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## VFW honors Wisconsin Department Commander

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) announced Michele Rathke has achieved All-American status as a Department Commander. To achieve this honor, Department Commanders must meet strict requirements in their role to include exceptional leadership, authentic accomplishment in membership growth, and strong support of VFW core programs.



Michelle Rathke.

Rathke, a Gold Legacy Life member of Post 1638 in Merrill, is one of 48 VFW Department Commanders worldwide to earn the title of All-American commander. Her hard work played an integral role helping the organization successfully remain focused on its service to veterans.

See VFW page 6



More photos online  
merrillfotonews.com

Tina L. Scott photo.

## Central Wisconsin Bandits working toward a Championship

### Merrill's new semi-pro football team begins playoffs at Jay Stadium Saturday

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

Austin Levine and Jeremie Writz are Co-Owners of the Central Wisconsin Bandits, a central-Wisconsin-based semi-pro adult football team in the Northern Lights Football League (NLFL). The Bandits now proudly called Merrill, and Jay Stadium, their home. Their season runs from late April through August and games are played on Saturday afternoons, so this adult football league co-exists easily with Merrill High School football.

The team began in 2019 in Marshfield and was originally co-owned by Writz and Scott Van Handle. Jessie Clenny

helped get things organized and also played for the team. About a year later, Van Handle decided to become a player only, opting out of ownership. The team started out strong, but then COVID canceled their season, leaving the team to play games against other willing teams just for fun and practice.

In 2022, Writz moved to Merrill and soon after realized the Merrill community was also the perfect fit for the football team. Jay Stadium and the Merrill community welcomed the new team and are starting to embrace the Central Wisconsin Bandits as their own. At the end of 2022, Austin Levine, former quarterback for the team, came on board as a Co-Owner

and Head Coach. Levine had been injured and wasn't sure he'd be able to play again, and he wholeheartedly embraced coaching and working with Writz to develop the team and become a part of the Merrill community. "We decided to relocate here to Merrill, as we saw a lot of opportunity here player wise and community wise," Levine said. He said it's been a great fit.

#### Bandits wrap up regular season play

Last Saturday, July 22, the Bandits played their last regular season league game against the Rock River

See BANDITS page 12

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## The BriTins drew a crowd last Thursday

### Thorogood Thursday concerts continue

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

Normal Park wasn't quite filled to capacity, but The BriTins drew the biggest crowd to date at one of the Gazebo Nights concerts now dubbed Thorogood Thursdays last Thursday evening, July 20, 2023. They came by car, on bicycles, and on foot ... with children, pets, and family and friends.

Attendees kept the concession and popcorn stands busy, took lots of photos and mini videos, kept their feet tapping, and some even got up and danced. The Beatles music performed by the BriTins was a huge hit.

"It was overwhelming to see the turn out we had for the BriTins," said Michael "Gus" Caylor, one of the event's organizers. "When we first took over the concert series from Mike and Karen, Mike had always spoke of getting the BriTins here to play, but we knew it was a long shot. Bands such as the BriTins are very good at what they do; they often travel longer distances and they command a higher price than most bands."

"It is because of the continuing commitment from our sponsors and that of Thorogood that we have been able to expand the lineup in



Beautiful night, beautiful flowers, beautiful music. It's Thorogood Thursday at Normal Park!  
Tina L. Scott photo.

recent years," he said. "This year the BriTins, next year we might even have a bigger surprise up our sleeves."

"It was also great to see the tremendous outpouring of support once again for our non-profits," Caylor said. "Our 50/50 raffle beneficiaries will see some changes this year, but it was great to shatter the record for the Humane Society last week."

#### Tonight's concert

The Northwoods Bassist kicks off the opening act at 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 27. Neal Zunker and the Music Connection take the stage at 6 p.m.

They are halfway through their band's farewell tour. Thorogood, a division of Weinbrenner Shoe Company, Chips, and the Holy Cross Sisters are sponsors this week. Luther Memorial Church will sell concessions.

#### Next week's lineup

Northwoods Bassist will open again, but this time for Bogfoot. From Sugar Camp, Bogfoot was the most requested band to return for 2023. The five-piece band plays seven decades of rock and roll and is sure to

See CONCERTS page 2

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"Twist and shout ... ooooo" Why not get up and dance?  
 Tina L. Scott photos.

## Pet of the Week

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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, or visit us on the web at [www.furypets.com](http://www.furypets.com).

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Another view of the crowd.

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Lots of cell phones were out Thursday night snapping photos and taking videos of The BritTins.

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Kids at play enjoying friends and music.

## CONCERTS

from page 1

draw another big crowd to Normal Park on Aug. 3.

Sponsored by Thorogood, along with Century 21 Best Way Realty, Nicolet Bank, the Dugout, Lange Home Construction, and One Way Collision, and the Boy Scouts will sell concessions.

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

## St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

1004 E. Main Street, Merrill

# Christmas in July Sale

**July 24 thru July 29, 2023**  
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Join us on **Saturday, July 29th** for our "Cookies & Coupons" for the first 100 customers!

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Hashbrown Patties Oval - Frozen 3.5 lbs. ONLY \$5 <sup>99</sup>	Margarine Sticks 4-4 oz sticks 16 oz. ONLY 99¢	Chicken Wings Raw - Uncooked - Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY \$7 <sup>99</sup>
Chicken Thighs Skinless, Boneless - Frozen 40 oz. ONLY \$4 <sup>99</sup>	Go-Gurt Low Fat Strawberry/Vanilla 32 oz. ONLY \$1 <sup>49</sup>	Pork Back Ribs Uncooked - Frozen 4 lbs. ONLY \$1 <sup>99</sup> a lb
Chicken Breast Jumbo - Skinless Boneless - Frozen 4.5 lb. ONLY \$1 <sup>59</sup> a lb	Cream Cheese 1/3 Less Fat 8 oz. ONLY 89¢	Pork Sausage Links - Fully Cooked Original - Frozen 38 oz. ONLY \$3 <sup>99</sup>
Chicken Breast Uncooked - Frozen Stuffed w/Broc. Cheese 80 oz. ONLY \$9 <sup>89</sup>	Pepper Jack Cheese Ends & Trim 20 lbs. ONLY \$1 <sup>69</sup> a lb	Chicken Patties Fully Cooked - Breaded Frozen 46 oz. ONLY \$4 <sup>89</sup>
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In-store only. We reserve the right to limit quantities.



Dancing to the tunes, popping popcorn, and celebrating his birthday, according to nearby sources. Won't he be surprised to see his photo in the paper?

## CLASSIFIEDS

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# Country Haven Farm welcomes a new baby

## Meet the new heifer at this weekend's event open to the public

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

On July 5, 2023, Vickie and Otto Reese welcomed a new addition to Country Haven Farm - Wounded Warriors United of Wisconsin in Gleason. A baby girl was born to one of their Scottish Highland cows. "She is a healthy and happy girl," Vickie said. "We have not named her yet, but we are overjoyed at our little addition."

The new heifer, an adorable dun (nearly neutral slightly brownish dark gray) color, is just one of the animals on the rural Gleason farm where Wisconsin veterans and their families can interact with and enjoy the Scottish Highland cows, miniature donkies, Mangolista pigs, and pygmy and fainting goats. The farm is designed as a getaway for veterans, but this Saturday, July 29, the public is invited to visit the farm, enjoy live music by Country Rewind, and help raise funds to build a new cabin where veterans and their families will be able to stay free of charge.

