

Funtime Action Center opens in Merrill

Game - Skate - Lounge

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

For anyone whose idea of a fun time is going to a skate park, in-line skating, skateboarding, and navigating ramps and pyramids or practicing tricks and techniques, Funtime Action Center in Merrill now provides a very affordable indoor skate park experience. Ramps, a pyramid, a grinding rail, and quarter pipes offer skaters a great venue for perfecting their rotations, tricks, and techniques no matter what the weather outdoors, all 12 months of the year.

Funtime Action Center opened Aug. 14, 2023, and is also designed as just a hangout for skaters and like-minded people who enjoy skating and the skating lifestyle, as well as youth and anyone who enjoys gaming and video games.

“Game - Skate - Lounge” is their business tagline, and the 1307 E. Main Street location in Merrill is divided into three separate spaces. Currently, the first space is part lounging area, part snack bar (where customers can purchase snacks like chips, candy, and cookies and beverages including flavored water,



Owner Cecil DeHart and a staff member demonstrate use of some of the equipment at the new Funtime Action Center on E. Main St. in Merrill.
Tina L. Scott photos.

Gatorade, and soda), and part gaming area with gaming pcs, videogame consoles, and virtual reality. This hangout area can accommodate six or seven actual players, and there are portable headsets so kids can play in the skate park, too, business owner Cecil DeHart said.

The second space is the skate park, which also features a small seating area so friends can hang out and watch each other perfect their tricks and on-site equipment to use in the skate park, including some inline skates in some basic sizes, skateboards, scooters, helmets, and pads. Skaters are also welcome to bring their own boards, skates, and scooters.

The third space is currently unfinished and offers room for expansion. DeHart isn't yet set on what he plans to do with that area. “We can either expand the skate park or create something back here as a third option for people,” he said. “I've been tossing around a lot of

ideas, like a gymnastics area, something kind of fun like that, or a lot of kids are into parkour. They just like jump around at parks and stuff, do flips off of things. It's kind of cool. They run around, climb buildings and things, it's kind of a fun underground sport.” [For those unfamiliar with the term, parkour is an athletic endeavor, traversing natural or man-made obstacles, often in an urban environment, as quickly and skillfully as possible by running, jumping, rolling, climbing, vaulting, leaping, etc., all with the human body and without equipment. It was largely inspired by moves shown in video games and action movies (picture leaping over the back of the couch or leaping between buildings, running partway up the side of a wall and doing a flip, etc. as examples) and has now become a fun and competitive sport.]

DeHart said he also owns part of the vacant lot next

See FUNTIME page 6



Video games, virtual reality, and other entertainment is also available at Funtime Action Center.



Employees had a lot of fun at the dunk tank!
Photo courtesy of Weinbrenner Shoe Company.

Weinbrenner employees celebrate Labor Day and give back to humane societies

Weinbrenner Shoe Company celebrated Labor Day in style with an employee party at its Merrill and Marshfield locations on Aug. 30-31, 2023. The event was a resounding success, filled with fun activities, camaraderie, and a commitment to giving back to the community, company representatives said.

The Labor Day Celebration featured a wide range of activities to keep everyone entertained, from a delicious lunch and refreshing root beer floats to old-fashioned pie-eating contests, a dunk tank, bags tournaments, and exciting raffles where employees could win prizes.

See WEINBRENNER page 3



The new Funtime Action Center is a place to lounge and hang out, play videogames, and/or skateboard, roller blade, or use other equipment on their ramps and rails in their indoor skate park area. Now open in Merrill at 1307 E. Main St.

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Geiss Meat Service won awards at the Wisconsin State Fair ... taking home Grand Champion honors for their bratwurst and Reserve Champion for their ham. Submitted photo.

Geiss Meat Service of Merrill is State Fair Champion Meat Processor

Visit Geiss' new retail store to purchase their award-winning meat products and more

Geiss Meat Service of Merrill won Reserve Champion at the Wisconsin State Fair for their bone-in ham, and they also won the Grand Champion for their bratwurst. Their items were auctioned off at the Governor's Blue Ribbon Meat Products Auction where their bone-in ham sold for \$2,800 and their bratwurst sold for \$4,600. The auction raised more than \$105,000 for the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation,

based in Madison, which supports more than 150,000 youth who take part in various 4-H leadership, developments, and community-building activities throughout the state including 4-H conferences, teaching materials and workshops, and overall development of 4-H youth. [To learn more, go to Wis4HFoundation.org.]

See GEISS page 12

September Critic's Choice Movie

The T.B. Scott Free Library will present their September Critic's Choice Movie Event on Wednesday, Sep 27, 2023, at 1 p.m. This is a powerful movie based on the incredible true story of events leading up to the publication of the Pentagon Papers and the resulting battle between the federal government and freedom of the press.

This timeless thriller is directed by Steven Spielberg and stars Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks. The library will provide refreshments, and as always, the Merrill Transit System will provide free rides to and from the library. Call ahead to request a free ride to the library for the movie.

Rail safety efforts aim to avoid preventable crashes

A safe rail industry relies on road users to avoid serious crashes and keep trains moving smoothly through more than 4,000 public rail crossings across the state.

About a dozen people are hurt in train-related crashes every year in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin State Patrol's September Law of the Month is Rail Crossing Safety to remind drivers and other road users to remain alert to avoid those preventable tragedies.

"Disregarding rail crossing signals and trespassing on railroad



Pay attention at railroad crossings.

Stock photo.

property is illegal and can have devastating consequences. Crashes between vehicles and trains are often severe and lead to greater injury

or even death. We ask all road users to be aware of their surroundings and make good decisions when traveling near tracks," State Patrol Superintendent Tim Carnahan said.

Navigating rail crossings

Every three hours a person or vehicle is hit by a train in the U.S., according to Operation Lifesaver, and more than 60% of collisions occur at rail crossings equipped with lights or gates.

Trains are so large that they cannot make

See RAIL page 5



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SATURDAY OCTOBER 7TH
On Location with Filmmaker Bill Rebane ~ Merrill Historical Society's 2023 History Hunt

Giant Spiders! Bigfoot! Haunted Pianos! The Merrill Historical Society's annual History Hunt's theme is the filming locations seen in the movies made by The Shooting Ranch Studios. Gather a Team and explore the places made world famous by former Lincoln County resident Bill Rebane.

Sign up through Merrillhistory.org or call the Museum at 715-536-5652.



Merrill Area Concert Association
2023-24 Memberships Now Available
New Season about to begin!

Saturday, Sep 30th, 2023
Wisconsin Wind Orchestra

Twelve of Wisconsin's finest wind instrument musicians have performed throughout Wisconsin and toured Europe.



Tuesday, Oct 3rd, 2023
Folk Legacy Trio

Hailed as "the living library" of the great folk era, performing the music of The Kingston Trio, Simon and Garfunkel, Peter Paul & Mary plus many more!



