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Galella charged with sexual assault crimes from five years ago

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The list of charges against 22-year-old Vincent Galella of Merrill is growing longer.

On July 28, 2023, Galella was charged with three new criminal counts: 1) attempted first degree sexual assault of a child under age 16 by use or threat of force or violence, 2) sexual assault of a child under 16 years of age, and 3) false imprisonment. All three charges relate to an incident alleged to have occurred back in March 2018 when Galella was 17 years old and the reporting victim was 14 years old.

The alleged incident reportedly took place in a vehicle while it was parked in a rural area in Lincoln County. Then 17-year-old Galella was a passenger in a vehicle driven by another male, and the alleged victim and another female were in the back seat when the driver stopped the vehicle and Galella instructed one of the females to get in the front seat and he then climbed in back with the then 14-year-old girl.

Galella allegedly pinned the girl down and attempted to remove her clothes, which she resisted, repeatedly saying no. After about 30 minutes, during which time he had physical sexual contact with the victim, and the victim essentially fought him off, the driver of the vehicle asked if they could leave and took everyone home, the Criminal Complaint on file in this case said.

“Victim estimated that she told Galella no about 25 to 30 times. Galella and victim attended the same school, but she did not have any other personal relationship [with him] prior to this incident,” the Complaint said.

It is unclear why the alleged incident did not result in charges against Galella in 2018 and it took more than five years for charges to be filed in this incident. Lincoln

See **GALELLA** page 2



Though not identifying specifically as any of the characters from the M*A*S*H 4077, (L to R) Hunter Smith, Ricky Smith, and Kurtis “Raymond” Schulz enjoy doing military re-enactments and lending an air of authenticity to the annual Merrill M*A*S*H Blood Drive. Schulz and Ricky Smith have collected the tents and gear and been setting up regularly at the Merrill event for years.

Tina L. Scott photos.

Merrill’s MASH Blood Drive

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Northwoods Veterans Post took on the look and feel of a M*A*S*H unit from the TV show on Aug. 3, 2023.

A group of local volunteers recreated the look of a military base outdoors on the lawn outside, complete with tents, cots, and military gear, and wore Hawaiian shirts reminiscent of what Klinger, Hot Lips Houlihan, Trapper, and Hawkeye might have worn for one of their light-hearted celebrations.

Indoors, one-half of the dining hall was set up with cots, and Community Blood Center (CBC) staff clad in scrubs were busy prepping donors and equipment and drawing and processing blood donations. The light-hearted atmosphere drew smiles from staff, volunteers, and donors alike. If you’re going to have a blood drive, why not make it fun?

Volunteers in M*A*S*H t-shirts helped keep things flowing smoothly, and blood donors also got a t-shirt, along with lunch and refreshments after donating.

The all-day event drew many members of the community to donate the life-saving gift of blood, with some donors tallying up nearly 30 gallons of blood donated since they began donating through the years. It’s regular donors like them that the CBC relies on to keep a steady supply of blood of all types for more than 40 hospitals throughout the state, including those here in the Northwoods and Northcentral

See **BLOOD DRIVE** page 5



Jodi Malsack, blood donor, and a CBC staff member make donating blood look easy.

Merrill Community Night Out draws families

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The 11th Annual Merrill Community Night Out was a great opportunity for families to get out to explore all the protective services that make Merrill a safe community and to meet officers, deputies, fire fighters, and other emergency personnel in an informal setting.

Outdoors, kids of all ages enjoyed the chance to sit inside the equipment used by the different agencies at the Aug. 1, 2023, event held at the Merrill Festival Grounds.


And inside the Merrill Expo Center

See **NIGHT OUT** page 2



Community Night Out was a great opportunity to check out the fire engines, ladder trucks, and other equipment on display from the Merrill Fire Department.

Hallie Savall photo.



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GALELLA from page 1

County District Attorney Kristopher Ellis was out of town and unavailable for comment at the time of this writing, and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy who took the report did not return calls seeking clarification.

Galella is scheduled to make his initial appearance on the new charges on Aug. 25. If convicted of these three charges, Galella faces up to 76 years in prison, a fine of up to \$20,000, or both.

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NIGHT OUT from page 1

building more agencies provided swag to collect, the chance to play games, and more activities.

Free food, music provided by Bluejay 96.3, and great weather all made for a fun evening.

Thanks to all the agencies that came out to make this year's Community Night Out a success: Merrill Fire Department, Merrill Police Department, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Wisconsin State Patrol, Wisconsin Department of Justice, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County, Merrill Street Department, Merrill Transit System (Merrill-Goround), Merrill Enrichment Center, T.B. Scott Free Library, Raise Your Voice, Northcentral Technical College, Bluejay 96.3, and many others.



One little guy just isn't sure what to think of all this.

Hallie Savall photos.



Check out how the City's newly-named recycling truck, called "Bin Diesel" operates.



Law enforcement agencies came out for Community Night Out, providing an opportunity for the public, and kids in particular, to get to know them in an informal setting.



The kids loved the opportunity to explore hands-on in equipment they wouldn't normally get a chance to investigate.

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Indoors various community groups had lots of swag to collect to help attendees learn more about their agencies, as well as games to play to invite interaction with those in attendance.

