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THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023 VOLUME 69, ISSUE 23

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1956 MERRILLFOTONEWS.COM

Record-breaking tourism numbers posted by Lincoln County in 2022

Tourism generated \$103 million in total economic impact in 2022 in Lincoln County, helping Wisconsin break an economic impact record

The Wisconsin Department of Tourism released 2022 economic impact data, showing the tourism industry generated a record-breaking \$23.7 billion in total economic impact. The highest-ever overnight visitation helped fuel the growth, with Lincoln County playing a pivotal role by contributing \$103 million in total

See TOURISM page 2









8:30 am-4 pm, M-F 724 South 8th Street

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Three generations of the Nohr family enjoy breakfast and spending time together at the June Dairy Breakfast. Tina L. Scott photo.

June Dairy Breakfast serves 950 people in Merrill

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

What better way to celebrate June Dairy Month than with a traditional June Dairy Breakfast?

On Sunday, June 11, 2023, more than 50 volunteers worked together to serve 950 people a bountiful June Dairy Breakfast in the Smith Center at the Merrill Area Recreation Center (MARC) in Merrill.

The menu included plain and potato pancakes served with butter and maple syrup from local producers, applesauce. cheesy scrambled eggs, maple pork sausage links from Geiss's Meat Market, Mullins cheese curds, white and chocolate milk, cranberry juice sponsored by Copper River Cranberry Marsh, orange juice, and coffee.

Members of the Merrill FFA Alumni, the Merrill FFA Chapter, the Lincoln County Farm Bureau, and local dairy producers worked together to do the cooking.

They used 150 pounds of potatoes, 5 pounds of onions, and 12 dozen eggs in the potato pancakes, 40 pounds of butter for the pancakes and on the tables, 190 pounds of Geiss's pork sausage links, and 320 pounds of liquid eggs and 20 pounds of shredded cheese that went into the eggs to prepare the meal. They also served

10 gallons of locally produced pure maple syrup that was donated and served, 150 pounds of Mullins cheese curds. 18 gallons of applesauce, 25 gallons of whole chocolate milk, and 20 gallons of white milk.

Tables were decorated with geraniums donated by Grass Creek Greenhouses.

Other groups that volunteered included the Rodeo Queen candidates and employees from Crossbridge Community Bank, Nicolet Bank, and Park City Credit Union.

"We couldn't have a successful breakfast without the volunteers who

See BREAKFAST page 2

Merrill County Market opens fullservice floral department

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

Dave's County Market in Merrill now has a new full-service floral department.

Store Manager Reno Ares said Rose Schoepke, who came to County Market with 20 years of experience in floral design, will be the Flower Department Manager and Floral Designer.

Until just recently, "We've had lowers, but no design," Ares said.

"This is going to be a full-service flower shop, so that means weddings, funerals, prom, peppermint, you name it, birthdays, anniversaries, the list goes on and on," Schoepke said.

Schoepke, who formerly worked at Green's Floral on Cleveland St. in Merrill for 5 years until the owners retired and the shop closed, and then most recently worked at Broses for 14

See FLORAL page 11



Rose Schoepke puts together a fresh flower arrangement at the new floral department in Dave's County Market.

Tina L. Scott photo.



TOURISM from page 1

economic impact.

The 2022 total economic impact surpassed the previous statewide record of \$22.2 billion set in 2019. Lincoln County also surpassed the previous record of \$96 million set in 2019. Additionally, last year, Lincoln County tourism supported 658 full and part-time jobs across various sectors of the industry and generated \$5.6 million in local tax revenue. Statewide, tourism generated \$1.5 billion in state and local tax revenue. Without this revenue, each Wisconsin household would pay an additional \$620 to maintain the current level of government services.

"It is exciting to hear that we have set record-breaking numbers in Lincoln County. This is proof that our collaborations with the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, the Tomahawk Chamber of Commerce, and other supporting services have paid off," said Clyde Nelson, Executive Director of the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce. "We will continue to work together to keep bringing more opportunities to our area."

In 2022, there were 111.1 million visits in Wisconsin, which was up by 8.8 million visits, or 8.7%, over the previous year. This includes a record 45.4 million overnight visits, or a 13.8% increase from 2021.

Overnight visitors, on average, spent nearly three times as much as day trip visitors. To learn more about Wisconsin tourism's record-breaking year, view the 2022 economic impact data, including a county-by-county breakdown, at industry.travelwisconsin.com/research.

"Tourism is both big fun and big business. I'm so grateful for the innovation and dedication of the folks who make up Wisconsin's tourism industry. Each one of them played a role in setting this record," said Wisconsin Department of Tourism Secretary Anne Sayers. "Aided by strategic marketing, Wisconsin convinced more visitors to stay longer so they could add more activities to their itinerary, delivering a deeper economic impact. I congratulate the entire industry on an incredible recordbreaking year."



Pet of the Week



SPONSORED BY

Foto News

921 E. Main St.

Hello, my name is **Shadow**. I was brought back to LCHS as my owner was moving and was unable to take me with them. I do okay with some female dogs, but I don't like cats very much, so a home with no cats would be best. A home with younger kids would be okay. I would just have to meet them first to make sure that they like me too! I love to go for walks and play with my toys. I also like to chew on bones, lie around outside in the grass, and walk through my turtle swim pool to cool down. Come meet me today! Visit the Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours: MON. - SAT. 12-4 PM & SUN. 12-2 PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459,





BREAKFAST from page 1

help with setup, to prepare food, serve food, and clean up the Smith Center," said Mary Sosnovske, Co-Chair of the June Dairy Breakfast. "Thank you to everyone who braved the cold weather to come celebrate the Dairy Industry in Lincoln County!"

"In my 30 plus years of helping with the dairy breakfast, this was the first time we giggled that we were going to see snowflakes," she said with a laugh.

The June Dairy Breakfast went beyond just serving up a delicious meal that celebrated and featured Wisconsin dairy products. During the breakfast, guests were entertained by live music performed by Carl Jackson and his sister, Jeni, and guests could play games and taste Sartori cheese at the Merrill Busy Bees 4-H Club tables. They could also get information from the Marshfield Clinic All of Us Research Program and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau booths on-site.

And guests could purchase tickets to win prizes in the basket raffles. This was the second year for the basket raffles. Co-Chair Stephanie Zoellner coordinated many of the donations for the raffles, with prizes donated by Tranquil Times Wellness, the Merrill Enrichment Center, Create A-Way Paint Parties & Therapeutic Arts, Nelson's Power House, Gail Behm, the Williams family, Jeanne Schmidt, Northwoods Maple, and other local businesses.

Outside, guests could enjoy horsedrawn wagon rides pulled by John Uttech's horses and explore farm equipment provided by Breitenmoser Farm and Heinz and Eric Roth.

And adults and children alike enjoyed petting bunnies, goats, lambs, ducks, chicks, and a pony at Grampa's Farm petting zoo, and visiting with Matilda the cow, owned by Abby Breitenmoser, and some calves from their farm.

The June Dairy Breakfast is sponsored by Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, the Lincoln County Farm Bureau, and the Lincoln County Dairy Promotion. Proceeds from the June Dairy Breakfast go to support Merrill FFA Alumni and Lincoln County Farm Bureau scholarships for Merrill area graduates, as well as educational programs in area schools.





Volunteers cook up cheesy scrambled eggs in a huge pan.

Tina L. Scott photos.



Meeting a cow at the June Dairy Breakfast



The bunny pen was a popular place to be for little kids and big kids!



Above: Try some cheese and enjoy the dairy display. **Left:** Cuddling bunnies.

Right: One volunteer makes pancakes for the June Dairy Breakfast.

