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“Thorogood Thursday” Gazebo Nights concert series

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Gazebo Nights at Normal Park in Merrill kicked off their summer concert series last week Thursday, July 13, 2023, with a performance by local favorite singer and musician, Tuck Pence. The Merrill Boys Basketball Team sold food and drinks from the concession stand, the Merrill Masons sold popcorn, and the Merrill Girls Tennis Team sold baked goods.

“The Boys Basketball Team brought along the same amount of food they had last year for Tuck, and sold out before he even did a sound check,” said Michael “Gus” Caylor. “Thankfully they got plenty more, and the Masons went through over 20 pounds of popcorn.”

See GAZEBO NIGHTS page 13



Tuck Pence was the main attraction last Thursday evening, the first in a lineup of entertainers to provide music as part of “Thorogood Thursday” Gazebo Nights in the park.
Tina L. Scott photo.

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Galella and Raddatz charged with threats, intimidation of witness

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Two Merrill residents, 22-year-old Vincent Anthony Galella and his 51-year-old aunt, Tia R. Raddatz, were each charged last week with two felony counts of threatening to accuse someone of a crime and intimidation of a witness, and a misdemeanor count of defamation, all as a party to a crime. They were each additionally charged with a misdemeanor count of obstructing an officer, and Galella was also charged with two counts of bail jumping. They have both been summoned to appear in court on July 28, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. to face the charges.

If convicted of all these charges, Raddatz faces up to \$55,000 in fines and up to 12 years in prison or both, while Galella faces up to \$75,000 in fines and up to 24 years in prison or both.

The new charges relate back to Galella’s May 9, 2023, arrest on charges of attempted first degree sexual assault and possession of a firearm while intoxicated.

According to the Criminal Complaint citing probable cause for the charges filed last week with the Lincoln County Court against Raddatz and Galella, Raddatz contacted the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office (LCSO) on July 11, 2023, “to report a historical

sexual assault” she alleges happened the evening of March 10, 2023, around 10:00 p.m. at Galella’s birthday party. Raddatz told deputies a woman, who happens to be the victim Galella is charged with assaulting at gunpoint in May, was at the party, intoxicated, and kept knocking into her and slapped and grabbed her butt. She said she ignored the behavior and that it wasn’t a big deal at the time “until she figured out who the individual was.”

At that time, she alleges she told Galella about the incident, he told his attorney, and Galella said his attorney “urged” Raddatz to report the incident because the lawyer allegedly said it would “help as far as her character and credibility.”

When the deputy advised Raddatz that it appears she was wanting to report this alleged incident in order to discredit the victim in Galella’s case and asked her if she would be reporting the alleged incident if it had occurred where some other random female did this, Raddatz replied “probably not” three times. Yet, when she was asked what her wishes would be, if deputies could establish probable cause for her claim, “she indicated that she would like the victim arrested.”

An investigator phoned Raddatz on July 12 with follow-up questions and learned Raddatz “did not know

who the victim was at the time of the incident,” but after her nephew was accused of crimes, she “viewed a photograph” of the victim in that case and then identified her as the person who had assaulted her in March. She decided to come forward to report it because Galella told her to, allegedly at the urging of his attorney.

The investigator then made contact with the victim in the original case that resulted in the initial charges against Galella and also met with her in person. During those contacts the victim said that “during the 4th of July weekend, she had overheard Vincent’s aunt was asking around to people if they had talked with [her] about the incident ... and what [she] had said.” She identified Raddatz as the person who was asking around about her and said she didn’t know her or why she was doing that. The investigator noted he had not previously informed her of the name of the complainant in this current investigation.

The victim was asked about the incident Raddatz alleged, and she denied it had occurred and denied even being at the bar on the date Raddatz alleged she had been assaulted. Further, the investigator said the “victim went through her phone and provided evidence that suggested she

See THREATS page 2

Lac du Flambeau man dies in rollover

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Randall J. Beyer, a 39-year-old man from Lac du Flambeau, died from injuries sustained in a one-vehicle rollover on July 15, 2023. Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office (LCSO)

deputies responded to the area of Cty. Rd. A and Villa Rd. in the Township of King.

Beyer was pronounced deceased at the scene by Lincoln County Coroner Valerie Caylor.

No one else was in the car at the time

of the accident. The crash remains under investigation, according to the LCSO, but speed is believed to be a factor.

Tomahawk EMS and the Tomahawk Fire Department also responded and assisted at the scene.

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Bible Presbyterian invites community to Ice Cream Social

Bible Presbyterian will hold an Ice Cream Social at the gazebo in Merrill's Normal Park on Friday, July 28, 2023, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Ice cream will be served free of charge, in a variety of flavors. Everyone is welcome.

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THREATS from page 1

was most likely not at the bar on March 10."

The charges against Galella are in relation to Raddatz's report which was deemed an attempt to "knowingly and maliciously ... dissuade a witness ..." by virtue of the language in the charges, because she said Galella told her to report it to discredit the victim and her character. He is further charged with two counts of felony bail jumping because conditions of the cash bond he signed related to his initial felony charges includes the standard conditions that "Defendant shall not commit any crime" and "Defendant shall neither directly nor indirectly threaten, harass, intimidate or otherwise interfere with victim or witnesses in this action."

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Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
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Psalm 100:1, 2

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EAA AirVenture Cross Country Air Race celebrates 25 years on July 23

This year the flyover finish line is in Merrill

On Sunday, July 23, 2023, the 25th annual EAA AirVenture Cup Race will take to the skies.

The air race, which will begin at 9 a.m., weather permitting, will start when planes take off from the Wausau Downtown Airport and will end at the Merrill Airport.

Approximately 70 unique aircraft in 29 race classes will race more than 400 nautical miles following a route from Wausau around and up into Michigan's Upper Peninsula and around back to cross the finish line at the Merrill Airport.

Flyovers (and some landings) will include the airports in Manistique, Menominee, Escanaba, Shawano, Land O' Lakes, Sawyer, Wausau, Tomahawk, and Merrill.

Merrill residents will notice the heavier air traffic flying low over Merrill throughout the entire day.

Some of the fastest aircrafts will complete the course in about an hour, while others will take most of the day, crossing the finish line in Merrill in mid- to late-afternoon.

Aircraft recovery will be at the Wausau Downtown Airport.

The purpose of the EAA AirVenture Cup Race is to provide pilots and aircraft builders an opportunity to race their aircraft in a safe and fun environment, all while promoting aviation in and over the communities where the races are held, organizers said.

