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# Town of Bradley man found deceased in Lake Nokomis

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
 EDITOR

A Town of Bradley man, 83-year-old Leroy H. Rupnow, was found deceased in Lake Nokomis about 30 yards off shore from his residence on Tuesday, July 25, 2023. The man was discovered by law enforcement and pronounced dead at the scene by Lincoln County Coroner Valerie Caylor. Concern over Rupnow's whereabouts began Monday evening, July 24, after out-of-town family members had been unable to reach him for more than 24 hours. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) was asked to do a welfare check on the man at his home. Deputies responded "but were unable to make contact with Leroy," a press release from the LCSO said. "The residence and surrounding wooded area, along with the shoreline of Lake Nokomis, were searched by deputies as well as a K9 unit," the release said. "A  
 See **DECEASED** page 4

# Quad dirt track racing comes to Merrill

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
 EDITOR

Northern Wisconsin Dirt Track Racing (NWDTR) held their first event at the Merrill Festival Grounds last Saturday, July 29, 2023, with an extreme sports race on a dirt track. The grandstand arena, which is home to the rodeo in early June, horse events throughout the summer, and tractor pulls and demo derbies during the fair, was transformed into a dirt track for racing just prior to the event that drew dirt bikes and quads for the excitement of a high-speed race right here in north central Wisconsin. Merrill Mayor Steve Hass commented that he was really excited to see this new event coming to the Merrill Festival Grounds and hopes more new events will be on the horizon so the property can be fully utilized throughout the year. Organizers who created the event, and organized the NWDTR in record time, were also excited to kick off this event in Merrill, where it would draw racers from the local area and surrounding north central Wisconsin communities. And that it did, with 110 entries in 19 classes for the day. Quad race events included Super Pee Wee, two Pee Wee classes, Outlaw Pee Wee, and Improved Stock Pee Wee classes for the littlest racers; JR Quad



You've got to know what you're doing when you hit those jumps and leave the ground to help ensure a safe landing on the other side. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

and Amateur Quad classes; a 30+ class for adults; a Women's class; Open 2 Stroke class; two Open classes; and a Pro Quad class. Seven classes were trophy races, with six classes having cash payouts for the top racers. A peddle bike race was held during the intermission between motorized races, with a one-winner-takes-all cash payout, as well. The event was an all-day affair with gates opening at 8 a.m. and registration beginning at 9:00 a.m., practice sessions starting at 12:30 p.m., and official racing beginning at 2:30 p.m. with a showcase lap allowing all entrants to traverse the track at slow speeds so race fans could see them loud and proud before the green flag was waved on the first race. And loud it was, especially once the full-speed racing began. Food trucks and a beer stand provided refreshments for racers and racing fans under the stands, camping was available on the grounds, and fans could purchase general admission  
 See **RACING** page 5

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# Local musician plays Banker's Square for lunch break

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
 EDITOR

Dubbed "Bento Break," the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce and Crossbridge Community Bank sponsored a lunchtime concert in Banker's Square Thursday, July 20, 2023. Mattea Joy, a local musician who is just 18 years old, played many well-known favorite songs in a variety of genres, including some original songs, to a small crowd that came and went over the "lunch hour" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A short sprinkle didn't dampen the mood of those gathered to enjoy current hits, some classic rock, and a little of



Just a girl and her guitar ... sharing her music with the community at a free lunchtime concert in the park. **Tina L. Scott photo.**



A short shower didn't dampen anybody's spirits at the concert in Banker's Square. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

everything. Umbrellas came out for a few minutes, but the show went on uninterrupted. The concert was the first in a new Chamber-organized Banker's Square Lunchtime Concert Series. The next concert in the series will be Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will feature Michael David Sargent. Mark your calendars to grab lunch that day and meet in Banker's Square to enjoy the music.

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# MLD Auto Repair open house

Tires still the main focus, but expanded services are driving their business forward

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

MLD Auto Repair at 805 N. Center Ave. in Merrill, owned by Mike and Lynn Dettmering of Merrill, is located in what many locals will remember as Willie's Tire Center.

The Dettmerings acquired the business in June of 2020 and have been doing a lot of work on the building, including painting inside, painting the building's exterior a more modern gray/blue color, and a new blue metal facade. The changes are a visible announcement to the community that something different is happening in the business on the corner of Eighth Street and Center Avenue, and the Dettmerings are planning an open house event on Aug. 12, 2023, to invite the community to stop and see those changes and the



Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce staff, Chamber ambassadors, and Mayor Steve Hass gather with owners, Lynn Dettmering (center, holding scissors) and Mike Dettmering (to her right), for a ribbon cutting at MLD Auto Repair LLC on July 19, 2023, to celebrate the new business at 805 N. Center Ave. in Merrill now that they've completed their building remodel. **Tina L. Scott photos.**

new expanded services that are driving their business forward. The open house will feature special sales, food and refreshments, and drawings for raffle prizes, and they're hoping many area residents will stop in to meet them and to see all

that MLD Auto Repair has to offer.

While the former owners of the business in the building were completely focused on tires, the current owners provide a wider range of services, as well as tire sales and service.

"Our main focus is still the tires," Mike Dettmering said, "but we do other stuff, too: shocks, struts, brakes, alignments, diagnostics,

trailer repair. If we don't do it, we'll tell you."

"We also offer Boss snow plows," he said, providing "plow installation, sales, and service" for trucks, four wheelers, UTVs, and side-by-sides.

MLD Auto Repair currently has one full-time employee, in addition to Mike and Lynn who work full-time at their three-bay shop.



A very large Boss snowplow in the corner of Eighth St. and Center Ave. in front of MDL Auto Repair is another visual indicator that the business has something new to offer.



Co-owner Lynn Dettmering mounts a tire at MLD Auto Repair. It's one of her favorite things to do at the shop, Lynn said.

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# Wisconsin employers give K-12 public schools a failing grade

73% of businesses say students graduating from the public K-12 system are unprepared for the workforce

MADISON—A new survey of Wisconsin businesses paints an unflattering picture of the education system in the state. According to the Wisconsin Employer Survey, conducted by Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC), nearly three-quarters of businesses think students graduating from the public K-12 system are not prepared for the workforce. Making matters worse, 56 percent of respondents said they have employees who struggle with the ability to read or do math.

The unsettling new information sadly reflects the fact that more than 60 percent of students cannot read or do math at grade level in Wisconsin, a press release from WMC said.

"Not only is this new data disappointing, but it should also make all of us outraged," said WMC Senior Director of Workforce, Education & Employment Policy Rachel Ver Velde. "Wisconsin's public school system is failing our children, and it is having an outsized impact on our workforce and economy."

With young people set up for failure, employers are now having to step in to provide remedial education for workers on top of the technical training they already offer, WMC said. Forty-one percent of businesses said they have provided employees with additional education or tutoring because their K-12 education did not prepare them with the basic skills needed for a career. The educational failures are also impacting Wisconsin's already challenging workforce shortage. According to the survey, nearly two-thirds of employers said they have reduced

hiring requirements in an effort to get more job applicants.

"Wisconsin taxpayers should be asking themselves what our return is on the billions of dollars we spend each year on public education," said Ver Velde. "We cannot measure success by how much money is spent. Instead, we need to start focusing on what students are learning and if they are being set up to succeed upon graduation."

The Wisconsin Employer Survey also asked about the changing needs for higher education. Four in 10 companies said they have removed the requirement for a bachelor's degree for some jobs that had previously required it. And 81 percent of companies responding said that more than half of the jobs at their company require less than a four-year college degree.

WMC continues to work with lawmakers to reform the education system in the state. This includes helping to shepherd through increased funding for choice and charter schools in the most recent State Budget to expand educational opportunities and improve outcomes for all students.

Additionally, WMC's legislative agenda includes:

- Expanding school choice and charter options further to provide more students with educational opportunities they cannot currently access
- Tying new K-12 funding to increased proficiency scores, shrinking the achievement gap, and other accountability measures to ensure improved outcomes for students
- Creating additional K-3 reading screening assessments to identify at-risk students and providing a plan to get them back on track
- Increasing access to dual enrollment and work-based learning programs to expose students to careers and employers at a young age
- Expanding registered and youth apprenticeship programs to improve pathways to more in-demand careers

The Wisconsin Employer Survey is conducted twice a year by WMC. The assessment provides a snapshot of where Wisconsin's employers stand on a number of important issues and outlines their economic outlook for both Wisconsin and the United States. For the Summer 2023 edition, WMC surveyed 170 employers that make up a representative sample of its membership. Businesses of all sizes, industries, and geographic locations in Wisconsin participated.

To read the entire Wisconsin Employer Survey - Summer 2023 report on education, go to: [bit.ly/3OEZdUW](http://bit.ly/3OEZdUW).