More photos online merrillfotonews.com







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Mud 'N Jams 2023 to benefit Kinship of Tomahawk

EDITOR

Merrill Area Community Ride (MACR) will hold their 7th Annual Mud 'N Jams ATV/UTV/Motorcycle Ride and Poker Run this Saturday, June 17, 2023, from 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. at Z's Fork Horner's Bar and Grill, N4291 Cty. Rd. X in

MACR's mission focuses on "bringing Merrill area communities together to enjoy an array of outdoor recreational activities, while supporting fellow community members: individuals, families, and non-profit organizations in need." For the first six years of the event, MACR focused primarily on helping Merrill and Gleason area community members in need; however, "based in large part to generous support over the years from the Tomahawk community," MACR has expanded its reach.

"In 2022, the MACR Board of Directors unanimously voted to expand the organization's reach to all Lincoln County communities, including the City of Tomahawk," said Jeremy Ratliff, Chair of the Board of Directors of

"This year's event is quite special as it is the first event in MACR's seven-year existence that the organization has selected a Tomahawk-based support recipient, Kinship of Tomahawk!" he said.



Kinship of Tomahawk is a non-profit organization that provides mentoring opportunities to youth and families in the Tomahawk area community. Established as a result of a Feb. 14, 1997, community roundtable held by Tomahawk Together during which a youth mentoring program and family resource center were determined to be the top two needs for the community, the following summer the Tomahawk Together Board of Directors selected the Kinship Program and established a Board of Directors for Kinship of Tomahawk. Dec. 1997 marked the first official mentor match and the program has been growing in the 25 years since.

In 2011, the organization started their KinsKlub Program; in 2013 they moved into Kinship House in downtown Tomahawk; in 2022 the Lunch Buddy Program officially started (COVID disrupted an attempt to start earlier); and last fall Kinship received an AT&T Foundation Grant to begin an afterschool tutoring program for middle school and high school KinsKids.

The proceeds from Mud 'N Jams 2023 will be donated to Kinship of Tomahawk to further support their mentorship programs.

This year's event kicks off at 11:00 a.m. with guided ATV/UTV and motorcycle rides on a seven-stop poker run through Lincoln, Langlade, and Oneida Counties, both starting and ending at Z's Fork Horner's. Evening events include the poker run drawing, food, cash and raffle prizes, and live music provided by Merrill's Honkytonk Highway, sponsored by 365 Powersports of Merrill. More information is available on the MACR Facebook page at: https://www. facebook.com/RideMerrill.



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Railroad fans gather to celebrate Wehlitz turning 99 years old

BY TINA L. SCOTT **EDITOR**

students who Manv graduated from Merrill High School will remember the name and face of Ralph Wehlitz, who taught for many years in the Merrill Public Schools. In addition to being an educator, students will remember he was a disabled veteran wounded in WWII which left him functioning with a metal prosthetic hook in lieu of a hand.

But not many will know Wehlitz is also a huge fan of all things railroad related and that he is considered a master model railroader by fellow rail fans and rail buffs. Or that he meets regularly with other railroad fans, aficionados, and industry professionals to celebrate their mutual interest. Or recently celebrated his 99th birthday!

On Thursday, June 8, 2023, 23 rail buffs from throughout Wisconsin came together at Polka Dotted Pie in Merrill to celebrate both their common interest in all things railroad and a milestone birthday for Wehlitz.

Coffee, pie, cake, railroad conversation, laughter, and congratulations all combined to make it a special day for Wehlitz, as the group celebrated him turning 99 years old. The gathered group included three retired judges, four college professors (retired and active), four magazine article authors, two model railroad supply manufacturers, two professional railroad archivists,



Two retired circuit judges with an interest in railroads-Gary Carlson of Taylor County (on left) and Jay Tlusty of Lincoln County (on right)-all railroad buffs, were just a couple of those who came to celebrate the 99th birthday of Ralph Wehlitz of Merrill (center) at the Polka Dotted Pie on June 8.

Carol Wehlitz Wilder photo.

railroaders, a railroad history book author, numerous members of Wisconsin Valley Model Railroad Club, and others bound together by their common passion for railroad and their friendship with Wehlitz.

"After a fabulous morning of networking, the group broke up agreeing to meet again next year to celebrate Ralph's 100th birthday," one attendee said.

Нарру 99th birthday,

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Merrill Area **United Way**

GIVE • ADVOCATE VOLUNTEER

June 2023 - Foto News Article Merrill Area United Way

Dee Olsen, Executive Director

Tickets will go on sale on or about July 1, 2023, for the August 8th is United Way's "Concert for a Cause". This fund-raising event will feature the amazing, wonderful, talented Leslie Blasing from South Padre Island, TX. Blasing performed in 2022 for United Way and those attending fell in love with her show. Several Merrill and surrounding Central Wisconsin "snowbirds" follow her when they are south for the winter. Blasing has a rock-solid reputation and following as she has opened for several popular music artists. Blasing has also received many accolades when named Best Performer in Texas.

This event will be held at the Northwood Veteran Post, Johnson Street, Merrill WI. It is an incredible facility and Blasing said "I love performing in this beautiful facility. I have a big heart for supporting the veterans in any way I can." Corporate sponsors have helped us with this event. Major sponsors are FreMarq Innovations and Crossbridge Community Bank. Other significant sponsors are Brickner's Park City, Park City Credit Union, Pine Ridge Mobil, Nicolet National Bank, Geiss Meat Service, and Merrill Tool & Water Jet. In-kind supporters are Reindl Printing, Northwoods VFW Post, Courtside Furniture and Church Mutual Insurance Company.

Tickets are \$20 per person in advance or \$25 at the door. All tickets will include the concert and a tasty appetizer buffet. They will be available on Eventbrite ticket site online before the tickets get to the ticket outlets. Eventbrite tickets usually have a small service fee.

Ticket outlets for the advance tickets are located at the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce, the Northwoods VFW Post, County Market in Merrill, and all four Park City Credit Union locations (Merrill, Tomahawk, Minocqua, and Rhinelander.), Festival Foods in Wausau, Merrill Foto News office, City Pages office in Wausau, and Buyers Guide office in Rhinelander.

United Way is fortunate to have Leslie Blasing returning to the stage on August 8th. Seriously, mark your calendar for great entertainment, dancing, and fun. Get your tickets after July 1st. August 8th. Support a good cause and have fun doing it. Win, win!

"Concert for a Cause" will help kick-off the fall United Way Campaign. All funds raised will be used to help our 20 United Way funded agencies. The agencies work to positively impact our friends, neighbors, and families in need of assistance. Our focus is financial stability, education, and health. September through October is our annual funding campaign. You can make the difference. If you want to donate, please send your check to Merrill Area United Way, P O Box 813, Merrill, WI 54452. Donations stay local. For more information about Merrill Area United Way visit our website at merrillareaunitedway.org or

Weix awarded Church Mutual WLI scholarship

Initiative® (WLI) Church Mutual Insurance Company awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to Macey Jo Weix, a 2023 graduate of Merrill High School.

Weix plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, majoring in nursing or pre-med. "Church Mutual places

great value on education,"

said Molly Lyon, WLI Board



Macey Jo Weix.

member and Co-Chair of the scholarship program. "WLI is pleased to offer this scholarship and help talented young people like Macey Jo become the future leaders in the communities where we live and work. We are honored to be part of her journey and look forward to her future success."

presented WLI also \$1,500 scholarships to a See AWARD page 5

Monday - Friday • 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



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CIRCULATION COUNCIL

email Delores.Olsen@merrillareaunitedway.org.

| OBITUARIES |



Phyllis Mae Herdt, 71 passed away Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at Marshfield

Medical Center, Weston. Phyllis was born April 8, 1952, in Wausau, daughter of the late Roy and Dorothy (Scheffler) Golisch. She (Scheffler) Shane Herdt Sr married on November 2, 1984. He survives. Phyllis worked at various jobs including Foxpoint, Kolbe and Kolbe including Windows, Hanz Construction Good Samaritan Hospital and the Merrill

Eastbay, and the Merrill School District. She and her husband raised horses and later

School District. She and her husband raised horses and later had beef cattle. She enjoyed living in Merrill and loved the simple pleasures of the quiet, country life.