Also Coming this Season

Sunday, Nov 5th, 2023 - **Charlie Albright**
Thursday, Jan 25th, 2024 - **Empire Trio**
Tuesday, Feb 27th, 2024 - **Pop Rock**

Season Membership:	Adult	\$50
	Student	\$20
	Family	\$115

For information and to join call Diane at (715) 722-3401 email: MerrillConcerts@gmail.com • web: MerrillConcerts.org
Follow us on Facebook - Merrill Area Concert Association, Ltd
Follow us on Instagram - maca_merrill

Admission to performances is by **SEASON MEMBERSHIP ONLY**

MACA memberships make a great gift

MACA members may also attend concerts through reciprocal arrangements with the Antigo and Medford Concert/Music associations.

55th Annual NCWGCA Fall Gun Show
September 15th and 16th, 2023
Merrill Expo Building
North Sales St., Merrill, WI 54452 (Lincoln County Fairgrounds)

Public Welcome

Friday, Sept. 15th • 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Saturday, Sept. 16th • 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Admission \$5.00 - youth under 14 free with Adult

Sponsored by:
North Central Wisconsin Gun Collectors Association, Inc
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Yum! That was fun! Photos courtesy of Weinbrenner Shoe Company.



Pie is delicious, and what could be more fun than an old-fashioned pie-eating contest, eating it face-first with no hands?

WEINBRENNER from page 1

One of the highlights of this festive occasion was the charitable initiative undertaken by Weinbrenner Shoe Company employees, Marketing Manager Bianca Boettcher said.

Employees raised \$1,300 that will be donated to local humane societies. "This heartwarming gesture reflects the company's commitment to making a positive impact on the places where its employees live and work," Boettcher said.

"We are thrilled with the success of our Labor Day Celebration this year," said Jeff Burns, President of Weinbrenner Shoe Company. "This event was

not only an opportunity for our employees to come together and enjoy a fantastic time, but also a chance to give back to our community. The generosity shown by our team in raising over \$1,300 for local humane societies truly exemplifies our company's values and spirit."

Weinbrenner Shoe Company has a long-standing tradition of community involvement, and this Labor Day Celebration is just one example of their dedication to making a difference for both their employees and the community. The company remains committed to producing high-quality Thorogood footwear while also being a responsible corporate citizen.

For more information about Weinbrenner Shoe Company and Thorogood, go to thorogoodusa.com.

Weinbrenner Shoe Company is the renowned manufacturer of Thorogood footwear, with a history dating back to 1892. The company is committed to producing

durable and comfortable shoes for a wide range of blue-collar occupations. Weinbrenner Shoe Company is also dedicated to giving back to the communities in which it operates and supporting charitable causes that align with its values.

St. Francis parish to run Discovering Christ video program

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Merrill will offer "Discovering Christ," a free educational series aimed at those searching for added meaning and understanding in their lives. The series starts Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023, and continues for seven weeks, ending on Oct. 25.

"Discovering Christ" is an experience that invites participants to hear the good news and personally encounter Jesus Christ.

Developed in Baltimore and offered by ChristLife Ministries, the program is open to all.

Babysitting services are available for attendees with small children. Sessions will begin with a meal

at 5:45 p.m., followed by a welcome address and prayer, then a video presentation, then small group discussion. Evenings will end at approximately 8:30 p.m.


A follow-up retreat will be held Saturday, Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To register, call Kris Leggett in the parish office at 715.536.2803.


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Kenyon Golisch



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The Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored a free lunch concert in Normal Park on Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023, featuring David Michael Sargent. They are planning to offer more such concerts next summer. Joseph Frederick photo.

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Only 8 people will be accepted

Contact Sharon Karow for more info, or to register at 715-218-0609 or SLKarow9@AOL.com

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Sunday September 24, 2023,
From: 1:00pm to 3:00pm
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Merrill, Wis.
Please bring a lawn chair.
For more information call Steven at 715-409-3485.

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September is National Preparedness Month

LINCOLN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Build a kit with everyone in mind




Include these supplies in your kit

- Food and water
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40th Annual - Merrill Park & Recreation COLORAMA BIKE TOUR

MERRILL, WISCONSIN

www.ci.merrill.wi.us/parks - 715-536-7313 or like us on facebook

WHEN: Saturday, September 23, 2023


WHERE: Kitchenette Park - 211 W. 1st Street, Merrill, WI 54452

REGISTRATION: Begins at 8:00 a.m. - ride starts at 8:30 a.m.

COST: \$30.00 includes long sleeve shirt if registered before Sept. 16, 2023
\$35.00 for registrations after Sept. 16, 2023 - **NO SHIRT FOR LATE REGISTRATIONS OR DAY OF REGISTRATIONS.**

COURSE: 10, 30 or 50 mile ride. (maps provided at registration table)

Send check payable to: CITY OF MERRILL 1100 MARC DRIVE MERRILL, WI 54452



COLORAMA BIKE TOUR 2023 - CUT AND RETURN

Check one: 10 mile 30 mile 50 mile

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CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

LONG SLEEVE SHIRT: ADULT SMALL _____ MED. _____ LARGE _____ XL _____

LONG SLEEVE CHILD SIZE: YOUTH SMALL _____ MED. _____ LARGE _____ XL _____

ADD \$1.00 FOR ANYTHING XXL OR LARGER: _____


WHEN YOU ARE DONE WITH THE RIDE, PLEASE CHECK OUT WITH STAFF.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY: In consideration for my right to participate in the Merrill Colorama Bike Tour, I for myself, my heirs, assigns, beneficiaries, personal representatives and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have or may acquire against the city of Merrill, the Merrill Recreation Dept., all sponsors and tour officials and all agents and persons acting for and on behalf of all such entities for claims of damages, demands or actions whatsoever in any manner that arise as a result of my participating in said bike tour. The undersigned participant is physically capable to ride (having no illness or medical reason to abstain.)

Your signature if over 18 years old _____ Date _____ Email _____


Parent/Guardian signature if rider is under 18 years old. _____ Date _____ Email _____

A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED UNTIL 12:30.



SMITH CENTER

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www.ci.merrill.wi.us/parks

OBITUARIES



Jo Anne "Jo" Lane, age 75, a resident of Hazelhurst, WI, passed away surrounded by her family on August 31, 2023 at her home following a long battle with cancer. She was born July 11, 1948, in Milwaukee, WI to Robert and Dawn Keller.

Jo graduated from Custer High School in Milwaukee, WI. She married the love of her life Dennis Lane on May 17, 1969. She worked as a Financial Program Supervisor for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. Jo loved spending time with her family, baking, cooking, and gardening. She was such a giving person, always taking care of others. Her last caring act was to donate her organs in hope of furthering the important research of finding a cure for cancer.

Jo was preceded in death by her parents and her husband. She is survived by her sons: John Lane and Doug Lane; grandchildren: Camron Lane and Kayden Lane; numerous siblings; other family and many friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. The Nimsger Funeral website will be updated when service date and time have been decided.

