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# Zastrow sentenced for making false statements in gun purchase

## Straw purchase provided gun that killed Kayla Frank

TINA L. SCOTT  
 EDITOR

On March 3, 2023, a press release from the Office of U.S. Attorney Timothy M. O'Shea for the Western District of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Justice, said 32-year-old Ashley Zastrow of Merrill was sentenced on March 2 for making false statements during the purchase of two firearms. One of those firearms was later allegedly used by Tanner Graap to shoot and kill 28-year-old Kayla M. Frank in Merrill on Jan. 18, 2022.

Graap was charged with first degree intentional homicide and first degree reckless homicide, among other related charges, on Jan. 19, 2022. That case is still ongoing, with a motion hearing scheduled for May 8 in Lincoln County Court. Graap is currently in custody at Fox Lake Correctional Institution in Dodge County.

Zastrow was sentenced by U.S. District Judge William M. Conley to one year plus one day in federal prison, followed by a three-year period of supervised release. As of this writing, Zastrow was in the Dane County Jail.

"On Jan. 13, 2022, Zastrow purchased two firearms in Wisconsin Rapids," the release said. "In order to complete the purchase of these firearms, she represented that she was the actual buyer of these firearms when in fact she was not. An investigation by law enforcement revealed that she purchased these firearms for an individual who accompanied her to the store and provided her with cash at the time of purchase. This offense is known as a 'straw purchase.' The person Zastrow provided the firearms is prohibited by law from possessing firearms as a result of

See ZASTROW page 3



Playing pool at the mini pool table is a favorite way to hang out with friends after school at the Boys & Girls Club.

Tina L. Scott photo.

# Church Mutual investment brings Boys & Girls Club to PRMS

TINA L. SCOTT  
 EDITOR

On Feb. 13, 2023, members of the Chamber, City government, and the media were invited to celebrate the opening of the Boys & Girls Club of Merrill at Prairie River Middle School (PRMS), along with investors and advocates for the Club. The celebration showcased the Merrill Club and included kids and volunteers from the Boys & Girls Club of Wausau who came to share in the festivities—including hamburgers, cake, and snacks—with the Merrill kids, Club staff members, families, and volunteers.

Kim Larson, CEO of the Boys &

See GIRLS & BOYS CLUB page 3



Rich Poirier, CEO of Church Mutual, speaks about his support for the Boys & Girls Club of Merrill. [Kim Larson, CEO for the Boys & Girls Club, is seated.]

# Krueger appointed Administrative Coordinator

TINA L. SCOTT  
 EDITOR

On March 1, 2023, Don Friske, Chairman of the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors, announced Renee Krueger was appointed to the position of Lincoln County Administrative Coordinator. Krueger was the Lincoln County Director of Social Services for the past seven years and the Interim Administrative Coordinator since Nov. 2022.

"During this time, her quality of work and professionalism has been very evident to the members of her oversight committee and the entire County Board," Friske said.

"Renee brings an impressive work history to the position as a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a double major. She worked for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections at Stanley Prison as well as Lincoln Hills School as a Social Worker and Unit



Renee Krueger.

Manager. Renee also worked for Marathon County Child Protective Services. When the opportunity presented itself, Renee came home to Lincoln County when she accepted the position of Director of Social Services."

The Lincoln County Board is confident Krueger will "manage the complex issues of the daily business of Lincoln County and will also be instrumental in charting a path toward the future," he said.

"I am very pleased and thankful for Renee's willingness to accept this very difficult and integral position of Lincoln County's Administrative Coordinator. I look forward to working with her in her new role," Friske said.

"Renee has an outstanding team around her that is eager to help her with her transition from Social Services and her future vision for Lincoln County," said Christopher J. Marlowe, Lincoln County Clerk.

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# Merrill Ice Draggers wrap up short but well attended 2023 season

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

After battling mother nature, the Merrill Ice Draggers were able to run their final scheduled event and complete Week 3/the Memorial Day Race on Feb. 25, 2023. The season was short but very well attended. Cindy Opichka, President of the Merrill Ice Draggers Inc., said this year was their "largest season to date."

The frozen surface of Lake Alexander [off the

boat landing in Council Grounds State Park] was definitely the place to be. And that just proved "it will take more than some unseasonable temps and thunderstorms in Feb. to stop this 58-year tradition," she said.

Some racers drove more than 14 hours "just so they can say they took a pass down the fastest 1/8 Mile on Ice," Opichka said. "SEGA (South East Gassers Association) brought four cars from Tennessee, the



Left: Joshua Graap, Merrill, took first place in the 9.0 Championships, driving a 1991 Chevy S10. Shown, L to R: Harley Hixon, Vice-President of the Merrill Ice Draggers, Inc.; Joshua Graap; and Cindy Opichka, President of the Merrill Ice Draggers, Inc. Right: Ryan Podeweltz of Merrill took 1st place in the Ice Drags Championship in the Modified class, driving a 1979 Chevy Camaro. Shown, L to R: Harley Hixon, Vice-President of the Merrill Ice Draggers, Inc.; Ryan Podeweltz with his twin daughters, Isabelle and Delana; and Cindy Opichka, President of the Merrill Ice Draggers, Inc. Submitted photos.



### Pet of the Week

**Regis** has found his way back to the shelter and is now looking for his forever family! **Regis** is very bold and not afraid of any adventure! He gets along well with the other cats here at the shelter and has lived with a dog although he did tend to be quite dominant towards it. **Regis** seems to be an old soul. He loves people, playing with toys and getting attention. He will need a family that will keep him busy and active because he gets bored easily. He is definitely a shelter favorite as he loves to help us do our chores here and loves attention! Visit the Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours: Mon-Sat 12-4PM and Sun 12-2PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit us on the web at [www.furypets.com](http://www.furypets.com).

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Left: Bill Hartl of "Stinken Leakers Auto Repair" of Merrill was one of five volunteers recognized at the Merrill Ice Draggers, Inc. Annual Banquet. Shown L to R: Cindy Opichka, President of the Merrill Ice Draggers, Inc.; Bill Hartl; and Harley Hixon, Vice-President of the Merrill Ice Draggers, Inc. Right: Dan Hixon of Athens received the special 2023 Iron Man Award for his contributions during the season. Dan Hixon is in the middle. His grandson, Harley Hixon, is on the left, and Cindy Opichka on his right. They are Vice-President and President of the Merrill Ice Draggers, Inc., respectively.



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Carolinas, and Mississippi. After the 14-hour drive, they were seen taking pictures with snow and marveling at the snowmobiles on the lake.

"Check out the Merrill Ice Drags Facebook page for several video links of their adventure," she said. "Numerous other racers came from Minnesota, Illinois, and Southern Wisconsin to run, as well. Spectators from Milwaukee, Minnesota, Toronto (Canada), and all over Wisconsin were also in attendance."

### Week 3 Memorial Day Race results:

**2 WD**  
1st place: Emma Meyer, Merrill, driving a 2007 Chevy Impala  
2nd place: Linda Krebsbach, Rhinelander, driving a 2019 Chevy Malibu Premier

**4x4**  
1st place: Jay Deitzler, Wausau, driving a 2018 GMC Terrain  
2nd place: Travis Smith, Plover, driving a 2013 Subaru WRX

**11.0**  
1st place: Erin Dombeck, Ringle, driving a 1987 Buick Grand National  
2nd place: Dakota Pingle, Bowler, driving a 1988 Chevy Camaro

**Easy Street II**  
1st place: Scott Stricklin, Gleason, driving a 1998 Chevy Camaro  
2nd place: Mandy Hering, Merrill, driving a 1988 Ford Mustang

**10.0**  
1st place: Harley Hixon, Merrill, driving a 1965 Chevy II  
2nd place: Chris Huitfeldt, Merrill, driving a 1973 Olds Cutlass

**Ultimate Street**  
1st place: Todd Weisenfeld, Merrill, driving a 1992 Chevy Camaro  
2nd place: Hunter Diels, Merrill, driving a 1970 Chevy Nova

**9.0**  
1st place: Joshua Graap, Merrill, driving a 1991 Chevy S10  
2nd place: Steve Traeger, Foley, Minn., driving a 1990 Chevy C1500

**Modified**  
1st place: Ryan Podeweltz, Merrill, driving a 1979 Chevy Camaro  
2nd place: Jimmy Bartelt, Merrill, driving a 1985 Mazda RX7

**8.5**  
1st place: Duston Koenig, Merrill, driving a 1974 Chevy Vega  
2nd place: Joshua Graap, Merrill, driving a 1991 Chevy S10

**Altered**  
1st place: Mike Bohman, Merrill, driving a 1970 Chevy Nova  
2nd place: Ryan Podeweltz, Merrill, driving a 1979 Chevy Camaro

**8.0**  
1st place: Zach Degner, Merrill, driving a 1972 Chevy Vega  
2nd place: Adam Reich, Irma, driving a 1993 Chevy Camaro

**7.0**  
1st place: Mike Bohman, Merrill, driving a 1970 Chevy Nova  
2nd place: Jimmy Bartelt, Merrill, driving a 1985 Mazda RX7

**Open Door Slammer**  
1st place: Ryan Podeweltz, Merrill, driving a 1979 Chevy Camaro  
2nd place: Peter Vogels, DePere, driving a 1979 Jeep CJ7

**Outlaw**  
1st place: Ron Krueger, Rhinelander, driving a 1947 Willys Modified Rail  
2nd place: Peter Vogels, DePere, driving a 1979 Jeep CJ7

**Championships**  
On Feb. 25, following the week three races, Championship points were tallied and results were calculated, without a Championship Day race this year.