A free pig roast is being held this Saturday [advance registration/RSVP was required to plan for food] for those who registered. But the couple



Otto Reese pets the newest addition to Country Haven Farm, and it's a girl!  
Photo courtesy of Country Haven Farm.

welcomes everyone who wants to just come to meet the animals, learn what Country Haven Farm is all about, enjoy the music and hay rides, and learn more about how they can help honor and support the veterans who served our country by providing them a respite from the challenges and struggles many face every day. Bring

a lawn chair, but please leave pets at home; however, trained service dogs are welcome at this event.

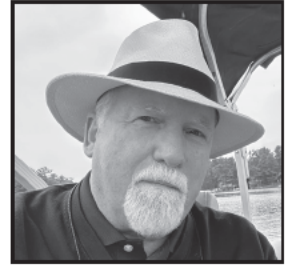
More information is available at [www.wvuwi.org](http://www.wvuwi.org) [Click on Events, then Pig Roast] or call Vickie at 920.203.8692.

Country Haven Farm is located at W14743 1st Ave., Gleason WI 54435.

## PUBLISHER'S LETTER

### Going Back Going Forward

Dear Reader,  
In the realm of passing time, where the currents of life have flowed relentlessly, traversing beneath the sturdy arches of many bridges, one finds oneself unable to retrace their steps. Such is the nature of our journey, where the exuberance of youth and the aspirations of an uncharted future paint vivid images in our minds, far grander than the stark realities we face each day.



As the years have stretched on, extending far beyond the reach of any remaining vitality, the ties that once bound us to those who embarked on divergent paths have faded into little significance. Each of us chose roads untraveled by the other, rendering us unrecognizable if we were to chance upon one another in some gathering or occasion, after years of life passing by without sporadic check-ins to gauge each other's progress.

After a prolonged absence from someone we once held dear, the very essence of that connection transforms, even if fragments of memories linger on. One can't go back in time, because life evolves in stages, stages that fit uniquely with an individual's aging process.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
Publisher

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

## Construction on Wis. Hwy. 107 begins July 31 in Lincoln County

Construction on Wis. Hwy. 107 will begin on July 31, 2023, in Lincoln County. The highway will be closed and detoured as crews work to replace two culverts, repair a bridge, and replace a bridge.

Crews will replace the culvert pipes 0.6 miles north of Eggert Dr. and 0.2 miles north of Rock Falls Dr. In addition, structure repairs and pavement improvements at Joe Snow Creek and a structure replacement and pavement replacement at Skanawan Creek will take place.

Traffic will be detoured via Wis. Hwy. 64, Cty. Hwy. J, US Hwy. 51 and Cty. Hwy. S.

Construction is scheduled for completion by October 2023. The schedule is dependent on favorable weather conditions and construction progress.

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[merrillfotonews.com](http://merrillfotonews.com)

## Merrill alumni flying into EAA in Oshkosh

An Air Force pilot originally from the Merrill area, Major Zachary Ratkovich, will be flying a C-130J based out of the Little Rock, Ark., Air Force Base into Oshkosh for the EAA AirVenture on Thursday, July 27, 2023, arriving at approximately 10:30 a.m. He and his crew will have a static display of the C-130J at the show through Sunday, July 30. Ratkovich graduated from Merrill High School Class of 2008 and was a 2012 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. If you'll be traveling to EAA in Oshkosh this week, check it out and look him up!



Major Zachary Ratkovich in a C-130J. Submitted photo.

## Merrill skies were busy Sunday

The skies over Merrill were busy last Sunday as the Merrill Municipal Airport was the designated finish line for the 25th annual EAA AirVenture Cup Race held July 23, 2023.

Approximately 70 unique aircraft in 29 race classes raced a route of more than 400 nautical miles to make a low pass over Merrill where their finish time was clocked.



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

An airplane flies over the Merrill Airport. This entry in the race was a traditional style aircraft. Tina L. Scott photos.



All eyes were on the sky at and around the Merrill airport on Sunday as planes dropped altitude to cross the finish line in the EAA AirVenture Cup Race.

Throughout the day, the event drew onlookers at the Merrill Airport, up and down Airport Rd., and in nearby fields. Many local residents also took pause from their activities to turn their eyes to the sky to marvel at some of the unique aircraft, not often seen passing through at such low altitude in our area.

The EAA AirVenture Cup Race is held annually in advance of EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh.

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THE FOTO NEWS (ISSN 0191-8958) is published weekly by Multi Media Channels LLC, N2919 County Road QO, Waupaca WI 54981. Subscription price by mail: \$100 per year; domestic U.S. Mail only, nonrefundable but transferable. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE FOTO NEWS, 921 E. Main St., Merrill, WI 54452.

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# OBITUARIES



**Lois M. Latzig (Nee Bennett)**, 87, of the Town of Pine River, Lincoln County, passed away Monday, July 17, 2023, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital after spending her last days surrounded by her family.

Lois was born September 10, 1935, in Tomahawk, daughter of the late Arthur and Mae (Pecore) Bennett. Lois married Warren E. Latzig on June 18, 1955, at St. Stephens United Church of Christ, Merrill. He preceded her in death on October 24, 2016.

Lois graduated from Rhinelander High School with the class of 1953. She furthered her education at Lincoln County Normal School and graduated with her Teaching Diploma in 1955. Lois began her teaching career in a one-room schoolhouse. Through the years, she also worked as a teacher's aide and school secretary. After retirement, Lois still enjoyed helping out as a substitute teacher. Lois enjoyed attending the Lincoln County Retired Educators' Association meetings with her former co-workers.

Lois and Warren enjoyed camping and pontoon rides. They traveled frequently, and had been to the Caribbean, Hawaii, Yellowstone National Park, Branson, Missouri, the Panama Canal, and several other places throughout the United States. Lois and Warren spent many winters in Avon Park, Florida and many summers at Fox Fire Campground in Woodruff, Wisconsin. Many lifelong friendships were made in Avon Park and Woodruff. Lois enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, especially her children, grandchildren, siblings, nieces, and nephews. She loved going to garage sales and watching 'Wheel of Fortune.' Her children and grandchildren knew not to call to chat between 6:30 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. while the show was on. Lois loved sending her grandchildren and great-grandchildren holiday and birthday cards; it was so important to her that she asked her daughter Debbie to continue that tradition once she passed away. Lois was always taking care of everyone. Whether friends or family, she was always there to help. Lois was a longtime member of St. Stephens United Church of Christ in Merrill and enjoyed the radio ministry in her later years.

Survivors include her children, Warren (Debra) Latzig, Jr. of Branson, Missouri, Douglas Latzig of the Town of Pine River, and Debra (Tony) Borelli of the Town of Pine River; six grandchildren, Todd (Rebecca) Latzig, Caryn Franzen, Courtney (Eric) Petruzates, Rebecca (Jake) Becker, Annie (DeWayne) Latzig-Johnson, and Brooke (Matt) Borelli; and twelve great-grandchildren, Brandon (Katie), Maggie (Freddy), Grace, Ashlyn, Addyson, Mason, Eliza, Harris, Ellis, Scarlett, Coby, and Phillip. Lois was the beloved sister of Jerry (late Carol) Bennett, Betty (Don) Jung, Carol (late Denny) Dart, Shirley (late Alvin) Sowinski, late Bill Bennett, Bob (Bev) Bennett, Gary (Laura) Bennett, late Kathryn (late Burton) Ellingson, and late Colleen Taylor. She is further survived by sisters-in-law, Joyce Peterson and Betty Latzig both of Merrill; and many nieces and nephews, relatives, and friends. Lois was preceded in death by her husband, Warren Latzig Sr.; parents, Arthur and Mae Bennett; and brothers-in-law and sister-in-law, Walter Latzig, Fred (Millie) Latzig, Sr., and George Peterson.

