

HAPPY Father's DAY
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Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill. MMC photo

Lincoln County A&L Committee approves sale of Pine Crest Nursing Home

Now the recommendation goes to full Lincoln County Board, County to hold Town Hall information meetings

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Lincoln County Administrative & Legislative (A&L) Committee has approved forwarding an Asset Purchase Agreement and Operations Transfer Agreement to the full Lincoln County Board. If approved, the Agreement would facilitate the sale of Pine Crest Nursing Home to a subsidiary of The Ensign Group, Inc. The Lincoln County Board will consider the

See PINE page 3

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Joseph Frederick photos.

Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo celebrates cowboy and cowgirl action and crowns new rodeo royalty

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo (WRPR) wrapped up this past weekend following three days of competitive rodeo action that showcased bronc riding, barrel racing, calf tie-down roping and breakaway roping, team roping, steer wrestling, and the ultimate rodeo quest—to stay astride a bull for that infamous eight-second

ride in the bull riding event. The Lincoln County Rodeo Association brought the annual Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo to the Merrill Fairgrounds June 6-8, 2025, drawing in contestants from throughout Wisconsin and many other U.S. states, as well as Merrill residents and rodeo-lovers from beyond Lincoln County to get a taste of this traditional celebration of western cowboy and cowgirl action. Though the skills

required to manage cattle and horses and the idea of rodeo itself—including rodeo “fashion,” like cowboy boots and hats and leather chaps—didn’t originate in the United States as we know it today, rodeo competitions and displays of horsemanship as we know them now have become iconic American traditions.

In addition to the flag-bearing

See RODEO page 5



ABOVE: Paul Kienitz on the green.

LEFT: Janet Schreiber and Val Mindak from Park City Credit Union seem to be enjoying this year’s annual Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing!
Tina L. Scott photos.

Merrill Chamber holds annual Golf Outing

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce held their annual Golf Outing fundraiser on Monday, June 2, 2025. Attendance was high, with 39

teams playing golf and competing, making for approximately 156 participants. Another 25 people volunteered for the event, the organization’s largest fundraiser of the year.

Three teams were recognized for

their golfing prowess—with first place awards noted for an all men’s team, an all women’s team, and a mixed team comprised of both men and women. The team of Rex

See GOLF page 2

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PUBLISHER’S LETTER

Father’s Day!

Dear Reader,

Father’s Day is just around the corner—a perfect time to reflect on the men who raised us, guided us, and helped shape who we are. Fathers, notably, were there at the very beginning of our lives—and have hopefully stood by us ever since. Everyone needs a good father. A good father takes his responsibilities seriously, especially the profound responsibility of raising children.

We can learn so much from a good father. He teaches, he walks with us through the victories and tribulations of life. He is there when we need him most.

I remember when I was heading off to school, I asked my father for advice I could carry with me. He shared something timeless—essentially the advice Polonius gives his son Laertes in Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*: “To thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man.” Simple words that carry profound wisdom: authenticity and integrity serve as the foundation for a life well-lived.

The best fathers provide both roots and wings—stability to know where home is and confidence to venture into the world. They teach us to face challenges with courage, to treat others with respect, and to understand that character matters more than achievement.

My father taught me that listening is often more important than speaking, that keeping promises builds trust that no amount of explanation can restore once broken, and that showing up—consistently and reliably—speaks volumes about what we truly value.

To all the fathers who show up day after day, who balance guidance with freedom, who demonstrate love through both words and actions—thank you. Your legacy lives on in the lives you’ve touched and the values you’ve instilled.

PATRICK J. WOOD

Publisher

Author of “Reflections” a new book now available on Amazon.



The Men's Team taking first place for 2025 included (from L to R) Rex Richard, Tim Schrieber, Jim Hasenberg, and Mark VanderSanden.

Submitted photo.



From L to R: Derek Hoff, Adam Karcz, Lora Bladow, and Michelle Jaje took first place in the Mixed Team Division at the annual Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing.

Submitted photo.



For the ladies, the Women's Team of (L to R) Donna Hansen, Vicky Davis, Mary Klug, and Angela Jeske took first place in the tournament.

Submitted photo.



Sue Kunkel, Jeff Hoffman, David Flasch, and Paul Kienitz pose for a photo on the course.

Tina L. Scott photo.

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Golfers out on the course.

Tina L. Scott photo.

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GOLF from page 1

Richard, Tim Schreiber, Jim Hasenberg, and Mark VanderSanden took first place for the men. For the ladies, the team of Donna Hansen, Vicky Davis. Mary Klug, and Angela Jeske took first place. And in the mixed division, the team of Derek Hoff, Adam Karcz, Lora Bladow, and Michelle Jaje took first place. (See photos.)

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CIRCULATION AUDIT BY

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

OBITUARIES

LeRoy E. A. Schmidt



The seat in Heaven promised to LeRoy E. A. Schmidt was filled on the afternoon of June 4, 2025.

He was a resident at Pine Crest Nursing Home and under the care of Interim Hospice services.

LeRoy was born on December 11, 1935 in Merrill and was 89 at the time of his passing.