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Hot Dogs 8 count - Frozen 15 oz. ONLY 99c	Butter Balls Salted 8 oz. ONLY \$1.49	Meatballs Fully Cooked - Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY \$1.89 a lb.
Pork Crumbles Fully Cooked - Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY 99c a lb.	Butter Quarters Unsalted 16 oz. ONLY \$2.69	Bacon - Maple Ends & Pieces - Frozen 2 lbs. ONLY \$1.59 a lb.
Black Forest Ham Thin Sliced - Frozen 16 oz. ONLY 99c	Mozzarella Cheese Whole Milk 16 oz. ONLY \$1.49	French Fries Skin Off - Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY \$6.99
Chicken Breast - Skinless, Boneless Frozen 4.5 lbs. ONLY \$1.59 a lb.	Cream Cheese 1/3 Less Fat 8 oz. ONLY 49c	Chicken Breast Fritters - Frozen Breaded - Uncooked 5 lbs. ONLY \$1.69 a lb.
Angus Beef Patties Seasoned Uncooked - Frozen 32 oz. ONLY \$5.99	String Cheese Smoked 8 oz. ONLY 89c	Pork Sausage Links Original - Frozen Fully Cooked 28 oz. ONLY \$2.89
Bacon Thick Cut Frozen 16 oz. ONLY \$2.49	American Cheese White - Sliced 5 lbs. ONLY \$8.99	Pork Loin Fillets Assorted Flavors Frozen ONLY \$1.99 a lb.
Bacon Applewood Smoked - Thick Cut - Frozen 24 oz. ONLY \$4.89	Chicken Thighs Skinless, Boneless Frozen 40 oz. ONLY \$4.99	Chicken Breast Tenders - Breaded Fully Cooked - Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY \$1.29
Chicken Breast Patties Breaded Fully Cooked - Frozen 46 oz. ONLY \$4.89	Breadsticks - Frozen Cheese Stuffed ONLY \$1.29 a lb.	Pizza Stuffed Crust Pepperoni - Frozen 22 oz. ONLY \$3.99
Chicken Nuggets Breaded, Uncooked, Frozen 32 oz. ONLY \$1.99	Hash Brown Patties - Oval Frozen 3.5 lbs. ONLY \$4.99	Pizza Rising Crust Pepperoni - Frozen 27 oz. ONLY \$2.29

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Correction to quad dirt track article in Aug. 3, 2023, edition

"In last week's article about our first Northern Wisconsin Dirt Track Racing at the Merrill Festival Grounds, I inadvertently missed mentioning that the Little Red Barn from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Corning was also one of the vendors during our event," said Allyson English. "We greatly appreciate all of the vendors who made it possible to offer our racers, their families, and the public great options for food and refreshments during our first big event here in Merrill."

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/MerrillFotoNews

Concert goers bear the heat to see Bogfoot

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Temperatures last Thursday were again sweltering, but many concert goers decided to bear the heat to see Bogfoot, the five piece band from Sugar Camp. Spread out in Normal Park to take advantage of the shade, many favored a cooler temperature over the best view of the band, but still had a great opportunity to hear the sounds of seven decades of rock along with a little country that Bogfoot is known for.



In the front row, (not in order): Andy Pavz sings lead vocals and plays guitar, Tommy Pavz provides vocals and plays lead guitar and keyboard, Tom Moon provides vocals and plays guitar and harmonica, and Larry Sullivan provides vocals and plays bass.



Bogfoot's Curtis Allred on the drums. Tina L. Scott photos.

The Northwoods Bassist opened last week, and he'll be opening again tonight, kicking things off at 5 p.m.

At 6 p.m. headliner Howard Guitar Luedtke and the Blue Max Band will bring the blues to Normal Park, beginning at 6 p.m. "Howard is considered one of the best slide guitarists in the midwest and is a staple in the Blues Scene for good reason," organizers said.

In addition to Thorogood, sponsors will be Chips, Duwayne Kreager

Insurance, Power House Lawn & Leisure, Hugo's Pizza, and Merrill Tool and Water Jet.

Bring your own refreshments or purchase them on-site where groups will be selling food and treats to raise money for their organizations.

Thorogood Thursday/Gazebo Night will be on hiatus next week. Everyone is encouraged to go see Rising Phoenix at the Lincoln County Fair on Aug. 17 instead.

Town of Merrill man arrested on multiple charges

Ellenbecker charges relate to illegal drugs, stolen vehicles, illegal salvage yard

On July 27, 2023, after multiple investigations into an individual operating as an unlicensed salvage dealer, a search warrant was executed in the Township of Merrill in Lincoln County. This was a large property with an immense quantity of vehicles, vehicle parts, and other equipment. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office was assisted by Merrill Police Department, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin State Patrol, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Central Wisconsin Narcotics Taskforce.

During the search, a stolen vehicle was recovered along with stolen vehicle parts. Indications of tampering with, and removing, VIN tags was discovered in multiple vehicles. The search of the property provided significant evidence of a salvage yard being operated for many years.

Illegal drugs were also located, which included over 140 grams of marijuana, over 50 grams of methamphetamine, and approximately 8 grams of cocaine.

The property owner, Anthony G. Ellenbecker, was arrested for the drug charges and unlicensed salvage dealer along with felon in possession of a firearm.

The investigation is ongoing at this time.

Wis. DOT construction update

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation advises Wis. Hwy. 107 in Lincoln County north of Merrill remains under construction. Various culverts and bridges between Merrill and Tomahawk are being replaced. Crews will install traffic control, begin culvert replacement north of Eggert Dr., and install seed, fertilizer, and erosion mat.

Wis. Hwy. 107 is anticipated to be closed and detoured until Sept. 7. The detour route will follow Wis. 64, Cty. Hwy. J, US Hwy. 51, and Cty. Hwy. S. Work is scheduled for completion in Nov. 2023.

For more information go

to: <https://projects.511wi.gov/nc-wis107lincoln/>.

Meyer replaces Blake on City Council

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Nathan Meyer, a resident of the Third District in the City of Merrill, was appointed to serve as Alderperson for the Third District at the July 11, 2023, City Council meeting. He will serve until April 2024, at which time the position will be on the ballot for the April election.

Meyer applied for the opening, and the Committee of the Whole recommended Meyer at their July 11 meeting. The City Council then made a motion to approve Meyer to fill the vacancy that was created when Rick Blake resigned from the position to retire. Blake had served as Third District Alderperson since Oct. 9, 2018.