### Season Championship Results 2023:

**2 WD**  
1st place: Emma Meyer, Merrill, driving a 2007 Chevy Impala  
2nd place: Linda Krebsbach, Rhinelander, driving a 2019 Chevy Malibu Premier

**4x4**  
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2nd place: Chris Huitfeldt, Merrill, driving a 1973 Olds Cutlass

**Ultimate Street**  
1st place: Todd Weisenfeld, Merrill, driving a 1992 Chevy Camaro  
2nd place: Austin Willis, Merrill, driving a 1984 Ford Mustang

**9.0**  
1st place: Joshua Graap, Merrill, driving a 1991 Chevy S10  
2nd place: Travis Amdt, Wisconsin Rapids, driving a 1972 Chevy Chevelle

**Modified**  
1st place: Ryan Podeweltz, Merrill, driving a 1979 Chevy Camaro  
2nd place: Kyle Bohman, Merrill, driving a 1975 Chevy Camaro

**8.5**  
1st place: Duston Koenig, Merrill, driving a 1974 Chevy Vega  
2nd place: Joel Frisch, Wausau, driving a 1970 Ford Maverick

**Altered**  
1st place: Mike Bohman, Merrill,

## Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is



**Caylee Dallman**  
Daughter of Travis and Kasie Dallman

Caylee is in 4th grade at Washington Elementary School. She was nominated by Mrs. Larson.

What is your favorite subject in school?  
Why?

My favorite subject is writing because I enjoy writing at school and home.

What is your favorite part of school?  
Why?

Reading would be my favorite part of school, I really enjoy Diary of a Wimpy Kid books. I also like recess.

What would you like to do/become someday?  
Why?

I would like to become a singer. I really LOVE singing, and country music is the best!

Caylee is the definition of perseverance! When faced with adversity, she pushes through and comes out with a smile on her face. Caylee is hardworking. She doesn't give up, even when the work is tough. It has been a pleasure to watch her learn and mature throughout the school year. Caylee should be recognized for her leadership skills as well. She is a kind friend and ensures that all students feel included. She is definitely a leader within her peers. We are extremely proud of you, Caylee, keep up the great work!  
Mrs. Larson

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**GIRLS & BOYS CLUB** *from page 1*

Girls Club, said the event was designed “to help us thank those in our community who, through a shared vision, came together to make this site possible for the 600 students who attend PRMS and their families.”

“This project, this site, started about 18 months ago when we met with the Aware & Active Citizens and the Youth Justice Coordinating Committee and, very quickly, this site became a community collaboration, a true testament to what can happen when people come together to enrich and transform the lives of people,” Larson said.

Larson and the Boys & Girls Club of Wausau provided guidance and support to help facilitate the development and implementation of the program at PRMS, but “the incredibly generous foundational investment from Church Mutual Insurance” was critical and helped take the Merrill program “from concept to reality.”

A \$100,000 foundational funding donation from Church Mutual Insurance Company enabled the Boys & Girls Club of Merrill to become a reality for PRMS students in grades 5-8 at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. Administered by the Boys & Girls Club of the Wausau Area in partnership with Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS), the Merrill site is open to students after school until 6:30 p.m. on school days. Membership in the Boys & Girls Club of Merrill is growing rapidly and provides a safe place for students to complete their homework, play games, and enjoy time with other PRMS kids and adult volunteers.

The Boys & Girls Club provides a variety of programs and activities all designed to help build character, leadership, and respect for others. Students have fun while learning citizenship and life skills with activities including community service projects, crafts, games, cooking, and learning about healthy lifestyle choices, program administrators said.

“The Club plans and provides intentional programming to achieve academic success, maintaining or improving good academic standing by getting homework completed and turned in on time,” Larson said. “Programming also focuses on learning about, practicing, and adopting healthy lifestyle habits as a lifelong skill.”

Larson introduced Rich Poirier, CEO of Church Mutual Insurance Company, as a “long time friend, investor, and advocate for the Boys & Girls Club.”

“Rich shares our belief that every kid deserves access to the programs, services, and opportunities the Boys & Girls Club provides, and it’s because of his advocacy and support that we are all here today,” Larson said.

Poirier said Church Mutual and the Boys & Girls Club share “a belief in the youth of tomorrow” and said he has been involved in the Boys & Girls Club of Marathon County for about 17 years, even prior to joining Church Mutual. Now Church Mutual is invested in the vision of the Boys & Girls Club for the Merrill community.

“At Church Mutual we do understand the value of investing in our employees, our families, and our youth. We cannot place a value on the importance of parents knowing that their kids have a safe place to go after school. A safe and positive environment for young people [alone]... would be worth this investment, but there is so much more here with the Boys & Girls Club: supportive relationships with caring, trained, and dedicated professional staff; opportunity and expectations to make good decisions, to try something new, to explore your community; recognition for doing the right thing, being respectful and supportive of someone ... when they need it most; to place a kid in a place where they can have fun.”

“The strategic investment that Church Mutual made here was a start; it was a door opener,” Poirier said. “We made an intentional donation to get this community connected to this wonderful organization, the Boys & Girls Club, and I personally and professionally stand behind what they’re doing. I have seen and heard from young people, parents about the difference a Club makes in their lives. This Club does so much more than enrich the lives of young people and parents. Together we can all transform lives.”

Poirier thanked MAPS for opening their doors to the Boys & Girls Club. “It is a leap of faith,” he said. “There are bumps in the road, but we can overcome. Making this possible in out-of-school hours is a massive commitment on the part of our Merrill Area Public Schools. Working together, this area will grow ... I’m very confident in that.”

Poirier also thanked the leadership of the Mayor, Chamber, and community leaders in Merrill. “Thank you for helping us make this a reality,” he said.

“I think my first day on the job I cornered Mike Ravn and I said, ‘God, wouldn’t it be cool to have a Boys & Girls Club?’” Poirier said. “We finally did it! So on behalf of Church

Mutual and also as a Board Member of the Boys & Girls Club, I couldn’t be happier and prouder.”

Shannon Murray, Superintendent of MAPS, spoke on behalf of the district, thanking Church Mutual for their generous donation and thanking the planning team that helped implement the Boys & Girls Club at PRMS.

Diane Goetsch, Principal at PRMS also spoke in support of the new Boys & Girls Club, how it can help the students, and the opportunities it provides for the kids and the community. She spoke of the importance of having a “safe, fun, creative, engaging place to go after school” for PRMS students. “I hear laughter, and I see smiles, and I just see pure joy coming from this space,” she said of the after-school program. She spoke of ensuring it is a fun and safe and supportive environment for students to develop into whatever they want to be. Goetsch said word of mouth is getting out and the Boys & Girls Club after school program is growing.

Raiyna Perez, a sixth grade student at PRMS and a member of the Boys & Girls Club, spoke on behalf of the student members of the Club.

“I joined the Boys & Girls Club just after winter break, and I’m so glad I did, because I love it,” Perez said. “My friends come to the Boys & Girls Club and were trying to get me to join. They told me how fun it was, and I decided to come one day because I wanted to see for myself.”

“Every day after school staff have fun things planned, and it’s often things we can’t do anywhere else,” she said. “Coming to the Boys & Girls Club has helped me meet new kids throughout the school ... new kids I wouldn’t otherwise have a chance to meet.” She explained that during the school day schedules and classes keep the grade levels pretty separate, but now, “I know a lot more kids at school, and I feel a lot more comfortable because of it.”

“Each day starts with our choice of snack. We talk with our friends and find out what the options for the day are. One of the most important parts of the Club is Power Hour. We earn points for doing our homework and staff always encourage us to work on our homework or complete missing work. I participate in Power Hour to get my homework done, and I make sure I’m caught up.”

“The Club helps us feel more connected to the school,” Perez said. “We get to see parts of the school we might not have gotten to see before or ever, like in Team Cuisine, where we learn to read recipes, cook safely, and try to make new foods. We used the teacher’s lounge to make chili one time, and I was surprised to see how big the space was. The chili was a 10 out of 10 and it tasted delicious.”

“The Boys & Girls Club is important to PRMS because it is a safe, fun place to go after school. The Club is one of the best parts of my day, and the Club helps kids enjoy school even more because they have something to look forward to all day,” she said. “I realize every day that I learn something new at Boys & Girls Club. I would like to thank Church Mutual, Ms. Goetsch, and everyone for making the Club possible. I also want to thank the Club staff. The staff are amazing and they are always nice to us. They joke around and brighten our days. The Boys & Girls Club gives you opportunities you wouldn’t get without it, and I can’t wait to go every day.”

Larson reiterated thanks. “Thank you very much to everybody in the room for helping us celebrate. Thank you to Church Mutual for the initial investment to open the doors for the Boys & Girls Club this last October, Thank you to the Merrill Optimists, Merrill Firefighter Charities, Lincoln County, and Merrill Area United Way for helping to keep them open. As we continue to grow, we will continue to build those relationships in collaboration that mean so much not only to our Club members but to our organization. Thank you to the Aware & Active Citizens and the Youth Justice Collaboration Committee for advocating to do what is best for Merrill youth. We are thrilled to be a part of the Merrill community and look forward to the growth and opportunity in the future. We’re excited for you to meet our staff, to try an activity, enjoy a burger, a piece of cake, and for Club members at the PRMS site to grab their t-shirt. ... Welcome to the Boys & Girls Club of Merrill Prairie River Middle School site.”



Kids make connections with one another over Connect Four and other games at the Boys & Girls Club. Here they have more interaction with students in other grade levels than they do during the school day. Tina L. Scott photos.



Students and volunteers play games together.