He was a lifelong resident of the Merrill area and a member of Trinity Lutheran Church for most of his adult life.

LeRoy married Carol E (Schult) Schmidt on January 15, 1955, they were married for 69 years, she has saved him a place alongside her in Heaven since her passing on November 4, 2024.

LeRoy spent most of his life as a carpenter preferring to work mostly on his own. He was known for his quality work and fair prices; his strong work ethics left a lasting imprint that has carried on to his children. He also became a “Mr. Fix It” and could figure out how to fix just about anything without the help of “Google” and most likely had the parts needed in his “stash” to complete the job. If you needed a helping hand, you could always count on him to be there.

LeRoy was a kind and generous man and often used his talents for volunteer work especially at Trinity Church and School, he supported many charitable organizations. He was a proud republican and spent many hours engrossed in the FOX news channel. He was also an avid gardener and in recent years took a strong interest in growing geraniums, he was able to winter them over and keep them blooming throughout the cold months to bring them back outdoors the following summer. LeRoy also enjoyed fishing and loved tending a smoker full of bullheads.

Together with Carol, they owned and maintained rental properties and in their younger years owned Schmidt’s Concession’s, many weeks were spent at fairs, football games and 4th of July celebrations serving up treats that were loved by all.

LeRoy was a humble man and often quiet, but when prompted had a theory and an opinion on just about everything, some might even say he had a feisty side.

He often used the words “you be careful” as a parting sentiment, we learned to interpret that as “I love you”.

LeRoy is survived by his children: daughter: Barb (Bryan) Bonke of Missouri, with their son, Brandon, daughter: Chris (Keith) Maahs, of Merrill, with their children, Ryan (Emily) Maahs, Tyler (Kristin) Maahs, Gina (Nick) Zurbey and Jacob (Amber) Maahs, son: John (Ellie) of Merrill with their daughter Katie Halverson, and JoAnn (Jeff) Brandenburg of Merrill, with their daughter Jennifer (Jon) Lee, great grandchildren: Cale, Kaeden, Hudson, Kinley, Hayden, Bentley, Hollis, Owen, Hazel, Eldrick, Jazalyn and Juliann, brother Garry (Barb) Schmidt.

In addition to his wife Carol, LeRoy was proceeded in death by his parents, Elmer and Alma Schmidt and a daughter: Katherine Schmidt

The funeral service for LeRoy was held on Monday, June 9, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. Rev. Joel Danner officiated. Visitation was held on Monday, June 9, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service, also at the church. Burial at the Scott Cemetery immediately followed the service.

The family wishes to thank both the Pine Crest Nursing home and Interim Hospice for the care, love and compassion that was shown to LeRoy and his family during his stay.

The family requests that donations be made to Trinity Church and School in lieu of flowers.

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

“You all be careful now.”

Loren Worden

Loren Worden, 72 of Rothschild, died Thursday, June 5, 2025. Ascend Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Weston is assisting his family with arrangements.

Thomas Milton Fugere



Thomas Milton Fugere, 90 of Escanaba, passed away at home on Monday, May 26, 2025 (Memorial Day). He was born on August 28, 1934 in Escanaba, Michigan to Leo and Flora (Gascon) Fugere. At just 10 years old, Tom began working, delivering bread throughout the community. His strong work ethic continued into adulthood, and at the age of 17, he enlisted in the US Army (Infantry) proudly serving two tours in Korea and two tours in Vietnam. In 1957 Tom married his childhood sweetheart, Joan Bichler. Together, they traveled extensively, living in Kansas, Colorado (where Michelle was born), Illinois, and Germany. After his retirement from the military the couple returned to Escanaba to enjoy their well earned rest.

During his 20 years of service. Tom held numerous roles, including instructor of cadets, drill sergeant, quartermaster, and ROTC instructor at both Loyola University and Wells High School in Chicago. He was recognized for his dedication and leadership with multiple commendations. After retiring from the military in 1971, Tom worked for 13 years at Lakeshore Inc. operating a 15 ton lift before transitioning to a position at Sears.

Tom had a deep love for his family, his country and his faith. He was also a very passionate Green Bay Packers fan. His hobbies included adopting and training shelter dogs, fishing, and camping, often in his beloved canvas tent. Known for his reliability, organization and resilience, Tom leaves behind the legacy of hard work, love and dedication to those he cared about.

Thomas is survived by his daughter, Michelle (Joseph) Fugere Brown; grandchildren Cherish (Adam) Hoy of Escanaba and Ben Brown of Merrill, Wisconsin; great-granddaughter Alice Hoy; as well as his sister-in-law Connie Schmidt and his brother-in-law Robert Bichler. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Joan of 67 years and his many brothers and sisters.

Services were held in Escanaba at the Anderson Funeral Home. In memory of Tom please make any donations to a local animal shelter.