Phyllis enjoyed so many things in nature over the years—hunting, fishing, camping, golfing, gardening, horseback riding, planting flowers and watching the birds and squirrels at the feeders in her front yard. She took pride in her sewing, crocheting and crafting. She made numerous quilts, mittens and scarves and gave them as gifts to her loved ones. Phyllis also loved her cats, and they gave her much comfort in her later years. She lived for visiting with family and friends around the campfire or at the hunting shack. Her stories and around the campfire or at the hunting shack. Her stories and hearty laughter made those laugh around her. She was hearty laughter made those laugh around her. She was blessed with many travel adventures out west, Caribbean cruises, and annual camping trips around Wisconsin with "the camping group." She was so proud of her three sons and the lives they created. Her greatest joy was following the activities of her grandkids by attending band concerts, ball games, and school events. Her kind words of love and

ball games, and school events. Her kind words of love and encouragement will always be remembered and cherished. Phyllis is survived by her husband of 38 years Shane, sister Betty (James) Williams, three sons: Shannon (Stephanie) Jaeger, Bill (Sarah) Jaeger and Shane (Tara) Herdt, and grandchildren Emma, Evan, Mackenzie and Archer as well as many nieces, nephews, and extended family. She is preceded in death by her mother Dorothy and father Roy Calicals. Golisch.

The family would like to thank all of the medical personnel at the Marshfield Medical Center, Weston for the care they provided for Phyllis. A celebration of life for Phyllis will be held at W626 Spring Brook Ave., Merrill, on July 22 at 1:00 PM., for all friends and family. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the fam-

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefune ralhome.com

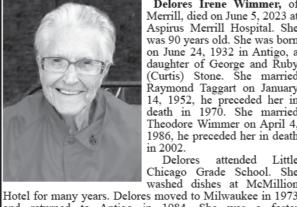
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In Memoriams



Delores Irene Wimmer, of Merrill, died on June 5, 2023 at Aspirus Merrill Hospital. She was 90 years old. She was born on June 24, 1932 in Antigo, a daughter of George and Ruby (Curtis) Stone. She married Raymond Taggart on January 14, 1952, he preceded her in death in 1970. She married Theodore Wimmer on April 4, 1986, he preceded her in death in 2002.

Delores attended Little Chicago Grade School. She washed dishes at McMillion

and returned to Antigo in 1984. She was a foster grandmother at West Elementary School in Antigo.

She was a member of Light House Baptist Church in

Delores enjoyed crocheting baby afghans with crosses in the middle, having donated hundreds to churches and hospitals.

She loved spending time with family.

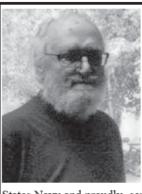
Survivors include a daughter, Barbara Bessert of Antigo; two sons, Donald (Sue) Taggart of Appleton, and Tim (Crystal) Taggart of Merrill; many grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husbands, she was preceded in death by three daughters, Debra Hoecherl, Janice Below, and Sandra Anderson; four grandchildren, Samantha Zima, Nathan Taggart, Dakota Below, and Anthony Taggart; and all her sisters and brothers.

A funeral service was held on Friday, June 9, at 1 p.m. at the Bradley Funeral Home with Rev. Marvin Kindle officiating. Burial took place at Star Neva Cemetery.

Visitation was Friday June 9, from 11 a m. to 1 p m. at the funeral home.

Online condolences at www.bradleyfh.com.



James 'Jim' A. Daley, age 80, of the town of Rock Falls, passed away on Saturday, June

2023, at the Marshfield Medical Center - Weston. He was born on September 1 1942 to the late James P. and Lillian J. (Kretschmer) Daley in Merrill, WI. Jim attended and graduated from Merrill High School with the class of 1959. Following high school Jim went on to join the United

States Navy and proudly served his country for 3.5 years, before his honorable discharge at the age of 21. He was stationed in Memphis, San Diego and San Francisco.

Jim had worked for the maintenance/road department for the town of Rock Falls and was also employed at Northern Door in Merrill for many years.

Jim had enjoyed many things including boating, waterski-ing, fishing, hunting and playing pool. Jim also enjoyed his home on the Wisconsin River. He liked going to the local auctions and could never pass up a "good deal"! Jim looked

forward to family gatherings and cookouts.

Jim is survived by his brothers: Michael, from Merrill, WI, Thomas (Ann), from West Bend, WI and Jerome (Rene') from Merrill, WI, sister-in-law: Daniette Daley and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great, nephews. nicces, nephews, great-nicces and great- nephews. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, brothers: Patrick and Jack, and sisters-in-law: Dolly Daley and Mary Raasch (Daley). A Celebration of Jim's Life was held on Monday, June 12.

2023, from 1pm-3pm at Waid Funeral Home.

Monetary donations may be directed to the American
Diabetes Association at www.diabetes.org in Jim's name. Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is as sisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.



nephews.

Kohnhorst.

Winkleman, and Evelyn Frazier.

Rita Rhea Robl

Alvin L. Forster, age 84, died

on June 11, 2023 at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill, Wisconsin. He was born in

Merrill, Wisconsin on August

4, 1938 to the late Albert and

Alvin and Donna Messerschmidt were happily married on May 27, 1961 in Merrill. She survives him after 62 years

Alvin was a logger and truck driver who loved to hunt and

Klutz, Joyce

Minnie (Schulte) Forster.

of marriage.

fish. He was a loving father to Gail (David) Kaminski, Jill (Ed) Hoffmaster, and Amy (Dale) Kohnhorst. He is further

survived by his grandchildren: Dan (Megan) Kaminski, Nick (Tracie) Kaminski, Mike Blaubach, Michele (Marshall)

(Tracie) Kaminski, Mike Blaubach, Michele (Marshall) Hulce, Joshua (Mandi) Kohnhorst, Ashley (Dustin Beekman) Waldburger, and Adam (Jordyn) Kohnhorst, great grandchildren: Drew, Mason, Layla, Kylie, Landan, Karson, Mariah, Mari, Mason, Mateo, Allie, Bailey, Maddie, Lacey, and Luna, brother: Walter (Mary Jane) Forster, sisters: Iona Luna, Brother: Walter (Mary Jane) Forster, sisters: Iona Luna, Maria Ann. Forster, Rosanne Klutz, Joyce

in-law: Mary Ann Forster, Rosanne Klutz, Joyce Messerschmidt, and Pat Messerschmidt, brother-in-law:

Rodney (Kim) Messerschmidt, and many nieces and

He was preceded in death by his parents, parents-in-law: Hubert and Ruth Messerschmidt, five brothers: Emil, Earl, Gilbert, Donald, and Myron, and two sisters: Martha

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 4:00 pm at Waid Funeral Home. A visitation will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2023 from 2:00 pm until the time of service also at the funeral home. An inurnment will take

Honorary pallbearers include all his grandchildren: Dan Kaminski, Nick Kaminski, Mike Blaubach, Michele Hulce, Joshua Kohnhorst, Ashley Waldburger, and Adam

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the

Alzheimer's Association in loving memory of Alvin. The family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr

Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is as

sisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are

Polireddy and the nurses at Pine Crest Special Care Unit.

encouraged and may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.

place at a later date at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Rita Rhea Robl on Monday, June 5th, 2023, while under the watch of Aspirus Cancer Care and surrounded by loved ones. Rita was born early Sunday August 13th, 1967, to parents Anthony J. Robl and Margaret E. Robl in Merrill, Wisconsin. Rita had a career in the insurance industry for over 25

years and had been recently promoted to Senior Account Manager at M3 insurance. She

took great pride in her work and was excited to start her new role. She was so grateful for the generosity and support her coworkers showed when they surprised her with a brat fry to help raise money towards her care. Rita held various roles in her lifetime and cherished all of her work friends dearly.

