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# Friske releases statement on Pine Crest



Tina L. Scott photo.

On May 22, 2023, Lincoln County Board Chair Don Friske released the following statement:

In June of 2022 the Lincoln County Board formed an Ad Hoc Committee to prepare a report on the Pine Crest Nursing Home. The Ad Hoc Committee submitted its report to the Board at the March County Board meeting. The report can be found online on the Lincoln County website or copies have been supplied to the local libraries.

Pine Crest Nursing Home has not been able to cover its operating expenses since 2007, with a couple of years being the exception. In addition, Lincoln County has contributed \$1,000,000 dollars a year for maintenance and repairs every year since contracting with North Central Health Care in 2019. In 2023 North Central Health Care made a request for \$1.1 million dollars to cover the 2022 shortfall in operating expenses. By contract, we are obligated to cover that shortfall. At the last County Board meeting, the Board voted to pay the shortfall out

See PINE CREST page 2



Apple tree blossoms are just one of the many flowers erupting in glorious colors in the recent 10 days. While all of the blossoms are beautiful, some of them, along with trees and other springtime plants that are budding and pollinating, are wreaking havoc for the allergy-prone people among us, resulting in sneezing, sniffing, itchy eyes and nose, coughing, and a host of other symptoms.  
 Tina L. Scott photo.

# With 15-6 vote, Lincoln County Board takes first step toward selling Pine Crest Nursing Home

BY JALEN MAKI  
 MMC STAFF

After several months of mulling options regarding the future of Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors last week took the first step in the process of selling the County-owned facility.

During its three-plus-hour meeting at the Lincoln County Service Center in Merrill on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, the Board voted 15-6 to direct the County's Administrative and Legislative (A&L) Committee to begin the process of securing the services of a broker to put Pine Crest up for sale.

Pine Crest, which has operated in Merrill for about 70 years and is owned by Lincoln County, has experienced financial losses in recent years.

An Ad Hoc Committee formed in June 2022 was tasked with coming up with actions Lincoln County could take regarding the facility's future.

In March, Pine Crest Ad Hoc Committee Chair and District 18 Supervisor Ken Wickham laid out a summary of a nearly 170-page report prepared by the Committee. He also offered several options the County could consider proceeding with.



Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill

Tina L. Scott photo.

In the roughly two months since the report was released, Supervisors have individually and as a Board mulled the proposed options, among which were seeking ways to cut costs and create additional revenues at Pine Crest, downsizing or finding alternative uses for the facility, selling the property, and/or holding a referendum to allow Lincoln County voters to decide whether or not the County should continue its operation of Pine Crest.

In a letter to Pine Crest residents dated Friday, May 12, District 9 Supervisor and Board Chair Don Friske said the Board had narrowed its options concerning the facility's future down to two: "(drafting) a referendum question asking our voters to support

an increase in their property taxes to fund Pine Crest's operational losses; or "(exploring) the sale of the Pine Crest Nursing Home to a privately-owned, skilled nursing home care provider."

### Public comment period

Several individuals, including residents and an employee of Pine Crest, utilized the meeting's public comment period to voice their support for Lincoln County's continued ownership of the facility and keeping the nursing home open.

One Pine Crest resident said he's been residing at the facility since 2019.

"I don't want to live under the bridge in a pasteboard box," he said. "That's

See VOTE page 7

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# Merrill City Band joins with veterans on Memorial Day

On Monday, May 29, 2023, the Merrill City Band will make its second appearance of the 2023 season, having just performed for Loyalty Day. The group will join together with veterans, service members, auxiliary, scouts, and others in helping to honor those who serve or have served our country.

The Memorial Day service starts at 11:00 a.m. at the St. Francis Cemetery. The band will perform a short concert beginning at 10:30 a.m. Please join the Merrill City Band in helping to honor those who keep us safe and fight for our freedom.

## PINE CREST from page 1

of ARPA funds unless the state provides the money in the next budget.

Given the information presented, on May 16, 2023,

the County Board directed the Administrative and Legislative Committee to complete a Request for Proposal (RFP) to secure a broker to investigate the possibility of the sale of the Pine Crest Nursing Home.

The process will take multiple steps over the next few months. First the Administrative and Legislative Committee (A&L) will submit a Request for Proposals (RFP). The next step is to publicly open those proposals and decide which broker will represent the County for considering any potential offers to purchase. That decision-making process will occur at the following A&L Committee. Following that, A&L will explore conditions of sale and what the County would expect in order to move forward. Any offer to purchase the Pine Crest Nursing Home will need a majority vote by the full County Board.

When considering responses to the RFP from brokers, the A&L Committee will continue to make decisions in line with our three guiding principles: the residents of Pine Crest will continue to reside there and receive care, the staff providing the care to the residents/patients are able to continue to provide that care, and the tax payer is well represented during the considerations.

I anticipate that a final determination will take several months or longer, and I want to assure the staff and residents of Pine Crest, as well as their families, that we will have your interests in mind as we continue to consider the best way forward.

While the 22 member County Board may disagree on how to best move forward, the one thing I have seen the Board agree on is that the discontinuation of a skilled nursing home (Pine Crest) is not an option we are willing to consider.

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# Supervisors green-light use of ARPA funds for Pine Crest losses, parks, marketing

BY JALEN MAKI  
MMC STAFF

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding earmarked for Lincoln County is slated to be allocated to a variety of areas.

During its meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors approved eight resolutions, under which a total of about \$4 million of funding will go towards covering losses at Pine Crest Nursing Home, implementing electronic timekeeping software for County employees, improving several County parks, resurfacing the Hiawatha Trail, crushing a stockpile of gravel, marketing Lincoln County, and developing campsites in Tomahawk and Merrill.

The resolutions come about a month after the Board gave its stamp of approval to a vision statement and branding that seek to promote tourism, bring visitors to the County and, ultimately, increase sales tax revenue.

Lincoln County received roughly \$5.5 million in ARPA funds as part of the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The County's Administrative and Legislative (A&L) Committee has been tasked with vetting ARPA fund requests "against the criteria that it does not create base building and creates economic growth and/or generates County revenue," according to the resolutions.

## Pine Crest losses

Supervisors approved a resolution allocating \$1,126,328 to cover losses experienced by Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill.

The resolution said Lincoln County is required to reimburse North Central Health Care (NCHC) for losses experienced at the County-owned nursing home "should there be no change in the supplemental funding" that was reduced for fiscal year 2022-2023 by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS).

"Lincoln County does not have the money available to cover the projected loss without putting the County in a high risk situation," the resolution said before declaring that the ARPA funds will be used to cover the losses.

If not used for that purpose, the monies will be "dedicated to another project by the end of calendar year 2024," according to the resolution.

## Electronic timekeeping

A resolution approved by the Board will direct \$101,000 to the purchase of software to implement electronic timekeeping for County employees, who currently use paper timesheets.

A transition to an electronic program, called MUNIS, "provides benefits to include elimination/reducing of double entry, employee access to enroll in their own benefits and update personal information, eliminating most manual entry of time for 250 employees, reducing workload and human error of human resources and payroll specialists, increasing telecommuting opportunities, and oversight of real time supervision," according to the resolution.

## Parks

A series of resolutions given the thumbs up by the Board will see ARPA funds dedicated to several Lincoln County parks.

The resolutions allocate \$47,000 to Camp New Wood; \$27,000 to Otter Lake Park; and \$232,175 to Prairie Dells and Hay Meadow Park.

Under the resolutions, the monies will be used to make improvements to campsites, trails, pavilions, and other amenities.

## Hiawatha Trail resurfacing

A resolution passed by the Board allocates \$92,145 to the resurfacing of the Hiawatha Trail, which connects SARA Park in Tomahawk to the start of Bearskin Trail in Oneida County.

According to the resolution, a segment of the Hiawatha Trail is part of larger trail proposed in the North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan and State Trails Network Plan to connect the Bearskin Trail south to Wausau and eventually Wisconsin Dells.

The resolution said the Northwoods Passage Snowmobile Club and Recreational Trail Aid grants have been used to replace the decking and railings on the Trail's railroad trestle crossing, "but non-motorized trail grant funding has become increasingly more difficult to obtain for these types of projects."

## Crushing gravel stockpile

A total of \$50,000 will go toward crushing a stockpile of gravel to be used to improve access to logging roads.

According to the resolution, the Lincoln County Forestry

Department maintains 13.14 miles of "gas tax roads" in the area of the Armstrong Creek Pit and receives \$351 per mile in road aid funding from the state for maintenance.

"The funding has been used primarily to build up and maintain roads with sparing amounts of crushed gravel,"

See FUNDS page 5

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# Click It or Ticket seat belt safety campaign begins

Awareness messaging, enforcement efforts encourage seat belt use to save lives

As Memorial Day weekend and summer travel season approach, law enforcement agencies across Wisconsin, including the Wisconsin State Patrol, are stepping up patrols for the annual Click It or Ticket campaign. The increased enforcement of seat belt violations runs through June 4, 2023, nationwide.

State law requires all drivers and passengers to wear a seat belt when traveling in Wisconsin. Children must also be in the proper child safety seat for their age and size. The simple action of buckling up is proven to save lives in a crash.

"Buckling up is such an easy step—and it's one of the most important things you can do every time you get in

the car. Remind your loved ones that you want them to come home safely. Every trip, every time," State Patrol Superintendent Tim Carnahan said.

Wisconsin's primary seat belt law allows law enforcement to stop and cite motorists for failing to wear a seat belt. Penalties are higher for transporting unrestrained children. Passengers can also be cited for not wearing a seat belt.

## Raising awareness

The goal of Click It or Ticket is not simply to issue citations, but to educate the community on the importance of wearing a seat belt. A 2022 survey found 87.5% of Wisconsin motorists wear seat belts. That number has been dropping in recent

years and falls below the nationwide seat belt use rate of 90.4% in 2021.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation's seat belt awareness campaign features former Packers star Donald Driver, who appears in a series of videos promoting seat belt use.

"Our hope is, through enforcement and education, more Wisconsinites will recognize the value of wearing a seat belt. No matter how far you're traveling—just going down the street, or across the state—Donald Driver's message helps remind us that seat belts can become an easy habit," Bureau of Transportation Safety Director David Pabst said.

In addition to Click It or

Ticket, WisDOT's Buckle Up Phone Down campaign encourages drivers and passengers to be aware of the dangers of not wearing a seat belt throughout the year. Take the Buckle Up Phone Down pledge at [wisconsindot.gov/BUPD](http://wisconsindot.gov/BUPD). Join as an individual, community group, or business and commit to traffic safety on every trip.

## MERRILL Foto News

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**Office Hours:**  
Monday - Friday • 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Mailing Address:**  
Foto News  
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**Patrick J. Wood**  
Publisher  
[publisher@mmclocal.com](mailto:publisher@mmclocal.com)

**Tim Schreiber**  
General Manager  
[tschreiber@mmclocal.com](mailto:tschreiber@mmclocal.com)

**Kurt Haebig**  
Circulation Manager

**Sue Schroeder**  
Graphic Designer

**Tina L. Scott**  
Editor  
[tscott@mmclocal.com](mailto:tscott@mmclocal.com)

**Dinah Schneider**  
Sales Consultant  
[dschneider@mmclocal.com](mailto:dschneider@mmclocal.com)

**Jennifer Gartmann**  
Sales Consultant  
[jgartmann@mmclocal.com](mailto:jgartmann@mmclocal.com)

**Heidi Schult**  
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**OBITUARIES**



**Carolyn Pankow**

Carolyn was called to her eternal home on May 13, 2023, while being lovingly cared for at Shorehaven Lutheran Home in Oconomowoc. She was born on May 22, 1934, to Rev. Carl and Cornelia Geiger in Cissna Park, Illinois. She was received shortly thereafter into God's kingdom of grace through Holy Baptism. She attended St. Paul's Lutheran School in rural Mattoon, Illinois. She attended and graduated as valedictorian from Mattoon High School.