Guy W. Hartl



Guy W. Hartl, 69, of Merrill, passed away Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

Guy was born September 2, 1955, son of William Hartl and Frances (Boland) Hartl. He was a jack of all trades and excelled in woodworking. Guy’s favorite pastime was riding his motorcycle. He worked with several Veterans organizations including the Patriot Guard and Rolling Thunder. At one point, he was the president of the Rolling Thunder. Guy also enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was a gun enthusiast and attended many gun shows. Guy loved music and played guitar. At one point, he owned over 80 guitars.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon Wendt of Merrill; children, Waylon Hartl of Merrill, William ‘Billy’ (Brenda) Hartl of Shelbyville, TN, Joseph Bean of Chicago, and Destiney Bean of Merrill; two grandsons, Logan Hartl, Braylon Hartl; siblings, Robin (JJ) Johnson of Park Falls, Kerry (Mariann) VenRooy of Merrill, Trudy (Craig) Hall of Clarksville, TN, and Keith (Liz) VenRooy Jr. of Newald; and several nieces and nephews. Guy was preceded in death by his father, William Hartl; mother and step-father, Frances Hartl VenRooy and Keith ‘Jim’ VenRooy, Sr; and siblings, Brenda Pyan and Vaughn ‘Jay’ VenRooy.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

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

Jack L. Kleinschmidt



Jack L. Kleinschmidt, age 76, of Merrill, entered his heavenly home to be with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at his home, while surrounded by his beloved family and under the care of Compassus Hospice. Jack was born on April 12, 1949 to the late Leonard and Joyce (Quick) Kleinschmidt in Merrill. He attended and graduated from Merrill High School. Jack bravely enlisted in the United States Army, and proudly served his country during the Vietnam War, until his honorable discharge. After his military career, he went on to further his education in law enforcement. Jack was a dedicated police officer for the Merrill area for over 27 years, until his retirement. He married his best friend, the love of his life, Cheryl “Sherry” Eye, on January 22, 1972 in Merrill, a loving union lasting over 53 years. She survives.

After retiring from law enforcement, Jack and Sherry owned and operated The Guy’s Shop & Thelma’s for many years. They truly loved being a part of the Merrill community and created many lasting friendships. Jack then went to work for Waid Funeral Home in Merrill as a funeral assistant, something he was currently still doing until his death. He was a valued friend and employee to his funeral home family, and will be missed dearly. Jack had an unbreakable faith in his Lord, and he was able to witness to not only his family, but to families he served during his work at the funeral home. Jack and Sherry were very active in their church, and also led many Bible studies. Jack had a close relationship with Christ and passed that belief and faith on to his children and grandchildren. He was so proud of his grandchildren and they adored their “Bapa”. Jack looked forward to working on his daylilies with his family; everyone had a part. The whole family owned and operated Barnes Creek Daylilies, and spent many days working in the fields. Jack is remembered as a great leader to his family and community, a kind and generous man that stayed active right up until he couldn’t anymore. He has left a lasting impression on his family, friends and community, and all who he had witnessed to and were touched by him and his love. Now is your time to rest in the Lord, good and faithful servant.

Jack is survived by his loving wife: Sherry Kleinschmidt of Merrill, daughter: Karli (Jess) Severt of Merrill, with their children: Jalie “Bean”, Jazi and Jillian, son: Kory (Ahn Na) Kleinschmidt of Wausau, with their son: Braylon, brother: Leonard “Penny” Kleinschmidt of Marshfield, aunt: Ferne Isaacson and many nieces, nephews and good friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister: Roxanne Campbell and sister-in-law: Jayme Kleinschmidt.

The funeral service for Jack will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. Rev. Scott Gustafson will officiate. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral Home at 301 Eagle Drive in Merrill, and again on Thursday, June 12, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service, at the church. Entombment and military honors will be conducted at the Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, please direct any donations in Jack’s name to the Trinity Lutheran School in Merrill.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Richard Bailey, Dr. Redmer & Marissa with the Veterans Administration in Wausau, Compassus Hospice nurses, Courtney & Rachel, Dr. Jessica Wernberg – Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, WI, Merrill Fire Department responders, countless family members and friends that supported Jack and Sherry during the last several months.

The service will be live streamed for those unable to attend in person. It can be found under his obituary on the funeral home website, and will start at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2025.

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

Rita Osness Penkwitz



Rita Osness Penkwitz of Port Washington, WI passed on 04/15/2025.

Rita was born in Avon, IL in 1939 to William Schisler and Klaryne Anderson. Rita is survived by three siblings, Daughters Lucinda Osness, Karyn Osness Schwenner (Jim Erlicher), and Shirley Osness Hatfield Dormanen (Johnny). Rita is also survived by 8 grandchildren and 12 and 2 great great-grandchildren. She was proceed in death by 3 siblings and her parents.

Rita married Ray Osness in 1959 at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church and moved to Merrill, WI. She enjoyed activities that was anything Osness. She babysat multiple nieces, nephews and others. The Osness family brought her in with love and understanding as she had no family of her own in the area. She enjoyed babies, dogs and cats and bowling in Merrill, traveling, Canasta and later UNO with family and friends. Rita loved her independence and was so proud to get her drivers license after the age of 40.

After relocating to Port Washington with her family, she worked in the community, as a cook, server and at a local pharmacy.

There will be a private immediate family service at Memorial Park in Merrill on Saturday 06/21/2025 followed by a Celebration of Life luncheon at the Eagles Club from 11-2 where family and friends can come and share their memories and laughter that they came to know Rita for.

