled hard and secured a well-deserved third place with a time of 4:26.36." "In the field events, Merin Yates continued to impress in the discus, launching the implement an impressive 100' 6" to earn a strong fourth place finish."

And "Brenna Jirovec tackled the technical 200-meter hurdles with grit and determination, finishing her race in 32.98." Oestreich said.

The Bluejay boys also contributed strong performances at the WVC Relay Meet. "Freshman Broc Suchocki took on the 300m hurdles, finishing in 47.93 seconds and securing 13th place," he said. "In the triple jump, Jayden Chase scored an impressive leap of 38' 11.75" to earn a solid 7th place."

City Meet at Wausau East

On Tuesday, May 13, Merrill athletes competed against



multiple teams in the City Meet at Wausau East. Five other boys teams-from Mosinee, DC Everest, Newman, Northland Lutheran, and Wausau West-came to compete.

Merrill's all-stars from this event included a third place finish in the 400m dash by Tyler Spade with a time of 53.86, and Patric Metz set a new personal best in the 200m dash with a time of 25.09.

Two of Merrill's relay teams made third place finishes in their events. The 4x100m relay team of Hannah Klinger, Jaz Severt, Hannah Rell, and Maddie Robbins came in third with a time of 53.81, and the 4x400m relay team of Jaz Severt, Mia Smith, Hannah Rell, and Lauren Zuelsdorff came in third with a time of 4:23.16.

"Our girls sprint relays continue to cut time and compete at a high level," Oestreich said after the meet. "We have a solid sprint core of girls along with a handful of guys that are continuing to improve on their season marks."

Regional Meet in Bloomer

At the Regional Meet in Bloomer on Tuesday, May 27, Merrill's Track and Field Team made a good showing. At the end of the event, a crew of Merrill athletes had qualified for Sectionals.

Merin Yates took first place in the shot put with a throw

See TRACK page 16



Girls 4x400m relay team, L to R: Mia Smith, Lauren Zuelsdorff, Jaz Severt, and Hannah Rell.

Photos courtesy of Merrill Track and Field.

Merrill baseball dominates Lakeland 9-1 in playoff opener

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

The Merrill Varsity Bluejays opened the playoffs on Thursday, May 29, 2025 defeating Lakeland 9-1 at home to advance to the Regional Semifinal.

"On Thursday, we opened the playoffs with a 9-1 victory over Lakeland," said Merrill Varsity Boys Baseball Team Head Coach Shawn Schultz. "We will play Medford in the Regional Semifinal in Merrill on Tuesday at 5 p.m."

The Bluejays dominated from the

Merrill jumped out to an early lead and never looked back.

"On offense, we got out to an early lead with 3 runs in the first," Schultz said. "We did a great job taking advantage of 8 Lakeland errors. Ben Thom had a big 3-hit day driving in 3 runs as well. As a whole, the offense did a great job of getting guys on and bringing them around."

Ben Thom led the offensive attack, going 3-for-4 with 3 RBIs and a double. Cooper Wendorf contributed with a 1-for-5 performance, scoring 3 runs and driving in 1. Brady Norton (1-for-3, 2 R, 2 BB) and Cam Wallin (1-for-2, 1 R, 1 RBI, 2 BB) also had solid games at the plate.

2025 Merrill Summer Baseball Schedule

7th Grade Babe Ruth

	7 th Olaat Dabt Hath			
Thurs. June 5th	D. C. Everest - Grey	Home	6:00 pm	
Tues. June 10th	Wausau - Bone & Joint	Away	7:00 pm	
Thurs. June 12th	Wausau - Bone & Joint	Home	6:00 pm	
<u>8th Grade Babe Ruth</u>				
Mon. June 9th	Antigo -Dvorak Docks	Home	6:00 pm	
Wed. June 11th	Wausau - Toyota	Away	6:00 pm	
Junior Legion				
Mon. June 9th	Wausau	Away	7:00 pm	
Tues. June 10th	Marshfield	Away	7:00 pm	
Thurs. June 12th	Plover (DH)	Home	5:30 pm	

<u>Post 46</u>

mound, with EJ Weix and Carter Kaminski combining for a stellar pitching performance.

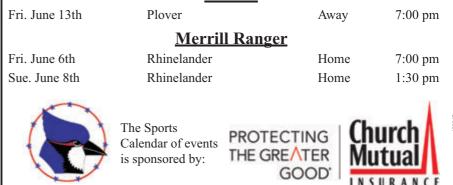
"EJ Weix and Carter Kaminski were dominant on the mound," Schultz said. "EJ started and pitched the first four innings giving up just 1 run on 3 hits. Carter finished with 3 shutout innings. Both did a great job of throwing strikes and making things easier for the offense."