Carolyn attended Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois and Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois. She served for 3 years as a Christian educator and church musician at Christ Lutheran in Peoria, Illinois. She also served as Christian educator for 8 years at Christ Memorial Lutheran, Milwaukee and 34 years at Trinity Lutheran, Merrill.

Carolyn's Christian faith, her love and care for family and for God's children were very important to her. She gladly served in her church education programs, music ministries, and service organizations.

She is survived by Marcus, her devoted husband for 64 years; son, Matt (Rose) and their children, Jake, Rebecca (Heston Swallow), Angelina (fiancé Angelo Guariglia), Danny (Maggie), and Sarabeth; son, Eric (Elizabeth) and their children, Lauren (Tim Ferguson), Alex, and Ethan (Hannah); and son, Jim (Megan) and their children, Ben and Carson; and two great grandchildren, Penelope and Maxwell Swallow. She was preceded in death by siblings, Edwin, Catherine, and Ronald. She is survived by brother, Dave (Deb).

A Funeral Service will be held on Friday, June 2, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 210 E. Pleasant Street in Oconomowoc, with a visitation from 9:00 a.m. until the time of service. Burial will be held at La Belle Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be given to Trinity Lutheran School in Merrill or St. Paul's Lutheran School in Oconomowoc.

Pagenkopf Funeral Home is serving the family. For more information, or to leave the family a written tribute, visit [www.pagenkopf.com](http://www.pagenkopf.com).



**Debra 'Deb' A. Neumeier**

age 65, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at the Aspirus Merrill Hospital. Deb was born on September 24, 1956, in Green Bay, WI and was the daughter to the late Eugene and Margaret (Lantzas) Neumeier. She attended and graduated from high school in Green Bay and went on to college to further her education.

Deb was an underwriter for Church Mutual Insurance Company for many years, which would allow her to travel all over the states. She was very good with numbers and very detailed. Deb looked forward to her trips out to their family cabin in Townsend, WI, where she would enjoy peace and quiet, as well as fishing. She enjoyed going to casinos, basket weaving, stained glass, and woodworking projects, as well as watching the Packers win! Deb was an animal lover; her dogs were her pride and joy. She is also remembered as a very talented baker and a strong-willed and honest lady. She will be sadly missed, but never forgotten.

Deb is survived by her sister: Cathy Neumeier, brother: Ken (Cindy) Neumeier, nieces: Amanda (Brian), Kate (Steve) and Emily (Landon) and her beloved fur-babies: Makayla and Aero. She was preceded in death by her parents.

The Funeral Mass for Deb will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 12pm at St. Francis Catholic Church in Merrill, no visitation prior to the Mass. Father Maria Vallabhaneni will officiate.

Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at [www.waidfuneral.com](http://www.waidfuneral.com).

**James (Jim) Busterud**

June 10, 1938 - May 15, 2023

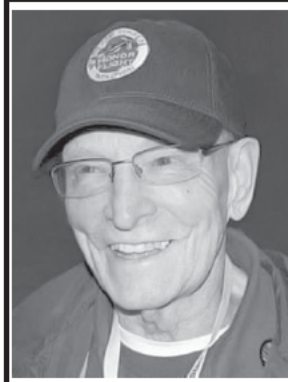
Merrill — Jim passed away at home on May 15, 2023. He was a proud us Air Force veteran who served in Korea, Vietnam, Greenland, Guam, and was called back in 1974 to help evacuate Sigon. He was an avid antique car collector.

Jim was preceded in death by his loving wife, Angelita (Angie) Busterud.

Jim and Angie were successful restaurant owners of South of the Border in Merrill, WI, and Chicots in Wausau, WI. They were outstanding members of the Merrill/Gleason community.

Angie passed away on February 23, 2008. He was survived by one brother, six sisters, two sons, and numerous grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held on June 10, 2023 at St. Johns cemetery in Gleason, WI.



**James H. Woller**

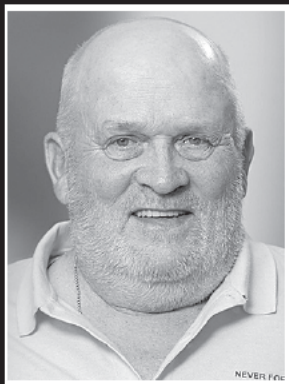
age 87, of Appleton, WI, passed away on Tuesday, May 9, 2023. He was born on Dec 24, 1935, son of Eldor and Rose (Weiland) Woller. On May 10, 1958 he married Shelby J. Tiffany at St. Francis Church in Merrill, WI.

Jim (Pedro, Peach) enjoyed watching and playing sports, hunting, fishing and playing cards with friends and family. He worked 38 years as a Journeyman Pipefitter at John Strange Paper/Menasha Corp/US Paper. He was able to fix about anything and enjoyed working on projects alone and with his children. He taught his children at a young age how to hold the flashlight on his work. He served in the US Army in Korea. Jim was always entertained by young children and returned the favor. He will be remembered as a great friend, father, husband and neighbor.

Jim is survived by his six children: Mike (Jean) Woller, Tom (Jody) Woller, Vicki Becker, Jim (Laurie) Woller, Matt Woller, and Doug (Carla) Woller; 17 grandchildren: Jessica (Joe) Van Roy, Bryan Wheaton, Sandra Woller, Nicole (Lee) Barton, Brittany Woller, Patrick Woller, Ashley Woller, Amber (Cody) Wollenziehn, Samantha Woller, Ryan Woller, Austin Holik, Derek Holik, Emma Poston, Maddy Poston, Shawna Swanson (Chris), Alex Stankiewicz, Corey Stankiewicz (Nicole); and three great grandchildren: Sawyer Barton, Reid Barton, and Evelyn Wollenziehn; sisters Jean Herdt and Millie Wagner, and sisters-in-law: Bonnie Smith, Darlene Bennett and Juanita Woods and brother-in-law Wally Grover. Jim was preceded in death by his wife Shelby, his parents Eldor and Rose Woller, his brothers Tom, Don, Ron and George Woller.

The family is planning a celebration of life on July 1, 2023 with a funeral service at 11:30 am at Highland Memorial Park in Appleton with full military honors. A reception will follow at 1pm at Highland Apartments Community Room with lunch provided. In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be sent to American Cancer Society ([www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)) on his behalf.

Valley Funeral Home in Appleton, WI assisted the family with arrangements.



**Sheldon C. E. Voigt Jr.**

73, died peacefully at his home Sunday, May 14, 2023 under the care of St. Croix Hospice.

He was born September 6, 1949 in Merrill, son of the late Sheldon Sr. and Dorothy (Ohlmann) Voigt. On July 25, 1981 he married Karen Hoff at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Wausau.

Sheldon served his country in the United States Army 101st Airborne in Vietnam from June 1969 until May 1970 when he was wounded in action. He was a charter member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Mar-Lin Post No. 10203 and a lifetime member of the DAV and Vietnam Veterans. In 2019 he was proud to be on the Never Forgotten Honor Flight. From 1997 until 2022 he served as a Town of Berlin Supervisor. He was a beloved 4-H leader for the Naugatug Knights 4-H Club. Every August he could be found in the barns at the Wisconsin Valley Fair watching his children, and then grandchildren showing animals. He enjoyed time spent in Tomahawk, pontooning, fishing and camping as well as time in New Wood at the hunting shack, "The Swamphole." Above all he loved being "Papa" to his grandchildren, attending all of their events, and having treats on hand when they visited. He passed on his love of Farmall Tractors to each of them gifting them a Farmall Pedal Tractor for their first Christmas, even though it would be years until they could ride them.

Survivors include his wife, Karen Voigt, Merrill; daughters, Connie (Brian) Nowak, Athens, Amy (Brian) Marquardt, Wausau, Crystal (Dan) Zernicke, Merrill and Jessica (Jacob) Sherry, Onkama, MI; grandchildren, Dawson Nowak, Mariah Marquardt, Emma Nowak, Dylan Marquardt, Sarah Sherry, Leah Sherry, Henry Marquardt, Charles Sherry, Chloe Zernicke, Gabriel Sherry and Hunter Zernicke; siblings, Robert (Karen) Voigt, Wausau, Susan (Lyle) Thurs, Hamburg and Michael (Andrea) Voigt, Merrill; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Wayne Voigt and Richard Voigt.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Wausau. Rev. Timothy Smith officiated. Burial was in Restlawn Memorial Park, Wausau. Visitation was Monday from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Peterson/Kraemer Funeral Home, 3400 Stewart Ave., Wausau and again on Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. until the time of service at Trinity Lutheran Church, Wausau.

Online condolences may be expressed at [www.petersonkraemer.com](http://www.petersonkraemer.com)



**Shirley C. Hinz**, 69, of the Town of Scott, Lincoln County, passed away Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

Shirley was born March 31, 1954, in Merrill, daughter of the late Norman and Rita (Gano) Benson. She married Earl 'Butch' Hinz, Jr. on October 25, 1980, in Merrill. He survives. Shirley ran an in-home daycare program for over sixteen years. She had also worked at Merrill Child Care and Parkside Preschool. She watched her grandchildren until 2020. Shirley enjoyed cooking and baking; she always had goodies ready for visitors. She also enjoyed reading, taking walks, and crocheting.

Survivors include her husband, Earl 'Butch' Hinz, Jr of the Town of Scott; daughters, Tami (Chad) Travis of Merrill and Jennifer (Douglas) Nacker of Wausau; sons, Jon Hinz of Merrill and William (Lela) Hinz of Merrill; twelve grandchildren, Kaitlin (Cole) Sczygelski, Emily (Alex) Klug, Rachel Travis (Nathan Beyer), Damian Wendorf, Evan Nacker, Trenton Nacker, Charlotte Nacker, Hazel Nacker, Carter Hinz, Kirklain Hinz, Ben Bowser-Utech, and Willie Hinz; seven great-grandchildren; sister, Sherry (Daniel) Hodkiewicz of Merrill; and brother-in-law, David (Diane) Hinz of Hamburg. Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, Norman and Rita Benson; granddaughter, Megan Travis; brothers, Mark Benson and her twin, infant Larry Benson; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Earl Hinz Sr. and Virginia Hinz; and sister-in-law, Mary Raasch.

The funeral service for Shirley took place at 11:00 A.M., Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Rev. David Szeto officiated. The burial took place in Snow Hill Cemetery, Town of Scott. The visitation began at 9:00 A.M., Wednesday at the funeral home.

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



**Delbert William Bartelt**

87, of Wausau, passed away on Friday, May 12, 2023 in Wausau. He was born on August 23, 1935 in the Town of Maine. The Son of the Late Wilhelm and Martha (Utecht) Bartelt. On October 4, 1958 he married Marilyn Jean Klingbeil in the Town of Hamburg at St. Peters Lutheran Church.

Delbert started working as a dairy farmer in the Town of Maine. He then worked as a dairy route salesman for Sneider Dairy. His final place of employment was at Cloverbelt Co-operative as a petroleum route salesman and retired in 1998.

Delbert enjoyed being in the outdoors especially camping, fishing, and hunting. He also took great pride in his vegetable garden and beautiful lawn.

Delbert is survived by his wife Marilyn Bartelt, (3) Daughters: Carla (Kurt) Haebig, Rhonda (Jeff) Sopata, and Brenda Bartelt. (4) Grandchildren: Chris (Kasey) Haebig, Nicole (Carl) Weinfurter, Matt Sopata, and Sarah (Patrick Stotzel) Sopata. (5) Great-Grandchildren: Kaiden, Bayleigh, Madison, Chase, and Maple. Sister-in-law: Mickey (Ila) Bartelt. (2) Brother-in-laws: Gary and Dale Klingbeil, and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his Parents, Father and Mother-in-law: Earl and Vila Klingbeil. (6) Siblings: Leona (Leonard) Howard, Ella (Edwin) Gaeu, Lorena (Walter) Sense, Elgard (Lorna) Bartelt, Doris (Wilbur) Prochnow, and Vilas Bartelt.