The motion carried, and City Clerk Lori Anderson-Malm gave Meyer the oath of office, with his position as Third District Alderperson to take effect immediately afterward.

Meyer was appointed to the Enrichment Center Committee and the Marketing & Communications Committee.



Nathan Meyer. Tina L. Scott photo.

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A view of the crowds from behind the band.

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1100 Marc Drive, Merrill, WI 54452

Entry Deadline is Friday, August 25th

Group _____

Contact _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Having Music? _____

Parade line-up will be published in the August 31st issue of the Foto News. We will be lining up in the Merrill Manufacturing Parking Lot on State Street.

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News or press release submissions must be one week prior to pub date.

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

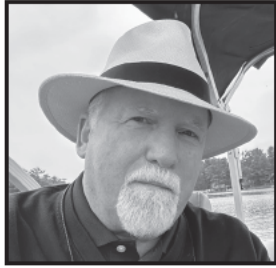
A Journey To Peru

DEAR READER,

This is a story of a missionary, a mission, a family, and a community of learners.

Sister Marie Esterre was a devoted nun of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in St Paul, Minnesota. In the late 1960s, she became the Mother Superior of the order's congregation in Arequipa, Peru. Sr. Marie also was my aunt. During a Christmas visit to our family in the States, she and Frank Wood, my father, collaborated with St. Norbert College to create a program for St. Norbert students to teach and study at La Universidad de Santa Maria in Arequipa while living with Peruvian families. Dad led seven students to Arequipa in the program's first year in 1970, accompanied by our entire family of eight children. Tom and Luci Phelan guided the students in 1971, and Richard and Mechtilde Calnin helmed the program in 1972.

Nowadays "study abroad" programs are an
See PUBLISHERS LETTER page 11



LEGAL NOTICES

Legals 7700

BY THE COURT
DATE SIGNED July 26, 2023
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Deanna Marie Pilecky
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2023 N 34

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
 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.
 3. All interested persons waived notice.
 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 11/10/23.
 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
- Roger O. Pilecky
4232 Cortland Ct.
Windsor, WI 53598
608-320-0732
Published August 3, 10 & 17, 2023
WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED August 1, 2023

Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
DONALD L. OGLESBY
Notice Setting Time to Hear
Application and Deadline for Filing
Claims (Informal Administration)
Case No. 2022 N35

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

Legals 7700

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 8/11/1941, and date of death 5/14/2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1611 Jackson Street, Merrill, WI 54452.
3. The application will be heard at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office, before Becky Byer, Probate Registrar, on September 13, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is November 17, 2023.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.
6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or addresses are unknown.

You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.
If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0342 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.
Please check with person named below for exact time and date.
ATTORNEY MIRANDA M. LAMB
Nolan & Deffner Legacy Law
1803 Stewart Ave.
Wausau, WI 54401
Telephone 715-842-0888
Bar Number 1112872
Published August 10, 17 & 24, 2023
WNAXLP

OBITUARIES

Russell "Russ" B. Warye Jr. Born on December 11, 1942 and passed away on July 30, 2023, in Wausau, WI. Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service is assisting the family. www.waidfuneral.com



Dawn M. Jewell, age 72, of Gleason, died on Tuesday, August 1, 2023. She was born on January 15, 1951 in Rhinelander, WI; the daughter of Marilyn and Art Wells. She grew up in Rhinelander with her parents and siblings. Dawn is survived by her lifetime companion, Robert Ryan, in which they lived together at their home in Gleason.

Dawn was one of 10 children born to Marilyn and Art Wells and is survived by her 9 siblings, all of whom reside in Wisconsin. Glenda (Terry) Wickert, Daniel (Amy) Wells, Marcia (William) Snyder, Michael (Susan) Wells, Teresa (Michael) Compton, Timothy (Lori) Wells, Matthew (Cinde Lawver) Wells, Ann (Brian Plum) Wells, and Patrick "Zeke" (Christine) Wells. Dawn had 2 children: Marie (Andy) Ament and John (Stephanie) Jewell; 7 grandchildren: Kathy (Nathan) Parks, Travis (Cynthia) Schubert, Aydreanna, Carter, Lewis, Elsie, Rudy; 3 great-grandchildren: Abbie, Evie & Tobias. She was preceded in death by her parents, Marilyn and Art Wells.

Dawn was a daughter, companion, mother and grandmother. Of those, her favorite title is that of "Grandma". In her retirement, she spent many days with her grandchildren, watching them grow to who they are today. They had countless fun doing crafts, projects, watching YouTube, snuggling, and listening to her thoughts & opinions on potty training. She also enjoyed spending time at home, where you could find her feeding birds, planting flowers, working on her endless lists, needlepoint projects, and watching the television WAY too loud. She enjoyed time with family, impromptu pop-ins with family and friends, driving around in the truck with Rob, and spending time up at their place in Tomahawk where many family members enjoyed camping and making memories. She leaves behind a legacy of memories that will be cherished forever. We will always remember her stubborn ways, animated hand gestures when she got excited, and how she cared deeply about those closest to her. We are so grateful to have her memories to carry us forward until we meet again. Like Winnie the Pooh said: "How lucky I am to have someone who makes saying goodbye so hard". Rest in peace, Grandma.

A memorial service will take place at Waid Funeral Home on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 11:00 am. Rev. Greg Laska will officiate. A visitation will be held from 9:00 am until the time of service also at the funeral home.

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.



Mark John Engel, 70 of Merrill passed away on June 16, 2023. He was born to the late Einar and Rose (Wolff) Engel on August 19, 1952.

He worked at JW Perry for over 40 years. He was an avid Nascar fan attending many races over the years. He loved his Milwaukee Brewers, and Green Bay Packers. He longed to get back out on the golf course and of course, hunting was his favorite past time.

He is once again reunited with the love of his life Debbie

Bornfleth.