Online condolences may be shared at www.nimsgerfuneral.com. Nimsger Funeral & Cremation Services is serving the family.



Dorothy Margaret (Mohr) Nikolai, of Merrill, passed away on Saturday, September 2, 2023 while residing at Pine Crest Nursing Home, Merrill, WI, under the care of their loving staff and Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services.

Dorothy was born March 3, 1930 in the Town of Rib Mountain, to the late Henry and Victoria (Raasch) Mohr. She married James F. Nikolai on October 29, 1949 at St Mary's Catholic Church

Wausau. They lived and raised their family in Wausau, Tomahawk, and Merrill. James preceded Dorothy in death on September 19, 2002.

As a young girl, growing up in Rib Mountain, Dorothy left school in ninth grade to help her parents at home. She always wanted her diploma, so she took classes and was able to earn her GED and graduate from high school in 1979, the same year as her youngest son, Andy, graduated.

Dorothy worked various jobs including as a licensed beautician early in their marriage and a custodian at Franklin School in Wausau which enabled Jim and Dorothy to purchase their cottage on Muskellunge Lake in Tomahawk. Jim and their sons later remodeled the cottage into their year-round home. She later worked at H & R Block in Tomahawk, Helmstadter Jewelry Store, and Trantow Building Center in Merrill. Her most rewarding position was as a supervisor and demonstrator for Friendly Home Parties. During her 27 years with Friendly, Dorothy earned several perks including trips to Hawaii, Bermuda and the Caribbean, England, and their favorite, Ireland. Dorothy also attended annual conventions in Albany, NY and was awarded many high sales trophies. She enjoyed keeping close to a few of the very special friends she made during her years working for Friendly Home Parties.

Dorothy enjoyed traveling and was impressed with mountains, waterfalls, and rock formations. Other interests included casino trips to Laughlin, NV, crossword and jigsaw puzzles, and watching the Green Bay Packers, Jeopardy, and the many birds she fed in her yard. Her favorite times were times spent with family and her special friends. Especially babysitting, holding, and watching her grandbabies grow.

Survivors include her three sons, Joseph (Jane), Weston, Bob (Peg), Terre Haute, IN, and Andy, living in her old home in Merrill; two daughters, Linda (Tom) Tompach, Merrill and Laurie (Chuck) Nikolai-Svetlik, Merrill; ten grandchildren, Roy Sefton, Weston, Julie (Jose) Hunt, Schofield, James Nikolai, Berlin, WI, Jackie Nikolai, Merrill, Michele Sefton, Gleason, David (Amy) Nikolai, Wausau, Janelle (Ed) Anderson, Ferryville, WI, Jordan (Amanda) Nikolai, Arcata, CA, Jess (Bailie) Nikolai, Terre Haute, IN, and Aubrey Bayless, Peoria, IL; 20 great-grandchildren, Emily (Will) Gibson, Merrill, Stephanie Sefton, Wausau, Brett Sefton, Mosinee, Rebekah (Vincent) Eldred, Eagle River, AK, Elisha Nikolai, Berlin, WI, Trevan, Lily, and Nyxie Nikolai, Arcata, CA, Isabella and Alyssa Hunt, Schofield, Carter and Bailey Nikolai, Wausau, Morgan Sefton, Gleason, Brooke, Sage, and Drake Nikolai, Ferryville, Sloane and Iris Nikolai, Terre Haute, and Edison and Blaire Bayless, Peoria; two step-great-grandchildren, Cody Krznarich, Milwaukee and Blyakli Butler, Dieterich, IL; four great-great-grandchildren, Grace and Liam Gibson, Sophia Brossow, and George Eldred, with another little Eldred due in February 2024. Dorothy is also survived by one brother, Wayne "Bud" (Kathy) Mohr, DePere, WI; one sister-in-law, Regie Nikolai, Mosinee; and also, her special friend and traveling/casino buddy, Jan Seymour of Cedarburg, WI.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Victoria Mohr; her husband, James; two brothers, John and Donald "Dinty" Mohr; one sister, Marsha Nitzsche; great-grandson, Grey Shaver; granddaughter, Ashley Nikolai; and many brothers and sisters-in-law.

The funeral liturgy was celebrated at 12:00 noon on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at Peterson/Kraemer Funeral Home, 1302 Sixth Street, Wausau, with Rev. Maria Vallabhaneni presiding. Visitation was at 10:00 a.m. until the time of service all at the funeral home. Entombment followed in the Restlawn Memorial Park Garden of Eternal Rest Mausoleum. Online condolences may be expressed at www.petersonkraemer.com.

The family will be making donations to various organizations, including St Jude Children's Hospital at her request, in remembrance of their mom. Direct any memorials to Nikolai Family, 1903 E. 2nd Street, Merrill, WI 54452.



Allan E. Wegner, age 83, of Port Edwards, WI, died Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at Aspirus Riverview Hospital in Wisconsin Rapids.

Memorial Services were held Monday, September 11, 2023 at the Nekoosa United Church of Christ in Nekoosa, WI. Pastor Wanda Veldman will officiate, military honors were provided by the Nekoosa VFW Post #5960.

Allan was born March 23, 1940 in Merrill, WI to Otto and Edna (Reinhardt) Wegner. He was employed as a police officer in the City of Merrill, he then was employed by Motorola Corporation in Wausau, WI. Allan was employed as a Communications Officer for Wood County for many years, retiring on February 21, 2003. He was a founding member of Rescue Code 3, now known as the Wood County Rescue Squad. Allan married Danise Dorfschmidt on August 5, 1961 in Merrill, WI, she passed away in 2018.

Allan enjoyed woodworking, hunting, camping, fly fishing, bird watching, and spending time with his family and friends. He was also his own handyman and enjoyed helping his family from remodeling a home to household repairs.

Allan is survived by his children: Jacquelyn (Christopher) Hoffman, Jeffrey (Linda) Wegner, Jenifer Dassow, grandchildren: Jonathan (Michelle) Eggers, Jessica (Adam) Buehring, Rayna Dassow, Kayden Dassow, Olivia Wegner, Lincoln Wegner, great-grandchildren: Dylan Buehring, Lauren Buehring, sister Sharon (LeRoy) Remington, sisters-in-law: Delores Wegner, Sally Storm, and is further survived by many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and special former son-in-law Nick Dassow.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Danise, siblings: Michael, Earl (Babe), Ellen (John) Neuwirth, Priscilla Kleinschmidt, Orville and Jeanette (Earl) Reeves and some nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the staff of Aspirus Wausau Hospital, Aspirus In-Home Healthcare, the staff of the Wisconsin Rapids VA Clinic, the staff and pastor of the Nekoosa United Church of Christ, and Feldner/Ritchay Funeral Home.

Allan took pride in donating to multiple charities every month. In lieu of flowers, please designate memorials to the charity of your choice.