Funeral Service will be held on Saturday May 20, 2023 at 11:00 AM at First English Lutheran Church (402 N 3rd Ave, Wausau, WI 54401) Pastor Erik Olson officiating. Visitation will be held on Saturday May 20, 2023 from 10:00 AM until the hour of service at the church. Burial will be private at Restlawn Memorial Park.

The Family would like to thank Rennes-Weston, for caring for Delbert during the last couple of months and to Aspirus Hospital during his final days.

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**| OBITUARIES |**



**Janet Ball**

Our dear mother, Janet Ball, passed away peacefully on May 8th, 2023, at our home on Mercer Island after a 20-year journey with cancer.

Mom was a role model who lived her life with kindness, generosity, honesty, a strong work ethic, and endless positivity and resilience. Every day I was inspired by her, and I strive to be as strong and as good of a person as she.

Born in 1937 in Aurora, Illinois, during the Great Depression, Mom faced her fair share of challenges from an early age. She married our father, Paul Roit, in 1957, and together they built a life in Markesan WI, where Paul worked in construction and together they ran Roit's Resort—a bar and cabins on Little Green Lake. It was there me and my siblings Linda and Gregg were born.

Unfortunately, Paul passed away very young leaving Mom widowed with three children to care for at age 35. It was a very challenging time. Two years later, she found love again and married Dennis Ball, and our blended family moved to Merrill, Wisconsin. For the next 20 years they built a good life together, but they finally parted ways and again Mom picked herself up and continued forward, building a new and happy life.

As a mother, Jan was our biggest fan, always there to support us through life's highs and lows. Always attending our sporting events, concerts and other special events while growing up, and there to provide guidance and advice as we grew our own families in later years. She was masterful at offering guidance without being overbearing and encouraging us to reach beyond our comfort zones. Mom was our cheerleader, our rock, and always there with love and support.

Throughout her career as a legal secretary and executive assistant, Mom left an indelible mark on the organizations she worked for. Her colleagues consistently praised her kind spirit, unwavering professionalism, and dedication to excellence. She had an ability to bring out the best in those around her.

Mom loved to have fun. When we were caught in moments of mischief, she would exclaim, "You turkeys!", as she laughed along. She often said, "I don't know what I'd do if I wasn't able to laugh," as humor made her whole. Throughout her life, she also evolved her worldview. I was proud to watch her shed negative biases of her early years in favor of a more compassionate and inclusive perspectives later in life.

She loved to eat, especially a cold beer, good pizza, hamburgers on the half-bun, broasted chicken, Italian beef sandwiches, liverwurst, and olives. She also loved the color blue, daisies, spy novels, action films, Snoopy, collecting recipes, owls, unstructured road trips, the Container Store, and our dogs Jessie and Yoda. She despised liars and cheaters, over-inflated egos, and exercise.

Above all else she loved her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and a small circle of very dear lifetime friends. While many in her family lived far away, she talked to them often, wished she could see them more frequently, and thoroughly enjoyed those times everyone could be together. Family was everything.

Mom, thank you for being you. You couldn't have done it better and you'll continue to inspire us the rest of our lives. We miss you dearly, and will love you forever, as will everyone you've touched in your lifetime.

Janet will be forever missed and loved by her daughter Cindy Ball and son-in-law Tim Hunkapiller, daughter Linda Bramer and son-in-law Warne (Craig) Bramer, daughter-in-law Samantha Roit, her late son Gregg Roit, and step-sons Bill Ball and Brian Ball. She was a cherished grandmother and great grandmother to grandchildren Harley Hunkapiller, Abrielle Roit, Nicole Bramer, Christopher and Heidi Kelly, Joshua Kelly and Katelyn Morich, Austin Kelly and Samantha Justine, Ricci and Shane Scott, Warne Bramer Jr., and her great grandchildren Trinity Scott, Charity Scott, Joseph Scott, Talon Bramer, Dakota Bramer, Sierra Bramer, Aliana Schillaci, Ethan Hoffman, Marceline Seidewande, and Clark Bramer Graham who is expected in June. She will also be missed by her in-laws Kathy Roit and Ronald Roit, her daughter-in-law's brother Matthew Aab, many other family friends, work colleagues, neighbors, and her beloved dog Yoda.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her first husband Paul Roit, and her son, Gregg Roit.

A Celebration of Life will be held later in the year in Mercer Island, WA. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Janet's name to your local hospice organization or to the American Cancer Society at <https://donate.cancer.org>.

Any inquiries, please contact [cindy\\_ball@at>outlook.com](mailto:cindy_ball@at>outlook.com)



**Walter "Dan" Zimmerman**

of Madison, Wisconsin, aged 89, passed away on May 15, 2023, at the VA Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. Dan was born in Merrill, Wisconsin to Walter and Velma (Kell) Zimmerman in August of 1933. He is survived by his children Mary Lyn, Richard (Suzanne) and Randall, his Aunt Phyllis (Monty) Kell, his sisters Darlene (Rueben) Pupal and Shirley (David) Hulke, by eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He is preceded in death by his wife Loretta (Galipeau), his son Robert, his daughter Sherri, his parents, and his parents-in-law Ray and Helene (Wyss) Galipeau.

As a child and young man Dan loved to hunt and explore the North Woods of Wisconsin with his father and uncles. Out of that time grew his love of the forest and lakes of Northern Wisconsin. Throughout his life he was an avid hunter and fisherman. In the summer before his Junior year in High School, he met Loretta Galipeau and he would spend the rest of his life with her. They married shortly after graduating in 1952. Unfortunately, she passed in 2022. They would have celebrated their 70th Anniversary in October.

Dan enlisted in the Navy in the summer of 1952 and headed to San Diego for boot camp. He enlisted with the intent to become a corpsman but the Navy decided he was needed elsewhere and he eventually trained as a Fire Controlman. He served primarily in the Pacific Theatre on the USS Bremerton (CA-130) and the USS Loffberg (DD759). He is a Korean War Veteran and also participated in the Blockade of Formosa (now known as Taiwan) during heightened tensions with China. After serving four years he returned to Merrill and started working with the Bell Telephone Company as a lineman. Using his GI benefits, he also finished a degree at what was then known as the Wausau Technical Institute in Computer Technology. That, combined with his Navy experience in electronics allowed him to steadily advance in the field of Telecommunications. His first promotional move was to Woodruff/Minocqua area where he and Loretta also ran a small resort (Tall Pines Resort) on Mid Lake. Over the next 35 years he and his wife would move over a dozen times until his retirement in 1988. At that time, they resided in Hampton Virginia where he worked as a Project Manager for the General Telephone Company, overseeing several projects with the Pentagon and other federal agencies. After retiring he returned to Merrill, and with his wife Loretta, purchased an old Victorian home at 700 W Main. After a year of restoration work and decoration they opened the Candlewick Bed and Breakfast. It was a huge success but after a few years they decided to retire more fully. After living in Land'O'Lakes and Wausau, they would eventually move to Arizona where they lived for over 20 years and Dan perfected his golf game. Due to health concerns and need for more family support, they returned to Wisconsin in 2017.

Community and community service were very important to Dan and his wife. After his service in the Navy, he went on to become an active member of the Lions Club and Knights of Columbus. Dan was also very active in his church, volunteering to work in soup kitchens and distributing food and goods to those in need. Friends and family were also important to Dan and his wife. Both worked hard to ensure a good life for their children often working two jobs during those early years. While in the Navy both Dan and Loretta discovered their love of moving and exploring new places. Friends and cousins took turns coming up to the Resort on Mid Lake and their hospitality continued throughout their lives. Dan was famous for his brats, beer soaked of course, and Loretta always supplied the fun. They are both greatly missed.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Dan was held on Monday, May 22, 2023 at 11am at St. Francis Catholic Church in Merrill. Father Maria Vallabhaneni officiated. Visitation was held on Monday, May 22, 2023, from 9am until 10:45am, at Waid Funeral Home. Interment at St. Francis Catholic Cemetery in Merrill immediately followed Mass. Military honors were performed at the cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, family wishes donations in Dan's name be directed to the Wausau Burns VFW Post #338, 212 East Randolph Street, Wausau, WI 54401.

Family wishes to extend their thanks and appreciation to the staff at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital in Madison, WI, for their care, compassion and professionalism shown to Dan and his family.

Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at [www.waidfuneral.com](http://www.waidfuneral.com).

**Wildfire season in the Northwoods**

To capture the concept of fire season in a tidy little package, it can be thought of as the time of year when wildfires are most likely to occur. A traditional fire season in Wisconsin begins in southern Wisconsin as the snow melts and moves progressively north, following snow melt further north and moving away from green up in the south. This is the case for Wisconsin this year. While trees are leafing out, people are mowing lawns, and more mushrooms are appearing in southern Wisconsin, fire season is coming to an end.

It's a different case in northern Wisconsin, with green up just beginning and fire season at its peak. In fact, the areas with sandy soil and an abundance of pine trees are at critical fire danger, particularly because of a phenomenon called the "spring dip" – a time when the moisture content of pine needles is low and starch content is high. When pines are in the spring dip, individual tree torching and crown fire in groups of trees is a very real possibility. This type of fire is the most challenging to contain and extinguish.

Warm temperatures, low humidity, and gusty winds keep fire danger elevated in northern Wisconsin. Several counties have suspended burning where the DNR has burning authority. Small campfires for warming or cooking are allowed but definitely not recommended until conditions improve.

When you're outside doing yard work, consider alternatives to burning yard debris. Take the material to a community yard waste collection site, compost the materials collected, or incorporate leafy material into vegetable garden beds or flowerpots. The outdoor burning option should be put off until the surrounding vegetation fully greens up.

Fire control officials will be on high alert until rain arrives. The DNR is pre-positioning equipment from the southern part of the state in the north for rapid response including access to two Wisconsin Army National Guard Blackhawk helicopters and two single engine air tankers. The DNR has responded to 284 wildfires burning more than 3,300 acres so far in 2023. Nearly half of these fires were caused by debris burning.

**Remembering the Germann Road Fire**

Large wildfires can still happen this time of year in Wisconsin. May 14th marked the 10-year anniversary of the Germann Road Fire in Douglas and Bayfield Counties, which burned 7,499 acres and destroyed 104 structures, 23 of which were residences. An estimated 350 structures were saved due to fire control efforts. The fire began around 2:45 p.m. on May 14, 2013, and covered a swatch nearly 10 miles long and 1.5 miles wide before being declared 100% contained on May 15 at 9:00 p.m.

**Current conditions available on website**

Check current fire danger and burning restrictions on the DNR website: <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/wisburn/#/>.

According to that site, for instance, as this article was being finalized, the site showed a wildfire began before dawn on May 18, 2023, in Taylor County and burned 1/3 acre before being contained.

**FUNDS from page 3**

the resolution said. "The project would reduce the haul distance (eight miles) to these roads from an existing pit on Four Mile Rd., allowing several inches of crushed gravel to create a maintainable surface."

The project would also improve the roads for logging access to the Lincoln County Forest, which could potentially increase stumpage rates.

**Marketing**

Supervisors approved a resolution earmarking \$500,000 for marketing Lincoln County.

The resolution said developing specific plans on marketing strategies "will take some time and collaboration, but was recognized as an opportunity to support the APRA use objectives in a meaningful way."

"Once a specific and detailed plan is developed, the request will be brought forward for further approval," the resolution stated.

**City campsite development**

A total of \$500,000 will be allocated to upgrading and marketing campsites in the cities of Tomahawk and Merrill, as well as townships that show interest.