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# Town of Merrill residents still oppose rail spur development

Despite objections, there isn't much residents can do to stop the spur

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

The Lincoln County Land Services Committee (LSC) met July 13, 2023, and the controversial item on the Agenda was the request to allow heavy industrial use in a general industrial zoning district, in conjunction with the proposed development of a rail spur just north of Mill St. in Merrill, on property owned by Prairie River Junction LLC (Representative: Jeff Heller), G&M Peterson LLC, and James Peterson Sons Inc. The development is set to take place on about 47 acres of land bordered on two sides by Duginski Rd.

Jeff Heller attended the meeting in person, representing the property owners, for the public hearing on the request, during which many area residents came forward to share their opposition to the development of the rail spur in the location.

However, the actual issue on the table wasn't and isn't the development of the rail spur, but rather the heavy industrial use. The rail spur can, and will likely move forward, as it is permissible under the current general industrial zoning, members of the LSC said. The only issue they can address is the heavy industrial use portion and, members of the LSC said, under the current law, they don't see that they would have grounds to deny the request.

According to 2017 Wisconsin Act 67, relating to local government's authority with respect to zoning of property, the Act requires a municipality to grant a conditional use permit if an applicant meets, or agrees to meet, all of the requirements and conditions specified in or imposed by the relevant ordinance. Further, any such conditions must be related to the purpose of

the ordinance and based on "substantial evidence,"

See RAIL page 5

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## Merrill Hospital celebrates two-year anniversary with Aspirus Health System

This month marks the two-year anniversary of the Merrill community's partnership with Aspirus Health System.

Over the past two years, Aspirus has invested more than \$1.6 million to support improvements to Aspirus Merrill Hospital (AMR) to help ensure the highest quality health care for patients and the community, Aspirus representatives said. Additionally, nearly \$250,000 from the AMR Foundation has been used to support needed new equipment and services. Investments and improvements include:

- A significant refresh of the hospital's main entrance, emergency department entrance, and same-day surgery entrance area
- Vital updates to the hospital's heating and cooling system
- Implementation of a new internal communications system
- New equipment for the hospital's surgical unit, emergency department, physical therapy department, laboratory, and medical imaging
- Establishment of a Wound Care Clinic, including new furniture and equipment, to provide a needed new service for the community

Further, Aspirus has helped to support the local economy with 83 employees and approximately \$5,000,000 in annual payroll that gets reinvested in the community.

"These are needed investments in our community that we have been able to provide because of the support we receive as part of the Aspirus Health System, as well as philanthropic gifts we receive from generous

See HOSPITAL page 5

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**Merrill Parks & Recreation,**  
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Parade line-up will be published in the August 31<sup>st</sup> issue of the Foto News. We will be lining up in the Merrill Manufacturing Parking Lot on State Street.

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# OBITUARIES



**Jeanette Margaret Fechner**, age 95, formerly of Merrill, WI and Avon Park, FL passed away July 28, 2023 at Riverwood Senior Living in Wisconsin Dells, WI with family at her side.

Jeanette was born April 3, 1928 in Merrill, daughter of Harry E. and Esther D. (Buhler) Nelson. Jeanette grew up in the Merrill area and graduated from Merrill High School in 1946. She married Elmer J. (Jim) Fechner on September 10, 1949 in Merrill

and they lived in Ohio and West Virginia for a couple of years while Jim served in the Air Force before returning to Merrill in 1951. Jeanette worked a variety of clerical office jobs, most notably with Public Service in the Merrill area while raising her family.

She and Jim enjoyed camping with a group of friends in northern Wisconsin and took family camping trips to the western U.S. They realized their dream of retiring to Florida and moved to Avon Park, Florida as "snow birds" and continued to travel back and forth for almost 20 years. Jeanette enjoyed her family, playing cards, shuffleboard, swimming and the warmth and sunshine of Florida.

Preceding Jeanette in death were her husband, "Jim" Fechner; her parents, Harry and Esther Nelson; brothers-in-law William Fechner, John Fechner and John Ochodnicki; and sister-in-law Miyako Fechner.

She is survived by three daughters: Terri (Chris) Hanson of Merrimac, WI; Mary (Glenn) Raddatz of White Bear Lake, MN; and Cindy (Steve) Sabatke of Merrill; seven grandchildren; Nick (Amy) Hanson, Alex (Rachel) Hanson, Sarah (Aaron) Gertz, Laura (Carlos) Hidalgo, Pennie (Mike) Sladky, Paige Sabatke and Rachel (Martin) Schaub; and thirteen great grandchildren; Siena Hanson, Madison Hanson, Jordan Hanson, Nolan Hanson, Adrian Gertz, Nathan Gertz, Damian Hidalgo, Dylan Hidalgo, Colten Sladky, Eliana Sladky, Gavin Sladky, Lena Sladky and Lawson Sladky. She is also survived by sisters-in-law, Marge Rankin and Janet Fechner.

Interment will be at a later date at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery next to her husband "Jim". The John Buettgen Funeral Home in Schofield, WI ([www.honorone.com](http://www.honorone.com)) is assisting the family and online condolences and tributes can be put on their website. Written condolences, cards and messages can be sent to Terri Hanson at S8123B Kassner Rd, Merrimac, WI 53561. The family would like to thank all of the staff at Riverwood Senior Living in Wisconsin Dells, Haven Hills Assisted Living in Lodi, ProMedica Hospice and Inclusa Managed Care for their support to Jeanette and her family over the last several years.

Mid Wisconsin Cremation Society is assisting family at this time. Online condolences may be expressed at [MWCS.WS](http://MWCS.WS)



**Alan F. Janquart**, 77, of Merrill, passed away Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at his home under the care of his family and Interim Hospice.

Al was born April 25, 1946, in Green Bay, son of the late Norman and Laverne (Linsens) Janquart. He married Gale Lindstrom on October 1, 1966, in Green Bay. On October 1, 2023, they would have celebrated 57 years together. Al worked for Wisconsin Public Service for over 40 years and retired in 2010. He worked

most of those years at the Merrill Hydro Dam. Al also worked as a carpenter and built two houses. He and his family eventually resided in both of those houses. Al was an avid sportsman and outdoorsman and belonged to the Harrison Hills ATV Club. Al enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, using his ham radio, and spending time with his son Todd going to Morgan Creek Hunting Lodge, a warm and welcoming 'guys camp'. He loved going there most of all with his brothers: Tim, Jerry, and Paul, all three waited to welcome him into heaven. He was a very patient man who loved his family, especially his children and grandchildren.

Al is survived by his wife, Gale Janquart of Merrill; son, Todd (Sue) Janquart of Marenisco, Michigan; daughter, Tracey (Lance) Romanowski of Merrill; grandchildren, Riley Janquart, Spencer Janquart, Rachael Romanowski, and Erin Romanowski; sister, Julie Janquart (Julie Van Lannen); brothers, David (Candi) Janquart, Rick Janquart, Bob (Kathi) Janquart, Tom (Alice) Janquart, and Joe Janquart (Michelle Crooks); brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Darlene Janquart, Joyce Janquart, Will Hogan, Steve (Mary) Lindstrom, Wendy Lindstrom, Mark (Vicki) Lindstrom, Jane (Greg) Stevenson, Dan (Pam) Lindstrom, and Amy (Conrad) Sternot; numerous nieces and nephews; his beloved dog, Piper; and his grand dogs, Charlie and Scout. Al was preceded in death by his parents, Norman and Laverne Janquart; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Jack and Dorothy Lindstrom; brothers, Tim Janquart, Jerry Janquart, and Paul Janquart; sister, Mary Hogan; sister-in-law, Kellie Janquart; and nephew, Daniel Janquart.

The family would like to thank the entire team at Interim Health and Interim Hospice for their care, especially Tim, who led the care team, palliative care nurses, Danielle and Sarah, and Al's nurse, John. They were so careful with Al and with Gale and her feelings. The family would also like to thank all of the doctors and staff at Aspirus Cancer Center for the excellent care of Al over the last four years, Aspirus Urology, Orthopedic Associates of Wausau, especially Dr. James Sutherland, Dr. Benjamin Herdrich of Surgical Associates for his excellent aneurysm care time and time again, Dr. John Wheat and his wonderful nurse, Eva, for family care, always using a calm and gentle approach, and the Merrill Fire Department for their help getting Al back home.

Lastly a shout-out to many family and friends in the CB radio world, those friends on Facebook, and Paula, who came to the house to cut Al's hair. All of you were so very important in his life, especially when he could no longer walk.

The memorial service for Al will be held at 1:30 P.M. on Saturday, September 9, 2023, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home. Visitation will begin at 11:00 A.M. Saturday at the funeral home.