Over the past several years she had found great community and friendship participating with 'The Wausau Wheelers' and 'The Central Wisconsin Fun and Adventure Group'. She always had an active spirit and was passionate about her hobbies which included hiking, biking, and kayaking. She participated in various marathons and most recently biked her first Iron Bull, Red Granite Grinder. She looked forward to new adventures with her friends and greatly appreciated all the love she received from everyone after her diagnosis.

Rita enjoyed traveling with friends and family on yearly trips. Deadwood South Dakota held an extra special place, but others included Memphis, New York, New Orleans Kentucky, Michigan, Nevada and Florida. She even made it all the way to Nicaragua helping with mission work for her

Rita enjoyed the simpler things in life like time at The Pond and the holiday cartoon Peanuts specials. She loved dancing around, talking in funny accents, and goofin with her girls

Rita is survived by the love of her life, Scott Zeller, daughters Ellen Mondeik, and Lauren Case, and fur babies Reno and Henri. Her Siblings, Ann (Chris) Clabots, Colleen Robl, Keene (Debbie) Robl, Mark Robl, Alan (Tammy) Robl, and Tony (Jeri) Robl. And her beloved Nieces Nephews, and Grand Nieces and Nephews.

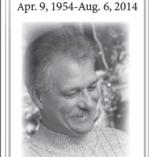
She is preceded in death by her parents and her fur baby.

Vegas. The memorial service for Rita will be held on Saturday, July 8th at the Brainard Funeral home in Weston, WI, with visitation from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm and a service to follow.



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Memory of

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Leah D. Reist

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Tammy Klade



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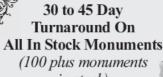


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| OBITUARIES |



82, of the town of Pine River, passed away on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born on November 7, 1940, in Merrill, WI.; the youngest child to the late Ralph E. and Elsa L. (Hassel) Duranceau. Loren met Aracely Rodriguez in Spain, December, 1976. The two were united in marriage on August

28, 1978 in Madrid.

Bennie

Loren

Duranceau,

Loren graduated from Wausau East High School and went on to bravely serve his country by joining the United States Navy. Two years later he transferred to the United States Airforce where he served in Korea and Vietnam as part of the Red Horse Squadron. Loren retired from the military in 1980. He continued his education at the UW-Stout to specialize as a millwright and HVAC and went on to work for the UW-Marathon County till his retirement in 2005.

Loren enjoyed time outdoors fishing, camping, deer hunting, working on the farm and making maple syrup. He also enjoyed family get togethers and playing cards. He was a loyal friend and always there for his family. He is remembered by his family as being a strong courageous man and all-around "Badass". He will be sadly missed but his memory will live on.

Loren leaves behind his wife: Aracely 'Ary' Duranceau, sons: Steven (Trish) and Jared Duranceau, and daughters: Lori (Dennis) Nasci, Lourdes (fiancé, Daryl Langreck) Rodriguez and Elsa Duranceau, grandchildren: Jennifer, Victoria, Lauren, Katherine, Kristina, Ashley, Matthew, Jackson, Mikaela, Adrianna and Gavin, great grandchildren: Preston, Brianna, Michael, Dominic, Jaylynn, Brooklyn, Emberlyn, Theo and Rex, sisters: Marilyn Kufahl, Eloise Schultz and Goldie Broeren, along with numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, sons: Preston Ray and Ralph David Duranceau, siblings: Vivian, Alfred, Daryl, Ellen, Arlene, Iris, Lloyd, Jean and Fern, and brothers-in-law: Lawrence, Jack, and Kenneth.

The funeral service for Loren will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 11am at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the town of Pine River. Pastor Greg Laska will officiate. Visitation will be held on Monday, June 19, 2023, from 5pm-8pm at Waid Funeral Home and again on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, from 10am until the time of the service, at the church. Burial will take place at a later date. Military honors will be performed at the church following the service.

The service will be recorded for those unable to attend and will be posted under his obituary on the funeral home website for future viewing.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Loren's name be directed to either St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Merrill, the Alzheimer's Association or the American Cancer Society.

Family wishes to thank the staff at Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services for their compassion, care and service shown to Loren 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.

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AWARD from page 3

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EVERY DAY

Unseen, unheard, But *Always* near, Still loved, still missed AND VERY DEAR. Always in my heart.

Jeanne & family

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Irving Benart | Bork passed away at home under the care of hospice with a short battle

of cancer on June 5, 2023. He was born June 12, 1939 son of Irving H. and Gwyneth (Roberts) Bork.

Irv grew up on a farm in Gleason, WI and graduated from Merrill High School in 1957. He served in the Air Force from 1957 - 1962. When Irv returned to Merrill, he had various jobs. During this time,

he met Carol Bagley on a blind date. They married October 24, 1964. They moved to Chicago where Irv attended evening courses at Illinois Institute of Technology earning a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering while working at Zenith.

Irv and Carol had three children before returning to the Gleason area in 1979. Irv worked at Forward Electronics, Inc in Wausau. He retired in 2005. Irv joined the Boy Scouts as a troop leader when his son Alan joined Boy Scouts. Irv neve gave it up after Alan earned his Eagle Scout and continued to lead many boys in the Gleason/Merrill area with about ten more making Eagle Scout. He was awarded the Silver Beaver Award in 2006 with the BSA in the Samoset Council. Irv was an active member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Merrill. He was involved in the church choir, Sunday school teacher, church council, property team, chairman of the church fair stand and men's fish fry. Irv also continued his faith with the Gideons. He sang for many years with the River Valley Harmonizers. On April 24, 2017, he participated in the Honor Flight with his son Alan as his guardian. Irv participated in the Gleason Community Club and the Gleason VFW.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, canoeing and trips to the boundary waters. Irv was a proud gardener that included a raspberry patch. Irv enjoyed being in the woods with his brittany spaniels. He also enjoyed puzzles, sudoku, watching and reading westerns and taking his grandchildren for tractor rides. Following and watching the local and Wisconsin sport teams was another joy of his life. Irv and Carol did a lot of traveling to the western United States and camping.

He is survived by his wife Carol (58 years), daughter Jennifer (Brett Dimmer) of Port Washington, son Alan (Sarah) of Brown Deer, daughter Jacqueline (Rich Roy) of Mesa, AZ. Grandchildren Matthew, Lily, Abigail, Daniel, Benjamin, Joshua, Andrew, and Jocelyn and four step-grandchildren. He is further survived by brother Reynold Bork and cousins and nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents and sister Judith Loesel.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate a donation to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Merrill or Samoset Council Boy Scouts of Wausau or individual's choice.

A visitation was held Saturday, June 10, 9am to 11am with a service and lunch following at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

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.



THANK YOU

Corning Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank the following businesses for their donation for the

Annual Raffle

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LCHS April donors

The Lincoln County Humane Society would like to thank everyone who donated in April:

Meghan Stevenson; Dean Barker; Troy Fronson; Mark and Christine Moravec; Cecil Ballou; Chip's Hamburgers; Susan Sternot; Dawn Gourlie; Ricky Graap; Brian Jossart; Ronald Oestreich; Kenneth & Brenda Ronk; Mary Jo Tesch; Victoria Loose; Ann Mroczenski; Nadine Appel; American Online Giving Foundation; Nicholas Traeger; Ruth James; Anonymous; Darlene Raunio; James & Rosemary Schielke; Bonfire; Theresa Swiechowski; Amy & Jamie Weizenicker; Nancy Kasper; Mary Jaax; Town of King; Tisbest Philanthropy; Louisiana-Pacific Foundation; Pamela Welch; Janet Selnes; Anonymous; Larry Winkelman; Kendra Hawley; Wendy Israel; Marathon Express Gas Station; Ivy Catlin; Sharayah Lee; Tasha Jaeger; Paypal Giving Fund; Colleen Woller; Jean Perkins; United Way of the Capital Region; Network for Good; Amy Hameister; Jane Parsons; Peggy Bauman; Ruth Schmidt & Tim Rheinschmidt; Angeline Marquis; Michael & Jill Oemichen; T.B. Scott Library; Vaughan Schmidt; and Hilary Scully.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

| LEGAL NOTICES |

Legals 7700

DATE SIGNED June 6, 2023 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
N THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JUNE J. MAGRAY
Notice to Creditors

(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2023 IN 26
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

An application for informal administration was filed.
 The decedent, with date of birth June 3, 1941 and date of death March 28, 2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N1412 Highway 64, Merrill, WI 54452.