Similar to the resolution related to marketing Lincoln County as a whole, plans and strategies will be developed and brought to the Board in the future.

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**APRIL 25, 2023**

Girl, Elizabeth Grace, born to Brittany Lanctin and Jonathan Lanctin of Wausau.

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Beyond the Picnics of Memorial Day

Dear Reader,

The majority of Americans have the day off on Memorial Day. Most spend the time with their families and many traditionally go on a picnic in the afternoon.

But the true meaning of Memorial Day goes far beyond a picnic and a day off. Memorial Day was established to honor the dead - those who died in service of defending our country. Observance of those who had fallen first began three years after the Civil War; originally, it was referred to as Decoration Day. It was expanded to honor everyone in our armed forces who had fallen in all American wars. In 1971 Congress declared it a national holiday to be observed the last Monday each May.

There are parades in many cities, towns, and boroughs that honor the veterans who died in past and current wars to keep our country free. Many of us go to the cemetery to plant flowers and place flags, to "decorate" the graves (hence the name) of those we love to commemorate their actions to preserve our country's freedom. Others at home will run a flag at half staff until noon when it will be raised to the top until sunset. Each year there is a national ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, Virginia where a wreath is placed upon it to commemorate the day.

In 2000 Congress passed The National Moment of Remembrance Act so all American citizens would pause for a moment of silence to remember our fallen brothers and sisters. This Memorial Day at 3 PM most in our Country will stop grilling and other leisure pastime activities to remember those who gave the ultimate gift of their lives in service to America and its freedom. Pause and give thanks. It's the least we can do.



PATRICK J. WOOD Publisher

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

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.

appreciation, fair pay, and benefits, they will stay and more will come.

We shine a light in our County by seeking the good of all. - Irene Mehlos 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 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.

MAPS accepts May donations

The following donations were approved and/or accepted at the May 17, 2023, Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) Board of Directors meeting:

Donation of funds from the Friends of the Forest valued at approximately \$40,000 for a shelter to be constructed by the pond at the Merrill School Forest; donation of funds from Merrill Aqua Jay Swim Team valued at \$9,025 for a 6-lane scoreboard to provide a scoreboard in remote areas during meets as well as for outdoor events; donation of funds from the Merrill Foundation valued at \$3,000 for the

Merrill High School (MHS) Senior Celebration; donation of funds from Habitat for Humanity valued at \$5,000 for The Nest at Merrill High School; donation of funds from Habitat for Humanity valued at \$5,000 for The Nest at Prairie River Middle School; funds from Incredible Bank valued at \$1,000 for the Washington Elementary School 4th grade Madison trip; a check from Culver's of Merrill valued at \$50 for supplies for a color run through the MHS DECA; a check

See DONATIONS page 18

Legals 7700

CITY OF MERRILL 1004 EAST FIRST STREET MERRILL, WI 54452 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING All persons interested will be given an opportunity to be heard at a public hearing to be held by and before the City Plan Commission of the City of Merrill, Wisconsin, commencing at 6 00 p.m., on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 1004 East First Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, on the following proposed matter, to wit: 1. Frank Romano, Best Share Mining LLC, requesting a Conditional Use for a Data Mining Center at 400 S Kyes Street per M.M.C. Sec. 113-100 located in the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin. Legally described in pin# 251-3106-182-0216. Anyone having any questions regarding the hearing should contact Zoning Administrator, Darin Pagel at 536-4880. Dated: May 15, 2023 CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN By: Lori Anderson-Malm City Clerk Published May 18, 2023 WNAIXLP

DATE SIGNED May 2, 2023 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer Probate Registrar STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF KATHLEEN M. DEAU DOD: 09/14/2022 Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 2023 N 22 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE 1. An application for informal administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth 04/15/1959 and date of death 09/14/2022, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 102 East Fourth Street, Merrill, WI 54452. 3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is August 25, 2023. 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln

Legals 7700

County Courthouse, 1110 East Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office. Mary M. John Eaton Law, LLP 513 Grant St., Wausau, WI 54403 715-843-6700 Bar No. 1019515 Published May 11, 18 & 25, 2023 WNAIXLP

LIQUOR & BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS TOWN OF MERRILL LINCOLN COUNTY The following applications have been filed with the Town Clerk - License period: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 CLASS B COMBINATION The Dug Out - Katie Proff - N2472 County Rd K - Merrill, WI Hillside Hy-Da Way - Heather Hinz - Agent - N2205 County Rd JJ - Merrill, WI AI & Kim's Northway Club - Allen Lee Woller - N2198 County Rd K - Merrill, WI The Roc LLC - Scott H. Hinz, Agent - d/b/a The Roc LLC - N2737 State Hwy. 107 - Merrill, WI Throw Line Drinkery LLC - Justin Dennison - Agent - N2191 County Rd K STE B - Merrill, WI CLASS A COMBINATION Geiss Meat Service LLC - Andrew Geiss - Member - W4490 Pope Road - Merrill, WI Published May 25, 2023 WNAIXLP

Merrill Area Public Schools Regular Board of Education Meeting April 19, 2023 - Minutes The meeting was called to order by Blake at 5:30 PM in the Board Room. Board members present: Gremier, Krueger, Liberty, Volpe, Osness, Proulx, Yingling and Blake. Board members absent: Woller. Others Present: Superintendent Murray, MAPS Administrators, Rell and Rudie; six people from the staff and public and Recorder Woller.

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MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the 2023-2024 Head Start Federal COLA Supplement and Quality Improvement Funds. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Volpe, second by Proulx to approve the modifications of the 2023-24 MAPS school calendar to best meet the needs of the students, staff and community. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Liberty, second by Osness to approve the schedules, course offerings and registration materials for MAPS Summer School Enrichment 2023. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Osness second by Volpe to approve the 2023-2024 Elementary Student Handbook. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Osness, second by Liberty to approve the 8th grade Washington DC, New York City Trip for June of 2024. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Proulx, second by Volpe to approve the Security replacement content filter in the amount of \$51,480.00 for internet filtering service through the 2025-2026 school year with costs coming out of the 2022-2023 IT Budget. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the purchase of a printer for the graphics department from Up and Running Solutions. MOTION AMENDED by Krueger, second by Volpe to add, "with the fiscal impact of \$18,995, \$9,995 after trade in and discount - to be taken out of Carl Perkins, the Tech Ed Budget and Bluejay Design Activities Account. Amendment carried unanimously. Motion to approve the purchase of a printer for the graphics department from Up and Running Solutions with the fiscal impact of \$18,995, \$9,995 after trade in and discount - to be taken out of Carl Perkins, the Tech Ed Budget and Bluejay Design Activities Account carried unanimously. MOTION by Proulx, second by Gremier to approve the Raise Your Voice advisor pay, 3 positions at \$1,000 each, for the 2022-2023 school year. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Volpe, second by Liberty to approve the renewal contract with The Standard for Long-term Disability and Short-term Disability Insurance for the upcoming year contract with a 2nd year rate cap as presented. Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the vote. MOTION by Proulx, second by Proulx to approve the renewal of the dental insurance with no change to deduction rates and vision insurance at 0% increase with Delta Dental for FY24. Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the vote. MOTION by Proulx, second by Volpe to approve the renewal of the health insurance with Aspirus Health Plan with a 1.9% increase as presented for FY24. Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the vote. MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the Athletic Coaches Compensation Plan for 2023-2024 as presented. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Liberty, second by Krueger to approve the new/revised Youth

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Apprenticeship positions as presented. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Proulx, second by Krueger approve New Policy 5250 Programs or Curriculum Modifications, waiving the first reading, and approving as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Volpe, second by Osness to approve the donation of funds from the Aspirus Merrill Hospital valued at \$6,500 for SEL committee review of curriculum, participate and conduct trainings, review appropriate lessons for each grade level to personalize lessons for students, and communicate with building level staff about implementation of the curriculum. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Proulx, second by Volpe to approve the attached personnel report, contingent upon the satisfaction of the appropriate liquidated damages for resignations, if applicable. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Volpe, second by Osness to approve consent agenda items a through d, which includes second readings and approval of revisions to: Bylaw 0100 Definitions; Bylaw 0175 Association Memberships; Policy 2210 Curriculum Development; Policies 3215/4215 Use of Tobacco and Nicotine by Professional/ Support Staff; Policy 5200 Attendance; Policy 5330 Administration of Medication/Emergency Care; Policy 5340 Student Accidents/Injury/Concussion & Sudden Cardiac Arrest; Policy 5410 Promotion, Placement and Retention; Policy 5512 Use of Tobacco and Nicotine by Students; Policy 5517 Student Anti-Harassment; Policy 5771 Search and Seizure; Policy 7434 Use of Tobacco and Nicotine on School Premises; Policy 7440 Facilities Security; Policy 8405 Environmental Health and Safety Program; Policy 8420.01 Epidemics and Pandemics; Policy 8600 Transportation; and, Policy 8800 Religious Activities and Observances; minutes of the March 15, 2023, March 29, 2023, March 30, 2023, and April 12, 2023 meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,872,561.65; and, donations totaling \$9,089. Motion carried with Liberty abstaining from the March 15, 2023, March 29, 2023, and March 30, 2023 minutes; Krueger abstaining from the April 12, 2023 minutes; Yingling abstaining from the March 15, 2023 and April 12, 2023 minutes; Volpe abstaining from the March 15, 2023 minutes; and, Gremier abstaining from the April 12, 2023 minutes. MOTION by Volpe, second by Krueger to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Kendra Osness Board Clerk KO/tw (The official minutes in their entirety are available by calling (715) 536-4581, by visiting www.mapsedu.org, or by visiting the MAPS District Office at 1111 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin.) Published May 25, 2023 WNAIXLP

Merrill Area Public Schools Special Board of Education Meeting April 24, 2023 - Minutes The meeting was called to order by Blake at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Board members present: All. Board members absent: None. Others present: Superintendent Murray and Recorder

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Woller. Newly elected board members Ashbeck, Blake and Liberty recited the oath of office. Blake opened the floor for nominations for President. Osness nominated Blake for President. MOTION by Proulx, second by Woller to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Kevin Blake for President. Motion carried unanimously. Board President for the 2023-2024 term is Kevin Blake. Blake opened the floor for nominations for Vice President. Osness nominated Woller for Vice President. MOTION by Proulx, second by Ashbeck to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Brett Woller for Vice President. Motion carried with Woller abstaining from the vote. Board Vice President for the 2023-2024 term is Brett Woller. Blake opened the floor for nominations for Clerk. Gremier nominated Osness for Clerk. MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Kendra Osness for Board Clerk. Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the vote. Board Clerk for the 2023-2024 term is Kendra Osness. Blake opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer. Proulx nominated Ron Liberty for Treasurer. Krueger nominated Nubs Ashbeck for Treasurer. The vote was conducted by paper ballot. Votes were counted by Tammy Woller. Ron Liberty received 5 votes; Nubs Ashbeck received 4 votes. Board Treasurer for the 2023-2024 term is Ron Liberty. MOTION by Woller, second by Liberty to approve the board goals (as written) for the Board of Education for 2023-2024. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Proulx, second by Osness to hold one regular monthly board meeting on the 3rd or 4th Wednesdays of each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Proulx, second by Ashbeck to appoint Ron Liberty as representative to the CESA #9 Board of Control. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Krueger to appoint Kevin Blake as WASB Delegate and Ron Liberty as the Alternate Delegate. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Proulx, second by Ron Liberty to issue preliminary notice of non-renewal to Sadie Jensen, Coramarie Marinan, Chelsey Schuh and Beth Stutelberg for economic and declining enrollment reasoning. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to delay this (agenda item Consideration of Board Member's Request to Review Policies and Guidelines for Board Members to be Allowed to Attend and Participate in Meetings Virtually) until a thorough investigation can be done, what the expenses are and ensure privacy. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Krueger to adjourn at 6:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. Respectfully submitted, Kendra Osness Board Clerk KO/tw (The official minutes in their entirety are