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



**Carol M. Duranceau**, age 83, of Owen, passed away surrounded by her loving family on Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at her home under the tender care of Compassus Hospice.

A Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, August 5, 2023 at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Withee. The Rev. Elizabeth Bier will officiate. Burial will be held in Riverside Cemetery. Family and friends are welcome on Friday, August 4 from 4:00 until 8:00 PM at the Maurina-Schilling Funeral Home in Owen and on Saturday from 10:00 AM until time of service at the church. A live stream will be available for those unable to attend on the Maurina Schilling Funeral Home Facebook page or after the service anytime on Facebook or the website.

Carol was born on December 23, 1939, the daughter of Harold, Sr. and Isabelle (Gavin) Fry in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. On April 28, 1958, Carol was united in marriage to Lloyd Duranceau in Center City, MN. He preceded her in death on April 1, 2014.

Carol worked as a CNA, a cook and drove for Mennonite and Amish till the age of 83. She enjoyed sewing, crocheting, knitting, making quilts, vegetable and flower gardening, doing crafts, bingo, reading, wine making and spending time with her family.

Carol is survived by her six children: Cindy (Greg) Bartnik of New London, Jeff (Bernice) Duranceau of Fond du Lac, Annette (Doug) Blunt of Colby, Brian (Paula) Duranceau of Necedah, Lynne (Joseph) Larson of Wausau and Tori Knutson of Wausau; 32 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. She is further survived by three siblings: Harold Fry, Jr. of Kewaskum, Richard Fry of Kewaskum and Sandra (Butch) Malzhan of Green Lake; and also many nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Lloyd Duranceau; her son, Andy Duranceau; two granddaughters: Ariel Marie and Miranda Sue; her siblings: Milton Fry, Charles Fry, Herbert Fry, Gloria Netzband, Howard Fry, Michael Fry, Tessa Rogers, Francis Fry, Tammie Svec; her sisters-in-law, Gloria Fry and June Fry; and one brother-in-law, Fred Rogers.

Family and friends may express condolences online at [www.maurinaschilling.com](http://www.maurinaschilling.com).



**Vernon H. Woller**, age 97, of the Town of Berlin, Marathon County, passed away on Saturday, July 29, 2023, at his home under the care of his family and hospice services.

Vernon was born April 17, 1926, in the Town of Hamburg, Marathon County, son of the late Harvey and Eldora (Harder) Woller. He married Ethel Krause on April 24, 1948. She preceded him in death on June 4, 2017. Vernon was a dairy farmer in the Town of Hamburg. He also worked at Fromm Brothers, the 51 Truck Stop, and Merrill Millwork. Vernon was a member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Town of Berlin, where he once served as an Elder. He was honored to be selected as a delegate for the WELS Convention.

Vernon enjoyed fishing and was proud of the huge Bass he caught. He also enjoyed woodworking, dancing and listening to Polkas, gardening, and bird watching. Vernon was very gentle and patient. He had great faith in the Lord.

Survivors include daughters, Jolene Teske of Athens, Kaye (Dave) Running of Springfield, Missouri, Karla Duranceau (Wayne Schulz) of Wausau, and Patti (Brad) Butt of Merrill; sons, Randy (Patricia) Woller of Athens, Rodney Woller, Brian (Julie) Woller of Merrill and Mark (Laurie) Woller of Merrill; 16 grandchildren; 6 step grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren; sisters, Joann Utecht of Merrill and Carol (Donald) Kopplin of Merrill. Vernon was preceded in death by his wife, Ethel Woller; parents, Harvey and Eldora Woller; a grandchild; son-in-law, Larry Teske; sister and brother-in-law, Mavis (Wilbert) Voelz; and brother-in-law, Charles Utecht.

The funeral service for Vernon will begin at 11:00 A.M. Friday, August 4, 2023, at Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Town of Berlin. The Rev. Andrew DeGier will officiate. The burial will follow in the church cemetery. Visitation will begin at 9:00 A.M. Friday at the church. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

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

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**Ernest P. 'Pat' Weisskopf**, 65, of Merrill, passed away Wednesday, July 26, 2023. Pat was born January 17, 1958, in Merrill, son of the late Ernest and Mary Ann (Klade) Weisskopf. The memorial service for Pat was held at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home. Rev. Greg Laska officiated. Visitation began at 3:00 P.M. Tuesday at the funeral home.

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## DECEASED from page 1

K9 track indicated that Mr. Rupnow may potentially have walked up to and perhaps even into the lake, though Mr. Rupnow was unable to be located."

A Silver Alert for Rupnow was issued early Tuesday morning but was canceled not long afterward when his body was discovered.

"Day shift deputies searching the area with the benefit of added daylight" spotted an "abnormality" about 30 yards offshore and the Oneida County Sheriff's Office drone team helped them confirm "that it was in fact the body of Leroy H. Rupnow in the water."

Members of the Tomahawk Fire Department also assisted on scene.

Foul play is not suspected; however, the incident remains under joint investigation by the LCSO and the Lincoln County Coroner's Office.

**RAIL from page 3**

meaning verifiable facts and information, and not just personal preference, speculation, or concerns raised by the public, according to the Act.

Land Services staff presented a narrated video showing the property, and Heller explained the proposed property use during the hearing. No other advocates for the request spoke up. However, when LSC Chair Marty Lemke asked for testimony from opponents of the request, Tera Neiter, Ken Sutton, Kerrie Kanda, James Alber, Ed Tomaschefskey, Scott Streich, Nicole Schuett, Karen Grund, Josh Fenske, Dave Springborn, Roy Hoffman, Eddie Woody, Lisa Weix, Kerri Schroder, Samantha Teresinski, Ian Cohrs, Mary Moschosch,

Coreen Wendorf, Hannah Fenske, and Jason Schill (spellings/names taken from LSC meeting minutes) each expressed various concerns regarding noise, safety, future land uses, traffic, road quality, and property values. Many more local residents were present at the hearing, as well, and residents say they had petitions with more than 200 signatures in opposition to the development and proposed use of the property.

Services Administrator Mike Huth presented his staff report and said the Town of Merrill requested a 30-day extension in order to file their recommendation. County staff recommends the Committee approve the Conditional Use Permit with seven recommended conditions, as written in the

staff report, after receiving the Town's recommendation. A motion to approve the 30-day extension as requested by the Town of Merrill was carried.

Local residents haven't given up on their fight to keep the rail spur from being developed in their neighborhood, though that is not the specific issue before the LSC. In speaking with local residents, they cited increased heavy truck traffic, safety issues for children at play, damage to area roads, decreased property values, and more than one said they would consider selling their home and moving out of the area if the rail spur project is implemented. They further questioned the development of a rail spur when developers don't yet have a specified plan of use.

"The specific use is yet

to be determined," Heller said. "As soon as the rail siding and the switch into the site is completed, we can then seek potential users. The new user will need to comply with the zoning requirements as set forth by County zoning ordinance."

The Town of Merrill will hold a special meeting at the Town of Merrill Community Center, W4594 Progress Ave., Merrill on Friday, Aug. 4, 2023, at 5 p.m. The third item on the Agenda is to "Discuss/Approve Duginski Rd. Parcels," and area residents plan to attend the meeting to voice their opposition once again at the township level.

Based on 2017 Wisconsin Act 67, however, it is unclear what residents can actually accomplish at this meeting, despite their concerns.

**HOSPITAL from page 3**

donors," said Dawn Gapko, Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer for Aspirus Merrill Hospital. "We are thankful to be part of an organization that places such a high value on rural health care, and grateful for the generous hearts of our community and their continued commitment."

Based in Wausau, Aspirus Health assumed ownership of the former Ascension Good Samaritan Hospital in August 2021 as part of an acquisition that included 6 other hospitals, 21 physician clinics, and air and ground medical transport services in north

and central Wisconsin.

Aspirus Health is a non-profit, community-directed health system based in Wausau with 11,000 employees focused on improving the health and well-being of people throughout Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Aspirus serves communities through 4 hospitals in Michigan and 13 hospitals in Wisconsin, 75 clinics, home health and hospice care, pharmacies, critical care and air-medical transport, medical goods, nursing homes, and a broad network of physicians. For more information, visit [aspirus.org](http://aspirus.org).

**RACING from page 1**

wrist bands to view the races from the stands or purchase pit passes so they could get in on the action at ground level.

**Northern Wisconsin Dirt Track Racing**

"Northern Wisconsin Dirt Track Racing (NWDTR) is an organization made by racers for racers," said Allyson English who is a part of the new entity. "Our main goal is to allow for more opportunities to race within closer proximity of everyone around us. We thought with Merrill being a centralized city, this would be the perfect opportunity to take advantage of that!"