He is survived by daughter Angie (Dale) Lemke, grandchildren Melaina and Gavin, Debbie's children Jesse (Michelle) Bornfleth, Carmen (Shawn) Phillips and grandchildren Shelby and Skylar, his siblings Ted (Patti) Williams, Elmer (Deb) Engel, Linda (Gary) Kalenske, Debra Engel, Rodney (Lori) Engel, sister-in-law Barb Williams.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Bob Williams and the love of his life, Debbie Bornfleth.

There will be a celebration of life on Saturday, August 12, 2023, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Rock Island Resort in Merrill.

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

James Robert Olson, 85, passed away December 18, 2022 in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Jim Olson was born October 3, 1937 in Tomahawk, Wisconsin to Robert C. and Marguerite D. (Allen) Olson.

The family later moved to Merrill, Wisconsin where Jim and his siblings attended Franklin Grade School and Merrill High School.

He was active in sports and received All Conference Honors as a member of the Blue Jay basketball team. Saying "It was a team game" he often credited teammates Bill Weber, Les Smith, Larry Plautz, Skip Ott and others.

Jim enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1954 where he continued playing basketball with various traveling Air Force teams during his service time. Upon receiving an honorable discharge after 4 years of service, he joined his family who, by then, had relocated to Southern California.

He attended Ventura College before transferring to Chico State University where he graduated with a Bachelors Degree.

Jim had a long and various career that included General Motors and later national sales jobs where he traveled throughout the U.S.

After becoming tired of travel and being away from home he changed careers and became a High School teacher that led to becoming a Varsity Football Coach and later a Vice Principal.

Jim finished his career teaching High School in the California State Penal System. At retirement he moved to Tucson, AZ to be near his mother and brother, Harry. Later he and his daughter, Jana Olson, moved to Las Cruces where he spent the remainder of his life.

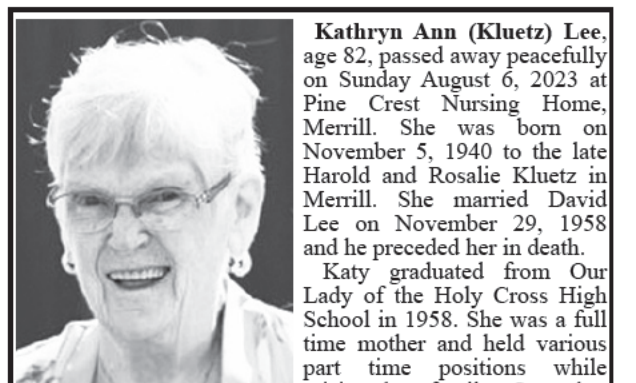
He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Christine and daughter Lynn. His survivors include daughter: Jana Olson, grandson: Adam Olson, brothers: Jack and wife Joanie, San Antonio, TX. and Harry and wife Linda of Tucson AZ., in addition to other family members including nephews and nieces.

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www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



Kathryn Ann (Kluetz) Lee, age 82, passed away peacefully on Sunday August 6, 2023 at Pine Crest Nursing Home, Merrill. She was born on November 5, 1940 to the late Harold and Rosalie Kluetz in Merrill. She married David Lee on November 29, 1958 and he preceded her in death.

Katy graduated from Our Lady of the Holy Cross High School in 1958. She was a full time mother and held various part time positions while raising her family. Once her children were grown she took on a full time position as a social worker with Lincoln County Social Services until her retirement.

In her earlier years Katy enjoyed tending to her flower beds, going for walks, making wine, and listening to music. After retiring she had many pastimes such as reading, puzzles, and trips to the casino. She enjoyed hosting family parties, spending time with her children, grandchildren and especially the great grandchildren. She was a patient and kind woman who always made her family a priority.

Katy is survived by her children: Michael (Mike) & Mary Lee, Green Bay, WI, Timothy (Tim) & Nina Lee, Big Pine Key, Florida, Laurie Lee, Patricia (Patti) & William (Bill) VanStrydonk, Andrew (Andy) & Bobbi Lee, Sara & Andrew (Andy) Stiver, Kristina & Aaron Boquist all of Merrill. She is also survived by 14 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers James and Steven Kluetz and infant sister Margaret.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 11:00 am at Waid Funeral Home, in Merrill. A visitation will be held from 9:00 am until the time of service also at the funeral home. Rev. Sue Smaalund will officiate.

For those unable to attend the service, it will be live streamed for immediate viewing. It will begin at 11:00 am on Thursday, August 10, 2023 and will then be posted under her obituary on our website for future viewing.

A special thank you to staff at Pine Crest Nursing Home and Aspirus Hospice for the care they provided to her.

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.

TOWN OF PINE RIVER

LINCOLN COUNTY, WISCONSIN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Town of Pine River Board along with the Town Plan Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., at the Pine River Town Hall, N1647 Deer Run Ave., Merrill WI to take testimony on the following: **TOWN OF PINE RIVER PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCES.** Written and oral testimony will be entered into the record and considered. All interested persons wishing to be heard are invited to be present or give written testimony at or prior to the hearing. To view the proposed Zoning Ordinances go to www.townofpineriver.com or contact Clerk Herdt at 715 536 7687 to view the file.

Please Recycle Amanda Herdt, Clerk
Published August 10 & 17, 2023
WNAXLP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE CTH O OVER SPIRIT RIVER BRIDGE (B-35-003) LINCOLN COUNTY ID9423-00-00/70

GENERAL The Lincoln County Highway Department is in need of engineering design services for the replacement of the CTH O Bridge (B 35 003) crossing the Spirit River located in the Town of Tomahawk, Lincoln County, Wisconsin. Both the design and construction of the project are being funded through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation administered, federally funded Local Bridge Program.