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available by calling (715) 536-4581, by visiting www.mapsedu.org, or by visiting the MAPS District Office at 1111 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin.) Published May 25, 2023 WNAIXLP

Merrill Area Public Schools Special Board of Education Meeting May 4, 2023 - Minutes The meeting was called to order by Blake at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Board members present: Ashbeck, Gremier, Krueger, Liberty, Osness, Proulx, Woller and Blake. Board member absent: Yingling. Others present: Murray, Dr. Strike and Recorder Woller. MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty that the employment contract of Sherry Larson, Chelsey Schuh, and Kim Schmidt not be renewed for purposes of reduction for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote. MOTION by Osness, second by Krueger to adjourn at 5:32 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Kendra Osness Board Clerk KO/tw (The official minutes in their entirety are available by calling (715) 536-4581, by visiting www.mapsedu.org, or by visiting the MAPS District Office at 1111 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin.) Published May 25, 2023 WNAIXLP

Snow Hill Cemetery's Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, June 12th, 2023 at 7pm, at the Corning Town Hall, N1569 HWY 107 and 64 Merrill. There will be a discussion on New Fencing. Chairman-Ralph Schulz 715-722-0145, Treasurer-Gary Voigt 715-536-8446, Secretary-Chris Brown 715-370-1453. Members are encouraged to attend. Published May 25, 2023 WNAIXLP

TOWN OF MERRILL MERRILL, WISCONSIN BID NOTICE The Town of Merrill, Lincoln County Wisconsin will be accepting sealed bids for ditch mowing all town roads (Approx 81 miles). Contractor to provided certificate of insurance showing liability & workers comp. coverage. Sealed bids can be submitted to the Town of Merrill W4594 Progress Ave, Merrill, WI 54452. Bids will be opened on June 12th, 2023 at town board meeting. The Town of Merrill reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any bid deemed to be in the best interest of the town. TOWN OF MERRILL BOARD Published May 18th, 25th & June 1st, 2023 WNAIXLP



**VOTE from page 1**

the only place I know I could go (if Pine Crest closed)."

The individual noted that he had spoken to several of his fellow Pine Crest residents, who he said hope the nursing home "(remains) a viable entity."

A second individual, a Pine Crest employee, said he's been working in nursing facilities around the state for about 30 years.

"I've seen a lot of nursing homes," he stated. "I've seen very, very few that can compare, quality-wise, to Pine Crest, and I've seen none that have the absolute community, family feel that we have at Pine Crest."

The individual noted that he believes that atmosphere is attributable to the facility's County ownership, with many residents and staff members being Lincoln County residents.

"Should we privatize the home, trust me, care will go down," he said. "Then we're looking strictly at a profit motive. Profit motives with nursing care for elderly, disabled folks, it's a real tough game in the nursing business, and ultimately, quality suffers. ...I'm praying that you give us a chance so that we can maintain and be a family."

**Discussion on Pine Crest**

Pine Crest was the focus of discussion among the Board for much of the meeting.

Prior to discussion, Friske said he wished for the Board to choose a direction forward regarding the future Pine Crest by the end of the meeting.

District 12 Supervisor and Finance and Insurance Committee Chair Julie DePasse opined that selling Pine Crest to a private entity would be "the best way (the Board) can ensure the ongoing care of the residents that live there, not just now, but in the future."

"Pine Crest has lost money for the last 15 years," DePasse stated. "It has lost over a million dollars per year, on average, since 2016."

DePasse, who is also a member of the Pine Crest Ad Hoc Committee, said covering all expenses related to Pine Crest, including the estimated \$13 million in improvements to the facility, deficit averages, and maintenance and administrative costs, would carry a price tag of about \$4 million per year.

"We don't have that," DePasse stated. "If we go to a referendum and it fails, then we're in a much worse position, because then it's a distress sale. Buyers know that, and worse, the employees and the residents there know that."

DePasse noted that a proposed referendum, which was taken up later in the meeting, did not ask voters for a specific dollar amount to fund Pine Crest operations.

"So, if we do decide we don't want a private entity to run (Pine Crest), then I think we have to give the voters a referendum that's real," DePasse said. "We have to ask for the actual amount it costs to finance that, and we have to be honest about that number."

District 20 Supervisor and Pine Crest Ad Hoc Committee member Angela Cummings said Lincoln County "needs to sell the Pine Crest skilled nursing facility as soon as possible, for two reasons."

"We need to ensure our residents are provided the best and

most seamless care possible, and ensure that the employees are treated fairly," Cummings stated. "Lincoln County is in an advantageous position to sell Pine Crest and ensure that it remains a skilled nursing facility. Statistics show an average of 42 residents are turned away every month. There is no guarantee that a room would be available for you or any resident of Lincoln County when you need one, and neither you nor I know what our health concerns will be in the future and whether this facility could adequately manage them."

**Resolution beginning sale process**

District 13 Supervisor Calvin Callahan stated his opinion that Lincoln County should look into a sale of Pine Crest and made a motion to direct the A&L Committee to begin the process of hiring a broker to sell the facility.

During discussion on the motion, District 3 Supervisor Elizabeth McCrank opined that beginning the sale process was "premature," saying the Board should "take up the issue of finding out what the public as a whole wants us to do before we begin taking that action."

District 22 Supervisor Greg Hartwig said he had received "approximately 20 phone calls and messages" and had spoken with other individuals regarding the nursing home.

"I haven't heard one person say they wanted us to sell Pine Crest," Hartwig stated, adding that he supported the creation of a referendum to "let the people speak."

Following further discussion, the Board voted 15-6 to approve Callahan's motion to direct the A&L Committee to begin the process of hiring a broker to sell Pine Crest.

Voting in favor were Friske, Wickham, DePasse, Cummings, Callahan, District 2 Supervisor Lori Anderson-Malm, District 4 Supervisor Steve Osness Jr., District 5 Supervisor Don Wendorf, District 8 Supervisor Julie Thiel, District 10 Supervisor and Board Vice Chair Jesse Boyd, District 11 Supervisor Randy Detert, District 15 Supervisor Marty Lemke, District 16 Supervisor Mike Loka, District 17 Supervisor Jim Meunier, and District 21 Supervisor Eugene Simon.

McCrank, Hartwig, District 1 Supervisor William

Bialecki, District 6 Supervisor Norbert Ashbeck, District 7 Supervisor Greta Rusch, and District 19 Supervisor Julie Allen were opposed.

**Board mulls referendum**

The Board later in the meeting discussed creating a referendum regarding Pine Crest's future.

McCrank introduced a motion seeking to create an advisory referendum designed to gather public opinion on the topic.

The Board discussed whether or not a potential referendum should be advisory or binding before ultimately voting 13-8 to table the motion indefinitely.

**Next Board meeting**

The next meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors will be held at the Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N. Sales St., Merrill, on Tuesday, June 20, at 6:00 p.m.

**In Honor of Memorial Day, our office will be closed on Monday May 29th.**

**Early Ad Deadlines for the June 1st Issue Display & Classified Ads: Friday, May 26th at 3pm**

*With Sincere Appreciation*

The family of Pete Burge would like to thank our family, neighbors and friends for their support and prayers. We have deep appreciation for those of you who sent cards, food, memorial gifts and called with well wishes.

Our special thank you to Northern Home Care and their caretakers, as well as Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services. The caregivers demonstrated professionalism in making Pete's quality of life better and shared support with his family.

Thank you to the Veterans Association, Air Force Honor Guard and Waid Funeral Home for their support in honoring Pete.

We are truly grateful to everyone who touched our lives with love and kindness during this time.

*Love you, Pete.*

We know you are now resting peacefully.  
Jan, Mike, David (Julie) and Pat (Paula) Burge  
Grandchildren and Great grandchildren

**CLASS OF 1973 50TH REUNION**

**Merrill High School's Class of 1973 will be holding its 50th class reunion on September 21-23, 2023.**

Information about the reunion plans will be sent to class members after matters are finalized. Updated mailing addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers can be provided to JoAnn Sczygelski at [joann7678@yahoo.com](mailto:joann7678@yahoo.com) or by calling 715-573-4029.

**Lincoln County Highway closures for chip sealing**

On May 18, 2023, Lincoln County Highway Commissioner, John Hanz, advised the following schedule has been set for Lincoln County Highway closures for chip sealing. Dates may be subject to changes based on the weather:

- CTH H – CTH V to S. Silver Lake Road (1.13 Miles) closed June 5-6, 2023
- CTH S – Cattail Lane to Brief Street (4.11 Miles) closed June 5-6, 2023
- CTH JJ – CTH J to Lincoln Drive (4.9 Miles) closed June 6-7, 2023
- CTH Q – Tree Lane to CTH K (3.35 Miles) closed June 7-9, 2023
- CTH K – CTH Q to Joe Snow Road (2 Miles) closed June 7-9, 2023

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**New Facility Will Be Open May 1st**

**New Location**  
**2011 E. Main St.**

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM

**MERRILL FOTO NEWS**

**Student of the Week**

**This Week's Featured Student is**

**Ava Goeden**  
Daughter of Michael & Amanda Goeden  
Ava is in 1st grade at Trinity Lutheran School. She was nominated by Mrs. Laura Marnholtz.

**What is your favorite subject in school?**  
Why?  
My favorite subject is math, because you learn a bunch of things.

**What is your favorite part of school?**  
Why?  
Recess is my favorite part of school, because you get to play with your friends.

**What would you like to do/become someday?**  
Why?  
I want to be a teacher. You get to teach kids what you already know.

Ava has a happiness that bubbles out of her. She is a conscientious, caring student who steps forward to help others when they need help. She puts forth her best efforts each day and adds joy to the classroom.  
- Mrs. Laura Marnholtz

**Student of the Week Sponsored by:**

**1401 W. Taylor St., Merrill**  
**(715) 536-5400**

*In loving memory of our brother*  
**KEITH ALLEN OSNESS**  
May 13, 1962 - May 24, 2022

*We shared so much happiness  
In times of yesterday,  
And to say how much I miss you  
I could never find a way.*

*I wish with all my heart  
That you were here with me,  
And we could share the laughter  
That there always used to be.*

*I know we'll meet again  
In another life elsewhere,  
And those very special times  
We will once again share.*

*Forever in our hearts,  
Julie, Scott, and families*



# Aspirus: How to get the most out of allergy medications

With spring in full swing, Aspirus Health is providing tips on how to get the most out of allergy medications.

“Also known as hay fever, seasonal allergies affect as many as 60 million people per year in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),” Aspirus stated. “Symptoms can occur during certain seasons or year-round, depending on the allergen, and include sneezing, congestion, itchy eyes, and throat irritation.”

“There’s no cure for allergies, but there are a variety of medications available to help alleviate symptoms,” said Megan Fleischman, Aspirus Pharmacy Resident. “Remember to always consult with your health care provider before taking any medication, and to discuss the best allergy treatment plan for your individual needs.”

Aspirus provided the following tips from the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (ACAAI) to help get the most out of allergy medications:

1. **Choose the right medication.** There are many

different types of allergy medications available, so it is important to choose the right one for your symptoms. Antihistamines are a common type of allergy medication that can help relieve sneezing, itching, and runny nose. Decongestants can help reduce congestion and sinus pressure. Nasal corticosteroids can help relieve inflammation and nasal congestion. Combination medications that include both an antihistamine and a decongestant are also available.

2. **Follow dosage instructions.** It is important to follow dosage instructions carefully when taking allergy medications. Taking too much medication can be harmful, while taking too little may not provide relief. Always read the label and follow the instructions provided by your health care provider or the package insert.