 All interested persons waived notice.
 The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 6, 2023.

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

Attorney Jason Krautkramer Eckert & Krautkramer, LLC PO BOX 1185 Wausau, WI 54402-1185 715-842-0907 Bar No. 1092990 Published June 15, 22 & 29, 2023

Legals

DATE SIGNED May 31, 2023
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer

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

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2023 N 24
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 09/04/1941 and date of death 12/03/2022, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W8237 Highland Ave, Merrill, WI 54452.

All interested persons waived notice.
 The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is September 29, 2023.

2023.

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

Attorney Julie H. Nommensen
15. S. Lincoln St. Lint?

Attorney Julie H. Nommensen 15 S Lincoln St, Unit 2 Elkhorn, WI 53121 (262) 723-4700 Bar No. 1063765 Published June 8, 15 & 22, 2023

WNAXLF

NOTICE

WNAXLP

City of Merrill residents interested in public works improvements of water main, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, bituminous paving, curb, gutter and sidewalk, for construction in 2024, shall file a petition in the City Clerk/ Treasurer's Office at Merrill City Hall, by August 1, 2023. Petition forms are available in the City Clerk/Treasurer's Office. Project information is available by contacting Rod Akey, Public Works Director/City Engineer, (715) 536-5594.

By Order of Board of Public Works

Published June 8 & 15, 2023

WNAXLP

ATTENTION TOWN OF CORNING RESIDENCE AND LAND OWNERS:

Clean up day will be held on June 24th, 2023 at the Town Garage from 8 am to noon.

Items to be taken are:
Rim and Tire (Steel or Aluminum)
No tractor tires or large truck tires.
Junk Tires

\$8.00 each
TVs, Computers, Monitors,

Refrigerators (gas or electric) \$30.00 each
Air conditioners, Dehumidifiers,

Freezers (chest or upright), Refrigerators (electric or gas)

erators (electric or gas) \$20.00 each

Charcoal or Gas Grills

Electric or Gas Stoves

Humidifiers

Microwaves

Free items: Batteries

Dish Washers (with steel tub)
Fuel Oil Tanks
Lawn Mowers

Farm Equipment Old metal Bed Frames
Metal Patio sets Hot Water Heaters
Washer & dryers

No Garbage will be accepted.

No Drain oil, fuel oil, hydraulic oil, paint, tractor tires or large truck tires.

Rick Hass, Town Clerk.

Please Recycle

Published June 15 & 22, 2023 WNAXLP

OSMO Theatre SENIORS • \$5.00
Main St. • Merrill ADULTS • \$8.00

ndays All Seats \$5.00

ELEMENTAL

"PG" (1HR 43MIN) FRIDAY: 1:00, 7:00 & 9:15PM SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 9:15PM V SUNDAY: 1:00. 3:30 & 7:00PM MON., TUES., THURS.: 7:00PM ONLY WEDNESDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM

THE FLASH

"PG13" (2HR 24MIN) FRIDAY: 1:00, 7:00 & 9:30PM SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:45, 7:00 & 9:30PM SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:45 & 7:00PM MON., TUES., THURS.: 7:00PM ONLY WEDNESDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM

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DRINK SPECIAL: BLACK CHERRY

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

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

I wrote this some years ago and still believe it has some relevance for today. Enjoy—and Happy Father's Day to all those fathers out there. May you spark joy with all those who love you for who

A real man - on Father's Day

DEAR READER,

It's tough these days to be a man. In fact, I'm sure there are a lot of boys out there searching to be a "real man" in a world that is an ever shifting ambiguity. I've been fortunate in that I've had a number of male role models in my life starting with my father who gave me the courage to be what I think is right in a world that judges every day through the scrutiny of many eyes.

Pressing weights, being a sports star, being a fancy



dan with the girls, is more a proof of the boy needing to become an artificial man in others' eyes than being a real man for himself. Personally, I like poetry, I teach children to play chess and I work hard to support my family. Not glamorous to most outsiders, but I don't measure myself by anyone else's standards.

Integrity of being is not based on how much one makes or their status in relation to others. No, "Man-ness" is based on strength of character to stand up for principles such as family, faith and flag. "Man-ness" is also based on one's willingness and ability to contribute to what we are as a whole community.

This may not be the stuff little boys dream of, but it is the foundation of what being a "real man" is all about.

PATRICK J. WOOD Publisher

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



Merrill Street Department workers team up to hang the flower baskets on the poles in downtown Merrill.

Tina L. Scott photo.







3:30PM - GREG METZ FISH FRY (UNTIL GONE)

4:00PM - 7:00PM - MUSIC BY CARL JACKSON - BARN DANCE BAND **CONCESSION STAND • BOUNCY HOUSE**

SATURDAY

START 11:00AM

 BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT (CONTACT DANA AT 715-921-9202 FOR INFORMATION.)

2:00PM - 4:00PM - MUSIC BY MARK WAYNE

4:00PM - 7:00PM - MUSIC BY GRUDGEVILLE GRASS

7:30PM - 11:00PM - MUSIC BY KT COUNTRY CONCESSION STAND, RAFFLES, KIDS GAMES, BOUNCY HOUSE

- 10:00AM 11:00AM POLKA CHURCH SERVICE
- 11:00AM UNTIL GONE BBQ CHICKEN DINNER
 - 11:00AM 1:00PM MUSIC BY BRYCE THOMASCHEFSKY 1:00PM - 4:00PM - MUSIC BY JIM PEKOL & GB BAND
 - CONCESSION STAND, KIDS GAMES, **BOUNCY HOUSE RAFFLE CLOSES AT 3:30PM** PRIZES DRAWN AT 4PM





KT COUNTRY

GRUDGEVILLE GRASS

JIM PEKOL & GB BAND

MARK WAYNE

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PANCAKE BREAKFAST





Left: The Merrill Street Department crew makes hanging the flower baskets on the poles look easy. It sure beats using a ladder! Right: This year's hanging flower baskets were grown at the Tina L. Scott photos. new Plant Garden Center in Merrill and will soon be in full bloom.

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Spouse:

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Child:

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Child + \$42/month

Paid Holidays and Vacation

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- FREIGHT LOADER (1st & 2nd Shifts) \$20.98 \$22.48/HR

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• FINAL ASSEMBLY (1st & 2nd Shifts) \$22.15 - \$23.65/HR

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WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money!
PLEASE BE CAREFUL AN-SWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! For more information, or to file a complaint regarding an adplease contact The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)

7005

Rummage Sales This Week

1406 Brady St., Wausau TH 6/15 & FRI 6/16 8a-5p LOTS of toys: toddler thru age 7, and anything else you can think of, we've got it!