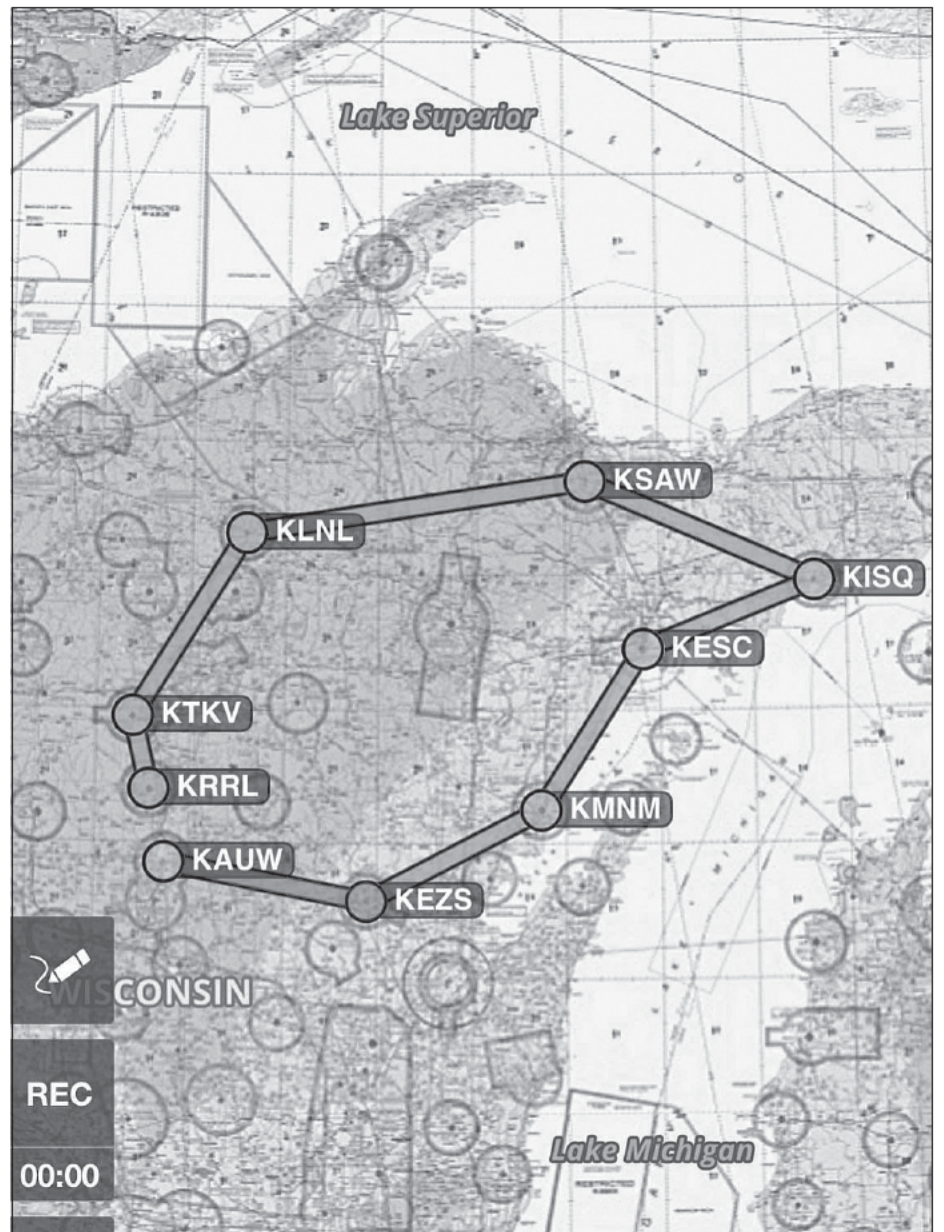
From the very first EAA AirVenture Cup Race that took place in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, in 1998 with 10 aircraft, the race has now grown to be "major aviation event." It was created "in the spirit of recreating the old Bendix Trophy Race" and is dedicated to aviation advocacy and preserving

the rich heritage of cross-country air racing, organizers said.

These days the event draws thousands of spectators, including those standing out in their front yards and those gathering at the airports for a closer look at the planes where they fly low to clock their progress and may land, fuel up if necessary, and take off again as they compete in the race.

The EAA AirVenture Cup Race is held annually in advance of EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, "The World's Greatest Aviation Celebration," and EAA's yearly membership convention. For more information, go to www.airventurecuprace.com, www.airventure.org, and www.eaa.org, or find them on Facebook.

For more information on EAA and its programs, call 1.800.564.6322.



The EAA AirVenture Cup Race on July 23 will start at the Wausau Downtown Airport and follow the mapped out route, ending with the flyover finish line at the Merrill Airport.

Submitted graphic.

Merrill Furniture & Mattress Outlet opens on Second St.

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

A new furniture and mattress outlet opened in Merrill on Saturday, July 15, 2023.

Merrill Furniture & Mattress Outlet, at 730 E. Second St. in Merrill, opened as a showroom for an economical line of furnishings and will follow a new business model.

"We will focus a lot on mattresses as well as a range of recliners, lift chairs, stationary and reclining sofas and sectionals, and power reclining furniture," said business owner Grace Weaver.

"There is a market demand for economy furniture in Merrill," she said. "While the other stores [in town] may offer some economy options, the economy market is not their primary market; they appear to focus a bit more on name brand furniture, so I saw the opportunity to offer some quality furniture at discount prices. I am especially focusing on mattresses, offering great prices on a quality range of all American-made mattresses."

Weaver isn't new to the furniture market. Together with her husband, Tom Cimino, they operate a furniture and gun store in Tomahawk, but the Merrill store is Weaver's personal endeavor and will operate differently than most traditional furniture stores.

"I have always had an appetite for business," Weaver said. And "I have been formulating a mental plan for a while for a furniture store that would allow customers to shop without the assistance of a



Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce staff and ambassadors held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of the new Merrill Furniture & Mattress Outlet. Owner Grace Weaver is in the middle holding the giant scissors, wearing the striped blouse, and store manager Amelia Cimino is beside her in the front row in the black shirt.

Tina L. Scott photo.

sales person if they wished ... More of an internet shopping experience with a try-before-you-buy option." She is excited to see her dream coming to fruition.

Customers can purchase mattresses and furnishings directly from the store's website [merrillfurnitureoutlet.com] but, as many online shoppers know, it can be frustrating to order furniture they haven't had an opportunity to see, touch, and try out in person. That's

where Weaver's showroom comes in.

Customers can come to the store's showroom to view, touch, and sit in the furnishings available on the website. The actual furnishings in the store are not for sale but are samples of what customers can order online.

"All items in the store will have QR codes that link to the web listings, and customers can purchase entirely online and schedule delivery or pickup all

online," Weaver said. They can do all that while sitting right there in the store trying out the very item they want to purchase, for comfort, size, and fit, or when they get back home after they've pondered their purchase for a while. Pricing and other color options will be clearly posted.

"There will be wifi at the store and customers will be able to connect their devices to it if they are unable to use cell service," she said. "I am also investigating options

to place a kiosk where customers can place their orders."

A visit to the Merrill store/showroom will be a largely self-guided experience. Weaver said her experience working in the furniture business suggests customers like to browse and try out furniture without a salesperson hovering too closely, so they don't feel pressured. Her new showroom allows customers to browse at their leisure, try out and look at all the options, and complete their purchase according to their own timeframe.

"We have discovered in our business in Tomahawk that a large portion of our customers do enjoy shopping without the

assistance of a sales person," Weaver said. "I have also connected with people at the furniture conventions I attend every year who have successfully implemented this type of concept. Some of my reps actually find increased business at stores implementing this concept due to the unstressed shopping experience where the customer does not feel pressured to make a decision, as they might when dealing with a sales person."

"I am attempting to offer the online shopping experience that is popular among many of us younger people, as well as a

See OUTLET page 13

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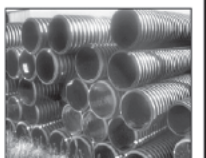
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OBITUARIES



Marlene M. (Haehlke) Schlag, 76, Merrill, was called by her Lord to be with Him on Sat., July 8, 2023, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital after a short battle with cancer.