SUBMITTALS If you are interested in working with the Lincoln County Highway Department on this very important project, please submit 4 copies of the following information at a minimum:

1. Name, address and a brief description of firm
2. Statements as to firm's particular abilities and qualifications related to this project
3. Resumes of key personnel to be assigned to this project
4. Provide examples of knowledge and expertise related to this scope of work and type of project
5. Identify other similar projects completed by this firm, and key personnel's experience on similar projects. Include reference contact information for completed and/or current projects
6. You may include a one page subjective statement regarding your interest in and understanding of this project
7. Proposal should be limited to 15 pages.
8. No reference to costs shall be included.

TIME All submittals should be made to Lincoln County Highway Department, 100 Cooper Street, Merrill, WI 54452 by 4:00 PM August 22, 2023. Questions can be directed to Highway Commissioner, John Hanz, by phone at 715 539 2500, cell 715 409 0030, email: john.hanz@co.lincoln.wi.us

Published August 10 & 17, 2023
WNAXLP



A CBC staff member monitors a donor during the blood donation process. Tina L. Scott photos.

BLOOD DRIVE from page 1

Wisconsin.

The CBC is always in need of new donors willing to donate blood to maintain the supply so they can be prepared for the day-to-day needs of hospitals and any unexpected emergencies. Whether at fun annual events like this one or at more traditional blood drives held at various locations throughout Northcentral Wisconsin, consider becoming a blood donor. Your donation truly can save a life.

To learn more about becoming a blood donor, or to schedule a donation at an upcoming blood drive location, go to: communityblood.org.

If your business, church, or other organization would like to host a blood drive in our area, learn more at: communityblood.org/host-a-drive/.



A staff member monitors a donor during the blood donation process.



Supplies are organized on tables for efficiency during the community blood drive.

WAID FUNERAL HOME
 301 Eagle Drive • Merrill, WI 54452-3714
 Phone: (715) 536-4646
 Website: www.WaidFuneral.com
 Email: info@waidfuneral.com

PET OF THE WEEK

Sam is a big beautiful boy who enjoys scratches behind his ears and a saucer of milk in the morning. Sam will do best in a living situation where he can be king of the castle within a quiet sanctuary. He is terrified of children, so no kids or other pets will be his dream life. Sam is neutered, up to date on vaccinations and chipped. Come on down to meet him today!

Visit the Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours: Mon. - Sat. 12-4PM; Sun. 12-2PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, visit us on the web at www.furrypets.com.

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 1400 Logan Ave.
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Expert hands guide the needle into a vein quickly and easily.



Volunteers and CBC staff are instrumental to community blood drive events like the recent M*A*S*H blood drive in Merrill.

TRAVEL TO SCOTLAND THIS FALL
 WITH FELLOW READERS OF
 THIS PUBLICATION

SPECIAL OFFER
Final Sale
 MUST BOOK BY
 AUGUST 31, 2023
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 DINNER

\$3,449
 PER PERSON

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SCOTTISH NIGHTS
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FREE*
 *Any bookings after May 24th

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 Departing
October 1, 2023

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For more information and a full brochure, please contact Chris Brough with Adelman Discoveries at (866) 952-2884 or Email: cbrough@adelmantravel.com

DEADLINE THURSDAY, AUGUST 31!!!

15TH ANNUAL MERRILL CITYWIDE FALL RUMMAGE SALE

Clean Out the Basement **Sweep Out the Garage!**

To Be Held All Over the Merrill Area
Saturday, September 9th

It's Simple to Run a Sale:

- Just place your own classified ad in the Sept. 7th 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.

Make Some CASH!

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@mmlocal.com
Foto News
 (715) 536-7121
 OFFICE LOCATION:
 2011 E. MAIN STREET, MERRILL

STEPPIN OUT

WOOD FIRE PIZZA!

Sundays at 3:00pm

Call 715-966-3353
to pre-order or carry out

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Blueberries \$3.50/lb, you pick • 10 lbs. or more on
U-Pick berries & receive 10% OFF

Utech's Rainbow Farm
3880 Rainbow Dr., Merrill | 715-536-7271

Shortest Routes: Take Hwy. 51 to Exit 205, Head east on Hwy. Q,
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)

WEEKLY BRIEFING - AUG. 10TH - 14TH

THUR - STUFFED PORK LOIN
FRI - FISH FRY BLUEGILL
SAT - NO SPECIAL
SUN - BROASTED CHICKEN
MON - LASAGNA

WE SELL FLAGS!

Conference Room & Hall Rental Available
Open at 4pm Mon. & Thurs. • Open at Noon Fri.
Open at 11am Sat. & Sun. • Closed Tues. & Wed.

PUB 1638 **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

601 Johnson St., Merrill • 715-536-5708

CLOSED AUG 16-20. COME SEE US AT THE FAIR!

The Eagles Club
1205 N Lake St. • Merrill, WI 54452
Open to the Public • (715) 536-7471
NO FOOD SERVED: Sat., Sun., Mon.-Only Special Events

DINNER SPECIALS AUGUST

TUESDAY NIGHTS
AUG. 15TH - CHICKEN ALFREDO
AUG. 22ND - CHOP SUEY
Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

FRIDAY NIGHTS
AUG. 11TH - SHRIMP
AUG. 18TH - CATFISH
Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM
CLIP-N-SAVE

CARRYOUT AVAILABLE

- MONDAY: Bar Open at 3pm
- LUNCH AVAILABLE: TUES. & FRI. 11am-2pm WED. & THURS. 11am-8pm
- SPECIALS • Fish Fries • Homemade Soup
- DINNER MENU: TUES. 4-8pm & FRI. 4-8pm
- SATURDAY: Bar Open at 3pm
- SUNDAY: Bar Open From 11am-7pm

Visit our Website! 584.localfoewl.com
HAPPY HOUR: TUESDAY-THURSDAY • 3-6PM

S&S BAR **WRAP IT UP**
418 Grand Ave., Merrill **Mexican Food Truck, EVERY MONDAY!**