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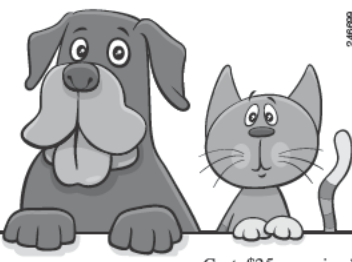
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A portion of the proceeds go to the Prairie River Eagles 4-H Club

**ZASTROW** *from page 1*

previous felony convictions and allegedly used one of the firearms purchased by Zastrow to commit a homicide.” During sentencing Zastrow, Judge Conley said “she made a ‘disastrous’ choice to transfer firearms to a prohibited person and could not ignore the fact that this choice contributed to a woman’s death.”

Judge Conley added a prison sentence was warranted in light of Zastrow’s poor performance on pre-trial release and nominal efforts to confront her methamphetamine addiction, the release said.

“The charge against Zastrow was the result of an investigation conducted by the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office, Merrill Police Department, and Federal Bureau of Investigation, with the assistance of the Marshfield Police Department,” the release said. Assistant U.S. Attorney Taylor L. Kraus prosecuted the case, which is considered part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), the U.S. Justice Department’s program to reduce violent crime, and involves collaboration by federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and communities to prevent and deter gun violence.

**MERRILL Foto News**

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921 E. Main Street  
Merrill, WI 54452  
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11:30 a.m. Monday

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**CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL**

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# OBITUARIES



**Barbara Iwen** age 88, of Merrill, passed away Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at Pine Crest Nursing Home.

She was born on January 31, 1935 in Merrill, daughter of the late Leo and Lillian (Boettcher) Leistikow. Barbara graduated from Merrill High School in 1953. She worked at Weber Tackle in Stevens Point, Merrill Manufacturing, Weinbrenner Shoe Company, Lincoln County Bank, and finished out her career at M&I Citizens American Bank. After retiring she worked part time at Dave's County Market.

Barbara enjoyed being raised on a farm with all of the animals, having many pets throughout her life. She also enjoyed traveling with her neighbor, family, and friends. In addition she had a love for gardening, tending to her many flower beds, along with mowing the lawn on her John Deere for hours on end. She loved when people would visit so she could show off her yard or show guests her decorations she would put up for every holiday. You could hear the polka music coming from the local radio station playing both inside or outside the house. Most importantly she especially loved taking care of her two granddaughters and always making sure to have a birthday party, home cooked meal, and cake made from scratch for them each year. She loved to share her knowledge of baking cookies with her granddaughters and practiced her homemade recipes to feed many hungry mouths. Everyone could agree she was a social butterfly and spent her days sharing stories with everyone that passed through her life. In her pastime, Barb enjoyed looking through scrapbooks of old photos for hours, sharing what her life was like, as well as completing puzzles with good company. She welcomed everyone, stranger or friend, with a friendly conversation and lots of memories from the past. She was never alone because she loved animals and always had a pet (or four) in her house. Her most recent pet was her beloved dog "Saber" known to others as Sable. Even when her mind was confused, she never forgot her most special friend.

Barbara is survived by her son Douglas (Pam) Iwen of Merrill, two granddaughters Bailey Iwen and Emerson Iwen both of Merrill, one sister Fern (Reinhard) Langhoff of Merrill, along with nieces and nephews, step-children and step-grandchildren. Barbara married Donald Iwen on July 22, 1972 in Merrill. He preceded her in death on October 22, 2014. In addition, Barbara was preceded in death by her parents Leo and Lillian Leistikow, along with a stepson Donald Iwen II.

The Iwen family would like to thank all of our friends, family, and neighbors for the care and time dedicated to loving and socializing with Barb. The Iwen family is also thankful for the staff in the Special Care unit of Pine Crest Nursing Home. A Celebration of Life gathering will be held this summer with details to come.

Mid Wisconsin Cremation Society is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [www.MWCS.WS](http://www.MWCS.WS)



**Marilyn Ruth Popp** (nee Meier) of Beaver Dam, age 85, passed away peacefully at home on March 1, 2023.

Marilyn was born on the family farm on April 11, 1937 to Henry and Alma (nee Krueger) Meier in the township of Scott, Merrill, WI. She attended St. John's Lutheran School and graduated from Merrill High School in 1955. She continued her education at the University of Wisconsin, Madison earning a B.S. degree in 1959. Marilyn worked on campus as a waitress at the Memorial Union; she also worked at a dormitory cafeteria where she met her best friend and love of her life, Bill. Her college summers were spent working at a resort in Woodruff, WI as a dining hostess and waitress. She was always thankful for the job opportunities that helped make her college education possible. On October 24, 1959 she was united in marriage with William G. Popp at St. Casimir's Catholic Church in Newton, WI. Marilyn worked for 17 years as a teacher's assistant in the Beaver Dam Unified School District and for the Beaver Dam Eye Study #Four from 2003 to 2006. Marilyn was a member of WEA, BDAAA, BDACT, NOW, League of Women Voters, and the Democratic Party. Marilyn was well-informed on current events, an avid reader, excellent cook, good seamstress, well-organized homemaker, and an enthusiastic Brewer and Badger fan. Marilyn was an active member of Sacred Heart Parish in Horicon, WI.

Marilyn will be dearly missed and live on in the hearts of her husband, Bill, and daughters, Laurie (Michael) Pierce of St. Charles, IL, Kathleen (James) Kokal of Plano, TX, and Patricia (Peter) Pokrandt of Madison; nine grandchildren, Matthew (Naomi) Pierce of Deerfield, IL, Jennifer Pierce of Chicago, Jeffrey Pierce of Milwaukee; Elizabeth Kokal of Champaign, IL, Allison Kokal and Laura Kokal of Plano, TX; Jessica (Sean) Bull of Verona, Nathan Pokrandt and Kelsey Pokrandt of Madison; three great-grandchildren, Ella, Micah, and Mia Pierce. She is also survived by sisters-in-law Joan Meier, Nancy Meier, Faye Meier, Jeanette Pekarske, and brothers-in-law Robert (Betty) Popp, Joseph (Mary Beth) Popp, and many nieces and nephews.

Marilyn was the last leaf on her family tree and was preceded in death by her seven older brothers, Robert (Willa), John (Lois), William (Gertrude), David (Jane), Ralph, Kenneth, and Leroy and one sister, Elinore.

A special thank you to Dr. Seth Barudin and staff at UW Health for their excellent and compassionate care over the years.

Visitation was held Wednesday, March 8, at 10:00 AM at Sacred Heart Parish, 950 Washington Street, Horicon, WI, with a Mass of Christian Burial at noon at the church. Inurnment will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Sacred Heart Parish, P.O. Box 27, Horicon, WI 53032.

Koepsell-Murray Funeral Home in Beaver Dam is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.koepsellfh.com](http://www.koepsellfh.com).



**Larry J. Holl**, age 85, of Merrill, died Monday, March 6, 2023, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

He was born August 15, 1937, in Merrill, to the late Elmer and Elsie (Lagessie) Holl. On October 23, 1965, he married Donna Belke at St. John Lutheran Church, Merrill. For many years, Larry co-owned and operated Trophy Bar. He later worked as a part time custodian at St. John Lutheran Church and School before his retirement. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1954 until 1958. He was a life member of V.F.W. Post 1638 Merrill. Larry was a member of the Merrill Bowling Hall of Fame. He enjoyed playing golf and had a hole in one on June 23, 2004. He also enjoyed going to Merrill High School sports and seeing friends there and getting to know the students.

Larry is survived by his wife, Donna. He is also survived by a sister-in-law, Carol Sprague; brother-in-law, Neil Belke and Loretta; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers, Gordon, James, Donald, and David; sisters-in-law, Dorothy, Marie, June, Karen, and Kristi; and brothers-in-law, Raymond, Richard, Duane, Donald, and Bruce.

There will be no memorial service. Donations in memory of Larry may be given to St. John Lutheran School, Merrill - Athletic Fund. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com](http://www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com)

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## LEGAL NOTICES

**Legals 7700**

**BY THE COURT:**  
DATE SIGNED: March 6, 2023  
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer  
Probate Registrar

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

Notice to Creditors  
(Informal Administration)  
Case No. 2023 IN 10

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 10/11/1952 and date of death 2/13/2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N1037 Cty Rd W, Merrill, WI 54452.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 06/16/2023.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate.

Mason Bronson  
3919 9th Ave  
Anoka, MN 55303  
715-9661402  
Published March 9, 16 & 23, 2023  
WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: February 15, 2023  
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer  
Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY  
Order Setting Time to Hear Petition  
for Administration and Deadline for  
Filing Claims  
(Formal Administration)  
Case No. 2023-IN-07

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
MARGARET A. OESTREICH  
DOD: 11/02/2022

A Petition for Formal Administration was filed.

THE COURT FINDS:  
The decedent, with date of birth 12/02/1941 and date of death 11/02/2022 was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 2701 Glen Drive, Merrill, WI 54452

THE COURT ORDERS:  
1. The Petition be heard at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Branch 1, before Circuit Court Judge/Circuit Court Commissioner Hon. Galen Bayne-Allison, on 3-29-2023 at 8:30 a.m.

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

2. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is [Date] June 9, 2023.

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

4. Heirship will be determined at the hearing on petition for final judgment.

5. Publication of this notice is notice to any persons whose names or addresses are unknown.

**Legals 7700**

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.

Please check with person named below for exact time and date.