Marlene was born on April 3, 1947, to the late Edwin and Florence (Fiedler) Haehlke. On Sept. 7, 1968, she married Robert Schlag. He preceded her in death on Oct. 30, 2020. Together they had one son, Dean Schlag, who survives.

Marlene graduated from Athens High School in 1965 and went on to pursue a career at Wausau Insurance Co. (now Liberty Mutual) where she worked as a technical editor for more than 40 years.

She was an avid Green Bay Packer and Milwaukee Brewer fan along with Bob, enjoying group trips to the respective games. Her other favorite pastimes included traveling; she and Bob went to Europe and Ireland and took their 5th wheel across the United States. Marlene also bowled in several leagues, including the Friday Night Shoppers couples' league in Merrill alongside her dear friends Roger and Darlene Bade for almost 50 years. Both Marlene and Bob thoroughly enjoyed attending country music fests as well, especially Hodag in Rhinelander.

Marlene loved being in the company of her dogs and cats and enjoyed spending time with family, friends, and neighbors. It was always a joy to be around Marlene. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Survivors include her son, Dean Schlag; a sister, Arlyn Heise; and sister-in-law, Karen Lenzner; and very special nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews. Besides her husband, Marlene was preceded in death by her brother, Eldred (Nancy) Haehlke; brother-in-law, Eldorn Heise; and a half-brother, DuWayne Brandt.

Special thanks go out to Linnus and Cyndy Schlag for the care they gave Marlene in her last couple of weeks.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at Faith Lutheran Church, 15425 South County Rd K, Merrill, WI. The Rev. Donald Love will officiate. Visitation will be from 11:00 a.m. until the time of service, all at the church. Online condolences and words of remembrance can be given at www.helke.com.



Eugene "Gene" F Arndt, age 94, died at home of natural causes on July 5, 2023. He was born on September 19, 1928 to his parents Walter and Gertrude (Maahs) Arndt. Gene was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 57 years, Ollidine "Ollie" (Fellbaum). Gene was fortunate to find love again with his second wife the late Evelyn Woodward. He was also preceded in death by his sisters

Faye Arndt and Marion Bluhm. Gene is survived by his brother, Harvey Arndt and sister-in-law, Joyce Pempek, his five children Fran Arndt (Mary Hermes), Geri Batten (Bill), Sue Buettner-Duginske (Tom), Ron Arndt (Debbie), and Paulet Arndt (Brad Jarocki), 9 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Gene was a World War II veteran stationed in Italy. He was discharged with the rank of Corporal. Gene had the privilege of attending the Honor Flight to Washington DC. The trip was one of the highlights of his life.

Gene started his work life early. In his teens he worked on his uncle's farm, drove truck and painted barns. He spent over 40 years as a millwright - retiring as supervisor of all millwrights for what is now Domtar. His love of all things mechanical made this his ideal job.

He had many hobbies and talents - fishing, boating, hunting, camping, water skiing, UTV riding, snowmobiling, and trap shooting. He and Ollie were members of the Wausau Antique Auto Club. Gene rebuilt a number of antique cars and trucks which won many trophies. Gene was a charter member of the Edgar Steam Show. He showed his rebuilt tractors at the steam show for many years and donated his time mowing fields for the show.

Gene was a second-generation member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Wausau, where he was an active member and donated hundreds of hours to projects, especially the building and finishing of the new school and gym.

We will honor Gene with a Celebration of Life on July 30, 2023 beginning at 12:30pm with a social hour, a short program, military honors, and lunch at Northwoods Veterans Post, 601 Johnson St., Merrill, WI. Come with a smile on your lips and a story to share.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Gene's name to the Edgar Steam Show, PO Box 272, Edgar, WI 54426.

Mid Wisconsin Cremation Society is assisting the family at this time. Online condolences may be expressed at MWCS.WS



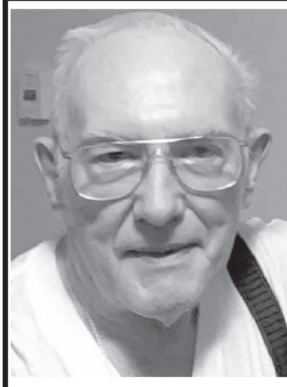
Georgene L. Oestreich - Ritchie, age 76, passed away on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill, while under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services. Georgene was born on December 16, 1946 to the late Ralph Thomas and Rosalie Ann (Adams) Lane. She attended and graduated from high school before entering the workforce. Georgene did a variety of jobs, including working at Piggly Wiggly in the deli,

Weinbrenner and did some daycare. She enjoyed the outdoors and fishing, as well as listening to Johnny Cash. Georgene loved watching her westerns, especially Gunsmoke and gameshows. She would look forward to her trips to the casino to play the slots, and later in life, she liked to play bingo at Pine Crest Nursing Home. Georgene's face would light up every time she saw her favorite flower, yellow roses. Family was first and foremost in her life, and she was very protective and supportive! Georgene is remembered as a tough and strong-willed woman that was respected by many. Every time you see a yellow rose, just think of Georgene and smile. She will be missed.

Georgene is survived by her son: Chris (Shawna) Kletzine of Wausau, with their children: Bram, Chance and Zoe Kletzine, along with Allie Mackowski, daughter: Rosalie (Jonathan) Arrowood of Merrill, with their children: Star and Spencer Spiegel. She is further survived by her siblings: Richard, Joan (Dick), John (Jill), Larry (Nancy), Wes (Tracey) and Donna (Dennis). She was preceded in death by her parents, husbands: Daniel Oestreich and Paul Ritchie and sister-in-law: Annette Lane.

A gathering to remember and celebrate Georgene will be held at a later date. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home for 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.



Lester James Howard

On Friday, July 7, 2023, Lester James Howard died at his home in Olympia, Washington. Lester was born March 26, 1942, in Merrill, Wisconsin. He was predeceased by his parents, Wilbur and Florence Howard, brothers Glenn Howard and Terald Howard, as well as nephews Jeffrey Howard and David Howard.

Lester attended Merrill High School where he met his future wife, Darlene Livermore. He obtained a degree in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin in Madison and a master's degree in information management from University of Alaska in Anchorage. Lester was also a veteran of the United States Navy, stationed in Great Lakes, Michigan. Lester spent many years living in Alaska working for the Alaska State Department of Labor, enjoying his early retirement years in Juneau.

Lester enjoyed hunting, fishing and spending time at his cabin on Admiralty Island, which he traveled to often by boat. Lester was a skilled wood-turner and created beautiful native wood pieces through his business, Hopper Limited Studios, in Juneau.

Most recently, Lester resided in Olympia, Washington, where he received excellent care and support from Krista Koval of Eldercare Counseling and Guidance Services and Carla Lavisores of Lavie Adult Family Home. Lester is survived by his former wife Darlene Livermore of Salem, OR, and by nieces and nephews Steven Howard of Los Alamos, NM, Timothy Howard of Coldwater, MI, Julie McFarlin of Broken Arrow, OK, Lisa Howard Phillips of Las Cruces, NM, William Howard of Vandalia, MI and Daniel Howard of Boulder, CO.