Jean Carlyn Folta, age 89, of Merrill, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, September 2, 2023, at Bell Tower Residence in Merrill. She was born on August 18, 1934 to the late Leslie and Anna (Beyer) Rajek in Merrill. She attended and graduated from Merrill High School. Jean met the love of her life, Joseph Folta, and the two were united in marriage on May 2, 1953, a loving union lasting over 70 years. He survives. Together, they raised their three children, Sue, Bill

and Tammie.

When her children were young, Jean enjoyed being a stay-at-home mother and a homemaker. As the children grew, Jean went and worked in food service for the school system, did seasonal work for Peterson / Latzig tree farms and worked at Merrill Iron and Steel. She looked forward to going square dancing with Joe and would bowl in many leagues. They would travel often, visiting Germany and going to Branson many times. Jean and Joe also belonged to a camping group and would enjoy bringing their camper to many favorite spots. She enjoyed golfing and would spend a lot of time in her huge flower and vegetable gardens. Jean was an excellent cook and would enjoy canning the crops from her vegetable garden. She was a skilled seamstress, and was a very health-conscious person. Jean worked in the fair stands for church and also helped with luncheons at the church. She was a loving and caring woman that had a strong faith in God. Jean and Joe loved attending all events that their grandchildren and great grandchildren were involved in. She was very generous and would look forward to family gatherings. Jean was a member at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, the Red Hat Society and the square-dancing group, the Lincoln Squares. She will be sadly missed.

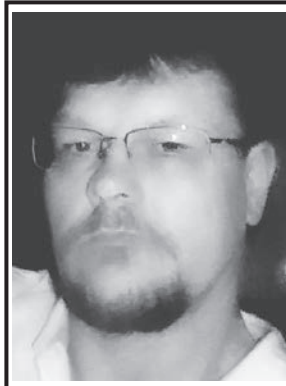
Jean is survived by her loving husband: Joe Folta, daughters: Sue (Tom) Seslar and Tammie (Brian) Sladek, son: Bill (Dawn) Folta, all of Merrill, grandchildren: Chris (Marie) Peterson, Erin (Matt) Koehler, Derrick (Jenny) Seslar, Amanda (Mike) Juech, Mark (Jessica) Folta, Brian (Lindsey) Folta, Kyle (Sarah) Rothmeyer, Jared (Erin) Rothmeyer, Jimmy Sladek and Renee Sladek, great grandchildren: Greta, Garik, Will, Evelyn, Colton, Thea, Marcella, Elsie, Isabel, Hector, Hattie, Hazel, Graham and Sutton, brother-in-law: Rick (Linda) Dorn and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, sister: Lois Dorn and son-in-laws: Gary Peterson and Rob Rothmeyer.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Jean took place on Saturday, September 9, 2023, at 11:00am at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Merrill. Father Maria Vallabhaneni officiated. Visitation was held on Saturday, September 9, 2023, from 9:00am until 10:45am at Waid Funeral Home. Entombment took place at the Merrill Memorial Park Mausoleum immediately following Mass.

In lieu of flowers, family requests that donations in Jean's name be directed to either the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church or the Merrill Historical Society.

Family wishes to express a sincere thank you to all of the staff at Bell Tower Residence for their care and attention shown to Jean during her time there.

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.



Carl Edward Randall, age 49, passed away on Thursday, September 7, 2023 in Gleason, Wisconsin. He was born on April 30, 1974 to Ronald and Dawn (Pankow) Randall in Wausau, Wisconsin. He was baptized at First English Lutheran Church in Wausau, Wisconsin and he attended Wausau West High School.

Throughout his life, Carl worked a variety of jobs, he was a talented wood worker and a jack of all trades. Carl enjoyed fishing, hunting, the outdoors, and occasionally visiting casinos. He loved spending time with his nieces and nephews, especially when he could pull pranks on them and wrestle with his nephew Mitchell. He was a stubborn, funny man, who loved giving his father a hard time. He loved hard rock music like Metallica and Kiss. He really cared for his two German Shepard's, Kujo and Houdini.

Carl is survived by his parents: Ronald and Dawn Randall, siblings: Paul John "PJ" Randall and Jennifer (Aaron) Jill Prueser, nieces and nephews: Melissa, Stephanie, Lisa, Mitchell, and Abigail, great-nieces and nephews: Eli, Emma, Phoenix, Elaina, Charlie, Melody Jill "MJ", Lillian, and Malaki, uncle: Kip Randall, aunt: Susan Pankow and many cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents: Edward and Audrey Mae Randall, maternal grandparents: Carl and Mary Pankow, uncles: Gary Randall, Gene Randall, Donald Pankow and Dean Pankow, nephew: Matthew Prueser and brother-in-law Gary Prueser.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, September 15, 2023 at 1:00 pm at Waid Funeral Home. A visitation will be held on Friday, September 15, 2023 from 11:00 am until the time of service also at the funeral home.

The service will be live-streamed for those unable to attend, it will be posted under his obituary on the funeral home website and will start at 1:00 pm on Friday, September 15, 2023. It will then be posted as a recording for future viewing.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Jude's or Shriners Hospitals for Children in loving memory of Carl.

Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.



Sharon L. Dinges, 78, Town of Corning, Lincoln County, passed away surrounded by her family on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at Marshfield Medical Center - Marshfield.

Sharon was born on September 29, 1944, in Kenosha, WI to the late Floyd and Evelyn (Long) Hahn. While Sharon was working at Snap-On in Kenosha, her father Floyd introduced her to a witty young fellow employee, and soon the two were dating and on November 11, 1967, she married the late Edward "Ed" Dinges in Kenosha. He preceded her in death on June 13, 2003.

In May of 1984, Sharon and Ed moved from Kenosha, WI to Merrill after purchasing the former Country Inn in Corning. Although neither had owned or even worked in a restaurant before, they soon built a strong reputation for good food and friendly service with Sharon behind the bar and Ed working in the kitchen. After Ed's unexpected passing, Sharon and her son Bill ran the restaurant for a few years before she semi-retired in 2006.

Although she claimed to be retired, Sharon still served as the ambassador each night greeting the customers, many of whom became like family to her, and performed her final inspection to make sure the bar was perfect for the next day.

Sharon was very active in the town of Corning, having served as its emergency fire warden for two decades; she was also a major part of the effort to raise the funds that helped form the town's fire department in 1986. Sharon and Ed were both active members of the Lincoln County Tavern League, with Sharon serving as the league's secretary in their early years of running the tavern.

She enjoyed trips to the casino, following her grandchildren around to their many activities, watching TV and taking her usual stool in the bar each night in order to catch up with her many customers.

Survivors include her sons, Eddie (Pam) Dinges, Garrett (Amy) Dinges, and Bill (Marianne) Dinges, all of Merrill; and her grandchildren, Brendan (Alex), Alissa, Gavin, Taylor, Emily, Billy, Isabelle and Steven, all of Merrill. She is further survived by her sister-in-law's, Wendy Barnett of Adams, Chris (Kerry) Raymond of Necedah and April Dinges of Virginia Beach, Virginia; and brother-in-law, Jerry Fridlington of Kenosha. Sharon was preceded in death by husband Ed; her parents, Floyd and Evelyn Hahn; granddaughter, Morgan Lynn Escherich; her sister, Judy (Rueben) Demske; her in-laws Edward Dinges and Marilyn Hoffman and her brother-in-laws, Mike (Barb) Dinges and David Dinges.