Andrew W. Schmidt,  
SCHMIDT & SCHMIDT  
PO Box 146  
Wausau, WI 54402-0146  
715-845-9621  
Bar Number 1030985  
Published 2/23/23, 3/2/23 & 3/9/23  
WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CIRCUIT COURT  
MARATHON COUNTY  
SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION  
Case No. 23FA25  
Code No. 40803

Misty A. Bauer and Robert J. Bauer,  
Petitioners,  
-and-  
Dyllin J. Thorold and Kathryn D. Franck,  
Respondents.

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN  
ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT,  
DYLLIN J. THOROLD:

You are hereby notified that the petitioner's named above have filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. Within forty-five (45) days after the first date of this publication, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the petition. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is Clerk of Circuit Court, Wood County Courthouse, 400 Market Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494, and to third-party plaintiffs' attorneys, whose address is 170 Third Street North, P.O. Box 997, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not demand a copy of the petition within forty-five (45) days after the first date of this publication, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the petition, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the petition. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2023.

NASH LAW GROUP  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, S.C.  
/s/ Chelsie A. Thuecks  
Chelsie A. Thuecks (1083527)  
Attorneys for Misty A. Bauer and Robert J. Bauer

170 Third Street North, P.O. Box 997  
Wisconsin Rapids WI 54495-0997  
Telephone: (715) 423-8200  
Email: [chuecks@nashlawgroup.com](mailto:chuecks@nashlawgroup.com)  
Published March 9, 16 & 23, 2023  
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Anna Winningham, Licensed Funeral Director, Manager  
Samantha Finucan, Licensed Funeral Director  
Megan Klug, Office Manager

[WWW.WAIDFUNERAL.COM](http://WWW.WAIDFUNERAL.COM)

**Sandra K. 'Sandi' Klade**, 68, formerly of Merrill, passed away Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at Mayo Clinic Health System-Red Cedar.

Sandi was born December 20, 1954, in Merrill, daughter of the late Edward and Bertha (Becker) Procknow. She married Doyle C. Klade September 15, 1973, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. He survives. Sandi and Doyle owned and operated a dairy farm, in addition to this she was also a homemaker. She enjoyed cooking, baking, going for rides, feeding the birds, reading, watching movies, and telling stories about her childhood. Sandi loved her dogs, cats, cows, and horses.

Sandi is survived by her husband, Doyle C. Klade; daughter, Jennifer Cahak (Wayne Helland); sons, Andrew (Heather) Klade and Kris Klade (Tracy Klopstein); grandson, Noah Cahak; brother, Donald Procknow; sister-in-law, Louise Procknow; mother-in-law, Dorothy Klade; brothers-in-law, Gary Klade and Allan (Tammy) Klade; and six nieces and nephews. Sandi was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Bertha Procknow; brothers, Robert Procknow, Earl Procknow, and an infant brother; and sister-in-law, Phyllis Procknow.

The funeral service for Sandi was held at 12:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Rev. Scott Gustafson officiated. Visitation began at 10:30 A.M. Wednesday at the funeral home. Entombment will follow in Merrill Memorial Park Mausoleum.

Online condolences may be made at [www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com](http://www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com)

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FEBRUARY 24, 2023**

Boy, Scott Dean Angelo, born to Maggie Leskoviansky and Dakota Leskoviansky of Merrill.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome letters to the Editor, a chance for members of the 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.

TO THE EDITOR:

### MERRILL LIONS THANK HUNTERS

The Merrill Lions Club would like

to thank all the hunters who donated their deer hides to the Merrill Lions Deer Hide Collection Project. A total of 701 deer hides were collected. 31 deer hearts were also collected and donated to the RAPTOR program in Antigo.

The hides are combined with deer hides collected by Lions Clubs through out Wisconsin and sold to a buyer. The money raised is donated to the Wisconsin Lions Camp in Rosholt, Wis., where children with intellectual, vision, hearing, and diabetic issues are able to have a week-long camping experience at no cost to them.

Merrill Lions would like to thank RESI and Mike Giese for the use of their building and parking lot to process and store the hides.

Merrill Lions would also like to thank Kyle Christensen and Merrill Country Store/River Country Co-op for donating half of the salt used to process and preserve the hides.

For more information or questions on this or any Merrill Lions Club Project, contact Lion Dennis Knott at 715.218.1525, Lion Jeff Kraft at 715.536.6656, or any Lions member.

— Merrill Lions Club  
Merrill, Wis.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

- \*Letters must be 250 words or less. (There will be no exceptions to this. Any letter longer than 250 words will not be printed.)
- \*The writer must include their full name, complete address, and a phone number where he/she can be easily reached for verification. Phone numbers and street addresses will not be published, but will be used for verification purposes, if necessary. Letters must be signed and the name, city, and state will be printed.
- \*Letters may be edited for style, grammar, and length. Form letters or those we determine to be libelous or slanderous will not be accepted. Any letter deemed derogatory, inflammatory, or involving vulgar language will not be published. We reserve all rights to reject material submitted to this publication.
- \*Letters will be published on a "first come, first served" basis. Any letters which we are unable to publish in the printed newspaper may be run online at [www.merrillfotonews.com](http://www.merrillfotonews.com) and/or may be printed in the paper at a later date.
- \*In fairness to all, and due to space constraints, there is a limit of two letters per year from an individual writer. Additional letters may be submitted to our Paid Letters to the Editor column and will require payment in full prior to publication at the same rate as Political Letters to the Editor (see policy below).

### POLITICAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

All letters submitted as an endorsement for a political candidate, referendum, or political agenda will carry the same guidelines as above; however, they will be charged \$40.00 per letter of up to 250 words in length. Longer political letters will be accepted but will be charged \$10.00 per additional 50 words. All political letters must be prepaid prior to printing. Letters to the Editor will not be accepted from candidates running for election or representatives of an organization endorsing their own referendum, as these are clearly advertisements and not opinion letters; those submissions will be referred to our Advertising Department to be run as paid ads.

## PUBLISHER'S LETTER

### The Cycle of Life

DEAR READER,

After five grandsons, our family recently welcomed our first granddaughter into the fold. This happy occasion was a reminder of the tremendous responsibility of meeting all of a baby's basic needs in the natal stage of life.

It is a joyous event as the parents, supported by the rest of the family, renew their commitment to raising all of their children in a conscientious manner. This young soul is joining two curious, exuberant, chaotic, and budding boys. The new addition makes it three, which translates into a circus at times.

As grandparents we are there to help, though there is no certain prescription or formula for love. Everyone has their own way of doing things, which we need to celebrate as a part of the diverse tapestry we live in. Each of us radiates love in a multitude of ways – and that's the point. At the end of the day, it's all good for the children and for the family.

Welcome to the world, young Shannon Grace. Let the wild rumpus begin!

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
Publisher

Author of "Dear Reader" and "Tapestry of Love and Loss"



The students in Mrs. Boisvert's class at Tomahawk Elementary School participated in the Conservation Poster Contest and show their Certificates of Participation and the ribbons they won. Submitted photos.

# Lincoln County students participate in Annual Conservation Poster Contest

**TOM BOISVERT**  
LINCOLN COUNTY  
CONSERVATION  
PROGRAM MANAGER

Students and educators from schools in Lincoln County participated in the Annual Conservation

Poster Contest hosted by the Lincoln County Conservation Program. The Conservation Contest encourages students to submit posters that illustrate the conservation theme of the year. For 2023, the Conservation Contest theme is "One Water."

Water is one of the foundations for life. Clean

See **CONTEST**  
page 12



Maika Follensbee, Ella Hess, and Abigail Ross won first, second, and third places in the Conservation Poster Contest, K-1 category. All three students are in Mrs. Boisvert's class at Tomahawk Elementary School.



Grades 2-3 category winners: Morgan Webb (second place), Jenna Peterson (first place), and Kinsley Young (third place). All students are in Mrs. Thompson's class at Trinity Merrill Lutheran School.

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**Izabella Klockow**

### PRMS January Youth Optimist

The Prairie River Middle School (PRMS) January Youth Optimist of the Month is **Izabella Klockow**. Ms. Halsey Bonnell nominated Izabella, saying Izabella "is someone who understands that her actions impact others and portrays it by leading through example. She has learned, and more importantly, practices, one of life's most important lessons: We are all human and should be treated and viewed as such—people are not to be labeled and judged, but rather, appreciated for their individual qualities they bring to the world."

"Along with strong morals, Izzy has a positive energy that is easily noticed and welcomed by those around her," Ms. Bonnell said. "Her smile and warm personality draw others in, making it obvious that kindness is something she values highly."

"School is something also very important to Izzy," she said. "She comes every day prepared and ready to give academics her best. She goes above and beyond on her assignments and contributes nicely to class discussions. There is never a doubt the work she turns in will be done to the very best of her ability. She is someone who takes pride in a job well done."

"Izzy is a young lady with many talents, aspires to be her best, and is definitely very deserving of this award," Ms. Bonnell said.

At school, Izzy is in Forensics Club, on Student Council, on the Honor Roll, and in band, and she plans to be part of the marching band next year in high school. Izzy started dancing at age three and has played soccer for the last six years, playing for both the Merrill Soccer Association and PRMS. She volunteers at the St. John's Fair Stand and the concession stand at the MARC. Izzy also enjoys writing and aspires to one day be a published author.

Izabella is the daughter of Amanda and Nathan Klockow of Merrill.

### MHS January Youth Optimist

The Merrill High School (MHS) January Youth Optimist of the Month is **Alana Polak**. Alana was nominated by Mrs. Allie Libby and Ms. Katherine Holz.