3. **Take medications at the right time.** The timing of allergy medication can be important. Some medications, such as antihistamines, work best when taken before exposure to allergens. Others, such as decongestants, may



Fleischman

Photo courtesy of Aspirus

be more effective when taken after exposure.

4. **Be aware of side effects.** Allergy medications can have side effects, so it is important to be aware of these before taking them. Common side effects of antihistamines

See **MEDICATIONS** page 17

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**TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
MAY 30TH - COUNTRY FRIED STEAK  
JUNE 6TH - LIVER - N - ONIONS  
Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

**FRIDAY NIGHTS**  
MAY 26TH - BLUEGILLS  
JUNE 2ND - BREADED SCALLOPS  
Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM  
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• SATURDAY: Bar Open at 3pm  
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FRIDAY: 1:00, 7:00 & 9:30PM  
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:45, 7:00 & 9:30PM  
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:45 & 7:00PM  
MONDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM  
TUESDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

**FAST X**  
"PG13" (2HR 21MIN)  
FRIDAY: 1:00, 7:00 & 9:30PM  
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:45, 7:00 & 9:30PM  
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:45 & 7:00PM  
MONDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM  
TUESDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

**BOOK CLUB: THE NEXT CHAPTER**  
"PG13" (1HR 47MIN)  
FRIDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM  
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM  
MONDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM  
TUESDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM  
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3210 E Main St., Merrill, WI

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**SATURDAY, JUNE 3**

On-site shredding service provided by Confidential Records. Service is free but a \$5 per box donation is suggested. Event is open to all Lincoln County residents. All proceeds will benefit: **LYNNE STOPPERS**

Co-sponsors:  
**CROSSBRIDGE COMMUNITY BANK** **incrediblebank**

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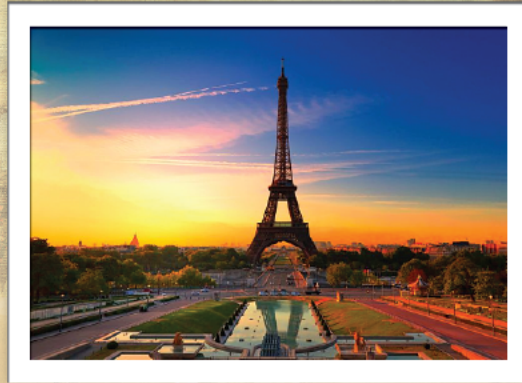


For more information: Visit Toursmmc.com or contact Chris Brough with Adelman Discoveries at 949-253-9361 or Email CBrough@AdelmanTravel.com

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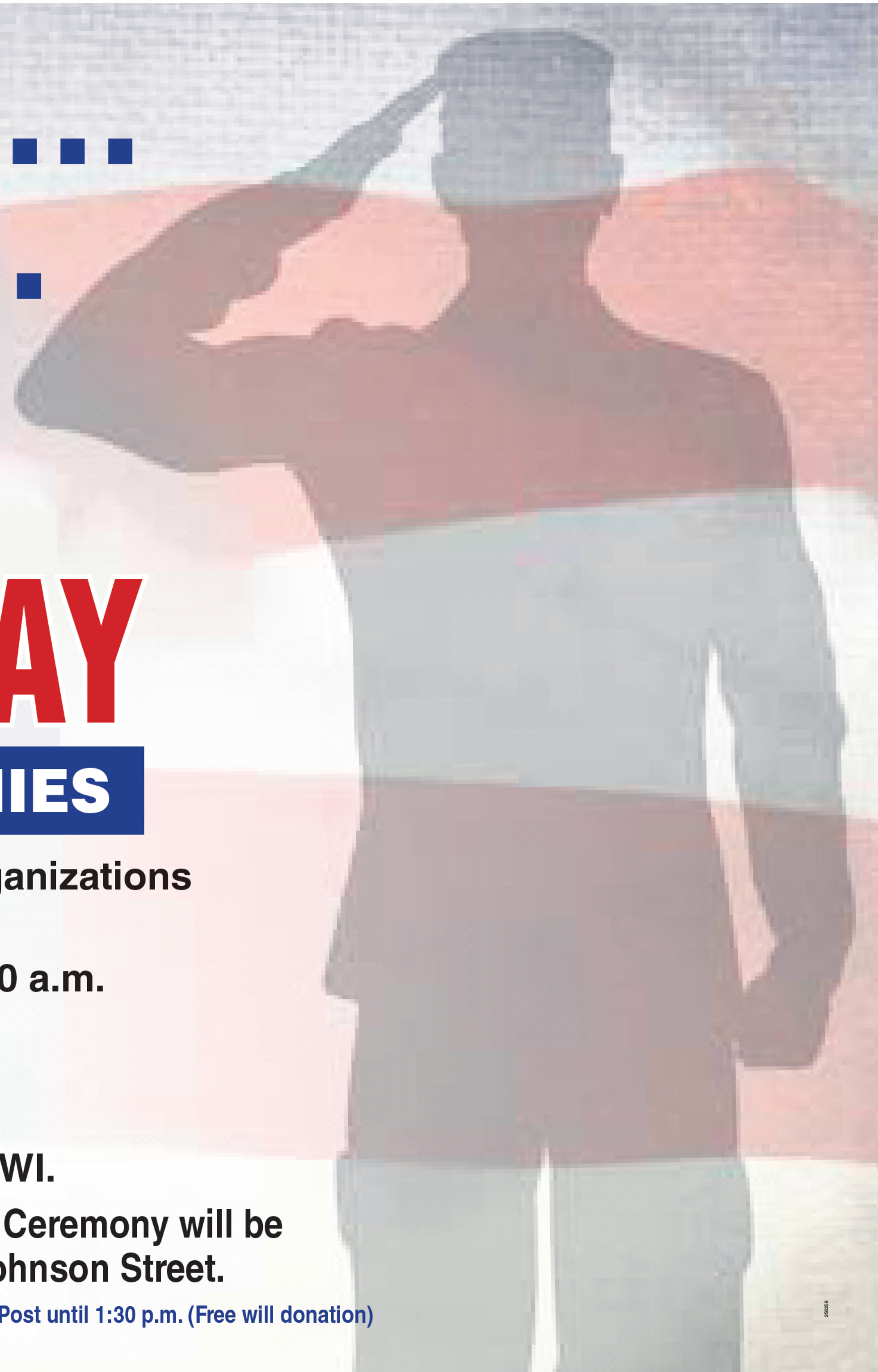
Includes Airfare from Chicago or Minneapolis



For more information: Visit Toursmmc.com or contact Chris Brough with Adelman Discoveries at 949-253-9361 or Email CBrough@AdelmanTravel.com

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**Ceremony will be  
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**MEMORIAL DAY**



# All Gave Some Some Gave All

*Saluting those who  
served and sacrificed on*

# MEMORIAL DAY

## MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

The Merrill VFW Post 1683 and other local organizations will be honoring Memorial Day.

The Memorial Day Ceremony will start at 10:30 a.m. with the Merrill City Band, followed with the Memorial Day Ceremony at 11:00 a.m.

Ceremony will be at the St. Francis Cemetery, Veteran's Section-South Thielman St., Merrill, Wis.

In the case of inclement weather, the Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at the Northwoods Veterans Post Hall at 601 Johnson St., Merrill.

Following the ceremony, there will be brats and hot dogs at the Northwoods Veterans Post Hall.



# Optimist Club hosts Law Fair at PRMS

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

The Merrill Noon Optimist Club organized and hosted its eighth Law Fair at Prairie River Middle School (PRMS) in Merrill on Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

The program was part of Respect for Law Week. The last such program was held in 2018, and this is the first Law Fair to be held again at PRMS since the COVID pandemic.

Approximately 400 seventh and eighth grade students attended during two afternoon sessions that brought together representatives from all aspects of the law to interact directly with middle school students.

Prior to the interactive part of the program, students heard from keynote speaker and Merrill High School graduate, retired Lincoln County Circuit Judge Jay Tlusty, who gave a broad overview of the federal, state, and local legal systems.

From the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Merrill Police Department and Lincoln County Sheriff's Office to representatives from the offices of our elected representatives, the Crimestoppers program representatives to judges, and many more, students were able to move about the field house where they could explore, look at vehicles and exhibits, and speak with representatives from each agency, asking questions and learning more about what each agency does and what a career in that agency might entail.

Students also received an Optimist Law Fair Questionnaire worksheet to complete by interacting with all the various agencies. They needed to visit each exhibit or booth to talk with representatives there to learn the answers to the questions that would give them an even better understanding of some aspects of the law. Students could then turn in their completed questionnaires for a chance to win in a giveaway.



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



PRMS students were excited to check out the inside of a Lincoln County Sheriff's Office squad car.  
Tina L. Scott photos.



Above: Students talk with a staff person from the office of one of our elected representatives. Left: Girls stop to ask questions at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources table so they can complete their questionnaires.



K9 Dasty and Merrill Police Department Officer Josh McCaskill, his handler, were at the Law Fair.



McGruff the Crime Dog and Crimestoppers were around to remind everyone to "Take a Bite out of Crime" and stay out of jail!



Students gather around the booth for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to learn more about that agency.

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Miscellaneous Sales 7212

Misc. Downsizing Sale round oak kitchen table w/ 4 chairs \$200, old dining room table w/ 4 chairs \$200, oak end tables, night stands, lamps, entryway benches, 4 kitchen bar stools \$300, electric fireplace w/oak cabinet, mini-fridge, reclaimed lumber, scaffolding, drywall stilts, ladder jacks, air compressor, ridgid torch w/tank, craftsman standup tool box, 10 gun oak cabinet, old beer kegs, glass blocks, i-beam clamps, heavy duty roller pipe stands, knaack gang boxes, hand shovels, tools, used windows, 250gal water storage tanks, tube benders, paddle boat, canoe, swim raft and other misc. CALL TO SET UP TIME to view North of Antigo. 715-350-9111

Auctions 7282

AUCTION! 4885 US 2 West, Iron River, MI - JUNE 10 \* 10AM 5+ Acre Country Commercial Property w/lg shop & 3 bdrm home. Personal property. OPEN HOUSE: June 4th 1-3pm www.nolansales.com for details & photos. NOLAN SALES LLC, Marion, WI 715-754-5221 or 800-472-0290 Reg. WI Auctioneers Lic #165 & 142 (WCAN)

You've Got It! Somebody Else Wants It! Check The Classifieds.

AUCTION! W10684 COLE ST, ELCHO- JUNE 17 \* 11AM 4 bdrm 3 bath home w/4.5+/-acres. Personal property. OPEN HOUSE: June 3 \* 1-3pm. www.nolansales.com for details & photos. NOLAN SALES LLC, Marion, WI 715-754-5221 or 800-472-0290 Reg. WI Auctioneers Lic #165 & #142 (WCAN)

Antiques and Collectibles 7214

HOLIDAY FLEA MARKETS MASSIVE: Fri.May 26 Antigo (Fairgrounds); May 27 & 28 Sat./Sun. Shawano (Fairgrounds) Vendors Welcome! 715-526-9769 zurko-promotions.com (WCAN)

Computers and Electronics 7216

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Furniture and Home Decor 7236

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Outdoors 7262

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Miscellaneous Merchandise 7266

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Dogs 7272

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Pet Services 7280

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SUVs 7544

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Vehicles Wanted 7554

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Miscellaneous Transportation 7574

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### MEDICATIONS from page 8

include drowsiness, dry mouth, and blurred vision. Decongestants can cause nervousness, jitteriness, and increased heart rate. Nasal corticosteroids can cause nasal irritation, sore throat, and nosebleeds.

5. **Avoid alcohol and other substances.** Some allergy medications can interact with alcohol and other substances, such as certain medications or herbal supplements. It is important to read the label and talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist before taking any new medications or supplements. Alcohol can also exacerbate certain allergy symptoms, such as nasal congestion and headache, so it is best to avoid it during allergy season.