The Funeral Service was held at 12:00 P.M., Noon, Saturday, September 9, 2023, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Merrill. The Rev. Justin Smoot officiated. Burial took place at Snow Hill Cemetery, Town of Scott. The visitation was held on Saturday starting at 9:00 A.M. at the church.

The family wishes to extend their thanks to Merrill EMS, Corning First Responders, ER staff at Aspirus Merrill Hospital, MedEvac Air and the doctors and staff at Marshfield Medical Center - Marshfield, especially Dave her nurse who took such good care of her in her final hours.

The Taylor Stine Funeral Home is assisting the family, online condolences can be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

RAIL from page 2

sudden stops to prevent a crash, so drivers and pedestrians must be alert when approaching railroad

crossings.

Freight trains don't have fixed schedules and can be seen any time of day. Always expect a train at rail intersections.

Drivers must follow all warning signs and signals, and should keep these things in mind:

- State law prohibits drivers from going around lowered crossing gates or crossing closely to an approaching train. At ungated crossings, drivers should look for trains even when there are no warning lights activated.
- Make sure you have enough room to get safely across the tracks. Sometimes in heavier traffic, a vehicle can get stuck in the middle of a crossing, which is very dangerous.
- Do not stop on the tracks. When waiting for a crossing train, stay back behind the painted lines on

the road.

- Stay alert and put the phone down. Distractions while driving can prevent you from seeing or hearing an approaching train.
- Pedestrians and bicyclists should also be particularly vigilant around train tracks to stay safe:
- Never walk or ride around lowered crossing gates. Wait for the train to pass and the gates to lift.
- Cross train tracks only at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings and obey all warning signs and signals posted there.
- Train tracks and rail yards are private property. Never walk on tracks. It is illegal and dangerous to trespass on rail property.
- A train can extend three

feet or more beyond the rail, putting the safety zone for pedestrians well beyond the three-foot mark.

If there are rails on the railroad ties, always assume the track is in use, even if there are weeds or the track looks unused.

Awareness and enforcement efforts

Rail Safety Week is September 18-24, 2023. The weeklong effort is a partnership between law enforcement agencies and Operation Lifesaver, to encourage people to make safe decisions around railroad tracks and reduce the number of crashes and injuries.

Wisconsin State Patrol officers will participate in

Operation Clear Track, an enforcement and education effort focused on specific crossings with significant levels of train and vehicle traffic.

"Operation Clear Track is where we work with law enforcement agencies to educate motorists and pedestrians about being safe around railroad crossings," said Gary Koerner, state coordinator for Wisconsin Operation Lifesaver. "We're going to go all out and try to get that message out there that trains can be great to watch, but stay far away. They're very hazardous."

Operation Clear Track will take place in communities across North America during Rail Safety Week.

OBITUARIES



Martin "Marty" Patrick Walsh, age 88, passed away on Friday, September 8, 2023 in Merrill, Wisconsin. He was born on February 16, 1935 to the late Martin and Evalyn (Snow) Walsh in Chicago, Illinois. In 1955 Martin met Nancy Henrichs at the Badger Theater in Merrill after Martin's friend set them up on a date. They exchanged vows on January 21, 1956 in Merrill. She preceded him in death on December 30, 2021 after nearly 66 years of marriage.

Martin worked as a colorman at the Ward Papermill for 33 years. In his younger years, he was a mason with his step father, Thomas Noonan. After Ward Papermill closed, Marty finished his work career in construction. Marty thrived being outdoors. Trapping, hunting, and fishing were all a major part of his life. His wife Nancy would often join him hunting and fishing as well. He was very proud of his trophies he took home from his hunting trips. He loved collecting anything that pertained to the outdoors and antiques. He also enjoyed playing cards and traveling and had a good sense of humor.

Marty is survived by his son: Greg (Dana Swindler) Walsh of Minneapolis, MN, and daughter: Chris (Donna Brickey) Walsh of Lyman, SC, daughter-in-law: Reghan Walsh, granddaughter: Erin, great-grandchildren: Bronson, Chloe, and Collin, brother: Donald (Bette) Noonan, sister-in-law: Susan (Dennis Dengel) Briggs and sisters-in-law: Carol and Rose, along with many nieces and nephews and long-time friends: Loretta and Floyd Smith and the entire Smith family. He was preceded in death by his parents, step-father: Thomas Noonan, son: Steve, brothers: Tom and Gary Noonan, sister: Linda, brothers-in-law: Duane, "Butch", and Bobby Henrichs, Larry Briggs and James Kleinschmidt and sister-in-law: LuEllen Kleinschmidt.

A Celebration of Life for Marty will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Kathy and Cal's Club 64 in Merrill.

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.



Lyle O. Anderson, 90, of Merrill, passed away Saturday, September 9, 2023, at his home.

Lyle was born August 4, 1933, son of the late Otis and Lorna (Bestul) Anderson. He married Halena Wangen on February 18, 1956, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Merrill. She survives.

At age 16, Lyle went to work at Fromm's Fox Farm. His job was pelting the world-famous Silver Fox. He then took a job at the cranberry marsh. From there, he worked at Consumer's Co-Op. A few years later, his brother helped Lyle get a job with the Lincoln County Highway Department. He worked as a heavy equipment operator for 35 years and retired when he was 62 years old.

Lyle had a very active and healthy retirement. Lyle and Halena enjoyed traveling. The enjoyed traveling with friends in Norway and Italy; celebrating their 60th anniversary with family on a Western Caribbean cruise; taking many bus trips with some of those trips being surprise destinations; a memorable trip to Hawaii; and Canadian fishing trips with the kids in younger years. For several years, Lyle and Halena wintered in Alabama. Lyle loved spending time at their cottages up north.

Lyle was a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Merrill, and served on the property committee at church and the building committee for the new Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Lyle also helped with the church's Lutefisk Dinners as the fish cook. Lyle and Halena delivered Meals on Wheels for 20 years. They started delivering when the program was instated in the Merrill area. Lyle helped install drapery for Halena's business, "The Drapery Den".

He enjoyed woodworking including fret work and scroll saw work. He enjoyed fishing and golfing. He golfed in a recreational retired golf league. He enjoyed meeting with the Wednesday morning breakfast group which consisted of retired county crew members.