"Alana is organized, caring, and thoughtful in all she does," Mrs. Libby said. "She sees the best in people and truly cares about how others are doing. I have seen her grow as a person into a compassionate young lady who works hard at all she does. She is always willing to help in any way she can. She is positive, optimistic, and thoughtful."

"One thing that I will always remember Alana for is this amazing Raise Your Voice journal she made by hand!" she said. "It has different prompts and pages to help support our students' mental health. She made it all by herself, and students and community members love it!"

"Alana is a breath of sunshine when she enters a room," Ms. Holz said. "She can make friends with anyone. She cares about people. Alana has skills that have improved our club and contributed to making it elite."

At MHS, Alana has been active in Volleyball (Coach), Tennis, Link Crew, National Honor Society, Junior Optimist Club, Raise Your Voice (Officer and member), and Big Brothers Big Sisters and has been on the honor roll all four years.

Outside of school, she volunteers with St. John's church, Vacation Bible School, highway clean up, summer league sand volleyball, and club volleyball.

The daughter of Delmer and Tracey Polak, Alana plans to attend UW LaCrosse to major in biology with a concentration on biomedical science.



**Alana Polak**



**Optimist Clubs: "Bringing Out the Best in Kids"**  
Merrill Noon Optimists – Wednesdays at 12:00 noon at the Eagles Club, 1205 Lake St., Merrill  
Adult volunteers join Optimist Clubs to conduct positive service projects in their communities aimed at providing a helping hand to youth. Their upbeat attitudes empower youth to be the best they can be. Optimists International, with 3,000+ clubs, conducts 65,000 service projects, serving more than six million youth annually. Locally, Merrill Noon Optimists serve 3,000+ area youth, contributing or organizing events and service projects in our Merrill community.

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## FFA MEMBER OF THE MONTH

This month we don't just honor one FFA Member of the Month. For the month of February, we decided to honor all of the current Merrill High School **Future Farmers of America (FFA) officers** who guide our local chapter. Mrs. Hartwig chose them to be honored this month, because they all put in a lot of time and effort related to the Merrill FFA Chapter's events and activities but rarely get the opportunity to be recognized for their hard work. Thank you to all of the Merrill FFA officers who keep Merrill FFA moving forward. "I greatly appreciate all of the officers this year helping make my first year as the FFA Advisor in Merrill successful," said Madelyn Mootz.

In photo, front row, L to R: Maddie Mootz, President; Gretchen Such, Reporter; Katy Glaze, Vice President; and Allison Hunter, Secretary. Back row, L to R: Hannah Wendt, Student Advisor; Grace Collinworth, Historian; Brandon Skomars, Sentinel; and Elliott Hanson, Treasurer.



**Our FFA Officers**



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FFA Members highlighted in this feature are selected by the Executive Committee of the FFA, not by the sponsor.



# Celebrate the Arts 4-H statewide art contest winners announced



On Feb. 23, 2023, the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation announced winners of this year's statewide Celebrate the Arts 4-H Art Contest. Of more than 100 entries, two Lincoln County students received honors and recognition, along with other youth from throughout the state.

Alexis Lonsdorf, age 12 and a Lincoln County resident, won in the Wood Category with her submission: Lion's Head.

Another Lincoln County student, Amalthea Kinney, age 10, received an



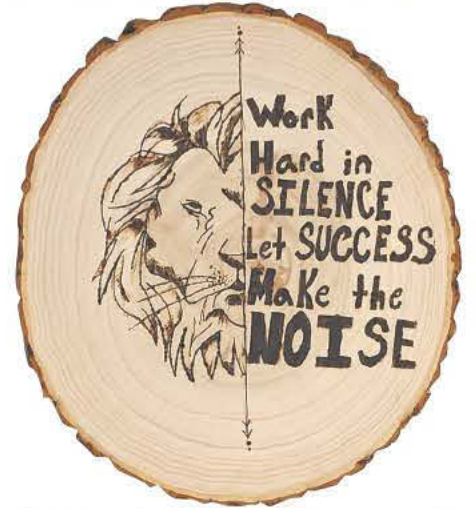
Amalthea Kinney, age 10, received an Emerging Artist Award in the contest, for artistic promise and creativity for her drawing: Baby Chickens Under Heat Lamp.

Emerging Artist Award for artistic promise and creativity for her drawing: Baby Chickens Under Heat Lamp

"This year's contest was a great success," said Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Executive Director, Brenda Scheider. "This is a great showcase for our 4-H youth, who are incredibly talented and creative, and a great opportunity to highlight and support an important part of the 4-H program—arts and communications programs." The winning pieces are for sale for a minimum \$150 donation to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation. For more information and a list of all winners and images, go to: <https://wis4hfoundation.org/celebrate-the-arts/>.

The ultimate purpose of the 4-H arts and communications programs is to provide opportunities for young people to develop the character and life skills they will need to become successful and contributing members of society.

The Celebrate the Arts 4-H Art Contest



Alexis Lonsdorf, age 12, won in the statewide Celebrate the Arts 4-H Art Contest in the Wood category. She called per submission: Lion's Head. Submitted photos.

is one way the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation is working to enhance support of the arts and communications programming, including an endowment which permanently

See ART CONTEST page 10



**WEEKLY BRIEFING - MARCH 09-13**

**THUR - PRIME RIB SANDWICH**  
**FRI - FISH FRY PERCH SPECIAL**  
**SAT - PRIME RIB DINNER**  
**SUN - CHICKEN DINNER**  
**MON - SPAGHETTI**

Open at 4pm Mon., Thurs. & Fri. • Open at 11am Sat. & Sun.  
 Closed Tues. & Wed.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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 601 Johnson St., Merrill • 715-536-5708  
 UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

NOW HIRING! P/T - KITCHEN, WAIT STAFF • BARTENDERS

**DINNER @ FIVE**  
 A COMMUNITY TABLE AT SAINT STEPHENS

Join us every Monday at 5:00PM for a community meal open to all.

**Saint Stephens**  
**United Church of Christ**  
 903 E 2nd Street, Merrill.  
 Free will donations accepted.

**Monday, March 13th Menu:**  
 BBQ Chicken Sandwiches with homemade beans  
 Sponsored by: St. Stephens

**The Eagles Club**  
 1205 N Lake St. • Merrill, WI 54452  
 Open to the Public • (715) 536-7471  
 NO FOOD SERVED: Sat., Sun., Mon.-Only Special Events

**DINNER SPECIALS MAR.**

**TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
 MAR. 14TH - CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE  
 MAR. 21ST - CHIMI'S  
 Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

**FRIDAY NIGHTS**  
 MAR. 10TH - SHRIMP  
 MAR. 17TH - CATFISH  
 Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM  
 CLIP-N-SAVE

**CARRYOUT AVAILABLE**

- MONDAY: Bar Open at 3pm
- LUNCH AVAILABLE: TUES. & FRI. 11am-2pm
- WED. & THURS. 11am-8pm
- Specials • Fish Fries • Homemade Soup
- DINNER MENU: TUES. 4-8pm & FRI. 4-9pm
- SATURDAY: Bar Open at 3pm
- SUNDAY: Bar Open From 11am-7pm

Visit our Website! 584.localfoewi.com  
 HAPPY HOUR: TUESDAY-THURSDAY • 3-6PM

**COSMO Theatre**  
 KIDS • \$5.00  
 SENIORS • \$5.00  
 Main St. • Merrill ADULTS • \$8.00

**SHOW TIMES EFFECTIVE 3/10/23 TO 3/16/23**  
 Mondays All Seats \$5.00

**JESUS REVOLUTION**  
 "PG13" (2HR 0MIN)  
 FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:15PM  
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 9:15PM  
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM  
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

**CHAMPIONS**  
 "PG13" (2HR 3MIN)  
 FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:15PM  
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 9:15PM  
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM  
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

**CREED III**  
 "PG13" (1HR 56MIN)  
 FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:15PM  
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 9:15PM  
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM  
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM  
 www.cosmomovies.com  
**715-536-4473**

**S&S BAR**  
 418 Grand Ave., Merrill

Open Daily 9 am - Close

**THIS WEEK'S DRINK SPECIAL: BLACK CHERRY CRUZAN**

\$4 PINT MIXERS; \$2 TUB MIXERS; \$2 SHOTS

Low carry out prices on Booze, Beer & Ice

Hall Rental Available • 715-536-4664

**Plautz's Pub LLC.**  
 310 E. 2nd St., Merrill  
 715-536-4611

**"NOW SERVING SANDWICHES"**

**HOURS**  
 MON. - FRI. Noon - Close  
 SAT. 4pm - Close  
 SUN. Noon - Close

**MARCH BOOZE OF THE MONTH WINDSOR**  
 \$5.00 - 16 oz. Pint

**SATURDAY MAR. 11TH CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT**  
 12pm, Opens 11am  
 \$40 PER TEAM  
 FIRST 12 TEAMS PAID

**SATURDAY MAR. 18TH ST. PATTY'S BINGO**  
 Opens 11am • Starts 1pm  
**CASH PRIZES & CORN BEEF AND CABBAGE**

## Ruffi to speak at T.B. Scott Library Saturday

Attorney Sarah Ruffi will speak at the T.B. Scott Library this Saturday, March 11, 2023, beginning at 11:00 a.m. as a part of their monthly Author Series.



Sarah L. Ruffi.

Attorney Ruffi has been practicing law for 27 years, providing businesses and business owners with information and guidance at all stages of business ownership. She is also a national speaker, trainer, and author of *Be Happy in Both Worlds, You can have a successful career and a happy family*. Her book offers tips and advice on how a busy professional

can design their business to be in harmony with their personal life. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend this presentation.