The funeral service for Lois will be held at 11:00 A.M., Friday, July 21, 2023, at St. Stephens United Church of Christ, Merrill. Rev. Michael Southcombe will officiate. Visitation will begin at 9:00 A.M. Friday, at the church. The burial will take place in Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

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



**Mark James Weix Sr.**, age 82, of Merrill, passed into eternal rest from natural causes on Friday, July 21, 2023 at Bell Tower Residence, where he and his wife, Betty, resided. Mark was born on August 23, 1940 to the late Emil and Kathleen (O'Malley) Weix in Medford, WI. He married the love of his life, Betty Schewe, on June 10, 1961, at St. Roberts Catholic Church in Merrill.

In his youth, Mark enjoyed participating in sports; hockey, football and baseball. The highlight of his youth sports participation was having attained Wisconsin All State Football Guard from Merrill High School. He attended and graduated from Merrill High School with the class of 1958. As the years passed, he enjoyed coaching Merrill youth and his sons in Merrill Youth Tackle Football. He later went on to enjoy seeing his sons participate in the sports he loved and supported the booster clubs for wrestling and football. Mark was an active member of the Silver M Club, achieving a Golden M. He relished knowing each of his seven sons are or would become a member of the Silver M Club. Fishing, hunting and teaching his children to enjoy the outdoors and planning summer vacations all over the United States kept him busy. He looked forward to his hunting trips to Montana with the Waids and going to the hunting shack, the "Newood Hilton".

Mark grew up in the canning business; with his father's business being the Oconomowoc Canning Company. He would take his family to visit the many canneries throughout Wisconsin. Mark worked up to three jobs to support his growing family. During his working career, he took great pride in working from a bank teller to a vice president of a bank. Mark would take tremendous joy in being able to help people make wise investments, obtain loans and give financial advice. He was employed at Citizens American Bank, M&I Bank and retired from River Valley State Bank.

Mark was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and participated in various community volunteer clubs including the JC's, Optimist, Knights of Columbus and the Silver M Club. He also enjoyed his time at the Waid Funeral Home coffee clutch. Mark looked forward to his regular "drive-by's" of his children's homes!

Mark loved his family, and was very proud that each of his ten children had graduated from college and had a degree. He had a deep commitment to his catholic faith, and was a fierce supporter of the Merrill community. He was a fun-loving and supportive man that will be missed by family and friends.

Mark is survived by his wife of 62 years: Elizabeth "Betty" Louise (Schewe) Weix, and their 10 children: Mark (Deb) Weix Jr. of Merrill, Kathleen (Paul) Weix-Klippel of Merrill, Mary Jo (Barry) Klade of Merrill, Joe (Lisa) Weix of Merrill, Barb (Chris) Redman of Eau Claire, WI, Tom (Amy Jay) Weix of Antigo, Jim (Shelley) Weix of Merrill, Bob (Aby) Weix of Cloquet, MN, Bill Weix of Columbia Heights, MN and Paul (Brianne) Weix of Janesville, WI, 38 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, brother: Emil Joe Weix and sisters: Mary Ann Ritchay and Pat McCarren.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Mark will be held on Monday, July 31, 2023 at 12pm at St. Francis Catholic Xavier Church in Merrill. Father Maria Vallabhaneni will officiate. Visitation will be held on Sunday, July 30, 2023 from 4pm-8pm at Waid Funeral Home, and again on Monday, July 31, 2023 from 11am - 11:45am, also at the funeral home. Burial at the St. Francis Catholic Xavier Cemetery will immediately follow Mass.

In lieu of flowers, family request that donations be directed in Mark's name to the St. Francis Catholic Xavier Church building fund or the Silver M Club.

Family wishes to thank the staff at Bell Tower Residence for their care and compassion shown to Mark over the years, and their continued care of their mother, Betty. They also want to extend their thanks to Andrea Heller and Dr. Gregory Gill. The kids want to express their love and appreciation to their mom, Betty, for her 62 years of dedication to their beloved father.

For those unable to attend Mass, a recording for future viewing will be posted under his obituary on the funeral home website.

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



**Silvaline Pickruhn**, age 106, died Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at Athenian Assisted Living, Athens, WI.

Silvaline was born April 7, 1917, in the Town of Rib Falls to the late Bernard and Emma (Huehnerfuss) Brandt.

Silvaline married Harley Pickruhn June 3, 1939, at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Rib Falls. Together they had two sons Jerome and Cyrus.

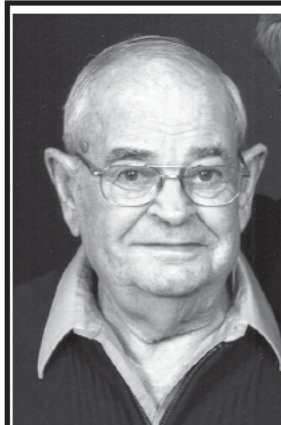
Silvaline and Harley farmed in the Town of Hamburg until 1966 when they moved to Wausau. There she set up her weaving loom making beautiful rag rugs for family and friends with Harley sewing and her working the loom. In their earlier years they traveled to various states along with a special trip to Germany. Summers were always spent at their cottage 'Up North'.

Silvaline is survived by her sister Pearl Sekorski, Wausau; daughter-in-laws Carol Pickruhn, Marathon and Lorraine Pickruhn-France, Boise, ID; grandchildren David Pickruhn (Marathon), Barb (Korey) Kaldunski, Athens, Dale (Terese) Pickruhn, Wausau, Jody (Tina) Pickruhn, Ishpeming, MI, Stacy (Arthur Eslinger) Pickruhn, Boise Idaho, great-grandchildren Tarrah (Anthony) Bennis, Briah (Christopher) Perry, Megan (Taylor) Chappel, Logan Pickruhn, Quinn & Zeke Eslinger, Miles & Foster Pickruhn and great-great grandchildren, Grant, Alayna, Jace & Sylvia with two more on the way; and many extended family and friends. Silvaline was preceded in death by her husband, Harley; her two sons, Jerome and Cyrus; her brothers and their wives, Lewellyn (Mabel) Brandt, Lawrence (Anita) Brandt, Levi (Ethel) Brandt, Marvin Brandt, Milton (Arlene) Brandt, Ervin (Helen) Brandt, Lilas (Eileen) Brandt and Walter (Marion) Brandt; her sister Clarice (Harold) Kopplin; her brother-in-law John Sekorski.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, July 21, 2023, at St. Peter Lutheran Church, 135237 CTH Road A, Marathon. Pastor Will Ostrem will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Friends may call at 9:00 a.m. until the time of service at the church. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.petersonkraemer.com](http://www.petersonkraemer.com).

The family would like to extend a heartfelt word of thanks to her special friend Ellen for her daily visits, Lori & Lisa and all the staff and residents at Athenian Assisted Living for their care and friendship to Silvaline during her time there.

*Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your soul. 1 Peter 1: 8-9.*



**Alvin E. Lezotte**, 88, of Merrill, passed away Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at Aspirus Merrill Hospital.