Will your family know what you wanted?

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Forget Me Not

Waid Funeral Home Staff would like to invite you and your family to a **Remembrance Picnic on Tuesday, August 15, 2023**
5:00 p.m. Arrival • 5:30 p.m. Dinner located at Stange's Park in Merrill, WI.

This remembrance picnic is centered around keeping memories of loved ones in our hearts to help us endure the days following a death. During the gathering each family will receive a memorial gift from our staff, in memory of your loved one.

Please call 715-536-4646 by August 8 to reserve your place so we may plan accordingly. Food and beverages will be provided.

In Memoriams

In Loving Memory of **JOHN DOE**
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We can assist you in finding a heartfelt way to honor and remember your loved one.

It's hard to believe it's been 2 years already since you left us. We think of you every day.

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LEGALS from page 5

Legals 7700

Alderson Lupton seconded and the motion carried. XV. Mayor's Communications Mayor Hass read the following communications: City Band concerts are at Normal Park on Wednesday nights Gazebo Nights starts Thursday, July 13th at Normal Park Youth Softball Tournament is July 21 - 23 Quad racing at the Festival Grounds is July 29th Black Squirrel Scurry is July 29th Community Night Out is August 1st at the Festival Grounds Lincoln County Fair is August 16th - 20th Road projects have started XVI. Adjournment Alderson Rick made a motion to adjourn. Alderson Lupton seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Lori L Anderson-Malm - City Clerk Published July 20, 2023 WNAxLP

Legals 7700

DATE SIGNED July 12, 2023 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer Probate Registrar STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Robert Earl Everett DOD: 04/13/2023 Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 2023 IN 32 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE 1. An application for informal administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth May 11, 1952 and date of death April 13, 2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 2919 State Road 107, Merrill, WI 54452. 3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is November 10, 2023. 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 East Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office. Attorney Paul Steven Screnock 333 N. Main Street Adams, WI 53910 608-339-7777 Bar No. 01017603 Published 7/20/23, 7/27/23 & 8/3/23 WNAxLP

Winona Avenue free concert in Merrill

The indie Christian/alt/pop/rock band Winona Avenue will bring their inspiring music to the Smith Center at the Merrill Area Recreational Complex on Monday, July 31, 2023, at 7 p.m. with a free concert sponsored by St. Stephens United Church of Christ and Merrill Rotary Club Winona Avenue introduced themselves in early 2019 as a mix of alternative rock and synth-pop. From Indianapolis, Ind., Winona Avenue is a two-piece band featuring brothers Daniel Deputy and David Deputy. Inspired by 2000's pop punk and 2010's pop rock, front man Daniel Deputy writes catchy melodies along with uplifting lyrics. In 2021, Winona Avenue released their self-titled debut album on digital platforms. The album's sound is characterized by electric guitars and synthesizers along with lyrics

that revolve around themes of positivity, encouragement, and hope. "I choose to write music that can encourage the listener," Daniel said. "If I didn't write lyrics that could make a positive difference in the listener's life, then I'd feel as if I was doing a disservice to the listener. I believe in building others up instead of tearing others down, and music is a tool that can serve this purpose." Winona Avenue brings a Christian perspective on reconnection and healing for people of all generations. "They are more than simple praise music," said Rev. Mike Southcombe, Pastor at St. Stephens. "They speak directly to the rejected, lonely, despairing person and offer inspiration and hope. Their video 'December Night' speaks to the

See CONCERT page 12

ST. STEPHENS UCC AND MERRILL ROTARY CLUB PRESENT Winona Avenue LIVE IN CONCERT JULY 31, 7 PM DOORS OPEN @ 6:30 PM SMITH CENTER, MERRILL, WI FREE WILL OFFERING ENTRY. ALL AGES WELCOME!!! Call St. Stephens UCC at 715-536-7322 for more information. www.winonaavenue.com

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Cloak of Deterioration

DEAR READER, As we age, we often conceal certain truths. We put on a facade of strength and control, pretending that nothing has changed and everything remains the same. In our attempts to deceive ourselves and others, we go to great lengths, but time inevitably strips away our illusions. Time patiently waits until we are but a mere shadow of our former selves. We are exposed as vulnerable, reminiscent of a helpless newborn relying entirely on others for survival. Simple tasks like feeding ourselves become challenging, distinguishing between days blurs, and

we fixate on trivialities like ice cream. We stumble. Gradually, we descend further into the depths, arrogantly believing that this fate could never befall us. This reality cannot be evaded. It is an inescapable part of the human experience that as we live longer, our bodies will eventually betray us. However, with preparation, we can alleviate the burden on those close to us. Even in our diminished state, we can leave behind an untarnished legacy of accomplishments. 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.

free to contact Nancy Arndorfer, 536.3869 and leave a message. Thanks again to our citizens and friends who support our efforts. - Nancy Arndorfer Merrill, Wis.

TO THE EDITOR: Flowerbeds for the city of Merrill Precipitation has not been kind to Park City Gardens, a/k/a flowerbeds, this year. Our organization pays weekly and weekends to keep them watered and are doing the best we can. Like many of us, we need rain. The Hanging Flower Basket Project, a separate group, is also struggling with this condition and paying for watering. Park City Gardens' upkeep requires many volunteers mulching, planting, weeding, and necessary, extra hauling of water and having to pay for it all. We do it because not only do we enjoy the activity but enjoy the beauty it brings to Merrill. These projects are done by a dedicated group of women and men who believes it helps to make our city attractive and welcoming to our visitors. We recognize homeowners' labor with a "garden of the month" award that is featured in the Foto News each month. We appreciate all the donations sent to us, placing money in the canisters located in businesses around town, and personal bequests. Anyone interested in volunteering is always encouraged to join, and we could use a couple people on the board of directors. People tell us how much they look forward to our summer creations in the dirt. If you need to speak to anyone from our board, feel

TO THE EDITOR: How lucky I feel to live in Lincoln County! On the evening of June 29th, I called my husband for dinner, who was sitting in a chair. He did not get up, so I went over by him and found him unable to speak, right side of face drooping, right arm and leg unable to move. Instant panic set in, thoughts went through my mind-do I drive him to emergency myself or do I call 911, since we live so FAR out of town. We are on N. Cty. Rd. G, eight miles from town. I did choose 911 with hopes that "they" would get here quickly. I knew we did not have much time. Dispatch was AWESOME, I said please HURRY, she said they were on their way! In about five minutes, two separate Sheriff Deputies arrived who assessed the situation. And within minutes I had THREE First Responders from the Town of Russell in my home and they immediately went to work. Then the ambulance arrived. We had HELP in our home in less than 10 MINUTES. THANK YOU to EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU involved in helping my husband. He had a mini stroke, thank GOD it was not a "full" stroke, and is doing ok. To EVERYONE, know the signs of a heart attack and signs of a stroke. Call quickly, because we have some GREAT people out there from the LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, "VOLUNTEER" FIRST RESPONDERS, and MERRILL FIRE DEPARTMENT to help you! - Gail Closser Merrill, Wis.

GLIOBLASTOMA AWARENESS DAY 7/21/2023 KNOCK OUT BRAIN CANCER! GREY MATTERS 365

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.