6. **Keep medications on hand.** Allergy symptoms can strike at any time, so it is important to keep your medications on hand. Consider keeping a supply at home, at work, and in your car. This can help ensure that you have access to relief when you need it.

7. **Consider allergy shots.** If your allergies are severe or persistent, allergy shots, also known as immunotherapy, may be an option. This treatment involves regular

injections of small amounts of allergens over a period of several years. The goal of this treatment is to desensitize the immune system to allergens and reduce the severity of symptoms. It is important to talk to your healthcare provider about the risks and benefits of allergy shots.

"If you are experiencing persistent or severe symptoms, talk to your health care provider about the best treatment options for you," Aspirus said. "You can talk to your provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about medications you are taking."

### AUCTIONS & REAL ESTATE

**HANSEN AUCTION GROUP ONLINE AUCTION**

**Mike's Plumbing Retirement - Work Trucks, Equipment, Plumbing Parts, Tools & More**

Looking for a property that offers it all? This 235± acre farm is the perfect investment for you! With cranberry featured items: 2005 Sterling A9500 Box Truck; 2015 Ford E-350 Super Duty Box Truck; 2000 Chevy 3500 Box Truck; 1987 John Deere 310C Backhoe Loader; Chevy Bruin Diesel 80 Bucket Truck; American 25' Deck over Tandem Axle Trailer; 1994 Redi Haul Deck over. Plus 12' Steel Framed Utility Trailer, 3 Point Tree Planter, American Continental 3 Wheeled Golf Cart, Lowe Universal Mount Trencher and Much More!

Online Bidding Ends Thursday, June 1st  
Open House Wed., May 31st from 10am-3pm  
W2275 Hwy 22, Pulifer, WI 54124  
For more information call **920-383-1012**  
Terms: 10% Buyers Fee. Bryce Hansen, registered WI auctioneer #225

**BID NOW AT HANSENAUCTIONGROUP.COM**

**HANSEN AUCTION GROUP ONLINE AUCTION**

**Lumber Mill, Lumber, Tools & More**

Featured Items: 1968 Chevy C20 Truck, 4x4; 1973 Chevy Cheyenne C20; Case 446 Lawn Tractor with Attachments; 3 Head Frick Saw Mill with Case Engine Power Unit; International 240 Utility Tractor; Yamaha Wave Jammer Jet Ski. Plus Yard Utility Trailer, EZ Loader Boat Trailer, Continental Cargo 12' Enclosed Trailer, Buffalo Poly Canoe and Much More!

Online Bidding Ends Tuesday, May 30th  
Open House Thursday, May 25th from 9:00am-3:30pm  
7887 Wheeler Island Road, Three Lakes, WI 54562  
For more information call **715-539-6295**  
Terms: 10% Buyers Fee. Bryce Hansen, registered WI auctioneer #225

**BID NOW AT HANSENAUCTIONGROUP.COM**

**HANSEN AUCTION GROUP ONLINE AUCTION**

**Collector Vehicles, Excavator, Tractors, Camper & Guns**

Featured Items: 2014 Dodge Challenger; 1962 Chevy Impala SS409; 1994 Chevy Silverado; 1979 Oldsmobile Toronado; 1966 Pontiac GTO; 1972 Chevy Cheyenne 8/400; 2006 Ford Taurus SEL; Kobelco Mark IV Excavator. Plus John Deere 4040 With 148 Loader, 1990 New Holland 6635 with 7310 Loader Chasis, 1953 Farmall Super M Tractor with 3 Point, 2019 Connect KZ 25' Bumper Pull Travel Trailer, 2016 Load Max Trailer and Much More!

Highest Bid Wins!

Online Bidding Ends Tuesday, May 30th  
Open House Thursday, May 25th from 10:00am-2:00pm  
1906 N State Road 27, Exeland, WI 54835  
For more information call **715-265-4656**  
Terms: 10% Buyers Fee. Bryce Hansen, registered WI auctioneer #225

**BID NOW AT HANSENAUCTIONGROUP.COM**

**HANSEN AUCTION GROUP ONLINE AUCTION**

**235± Acre Farm, 8 Parcels, Cranberry Bogs, Wooded Waterfront Recreational Land, Barndominium - Sawyer County, WI**

Looking for a property that offers it all? This 235± acre farm is the perfect investment for you! With cranberry bogs / marshes, wooded waterfront and recreational land, you'll have plenty of options for outdoor fun! And that's not all - this property also features a fantastic barndominium that provides the perfect combination of living and working space. This property will be offered in 10 parcels. Buyers will have the opportunity to bid on any one or combination of parcels. More information, maps and photos coming soon!

Live & Online Bidding Ends Monday, June 19th at 1:00pm  
Open House Thursday, June 15th from 1:00pm-3:00pm  
Property Location: 1906N State Hwy 27, Exeland, WI 54835  
Auction Location: JS Supper Club, W9594 US-8, Ladysmith, WI 54848  
For more information call: **Hansen Auction Group: 715-607-4411, Nate Obitz: 651-249-4739, Bryce Hansen: 715-418-1030**  
Terms: 7% Buyers Fee. Bryce Hansen, registered WI auctioneer #225

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**Heat Included, Pet Friendly**

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Full line of Shop Equipment • 2 Tractors • 2 Buses full of items  
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[www.alangeauctionrealty.com](http://www.alangeauctionrealty.com) or Call Arnold at: **715-574-2258**  
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**ANOTHER AUCTION WITH COL. RENÉ BRASS**

[www.colrene.net](http://www.colrene.net)

**(Sun. June 4th) (Starts 10:30 AM)**  
**(View 9:30) (Lunch)**

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**ABSOLUTE AUCTION TERMS:** This property will be sold ABSOLUTE WITH NO RESERVE on the day of the auction. High bidder shall sign an Offer to Purchase and put down 10% of the final sale price on the day of the auction. Offer will be written as a cash offer not subject to financing, and the transaction will be closed by a title company to guarantee clear title. Closing to be held within forty five (45) days of auction ending. Property is being sold "As Is Where Is" with no warranties of any kind either expressed or implied.

**OPEN HOUSE:** There will be an OPEN HOUSE held on SATURDAY, JUNE 3 from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. with a member of Nolan Sales present to answer questions about the property.

**HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:** Oak dining room table w/(2) leaves and (6) chairs; Hutch; (2) Living room set; Bedroom sets; Armoire; Crockpots; Waffle makers; Canning jars; Extension cords; Front load washer & dryer; Dishes; Dining table w/chairs; Card table w/chairs; Power lift chair; Silverware w/chest.

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# Merrill's Van Der Geest named one of seven KDDP racing finalists

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

On Monday, April 10, 2023, then 18-year-old Levon Van Der Geest of Merrill, was selected as a finalist in the eighth annual Kulwicki Driver Development Program (KDDP), an honor that will help him get in the groove this racing season.

It was an incredible birthday present for Van Der Geest, who turned 19 just seven days later.

Van Der Geest is studying automotive engineering at UW-Milwaukee, the alma mater of the infamous Alan Kulwicki—who went from local racer to college-educated engineer to 1992 NASCAR Cup Champion and 2019 Hall of Famer—and for whom the program is named.



Levon Van Der Geest with his race car. Bruce Nuttleman photo.

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Kulwicki, nicknamed "Special K" and the "Polish Prince," was known for "doing things his way" and was a Wisconsin native who started out racing on local short tracks. In 1985, he drove to Charlotte to compete in NASCAR, and, when he got his first win at Phoenix in the Checker 500, during the cooldown lap, Kulwicki made a U-turn and drove around the track in the opposite direction, a move that became famously known as a "Polish victory lap." He died in a plane crash in Tenn. in 1993.

Kulwicki drove car #7, so that number presents as a theme in the KDDP.

Seven finalists are selected each year, each of whom will represent KDDP during the upcoming racing season to help keep the memory of Kulwicki alive, while they also compete to win the Kulwicki Cup Championship.

Each finalist receives a stipend of \$7,777 along with help with marketing and publicity, sponsor development, and opportunities for networking within the industry. The winner of the Kulwicki Cup Championship will earn 7 times that stipend—a whopping \$54,439.

Van Der Geest is one of the youngest of the seven drivers selected from across the nation. The other drivers selected for the 2023 racing season hail from Maine, Michigan, North Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, and Wisconsin (another Wisconsin driver was also chosen) and range in age from 18-23 years old.

Van Der Geest made Milwaukee Mile history when he became the youngest driver to win the Midwest Truck Series race at the track in 2019. He then made a successful transition from trucks to super late models (SLM) and finished sixth in Midwest Tour standings in 2022.

But it's not just their driving performances that land racers a spot on the KDDP. An advisory board also judges the applicants on how well they think candidates will represent the KDDP, helping to keep Kulwicki's legacy alive.

This year 54 racers applied for the program, the list was trimmed to 15 semifinalists in February, and then the finalists were named in April.

The other six finalists selected for 2023 are: Riley Stenjem, 23, of Utica, Wis., 2021 Tundra Champion & race winner; Jackson Boone, 23, of Franklin, Tenn., third in 2022 Kulwicki Cup standings; Jacob Borst, 18, of Elon, N. Carolina, 2022 KDDP semifinalist; Max Cookson, 20, of Palmyra, Maine; Haeden Plybon, 19, of Spokane, Wash., fourth in 2022 KDDP; and Evan Shotko, 19, of Coopersville, Mich., 2022 KDDP runner-up.

Since the KDDP began, the Kulwicki estate has provided racers with more than \$760,000 in funding, helping 38 drivers from 17 U.S. states and 2 Canadian provinces. Those racers racked up 1,105 starts, 178 wins, and top-5 finishes in more than half of their races. Three of the seven Kulwicki Cup Champions hailed from Wisconsin: Luke Fenhou of Wausau (2021), Alex Prunty of Lomira (2016), and Ty Majeski of Seymour (2015). Levon Van Der Geest hopes to add his name to that list.

### DONATIONS from page 6

from Drew Polak valued at \$250 for the MHS Fab Lab; a monetary donation from XI ALPHA NU valued at \$50 for The Nest at MHS; library books from Marie Rein valued at \$25 for the Washington Elementary School Library in memory of Kimberly Boyce (1972-2023); a portable LCD scale from the Merrill Wrestling Club valued at \$780 for use in the MAPS wrestling program; the following donations for the Kate Goodrich Elementary School PBIS Program: a check from Wendorf Bussing valued at \$100; and, a check from the Merrill Foundation valued at \$500.

**Congratulations!**

Best of luck to Logan, Searra and the entire graduating class of 2023!

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# Merrill Varsity Baseball Team has a tough week

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

"It was a tough week for the Bluejays," said Shawn Schultz, Merrill Varsity Baseball Head Coach. "We played two with DC Everest, losing 8-3 in Merrill on Tuesday and 3-1 at Everest on Thursday. On Friday, we lost to Mosinee 7-5."

On Tuesday, May 16, 2023, the Bluejays played host to DC Everest at Merrill's Athletic Park.

"We let it get away from us a little bit in the first inning," Schultz said. "Everest jumped out to a 4-0 lead after the first inning and we just couldn't get our offense going enough to get back into the game."

"Sam Reimann started on the mound but came out after one inning due to an injury," he said. "Braden Voigt came in and did a really nice job. It can be tough to come in like that when you are not planning on pitching that early in the game, but he did a great job. He limited them to three runs as he pitched into the seventh when Tyson Glisch came in and finished it off."

"Offensively, we had base runners but couldn't come up with the big hit to score multiple runs in an inning," Schultz said. "Nathan Brzoznowski hit his fourth homerun of the spring in the sixth to get it to 7-3, but we never got any closer."

**Box Score: DC Everest 8 @ Merrill 3**

On Thursday, May 18, Merrill played DC Everest again, this time at DC Everest High School, but the Bluejays suffered another loss.