Alvin was born March 28, 1935, in Neillsville, Wisconsin, son of the late Edward and Hazel (Peaslee) Lezotte. He married Yvonne Schmidt on November 25, 1961, in Neillsville. She survives. Alvin enlisted in the United States Army in March of 1958. He served during the Korean War and was honorably discharged in March of 1960.

Alvin and Yvonne moved to Merrill in 1970 and for 10 years Alvin worked at the former House of Merrill. He then worked for many years at Semco and retired in 1997. He enjoyed camping, fishing in earlier years, smoking his pipe, and eating peanut butter. Alvin was a longtime member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Merrill and was an honorary member of the Knights of Columbus. He was also a life-member of V.F.W. Post 1638, Merrill.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Yvonne Lezotte of Merrill; daughters, Tammy (Allan) Klade of Merrill and Cheryl (David) Buck of Merrill; sons, Kevin Lezotte of De Pere, Brian (Cindy) Lezotte of Merrill, and Michael (Sandy) Lezotte of De Pere; daughter-in-law, Juli Lezotte of Merrill; 19 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; one great grandchild on the way; sisters, JoAnn Holnbach of Wisconsin Rapids, Sandra Hoesly of Neillsville, Donna Larson of Janesville, and Paulette Oldham of Viroqua; brothers, Virgil (Elaine) Lezotte of Merrill, Leroy (Bernadine) Lezotte of Neillsville, and Douglas (Claude) Lezotte of Neillsville; and brother-in-law, Roman Huppert of Prescott.

Alvin was preceded in death by his first wife, Norma (Bredlau) Lezotte in 1961; parents, Edward and Hazel Lezotte; son, David Lezotte; grandson, Jacob Lezotte; daughter-in-law, Holly Lezotte; sister, Marcia Huppert; brother, Gerald 'Jerry' Lezotte; and brothers-in-law, Wayne Holnbach, Clarence Hoesly, Allen Larson, and Dick Oldham.

The Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 11:00 A.M., Monday, July 24, 2023, at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Merrill. Father Mariadas Vallabhaneni will preside. Burial will take place in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery with graveside military rites conducted by V.F.W. Post 1638, Merrill. Visitation will be from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Sunday, July 23, 2023, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill.

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



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.

Remember, and be remembered with a granite memorial from **TOMAHAWK MONUMENT CO.** Specialists in Pre-Needs Planning FROM SELECTION TO DESIGN TO SETTING, ALL OF OUR WORK IS PROUDLY DONE IN-HOUSE 20 N. 2nd St., Tomahawk, WI • 715 453 6523 Visit us at: [www.tomahawkmonument.com](http://www.tomahawkmonument.com) Email us at: [contactus@tomahawkmonument.com](mailto:contactus@tomahawkmonument.com)

**Taylor & Stine** Funeral Home and Cremation Services Leah D. Reist McKenna K. Meunier Tammy Klade 903 E. 3rd Street • Merrill • 715-536-6244 [www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com](http://www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com)

**WAID FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICES** 301 Eagle Drive, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452 Phone (715) 536-4646 • [www.WaidFuneral.com](http://www.WaidFuneral.com) Email: [info@waidfuneral.com](mailto:info@waidfuneral.com)

**| LEGAL NOTICES |**

**Legals 7700**

**BY THE COURT**  
**DATE SIGNED 07/03/2023**  
**/S/HON. GALEN BAYNE-ALLISON**  
**CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, BR I**  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY**  
**Notice and Order for**  
**Name Change Hearing**  
 Case No. 23-CV-77  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE**  
**NAME CHANGE OF**  
 McKenzie Ellen Miller  
**NOTICE IS GIVEN**  
 A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
 From: McKenzie Ellen Miller  
 To: McKenzie Ellen Smith  
 Birth Certificate: McKenzie Ellen Smith  
**IT IS ORDERED**  
 This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Judge's Name: Bayne-Allison  
 Place: Lincoln County Courthouse, Branch I  
 Date: 07/31/2023  
 Time: 9:30 AM  
 If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.  
**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**  
 Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Foto News a newspaper published in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Published: 7/13/23, 7/20/23 & 7/27/23  
 WNAJLP

**BY THE COURT**  
**DATE SIGNED July 13, 2023**  
**Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer**  
**Probate Registrar**  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN,**  
**CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF**  
 Charlotte Peters  
 Notice to Creditors  
 (Informal Administration)  
 Case No. 2023 IN 33  
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**  
 1. An application for informal administration was filed.  
 2. The decedent, with date of birth 1/4/1926 and date of death 3/7/2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1500 O'Day Street, Merrill, WI 54452.  
 3. All interested persons waived notice.  
 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 11/3/2023.  
 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Register in Probate Office.  
 Patricia Heller  
 N4995 Larson Lake  
 Irma, WI 54442  
 715-536-1501  
 Published 7/20/23, 7/27/23 & 8/3/23  
 WNAJLP

**BY THE COURT**  
**DATE SIGNED July 13, 2023**  
**Electronically signed by Kim Uttech**  
**Registrar in Probate**

**Legals 7700**

**Probate Registrar**  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN,**  
**CIRCUIT COURT,**  
**MARATHON COUNTY**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF**  
 Ralph W. Buch  
**Notice to Creditors**  
 (Informal Administration)  
 Case No. 23 N 113  
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**  
 1. An application for informal administration was filed.  
 2. The decedent, with date of birth 12/16/38 and date of death 5/23/23, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 15885 60th Ave, Merrill, WI 54452.  
 3. All interested persons waived notice.  
 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 19, 2023.  
 5. A claim may be filed at the Marathon County Courthouse, Wausau, Wisconsin, Room Probate.  
 Phyllis A. Buch  
 15885 60th Ave  
 Merrill, WI 54452  
 715-536-2232  
 Published 7/20/23, 7/27/23 & 8/3/23  
 WNAJLP

**CITY OF MERRILL**  
 1004 EAST FIRST STREET  
 MERRILL, WI 54452  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
 All persons interested will be given an opportunity to be heard at a public hearing to be held by and before the City Plan Commission of the City of Merrill, Wisconsin, commencing at 6 00 p.m., on **Tuesday, August 1, 2023**, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 1004 East First Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, on the following proposed matter, to wit:  
 1.) Holly Stoerzer, requesting rezoning from R-1 to Thoroughfare Commercial under M.M.C. Sec. 113.428 for a vacant property behind 1003 S Center Avenue in the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin. Legally described in pin# 251-3106-132-0232.  
 Anyone having any questions regarding the hearing should contact Zoning Administrator, Darin Pagel at 536-4880.  
 Dated: July 12, 2023  
 CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN  
 By: Lori Anderson-Malm  
 City Clerk  
 Published July 20 & 27, 2023  
 WNAJLP

**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

**Legals 7700**

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  
 WNAJLP

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
 "VB 500 II, LLC would like to place on notice the proposed construction of a 295' (305' including all appurtenances) lattice tower known as Alexander Lake (1398.7 ground elevation). If lighting is required the applicant will request the use of dual red/white, medium intensity lighting (but will ultimately use lighting/markings required by the FAA), located at 45°14'11" 64" north latitude and 89°46'26.50" west longitude at near N3446 South End Road, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452, ASR File #A1242208. The application for this proposed project can be viewed at [www.fcc.gov/asr/applications](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the ASR file number. If you have environmental concerns about the proposed structure, a Request for Environmental Review may be filed with the FCC at [www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) or by writing to FCC Requests for Environmental Review, ATTN: Ramon Williams, 445 12th St SW, Washington, DC 20554. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online. Requests for Environmental Review may only raise environmental concerns and must be filed within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC's website. If you have any concerns of any historic properties that may be affected by this proposed undertaking, please write to: DeAnna Anglin, Lotis Environmental, LLC, [Legals@thelotigroup.com](mailto:Legals@thelotigroup.com) or call (417) 840-5008. In your response, please include the proposed undertaking's location and a list of the historic resources that you believe to be affected along with their respective addresses or approximate locations." Published July 27, 2023  
 WNAJLP

**Merrill Area Public Schools**  
**Regular Board of Education Meeting**  
**June 21, 2023 - Minutes**  
 The meeting was called to order by Blake at 5:30 PM in the Board Room. Board members present: Ashbeck, Gremler, Krueger, Liberty, Osness, Proulx, Yingling and Blake. Board member absent: Woller. Others Present: Superintendent Murray, MAPS Administrators, three people from the staff and public and Recorder Woller.