Survivors include his wife, Halena Anderson of Merrill; daughter, Gloria (Michael) Frey of Marietta, Georgia; sons, Gary (Barbara) Anderson of Austin, Minnesota and David (Joanne) Anderson of Gleason; grandchildren, Daniel Frey, Mitchell Frey, Katie Frey, Barbara (Kyle) Peterson, Jacob Anderson, and Cody Anderson; great-grandchildren, Isabella, Allie, and Ella; sister, Estelle Klemp of Merrill; brothers, Roger Anderson of Merrill and Marvin (Mary) Anderson of Merrill; sister-in-law, Jeanne Wangen of Merrill, and brother-in-law, Ralph Wangen of Merrill. Lyle was preceded in death by his parents, Otis and Lorna Anderson; sisters, Beulah Gorman and Joyce Baumgartner; sisters-in-law, Marion Anderson, Raynette Runge and Susan Wangen; brothers-in-law, Lyle Klemp, Ozzy Wangen, and Charles Runge.

The funeral service will be held at 11:00 A.M., Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Merrill. The Rev. Justin Smoot will officiate. The burial will take place in Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery. The visitation will be from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Monday, September 25, 2023, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill, and after 9:30 A.M., Tuesday at the church.

Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

Patricia Sue Woller, 69 of Gary, IN passed away peacefully on Sept. 9, 2023, at home.

Born April 4, 1954 in Merrill to George and Vivian Woller late of Merrill, she was predeceased by a son Bradley on Sept. 4.

She leaves to cherish her memory, son Michael Brown of Wausau, daughter Amanda Brown of Gary, IN with whom she lived, a brother, two sisters and 4 grand daughters all in WI.

A memorial service is planned for Sat. Sept 16th at Stange Park in Merrill at 1:00 for both Patty and her son Brad.

In lieu of flowers, family requests monetary contributions be made to: Amanda Brown, 589 Taney St. Gary, IN 46404.

Bradley Allan Brown, 47 of Wisconsin Rapids passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Sept. 5 at home.

Born Oct. 15, 1975, in Merrill, to Ralph (Lisa) Brown of Shelby, NC and Patricia Woller of Gary, IN.

His mother Patricia passed away 4 days later on Sept. 9. He leaves his father, daughters; Becca Towne of Antigo, Jasmine Toppi of Merrill, his twin brother Mike of Wausau and sister Amanda Brown of Gary, IN and 2 nieces.

Memorial service is planned for Sat. Sept. 16 at Stanges Park Merrill at 1:00.

In lieu of flowers, please make checks payable to Amanda Brown, 589 Taney St. Gary, IN 46404 to help defray expenses associated with both deaths.

James (Jim) Hein age 86 of Merrill passed away on Monday September 4th, 2023, at his home. Jim was born in Rhinelander on October 23, 1936 to the late Irvin & Angeline (Sowinski) Hein. On January 5th 1957 he married the love of his life, Lois Boettcher. Together they had 6 children, his family being the center of his life. Dad's life revolved around his faith, family and friends.

Jim started working at Red Dot planting and harvesting potato crop. His next job had him moving his family to Lena where he started to farm. A few years later he wanted a bigger farm and moved his family to Merrill. Once he retired from farming, he went to work for St Francis Church and School and did janitor work and helped at the Cemetery. His next adventure in the working world was to work for Trantow's Building Supplies, there he delivered construction materials to the job site. And finally, his last job was at Merrill Memorial Park where he wanted to make sure the cemetery was always kept up for the families when they came. He worked there until the end of 2022. He enjoyed the camaraderie of his boss and fellow employees. He was always a hard worker and never thought he did enough. He never wanted to disappoint anyone and always went above and beyond in everything he did.

He enjoyed fishing, gardening, trapping and woodworking. Many family members had a project that he made for them. These special items will forever be a wonderful reminder of his love for them. He not only did this for his family, but he also donated items to St Francis for their carnivals.

Jim is survived by his children, Debra (Ronald) Lemmer, James (Deanna Nelson) Hein, Dawn (Kevin Kirker) Peterson, Daniel (Lisa) Hein, Matthew (Lynn) Hein & Timothy (Amy) Hein. Grandchildren, Tanya, Malisa, Amanda, Benjamin, Robert, Jason, Jeremy, Jennifer, Christopher, Jessica, Kimberly, Holly, Emily, Kathleen, Justin, Aimee, Anthony, Kelcey, Kayley, Steven, Kevin & Bryce and 37 great grandchildren with 2 on the way. He is further survived by brothers, Gerard (Judy) Hein, John (Cindy) Hein, and sisters Elizabeth (David) Joswick, Sally Sipes, Connie (Dick) Fuller.

Jim was preceded in death by his wife Lois, brother and sister-in-law Joseph (Maria) Hein, sisters MaryAnn, Elizabeth and brothers-in-law Ted Coss, Bill Sipes.

The family would like to thank Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Service for their wonderful care and guidance during this time. We would also like to acknowledge the visits from his friends and let them know how that made his day. We are so grateful to Leah from Taylor Stine Funeral Home for assisting with the funeral arrangements and the kindness shown to us during this sad time.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 A.M. Saturday, September 23, 2023 at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Merrill. Father Mariadas Vallabhaneni will preside. Burial will take place in St. Kunegunda Cemetery, Sugar Camp. The family will receive friends beginning at 9:00 A.M. Saturday, September 23, 2023 in the Bellarmine Hall at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Merrill.

Jim will be missed by many - treasure the special memories as they will bring you comfort and smiles as time passes.

Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

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Leah D. Reist, Director
McKenna K. Meunier, Director

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www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

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Email: info@waidfuneral.com

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legals **7700**

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: 09/06/2023
/S/Robert Russell
CIRCUIT JUDGE/COURT COMMISSIONER

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing
 Case No. 23-CV-100

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
 Sierra Marie Bowen
 By (Petitioner) Sierra Marie Bowen

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
 A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
 From: Sierra Marie Bowen
 To: Sierra Marie Bowen-Blaeser
 Birth Certificate: Sierra Marie Bowen

IT IS ORDERED:
 This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin:
 Judge's Name: Robert Russell
 Place: Lincoln County Courthouse
 Merrill, WI 54452
 Date: 10/23/2023
 Time: 9:35 AM

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:
 Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Foto News a newspaper published in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin.
 Published: 9/14/23, 9/21/23 & 9/28/23
 WNAXLP

Legals **7700**

DATE SIGNED: September 11, 2023
 Electronically Signed by,
Galen Bayne-Allison
 Circuit Court Judge

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Amended Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing
 Case No. 23-CV-87

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
 Adric Otto Michael Anthony
 By (Petitioner) Toni Marie Frick

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
 A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
 From: Adric Otto Michael Anthony
 To: Adric Otto Michael Frick
 Birth Certificate: Adric Otto Michael McKinnon

IT IS ORDERED:
 This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin:
 Judge's Name: Honorable Galen Bayne-Allison
 Place: Lincoln County Courthouse
 1110 E Main St, Merrill, WI 54452
 BR I Courtroom
 Date: October 18, 2023
 Time: 10:30 a.m.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0303 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:
 Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Merrill Foto News a newspaper published in Lincoln County,
 Published: 9/14/23, 9/21/23 & 9/28/23
 WNAXLP