Weix (4.0 IP, 3 H, 1 R, 1 ER, 3 BB, 5 SO) earned the win, while Kaminski (3.0 IP, 0 H, 0 R, 0 ER, 3 BB, 2 SO) closed out the game with three scoreless innings.

The Bluejays' defense was equally impressive, committing zero errors while capitalizing on Lakeland's eight miscues.

"Defensively, we had a great game," Schultz said. "Cole Rudie made a couple of excellent plays at 3rd base and the rest of the team was flawless as well. We are really looking forward to the matchup with Medford on Tuesday."

Box Score Lakeland 1 @ Merrill 9



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TRACK from page 15

of 31' 2.75" and third place in discus with a throw of 99' 10"

Brenna Jirovec took third place in the 100m hurdles with a time of 18.10 and fourth place in the 300m hurdles with a time of 51.86.

Merrill's Three of relay teams took third place in three different events: The 4x100-meter relav team of Jaz Severt. Hannah Klinger, Hannah Rell, and Maddie Robbins took third place with a time of 53.9. The 4x200meter relay team of Jaz Severt, Maddie Robbins, Mia Smith, and Lauren Zuelsdorff took third place with a time of 1:52.45. And the 4x400-meter relay team of Jaz Severt, Mia Smith, Hannah Rell, and Lauren Zuelsdorff took third place with a time of 4:21.65.

Jax Hanson placed third in the shot put with a distance of 41' 4.25" while Tyler Spade took fourth place in the 400m dash with a time of 53.63.

Maddie Robbins took fourth place in the pole vault with a height of 8' 0".

"Congratulations to the athletes advancing to our Sectional meet in Durand," Oestreich said.

Sectional Meet in Durand

The Merrill Track and Field Team performed well at the Sectional Track and Field Meet in Durand on Friday, May 30, with many athletes setting personal records and running season-best times. They really gave it their all!

"Brenna Jirovec had a great night tackling the hurdles!" Oestreich said. She set a personal record in the 100m hurdles with a time of 17.9 and finished a nice 300m hurdle race to end her season.

"Jax Hanson showed his strength in the shot put tonight at Sectionals!" he said. "He threw two over 40' to end the season and his high school career! Congrats, Jax!" "Merin Yates had an incredible season filled with personal records!" Oestreich said. "30'+ in shot put and 97' in discus at Sectionals to round off her high school career! Congrats, Merin!"

"Tyler Spade keeps hitting new personal records! A solid 400 race and another season-best 53.53! Congrats, Tyler!" he said.

"Maddie Robbins had two great attempts at her season personal record of 8' 6"!" Oestreich said. "Congrats, Maddie, on a wonderful season and making it to Sectionals!" Merrill's girls relay teams have continued to impress with strong performances, and the Sectional meet had them finishing strong.

"The 4x100 relay team (Jaz Severt, Mia Smith, Hannah Klinger, and Maddie Robbins) brought the heat tonight!" Oestreich said. They had a season personal record of 53.36. "Congrats on an amazing year and a strong Sectional race!"

"The 4x200 relay team Severt, Maddie (Jaz

Robbins, Mia Smith. and Lauren Zuelsdorff) continue to run their fastest times," he said. "A new season best of 1:51.43 to round off the season at Sectionals!"

"What an incredible season. but man. WHAT A NIGHT!" Oestreich said. The 4x400 relay team of Jaz Severt, Mia Smith, Hannah Rell, and Lauren Zuelsdorff "just dropped 6 seconds from their season personal record and ran a 4:15.25!"

"All four girls ran season-best splits to win their heat!' he said. "Congrats Jaz. Mia, Hannah Rell, and Lauren on an amazing end to our Sectional meet and season!"

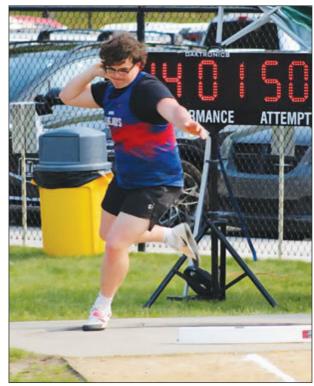


Merin Yates throwing discus.

Photos courtesy of Merrill Track and Field.



Maddie Robbins' 8'6" attempt.



Jax Hanson at the shot put.



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