**Legals 7700**

MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the continuation of the contracts with vendors and purchases as presented for the 2023-24 fiscal year with cost variances not to exceed the lower of 5% or \$10,000. Motion carried unanimously.  
 MOTION by Proulx, second by Ashbeck to approve offering universal free breakfast and no change to milk or lunch prices for 2023-24. Motion carried unanimously.  
 MOTION by Osness, second by Gremler to approve the co-op positions as presented. Motion carried unanimously.  
 MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the AGR End-of-Year Report. Motion carried unanimously.  
 MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the Title I Schoolwide Plans for Kate Goodrich and Washington Elementary for the 2023-2024 School Year. Motion carried unanimously.  
 MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the purchase of the BenQ Panels in the amount of \$73,750.00 to be paid for with technology funds from the 2023-2024 budget. Motion carried unanimously.  
 MOTION by Osness, second by Proulx to approve the 2023-2024 Prairie River Middle School Student Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.  
 MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the donation of labor and materials from the Silver "M" Club and SGS Environmental valued at \$6,150 for placing recognition bricks in the plaza at Jay Stadium. Motion carried unanimously.  
 MOTION by Liberty, second by Yingling to approve the donation of cash from Incredible Bank Foundation valued at \$20,000 for theater lighting upgrades and Theatre Jays program support. Motion carried unanimously.  
 MOTION by Osness, second by Krueger to approve the attached personnel report, contingent upon the satisfaction of the appropriate liquidated damages for resignations, if applicable. Motion carried unanimously.  
 MOTION by Osness, second by Liberty to approve consent agenda items a through c, which includes minutes of the May 17, 2023, May 23, 2023, June 5, 2023, 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,146,364.87; and, donations totaling \$8,775.05. Motion carried with Yingling abstaining from the May 17, 2023, and the May 23, 2023 meeting minutes; Proulx abstaining from the June 5, 2023 meeting minutes; and, Gremler abstaining from the May 23, 2023 meeting minutes.  
 Blake called for a motion to adjourn into executive (closed) session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes under Section 19.85(1)(b); (c); (f) except where par. (b) applies; and, 118.125. The purpose of the closed session is to review the pre-expulsion history chart; and, for the purpose of considering, and taking action as appropriate, regarding dismissal of a teacher, including possible evidentiary hearing and discussions related to medical histories of the teacher. MOTION by Liberty,

**Legals 7700**

second by Krueger to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.  
 MOTION by Proulx, second by Ashbeck to reconvene into open session. Motion carried unanimously.  
 MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the administration's recommendation for termination of Mary Walsh's contract, effective June 30, 2023. Motion carried on a roll call vote.  
 MOTION by Krueger, second by Ashbeck to adjourn at 6:34 p.m.  
 Respectfully submitted,  
 Kendra Osness  
 Board Clerk  
 KO/tlw  
 (The official minutes in their entirety are available by calling (715) 536-4581, by visiting [www.mapsedu.org](http://www.mapsedu.org), or by visiting the MAPS District Office at 1111 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin.)  
 Published July 27, 2023  
 WNAJLP

Notice is hereby given that the following application has been filed with the City Clerk, Merrill, WI:  
**Change of Agent on Class A Beer/Class A Liquor License**  
 Holly Hilgert, Agent  
 Kwik Trip # 386  
 2311 E Main St  
 Merrill, WI 54452  
 License Period : Current licensing period through 06/30/2024.  
 Lori Anderson-Malm  
 City Clerk  
 Published July 27, 2023  
 WNAJLP

**Notice of Public Auction**  
 Pursuant to the WI Self Storage Lien Act, the owner of a self storage facility

**Legals 7700**

has a lien upon all personal property located at the self-service storage facility for rent or other charges incurred for the storage of the personal property. Due to the failure to pay the rent, the owner is enforcing its lien and intends to sell or otherwise dispose of the personal property located in the rented spaces listed in this notice.  
**THIS NOTICE IS BEING PROVIDED PURSUANT TO WI STATE LAW BEFORE** the sale, the tenant, Sheri Terpstra, may pay the amount necessary to satisfy the lien and the reasonable expenses incurred to redeem the personal property.  
**ADVERTISMENT OF SALE** Notice is hereby given that on August 14, 2023 at 9:00 am CDT the personal property located in the following storage unit will be sold by private bidding with reserve at  
**Deer Run Pine River LLC W4142 Wintergreen Rd, Merrill, WI 54452.**  
**Date and Time** August 14, 2023 9 00 am CDT  
**Location** W4142 Wintergreen Rd, Merrill, WI 54452  
**Description** 1980 Marshfield Home Bidding All bidding will take place by private bid and details of sale will be provided at W4142 Wintergreen Rd, Merrill, WI 54452

**To Advertise Call 715-536-7121**

**REQUEST FOR BIDS**

The Township of Birch is seeking bids for:

- 700 Cubic Yards of ¾" Road Base Gravel to be delivered to various roads throughout the Town of Birch.
- 500 Cubic Yards of Crushed Rotten Granite to be delivered to various roads throughout the Town of Birch.

Please respond in writing/sealed bid on or before Tuesday, August 1st, 2023 to:

David Fox, W4239 Chase Hills Drive, Irma, WI 54442.  
 For more information please call Dave at 715 218 3690.

The Town of Birch reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids based on the best interest of the Township.  
 Published July 20 & 27, 2023  
 WNAJLP

**REQUEST FOR BIDS**

**Town of Russell-Lincoln County**

The TOWN OF RUSSELL, LINCOLN COUNTY, will be accepting bids for approx. 1,500 yards of Screened rotten granite to be placed on various town roads and 500 yards of road gravel.

For further information please contact Chairman Robert Kressel at 715-873-4041.

Bids will be opened at 6:00 p.m. in the Russell Town Hall on August 8, 2023.

Sealed bids can be submitted to: Town Clerk, N5410 State Highway 17, Gleason, Wis 54435.

The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Contractor to provide certificate of insurance showing liability and workers compensation coverage.

Amy Brown, Town Clerk  
 Published July 20 & July 27, 2023.  
 WNAJLP

**07062023.1 \*Ordinance to lower speed limit on town highways.**

STATE OF WISCONSIN Town of Rock Falls, Lincoln County The Town Board of the Town of Rock Falls, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, has the specific authority under s. 349.11, Wis. stats., to adopt this ordinance.