Following the public presentation portion, area writers will gather for the "Real Writers Group" monthly meeting where Ruffi will speak on Copyright Law. The writers group is open to writers of all skill levels, and this was a topic members of the group were interested in learning more about.

The T.B. Scott Library is located at 106 W. First St. in Merrill. For more information, check the library's Facebook page, call 715.536.7191, or visit [www.tbscottlibrary.org](http://www.tbscottlibrary.org) online.

# MARCH YOUR WAY TO IRELAND

WIN THE DREAM TRIP OF A LIFETIME AND

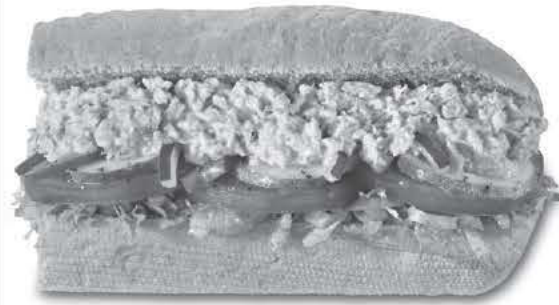
**\$3,000 CASH**

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING  
**MARCH 25 | 9PM**

**HO-CHUNK GAMING WITTENBERG**

## LENT SPECIAL!

Now Thru Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023 EVERY DAY, ALL DAY!



6" Tuna **\$3.99!** Reg. \$5.39



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Certain restrictions apply, not valid with other offers.

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 Your Paper



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## Seeking Full Time 1st Shift Production Team Members

No Experience Required  
Now Offering a Three-Day Work Week!  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 5am-5pm  
\$20.55 per hour

OR

We Also Offer a Four-Day Work Week!  
Monday thru Thursday, 5am-3pm  
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Excellent benefits package including an Aspirus on-site clinic for team members and their families, daycare assistance, robust wellness program with rewards, two health plan and dental plan options, paid vacation and holidays, 401(k) with matching funds, tuition assistance.

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# We are Hiring!

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## Now Offering... 3 - Day Weekends!

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

**[SPI-IND.COM/CAREERS](http://SPI-IND.COM/CAREERS)**

#### Ohio St. Location

4 10-Hour Days  
(Both shifts available,  
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2022 Monthly Rates

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Deadline: Monday at 11:30 a.m.  
Phone: 715-536-7121  
Fax: 715-539-3686

**FULL-TIME OPTICIAN**  
Dr. Ronald J. Piffa  
Optometrist

Must be detail-oriented, optical or customer service experience preferred.

Submit Resume to: Dr. Ron J. Piffa, Optometrist  
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715-536-2020 715-536-3250

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merrillfotonews.com

**EMPLOYMENT**

General Employment 7110

**Wind Valley Transportation LLC**

Are you looking to drive with a new team that offers competitive pay for your experience? Do you want to be home daily or more often than your current carrier? WVT is seeking to add Class A CDL drivers! We are a bulk carrier operating hopper trailers. Daily and regional runs are available as full-time & part-time positions. We offer health care & vacation. Please call for additional info: (715) 693-6564

Health Care 7115

**Fun Client**, Looking for a Caregiver. No experience necessary, will train. Call for more details. 715-574-1045

Agricultural Employment 7125

**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
**Assistant Agriculture Research Station Manager:**  
Seasonal LTE position at the Langlade County Agriculture Research Station. Average 20-25 hours per week. \$15-19 per hour, dependent on qualifications. Assist with field operations, complete routine maintenance on farm equipment, assist researchers with potato plot establishment and operate various farm equipment. Knowledge of horticulture/agronomy, tractor operation, and some mechanical skills are preferred. Contact Station Manager, Niles Franc by email - nfranc@wisc.edu

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**Come Join Our Team We're Hiring!**

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Lincoln Wood Products-Employment Office

Apply In-person at 1400 W Taylor Street or Email resume to [gebeyer@lincolnwindows.com](mailto:gebeyer@lincolnwindows.com)  
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**48 FORTY SOLUTIONS**

Competitive starting pay. Weekly bonus. Great opportunity for growth. Must be reliable, dependable and possess a strong work ethic. Monday - Thursday 6:00 am - 4:30 pm. Health (Blue Cross Blue Shield), dental, vision, life insurance, STD, LTD, FSA and 401k with employer match. Paid holidays and vacation. Please apply in person Monday-Thursday between 6:00 am - 4:00 pm, call 715-623-6402 or apply using the QR codes below.

**48forty is seeking Boards Sorters \$16, Machine Operators \$20 and Forklift Operators \$18 for an established sawmill in Bryant, WI.**

**Board Sorter, \$16.00 per hour:**  
The board sorter will pull damaged wooden boards from a conveyor belt, stacking them up in a separate bin. Must be able to lift, push, pull, wooden boards that weigh up to 10 lbs. on a regular basis. To apply, scan this QR Code:

**Machine Operator, \$20.00 per hour:**  
The Machine Operator will operate saws and resaw machines and have knowledge of all machine controls, monitor the quality of operation, load/unload lumber into the machine, set up machine changeovers as needed. Previous experience preferred, not required. We will provide training for the right candidate. To apply, scan this QR Code:

**Forklift Operator, \$18.00 per hour:**  
The Forklift Operator will be responsible for loading and unloading trailers with wooden pallets and moving pallets inside the plant. Forklift experience is preferred. To apply, scan this QR Code:

You may also apply in person at 48forty Solutions W3955 Mill Rd., Bryant, WI 54418 or call 715-623-6402 for more information.

Help Wanted at Cerny's Greenhouse. After school/weekends including general labor, soil machine, wiring hanging baskets, customer service, etc... Seasonal Full time/Part time including planting, customer service, general greenhouse work, etc... Stop in for an application, email [cernysgreenhouse1@gmail.com](mailto:cernysgreenhouse1@gmail.com), or call 715-612-0061

Health Care 7115

**CAREGIVERS NEEDED! IMMEDIATE OPENINGS!** Antigo: Sunday through Saturday. 7 a.m.-10 a.m. Personal Care with Bowel Program. Saturday & Sunday. 3 shifts. Lunch, supper and bedtime. Bowel Program & Hoyer experience or willing to learn. Antigo: Saturday & Sunday only. Supportive Home Care. 1 hour a.m. & p.m. shift. Additional positions in Merrill, Tomahawk, Wausau, Mosinee, Rhinelander & Minocqua. Starting \$12.80/hour. Travel allowance for eligible cases/employees. Contact: Barb Haggen, Director of In-Home Services, at 715-344-4210, ext. 224. Barb Haggen 715-344-4210, ext. 224

**wfc**  
Wysocki Family of Companies

**Become part of our work family and join our team:** Wysocki Family of Companies - Eagle River Seed Farm (ERSF), an early generation seed farm is looking for team members to join our team today! We are looking for a full-time experienced Mechanic/Equipment Operator and seasonal Potato Graders. At ERSF, you will be part of a strong team with a variety of job duties through the various farming seasons. Learn more or apply. If you are interested, call or text our General Manager @ 715.218.9173 or email your interest to [work4wfc@wfc.ag](mailto:work4wfc@wfc.ag). 4334 Chain O Lakes Rd Eagle River, WI

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**Class 2 Maintenance Technician**

Kolbe & Kolbe Millwork Co., Inc. is currently seeking Class 2 Maintenance Technicians, one for our 4-day work week (Mon-Thurs, 5am-3pm) and one for our 3-day work week (Thurs-Sat, 5am-5pm). Kolbe can offer an excellent benefits package including an Aspirus on-site clinic for team members and their families, child care assistance, a robust wellness program with rewards, two health plan and dental plan options, no charge long-term disability and life insurance, paid vacations and holidays, 401(k) with matching funds, and tuition assistance.

**Essential Job Functions:**

- Troubleshoot and repair small production equipment such as routers, drills, chop saws, sanders, drill presses, power miter boxes, table saws glazing systems, as well as basic and intermediate repairs to major machines.
- Building maintenance repair on garage doors, exit doors, floor patch.
- Repair on production support items - low lifts, material conveyors and material carts.
- Small tool repair knowledge (all pneumatic types).
- Complete projects working from orders or hand drawn prints.
- Follow all safety procedures and lock-out procedures on every machine.
- Will provide assistance to other skilled team members such as Class 1 technicians, carpenters, and electricians.
- Complete documents including timesheets, purchase requisitions, repairs and noted areas on work orders.
- Understand and maintain knowledge of chemicals (Right-To-Know).
- Work any scheduled time necessary to accommodate fluctuations in production level.
- Adjust machines to ensure quality assurance standards.
- Estimate time and parts needed to repair equipment.

**Skills:**

- Must be mechanically inclined.
- Must have a minimum of 1 year of maintenance experience.
- Must be cooperative and work in a positive manner with other team members.
- Possess light electrical skills for repairs on light fixtures, common on-off switches, making extension cords, common electrical component parts.
- Possess plumbing skills for repair on restrooms, rental property, and waterlines.
- Must possess good communication skills.
- Possess basic skills in welding, hydraulics, pneumatics, and electrical are required.
- Must show strong ability to work independently.
- Must have the ability to deal with multiple priorities.
- Must have the ability to maintain concentration and composure under sometimes stressful situations.

**Additional Requirements:**

- Must provide complete set of hand tools and lockable tool storage unit.
- Team member must be able to perform work assignments using ladders, scaffolding, man lifts and tow motors.