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OBITUARIES

Faye I. Latzig



Faye I. Latzig, 88, of Rockford, passed away on Saturday, November 9, 2024. Born June 3, 1936, in rural Wausau, WI, the daughter of Arther and Margaret (Kufahl) Muschinske. Graduate of Wausau High School, Class of 1954. Faye married Rodney Latzig on June 8, 1957. He predeceased her on October 31, 2021. She worked as a beautician in Wausau and as a teacher in Rockford and Belvidere. Faye was a member of Saint John’s United Church of Christ, Belvidere and sang in the choir.

Survived by her children, Wendie Temple and Thomas Latzig; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Also predeceased by her parents; daughter, Deanne Mulligan; grandson, Brady Mulligan; and brother, Ronald Muschinske.

Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 21, 2025 at St. John’s United Church of Christ, 401 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008. Visitation will be from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. prior to the service. Memorials may be made to St. John’s UCC to the landscaping fund. To share a memory or condolence please visit olsonfh.com

LEGALS

Legals7700

Legals7700

Notice is hereby given that the following applications for a Class 'B' combination license to deal in intoxicating liquor has been filed with the Town of Corning Clerk:

William D. Dinges
W8047 Joe Snow Road
Merrill, WI 54452
Ed & Sharon's, LLC
N1294 Hwy 64 & 107
Merrill, WI 54452
Rick Hass, Clerk, Town of Corning
Published June 12, 2025 WNAXLP

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

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

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 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 interested persons whose names or 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 accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0342 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Attorney Gordon E. Stillings
251 E. Wisconsin Ave
Neenah, WI 54956
Phone 920-725-5305 Bar #1000041
Published June 5, 12 & 19, 2025
WNAXLP



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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



More photos online
merrillfotonews.com



Madilynn Skic, 2026 WRPR Queen.



Miah Graap, WRPR Princess. **Joseph Frederick photos.**

RODEO from page 1

cowgirls on horseback, the competitors, the rodeo clowns, and the kids events in the arena, one highlight of the weekend was the crowning of new rodeo royalty. Madilynn Skic was crowned the 2026 Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo Queen, a role that represents the grit, grace, and heart of rodeo and provides her the opportunity to promote rodeo, horsemanship, and western heritage for the coming year. Miah

Graap was crowned 2026 Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo Princess and will serve alongside Skic in her role and fill in for her as necessary, such as when two events are being held simultaneously.

The WRPR Committee expressed appreciation for everyone involved in making this year's rodeo a success—from the stock contractor who provided the livestock and the rodeo personnel that managed event operations—to the many sponsors, volunteers, vendors, and community members from Merrill and

surrounding areas who participated.

The rodeo serves as both a competitive venue for regional and nationwide contestants and a community gathering that provides entertainment and draws tourists to the area which enhances the Merrill economy.

Next year's Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo will be held June 12-14, 2026, so mark your calendars.

Enjoy some of the highlights of this year's rodeo in photos captured by local photographer, Joseph Frederick. (More photos online.)



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SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM
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TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 7:00PM

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SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM
TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 7:00PM

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"PG13" (1HR 34MIN)
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SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:00, 7:00 & 9:00PM
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“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.

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PROGRESSIVE
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AREA EVENTS

Jun. 12 - Veterans
Coffee & Conversation
at Pine Ridge
Restaurant

Jun. 12 - Open Mic
at Sawmill Brewing
Company

Jun. 14 - Fill the Gazebo

Jun. 15 - St. Paul's
Party on P at St. Paul's
Church, W2604 Cty.
Hwy. P, Merrill

Jun. 19 - Veterans
Coffee & Conversation
at Pine Ridge
Restaurant

Jun. 21 - Poker Run
organized by Rogue
Brigade at VFW

Jun. 21 - Mud 'n Jams
ATV/UTV Rally 2025

Jun. 21 - Paddygrass
at Sawmill Brewing
Company

Jun. 22 - Bingo at VFW

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PARTY ON P

W2604 Cty Hwy P - Merrill, WI
JUNE 13TH - 15TH, 2025

FRIDAY

3:30PM - A DELICIOUS FISH FRY (UNTIL GONE)
4:00PM - 7:00PM - MUSIC BY KT COUNTRY
CONCESSION STAND • BOUNCY HOUSE

SATURDAY

START 2:00PM - DARTBALL
(CONTACT DALE AT 715-536-3377 FOR INFORMATION)
4:00PM - PRIME RIB SANDWICH SPECIAL
5:00PM - 9:00PM - MUSIC BY CARL JACKSON AND THE WILD SPIRITS
CONCESSION STAND, RAFFLES, KIDS GAMES, BOUNCY HOUSE

SUNDAY

10:00AM - 11:00AM - POLKA CHURCH SERVICE
11:00AM - BBQ CHICKEN DINNER (UNTIL GONE)
11:00PM - 4:00PM - MUSIC BY JIM PEKOL & GB BAND
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JIM PEKOL & GB BAND

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Lincoln County




Support for this project was provided through
the Merrill Community Foundation
Merrill Community
Foundation's Greatest
Needs Fund.