"We saw two really good pitchers in the game," Schultz said. "For DC Everest, it was Nate Langbehn, and for us, it was Brady Kanitz. Both have been great all year and they dominated this game, as well."

"We gave up some early runs in the first to give them the 3-0 lead, but after that Brady held them hitless," he said. "EJ Weix came in for the sixth and did the same."

"Against Langbehn, we had some base runners but couldn't string anything together," Schultz said. "But in the seventh, they brought in a reliever, and we got on the board with a couple of hits by Tyson Glisch and Nathan Brzoznowski to make it 3-1, but came up just short with two

outs and two on. Sam Reimann and Tyson Glisch finished the game with two hits apiece, and Kanitz struck out seven in five innings while giving up just the two hits."

**Box Score: Merrill 1 @ DC Everest 3**

On Friday, May 19, the Bluejays were back at Athletic Park, this time hosting Mosinee.

"Mosinee came in with a 19-2 record and the #1 seed in our sectional," Schultz said. "They showed offensively that they are a good hitting team in the game."

"We got behind early again, trailing 4-0 after two innings, but we got one back in the third with a walk by Kaiden Henrich, a Brady Kanitz double, and an RBI groundout by Braiden Voigt."

"Mosinee got one in the top of the fourth, and Merrill answered back with one in the fifth on another Kanitz double, a single by EJ Weix, and a sac fly from Voigt."

"Mosinee got single runs in the sixth and seventh to make it 7-2," Schultz said. "In the bottom of the seventh, Kanitz led off with a single to right, followed by a couple of

See **BASEBALL** page 20



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# Congratulations

## CLASS OF 2023



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Merrill High School  
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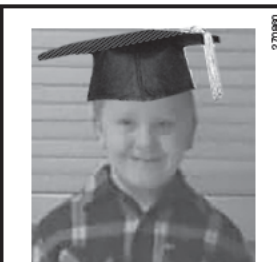
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Merrill High School  
We are so Proud of you!  
Congratulations on your achievements!  
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**Tyson Glisch**  
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You w! I do amazing things. Keep shooting for the stars. We are proud of you. Love you forever.  
Mom, Dad & Treven



**Tanner Hannemann**  
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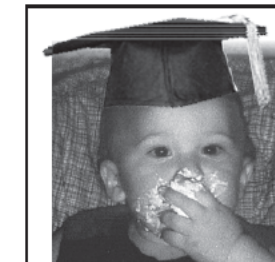
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Love, Dad, Mom and Kayla



**Jordan Kufahl**  
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We are so proud of you!  
Love, Grandma Elaine



**Lauren Cohrs**  
Merrill High School  
You bring us such joy. Never stop smiling. You are amazing! God Bless you at UW Madison.  
Love, Dad, Mom, Evan & Ian



**Cameron Ross**  
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Congratulations!  
We are so proud of you!  
Love, Your Family



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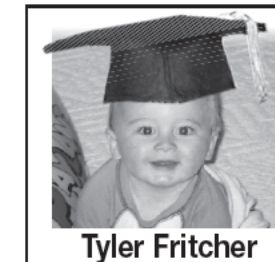
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Merrill High School  
I'm proud of your achievements, good luck at Stout.  
Dad



**Patrick Perra**  
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Love, Dad & Jaci & Mom & Rob



**Croix Woller**  
Merrill High School  
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You are going to do great things and we can't wait to see!  
Love, Mom & Dad



**Tyler Fritcher**  
Merrill High School  
It's been inspiring to watch all the hard work you've put towards accomplishing your goals. We couldn't be more proud of you!  
Love, Mom & Dad, Riley



**Bradyn Pieper**  
Merrill High School  
We are so proud of all of your accomplishments and can't wait to see where your next journey takes you!  
Love, Mom, Dad, Jamie and Brad



**Hunter A. Stadler**  
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We are so proud of you!  
You have a great future ahead of you!  
Love, Mom & Thane



**Hunter Stadler**  
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Love, Grandma Debbie



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Love you bunches,  
Mom, Dad & Landon



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We're so proud of you!  
Oh! The Places You'll Go!  
Love, Mom & Dad



**Nathan Brzoznowski**  
Merrill High School  
So proud of you!  
Follow your dreams.  
Love you, Mom and Jordan



**Alana Polak**  
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Congratulations!  
We are very proud of you!  
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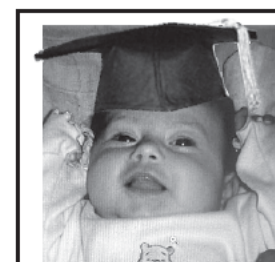
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We are very proud of you.  
Keep working hard and you will go far.  
Love, Mom & Dad



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We are so proud of the strong, beautiful, intelligent woman you've become! Dream Big! We love you.  
From, Dad, Mom and Ethan



**Arin Dettmering**  
Merrill High School  
Proud of You!  
Love Mom, Shawn, Andy and Russ



**Lizzy Weber**  
Merrill High School  
We could not be more proud of the person you are! We love you so much!  
Love, Dad & Jennifer



**Luke Rice**  
Merrill High School  
Congratulations on your graduation!!  
We are proud of you!  
Love Mom, Dad and Lauren



# Merrill wrestlers go to State and Northern Plains Tournaments

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

## State Tournament

A number of Merrill wrestlers placed at the Wisconsin Wrestling Federation Freestyle and Greco-Roman Wrestling State Tournament held in Wisconsin Dells at the Woodside Wisconsin Dells Center on May 6 and 7, 2023.

Allison Hunter took second place in the Girls Junior 106 Weight Division. Ryder Depies took second place in Greco-Roman and fifth place in the Freestyle 195 lb. Junior Division. Austin Depies placed third in Greco-Roman 170 lb 16U; and Carson Brooks took fourth place in the 182 lbs 16U Greco-Roman Division and Brant Suchocki also took fourth place in the 84 lb Greco-Roman 10U Division.

"We had several Merrill wrestlers compete at the tournament in both styles," said Merrill Head Wrestling Coach Brian Suchocki. "The wrestlers trained hard, and it was a great experience for all to

experience this high level of wrestling."

## Northern Plains Tournament

Merrill wrestlers also traveled back to the Woodside Wisconsin Dells Center for the Northern Plains Wrestling Tournament on May 13 and 14 for Freestyle and Greco-Roman Wrestling.

"This tournament includes the best wrestlers from the north central states," Suchocki said.

Austin Depies, Remington Skic, Allison Hunter, and Ryder Depies all competed. Allison Hunter took second place in Greco and fifth place in Freestyle. Ryder Depies took home a second place in both styles of wrestling.

"The top four qualify automatically for the National Tournament in Fargo," Suchocki said. "All wrestlers have more opportunities to qualify to wrestle in Fargo."

"The wrestlers that competed at this tournament are challenging themselves at a very high level," he said.



Merrill's Allison Hunter (left) during a match at the Freestyle State Tournament in Wisconsin Dells.



L to R in back: Ryder Depies, Austin Depies, and Carson Brooks. In front: Brant Suchocki. Submitted photos.

## 2023 Merrill High School Spring Sports Schedule

### Boys Baseball (Varsity, JV and JV2)

Thurs. May 25 Lakeland Regional (Varsity) Home 5:00 p.m.  
Please check [www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org) for most up to date playoff schedules.

### Girls Softball (Varsity and JV)

<https://www.wiaawi.org/>

### Boys Golf (Varsity, JV and JV2)

Fri. May 26 Varsity Make Up (if needed) Away 2:00 p.m.  
<https://www.wiaawi.org/>

### Girls Soccer (Varsity & JV)

Thurs. May 25 Antigo (Varsity) Away 5:00 p.m.  
<https://www.wiaawi.org/>

### Boys Track & Field (Varsity & JV)

Thurs. May 25 D. C. Everest Sectional (Varsity & JV) Away 4:00 p.m.  
<https://www.wiaawi.org/>

### Girls Track & Field (Varsity & JV)

Thurs. May 25 D. C. Everest Sectional (Varsity & JV) Away 4:00 p.m.  
<https://www.wiaawi.org/>

## 2023 Merrill Summer Baseball Schedule

### Babe Ruth 7<sup>th</sup> Grade (Blue)

Tues. May 30 Wausau Away 6:00 p.m.

### Babe Ruth 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (White)

Wed. May 31 Athletic Park Home 6:00 p.m.

### Merrill Rangers

Sun. May 28 Minocqua Home 1:30 p.m.

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## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

**Kaela Clerveaux**, a Freshman at Merrill High School, has been named Athlete of the Week. Kaela is a dancer at Brooke's School of Dance in Merrill where she trains, performs, and competes in competitions in five dance genres: tap, ballet, lyrical, jazz, and hip hop. Her favorite is hip hop. Most recently, she had the starring role in the studio's spring production, playing Dorothy in Merry Old Land of Oz. She is originally from Rice Lake where she started dancing at a studio there at age two. She moved to Merrill in 2020 and transferred to Brooke's, and she is also now employed there part-time as a teacher's assistant, helping other students learn their routines and helping with music.

At school, Kaela's favorite subject is math. She also coached a Junior Jays volleyball team this past season. Outside of school and dance, Kaela likes to hang out with friends watching TV, go shopping with friends, and go to open gyms at the high school to play basketball or volleyball. She also likes to spend time with family playing board games, watching TV, going out to eat, or taking road trips.

The daughter of Krista Mitchell of Merrill and Jackson Clerveaux of Racine, Kaela has a 4.0 GPA and wants to attend a four year college after graduating from high school. She has not yet decided on her major field of study or future career goals.



**Kaela Clerveaux**

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## BASEBALL from page 19

walks to load the bases. Then Nate Brzoznowski was hit by a pitch to make it 7-3."

"Isaak Clapper came up with a single to right to make it 7-4, and another HBP made it 7-5 with the bases loaded," he said. "They (Everest) brought in a new pitcher who got Henrich to ground out to end the game."

"On the night, Kanitz finished 3-3 with two doubles, Clapper was 2-3 with an RBI, and Voight had two RBI."

**Box Score: Mosinee 7 @ Merrill 5**

"I think that we battled really well this week," Schultz said. "The bats are coming around a little bit and the pitching has stayed pretty consistent."

"We finish up the regular season on Monday with Antigo and then begin Regional play on Thursday. We are the #8 seed, so we get to host #9 seed Lakeland on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. We split with them earlier in the year, so it should be a good battle. The winner advances to play at Mosinee on Tuesday, May 30."



## Real Rewards Checking

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IN THE LAST 12 YEARS! READY TO BE ONE OF THEM?



[NicoletBank.com](http://NicoletBank.com) | 800.369.0226

Real Rewards Checking (Real Rewards) is available for consumer deposits only. Annual Percentage Yield ("APY") is accurate as of 1/1/2023. Real Rewards is a variable rate account. Your APY may change at any time after your account is opened, at the discretion of Nicolet National Bank. Real Rewards is a tiered rate product. If qualifications are met for the qualification cycle, Tier 1: The portion of your balance that is equal to or less than \$15,000 will earn 3.00% APY. Tier 2: The portion of your balance that is over \$15,000 will earn 0.01% APY. The APY for Tier 2 will range from 0.40% to 3.00%, depending on the balance in your account. If qualifications are not met for the qualification cycle, your entire balance will earn 0.01% APY. You must enroll in online banking and e-statements in order to qualify. Transactions required each qualification cycle: At least ten posted and cleared debit card transactions (ATM-processed transactions do not count as qualifying debit card transactions), and at least one posted and cleared direct deposit of payroll or social security. Disclosed APY assumes all interest remains on deposit. Fees and withdrawals of interest will reduce earnings and APY. All Nicolet National Bank checking accounts are subject to credit approval. Additional terms and conditions apply. See [Nicoletbank.com](http://Nicoletbank.com) for details. Member FDIC.