Apply online at [www.kolbewindows.com/careers](http://www.kolbewindows.com/careers)  
Kolbe & Kolbe Millwork, Co., Inc. • 1323 South 11th Ave. • Wausau, WI  
EOE

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**FULL TIME TRACTOR/ TRAILER MECHANIC**  
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TRANSPORTATION LTD.  
MERRILL, WI

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is looking for Drivers with  
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Benefits included are life insurance, retirement plan, vacation after a year, holiday pay, work schedule is Mon-Fri 7-3, no weekends or holidays.  
Starting pay to be discussed in interview.  
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Announcements 7005

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Activities and Meetings 7020

**FONDY VINTAGE AUTO CLUB ANNUAL SWAP MEET!** Sun MAR 12 8am-2:00pm FOND DU LAC CO FAIRGROUNDS EXPO Adm \$5 Tony 920-922-4881 or Steve 920-924-9000 (WCAN)

Miscellaneous Sales 7212

**Collectables:** Plates, Dolls, Tonka Toys, Stamps, Rolling Pins, Oil Cans. Call 715-536-4247.

Auctions 7282

**EQUIPMENT AUCTION -MARCH 30th @ 10AM** EUGENE & ALAN BLAKE, N7366 State Road, Black Creek, WI. Online bidding available on [EquipmentFacts.com](http://EquipmentFacts.com) and [Proxibid.com](http://Proxibid.com) See [www.nolansales.com](http://www.nolansales.com) for details. Conducted by **NOLAN SALES LLC**, Marion, WI 715-754-5221 Lic. Auctioneers #165 & #142 (WCAN)

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**Mixed firewood:** oak and maple. \$60 face cord, seasoned 1 year. \$75 from woodshed, seasoned 2 years. Bone dry. 715-253-2060. No delivery.

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**New & Used Lawn & Garden Equipment**  
Large selection serviced and ready for spring!  
Full service small engine repair. Tillers, mowers, chainsaws, log splitters & more.  
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**Miscellaneous Merchandise 7266**

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**4 GOLDEN RET-BORDER MIX PUPS** 6M 3F 8wks shots/dewormed Parents friendly & well tempered Call **920-286-0434**

**AIREDALE TERRIER PUPPIES & SHEEPADOODLE PUPPIES** Ready to Go \$650 **715-921-9708**

**AKC Brittney Spaniel Puppies**  
Call Jeff  
**920-647-6444**

**AKC REG. COCKER SPANIEL PUPS** Big Litters! 1/2 PRICE! 2-M, 5-F shots & wormed **920-563-3410** mornings (#268588) (WCAN)

**AKC Registered Black Lab Puppies.** Born Dec 26th. 1 female & 1 male available. Declaws removed. Will have first round of shots & deworming done, and are ready to go to their forever homes. Located in Central Wisconsin. Call 715-513-0330

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**AUSSIEDOODLE PUPPIES** 1 yr. Health guar shots/vet check \$150 **715-754-2682** (513867)

**CORGI PUPS PUREBRED** Blue Merle, Black Tri & tan/ white Vet ckd Shots dewormed Well socialized w/kids \$800 N4328 Cty Rd T Shawano **715-758-6282 (WCAN)**

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**MINI GOLDENDOODLE PUPS** 3-M \$450 ea, 5-F \$400 ea Shots/Dewormed **715-754-5699**

**MINI GOLDENDOODLE PUPS** shots/wormed/dews Can Del. \$500-\$750 **715-255-2661** (269146)

**PUREBRED GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES** Shots wormed vet checked \$550 **CASH ONLY Greenwood, WI 715-267-6306**

**RAT TERRIER MIX PUPS** 2 adult-M \$200 ea 3 pups \$150 ea **715-257-1386** No Sun Calls

**Registered Mini Australian Shepherd puppies.** Born 11/15/22. Blue Merles and a Black Tri. Vet checked, parents on site. \$400 each. 715-819-0865

**SHEEPADOODLE PUPS** dewes removed, shots/wormed UTD, \$700 Will deliver! **715-965-6882** or **715-721-0553 (WCAN)**

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# Marshfield Clinic downsizing will affect four Merrill Center staff

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR



## Marshfield Clinic Health System

On March 1, 2023, the Marshfield Clinic Health System released a statement announcing staff reductions will impact 346 employees among the organization's more than 12,000-employee workforce in Wisconsin.

Upon inquiry, on March 6, a representative from the Marshfield Clinic Health System corporate office confirmed locally four staff will be reduced, "This will affect four employees at Marshfield Clinic Merrill Center," he said. All four are staff members, not providers, he confirmed.

"The decision comes against the backdrop of a health care industry challenged by skyrocketing labor costs, higher supply expenses, and reduction in reimbursements," the

release said.

"We are not immune to the immense pressure and unprecedented challenges gripping the health care industry in recent years, which has required us to identify ways to be more efficient and more resourceful," said Dr. Susan Turney, CEO Marshfield Clinic Health System. "Reducing staff is always painful. This is ultimately about preserving the long-term efficiency and sustainability of our organization."

"We are committed to supporting all affected employees with resources and services to aid them in their transition, including assistance

searching for other roles within the Health System," she said.

According to the press release, the total number of employees affected represents less than three percent of the Health System's employees, kept this low because 500+ open and unfilled positions will be eliminated instead of being filled.

The Health System is working with community partners where staff are affected, to identify other potential employment opportunities and will continue to review resources and patient care needs as they continue to address challenges facing the healthcare industry.

communications programming is one of the largest project areas in Wisconsin 4-H. It provides unprecedented opportunities to explore and develop artistic awareness, creative potential, and appreciation of art and the artistic process.

*The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, based in Madison, provides essential funding for 4-H programs throughout Wisconsin. By partnering with individuals, corporations, and foundations, the Foundation supports various 4-H leadership, development, and community-building activities throughout the state. Learn more about the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation by visiting [www.Wis4HFoundation.org](http://www.Wis4HFoundation.org).*

## ART CONTEST

from page 6

provides resources for arts-related programming. Funds generated from the auction will provide resources for 4-H arts and communications programs including visual and performing arts, communications, photography, speech, and drama.

The Wisconsin 4-H Arts and Communications programs have a rich history and an exciting future. 4-H youth are encouraged to develop their creative, problem-solving, and technical skills through their 4-H experience. Arts and

# National Groundwater Awareness Week Is March 5-11

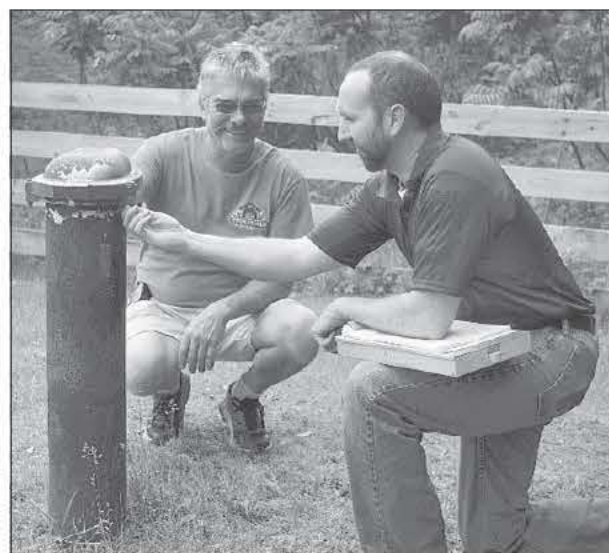
## DNR Highlights The Importance Of Protecting Groundwater

MADISON, Wis. – The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is highlighting the importance of the responsible development, management, and use of groundwater in recognition of National Groundwater Water Week, March 5-11.

Groundwater is a vital resource in Wisconsin, with approximately 70% of Wisconsinites relying on groundwater as their primary source of drinking water. Wisconsin's groundwater also plays a critical role in supporting the state's agricultural and tourism economy – irrigating crops, watering cattle, processing various foods, or feeding trout streams and spring-fed lakes. All of this is made possible by the professionals that are key to the responsible protection and management of groundwater.

These groundwater professionals span a wide variety of careers and skills, including well contractors, hydrogeologists, groundwater policy advocates and suppliers, and manufacturers of groundwater technology. DNR groundwater professionals work to ensure safe groundwater is available now and in the future by developing, managing, and using groundwater responsibly statewide.

While groundwater professionals are crucial to protecting Wisconsin's groundwater, Wisconsinites can also do their part by taking action in their own lives. Here are some ways



A DNR employee tests a well at the Stonefield historic site in Cassville. **Benji Pierson/Wisconsin DNR photo.**

that everyone can protect and conserve groundwater:

- **Yearly water well testing and well maintenance:** Private well owners should test their well water at least once a year, tend to any maintenance needs, and treat their water if necessary.
- **Reduce chemical use:** Use fewer chemicals around the house and outside, and dispose of them properly.
- **Manage waste:** Properly dispose of potentially toxic substances like unused chemicals, pharmaceuticals, paint, motor oil, and other substances.
- **Recycle properly:** Properly recycling paper, plastic, cardboard, glass, aluminum and other materials can help prevent potential groundwater contamination.
- **Plant native plants:** When landscaping, prioritize native plants.

They look great and don't need much water or fertilizer. When choosing grass, varieties adapted to Wisconsin's climate can reduce the need for extensive watering or chemical applications.

• **Use water wisely:** Don't let the water run unnecessarily, fix any leaks, take shorter showers, only run full loads of dishes or clothes, water the lawn and plants during the coolest part of the day and only when they need it, and obey any watering restrictions during dry periods.

To learn more, visit the DNR Groundwater webpage at [dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Groundwater](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Groundwater) or the Groundwater Coordinating Council's story map, Wisconsin's Buried Treasure is Worth Protecting at [storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1f6bae9939f0455ca745173644e6523d](http://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1f6bae9939f0455ca745173644e6523d).