"My father, Tim English, has always wanted to run his own race since my little brother, Ayden English, started racing years ago," Allyson said.

"In April, the conversation finally happened, and we chatted with Rick [Bjorklund] who helps rent out the Festival Grounds for events like ours. The City was extremely happy to hear that we wanted to run an event like this, as there hasn't been one similar in almost two decades," she said.

**A huge effort pulled it all together in record time**

"Since April, there has been a lot of prep work done, such as finding people who'd be willing to donate machines to do the track work, vendors for the event for food and drink, finding more volunteers to help in every aspect possible, and getting the word out there." Tim's dream became a reality last weekend, but with all the work to be done, "July 29th crept up on us very quickly!" Allyson said.

"We were very fortunate to have the sponsors that we had," she said. "We are extremely grateful for the community support and hope to have this event continue for years to come."

Major sponsors included Carquest, 365 Power Sports, Merrill Sheet Metal, Merrill Water Tool & Jet, Trophy Bar LLC, Schaeffer Oil, Burgener Contract Carriers LLC, Bennish & Son's Auto Salvage, DJ & Megan Schneider, Get R' Done



The pre-race laps for all racers are an opportunity to showcase the wide range of racers involved in this extreme sport. Men, women, and youth ... on quads and dirt bikes ... all ready to race!

Tina L. Scott photos.

Guide Service, Pizza Hut, Peterson Sand and Gravel, Northern Dumpsters, Literski Trucking, Switlick & Sons Inc, SD Ellenbecker, and JL Gunsmithing.

"These are just our main sponsors; this does not include individual sponsors who put money into classes to make the payout larger," Allyson said.

"During the event, we had Ana Blair's Coffee on the Go, All Sauced Up, Merrill Marching Jays, Pizza Hut, 365 Power Sports, and the VFW all as vendors for food, drinks, and merchandise for our spectators to have," she said.

And nearly 30 volunteers worked hard to pull the event together and work the event on Saturday. "We couldn't be more grateful," Allyson said. "We had more than enough help to have all of our bases covered when it came to staging, scoring, registration, admission, and any other odds and ends jobs we may have had."

"We also had a little over 500 people show up to support this event!" she said. "Overall the event was extremely successful for our first time. We couldn't



Though the quads far outnumbered them, some dirt bikers were in Merrill to get in on the racing action last Saturday, as well.



Racers take it slow as they all take to the track at once for the pre-race showcase laps.

have asked for a smoother and more successful day." For more information about NWDTR, go to [www.nwdirttrackracing.com](http://www.nwdirttrackracing.com) or find them on Facebook.

| Legals  | 7700 | Legals  | 7700 |
|---|------|---|------|
| <b>BY THE COURT:</b><br><b>DATE SIGNED:</b> July 13, 2023<br>Electronically signed by <a href="#">Becky S. Byer</a><br>Probate Registrar  |      | <b>BY THE COURT:</b><br><b>DATE SIGNED:</b> July 26, 2023<br>Electronically signed by <a href="#">Becky S. Byer</a><br>Probate Registrar  |      |
| <b>STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY</b><br>IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Charlotte Peters<br>Notice to Creditors<br>(Informal Administration)<br>Case No. 2023 IN 33  |      | <b>STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY</b><br>IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Deanna Marie Pilecky<br>Notice to Creditors<br>(Informal Administration)<br>Case No. 2023 IN 34  |      |
| <b>PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:</b><br>1. An application for informal administration was filed.<br>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.<br>3. All interested persons waived notice.<br>4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 11/3/2023.<br>5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Register in Probate Office.<br>Patricia Heller<br>N4995 Larson Lake<br>Irma, WI 54442<br>715-536-1501<br>Published 7/20/23, 7/27/23 & 8/3/23<br>WNAXLP |      | <b>PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:</b><br>1. An application for informal administration was filed.<br>2. The decedent, with date of birth 8/22/1969 and date of death 5/22/2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 511 1/2 State St, Merrill, WI 54452.<br>3. All interested persons waived notice.<br>4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 11/10/23.<br>5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.<br>Roger O. Pilecky<br>4232 Cortland Ct.<br>Windsor, WI 53598<br>608-320-0732<br>Published August 3, 10 & 17, 2023<br>WNAXLP   |      |
| <b>BY THE COURT:</b><br><b>DATE SIGNED:</b> July 13, 2023<br>Electronically signed by <a href="#">Kim Utteich</a><br>Registrar in Probate<br>Probate Registrar  |      | <b>DATE SIGNED:</b> July 12, 2023<br>Electronically signed by <a href="#">Becky S. Byer</a><br>Probate Registrar  |      |
| <b>STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, MARATHON COUNTY</b><br>IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Ralph W. Buch<br>Notice to Creditors<br>(Informal Administration)<br>Case No. 23 IN 113   |      | <b>STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY</b><br>IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Robert Earl Everett<br>DOD: 04/13/2023<br>Notice to Creditors<br>(Informal Administration)<br>Case No. 2023 IN 32  |      |
| <b>PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:</b><br>1. An application for informal administration was filed.<br>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.<br>3. All interested persons waived notice.<br>4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 19, 2023.<br>5. A claim may be filed at the Marathon County Courthouse, Wausau, Wisconsin, Room Probate.<br>Phyllis A. Buch<br>15885 60th Ave<br>Merrill, WI 54452<br>715-536-2232<br>Published 7/20/23, 7/27/23 & 8/3/23<br>WNAXLP            |      | <b>PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:</b><br>1. An application for informal administration was filed.<br>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.<br>3. All interested persons waived notice.<br>4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is November 10, 2023.<br>5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 East Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.<br>Attorney Paul Steven Screnock<br>333 N. Main Street<br>Adams, WI 53910<br>608-339-7777<br>Bar No. 01017603<br>Published 7/20/23, 7/27/23 & 8/3/23<br>WNAXLP |      |

**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 14<sup>th</sup>.**

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

WNAXLP

**MERRILL Foto News**

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

We welcome letters to the Editor, a chance for members of the community to comment on issues of concern to them. All letters must be original, not duplications of letters addressed to public officials or written by others. The views and opinions expressed are those of the letter writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of this publication, its publishers, Editor, or staff.

**To the Editor:**

Over 900 signatures have been collected from citizens who are against the selling of Pine Crest. However, on June 28 the Administrative and Legislative (A&L) Committee (Julie Depasse motion/Jesse Boyd second) chose a Broker to sell Pine Crest. After watching the recorded meeting, Chairman Friske congratulated the Broker and announced that the information would be taken to the Board.

I attended the July 18 County Board meeting to voice frustration of how the Chairman and Supervisors are not listening to their constituents. I received the agenda which states: "All Public Comment is Limited to Current Agenda Items..." Pine Crest was not on the agenda, preventing me from voicing my concerns. Chairman Friske did allow me to speak but would not hear comments about Pine Crest.

According to the A&L meeting, Pine Crest should have been on the agenda and comments from the public should have been heard. Not adding it to the agenda resulted in the loss of my freedom of speech.

Pine Crest recently received a "Five Star" rating for its outstanding facility and staff. Residents are alarmed and confused about their future; we need to slow down and examine all the alternatives. One Supervisor indicated options to stable funding including grant writing and endowments. Why haven't we explored these options?

I urge you to watch the recorded A&L meeting (6/28) and call your Supervisor requesting due diligence before finalizing the sale of Pine Crest.

— Judy Woller  
Merrill, Wis.

## CONCERT for a Cause

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SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM  
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM  
TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

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THURSDAY 8/3: 7:00PM ONLY  
FRIDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM  
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 9:15PM  
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM  
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM  
TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

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Shortest Routes: Take Hwy. 51 to Exit 205, Head east on Hwy. O, Turn Right on Brandenburg Ave., 2 miles, Turn right 2 miles on Rainbow Dr. From Wausau: 10 miles N. to Hwy. 51, Exit 205. (Hwy. K Closed)

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418 Grand Ave., Merrill

**THIS WEEK'S DRINK SPECIAL:**

**BLUE ICE VODKA**

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

**WRAP IT UP Mexican Food Truck, EVERY MONDAY!**  
Check Out Their Weekly Specials.

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**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.