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 JULY 28TH - BLUEGILLS
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Thursday, July 27th
 1-5pm Session #1 Carnival Wristband Unlimited rides \$25
 3:30pm The Drovers - Under the Grandstand
 5pm Cake Auction Multi Purpose Building
 6-10pm Session #2 Carnival Wristband Unlimited rides \$25
 7pm Comic Trio Grandstand
 7:30pm Chad Brock, Ashley Barron, Jarrod Turner - Midway Tent

Friday, July 28th
 1-5pm Session #3 Carnival Wristband Unlimited Rides \$25
 6-10pm Session #4 Carnival Wristband Unlimited Rides \$25
 6:30pm Dirt King Late Model Tour
 7pm Time Machine - Midway Tent

Friday, July 28th
WABAM Dirt Kings Late Model Tour!
 Gate opening 4pm for online ticket holders
 4:30pm for cash sales.
 All seats are general admission.
 Saving seats will not be allowed after 5:45pm.

Thursday, July 27th
 7:30PM - Midway Tent
National Recording Artists
 Chad Brock, Ashley Barron, Jarrod Turner

Saturday, July 29th
 12-4pm Session #5 Carnival Wristband Unlimited rides \$25
 12-4pm Family Time
 Raffles, Games & Ride Specials
 5-10pm Session #6 Carnival Wristband Unlimited Rides \$25
 6:00pm Crash Crazy Motorsports Demo Derby Grandstand
 7pm MISTRIAL-Band - Midway Tent

Sunday, July 30th
 12-4pm Session #7 Carnival Wristband Unlimited rides \$25
 2pm Tractor Pull Grandstand

Thursday, July 27th
 7:00PM - Grandstand
Comic Trio

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Lincoln County

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QUESTION AND ANSWER

Q: What is Crime Stoppers?

A: Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Wisconsin corporation with a board of directors of 11 Lincoln County citizens. Its sole purpose is to provide anonymous methods for citizens to assist law enforcement in solving crime.

Q: How does it work?

A: Since inception of Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County (CSLC) in 1997, an anonymous tip line has been provided for the reporting of crime information. In 2018 CSLC expanded to utilize new anonymizing computer software to allow tips to be reported to a tip center (p3tips.com) by e mail or smart phone app, and by use of a special button on the CSLC Facebook page. The original telephone tip line is now answered at a national tip center with anonymizing software. All three methods guarantee anonymity of the tipster. Tips are then forwarded electronically and immediately to appropriate law enforcement agencies in Lincoln County for action.

Q: How does Crime Stoppers benefit law enforcement?

A: There are two ways that Crime Stoppers tips can benefit law enforcement. First, soon after a crime it can help them with a prompt solution, apprehension, and recovery. In one recent incident a tipster witnessed a crime and promptly reported, which led to apprehension and recovery. Even long after an event, if a case goes cold, republicizing might trigger memory of someone talking about the crime or processing evidence of it, and a tip can solve the crime.

Q: What is the Crime Stoppers tip number?

A: 715 536 3726

Q: What is the Facebook address?

A: www.Facebook.com/CrimeStoppersOfLincolnCounty

Q: Is there another way?

A: Best contact is via the p3 App for your Smart Phone. It is a free app that can be downloaded from Google Play or Apple Store. Using your phone you can submit a tip and also send photos, video or documents.

Q: How is a reward authorized?

A: By the Crime Stoppers board reviewing the tip and its success with law enforcement and voting a reward.

Q: Will anyone ever learn my identity if I give a tip?

A: No, you will always remain anonymous. Those who call Crime Stoppers can never, will never, be identified.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CRIME STOPPERS' SHRED DAY

Do you have personal documents such as bank statements, or credit card receipts that need to be confidentially and securely destroyed against potential identity theft? Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County invites you to have them shredded in a safe way. Our next Shred Day will be on Tuesday, August 1st at the Merrill Enrichment Center 4-7pm.

Tuesday, August 1st at the Merrill Enrichment Center 4-7pm

Join the Protective Services of Lincoln County Community Night Out. Merrill Police Department, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Park & Rec Department, Wisconsin State Department of Justice - Office of the Attorney General, Department of Natural Resources, Merrill Enrichment Center, Technical College, Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County, Free Library, Merrill-Go-Round, and many more will be on display for your children to enjoy. Music provided by: Bluejay 96.3

Geohunt – A fun activity for kids coming in August information on this and all of our upcoming events on our Facebook Page. (www.facebook.com/crimestoppers)

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EVENTS

THIRD DAYS

Cancelled checks, statements that destroyed to protect Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County in a trusted and Saturday, September Tomahawk, WI.

Merrill Expo Hall/ Room

County for the Annual Department, Merrill Sheriff Department, Merrill State Patrol, Wisconsin Attorney, Wisconsin Dept. Center, Northcentral Lincoln County, T.B. Scott any more departments come out and meet.

August! For more events please see our [crimestoppersoflincolncounty](http://www.crimestoppersoflincolncounty.com)

NEWS



Is the P3 app anonymous?

The multi-lingual P3 Tips App is a secure, anonymous, and efficient means of safely communicating with Crime Stoppers.



Data Not Linked to You

The following data may be collected but it is not linked to your identity:

Other Data

Crime Doesn't Pay...But Crime Stoppers Does! Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County just paid out \$500 for a tip that lead to an arrest. Keep your community safe, and get some cold hard cash! Up to \$1,000 for rewards!

P3 Intel is the next generation multi-lingual tip management system allowing the public to submit secure & anonymous tips to Crime Stoppers programs and law enforcement agencies with complete confidence. Ongoing Two-Way Dialog and image and video upload are also possible with P3 Intel, facilitating a strong and effective Community Oriented Policing initiative. Wanted Fugitives, Missing Persons and Unsolved Crimes are also viewable in P3 Intel and tips may easily be submitted on each.

Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County, Inc Donation Form

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CONCERT from page 6

loneliness in everyone and guides us to a celebration of belonging and family."

Concerned with the rising prevalence of mental health issues among teens and young adults, Merrill Rotary Club sees bringing Winona Avenue to Merrill as a step

toward furthering the conversation about the issue and a way to help.

"These two brothers from Indiana have come along at the perfect time and bring music our young people need and that my generation needs to listen to and identify with as well," said Rob Moore, Rotary Club president.

The band will be available for questions and answers and to

autograph merchandise after the concert for about 30 minutes. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The concert is free but baskets for a free-will offering will be at the door.

Preview the group's music at www.winonaavenue.com.

No alcohol will be allowed on the premises.

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OUTLET from page 3

traditional shopping experience during staffed hours that certain populations prefer," she said.

Initially, Weaver or her store manager, Amelia Cimino, will be on-site at the store to help customers and to get a better feel for the Merrill market. "The plan for this store is to have open hours 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week, in order to allow adequate shopping time for all consumers," Weaver said. "It will be fully staffed for the first week at least 'til we determine when it would be best to stay staffed."

After the first couple of weeks, the store may be unstaffed at times, but customers can still come into the showroom to shop at their leisure. Cameras will provide security surveillance.

Weaver said she will "have the store staffed over some of the more popular, busy times and also staffed over pickup days so that I can still offer the traditional sales person assistance."

"The store will be staffed over peak times," she said. "The unstaffed portion will simply be to give customers a longer shopping time for those whose schedule prohibits shopping over normal hours of operations such as 9-5. We plan to experiment a bit and will probably be staffed full-time until we determine peak hours."