THIS WEEK'S DRINK SPECIAL:
BLUE ICE VODKA
\$4 PINT MIXERS;
\$2 TUB MIXERS;
\$2 SHOTS

Open Daily 9 am - Close
Low carry out prices on Booze, Beer & Ice

Hall Rental Available • 715-536-4664

NORTH CENTRAL WI ANTIQUE STEAM & GAS ENGINE CLUB
50th ANNUAL STEAM SHOW
AUGUST 25-26-27, 2023

NEW FLEA MARKET
And Parking lot roads

Daily Events:

- Buckwheat Pancake Breakfast 6:30-11:30am
- General Store 8am-8pm
- Food Vendors on Site
- Flea Market/Craft Shed/Homestead Demos 8am-5pm
- Field Demonstrations 9am-5pm
- Live Music throughout the afternoon & evening
- Steamer Games Saturday afternoon, weather permitting
- Spark Show Saturday, weather permitting
- Parade Sunday, weather permitting
- Children's Activities
- Petting Zoo

www.edgarsteamshow.com
Admission (13+): Daily \$10/ Weekend \$25
Location: Kurt Umms Farm, 223755 Steam Hill Drive, Edgar, WI

VENDORS WELCOME!!
Go to www.edgarsteamshow.com for details
No pets allowed in the showgrounds! Certified Service Animals ONLY!

Badges and Bows

Area officers help instruct kids in archery

The City of Merrill Parks and Rec department, with a grant from the Cops and Kids program in cooperation with the City of Merrill Police Department, Little Lakes Memories, and the Lincoln County Sports Club (LCSC) members held Badges and Bows on July 31, 2023. The event was an opportunity for officers and other volunteers to mentor youth on the basics of archery and air gun shooting.



An officer is on hand, helping with hands-on archery instruction.

Hosted by the LCSC, area youth were given tips on both activities using the LCSC ranges. Grant money was used to purchase equipment and for other expenses.

Particular emphasis was placed on giving special needs children a chance to learn how to shoot bows and air guns with expert supervision at the ranges.



Here an officer helps a young lady learn to hold, aim, and shoot an air rifle safely on the range. Greg Eichelkraut photos.

ST. THERESE AUGUST FEST

113 W. Kort Street
Rothschild/Schofield, WI

SATURDAY - AUGUST 12TH
4:00 PM - 11:30 PM

MUSIC by:
GENESEE DEPOT 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm
RISING PHOENIX 7:30 pm - 11:30 pm

SUNDAY - AUGUST 13TH
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

POLKA MASS at 10 am - Church

MUSIC by:
Polka Access Band and New Polish Sounds
Bands alternating on the Grounds
From 11:00 am - 4:30 pm

Chicken, Ham, Sausage & Kraut Dinner
Included mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetable, dressing, relishes, rolls & butter, desserts, coffee & milk (regular & chocolate)
11:00 am - 1:30 pm (School Cafeteria)

Carry-out orders are available

BINGO • 12:00 pm to 5:30 pm
(Air Conditioned Church Basement)

CASH & PACKER RAFFLE • Over \$4,000 in prizes. Get your tickets on the Picnic Grounds!
Drawing: August 13, 2023 at 4:30 pm - 113 W. Kort St.

EVENTS FOR BOTH DAYS

Bucket Raffles • Children's Games • Food • Beer
Bakery Spin • Cherry Tree • Pierogi • Frozen Polish Sausage
Ice Cream • Flea Market • Bakery Spin

ABSOLUTELY NO CARRY-INS!!!

Church Thrift Sale
August 9th - 11th
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.

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With Special Guest **INFERRED**

SATURDAY AUG 26

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"PG" (1HR 39MIN)
FRIDAY: 1:00, 7:00 & 9:15PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:15, 7:00 & 9:15PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

HAUNTED MANSION
"PG13" (2HR 2MIN)
FRIDAY: 1:00 & 7:00 & 9:15PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 9:15PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

BARBIE
"PG13" (1HR 54MIN)
FRIDAY: 1:00 & 7:00 & 9:15PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 9:15PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

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Merrill Wisconsin

August 16th-20th, 2023

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Daves County Market • Merrill and Tomahawk Area Chamber
Park City Credit Union (Merrill & Tomahawk Locations)



FREE 4H HORSE SHOW
WEDNESDAY
AUG 16th 5:00pm

THE GRANDSTAND
Sponsored By: Weinbrenner Shoe Company

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
Sponsored By: 

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






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Professional and Technical	7135
<p>YOUR ROAD TO SUCCESS Starts with 18-wheels & a new career. Train at SCDTI for your CDL 715-942-2700 ext 102</p>	

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\$2,000 SIGN ON BONUS!

GET IN ON THE

Fun at the Fair!



2023 Merrill Fair Entertainment Schedule
Merrill Eagles 584 & Northwoods VFW Post 1638
Beer Garden

Wed. Aug. 16th 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Coyote Karaoke

Thur. Aug. 17th 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Carl Jackson
Thur. Aug. 17th 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Northwoods Skitchers

Fri. Aug. 18th 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM Coyote Karaoke
Fri. Aug. 18th 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Nashville Recording Artist
Bobby Darren and Shelia Marie

Sat. Aug. 19th 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Chad O'Brian
Sat. Aug. 19th 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Marty Frei

Sun. Aug. 20th Noon - 4:00 PM
Neal Zunker and the Music Connection
Sun. Aug. 20th 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Bryce Tomaschfsky

Big Thank You to our gold level sponsors

Woller Excavating, Rock Island Bar,
Merget's Mouth-watering Mayhem,
Edward Jones-Kevin Cohrs, Crossbridge Community Bank

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- Crew Member \$19.21 - \$20.71/HR
- Freight Loader \$20.98/HR
- Department Manager 2nd Shift

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Two Merrill Locations:
605 N. Ohio St. | 1815 Water St.
Questions? Call: 715-722-1884

BOTH LOCATIONS!