# everclear

With Special Guest **INFERRED**

## SATURDAY AUG 26

TICKETS ON SALE NOW IN CASINO GIFTSHOP OR BY PHONE  
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**KING'S CONQUEST** • **RHETT WALKER**

FREE NON-DENOMINATIONAL CONCERT  
CONCESSION STAND OPEN

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

STARTS AT 6:30PM • NORMAL PARK  
MERRILL, WISCONSIN

Nicolet, HOPE HERE, bantr, LOKRE, Merrill Chamber, K&N, Family, MERRILL

**Plautz's Pub LLC.**

310 E. 2nd St., Merrill  
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**"NOW SERVING SANDWICHES"**

**HOURS**

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

**AUG. BOOZE OF THE MONTH**

**KESSLER**  
\$5.00 - 16 oz. Pint

**SUNDAY AUG. 6TH**

**PROGRESSIVE BLACKOUT BINGO**  
6:30pm Pot over \$1000

# Heat and storm potential moved last week's Thorogood Thursday concert indoors

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

With temperatures pushing past 90 degrees Fahrenheit last Thursday and severe weather potential on the horizon, organizers decided to move the July 24, 2023, free Thorogood Thursday concert from the gazebo at Normal Park to Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes' indoor space "out of an abundance of caution."

This was only the second time in 14 years the concert was moved indoors, organizer Michael "Gus" Caylor said.

Concert-goers appreciated the air conditioning and having a roof overhead, especially as storms and rain did descend on Merrill later in the evening.

The Northwoods Bassist kicked things off at 5 p.m., wrapping up his opening act with "God Bless the



Neal Zunker and the Music Connection brought the oom-pah-pah to Les & Jim's when the Thorogood Thursday concert was moved indoors last week. Tina L. Scott photos.

USA," which brought all those who could stand to their feet, with many hats in hand and the audience singing along.

At 6 p.m., headliner Neal Zunker and the Music Connection provided polkas to entertain a good-sized crowd that might not otherwise have come out to swelter in the hot summer temperatures.

The 50/50 raffle proceeds were donated to Discharge with Dignity, which provides clothing to hospitalized patients who have no local family or friends to bring them clothing when they are discharged from the hospital after a traumatic or emergency admission to Aspirus Merrill Hospital. Prior to the implementation of this program, such patients were discharged in disposable paper clothing to return home.

### Tonight's entertainment

The Northwoods Bassist will again be the opening act

See **CONCERT**

page 10



The Northwoods Bassist was the opening act.



Come on, let's dance!



Young and old alike enjoyed the music and the cooler temperatures in the air conditioned space provided by Les & Jim's.



Merrill Wisconsin

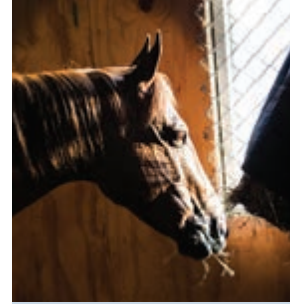
**August 16th-20th, 2023**  
**FREE ADMISSION**

**Get Your Advanced Wristbands Now!**  
*(Limited Quantity)*

Available at: Daves County Market | Merrill and Tomahawk Area Chamber | Park City Credit Union (Merrill & Tomahawk Locations)

## THE GRANDSTAND

Sponsored By:  
Weinbrenner  
Shoe Company



**FREE 4H HORSE SHOW**

WEDNESDAY  
AUG 16th - 5:00pm



**LIVING RIVER FREE CONCERT**

THURSDAY  
AUG 17th - 6:30pm



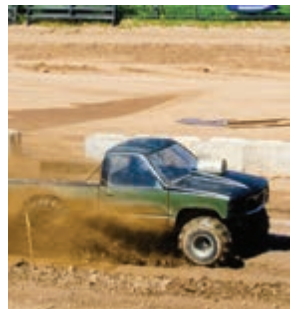
**DEMOLITION DERBY**

FRIDAY  
AUG 18th - 6:30pm



**TRACTOR PULL**

SAT. AUG 19th - 6:00pm  
FREE ANTIQUE TRACTOR PULL  
SAT. AUG 19th - 11:00am  
MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY



**MUD DRAGS**

SUNDAY  
AUG 20th - 1:00pm

## ENTERTAINMENT TENT



WEDNESDAY  
AUGUST 16th  
**MICHAEL DAVID SARGENT**  
7:30-11:30



THURSDAY  
AUGUST 17th  
**RISING PHOENIX**  
7:30-11:30



FRIDAY  
AUGUST 18th  
**STETSIN & LACE**  
7:30-11:30



SATURDAY  
AUGUST 19th  
**DIG DEEP**  
5:00-7:30  
**PRESLEY AARON**  
7:30-11:30

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>Natural Casing Wieners, Brats, Cheddar Links</b><br/><b>\$4.99</b><br/>18-22 oz.</p> | <p><b>80% Lean Family Pack Ground Beef</b><br/><b>\$3.59</b><br/>lb.</p> | <p><b>Boneless Shoulder Roast</b><br/><b>\$4.99</b><br/>lb.</p>   |
| <p><b>USDA Choice Boneless Top Sirloin Steak</b><br/><b>\$8.99</b><br/>lb.</p>             | <p><b>Turkey Drumettes</b><br/><b>99¢</b><br/>lb.</p>                    | <p><b>Whole White Mushrooms</b><br/><b>2/\$3.00</b><br/>8 oz.</p> |
|  |  | <p><b>Golden Ripe Pineapple</b><br/><b>2/\$5.00</b></p>           |

**Dave's County Market**

WE VALUE FRESH WE VALUE FAMILY WE VALUE YOU!

Monday - Sunday  
300 E. 1ST ST., MERRILL | 715-536-2571

All Sales Good Through Tuesday, August 8, 2023!  
Limits are in place on some items. Items based on availability. Sorry, no rainchecks.



# THE GLEASON CORNER

Gleason  
its  
a s  
BY TIM  
EDITOR



**Salem Gleason**



**Sara Gleason**

Gleason, a small unincorporated Lincoln County town about 12 miles northeast of Merrill on Hwy. 17, was originally timbered virgin forest. In the late 1800's, the land was sparsely settled, inhabited primarily by hunters, trappers, traders, and native Americans. In 1880, Salem and Sarah Gleason and their four children, Minnie, Emma, James, and Frank, traveled north via covered wagon pulled by oxen until they came to the Prairie River where they fell in love with the beautiful country and staked a 160-acre homestead claim. That land would later become the community of Gleason, named after these two homesteaders who were instrumental in the community's development.

Salem was born in Ohio; raised in Rosendale, Wis.; and served in the Wisconsin Calvary in the Civil War. Sarah was born in New York and moved with her family to Stockbridge, Wis. The two married and moved to Minnesota to farm, but years of drought, grasshoppers, and blizzards brought them back to Wisconsin and family. After several years of renting, farming, and hearing about the beautiful land available to the north, the family set out together to make a new life. They staked their claim, and Salem and Sarah built a log home and a small barn near the Prairie River from the abundant supply of timber in the area. Two more children, Leona and Charles, were born.

Salem logged the land and hauled the logs to the river where they were floated down to Jenny (now Merrill) in the spring. Eventually a log schoolhouse was built and a sawmill was established. Salem and Sarah's family outgrew their log cabin, and in 1890 Salem built an A-frame house with lumber cut from the logs, built nearer to the road.

Logging brought more men into the community, and as interest in the fledgling settlement grew, Salem sold some of his land to others to build. E.A. [or C.A. (conflicting sources were found)] Berkman built a small general store in 1884 and more homes and businesses were built. In 1897, Riverside Presbyterian Church at Gleason was organized by Rev. Brown, a Sunday School missionary from Marshfield, and Salem helped build that church. He and his family became members.

In 1901, the railroad connected to the settlement, prompting the establishment of a bank by W.H. Bradley of Tomahawk, and a post office was established in 1902. The community needed a name, and the names of Bradley and Gleason were bantered about, but ultimately the residents of the area selected the name of Gleason in honor of Salem and Sarah, upon whose original homestead the community was being developed. A site survey of the area was conducted at the direction of Salem Gleason, William P. Levia, Fred Beyer, Val Josten, Nettie Fellows, and the Farmers Lumber Co. (Edward Bradley, president). It was recorded

**If you want to be part of this page the first Thursday of each**

MERRILL **Foto** News

Call Dinah Schneider to advertise:  
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290712