810 N. 8th Ave., Wausau TH 6/15 & FRI 6/16 8a-6p. New items, old items & misc Come and see what we've got!

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FULL-TIME OPTICIAN



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Submit Resume to: Dr. Ron J. Piffl, Optometrist 1007 E. 1st Street, Merrill, WI 54452

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



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For additional information visit lincolnwindows.com/Careers **Lincoln Wood Products-Employment Office**

Apply In-person at 1400 W Taylor Street or Email resume to gebeyer@lincolnwindows.com We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Rummage Sales This Week

Estate and Garage Sale: 105 Prairie St. Merrill. June 16 & 17, 8-5 each day. Millwright tools, tool boxes, work bench, camping gear, grills, picnic table, Toro snow blower, beautiful vintage dressers, desks, kitchen/household, end tables, shoes, hard covered books, crafts, albums, quilting rack, 4 Oak/Leather swivel chairs, and much more. All must go! Prices are negotiable

Garage Sale: 2403 Semling Dr., Merrill. Various sizes of men's, women's, children's, pre-teen's clo hes and shoes, movies, books, kitchen item, and many misc. items. Wed. June 14, 4-7, Thurs. June 15, 7-5, and Fri. June 16, 8-Noon. New items will be added both on Thurs. and Fri.

Garage Sale 6-15, 8-5, 6-16, 8-5, 8-Noon, 505 Hendricks St New lawn mower, L-XL clothes, yard decor, cooler, party supplies, household items and much more.

> Garage Sale June 14, 15 &16 1411 W Main St. Merrill across from B's Nest

Quilts, tablecloths, napkins, dolls, jewelry, blankets, books, fabrics, keyboards, music, CDs, copper tub, doll patterns & fabrics, Christmas items, rockers, 5 early 1900 upholstered DR chairs.

GRAND ANTIQUES ANNUAL GARAGE SALE 423 Grand Ave, Merrill June 16, 17 & 18 • 9AM-5PM We Buy, Sell & Trade Antiques Advertising Toys

Rummage Sales This Week

HUGE MOVING SALE! Women's clothes sizes M hru 1X; brand new items; new sterling silver jewelry; lots of kids clothes, all sizes DVDs: 50¢ ea: too much to list! 1108 S. 6th Ave., Wausau. TH 6/15 12:30p-5:30p / FR 6/16 & SAT 6/17 10a-5p.

Huge Sale at Ascension Episcopal Church on the corner of 3rd & Pier Street in Merrill on Friday, June 16 4:00-7:00 and Saturday, June 17 8:00-4:00. All money raised supports our Youth Ministry. Thank you and God bless you.

Large 9 Family Sale: N1305 Deer Run Ave, Merrill. Everything you can imagine and more to furnish household, stands, Large items, solid furni-ture, 7 Days a Week, 9am-5pm, weather permitting.

Large Garage Sale: 14820 20th Ave N. Merrill, Village of Maine, HWY 51 to Q to Brandenberg to Rainbow Dr. to 20th-follow signs June 15th, 16th & 17th - 8-5. Antiques, collectables, toys, household items, old baby buggy, plates dolls, rolling pins, glassware, chairs, Jukebox, Christmas Or. Murray Track Peddle Tractor, wood splitter 2 cyl. WI E. small metal la he, table saw, old water pump (manual), towable trailer with buggy seat, small hay wagon, toboggans, cable crane bucket & tag line, old wrenches, misc. pool stuff, cement mixer, Bolens Mower Tractor, Electric water pump, fat tire bike, old Barber's Chair, 20" Truck wheels and much more 715-536-4247



Rummage Sales This Week

6/16-Saturday Merrill: Friday, 6/17, 8 a.m.- 1 p.m. Multi Family Rummage Sale. LOTS of clothing (no infant/toddler or little kids), toys, books, housewares, lots of misc. and FREEBIES! N2446 Doering Dr

Rummage Sale: W4466 Cypress Bay, Merrill. 9AM-3PM, June 15-17. Hunting stuff, Bows, Tree Stands, Blinds. Boat anchors, boat seats, life vests. Kids electric four wheeler, gas mini bike, Boys Clothes. DVDs, Toys, books, misc.

Sale 101 W. Taylor. June 15 & 16, 9-5; June 17, 9-12. Maternity, baby, adult clothes, baby items, Costumes, Baby Strollers & walkers, household items.

Wausau Garage Sale: Friday, 6/16,7 a.m.- 5 p.m., Saturday, 6/17,8 a.m.- 5 p m. Packers memorabilia, full sized fridge/freezer, dishes, canning jars, antiques, lawn decorations, crafting items, and more, Dir. Avoid construction Take Hwy 51, exit 97 toward Maine (Brokaw). 1/4 mile west to 32nd Ave. 5301 N 32nd Ave



www.facebook.com/

Merrill Foto News

Rummage Sales Upcoming



GARAGE SALE KITS

NOW AVAILABLE!

Let Garage Sale Gail help you with your next sale!

Kit Includes:

- 2 garage sale signs140 pricing stickers
- 3 balloons
- 1 pen
- 1 inventory sheet How to have a successful
- garage sale pamphlet coupon for \$5 off your NEXT classified ad

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Miscellaneous Merchandise 7266

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PUREBRED

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Dogs

7272

7284

7286

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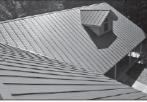


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Supplies

LCHS April honorariums

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

Toni Plunkett by Bob Schumacher; Daisy by Amy Krueger; Ken Andersen Jr. by Darlene Johnson and Derrick Gurschke; Dennis Neumann by Nancy Kasper, Jo & Bill Kolar, and Timothy Burrows; Audrey Bloechl by Mark Fugate, Jean & Joe Folta, and Marlene & Harold Fox; Shylo by Bob & Peggy Bauman and Jerry & Susan Zastrow; Donna Brooks by Spencer Brooks; Kimberly Boyce by Ellen, Roger, Nate, & David Sommi; Marilyn Stiver by Dennis Stiver; Rhiannon Kohmoos by Lowell & Judith Schultz; Audrey Janik-Germic by Carol Caylor, Brian & Carol Emanuel, Kathryn & Randy Pophal, and Benjamin Knospe; and in honor of Ian Thomas Skaar's Birthday by Cynthia Lambrecht.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

LCHS May honorariums

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

Dan Crowell by Peggy & Bob Bauman; Audrey Janik-Germic by Rhonda & Christopher Nowak, Robert & Lana Odegard, James Godfrey, Chester & Linda Rhinehart, Brad & Margo Pophal, Faye Mittlesteadt, Sally Zeelstrom, George & Mindy Page, Richard & Carole Page, Robert & Nancy Page; Ken Andersen Sr. by the Andersen Family; In memory of Linda & Ron Fischer; Bob Schotz by Carl & Mary Moscherosch, Joy Beckman, Joan, Rick, Scott, Wendy, David, Julie, Jeff Beyer & Family; Audrey Bloechl by the Bloechl Family, Butch & Joy Olson & Family, Jeff Kraft, Jennifer & Ronald Patterman; Becky Gall by W.D. & Marie Schultz; Sally B. Leistikow by April Kemen; Jack Pagels by Lori & Robert Bauman; Jeff Strassman by Chanell Strassman & Family; Jack Borgert by Julie & Alan Coss; Roger Writz by Julie & Alan Coss; Charlotte Peters by Julie & Alan Coss; and Mary Lou Milner by Julie & Alan Coss.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

LCHS May donors

The Lincoln County Humane Society would like to thank everyone who donated in May:

Meghan Stevenson; Michelle Balogh; Dean Barker; Mark & Christine Moravec; Cecil Ballou; American Online Giving Foundation; Amazonsmile; Ruth James; Kimberly Freund; Patricia Klucarich; Ginger Brohman; Pamela Welch; Janet Selnes; Ryan Gardner; Jim Behrendt; Ross Karaba; Patrick Powers; Kendra Hawley; Debbie Kufahl; Nancy Kasper; Darlene Raunio; Nadine Appel; Ivy Catlin; Sharayah Lee; Tasha Jaeger; Michael Newton; Mary Wolfe; Kristin & Jay Van Der Geest; The Benevity Community Impact Fund; Network for Good; Paypal Giving Fund; Amy Hameister; Jane Parsons; Ronda Schultz; and Hilary Scully.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

|REPORTS|

MERRILL FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS

FOR WEFK FNDING JUNE 11 2023

Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional Community Paramedicine Program visit Cooking fire,

confined to container 1 Dispatched and cancelled en route(EMS)

EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury Motor vehicle accident with

Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

Rescue or EMS standby Standby for Tomahawks E.M.S. 1 Total This Week:

Total Incidents/ Calls for 2023:

MERRILL POLICE REPORTS

At 11:28 a.m. a crash was reported on Hwy. 51 with a vehicle which fled the scene. A Merrill officer located the involved vehicle at a hotel with three occupants, K9 Dasty conducted a drug sniff of the vehicle and positively alerted to the odor of drugs coming from the vehicle. The driver was identified and he was arrested for hit and run to an occupied vehicle, operating while revoked, and possession of drug paraphernalia. A passenger was arrested for possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia, and another passenger was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia.