This ordinance, adopted by a majority of the town board on a roll call vote with a quorum present and voting and proper notice having been given, provides for the reduction of the speed limits on certain town highways in the town as follows:

- Pursuant to s. 349.11, Wis. stats., effective July 11, 2023, speed limits on certain Town of Rock Falls town highways are reduced or modified as follows: Wilderness Road from State Highway 107 to its terminal end. reduced from 35 MPH to 25 MPH.
- Pursuant to s. 349.11 (5), Wis. stats., the town chairperson, or his or her designee, shall place appropriate traffic signs at the above described locations on or before the effective date of this ordinance.\*
- No person may operate any vehicle on the above noted town highways in violation of the above noted speed limits. Any violation shall be subject to penalties under s. 346.60, Wis. stats. This ordinance is effective on June 22, 2017.

The town clerk shall properly post or publish this ordinance as required under s. 60.80, Wis. stats.  
 Adopted this eleventh day of July, 2023.  
 George Alery, Supervisor 1 *George Alery* Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Kurt Niersel, Supervisor 2 *Kurt Niersel* Date 7 11 2023  
 Mike VanDeWeerd, Chairman *Mike VanDeWeerd* Date 7 11 2023  
 Posted 07/06/2023  
 Published July 19 & 26, 2023  
 WNAJLP

**| OBITUARIES |**



**Teresa Ann Zastrow, 66,** of Merrill, WI, passed away on July 14, 2023. She was born on May 23, 1957, in Merrill, WI, to the late William Zastrow and Florence Duginski Zastrow.  
 Teresa was a quiet and kind-hearted individual who had a good sense of humor. She always rooted for the underdog and was a natural caretaker of others.  
 Early in her adult life, Teresa ventured West where she lived and raised her son Ben as a single mother in both Washington and Montana. She appreciated the solitude and beauty of nature and the mountains, often finding solace in the outdoors. She enjoyed hunting and fishing, allowing her to connect with the natural world around her. Many family members followed her lead and headed West to settle in Montana.  
 Teresa leaves behind a loving family, including her sisters Vicki Zastrow of Kalispel, MT and Katie (Dave) Morrison of Merrill, WI, her brothers Glen (Jum) Zastrow of Ban Chang, Thailand and David (Shannon Keough) Zastrow of Wausau, WI, as well as many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her son Benjamin Zastrow, her sister Gail Zastrow, and her parents William Zastrow and Florence Duginski Zastrow.  
 To honor Teresa's wishes, no funeral or memorial service will be held.  
 Teresa will be deeply missed by all who knew her, and her memory will forever be cherished in the hearts of her loved ones.

**TOWN OF MERRILL**  
 W4594 PROGRESS AVE., MERRILL, WI 54452

**BIDS WANTED**

The town of Merrill is seeking bids for double chip sealcoat on Prairie Road, approximately 4,330 feet long and 22 feet wide.

All questions can be addressed to Town Chairman Mike Hass at 715 218 7821 or email: [camper52@charter.net](mailto:camper52@charter.net)

Bids can be mailed to Town of Merrill Clerk at W4594 Progress Ave., Merrill, WI 54452 or hand deliver 30 minutes prior to August Board Meeting at Town Hall on August 4, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

This is a WisDOT LRIP TRI program project and must meet all State of Wisconsin Standard Specifications for Highway and Structure Construction 2023 Edition.

Work Must be completed by September 1, 2023.  
 Published July 20 & 27, 2023  
 WNAJLP

**TOWN OF MERRILL**  
 W4594 PROGRESS AVE., MERRILL, WI 54452

**BIDS WANTED**

The Town of Merrill is seeking bids for Snowplowing.

All bidders must:

- Have proof of insurance and bond of \$200,000 minimum.
- Must be able to plow and/or salt 24/7 including weekends and holidays November to April.

The Town is divided into 3 zones. Must have the capability to plow all three zones at the same time.

Equipment required is at least two single axle dump trucks with sanding/salting capabilities and one road grader.

Must ensure that all main roads are open for commuters at a reasonable time both morning and evening.

All Town roads to be cleared within 24 hours of a snow fall.

The successful bidder will assume liability for all damages incurred by their drivers and equipment.

Bids can be mailed to Town of Merrill Clerk at: W4594 Progress Ave., Merrill, WI 54452.  
**Bids must be received by Monday, August 14th.**  
 All questions can be addressed to Town Chairman Mike Hass Cell: 715 218 7821 or Email: [camper52@charter.net](mailto:camper52@charter.net)  
 Town of Merrill Board  
 Published July 20, 27, and August 3, 2023  
 WNAJLP

**30 to 45 Day Turnaround On All In Stock Monuments (100 plus monuments in stock)**

**Merrill Monument**  
 N2182 CTH K  
 Merrill, WI 54452  
 715-536-6654

- Custom Etching
- Pre-Need Monuments
- Final Dates & Inscriptions
- Custom Cemetery Work

**EMAIL US: [merrillmonument@gmail.com](mailto:merrillmonument@gmail.com)**  
**STORE HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 9am - Noon & 1pm - 4pm**

# Merrill Community Night Out

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

The 11th Annual Merrill Community Night Out will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023, from 4-7 p.m. in the Merrill Expo Center/Enrichment Center at the Merrill Festival Grounds. The protective services that make Merrill a safe place to live will be on hand, with officers and squads from the Merrill Police Department and deputies from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, along with vehicles, firefighters, and EMTs from the Merrill Fire Department. It's a great opportunity for kids to interact with law enforcement officers and to check out police cars and fire engines. There will be special presentations by the Merrill Police and Merrill Fire Departments.

The Wisconsin State Patrol, Wisconsin Department of Justice, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will also be showcased, along with Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County. Merrill area departments and resources will also be represented, including the Merrill-Go-Round (Merrill Transit), Merrill Enrichment Center, the T.B. Scott Free Library, and

many others, along with Northcentral Technical College. Free Merrill-Go-Round bus rides are available to and from the event with pick-ups during the five o'clock hour and departure from the event at 6:45 for return rides. Reservations must be made before 4 p.m. the day of the event by calling 715.536.7112. Bring the kids and the entire family to Merrill Community Night Out for free food, activities, and fun, rain or shine. Music will be provided by Merrill's own Bluejay 96.3.

Free Merrill-Go-Round bus rides are available to and from the event with pick-ups during the five o'clock hour and departure from the event at 6:45 for return rides. Reservations must be made before 4 p.m. the day of the event by calling 715.536.7112. Bring the kids and the entire family to Merrill Community Night Out for free food, activities, and fun, rain or shine. Music will be provided by Merrill's own Bluejay 96.3.

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Please note: Due to the pandemic, the book sale room's occupancy may be limited, and face masks are encouraged according to CDC guidance.

**FRIENDS MEMBERS ONLY:**  
Wed., 8/2, 5 a.m.-7:30 p.m.  
Non-members can join at the door for \$10.  
Also: Don't forget our members-only book sales on the third Saturday of every month!

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
Thu., 8/3, 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.  
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Bag Sale: Sat., 8/5, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
All you can fit in a bag for \$6. Saturday only!

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AUG. 8TH - MEAT LOAF  
Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

**FRIDAY NIGHTS**  
JULY 28TH - BLUEGILLS  
AUG. 4TH - BAKED SALMON  
Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM  
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St. Francis Xavier Parish's 17th Annual

## Sports Banquet

**Saturday, September 9th**  
**Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes**

Doors open at 4 pm • Dinner at 6 pm  
Door Prizes • Raffles  
Silent Auction for Guns and Other Outdoor Related Items  
There are 40 door prize guns and 64 guns total.

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Tickets available to banquet attendees only, on banquet night only!