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MERRILL VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL:

# Bluejays beat Red Robins

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

The Merrill Varsity Boys Basketball Team had an exciting rivalry match-up on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023, playing the Antigo Red Robins. To say the Merrill team and fans were elated to emerge with a resounding win would probably be an understatement, and Merrill then advanced to play last Friday, March 3, in Mosinee.

To recap Tuesday night's game, Merrill Varsity Boys Basketball Head Coach Troy Pieper said the Bluejays' energy was great right from the start.

"Antigo didn't get anything easy against us all night," Pieper said. "Our defense was locked in, and it was fun to watch."

"Offensively, I really liked how we played together and made the extra passes," he said, "And we got a lot of great looks. Also, our defense forced some turnovers which also led to easy breakout baskets for us."

"Carter Baade was key to our success tonight," Pieper said after the game. "On both ends, he was simply awesome. His energy on defense and his confidence he played with on offense was great tonight."

"Bradyn Pieper had a nice first half, too, to help us get out to a big lead," he said. "He hit some shots from beyond the arc.

However, the nice thing with Bradyn as of late is how he's become more aggressive attacking the rim, and he did that again tonight very well."

At halftime, Merrill was at 44 and Antigo just 15. By the end of the game, the Bluejays took the win, 21 points ahead of the Red Robins.

"Tyson Glisch had a big assignment against Antigo's best player," Coach Pier said. "And while their big guy is going to get his points, Tyson did a fantastic job frustrating him and really making things as difficult as possible on him. We will need that same sort of effort and energy Friday from Tyson."

"[Tuesday] we were the better seed and we showed it," he said. "We did what we needed to do to advance. Now each game it gets more and more difficult. If we come out with the same energy and effort as we did [against Antigo], we will continue to have success moving forward."

"Everyone got in the game and got significant minutes, as well," Pieper said of the Tuesday-night game. "It's always great when guys get that playoff experience, because you never know when they will be called upon."

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**ICE DRAGS**

from page 2

driving a 1970 Chevy Nova  
2nd place: Ryan Blake, Merrill,  
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**8.0**

1st place: Adam Reich, Irma,  
driving a 1993 Chevy Camaro  
2nd place: Jeff Stricklin, Merrill,  
driving a 1969 Chevy Nova

**7.0**

1st place: Mike Bohman, Merrill,  
driving a 1970 Chevy Nova  
2nd place: Stephan Pophal, Merrill,  
driving a 1974 Chevy Nova

**Open Door Slammer**

1st place: Peter Vogels, DePere,  
driving a 1979 Jeep CJ7  
2nd place: Mike Bohman, Merrill,  
driving a 1970 Chevy Nova

**Outlaw**

1st place: Ron Krueger,  
Rhineland, driving a 1947 Willys  
Modified Rail  
2nd place: Peter Vogels, DePere,  
driving a 1979 Jeep CJ7

**Merrill Ice Draggers, Inc. Annual Banquet**

On Saturday, March 4, the Merrill Ice Draggers celebrated with their annual banquet during which special awards were presented.

Outstanding volunteers were recognized with Volunteer of the Year

Awards. Those so recognized included 10-year-old Colton Oswalt of Merrill; Bliss JenneJohn of the "Two Buddies Racing Team" of Rhineland; Cody Herning of Merrill; Bill Hartl of "Stinken Leakers Auto Repair" of Merrill; and Tyler Woller of Wausau.

Special awards were presented for outstanding contributions in 2023. Dan Hixon of Athens received the Iron Man Award and Josie Opichka of Madison received the Web Master 2023 Award.

Eight 2023 racers were also inducted into the Mile per Hour Club. Joel Frisch (100.14 mph), Chad Hoernke (100.24 mph), Scott Butler (100.34 mph), Mike Bohman (104.19 mph), and Dusty Nielsen (109.45) were all inducted into the 100 MPH Club; Gary Harris (114.05 mph) was inducted into the 110 MPH Club; Peter Vogels (124.60 mph) was inducted into the 120 MPH Club; and Ron Krueger (130.75 mph) was inducted into the 130 MPH Club.

Three racers were inducted into the 5 Second Club and 6 Second Club. Gary Harris (6.776 seconds) and Peter Vogels (6.445 seconds) joined the 6 Second Club and Ron Krueger (5.838 seconds) joined the 5 Second Club.

"Thank you to all the generous donations and sponsorships from Merrill and Wausau and the surrounding areas for your continued sponsorship," Opichka said. "We couldn't do it without you!"

"All the racers, their crews, and our family and friends, thank you also for your support," she said. "And the biggest thanks of all go out to the amazing group of men and women who volunteer their time to make this event happen. Without you, it is not possible!"

"We'll see you next year for the 59th Annual World Championship Merrill Ice Drags!" Opichka said.

## 2023 Merrill High School Spring Sports Schedule

**Boys Baseball (Varsity, JV & JV2)**

Practice begins Monday, March 20th

**Girls Softball (Varsity & JV)**

Practice begins Monday, March 13th

**Boys Golf (Varsity & JV)**

Practice begins Monday, March 27th

**Girls Soccer (Varsity & JV)**

Practice begins Monday, March 20th

**Boys Track and Field (Varsity & JV)**

Practice began Monday, March 6th

**Girls Track and Field (Varsity & JV)**

Practice began Monday, March 6th

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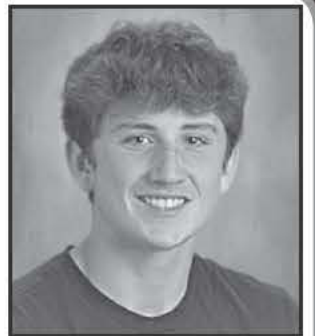
## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Merrill High School Sophomore, EJ Weix, has been named Athlete of the Week. EJ is a shooting guard on the Merrill Boys Varsity Basketball Team. He started playing basketball in third grade and played on the traveling team until he joined JV last year. EJ Weix was the standout player of the recent game against Northland Pines for his defensive play. "EJ Weix showed he can handle guarding the best players tonight," Head Coach Troy Pieper said after that game. "I gave him the assignment to shutdown Lurvey, and he answered the calling and really dominated on the defensive end."

EJ also plays safety on the Merrill Varsity Football Team and anticipates playing Varsity Baseball this spring as outfielder and pitcher. He started playing flag football in second grade until advancing to tackle football in sixth through eighth grades and playing for Prairie River Middle School until playing JV2 last year. At age 4 or 5, he started ball and then advanced through the city and traveling baseball leagues until last year when he played both JV and Varsity Baseball.

At school, EJ is a member of Friends Club and LEAD, and his favorite classes are history and graphics. He attends St. Stephens United Church of Christ where he will soon be confirmed. He enjoys spending time with family playing board games and card games, playing video games, watching tv, and deer hunting.

The son of Steve and Joeline Weix of Merrill, EJ has a 3.5 GPA. He plans to attend college, hopefully playing a college sport, but is undecided about his course of study.



EJ Weix

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### CONTEST from page 5

water is necessary for crops, drinking, industry, sanitation, livestock, and sustaining the ecosystems on which all life depends. Because of this, a student's creativity could drift in countless ways to display the 2023 theme. And without a doubt, all students that participated provided unique posters that helped promote the importance of conservation.

The Conservation contest is an excellent opportunity for students to expand their appreciation for the environment, conservation, and become involved with numerous Wisconsin Academic Standards. Educators that have been involved with the contest found this



1: Jayda Nowak from Merrill High School won first place in the Grade 7-9 category. 2: Amarianna McCutcheon from Merrill High School won second place in the Grades 7-9 category. 3: Danica Lipke of Merrill High School won third place in the Grades 7-9 category. 4: Sebastian Doering of Merrill High School won first place in the Grades 10-12 category. 5: Aaron Alloway from Merrill High School won second place in the Grades 10-12 category. 6: Kaytlyn Hulke from Merrill High School won third place in the Grades 10-12 category.

connection to standards helpful and have enjoyed the opportunity to promote conservation within the classroom. "As someone that cares about conservation personally, it was great to see that the

kids enjoyed this contest at a young age," said Aubrey Boisvert, first grade teacher at Tomahawk Elementary. "They were able to learn about water health and had fun while doing so!"

The Conservation Contest has several stages of competition, with winners from each stage advancing to the next level. The contest begins at the local level (Lincoln County) and local winners



advance to the Area Contest which includes nine counties, then a State contest, and ultimately a National contest.

Local contest winners in their respective categories are:

Grades K-1 category winners: Maika Follensbee, Ella Hess, and Abigail Ross. These students won first, second, and third places, respectively. All students are in Mrs. Boisvert's class at Tomahawk Elementary.

Grades 2-3 category winners: Jenna Peterson, Morgan Webb, and Kinsley Young. These students won first, second, and third places, respectively. All students are in Mrs. Thompson's class at Trinity Merrill Lutheran School.

Grades 7-9 category winners: Jayda Nowak, Amarianna McCutcheon, and Danica Lipke. These students won first, second, and third places, respectively. All students are in Ms. Wagenaar's Art class at the Merrill High School.

Grades 10-12 category winners: Sebastian Doering, Aaron Alloway, and Kaytlyn Hulke. These students won first, second, and third places, respectively. All students are in Ms. Wagenaar's Art class at the Merrill High School.

For more information about the Annual Conservation Contest, contact Tom Boisvert, Conservation Program Manager, at 715.539.1054.

**Congratulations**  
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Avery - Age 4      Dnalee Hinz - Age 7      Paloma Prusinski - Age 10

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