**Gleason Mennonite Church**  
5626 State Road 17, Gleason, WI

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.  
Matthew 18:20

286183

ENJOY SUMMER TIME WITH **FAMILY**

**A&R Furniture**

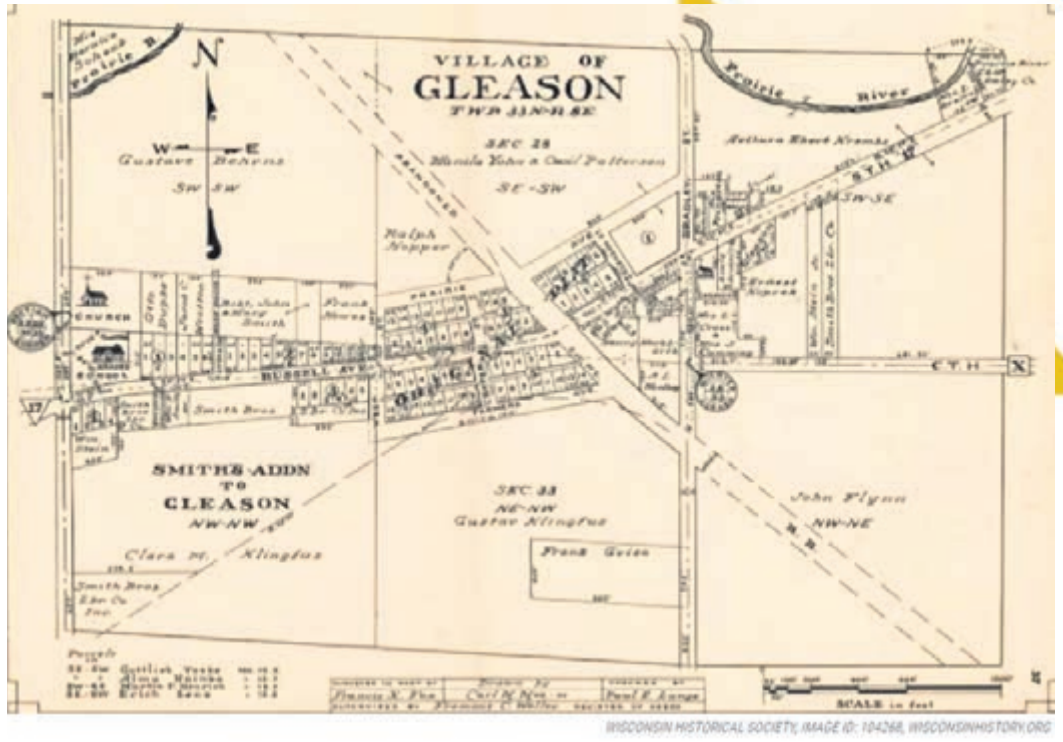
N5211 Bradley St., Gleason, WI 54435  
(715) 873-4843  
10am-5pm Daily  
Closed Sundays

286171



# Gleason ... a tribute to early homesteaders, small town story

By Tina L. Scott



On April 11, 1903. The survey map platted out Gleason as a town, with blocks and lots, streets and alleys. Other early settlers included the names and families of John Flynn, Andrew Bascomb, William Rice, and Robert Cumming. On May 13, 1906, St. Pauls Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Gleason was organized and formed by Edward Schmidt, George Gerbig, William Prueser, Otto Hintze, Karl Kegler, F. Beyer, and J. H. Gerbig. The congregation purchased two acres of land adjoining the premises of the existing Gleason Public School which included a house that served as a parsonage.

In 1911, the Smith Bros. sawmill (operated by William and Robert H. Smith) moved to the area from Dudley and continued to employ about two dozen men in season and to produce thousands of feet of lumber and lath for many years. The same owners also operated a large Deleo lighting plant which furnished electric light for part of the new village at that time. Sarah Gleason died in 1911. A church building for St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran was dedicated on Dec. 22, 1912; a new parsonage would be built in 1919. In 1914, the Gleason Telephone Company began as a co-operative, and a new schoolhouse was built.

The Estonian Evangelical Martin Luther Church, the first Estonian church built in America, is also located in rural Gleason. Some sources say the land was purchased in 1907 and the church finished/founded July 16, 1914. Though still standing and an important landmark, the building became the target of vandals over the years and is in need of many repairs. It is now privately owned and in need of volunteers and donations to facilitate restoration.

Salem Gleason, the community's namesake, died in 1916. Once logging had cleared the land, farms were established in the area and became the mainstay of the community rather than logging. By the early 1920's, Gleason also had a blacksmith shop, the Gleason Mercantile Co.'s store, Gleason State Bank, an American Legion, and other active businesses serving the members of the small community.

Today, Gleason is home to a number of different and more modern businesses more appropriate to our time, as well as other churches and organizations.

This monthly page dedicated to the Gleason community will introduce Merrill Foto News readers to a good number of them. We are excited to help all of our readers get to know more about our nearby neighbors to the northeast.



One of Gleason's first General Stores. Submitted photo.



Old Estonian Church near Gleason. Tina L. Scott photo.

month the deadline is Thursday the week before by 4:00PM

**17**

**SCOOPS**

Ice Cream & Sandwich Shop

Located Downtown Gleason, WI

Summer hours: 11am-7pm 7 days a week

Scan to see our Menu!

New Items!

288672

**FEATURE ITEMS**

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**Only \$6.99 lb.**

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288178



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**2<sup>ND</sup> SHIFT HOURS**  
3:00 pm – 11:00 pm

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11:00 pm – 7:00 am



Scan code to **APPLY NOW** and link to [jobs.greatlakescheese.com](https://jobs.greatlakescheese.com).



If interested, go to <https://jobs.greatlakescheese.com> search for opportunities in **Wausau**.

**Competitive wages along with shift premiums**  
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**Benefits effective after 30 days**  
**Onsite wellness/occupational health provider**  
GLC is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer.

289151

**CONCERT**  
*from page 7*

at this evening's Thorogood Thursday Gazebo Nights concert in Normal Park, kicking things off at 5 p.m.

Bogfoot, a five-piece band from Sugar Camp playing seven decades of rock and roll and the most requested

band to return for 2023, will take the stage at 6 p.m.

This week's sponsors include Thorogood, Chips, Century 21 Best Way Realty, Nicolet Bank, the Dugout, Lange Home Construction, and One Way Collision.

The Boy Scouts will sell concessions.

In the event of inclement weather, concerts will

be moved to Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes at 1208 N. Center Ave. in Merrill.

**Next week**

Next Thursday, Aug. 10, the Northwoods Bassist will open the show at 5 p.m. with headliner Howard Guitar Luedtke and the Blue Max Band taking the stage at 6 p.m.

**EMPLOYMENT**



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**Friday - Sunday • 5AM - 5PM**  
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[mitchellmetalproducts.com/about/career-opportunities](https://mitchellmetalproducts.com/about/career-opportunities)

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

287190

**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

**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

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**OTR TRUCK DRIVERS FT/PT Put Your Career in Gear!** Competitive wages & full benefits. Mileage, Drop pay, Paid weekly Home weekends, NO east/west coast, 28 central states. Van & Hopper Division. Agriculture experience a plus. Fox Valley company since 1958 Call Frank 920-788-6242 or 920-858-0238. Van Groll Trucking, Kaukauna

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**BOTH LOCATIONS!**

**4 10-Hour Days**

- Both shifts available
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- Excellent Low Cost Benefits (Health, Dental, Vision)

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Questions? Call: 715-722-1884

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Sierra Pacific is an (EOE) Equal Opportunity Employer, including those with a disability and veterans.

289157

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- Manufacturing background with emphasis on quality systems and principles (ISO, Root Cause Analysis, Six Sigma, Lean, Continuous Improvement)
- Statistical background a plus
- Ability to use and interpret Quality Instruments (gauges, visual standards)

**PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:**

- 2-year college degree preferred in Industrial or Manufacturing Technology, Leadership, Business management or;
- Equivalent education and experience for a total of 3+ years in a Manufacturing Environment.
- Ability to supervise and direct hourly employees in a union environment.
- Ability to ensure production schedules are met and resources are best used at the lowest cost with the highest quality.

**Due to the nature of our business, U.S. Citizenship is required.**

**We offer a competitive compensation package which includes Health, Dental, Vision, Life Insurance, 401k with company match, HSA, Flex, Vacation, and Tuition Reimbursement.**

**A pre-employment, post offer physical and drug screen are required.**

**Only qualified applicants need apply.**

If you are interested, please send a resume', go to [jobcenterofwisconsin.com](https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com) or stop by to complete an application at:

**AMRON, A DIVISION OF AMTEC CORPORATION**  
920 Amron Avenue, Antigo, WI 54409  
Attn: Human Resources  
[norma.dahlke@amronndc.com](mailto:norma.dahlke@amronndc.com) • (715) 623-4176

Equal Employment Opportunity Employer/Affirmative Action:  
Minorities, Women, Veterans, Disabilities

**This job posting closes at noon on Friday, August 11th, 2023.**

281039

# CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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**Rummage Sales This Week 7200**  
**Garage Sale** 309 N Stuyvesant St Sat. 7-5 and Sun. 9-4.

**Weston: 5405 Winding Creek Dr.** Sat 8/5 8a-2p. Furniture, clothes, household items, snow blower and much more!

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**GARAGE SALE KITS NOW AVAILABLE!**  
Let Garage Sale Gail help you with your next sale!  
**Kit Includes:**  
• 2 garage sale signs  
• 140 pricing stickers  
• 3 balloons  
• 1 pen  
• 1 inventory sheet  
• How to have a successful garage sale pamphlet  
• 1 coupon for \$5 off your NEXT classified ad!