\$90.00 General Ticket  
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**ONLY 300 TICKETS ARE BEING SOLD.**

Tickets available at the St. Francis Xavier Parish office during normal business hours, 8 am to 4 pm (The parish office is right inside door number 3 on the northeast side of the school.)

Tom Huffel at 536-1502 for banquet or ticket information.

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SAT - PRIME RIB  
SUN - CHICKEN  
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Chris Blemke Memorial Scholarship

## FISHING TOURNAMENT

Saturday, August 5, 2023  
Rock Island, Hwy 107, Merrill  
8:00 am to 4:00 pm • Registration 7:00-8:00 am  
\$10.00 per person  
100% Prize Money Payback for each separate fish category.  
Grand Prize: Blackstone Grill with Utensils

**LOTS OF PRIZES!**  
Winners Drawn at 4:00 pm

For more information or to donate, call Gus Blemke at 715-218-7072  
Like us on Facebook/View on Page: Turtle's Memorial Fishing Tourney

## New Testament Church invites area children to VBS

New Testament Church on the corner of Hillside Dr. and Cty. Rd. K in Merrill, will hold their 2023 Vacation Bible School (VBS) Aug. 1-4, 2023, from 9 to 11 a.m. each day. This year's theme will be "God's Masterpiece," and children ages 4 through 11 are invited to attend the unveiling and to discover the wonderfully awesome creation God has made through Bible stories, object lessons, songs, crafts, and games.

## VFW from page 1

"Commanders like Michele Rathke are a fine example of VFW leadership, and it's their hard work and dedication to the mission and values of our organization that has rightly earned them this great honor," said VFW Membership Director Rick Butler.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899, the congressionally chartered VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard, and Reserve forces. With 1.5 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in nearly 6,000 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS" than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information or to join, visit their website at vfw.org.

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# MASH Blood Drive coming to Merrill

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

The annual MASH Blood Drive will be held in Merrill on Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023, from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Northwoods Veterans Post, 601 Johnson St. in Merrill.

Each person who comes to donate blood at the event will receive a MASH t-shirt, free lunch, and refreshments.

The Community Blood Center (CBC) organizes the event and works with community partners like VFW Post 1638 in Merrill to facilitate events that will draw the community out to donate blood to ensure a reliable blood supply for hospitals in Wisconsin. The CBC will make a monetary donation to the VFW for every blood donation received at this event.

“Throughout the summer, CBC hosts four MASH blood drives to help ensure a reliable blood supply,” a press release from the CBC said. “Many people are spending their summers enjoying the warmer weather, traveling, and filling their schedules with summer activities. This

makes it more difficult to find blood donors. At the same time, recreational traumas and injuries can lead to an increased need for blood in the summer months. MASH offers community members a fun and different donation experience in hopes of keeping the blood supply stable. Merrill MASH marks the final MASH blood drive of the summer.”

“Blood transfused to a patient must come from a volunteer blood donor,” said John Hagins, President and Chief Executive Officer at the CBC. “Donating blood at Merrill MASH is the perfect opportunity to make a powerful impact in our community—not only are you helping patients in area hospitals who may need blood, you’re also helping support local veterans.”

The CBC provides blood to more than 40 hospitals, including hospitals in the Northwoods and Northcentral Wisconsin.

To learn more or to schedule a donation at the Merrill MASH event, go to: [communityblood.org/mash](http://communityblood.org/mash).



## Humane Society Donation

Mia H. and Keira C. had a lemonade stand to support the Lincoln County Humane Society and were able to donate all these needed animal supplies to the shelter.

Submitted photo.

# HOT DEALS

## AT Dave's

<b>Abbyland Tailgate Brats</b> Original or Beer <b>\$2.99</b> 1 lb. pkg.	<b>1855 USDA Choice Ribeye Steak</b> <b>\$12.99</b> lb.	<b>Twin Pack Pork Shoulders</b> <b>\$1.69</b> lb.	<b>Bone In Country Style Spare Ribs</b> <b>\$1.99</b> lb.
<b>"Thick Cut" Sliced Slab Bacon</b> <b>\$9.99</b> ea. 2 1/2 lb. pkg.	<b>Abbyland Polish Sausage</b> <b>\$1.99</b> lb.	<b>Bi Colored Sweet Corn</b> <b>5/\$3.00</b>	
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Merrill Foto News

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**General Employment 7110**

**Operators Wanted:** Wisco Materials is in search of an operator to run excavators, loaders and crushing equipment. CDL not required. \$25-\$32 starting wage depending on experience. Must be able to work overtime in busy times. Call 715-905-0547 to schedule an interview or fill out an application at 670 McComb Ave Rib Lake. 715-905-0547

**General Employment 7110**

**Stone Shop Operators:** Wisco Stone is looking for stone machinery operators for our stone shop in Rib Lake. 40-hour work-week. \$22-\$28 starting wage depending on experience. Send resume to [steve@wiscostone.com](mailto:steve@wiscostone.com) or fill out an application at 670 McComb Ave in Rib Lake. 715-905-0547

**Professional and Technical 7135**

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Marshfield Nursing Site

**Marshfield Administrative Coordinator:** Full-time staff position available at the Marshfield campus for UW-Eau Claire College of Nursing and Health Sciences beginning in August 2023. Primary responsibilities include supporting the undergraduate academic program, site operations coordination, and marketing and student recruitment. For a complete position description and to apply online, go to <https://www.careers.wisc.edu/>. Search for 19908 or Nursing: Marshfield Admin Coord. Applications must be completed by July 26, 2023; however, screening may continue until the position is filled. Questions: Dr. Rachel Merkel at [merkerm@uwec.edu](mailto:merkerm@uwec.edu).

**Announcements 7005**

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**Announcements 7005**

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# 18th Annual Merrill Youth Fastpitch Tournament is in the books

## 14U Girls finish in first place and 10U took third

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

This past weekend, the Merrill Area Recreation Complex (MARC) was the place to be for Merrill youth fastpitch softball action. With 42 teams, great weather, some great play, and a lot of volunteers helped make the 2023 Annual Merrill Fastpitch Tournament a success.

The Merrill Youth Fastpitch Association hosted the 42-team tournament for 8U to 18U and Championship Sunday on Sunday, July 23, 2023, running five diamonds throughout the day. "This is our biggest fundraiser," said Merrill Fastpitch Association Board President Chad Krueger.

"(We have) numerous great local sponsors and family and friend volunteers that make our tournament one of the most desirable ones for teams all over Wisconsin and Upper Michigan to attend," he said. "This helps keep our cost for players low. Each Merrill Fastpitch team plays in a minimum of four tournaments a year and fund our hitting facility. Approximately 75 girls participate in our program."

"We are pretty proud of what we can bring to Merrill," Krueger said.

All teams played well, he said, but two Merrill teams were the all-stars of the weekend.

"Merrill 14U went 5-0 on the weekend and took first place in their home Merrill Fastpitch Tournament. This is their fourth tournament in a row where they brought home the gold, winning also in Waupaca, Antigo, and Tomahawk," Krueger said.

"10U had a rough start in their pool play going 0-2," he said. "They played the number one seed, Copper Country Crush, and went into extra innings winning 8-4. They lost to JBA Clutch 9-2 which put them in the third place game. Again, going into extra innings, they pulled off the win against Wausau 5-4."



The Merrill 14U team took first place in the July 23 tournament. In front, L to R: Abbie Krueger, Miley Krueger Gabby Wheeler, Reese Kaminski, Keeley Benedict, and Rachel Gustafson. Back row, L to R: Bella Kottke, Grace Hoff, Mackenzie Herdt, Morgan Wienke, Olivia Barker, and Lily Hoff. Photo courtesy of Merrill Youth Fastpitch Association.