Contact Julie at 715-218-5613 for more information.

St. Paul's Church annual Party on P is this weekend

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

St. Paul's Church,
W2604 Cty. Hwy. P,
located southeast of
Merrill, will hold their
annual family-friendly
Party on P this weekend,
June 13-15, 2025.

Kicking things off on Friday afternoon and evening, they will have their traditional fish fry starting at 3:30 p.m. until sold out. A concession stand will also be available, along with a bouncy house and activities for the kids. From 4-7 p.m. live country music from KT Country will provide entertainment, with a

dance floor under the big tent for anyone who wants to do a little two-stepping or boot scootin' on a Friday night.

Fun for the whole family continues on Saturday with more kids games and bouncy house, and planned events begin at 2 p.m. with dartball. At 4 p.m. a prime rib sandwich special will be available, in addition to the concessions, and from 5-9 p.m. Carl Jackson & The Wild Spirits will perform live for more music and dancing.

Sunday starts off with a polka church service at 10 a.m. followed by more polka music from

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for anyone in northcentral Wisconsin who wants to enjoy some polka music and dancing. A BBQ grilled chicken dinner also begins at 11 a.m., with food available for dine in or take out—first come, first served until they run out of food. Raffle winners will be announced starting at 4 p.m.

Concessions and refreshments, silent auctions and raffles, and lots of fun activities will be available on the grounds throughout the annual three-day event. Free parking and a shuttle service will be available.

Free Summer Lunch Program returns for Merrill kids

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Children and teens in Merrill will have access to free lunch throughout the summer again this year thanks to a partnership between Christ United Methodist Church (UMC), St. Stephens UCC, Our Saviour's Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran Church, and St. John Lutheran Church and

the Merrill Community Food Pantry.

The program runs June 2 to Aug. 29, 2025, with meals available for pickup Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Christ UMC parking lot on Third St. near Mill St.

Each participating church will provide meals on assigned days, with all distribution centralized at Christ UMC. The Community

Food Pantry will contribute snacks, drinks, and fruit cups, while Associated Bank volunteers will help pack meal bags.

No registration is required. Children or parents simply need to visit the Christ UMC parking lot during pickup hours to receive a ready-to-eat bagged lunch. The program will not serve meals on July 4.



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- › Underground City
- › Notre Dame Cathedral
- › Via Rail Train - Montreal to Quebec
- › Quebec City Tour
- › Montmorency Falls
- › Old Quebec Christmas Market
- › Gilles Copper Museum
- › St. Anne de Beaupre Shrine
- › Sugar Shack Demonstration
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HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Hoover Dam
- ▶ Mob Museum
- ▶ Grand Canyon West
- ▶ Grand Canyon Skywalk
- ▶ Bryce Canyon National Park
- ▶ Zion National Park
- ▶ Zion Park Tram Tour
- ▶ Las Vegas Leisure Day
- ▶ 2 Nights - Las Vegas
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INCLUSIONS

- ▶ Roundtrip Airfare - MSP, MKE, MSN or ORD(-\$100pp)
- ▶ 5 Nights First Class Hotel
- ▶ 8 Meals: 5-Breakfasts, 1-Lunch & 2-Dinners

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On some dates alternative hotels may be used

TOUR RATES:
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 Regular Rate: **\$2875** pp double
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ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
JULY 23, 2025
Publishes August 20, 2025



Ask a Pastor: Several local pastors plan interfaith panel for curious community members

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Several area clergy members will gather Wednesday evening in a community event designed to answer questions about faith in a relaxed, no-pressure environment—ideal for anyone who is curious about Christianity but hesitant to visit a church.

The “Ask a Pastor” interfaith panel will take place June 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the AGRA Pavilion. Pastors from the local United Methodist, United Church of Christ, Episcopal, and Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) churches will participate, alongside Sister Celine from the Roman Catholic Holy Cross Sisters.

“This is an idea that the members of Ascension Episcopal Church came up with in an effort to unite followers of Jesus, no matter what church they attend, as well as to spread the love of Jesus to those who may not have a church they call home,” said Amy Heimerl, priest at Merrill’s Ascension Episcopal Church.

Many people are curious about “church” and they have questions, but they aren’t yet sure about “going to” church or which church they’d even like to try out, organizers said.

This event will feature an “Ask It” basket where attendees can anonymously submit questions for

the pastors to answer, to learn more in a relaxed, comfortable environment. Organizers do emphasize that each pastor or panel member will speak from their own individual perspective “on their own” and their answers are not representative of their entire denomination, but simply one view within their respective denomination. “The goal is to give people an opportunity to talk to followers of Jesus Christ without the pressure of having to walk into a church building,” the event flyer says. For new Christians, prospective Christians, or just the genuinely curious, this event is also an opportunity to learn about several different area churches in one place.

“The goal is to be able to offer perspectives of [some] local pastors to interested people without the pressure of having to attend a church service,” Heimerl said. “We believe that many people are curious about what following Jesus really means, and we want to offer what it means to us.”