**ONLY \$5.00 PER KIT! \***  
\* With the purchase of a classified ad.

**Available at Merrill Foto News 2011 E. Main St., Merrill**

**Estate Sales 7208**  
Merrill: Thursday, 7/27, 7 a.m.- 5 p.m. July 27-30 and August 3-6. Double Estate Sale 3 piece entertainment center, vinyl albums, milk glass, brass decorative pieces, library tables, twin bed, full size headboard, curio cabinet, bachelor tall boy dresser, many glass globes, wingback chairs, teapots, tea sets, tea cups, men's cuff links and more. Buyer responsible for loading and transporting items. W754 State Highway 64

**Tomahawk:** Friday, 8/4-Sunday, 8/6, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. Garage full of tools! John Deere lawn mower with attachments low hours, power tools, hand tools, fishing boat with 40hp motor, rowboat, 5x8 trailer, boat motors, generator, power washer, household items and decor, gas stove, fridge, washer & dryer, beds, kitchenware, grill, patio set and so much more. Aug 4-6th Friday & Saturday 8am-4, Sunday 8am-12. More pictures and info available on Facebook @ S&S Estate Cleanout Service Sales page. 2118 Margaret Dr

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**Estate Sales 7208**

**JANE'S Estate Sales & Services LLC**  
Wausau: Friday, 8/4, 12 p.m.- 5 p.m., Saturday, 8/5, 9 p.m.- 3 p.m., Sunday, 8/6, 10 p.m.- 1 p.m. SUPER HUGE SALE! Vintage lover's heaven! House is bursting with TREASURES!!! NO EARLY SALES. We DO NOT give out prices or information prior to the sale. Please do not text, call or email requests. - First come, first served. Deli style numbers will be given out starting at 11:00am on Friday. Go to JANE'S Estate Sales on Facebook or [estatesales.org](http://estatesales.org) for photos. 215 Lakeview Dr

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Flexible hours, up to 30 per week.  
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**PUBLISHER'S LETTER**

**Political Integrity Meets Lower Local Newspaper Postal Rates**

Dear Reader,  
We must reflect on ourselves. We have witnessed instances where politicians misled or defrauded us, thinking they could escape scrutiny. The original Postal Act of 1792 established low rates for newspapers, ensuring that the public remained informed about current events. However, the Postal System now imposes exorbitant rates on newspapers, making it increasingly challenging to disseminate news.



Some might argue that alternative news sources exist. However, in many areas, this is not the case. As local newspapers shut down, more communities are becoming "news deserts," lacking a reliable source of local news, which has detrimental consequences, including increased governmental corruption and decreased community cohesion.

Politicians, being human, may sometimes be less than honest, especially when they believe no one is paying attention. However, we must prevent future news deserts because local journalism provides important insights into politicians' actions and reports on all laws and regulations, including their compensation, salaries, and pensions.

I ask you to support efforts to address the challenges in the Postal System and ensure accessible local news, starting with government mandated lowering of Postal rates for locally mailed newspapers rather than increasing them as they have been doing.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
Publisher

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**Church Thrift Sale**  
August 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>  
Wed. & Thur. 9:00-5:00 Fri. 9:00-3:00  
Tomahawk Community 7th Day Adventist Church, 1529 East Somo Ave.  
Donations taken for most items unless otherwise marked. All proceeds to be used for community outreach. For more information call: 715-536-2791 or 715-453-5809 on days of sale. No text.

**DEADLINE THURSDAY, AUGUST 31!!!**

**15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MERRILL CITYWIDE FALL RUMMAGE SALE**

To Be Held All Over the Merrill Area  
**Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

- It's Simple to Run a Sale:
- Just place your own classified ad in the Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> Foto News.
  - We will pinpoint your address on our citywide map.
  - Starting at **\$10.00** for a 5 line classified ad. (Approximately 25 words)
    - \$1.00 for each additional line of your ad.

**Stop in to place your ad in the office and put your number on the map.**  
**DEADLINES:**  
**All ads must be placed before 3:00pm Thursday, August 31.**  
**Don't wait, get your ad set up today and beat the RUSH!**

**Merrill Citywide Rummage Sale Map**

**Get Rid of That Clutter!**

**Garage Sale Kits Now Available at the Foto News! Only \$5 with the purchase of your garage sale ad.**

Email your ad to: [FotoNewsAds@mmclocal.com](mailto:FotoNewsAds@mmclocal.com)  
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From L to R: Shannon Murray, MAPS Superintendent; Kevin Blake, representing the MAPS School Board; Nathan Brzoznowski, Merrill High School (MHS) class of 2023 graduate who worked in the Fab Lab to design the giant check; Patti Hilgendorf, Executive Director of Kinship of Tomahawk; Jeremy Ratliff on behalf of MACR; Merrill Mayor Steve Hass; and Josh Zalewski, MHS Fab Lab instructor. Tomahawk Mayor Steve Taskay was unavailable at the time of the photo. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

# MACR donates to Kinship of Tomahawk

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

Merrill Area Community Rides (MACR) recently presented Kinship of Tomahawk with a check for \$1,109 representing the proceeds from the June 17, 2023, Annual Mud 'N Jams ATV/UTV/Motorcycle Ride and Poker Run.

Founded in fall 2016 with a single goal-to raise funds for area individuals, families, and non-profit

organizations-MACR grew quickly and, in 2018, expanded to include three annual events: "Sleds N Jams Snowmobile Ride and Poker Run" held the third Saturday each February; "Mud 'N Jams ATV Ride and Poker Run" held the third Saturday in June; and "Rosco's Ride Motorcycle Ride and Poker Run" held the third Saturday in September.

To date, MACR has raised and donated \$40,000+.

## Donation to Kinship of Tomahawk marks two major milestones for MACR

The donation to Kinship of Tomahawk was a milestone for MACR because it

is the first time the organization selected a recipient from outside of the Merrill area. In 2022, the MACR Board of Directors unanimously voted to increase and expand their reach to include all of Lincoln County. Kinship was nominated by a community member utilizing the application process and ultimately selected to be the recipient of the proceeds from the 2023 Mud 'N Jams event.

This year also marks the fifth anniversary of MACR partnering with the Merrill High School FAB Lab to design, produce, and donate customized, oversized "donation checks" to present to the recipients of their fundraising efforts.

## EMPLOYMENT



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## Lincoln County Highway Department Highway Worker

Applications are now being accepted to fill a Highway Worker position-CDL Drivers. Starting wage is \$18.49 to \$21.55 per hour depending upon qualifications.

Regular scheduled work week is Monday through Thursday 6:30 am to 4:30 pm with overtime opportunities. Job description, duties, responsibilities, and applications are listed on the Lincoln County web page at [www.co.lincoln.wi.us](http://www.co.lincoln.wi.us) (career opportunities) or applications can be picked up at the Lincoln County Service Center at 801 N. Sales Street (upper level) Merrill, WI. John Hanz, Highway Commissioner, may be reached at 715-539-2554 if you need additional information or have questions.

## Join your county's Deer Council and help shape deer seasons for your community

Applications accepted until Aug. 15

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is currently accepting applications for the Deer Advisory Council for every county in the state. This opportunity only comes along once every three years. If you are interested in getting more involved in deer management in your area, apply no later than Aug. 15, 2023.

Council members meet annually to review deer management data, gather public input, and

provide recommendations to the DNR and the Natural Resources Board regarding deer management decisions in their county.

Those selected will serve for three years and during that time will reach out to the stakeholders they represent as they develop recommendations for the fall season framework each year.

CDACs were established in 2014 and continue to

See DEER page 16



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The first place 10U red team included Jaxon Nichols (Wausau), Parker Dunwald (Waterloo), Cole Guthman (Mosinee), Mason Klug (Merrill), Charlotte Besaw (Merrill), Conner Morrow (Marshfield), Jack Vanderleest (Minocqua), Thomas Dalsbo (Stevens Point), Sawyer Thompson (Wausau), Braxton Thompson (Wausau), Collin Whitrock (Marshfield), Otto Federwitz (Stevens Point), and Max Newmier (Kronenwetter) **Submitted photos.**

## Merrill Youth Hockey Summer Classic Tournaments

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

On July 15/16 and 22/23, 2023, the Merrill Youth Hockey Association hosted their First Annual Summer Classic Youth and Adult Tournaments at the Merrill Area Recreation Center.

The Youth Tournament was held July 15 and 16 consisting of two divisions making up 10 teams with more than 100 players from across Wisconsin, organizers said.