Legals **7700**

State of Wisconsin.
 Published: September 14, 21 & 28, 2023
 WNAXLP

Public Notice
 Opportunity Development Centers, Inc. (ODC) hereby provides notice that it intends to apply to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for the following transportation projects under Section 5310 to serve seniors and individuals with disabilities in Lincoln County:
 1 Van-rear loading ramp with the capacity for 3 ambulatory & 1 wheelchair.
 Individuals or agencies wishing to comment or receive additional information about this application should contact Ann Lepak at 715.424.2712 or alepak@odcinc.com.
 Formal comments or requests for additional information must be received in writing or by email 14 days after publication.
 Published August 31, September 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2023
 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT PORTAGE COUNTY
 Case No. 2023CV000227
 Case Code: 30101

AMY MARIE TOMSYCK
 3510 Willow Drive, Apt 21
 Plover, WI 54467
 Plaintiff,
 -and-
ARTISAN AND TRUCKERS CASUALTY COMPANY
 CT Corporation System
 301 S. Bedford St. Ste. 1
 Madison, WI 53703
 -and-
ASCENSION HEALTH Corporation Service Company,
 registered agent,
 33 E. Main St. Ste 610
 Madison, WI 53703
 Involuntary Plaintiffs,
 v.
STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY
 Corporation Service Company,
 registered agent,
 33 E. Main St. Ste 610
 Madison, WI 53703
 -and-
CHAD DAVID HOERNKE JR.
 209 N Pine St.
 Merrill, WI 54452
 Defendants.

PUBLICATION SUMMONS
 THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
 To each person named above as a defendant:
 You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above have filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you.
 Within forty (40) days after September 14, 2023 you must respond with a written answer, as the term is used in chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the complaint. The court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statute. The answer must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is Portage County Clerk of Courts, 1516 Church Street, Stevens Point, WI, 54481, and to Russell D. Nicolet, plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Nicolet Law Office, S.C. 517 Second Street, #205, Hudson, WI 54016. You may have an attorney help or represent you.
 If you do not provide a proper answer to the complaint within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.
 Dated: September 11, 2023
Nicolet Law Office S.C.
 Attorney for the Plaintiff
 Electronically signed by Russell D. Nicolet
 Russell D. Nicolet
 State Bar No. 1058569
 517 Second Street
 Unit #205
 Hudson, WI 54016
 715-377-2141
 Published September 14, 21 & 28, 2023
 WNAXLP



Enjoying some skateboarding time at Funtime Action Center. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

FUNTIME from page 1

door, so expanding the building itself could be an option in the future, as well.

DeHart, who is from Antigo, also owns Funtime Antigo, a similar facility in that city which he has owned for three years. "The gaming area is bigger there [in the Antigo location] but the skate park is smaller, and here the skate park is bigger but the gaming area is smaller," he said.

DeHart said he had been considering expanding his business into other communities, adding facilities in cities like Merrill, Rhinelander, and Shawano, and hopes to create additional facilities down the road.

Merrill is the first such expansion. Originally, another owner had acquired the Merrill building and started to construct an indoor skate park in the facility. That owner's original intent was to create a skate shop and skate park, DeHart said, but the project came to a halt when he didn't have the funding to complete the rest of the project. At the onset of the other owner's project, "When I heard that this guy was trying to open up a skate park in Merrill," DeHart's intent was "Cool, I'd like to collaborate with this guy and do events together."

When he realized the project had fallen through and the building was up for sale, he thought, "I can't let a skate park like this go to waste," DeHart said.

"I bought the building, kept the skate park, finished it up, and then added the gaming," he said. He purchased the building in early 2022 and "It took us about year and a half to get the rest of the building ready for occupancy."

Maximum occupancy for the entire building is 49 people, but 20-25 people is more ideal "to really enjoy the place," DeHart said. "More than that would be too crowded."

The skate park area can accommodate a maximum of four skating at the same time for safety, he said.

Funtime Action Center is open Monday through Saturday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and is also available to book for private parties, including on Sundays, for groups. The cost is \$4 per hour for skating, \$4 per hour for virtual reality, \$2 per hour for pc and console gaming, or customers can buy an all-day pass for \$10 to do a mix of any activities. Membership options, including one-month, three-month, and six-month memberships, are also available. [More information is available on their Facebook page.]

DeHart said he's been pleasantly surprised at how well business is going already after being open just weeks. "I've

been surprised. We've barely had any days without customers. Since we've opened, it's actually been pretty busy. Things here are almost comparable to a day in Antigo, from day one."

Groups of four to six people often come in together, but individual customers also come in alone, he said.

While the indoor skate parks aren't DeHart's primary source of income, they are one of his passions.

"These are side projects that me and my friends put together," he said. While he is the sole owner of the business, his friends have been instrumental in helping and with ideas. Robert Smith was a behind-the-scenes co-founder, DeHart said.

"We started out as like a skate team back in 2007. He and I ... founded the skate team and did videos like YouTube and stuff and traveled around skating ... and we decided eventually to kind of create a headquarters for ourselves."

It was really "just for fun, just getting people together and out and riding, different age groups ... taking little field trips, I guess," he said. "We got to meet some skaters around the country ... We got to meet the Braille Team, they're kind of a well-known team out in California."

"We used to come to Merrill just to skate, to try out different skate parks and stuff, and we had some friends over here, and we heard that there was a really good skate community here," DeHart said. Now his business is integral to that skate community and provides an opportunity for more people to explore and embrace the skating and skateboard culture here in Merrill.

TOWN OF MERRILL
MERRILL, WISCONSIN

OPEN BOOK – 2023 ASSESSMENT ROLL

The Assessor will be at the Town of Merrill Community Center, W4594 Progress Avenue, on Monday, September 25, 2023 from 4:00 to 7:00 P.M.

Please bring your assessment notices. Time will be limited to 15 minutes for each person.

NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

The Board of Review for the Town of Merrill will meet at the Town of Merrill Community Center, W4594 Progress Avenue, **Monday, October 2, 2023 from 4:30 to 6:30 P.M.**

Property owners wishing to make a formal objection to an assessed valuation must obtain an objection form from the Town Clerk and schedule an appointment 48 hrs. in advance of hearing. 715-536-4383.

The extensive Board of Review notice can be found on Town of Merrill website and Town Hall door.

Mitzi Flegner, Clerk
www.townofmerrill.net

RECYCLE **WNAXLP**

Published September 14, 2023

NOTICE
MERRILL WATER UTILITY
SYSTEM FLUSHING

In an effort to check and improve water quality, the Merrill Water Utility will be flushing hydrants and the water system, on a citywide basis, the week of **September 25, 2023 through September 28, 2023** in the following areas:

1. East of Center Avenue on Monday, **September 25, 2023.**
2. Center Avenue, west to Prairie River on Tuesday, **September 26, 2023.**
3. Prairie River, west to Wisconsin River on Wednesday, **September 27, 2023.**
4. West of the Wisconsin River (6th Ward) & South of Wisconsin River on Thursday, **September 28, 2023.**

You may notice discoloration during or following flushing. This should be eliminated shortly after you run water through your own service line. If problems persist, please call the Merrill Water Utility at 536-6561.