The initiative grew from the Merrill Ministerium Group, a group which meets regularly and includes pastors from a number of local churches and denominations. Ascension Episcopal received a grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Wisconsin to support this event, Heimerl said.

Each participating church plans

to host an open house and/or newcomer service at a later date to help interested community members understand what elements of their respective worship services involve and mean. Such events are so “those interested in exploring a church can get a feel for what a worship service is like,” Heimerl said.

The Ask a Pastor event builds on other ongoing interfaith community efforts, including “The Vibe,” a monthly open mic event held the first Friday of each month from 6-8 p.m. at rotating locations during spring, winter, and fall.

“People come and share their talents, whether singing, playing an instrument, reciting poetry that they (or others) wrote, telling jokes, even dog tricks are welcome,” Heimerl said. “It’s simply an alternative, multi generational gathering on a Friday night that doesn’t cost anyone anything to attend, and people can be assured that they will be welcomed and heard.”

The open mic has been running for almost two years, drawing 20-40 people each month. Like the upcoming panel, its aim is to build community without requiring church attendance.

Similarly, the June 18 event is free and family-friendly. Snacks and beverages will be provided, and all community members are welcome to attend.

| CLASSIFIEDS |

Rummage Sales This Week 7200

Big Garage Sale: 207 N Van Rensselaer St. June 12-14, 8-3. Praini, Pet Stairs, Puzzles, Books Crafts, Woman's bike, Sm End Tables, a lot of Misc. Items.

Merrill: W3261 Schiller Drive. Friday, 6/13-Saturday, 6/14, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. First time sale for 2 households!! Kitchen and home goods, tools, horse tack, supplies, gifts, holiday decor, hunting, fishing, gardening. NO EARLY SALES

Multiple Sales Diana Cir. Clothes: Girls 5-12, teen, adult. Shoes, indoor/outdoor toys, dorm items, micro, mini fridge, treadmill, elliptical, misc. 6/12-6/13, 8-5, 6/14, 8-?

Rummage Sales Upcoming 7202

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Rummage Sales Upcoming 7202

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Merrill: Thursday, 6/12,8 a.m.- 5 p.m., Friday, 6/13,8 a.m.- 5 p.m., Saturday, 6/14,8 a.m.- 2 p.m. Perennials, sports & fishing equipment, foosball table, drone, furniture, stock tank, games, books, holiday decor, Wii U, kid's items, crafts, clothing, CDs. W3311 County Road C

Up & Coming Annual Garage Sale. Irma, W5496 Olivotti Lake Rd. Starts June 18th, 3-6 PM and runs thru June 21st. Full ad will be in next weeks Foto News.

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Val Mindak,
President/CEO
of PCCU. Photo
courtesy of PCCU.

Park City Credit Union grows with Wood County merger

Park City Credit Union (PCCU) announced last Thursday, June 5, 2025, that it has merged with Wood County Employees Credit Union (WCECU), expanding the Merrill-based financial institution’s reach into Wood and Portage counties.

The merger adds to PCCU’s existing service area, which already includes Lincoln County and the Merrill community. The credit union serves more than 24,000 members across 12 counties in northcentral Wisconsin.

“This merger is a natural fit for both organizations,” said Val Mindak, President/CEO of PCCU. “We share a deep commitment to our members and the communities we serve. By joining forces, we’re not only expanding our reach, but we’re also strengthening our ability to deliver exceptional value, personalized service, and innovative financial solutions to even more people.”

WCECU members will gain access to PCCU’s expanded services, including additional financial products, enhanced digital banking tools, and a broader network of branches and ATMs. The transition is expected to be seamless for existing members.

PCCU operates branches in Merrill, Tomahawk, Minocqua, and Rhinelander. The member-owned cooperative provides services to residents who live, work, or own land in Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Price, Rusk, Taylor, Vilas, Wood, or Portage counties.

VISIT US ONLINE!

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FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/merrill.fotonews

Veterans outreach appointments in Tomahawk postponed

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

For any area residents who had appointments scheduled with the Lincoln County Veterans Service Officer at Tomahawk City Hall, please be advised those appointments will be rescheduled. Due to the Lincoln County Veterans Service Officer being on Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave, all outreach appointments scheduled at Tomahawk City Hall from June 12-July 24, 2025, will be postponed, a June 6 press release from the Veterans Service Office said. Regular outreach appointment services at Tomahawk City Hall will resume starting Aug. 14, according to the release.

The Lincoln County Veterans Services office remains open, staffed by Deputy Veterans Service Officer Tiffany Daigle, who continues to assist veterans and families with their claims and

needs. “The Lincoln County Veterans Service Officer apologizes for any inconvenience this postponement may cause to veterans and their families,” the release said.

“We understand the importance of these outreach appointments to our veterans in the Tomahawk community,” said Matthew Pultz, Lincoln County Veterans Service Officer. “We are working to resolve unforeseen scheduling conflicts and will resume our regular services as soon as possible.”

During the postponement period, veterans in need of assistance are encouraged to contact the Lincoln County Veterans Service Office directly at 715.539.1083 or visit the office at 801 N. Sales St. Street in Merrill. However, they are asked to limit walk-ins and call to schedule an appointment with Daigle during this time.