At 11:57 a.m. a caller reported finding a syringe near the Merrill Festival Grounds. The syringe was properly disposed of.

At 3:11 p.m. a male was arrested for a probation violation at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, and at 3:46 p.m. another male was arrested for a probation violation at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

At 5:33 p.m. a caller reported sometime since winter someone had stolen the registration plates off her vehicle.

At 6:15 p.m. a caller reported someone stole his mother-inlaw's purse while they were at a park. The mother-in-law called back a short time later to say the purse and contents were located in a friend's vehicle.

At 8:20 p.m. a caller reported

someone had thrown an egg out of a vehicle towards her. It was found a juvenile had thrown the egg. The juvenile was warned for the incident

06-06-23 At 10:39 a.m. school staff reported a summer school student had stolen some equipment. The student is known, and enforcement action will be taken.

At 11:00 a.m. the owner of a laundromat reported damage to a machine and money removed from it. Surveillance video revealed the suspect, and further investigation is underway.

At 12:43 p.m. a crash was reported on S. Center Ave. at E. Main St. It was found a driver had stopped at the stop sign on E. Main St. and proceeded into the intersection, not seeing the oncoming vehicle on Center Ave. The offender was cited for failure to yield right of way from a stop sign and a crash report was completed.

At 2:50 p.m. a caller reported a neighbor had been yelling inside of an apartment for the past several hours. It was found the male yelling was having an argument with his mother over the phone. Officers could smell the odor of marijuana inside the residence, and paraphernalia and marijuana products were seized. The male was cited for possession of drug paraphernalia and marijuana.

06-07-23

At 1:41 p.m. officers were requested by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections Probation and Parole to take a male subject into custody for a violation. The male subject was taken into custody and transported to the jail.

An officer took a report of an altercation that had taken place several days earlier. The investigation is ongoing, but a male subject will be referred for charges of substantial battery.

At 7:59 p.m. officers responded to a residence for a report of a male subject who was causing issues. It was found that the suspect had pushed down another individual at the residence. The male suspect was taken into custody for disorderly conduct domestic related

06-09-23 At 12:22 p.m. an officer was notified by the Park Dept. of damage caused at a park restroom.

notified by the Park Dept. of damage caused at a park restroom.

At 5:29 p.m. a caller reported being scammed online. They had paid money for a dog, and when they arrived at the Merrill address to pick up the dog, received no response. The Merrill resident claimed her Facebook account was hacked. Investigation is ongoing.

At 7:14 p.m. a caller reported a man on an electric scooter struck her vehicle at the Merrill Festival Grounds and then fled the scene.

At 9:51 p.m. an officer located a suspect in an earlier hit-and-run crash on an electric scooter and attempted to stop the man. The man fled from officers, and the pursuit was terminated due to safety concerns.

06-10-23

At 1:48 a.m. a caller reported an intoxicated driver leaving a business. A description of the vehicle and registration plate was provided. An officer located the vehicle shortly thereafter and conducted a traffic stop. The driver was arrested for operating while intoxicated (2nd offense).

At 3:37 a.m. an officer located a vehicle and three individuals at a park in violation of the park curfew. It was found the individuals had been consuming intoxicants, with two being age 20 and the last having an open bond prohibiting the consumption of intoxicants. The two 20-year-olds were cited for underage drinking, and the other was cited for park curfew violations and will be summonsed to court for misdemeanor bail jumping.

At 7:59 a.m. a convenience store reported a female had shoplifted various merchandise. The female was arrested three hours later after she shoplifted from another convenience store.

At 10:59 a.m. a convenience store reported a female had shoplifted various merchandise. The female left and returned a short time later. She was arrested for retail theft.

At 12:45 p.m. a pontoon boat was found to have become un-trailered while it was being towed on N. Center Ave. The boat came to rest upside down along the roadside. Two tow trucks were able to remove the pontoon.

At 5:47 p.m. an officer was assisting Lincoln County Jail staff and deputies with a male problems at the jail. The arrestee made death threats toward the officer, and he was consequently charged with threats to law enforcement.

At 9:18 p.m. a caller reported she was at work and received calls from her roommate that he intended on plating drugs in the apartment to get her in trouble and was going to beat her when she returned. The roommate was found to have warrants for his arrest through the Wisconsin Department of Corrections and Marathon County. He was arrested for his warrants.

At 10:30 a.m. a caller reported a physical domestic altercation that had taken place a couple of months prior. Investigation is ongoing.

At 12:45 p.m. a caller reported an elderly man driving his vehicle on the Riverbend Trail. Officers were unable to locate the man but would like to remind all that the Riverbend Trail is closed to all motor vehicles.

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE REPORTS

FOR WEEK OF 06/04/2023 -

06/11/2023

On the afternoon of Saturday, June 10, 2023, a 38-year-old Merrill man was taken into custody following an incident in the Town of Merrill. A preliminary investigation indicated the man reportedly threatened another party at a local business before departing on foot. Deputies made contact with him in the city of Merrill to discuss the incident, when the man reportedly became uncooperative and resistive with deputies. As a result, he was taken into custody on charges of misdemeanor bail jumping and disorderly conduct. On the evening of Friday, June

9, a 23-year-old Merrill man was cited for various driving offenses, following an incident in the Town of Pine River. A preliminary investigation indicated the man was westbound on St. Rd. 64, when he nearly struck a deputy on patrol. The deputy was able to catch up with and stop the man's vehicle near St. Rd. 64 and Blackiack Ln. after her patrol vehicle's RADAR unit indicated the vehicle traveling at 106 mph in a 55-mph speed zone. As a result, the man was cited for reckless driving and speeding in excess of the posted speed limit. Sixteen motorists reported striking deer in Lincoln County

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FLORAL from page 1

years, is excited to be sharing her design expertise with Dave's County Market and filling a need in the community, she said

Schoepke started with County Market on May 16, 2023, and is hard at work establishing the store's new floral department as the new "go to" place for fresh flower arrangements in Merrill.

In fact, it was Schoepke's idea to create a complete, fullservice floral department as a part of the grocery store's offerings.

When her last position ended, Schoepke approached Ares about joining the store to create the department. "You don't have to train me, you don't have to do anything," she told Ares. Her prior experience as both a full-service flower shop manager and a floral designer meant that she could step right in, set up the department, start designing and selling arrangements, and draw business into County Market based on her reputation in the community for high-quality flower arrangements.

She explained the need for the service in Merrill and said she pitched her idea, first to Ares and later to the store's owners: "If people go to Wausau for flowers, what else are they going to do in Wausau?" The benefits to keeping business local and, in particular, to bringing the flower business into County Market, are significant, she pointed out.