- 4 10-Hour Days
- Both shifts available
- Possible OT on Friday
- Excellent Low Cost Benefits (Health, Dental, Vision)

Individual: \$80/Month
Spouse: +\$128/Month
Child: +\$42/Month

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MERRILL Foto News **CLASSIFIEDS** **Deadline: Monday at 11:30 a.m.**
Phone: 715-536-7121
Fax: 715-539-3686

Check us out online!
merrillfotonews.com

Announcements 7005

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Announcements 7005



Counselor and Life Coach: We offer Life Coaching, Brain Health Coaching, Health and Wellness education and Christian Counseling. Our holistic approach to helping others has successfully assisted many to find wellness, good health and the peaceful life they desire. 715-575-1824-lifethrough7@gmail.com

Rummage Sales This Week 7200

MERRILL: 1305 Chipper St. Multi-Family Garage Sale. Fri 8/11, 8a-4p. Household items, Kids toys & Clothes, Dishes, Rugs, Crafting items, Trading sports cards, Camping, Back to school items, Picnic gear, Pool 15'x48" with pump & solar cover.

Merrill 1803 E 6th Street, Thurs., Fri., Sat. 8-6. Down sizing: Kit Table, Chairs, lots of small kit appliances, slow cookers never used, plus more unused items, metal shelving ladders, small tools, file cabinets, plus much more.

Merrill: Thursday, 8/10-Friday, 8/11, 8 a.m.- 3 p.m. Sat. 8/12, 8 a.m.-noon. Multi-family garage sale: Items include books, toys, board games, girl's clothing, sewing patterns, holiday decor, household items, bikes, cross country skis, and much more. 2211 Willow Bend Dr

Wausau: 6007 Stettin Dr. TH 8/10, FRI 8/11 9a-5p, SAT 8/12 9a-12p. Huge Garage Sale! Seasonal items, vintage glassware, dishes, china & misc. Lego sets, Jim Shore collectibles, trampoline, bike, fish camera, guitars, bedding, remote controlled cars, books, games, puzzles, lawn & garden misc., Pilates Pro chair & much more! NO EARLY SALES!

Weston: 5802 Rippling Creek Dr. MOVING SALE starting TH 8/10 8a-5p & every day after until everything is gone! HUGE selection of TOOLS; household, electric lawn mower, patio table set, double bed w/mattress, oak dresser w/bookcase, deer head mount & LOTS MORE! Call 715-355-2676 for updates.

Weston (Sandy Meadows) 5709 Rippling Creek Dr. TH 8/10 8a-6p; FRI 8/11 8a-5p; SAT 8/12 9a-3p. Back to school sale! Name-brand junior girls S-XL, boys 7-XL, women's S-XXL, scrubs, Nerf toys, games, books, household decor & much more. Moving sale across the street also.

DO YOU HAVE ITEMS TO SELL? ... GET RESULTS! Affordable advertising that fits your budget! Reach OVER 300,000 homes! Place your ad in MANY weekly Wisconsin Shoppers & Buyers' Guide papers for as low as \$36.00 **Call today! Publishers Development Service, Inc. (PDS, Inc.)** 1-800-236-0737 www.pdsadnet.com

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 Protect** on 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)

Activities and Meetings 7020

PETTING ZOO &/OR PONY RIDES Mini Cattle, Horse, Donkies, Goats & Sheep. Perfect for Special Events, Private & Company. Call Whisper Hill Clydesdales 920-322-0636 (WCAN)

Open For Business 7036

Help with Grief and Loss

Grief Counseling & Coaching: If you have experienced loss of any kind, we can help you. We have over 15 years of experience successfully helping others recover from the hardship and emotional pain of losing a loved one. We can help you find new meaning and purpose, take productive steps toward moving forward in life, and feel better about living again. Serving Wausau, Antigo and the Northwoods area. Virtual appointments available 715-575 1824-lifethrough7@gmail.com

Rummage Sales This Week 7200

HUGE Rummage Sale In Pole Shed, N459 Lake Rd. Take K South of Merrill to Q, East on Q to Lake Rd. Fri Aug 11 & Sat. Aug 12 - 9-5. Furniture, knick knacks, tools, Antiques, Household Goods, glassware, holiday decorations, Vintage items and collectables. Pole building full priced to sell. not a clothing sale.

Rummage Sales Upcoming 7202

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
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Central Wisconsin Bandits lose in playoffs game

Merrill's semi-pro football team ends 2023 season, looking forward to 2024

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On July 29, 2023, the Central Wisconsin Bandits played their first playoff game at Jay Stadium against their friendly rivals, the Eau Claire Cowboys. This was the third time out of their four seasons that the Bandits were in the playoffs, but it was particularly exciting for the team because it was the first home playoff game in their history and it was also the first time "home" was Merrill's Jay Stadium. The team is really embracing Merrill as their new home and putting down roots in the community, hoping that one day soon, the Central Wisconsin Bandits will be as synonymous with the community as the Merrill Bluejays.

The playoff game marked the end of the Bandits 2023 season, though, because, "We lost in the first round of playoffs, unfortunately," said Austin Levine, Head Coach of the Central Wisconsin Bandits. Still, this "is a huge step from last year to even make the playoffs," he said.

Pigskin Classic

The Bandits will play one more fun game this year. "Oct. 1 we play in the Pigskin Classic, which is an event where teams from all over the U.S. come together and play one another in the Minnesota Vikings stadium," Levine said. "So this is huge for the Bandits and Bandits Nation as we get our name, our brand, and our home (Merrill) out there for everyone to know."