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Beyond Books Community Artshare: Spirit Dolls and Thailand Tribal Handiwork

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Beyond Books Community ArtShare exhibit entitled Spirit Dolls and Thailand Tribal Handiwork is currently available for viewing and will be on display through the end of June 2025. Located on the second floor of the T. B. Scott Free Library in Merrill, the collection includes unique and colorful pieces owned by Lincoln County residents, Peter and Dian Ritter.

Spirit Dolls

The idea of spirit dolls evolved from a childhood reading of folklore based on the Slavic witch named Baba Yaga.

Baba's magic hut had chicken legs and could relocate at will in the tale. Dian has always found cultural myths fascinating and enjoys occasional humor in art, she said.

In the fall of 2023, Dian was pulling out old geraniums with crazy roots, shook off the soil, and thought what fun hair that would make for an art doll. The idea blossomed. Dian had always enjoyed collecting and saving interesting materials of all kinds, she said, and she found it satisfying to

recycle and repurpose remnants of fabric, fibers, old jewelry, metal bits, and items found in the natural world. The spirit dolls she created, which are included in this display, have some of their hair made from garden roots, while other dolls have hair made from unraveled yarns, twines, and carpet fibers. She constructed their hands and feet from twigs and dead branches she collected in their yard.

Thailand Tribal Handiwork

Peter and Dian were teaching at the International School of Bangkok in Bangkok, Thailand, from 1990-1996. While there, they purchased a pickup truck and customized it for camping they said, using it to travel extensively throughout the entire country of Thailand. Northern Thailand particularly held their interest, with its beautiful scenery and colorful and industrious people who were always welcoming.

On their many trips upcountry Peter and Dian met several unique Hill Tribes. Along the way, they collected numerous examples of the tribes' handiworks and personal adornments they proudly display on their clothing. The collection at the library includes samples of the traditional clothing they collected from these Hill Tribes in Thailand.



Submitted photos. [More photos online merrillfotonews.com](http://merrillfotonews.com)



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Merrill Varsity Boys Baseball season ends in Regional Semi-final loss to Medford

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Varsity Boys Baseball season came to an end Wednesday night at home, when the Bluejays lost to Medford 7-1 in a WIAA Regional Semi-final game.

“Medford jumped out to an early 3-0 lead after the top of the first,” said Merrill Boys Head Coach Shawn Schultz. “Not the ideal way to start the game, but we got things started on offense with Kory Page leading off the bottom of the inning with a line drive to center and later had runners on second and third, but came up empty.”

The Bluejays had several opportunities to get back into the game but couldn’t capitalize on key moments. After Page’s leadoff hit in the first, Merrill stranded runners in scoring position.

“EJ came back and blanked Medford for the next three innings, giving us a chance to get back into the game, and we had opportunities but just couldn’t cash them in, leaving the bases loaded in the second,” Schultz said.

EJ Weix started on the mound for Merrill and pitched into the fifth inning, allowing 5 runs on 9 hits with 3 strikeouts. Carter Kaminski came in to pitch 2.1 innings in relief.

Medford added 2 more runs in the fifth inning, but again Merrill couldn’t come through with a comeback response.

“Medford scored 2 in the fifth but again we loaded the bases in the bottom of the inning with a great chance to get back in the game but just didn’t come up with the key hit,” Schultz said.

The Raiders tacked on 2 more runs in the seventh before Merrill finally broke through with their lone run of the game.

“Medford added a couple of runs in the top of the seventh and again we got some runners on base and scored a run to get going but couldn’t add on after that,” Schultz said.

Page led Merrill’s offensive effort, going 2-for-4 with 1 run scored. Weix added a double and drove in the team’s only RBI. Cooper Wendorf also had a hit for the Bluejays.

“There is never a good way to end the season with a loss,” Schultz said. “We simply picked a bad day to have a bad game. The boys worked so hard all year and did a great job of battling every time we took the field. Even in this game, they fought through the seventh, continuing to try to mount

a comeback.”
Despite the disappointing end, Schultz praised his team’s effort throughout the season.
“It’s tough to see it right away, but they all have a lot to be proud of on the season,” he said.

Box Score
Medford 7 @ Merrill 1



Peter Tesch caught this amazing shot of an osprey returning to its nest on top of one of the outfield light poles at Ott's Park last week. The osprey arriving back at the nest has a fish in its talons.
Blue Sky Photography/Peter Tesch photo.

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SOLICITATION OF BIDS



Julie Ratajczyk, Trustee of the June E. Kriewald Trust solicits bids for the purchase of June E. Kriewald's condominium located at 2800 Thielman Street, Unit 7A, City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin. This 1487 square foot condominium features 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and an attached 2 car garage. A lot located to the west of the condominium unit is also included in the sale on which is located a storage shed.

The premises may be inspected on Saturday, June 21 from 9:00 A.M.- 4:00 P.M. The premises and improvements are being sold in an **AS IS** condition without any warranties or



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

Julie Ratajczyk reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any bid she deems most satisfactory in her sole discretion. Terms of sale: \$5,000 within seven (7) days of notification of acceptance of bid and balance of bid price in cash at time of closing, with closing to be within thirty (30) days of notification of acceptance of bid. All bids shall be sealed in an envelope marked "Kriewald Condo Bid" and sent by first class mail to Atty. Craig J. Nienow, N5041 County Road JJ, Irma, WI 54442.