Though they didn't place this go-round, Merrill's other youth teams also enjoyed a great tournament of ball play. Here are their results, as provided by Krueger:

- Merrill 8U had a rough start losing 7-0 to Wausau and 10-0 to Copper Country Crush. They lost a close one to Mosinee Mayhem 3-2 and pulled off the win 3-2 against Wittenberg-Birnamwood.

- Merrill 9U won their first game 6-2 over the Plover Nationals, lost 16-0 to Copper Country Crush, and lost 9-4 to Wausau.

- Merrill 11U tied 5-5 against Wittenberg-Birnamwood, won 5-3 over Marshfield, and lost 10-1 against Peshtigo.

- Merrill 12U won 13-0 over Antigo, lost 11-1 to Copper Country Crush, lost 5-2 against Wittenburg-Birnamwood.

- Merrill 16/18U started the weekend well, winning 6-3 over Tomahawk and 3-0 against Marshfield. They lost 9-0 to Hallie Elite who eventually took first place. They lost the third place game 6-4 to Wausau.

"The Merrill Fastpitch Board would like to thank all our sponsors, the Park & Rec Department, and all of our program family and friends for making this an especially awesome year," Krueger said.



Krueger is up to bat against Peshtigo in the 14U game. Tina L. Scott photo.



Merrill 14U's pitcher is on the mound and ready for action against Peshtigo. Tina L. Scott photo.



With five fields of play, 42 teams, countless family and friends, and dozens of volunteers, the MARC played host to a lot of locals and visitors from throughout Wisconsin and the UP at Sunday's Fastpitch Tournament. Tina L. Scott photo.



The girls from Peshtigo are up to bat. Merrill's 14U catcher is focused and ready, maintaining eye contact with the pitcher in one of the games at the Fastpitch Softball Tournament at the MARC last weekend. Tina L. Scott photo.

## 2023 Merrill Summer Baseball Schedule

**Post 46**

Fri. July 28th-Tues. Aug. 1 AA State

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**BANDITS** *from page 1*

Rampage at Jay Stadium. "We lost 30-12, but it was a very good back and forth game with a lot of positives from the game," Coach Levine said. "It also showed us what we need to work on leading into the playoffs."

"Running back Dakota Ress had 9 carries, 78 yards, and a touchdown rush," he said. "This man is the heart, soul, and toughness of this team. We are very blessed to have him. Right now he's a top 5 rusher in the entire league."

"Defensively, Matthew Sveda came up huge with 5 tackles and 2 huge interceptions," Levine said.

"This is my first year as Head Coach," he said. "I was also the team's starting quarterback this year until I completely tore my ACL against the defending champ (Rough Riders) week two of this season."

"I will definitely be back next year as Head Coach, but we will see how my knee is next season in regards to playing," Levine said. "I had a great start to the season until injury."

**It's playoff time!**

Although the Bandits completed regular league play last weekend, this Saturday marks the beginning of the playoffs, and they will play right here at Jay Stadium in Merrill. While this is the third time out of four seasons the Bandits will be in the playoffs, Levine said this is the first home playoff game in Bandits' history, "and to do that here in Merrill is amazing and a great feeling."

"As a former quarterback for the Bandits for the last three years, the transition to first year Head Coach has been amazing," Levine said. "There are a lot of different emotions getting wins as a coach instead of as a player; it is

a much more humbling feeling."

"I miss being on the field with my team going to battle, but to sit back and see, wow, we're going to the playoffs my first year as coach AND it's at home first time in Bandit history is a very emotional, amazing feeling," he said. "To know the hard work my guys and myself have put in is paying off is amazing. A lot of players have families, and to show their sacrifices are paying off is amazing. This Saturday we hope to see ALL of Merrill there supporting us and watching us battle to bring a semi-pro Championship to Merrill! We love all the support and are proud to call Merrill home!"

"We will be playing the Eau Claire Cowboys," Levine said. "They are our rival team, and it's always a fun match-up when we play them, as a lot are former Bandits players and friends."

"The game is at Jay Stadium, and kickoff is at noon," he said. "We hope to fill the stands and see everyone there! Bring your family, have some fun, and cheer on your Bandits as we look to bring a Championship to Merrill, Wisconsin!"

**Playing for the Bandits**

Players for the Bandits must be 18 or older, but beyond that, all they need is a desire to play football. The current team is comprised of some players who have never played football before joining, along with guys who played in high school and/or college recently or years ago, and some who've been playing semi-pro for years for fun and some healthy competition. Thirty-one guys make up the 2023 team, with players from all over Wisconsin, Arizona, Michigan, Ohio, Texas, Illinois, Washington, N. Carolina, Arkansas, Kansas, and one is even international, hailing from the Netherlands! Three of the 31 are from Merrill.



Tina L. Scott photo.

**2023 Central Wisconsin Bandits Team Roster:**

- #80 Omarion Banks from Milwaukee
  - #6 AJ Becker from Cumberland
  - #96 Elvis Bosley from Wichita, Kansas
  - #11 Jessie Clenney from Hot Spring, Arkansas
  - #70 Brandon Fermanich from Antigo
  - #22 Caleb Hart from Fayetteville, N. Carolina
  - #71 Nick Houdek from Antigo
  - #30 Logan Kluck from Shantytown
  - #5 Austin Levin from Seattle, Washington
  - Dalton Mateer from Stevens Point
  - #29 Zion Mckinney from Chicago, Illinois
  - #8 Logan Meharg from Katy, Texas
  - #10 Kalib Merchant from Phoenix, Arizona
  - #54 Brent Never from Toledo, Ohio
  - #3 Mitch Neitzel from Horicon
  - #95 Alec Nys from Antigo
  - #90 Travis Peterson from Wausau
  - #25 Steven Reed from Merrill
  - #28 Dakota Ress from Merrill
  - #20 Rudy Rhyner from Marathon
  - #21 Russel Rhyner from Marathon
  - #4 Kendrick Samuels from Wausau
  - #34 Jared Schell from Okemos, Michigan
  - #13 Andrew Schertz from Auburndale
  - #17 Matthew Sveda from Deerbrook
  - #16 Scott Van Handel from Handel, Netherlands
  - #92 Ryan Waltemate from Marshfield
  - #7 Michael Wilcox from Tucson, Arizona
  - #52 Jeremie Writz from Merrill
  - #69 Rennen Zahn from Antigo
  - #1 Dylan Zanders from Beloit
- Jared Schell, Social Media Director; Serra Levine, Manager; and Morgan Hartenstein, Manager.  
Austin Levine is Head Coach with Rudy Rhyner as Offensive Coordinator, William Meyer as Defensive Coordinator, Russel Rhyner as Assistant DC, and Brent Naver as Special Teams Coach.



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**Bandits Pop Warner Football**

The Bandits have been working to put together kids football camps and, beginning Aug. 1, they will also introduce Bandits Pop Warner Football, a kids tackle football team for 9U, 10U, and 11Us. The Bandits started the league "to help get kids a jump start on their future football endeavors," organizers said.

Designed to teach kids the fundamentals of football and how to play safely, the program will focus on respect, sportsmanship, and leadership among many other life skills, and they're planning to have a lot of safe, fun, football. For more information, find the "Central Wisconsin Bandits Pop Warner" page on Facebook.



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