"Anyone can receive traditional customer service during staffed hours, and there will be customer service available via phone or Facetime anytime the store is open," she said. "Even during times when this location may be unstaffed, customer service will always be available via phone call or video and even, if needed, in person, since my store manager lives nearby."

"Cash or checks will be accepted during staffed hours, and if someone purchases online, we can collect cash or check payment at time of pickup or delivery," she said. "We are also able to process orders over the phone and accept card, cash, or check payments."

"I am very excited to share this store with the people in Merrill and provide a very affordable and flexible furniture and mattress shopping experience," Weaver said.



The dry summer hasn't made for lush lawns, but the apple crop looks to be promising if this apple tree is any indication. Tina L. Scott photo.



Normal Park begins to fill up with groups of people, families, and friends who came out to enjoy a beautiful night and a free concert. Tina L. Scott photos.

GAZEBO NIGHTS
from page 1

Beautiful weather helped contribute to a big turnout "for what we think was a record-breaking opening night," Gus said. "We almost broke a record with the 50/50 raffle and thanks to you [attendees], the American Cancer Society has an extra \$1,200 to help fight cancer."

For more than 12 years, the gazebo in the park has been the site for concerts on Thursdays in the summer, typically starting the week after Independence day and running until Labor Day.

Gus and Val Caylor, organizers of the event, said this year's concerts will be the largest ever with a budget of more than \$10,000.

"We are very excited to have Thorogood back on board as branding sponsor," said Gus. "Thanks to their contributions, along with the weekly sponsors, we will have our best line up ever for an event we now call Thorogood Thursday."

Park City Credit Union, Reindl Printing, Ed & Sharons, and Merrill Sheet Metal also helped sponsor the opening night concert. Taylor Stine Funeral Home is the park sponsor for this year's event, and County Market is the beverage break sponsor.

Raising money for charities

Each Thursday evening, different non-profit groups from the area sell concessions from the concession stand in the park shelter on site, and popcorn and baked goods are sold on the grounds. Volunteers conduct a 50/50 raffle each week, raising money for various causes. In 2022, the events raised more than \$16,000 for area charities.

The Britins play tonight

This week the concert will begin a bit earlier, with the very popular renowned Beatles tribute band, the Britins, starting promptly at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 20. There will be no opening act prior. In addition to Thorogood, Brickner's Park City, Crossbridge Community Bank, Church Mutual Insurance Company, and Courtside Furniture are this week's sponsors. The Merrill Lions Club will be selling concessions.

Next week's lineup

The Northwoods Bassist kicks off



The free concert is the draw, but Gazebo Nights/Thorogood Thursdays are about much more than the music. It's a chance for people to reconnect, live and in person, to enjoy a summer evening and beautiful weather, and to appreciate the benefits of living in a small town like Merrill.



When you own the vacant lot kitty corner from Normal Park, it's like having a park of your own. Friends gather together to visit, laugh, enjoy the music, and have a few drinks in their own personal park.



Normal Park in Merrill is the place to be on Thursday nights in summer. The all access playground provides a safe place for the kids to play before, during, and after the concert.

the opening act at 5:00 p.m. next week on Thursday, July 27. Neal Zunker and the Music Connection will be the main attraction, performing at 6:00 p.m. They are halfway through their band's farewell tour. In addition to Thorogood, a division of Weinbrenner Shoe Company, sponsoring the performance, the Holy Cross Sisters

are also helping sponsor this week. Luther Memorial Church will be selling concessions.

Inclement weather

In the event of inclement weather, concerts will be moved to Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes at 1208 N Center Ave. in Merrill.

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Kids ride their scooters down the sidewalk near their homes. Tina L. Scott photos.



A beautiful summer evening means playtime outdoors.

Northwoods Art Tour is July 28-30

The 24th annual summer Northwoods Art Tour will take place July 28-29-30, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Some of the Northwoods' finest artists and artist-owned galleries are allowing visitors a behind-the-scenes view of how their work is created. The annual Northwoods Art Tour provides a rare opportunity for the public to discover where many Northwoods artists live and work, view their processes and inspirations, and purchase art directly from them.

The tour map takes visitors on a drive through some of the prettiest back roads of Northern Wisconsin beginning in Lincoln County at the southern tip of the tour in Irma and Tomahawk.

Chapel Art Gallery in Irma

Linda DeBroux, a potter who owns Chapel Art Gallery on the side of Irma Hill, is new to the tour this year. She will open her studio to display years worth of permanent artwork displayed behind the red doors, as well as functional and decorative wheel-thrown pottery which will be available for purchase. Located at N6639 Cty. Rd. H in Irma, the studio is easily accessible from Hwy. 51. Turn east on Hwy. J for 1/4 mile, then turn north on Hwy. H to the first place on the left.

Swallow Haven Studio in Irma

Andrea Fenner is a pastel artist also located on Hwy. H in Irma. Her studio, Swallow Haven Studio, is located at N7944 Cty. Rd. H in Irma, further north of the Chapel Art Gallery. If this is the first stop on your self-guided tour, take Hwy. 51 to Hwy. S. Follow Hwy. S until it intersects with Hwy. H, then turn left (south) to reach Swallow Haven Studio. Visitors will enjoy a peek into her studio perched atop a ledge overlooking a native trout stream surrounded by the beauty of the Northwoods. Her work features landscapes and animal pastels.

Tomahawk-area artists

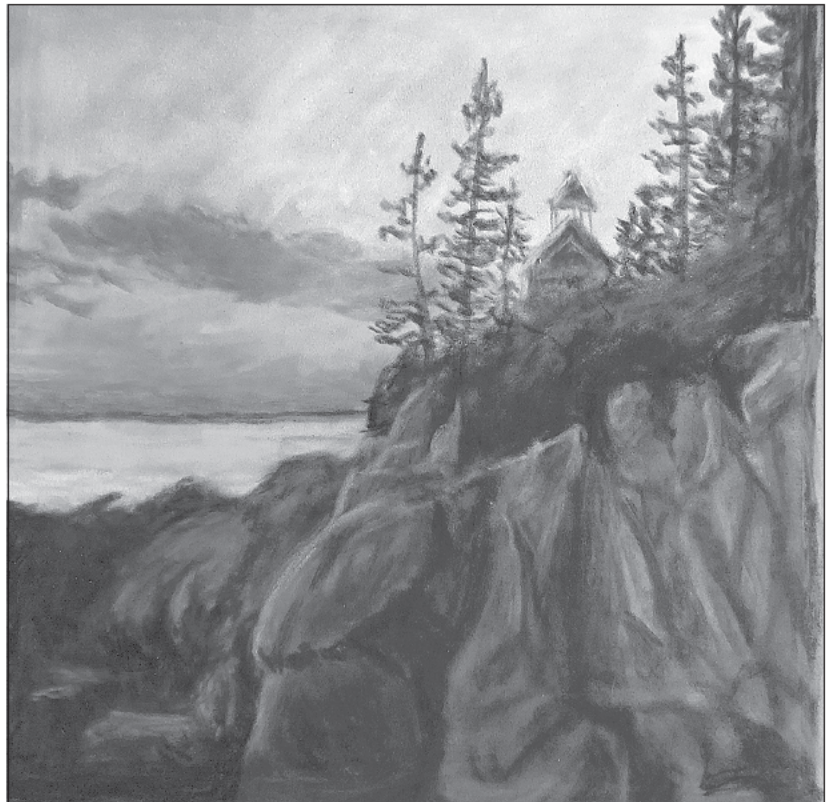
Two Tomahawk-area artists are participating in the tour this summer. The first, Shayna Kelley, is a teacher, artist, and the owner of The Fifth Element Gallery at 124 W. Wisconsin Ave., 2nd Floor, in downtown Tomahawk above Sideways Wine & Craft Beer. [Note: Access via stairs only.] Kelley is new to the tour this year and is a contemporary multi media artist. Her multifaceted space showcases local artists' artwork (in addition to her own), along with art and yoga classes, and an open studio space. She provides a place for artists to discuss, discover, and create art.