For instance, she said, "If you get a funeral family in here (in County Market) to get their flowers, they're gonna get their food from here, too." It's logical, she said, that adding a full-service floral department to the grocery store would increase the store's bottom line on multiple levels, increasing the sales of flowers for sure, and also likely increasing sales in other food-related departments, as well. Whether customers come in to buy their fresh flower arrangements for birthdays or anniversaries or any occasion, it's a win-win. They're likely to also purchase the food they need to celebrate the occasion.

And, most importantly, "You have to keep people (shopping) in Merrill," Schoepke said.

Ares, who is relatively new to the position of Manager at Dave's County Market but has been making some noticeable changes in the store, immediately embraced the idea.

Together, Schoepke and Ares approached the owners of the store with a solid business plan and numbers to show how the new addition to the Merrill County Market would be a positive move and make a positive impact on the store's bottom line. While the current owners, who also own a line of Festival Foods grocery stores, don't have floral departments in their stores, here in Merrill we have a market and an opportunity, Ares and Schoepke eplained.

And already, "just from word of mouth," business is picking up, Schoepke and Ares said. The proof is in the numbers they've been tracking. "We're measuring growth," they said.

"Reno said the numbers are just going up and up and up," Schoepke added.

"(It) just makes me feel fulfilled in a way to be able to offer more to the community and bring on Rose," Ares said.

"I think it's great that County Market did it, and they need to be recognized for it," Schoepke said.

There's a market for it and an opportunity, she said. "I thought I could retire, but I don't want to, I enjoy what I'm doing."

Emphasis on full-service

The real key emphasis in the new floral department is full-service, Schoepke said. For her, that means an "emphasis on design work."

"The new expanded floral department (is here) to meet the community's floral needs including weddings, funerals, etc., which previously County Market did not offer," Schoepke said, and customers can expect the same quality of arrangements she provided in her previous positions.

For weddings, "I usually sit with the bride," Schoepke said. "They normally call me and then I set up a wedding consultation." She said she then designs the flowers according to what the bride wants. For weddings, brides should plan to work with her at least six weeks in advance so she can order the specific flowers desired.

For funerals, "Families can come in, I'll sit with them, they'll tell me what they want, and that's what I do," Schoepke said. Prices will be comparable to any other full-service flower shop. "Same quality, same price," she said.

Krueger's Wholesale Floral provides high quality fresh flowers and delivers to the store twice a week, so Schoepke can get all the fresh flowers she needs for orders.

And, just like other full-service flower shops, Schoepke will offer a large selection of fresh flowers on hand, flowering and potted plants, and a larger selection of designed floral arrangements available for immediate purchase at the store.

Dave's County Market shoppers can already see a much larger selection of floral offerings at the store.

Schoepke said many of the pre-arranged vases and smaller arrangements she creates that people can just "pop in and purchase" have been selling quickly.

Wider selection at various price points

Previously, County Market offered plastic-wrapped fresh flower bunches in the produce section, Ares said, and they will continue to provide those for customers who just want to purchase a bunch of flowers and go. The wrapped bunches are at the lower price point. Schoepke also creates small and larger floral arrangements at a variety of price points to meet the needs of a variety of shoppers.

For instance, she likes to create "little arrangements at a small price point" that someone can just stop in and pick up "for somebody at Pine Crest or whatever."



Accepting donations of excess floral containers

For churches and others who are frequent recipients of flowers and bouquets, empty vases seem to accumulate in cupboards. When asked if she would accept donations of used vases, Schoepke promptly said, ""Definitely!"

"I do that a lot," she said. She said she washes up the vases with a special cleaner and they are as good as new so she can use them again. She does the same thing with baskets. She will refurbish them so they can be used to contain another beautiful flower arrangement all over again. And it's a lot better than throwing them away. She believes in reusing and upcycling.

"There's a lot of people, especially when somebody dies, there's all kinds of things that I can use (for flower arrangements), and they bring them to me," she said.

"They can bring them to the service desk and just ask for me," Schoepke said. She will happily come up to collect them and give them new life.

Ordering flowers

To speak with Schoepke to set up a wedding or funeral flower consultation, or to order a custom floral bouquet or arrangement for a special occasion, call Dave's County Market at 715.536.2571 and just ask for "County Market Floral." Schoepke is currently in the store Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., but she is also on call outside of that timeframe, if needed for a funeral, she said.

to hire another designer and offer delivery for all floral arrangements, she said.

For other arrangements, people can call her to tell her

Once it picks up a little bit more, then she is hoping

what they'd like her to create and then pick their orders up

by request.

at this time, she said.

Planning for expansion
"In a few months, what used to be the Park City
Credit Union area, will become the more visible floral
department," Schoepke said. "But that will require some
remodeling, so the owners of the store want to see how well
the department succeeds before they invest in that."

The wall will be removed to open the area up, a sink will be added to make a more functional design space, and coolers will be added to store more flowers and arrangements. The area already has a small room for consultations. That expanded space will have more displays and more of an inhouse flower shop look and feel, Schoepke said.

Already she has focused on getting the flowers and arrangements featured more prominently up front, in front of that space, but she is really excited for when it will be a truly dedicated flower department location up at the front of the store.

"It's going to be a process," she said. "It's not going to happen overnight. It's going to be really nice, but that's in the works."

The new design room will be fairly open where people can watch her work, but for the moment she's working in a back area and customers can ask for her at the service desk.





HONOR ROLL

St. Francis Xavier Catholic School announces 2022-2023 fourth quarter Honor Roll

HIGHEST HONORS 3.75 - 4.00 Lilly Hoffman (4.0), Emily Raymer (4.0), Jacob Shimel (4.0), Kaylana Vickery (4.0), Hannah Rell (4.0), Abigail Rell (4.0), Matthew Burkhardt, Lauren Hoffman, Margaret Delp

HIGH HONORS 3.50 - 3.749 Michael Creel, Anthony Galella, Louisa Fleischman, Daven Saeger, Addison Plautz, Julia Fleischman **HONORS 3.25 - 3.499** Emmett Johnson

HONOR ROLL 3.00 - 3.249

Elias Pakonen







Kamrvn Klade.



Chloe Hipke. Submitted photos.

2023 Merrill Sum Baseball Schedu

	Babe Ruth 7th Gra	<u>ade (Blue)</u>	
Tues. June 20	DCE Black	MARC	6:00 p.m.
	Babe Ruth 8th Gra	de (White)	

There are no scheduled events for this week.

Babe Ruth 8th Grade (Red)				
Wed. June 21	Athletic Park	Home	6:00 p.m.	
	Junior Legio	<u>n</u>		
Thurs. June 15	Marshfield	Home	5:00 p.m.	
Mon. June 19	WI Rapids (DH)	Away	5:30 p.m.	
Wed. June 21	Stevens Point	Away	5:00 p.m.	
	Post 46			
T1 1.5	M 1 - C - 1 - 1	TT	0.00	

Thurs. June 15	Marshfield	Home	8:00 p.m.	
Fri. June 9 Sun. June 18		Rhinelande	Rhinelander Tournament	
Tues. June 20	Antigo	Home	7:00 p.m.	
Wed. June 21	Stevens Point	Away	8:00 p.m.	
Thurs. June 22	WI Rapids	Away	7:00 p.m.	

Merrill Rangers

1:30 p.m. Sun. June 18 Away Wed. June 21 Home 7:00 p.m.

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



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Three MAPS students attend **Special Olympics State**

Three Merrill athletes represented smiles as they displayed their medals at the Merrill Area Public Schools at the Special Olympics State competition in Whitewater on June 8, 9, and 10, 2023.

Special Olypmics athletes Colton Smith, Kamryn Klade and Chloe Hipke were all

"It was really a neat experience for the kids," said Dawn Smith, Colton's mom. "There were over 1200 athletes participating."



Tomahawk Middle School recently held a Community Service Day and made cat and dog toys and then donated the toys to the Lincoln County Humane Society.

Submitted photo.



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