The first place 10U team (red team)

consisted of players from Merrill, Wausau, Mosinee, Marshfield, Minocqua, Stevens Point, Kronenwetter, and Waterloo.

The first place 12U team (white team) included players from Merrill, Mosinee, Rhinelander, Wausau, Medford, Kronenwetter, Gresham, and Waunakee.

The Adult Tournament welcomed more than 40 players from Wisconsin and Illinois on July 22 and 23. The Burgener Contract Carriers Team took first place and included players from Merrill, Wausau, Weston, Fond du Lac, and Oconto Falls.



The first place adult team, Burgener Contract Carriers, included Ryan Schroder (Wausau), Bryce Broeking (Merrill), Trevor Jahnke (Weston), Austin Burgener (Merrill), Katie Lindsley (Fond du Lac), Eric Maluegge (Merrill), Dan Schaupp (Merrill), Ian Raddatz (Wausau), Sami Schuchart (Oconto Falls), and Nick Nowak (Wausau).



The first place 12U white team included Cooper Guthman (Mosinee), Zayden Slater (Gresham), Marshall Besaw (Merrill), Cole Smith (Waunakee), Conner McGee (Rhinelander), Wyatt Crass (Medford), Jack Johnson (Wausau), and Ethan Walters (Kronenwetter).

## Merrill Baseball Association makes Athletic Park a little safer

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

What if someone goes into cardiac arrest at Merrill's Athletic Park? While one hopes that would never be the case, it's something many area businesses and even recreational facilities are prepared for, by investing in Automated External Defibrillator (AED) systems accessible to the public in an emergency. You've probably seen one mounted on the wall at a local business or church without thinking anything about it. But they could save a life in an emergency.

At Merrill's Athletic Park, an AED unit was on-site, but was originally stored in the concession stand, which is normally locked. "Throughout the spring and summer, many teams use the facility without having access to the concession stand, which could be a problem if someone is experiencing cardiac arrest," said Josh Klug, Vice President of the Merrill Baseball Association.

Klug is also the Fire Chief at the Merrill Fire Department and knows how important access to an AED unit can be.

At a Baseball Association board meeting this past spring, Klug explained the need for having a truly accessible AED. It didn't take long for the board to unanimously approve the



The AED device is now mounted in a secure cabinet on the outside of the concession stand at Merrill's Athletic Park, where someone can call 9-1-1 to report an emergency and then get immediate access to the defibrillator to perform life-saving measures until paramedics arrive.

Photo courtesy of Merrill Baseball Association.

purchase of an all-weather outdoor enclosure enabling the AED to be relocated to the outside of the building so it is accessible to anyone during an emergency.

"After last NFL season's cardiac arrest incident with Damar Hamlin, it just made sense to get this cabinet so our AED would be available to users of the park," said Shawn Schultz, Merrill Baseball Association President and Merrill Varsity Head Coach.

The \$900 investment in the specialized cabinet, which includes a security feature to prevent theft and tampering, is an investment that could save a life. To gain access to the cabinet, a user must first call 9-1-1 to report the medical emergency at the park. While emergency medical services are being dispatched to the location, the dispatcher will also provide the caller with the code to open the AED cabinet so that the device can immediately be used to help the person in cardiac arrest prior to the arrival of the ambulance.

The cabinet also features

a heater to keep the AED battery from being drained and a light.

"Now that the AED cabinet has been installed at Athletic Park, other organizations are jumping onboard with the idea," the Merrill Baseball Association said. "Merrill Fastpitch groups are combining funds to pay for one by the ball diamonds at the Merrill Area Recreational Complex (MARC). Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) will be installing an AED cabinet at Jay Stadium which is used for football, soccer, and track & field."

"We are proud to help keep all of our athletes, coaches, and fans safe while attending beautiful Athletic Park," Schultz said.

The Merrill Baseball Association would like to thank the supporters of their program who fundraise each year through various events, they said. They would also like to thank the Merrill Fire Department and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office for their support of the AED cabinet project.

## 2023 Fall Merrill High School SPORTS SCHEDULE

### Boys Football (Varsity, JV, & JV2)

Practice began Tuesday, August 1st

### Girls Tennis (Varsity & JV)

Practice begins Tuesday, August 8th

### Girls Swimming (Varsity & JV)

Practice begins Tuesday, August 8th

### Boys & Girls Cross Country (Varsity & JV)

Practice begins Monday, August 14th

### Girls Volleyball (Varsity, JV, & JV2)

Practice begins Tuesday, August 15th

### Boys Soccer (Varsity & JV)

Practice begins Tuesday, August 15th

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



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Apply now for a County Deer Advisory Council seat. **Bob Haase photo. Courtesy of Wisconsin DNR.**

**DEER** from page 14

provide an excellent venue to develop county-specific deer population objectives and herd management strategies through public involvement. In doing so, council members review and consider a variety of metrics on deer herd trends, impacts to habitat, and various human-deer interactions.

**Who Should Apply?**

Anyone with an interest

in deer management and that has experience or involvement with at least one of these seven stakeholder categories:

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Tourism
- Transportation
- Hunting
- Land management
- Local government

For more information regarding CDACs and to find the application, go to: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Hunt/cdac>.

# July Garden of the Month

BY **TINA L. SCOTT**  
EDITOR

Park City Gardeners announced the July 2023 Garden of the Month belongs to Jill and Steve

Patrow and is located at 1812 River St. in Merrill.

Many years of hard work are encompassed in their entire property. One organizer said she recalled the yard from her younger



The July 2023 Garden of the Month belongs to Jill and Steve Patrow on River Street in Merrill. **Submitted photos.**



Could the focal point of this flower bed be a house for gnomes?

years and could attest to the evolution of the property from a "simple green yard to something beautiful and unrecognizable with Jill and Steve's hard work."

The Patrows' property includes an inviting front porch, flower beds, garden art (from rustic to concrete to steel and glass and much more), and a bountiful vegetable garden.

A group of delightful

gnomes have their own home among the blooms. And reminders of children and years gone by are tucked into little corners, including a little playhouse that was once a girls dollhouse and even a dinosaur clubhouse.

Jill and Steve work together to create their little sanctuary. From gathering the seeds and saving them in between seasons to reimagining flower beds and planting them to achieve a specific look to adding a patio area, their yard puts visitors in mind of relaxing and enjoying the beauty around them. But don't let that fool you. A lot of work went into creating this space!

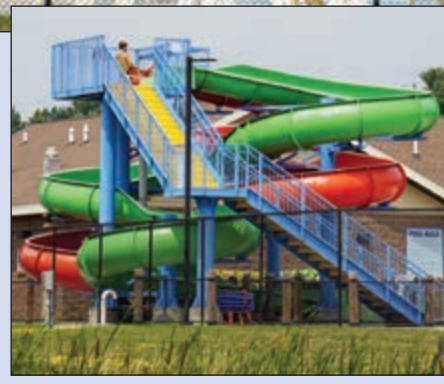
To fully appreciate the July Garden of the Month, take time to drive, or perhaps walk, through the alley, as well.

A patio area for relaxing and evening campfires is surrounded by more flowers in the backyard.



ABOVE: The small group enjoys a peaceful and interesting tour of Lake Alexander, before the rain started moving in. Another Canoe & Kayak Event will be held this Friday, Aug. 4, 2023, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in Council Grounds State Park. Attendees should meet at the boat landing and can bring their own kayak or canoe or rent one at Council Grounds at a discounted rate for this event. If renting, advance reservations are recommended. (Call 715.536.8773.) **Tina L. Scott photos.**

LEFT: DNR Park Naturalist Cody Kehlnhofer provides an introduction prior to the Canoe & Kayak Event held July 28, 2023, at Council Grounds State Park, explaining he will guide the group around Lake Alexander, providing information about the Lake's history, habitat, structures, and animal species.



ABOVE: With a little instruction and encouragement, a girl takes a leap from the high diving board into the pool at the Bierman Family Aquatic Center. **Tina L. Scott photos.**

The water slides at the Bierman Family Aquatic Center at the MARC are a great place to cool off in Merrill's summer heat.

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## MERRILL AREA BIRTHS

**JULY 7, 2023**  
Girl, Evelyn Grace,  
born to Rachel Gruett and  
Dustin Gruett of Merrill.

**JULY 10, 2023**  
Boy, Josiah James, born  
to Kati Vasa and Dakota  
Vasa of Merrill.

**JULY 21, 2023**  
Girl, Hadley Sue, born to  
Hayley Myszka and Eugene  
Randall III of Wausau.

Boy, Reid Daniel, born to  
Morgan Kufahl and Ryan  
Kufahl of Athens.

**JULY 23, 2023**  
Boy, Camden Jack, born  
to Heather Schmieder and  
Eric Schmieder of Wausau.



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