Lisa Krueger uses watercolor, pastel, acrylic, mixed media, and alcohol ink to create her artwork. She will again open her studio, Oak View Studio, to visitors at W3985 Oak View Rd. in rural Tomahawk. Her studio is in the peaceful backwoods of Tomahawk where large oaks welcome guests. Her original creations and paintings range from vibrantly colored images to soft, subtle hues on canvas. Her studio is also open year-round by appointment.

37 artists to visit

A total of 37 artists are participating in this year's Northwoods Art Tour, and visitors are welcome to follow their own free, self-guided tour to explore, discover, engage, shop, and enjoy original artwork and the artists who created it, on one or even all three of the tour days. Many artists will provide demonstrations and are also open to engaging conversations with the public. Learn about what inspires their art, their creative process, and how they go from imagining their work to finishing a piece.

Betty Christian's unique jewelry designs in silver, copper, and gold are featured in her Rhinelander studio. Heading north on Hwy 17, check out Eagle River, where there is a cluster



Above: A landscape by Andrea Fenner of Irma. Below: Andrea Fenner primarily works in pastels to create her art pieces. Submitted photos.



of five artists showcasing art quilting, unique wood-turned pieces, sterling silver jewelry, ceramics, stonework, and upcycled art pieces.

On Hwy 70, going west, there are several more artists in St. Germain, including a potter and printmaker and a hand weaver. Continue west to Hwy 51 and take a detour south and then west at Hazelhurst to see Jenny Gibson's 100 year old sock machine, Phyllis Schuit's quilted wall-hangings with hand embroidery, and David Barnhill's nature photography.

Over in the Lac du Flambeau area, Christine Alfery's studio features contemporary fine art, and at La De Da Gourds, Karen Caldwell sells hard-shell gourds. Lisa Opfer is a new member who creates whimsical pottery, and Jillayne and Jeff Waite create unique garden art and unusual

indoor sculptures. Jack Stayer of Sand Lake Trading Co. creates stained & fused art glass, and Bob Kovar is a wildlife and landscape photographer.

In Boulder Junction, Sara Muender, owner of Moondeer Gallery, is a multimedia artist. Mary Burns of the Manitowish River Studio weaves on a unique hand-jacquard loom and has a new exhibit "Women and Water: Woven Portraits from around the World."

Steve Klemann's Land O' Lakes area studio showcases his handcrafted furniture and is worth the drive. And that's not all. There are more studios on the tour in the Boulder Junction, Mercer, and Manitowish area

Brochures with studio descriptions, driving directions, and a map are available at area businesses, chambers of commerce, and online at northwoodsarttour.com.

REPORTS

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE REPORTS

07-12-2023

Deputies were sent to the area of USH 51 and the 208 mile marker (STH 64) in the Town of Pine River for a reported vehicle in the ditch. Reporting party indicated they thought the driver of the vehicle, a 55-year-old Saint Germain man, was impaired by drugs or alcohol. First deputy on scene made contact with the driver and also noticed signs of impairment. The driver was placed through a series of sobriety tests and, as a result of the tests, he was arrested for 1st offense OWI and possession of drug paraphernalia. The subject was transported to Merrill Aspirus Hospital for medical clearance and then to the Lincoln County Jail. No injuries were reported.

07-15-2023

Deputies were dispatched to an address on Packer Dr. in the Town of Harrison for a reported ATV rollover crash with injuries. Preliminary investigation revealed that the driver, a 20-year-old Appleton man, was N/B on CTH B when he lost control of his vehicle and entered the ditch on the opposite side of the road. Upon entering the ditch, the driver struck a group of trees. The driver could not remember the details of the crash. He did sustain serious injuries and was transported by ambulance to Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital for treatment.

07-15-2023

Lincoln County deputies investigated a fatal car crash. [See separate article.]

07-16-2023

The sheriff's office received a complaint of a reckless driver traveling S/B on STH 17 near the intersection of CTH G in the Town of Merrill. It was reported the vehicle was traveling all over the road at varying speeds. A responding deputy located the suspect vehicle traveling S/B on STH 17. As the deputy passed the suspect's vehicle, the deputy reported the suspect crossed over the center line and almost struck the deputy's squad. The vehicle was stopped and the driver, a 22-year-old Wausau woman, was arrested for OWI. She was transported to the Lincoln County Jail.

07-16-2023

A deputy on routine patrol attempted to stop a vehicle on Pope Rd. in the Town of Merrill for operating a motor vehicle at night without headlights. The driver of the vehicle, a 31-year-old Wausau man, failed to stop for the deputy, leading the deputy on a short pursuit that ended in the Little Florida trailer park located on Pope Rd. Once the suspect stopped the vehicle, he fled on foot, but was arrested a short time later. The driver was transported to the Lincoln County Jail where he was booked on several charges. No injuries or damage was reported due to the pursuit.

There were five car vs deer crashes reported during the week, with one causing minor injuries.



Merrill Baseball HOF honors new inductees

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On July 7, 2023 at Merrill's Athletic Park, past legendary players for the Merrill High School Baseball Team, were inducted into the Merrill Baseball Hall of Fame.

Three individual players, one of whom was also a coach, were recognized: Eric Dayton, Erik Finanger, and Roger Wendorf.

In addition, the Merrill High School (MHS) Baseball Team of 1965 was honored and inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Eric Dayton made the high school pitching record book in 2004 going 5-1, pitching 44 innings in five complete games, after breaking the growth plate in his pitching arm at practice in 2002 and being told he would never pitch again. He was named to the All-Conference Team as Pitcher in 2003, All District 2nd Team Pitcher, Hurler of the Year for Merrill Senior High, and named Athlete of the Week by the Merrill Foto News, all in 2003 as well. In 2005, he set a single season pitching record and took second in the school's history for 8 wins and 1 loss in a single season with 66 innings pitched, in 7 complete games, with an ERA of 1.89, and 62 strikeouts.

In his career at MHS, Dayton's career pitching record is 17-2, having pitched 110 innings with an overall ERA of 2.73, with 98 strikeouts. He was third highest in the school's stat books.

Dayton went on to play for the Wisconsin American Legion All Star North Team, as starting pitcher during the game at Miller Park; at Marian University; for the Wisconsin Woodchucks; and for the Sheboygan A's. Erik Finanger started



The members of the Merrill High School Baseball Team, 1965 Wisconsin Valley Champions who won the title with a 7-3 victory over Stevens Point, who were inducted into the Merrill Baseball Hall of Fame. Dan Wendorf photos.