The Central Wisconsin Bandits will be playing the Central Iowa Chiefs in the Minnesota Vikings U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

Looking forward to 2024

Already, the team is looking forward to 2024 and what that season will bring and getting prepared to make it a great one.

"We are going to do the Pigskin Classic and then immediately start getting ready for next season," Levine said.

"We have already started off-season workouts," he said, and the focus right now is: "Getting in the weight room as a team, recruiting new guys to come play for us as we make another playoff run, and getting our skill guys (QBs, RBs, and WRs) together and throwing, working on more crisp route running, as we hope to pass more next season."



More photos online
merrillfotonews.com

They may all be friendly rivals, but these guys are playing hard. Angelina Frederick photos.

Playing for the Bandits

Anyone interested in playing for the Bandits can contact one of the co-owners, Austin Levine or Jeremie Writz, or call 715.445.1764 or email centralwisconsinbandits@gmail.com.

Players for the Bandits must be 18 or older, but beyond that, all they need is a desire to play football, Levine said. 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.

Bandits Pop Warner Football postponed to 2024

The Bandits were gearing up to begin a Bandits Pop Warner Football team in Merrill—a kids tackle football team for 9U, 10U, and 11U.

Unfortunately, "due to a lower than expected number of enrollments," the Bandits were unable to move forward with their plan for a 2023 season, but they do have high hopes of recruiting enough kids to build interest for next year.

"We remain committed to the growth and development of youth football in our area," and "We will continue our efforts to promote and encourage enrollments for the start of the next season," organizers said on their Facebook page.

In the meantime, "We will be organizing kids camps and events throughout the year," they said, focused on providing opportunities for children "to stay connected with football and have fun in a supportive environment."

For more information, find the "Central Wisconsin Bandits Pop Warner" on Facebook.



The Central Wisconsin Bandits take to the field at Jay Stadium for a playoff game on their home field.

PUBLISHERS LETTER

from page 4

established feature in higher education; back then, they were a rarity, and St. Norbert was charting a course through a seldom-traveled wilderness. For many of the students, the journey to Peru marked their first exposure to a different culture, leaving them forever changed and connected to people, places, and history.

The instability of the Peruvian economy under the dictatorship of Juan Velasco Alvarado posed difficulties that ultimately became insurmountable. At one point in 1971, the program participants were trapped in Peru after Aerolíneas Peruanas, the airline they were counting on to bring them home, went bankrupt.

Ultimately the third year was also the last year because of the increasingly volatile political climate. Nevertheless, it was a remarkable experiment that paved the way for St. Norbert College's international study programs today.

Visiting a foreign culture with both differences and shared virtues can profoundly impact individuals. This weekend, a Peruvian Reunion at St. Norbert College honors Professors Wood, Phelan, and Calnin and their spouses for blazing the trail for future learners with the installation of ceremonial benches in a prominent location on campus. This fitting memorial will remind all who participated to cherish those special moments from long ago.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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2023 FALL MERRILL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Boys Football (Varsity, JV, & JV2)			
Fri. Aug. 11	D. C. Everest (Scrimmage)	Away	10:00 am
Girls Tennis (Varsity & JV)			
Tues. Aug. 15	Wausau West (JV)	Away	9:00 am
Thurs. Aug. 17	Lakeland Union (Varsity)	Home	4:00 pm
Girls Swimming (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. Aug. 17	Multiple Schools-Invite (Varsity)	Home	5:00 pm
Boys & Girls Cross Country (Varsity & JV)			
Practice begins Monday, August 14 th			
Girls Volleyball (Varsity, JV, & JV2)			
Practice began Tuesday, August 15 th			
Boys Soccer (Varsity & JV)			
Practice began Tuesday, August 15 th			

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Black Squirrel Scurry is not for the faint of heart

Padding triathlon raises money for charity

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Merrill's Black Squirrel Scurry is a triathlon that combines running, biking, and kayaking in a fun race for charity. Considered a "padding triathlon," the July 29, 2023, race encompassed 2 miles of paddling kayaks on the Prairie River, a 19-mile biking adventure on area roads, and a 5K-run on a pedestrian trail.

Dozens of athletes gathered to take on the challenge, including those who raced as individuals or in tandem or relay teams. Racers included many northcentral Wisconsin residents and other athletes from as far away as Michigan, Illinois, and Iowa.

Individual racers ranged in age from 14 to 71, with Merrill's 14-year-old Erik Grunenwald being the youngest competitor and the only athlete under age 18. He came in at a very respectable time of 1:59:59.

For the tandem teams, Team Owl took first place with a time of 3:54:54.

For relay teams, the Mighty Midgets took

first place, completing the course with a time of 1:56:27.

For individuals competing, Gerard Lauzen of Ironwood, Mich., took first place overall and for the men with a time of 1:35:29, while Melissa Omernick of Gleason took first place for the women with a time of 2:02:53.

The Northwoods Veterans Post and Friends of the River Bend Trail are the beneficiaries of this year's event.

For more information, go to: www.blacksquirrelscurry.com.



Paddling the two-mile section of the Prairie River during the Black River Scurry.



One leg of the triathlon involves paddling a two-mile stretch of the Prairie River.

Joseph Frederick photos.



Another leg of the race encompasses a 19-mile biking adventure on area roads.



Dana Klug of Merrill crosses the finish line.

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CLIFFS OF MOHER - GALWAY
• Visit the Cliffs of Moher
• Panoramic tour of Galway
• Free time to explore shops, cafe and pubs
• Return to Limerick
- DAY 4:**
DINGLE EXCURSION
• Panoramic views heading towards Blasket Island Center
• Visit Dingle
• Return to Limerick

- DAY 5:**
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• Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the locals
- DAY 6:**
CASHEL - KILKENNY - BUNRATTY
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• Visit Kilkenny Castle
• Enjoy medieval-style dinner and entertainment at Bunratty Castle
• Return to Limerick
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