Bids will be examined on the 30th day of June, 2025. The successful bidder, if any, will be notified on or before the 9th day of July, 2025.

SOLICITATION OF BIDS: 702 E. Riverside Ave. Merrill, WI



The Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross herewith solicit bids for the purchase of the former Harry Hurd residence located at 702 E. Riverside Avenue in the City of Merrill, Wisconsin. This home is located on a large 1.5-acre lot with 300+ frontage on the Wisconsin River. This ranch style home with 2 bedrooms and one bath, has 2 additional finished rooms and a half bath in the walkout basement. This home is cozy beautiful inside and out, all year long. This well-kept and updated home both interior and exterior, provides a "cabin like" feel within city limits. Location! Location! Location!

This home is situated back from Riverside Avenue, along the Wisconsin River. Experience peace and serenity at every turn whether on a walk around the property or sitting and relaxing in the house. The interior of the home exhibits beautiful wood paneled walls and ceilings with several built-in storage cabinets. This home has an open concept as the galley kitchen flows easily into the eating area and living room. Wonderful space for entertainment for all types of gatherings, all seasons. This is a home you can truly make your own whether using rooms for bedrooms or using the spaces creatively for a home office, study, playroom or music room, etc. There is a detached two (2) car garage. The basement is finished with a great deal of built-in storage and a walkout to the covered side patio with a stone fireplace.

Mark your calendar! The premises may be inspected on Saturday, June 21st from 8:00 A.M.- 4:00 P.M. The premises and improvements are being sold without any warranties or representations of any nature whatsoever. All bidders are encouraged to thoroughly inspect the premises and may make their bid contingent upon an inspection. Title to the premises shall be conveyed by warranty deed.

The Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross reserve the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any bid they deem most satisfactory in their sole discretion. Terms of sale: \$2,500 within seven (7) days of notification of acceptance of bid and balance of bid price in cash at time of closing, with closing to be within thirty (30) days of notification of acceptance of bid. All bids shall be sealed in an envelope marked "Harry Hurd House Bid" and sent by first class mail to the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, 1400 O'Day Street, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452. Bids will be examined on the 3rd day of July 2025. The successful bidder, if any, will be notified on or before the 15th day of July 2025.



Merrill Varsity Girls Softball team holds banquet, honors award-winners



Half the Girls Softball Team were recognized with awards for academic excellence.
Submitted photos.

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Varsity Girls Softball Team recently held their end-of-season banquet and recognized players for their contributions and achievements

throughout the season. In addition to the individual softball awards given at the Varsity and JV levels, it should be noted that approximately half the team received awards for academic excellence based on their grade point averages, as well.



Kendell Klug was given the Varsity Brick Wall Award and Ava Schult received the JV Brick Wall Award.



Mackenzie Herdt received the Varsity Queen of the Circle award, and Tenley Weix received the JV Queen of the Circle award.



Grace Hoff received the Slugger Award. Karmen Brietzke (not pictured) also received this award.



In addition to the Varsity Queen of the Circle Award, Mackenzie Herdt was given the Wisconsin Valley Conference Award, Utility 2nd Team.



Kendell Klug was awarded Rookie of the Year.



Morgan Wienke was given the Guts and Grit Award.



Dani Schielke received the Bluejay Award.



Lily Hoff received the Varsity Teammate Award, and Ari Gray received the JV Teammate Award.



Dani Schielke received the Varsity Clutch Hitter Award and Ava Schult received the JV Clutch Hitter Award.



Olivia Barker and Gabby Wheeler received the Junior Class Leader Award.

Summer 2025 Merrill Baseball Schedule

7 th Grade Babe Ruth			
Thurs. June 12 th	Wausau - Bone & Joint	Home	6:00 pm
Tues. June 17 th	Wausau - Wausau Smiles	Away	6:00 pm
Thurs. June 19 th	Antigo - Heat	Away	6:00 pm
8 th Grade Babe Ruth			
Mon. June 16 th	Wausau - Elks	Home	6:00 pm
Wed. June 18 th	Antigo - Kerber Rose	Home	6:00 pm
Junior Legion			
Thurs. June 12 th	Plover (DH)	Home	5:30 pm
Tues. June 17 th	Antigo	Away	7:00 pm
Wed. June 18 th	Antigo	Home	6:00 pm
Thurs. June 19 th	Rib Lake (2-5 Inn)	Away	6:00 pm
Post 46			
Fri. June 13 th	Plover	Away	7:00 pm
Mon. June 16 th	Crandon	Away	6:00 pm
Wed. June 18 th	Marshfield	Home	7:00 pm
Thurs. June 19 th	Stevens Point	Away	7:00 pm
Merrill Ranger			
Sun. June 15 th	WI Rapids	Home	1:30 pm
Wed. June 18 th	D. C. Everest	Away	7:00 pm



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