2023 inductees into the Merrill Baseball Hall of Fame, from L to R: Roger Wendorf, Erik Finanger, and Eric Dayton.

out in Little League and was drafted into the Major League and then played for the Senior League. At MHS he played baseball and went to the state tournament in 1976 and 1977. And at the college level, he played baseball for two years for Luther College.

Many in the community, this writer included, will remember Roger Wendorf as their physical education teacher. But before that, Wendorf grew up playing Little League on the J.C.'s team, then in the Lincoln County Little League, and at age 16, on the Henrich's Club Hardball Team. During high school, he played for MHS and also played American Legion Baseball. Wendorf was a catcher.

During college, Wendorf was a co-captain on the UW-Madison Wrestling Team. Wendorf returned to

Merrill to teach physical education in 1973. He also became a coach, coaching football, baseball, softball, and wrestling. Under his leadership, the wrestling team won two back-to-back State titles, and Merrill participated in back-to-back State Tournaments in 1976 and 1977.

The MHS Baseball Team of 1965 were named Wisconsin Valley Champions after they won against Stevens Point in a 7-3 victory. They ended that season with an overall record of 8-3 under the leadership of Coach Ron Sterr. Team members included Phil Dettmering, Jim Wendland, Daryl Berndt, Mike Wissen, Phil Schaefer, Scott Baumgart, John Westfall, John Gryskiewicz, Greg Ament, Jim Olson, Terry Doering, Bob Klug, Mort Sukow, and Ron Briggs.



The Merrill 12U All Stars Little League Team started strong this year in the first round but were unfortunately knocked out of the Little League Tournament after losing 13-3 to Wausau American and then losing to Antigo 7-4. In photo, front L to R: Parker Simon, Jackson Seliger, Johnathon Barnett, Shaban Kiskoski, Koi Olson, Colton VanLieshout, Oliver Kahr, and Coach Chris Simon. Back row L to R: Coach Craig Josiger, Ethan Space, Andrew Josiger, Taylor Timm, Wil Detert, Cameron Thom, and Coach John VanLieshout. Submitted photo.

Merrill Lady Jays win awards at Fastpitch Softball Banquet

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Lady Jays recently held their annual banquet to celebrate the end of their 2023 Fastpitch Softball season.

Standouts in the award ceremony included two players who earned All Conference recognition. Addy Schmeltzer was named All Conference 2nd Team, utility, and Sophie Wendorf was named All Conference Honorable Mention, infield.

Addy Schmeltzer also received the Bluejay Award and Queen of the Circle Varsity Award.

Sophie Wendorf also received the Slugger Varsity Award.

The Brick Wall Varsity Award went to Mia Ott, and Maddie Drew was named

See **SOFTBALL** page 16



Merrill Fastpitch Softball players named to All Conference, from L to R: Addy Schmeltzer-All conference 2nd team, utility, and Sophie Wendorf-Honorable Mention, infield. Submitted photos.



L to R: Winners of the Teammate Awards-Dani Schielke (JV) and Kenzie Erica Ameson (Varsity).



L to R: Winners of the Slugger Awards-Sophie Wendorf (Varsity) and Bella Kottke (JV).



L to R: Most Improved Award-Emma Frazier, Guts and Grit Award-Kayli Wirtala, and Bluejay Award-Addy Schmeltzer.



Brick Wall Awards: Mady Graap (JV)(in photo) and Mia Ott (Varsity)(not pictured).

2023 Merrill Summer Baseball Schedule

Junior Legion

Fri. July 21st- Tues. July 25th

State

Post 46

Fri. July 21st- Mon. July 24th

Regional's

Merrill Rangers

Wed. July 26th

Everest

Away

7:00 p.m.

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SOFTBALL from page 15

Rookie of the Year.

Emma Frazier was named Most Improved and received the Clutch Hitter Varsity Award. The Clutch Hitter JV Award went to Kenzie Ellenbecker.

The Varsity Teammate Award went to

Erica Arneson, while the JV Teammate Award went to Dani Schielke.

Mady Graap received the Queen of the Circle JV Award and the Brick Wall JV Award, while Bella Kottke got the JV Slugger Award.

The award for Guts and Grit went to Kayli Wirtala.



L to R: Winners of the Queen of the Circle Awards-Mady Graap (JV) and Addy Schmeltzer (Varsity).



L to R: Winners of the Clutch Hitter Awards-Emma Frazier (Varsity) and Kenzie Ellenbecker (JV).

SUMMER SIZZLING SALE



 Sugardale Ham Portions \$179 lb.	 Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast \$299 lb.	 Big Pack Chicken Leg Quarters 99¢ lb.	 Whole Pork Tenderloin \$299 lb.
 85% Lean Family Pack Ground Beef \$399 lb.	 Smithfield Thick Sliced Bacon \$999 ea. 2 1/2 lb. pkg. (\$3.99 lb.)	 Red & Green Seedless Grapes \$199 lb.	 Angel Soft Bath Tissue 8 = 32 \$699

All Sales Good Through Tuesday, July 25, 2023!
Limits are in place on some items. Items based on availability. Sorry, no rainchecks.

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Estimated state school aid for MAPS reduced by 3.35%

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On July 1, 2023, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) released an estimate of the general school aid amounts each school district in the state could anticipate receiving for the 2023-24 school year. Wisconsin statutes require the figures to be published by July 1 each year. General school aids are the largest form of state support for Wisconsin public schools, offsetting local property taxes under state-imposed revenue limits, a release from DPI said.

According to DPI, Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) received \$18,253,545 in general aid for the 2022-23 school year as of

the Oct. 15, 2022, general aid certification.

For the 2023-24 school year, MAPS is anticipated to receive \$17,642,664.

That's a decrease of 3.35% and more than \$600,000 ... \$610,881 to be exact.

The current estimate is based on the biennial budget as passed by the Wisconsin State Legislature and pupil count data reported by school districts to the DPI, the release said.

This data was released prior to the finalization of the state's 2023-25 biennial budget and is based on budgeted data as opposed to audited data. "This means the estimated amounts are subject to change by the time the DPI certifies general school aids for 2023-24 based on audited data by October 15, 2023," the release said.

Lincoln County veterans picnic

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

All Lincoln County veterans and their spouses or guests are invited to a picnic on Sunday, Aug. 13, 2023, beginning at 11 a.m. at Veteran's Memorial Park, 101 E. River St. in Tomahawk at the Bandstand Pavilion. All are encouraged to wear something that depicts the branch of service they served in and conveys a patriotic spirit. Share a meal and enjoy comradeship. A free main dish lunch and water, soda, ice, napkins, and condiments will be provided.

Veterans should bring their own lawn chairs, a dish to pass or dessert, and bring their own plates, silverware, napkins, and adult beverages [if desired]. Please RSVP to: vfwauxiliary@gmail.com or call or text Patty Soward (Post 2687 Auxiliary President) at 715.966.5397.

"Since COVID interfered the last couple years, we are trying to get a feel of numbers and return to 'normal,'" organizers said. "We look forward to a great attendance."

In the event of rain, the picnic will be moved to the VFW Club, 203 S. 4th St. in Tomahawk.

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