Gabe Steinagel
 Utilities Manager

Published September 14 & 21, 2023 **WNAXLP**

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merrillfotonews.com

COMMUNITY GIVE AWAY
STARTS: SEPT 14TH | ENDS: OCT 1ST AFTER SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE!

Services: Sept 15th - 6:30PM | Sept 16th - 6:30PM | Sept 17th - 9:30AM | Sept 22nd - 7PM
 Sept 24th - 9:30AM | Sept 29th - 7PM | Oct 1st - 9:30AM PRIZE DRAW DAY!

TO WIN: Every Service you attend you will be given a ticket to put into the drawing. More events/services you attend the more tickets you get!!

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REVIVENOW CHURCH

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the qualified voters of the **Merrill Area Common Public School District** comprised of the City of Merrill, Towns of Birch, Corning, Harding, Harrison, Merrill, Pine River, Rock Falls, Russell, Schley, Scott and such parts of Ackley and Vilas as are in such district, that the **Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing** of said district for the transaction of school business and the approval of the tax levy for the 2023-2024 school year will be held in the **Merrill High School Auditorium** (1201 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin – please enter the building at Door #16) on **Monday, September 18, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.** Detailed copies of the budget are on our website, on file in the office of the Superintendent of Schools and at most Merrill financial institutions.

Published September 7 & 14, 2023 **WNAXLP**

MERRILL Foto News

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 (715) 536-7121
 Fax: (715) 539-3686

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 Classified Advertising:
 11:30 a.m. Monday

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

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Why Do We Fall In Love?

Dear Reader,

Humans fall in love due to a combination of biological, psychological, and social factors. Love is a complex emotion that helps form strong emotional connections, fostering relationships and bonding between individuals.

It involves the release of various hormones, such as dopamine, oxytocin, and serotonin, which contribute to feelings of pleasure, attachment, and intimacy. Personal experiences, cultural influences, and shared interests also play a significant role in shaping how and why people fall in love.

But falling in love, really, was it the first dance, the first kiss, the first time a glance with a smile went our way? And then what.

Does love promise a wonderful world together?

Does love promise a beautiful set of children?

Does love promise every day together spent as a holiday?

Does love promise a together forever and hereafter?

These are not promised, only hoped for.



PATRICK J. WOOD Publisher

PAID 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

Lincoln County unite!

All hear the trumpet sound for us to be a part of a cause greater than ourselves.

Our Pine Crest brothers and sisters are under attack. Pine Crest residents need caring, loving people to rescue them from a money-priority mentality.

Can you help keep our Lincoln County families, friends, and hard workers at Pine Crest? This is a five-star facility!

If we do not fight for our brothers and sisters next door to us, we will decide their fate.

Please help by:

- 1. Spreading the truth: info@peopleforpinecrest.com
2. Calling your County Supervisor and asking them (if they did not already) to support a referendum.
3. Ask them to keep Pine Crest "County" owned.

You are being called!

Don't be discouraged: We can choose to keep Lincoln County a caring community!

See you at the next Council meeting. (As of now: Tues. Sept. 19, 6:00 p.m., County office building)

- Karen Nocco Merrill, Wis.

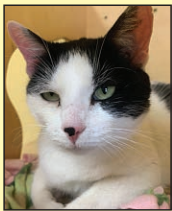


On July 17, 2023, Merrill Eagles 584 presented a \$1,000 Scholarship to Spencer Smith, a Merrill High School graduate. Showing in photo, R to L: Aerie representative Bryan Plautz presents the check to Spencer. Submitted photo.

The cost for Paid Letters to the Editor is \$40.00 per letter of up to 250 words, plus \$10.00 per additional 50 words, and must be prepaid prior to printing.

NEED TO ADVERTISE? CALL 715-536-7121

Pet of the Week



Mema was surrendered to LCHS in June. She was having a hard time getting along with some of the other cats in the home. We are told she likes dogs. She is friendly, playful, talkative and very affectionate. Not to mention she has the cutest nose freckle!! Mema's adoption fee includes her spay, vaccinations and microchip.

Visit all the adoptable pets at the Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours: MON.-SAT. 12-4 PM & SUN. 12-2 PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit us at www.furypets.com.

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE: SEPT. 27, 2023

Local churches serve up 7,153 free meals this summer

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

For more than 10 years now, the Free Summer Lunch for Kids and Teens program has been serving up free lunches to children and teens in the Merrill community during the summer months when school is not in session and, as such, free- and reduced-price lunches are not available for area students from low-income families. To help address food insecurity in area households for the summer, especially as it relates to children, in 2013 Christ United Methodist Church launched the program to provide a free midday meal for kids during the summer.

In 2014 the program expanded to include volunteers from four other area churches: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, St. Stephens United Church of Christ, Trinity Lutheran Church, and St. John Lutheran Church. Together, they began providing a free midday meal each weekday during June, July, and August.



Brown bag lunches served by volunteers at five Merrill churches help sustain children and youth from low-income families all summer long, with help from other community organizations and businesses. **Stock photo.**

The program operates for 12 weeks each summer, and the 2023 program concluded on Aug. 25.

The program has had to adapt to changes over the years. "Most notably, since COVID-19 happened more than three years ago, the meals became brown bag lunches that could be picked up and taken home for the children to eat," program organizers said.

And as the program grew, additional community organizations stepped up

to help meet the growing need. In recent years, and again in 2023, the Merrill Community Food Pantry partnered with the program to provide some staple items for the lunches such as the juice, the snack item, and fruit. "Without the help that the Merrill Community Food Pantry provides, the churches would find it very difficult to continue to provide complete meals to the children and teens," a program representative said.

This year the program also received a very generous donation from Habitat for Humanity, she said. And the Merrill Lions Club and Merrill United Way also provided financial donations, and the T.B. Scott Free Library partnered with the program this year, giving free books to youth when they stopped to pick up their meal.

The success of the Free Summer Lunch for Kids and Teens truly is due to the efforts and contributions of many, including all of the volunteers from the churches and the community partners and area businesses and donors, and organizers "would like to extend a very big Thank You to all who were involved in making this program a huge success this summer," they said. "We look forward to being able to serve the needs of the local kids again next summer."

In 2022, the program served 4,875 bag lunches to the community's youth, more than any year prior. Then this past summer in 2023, they set a new record: "The same five churches served 7,153 meals!"



Crafters and a small clothing boutique, Amish and Mennonite booths with baked goods, and lots of booths filled with treasures and unique finds-from old-school home decor and dishes to vintage jewelry, housewares, and even some furnishings, Merrill's flea market was filled with hidden gems to buy and lots to look at. **Tina L. Scott photos.**



The annual Merrill Flea Market was held indoors this year on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023, at the Merrill Festival Grounds in the Merrill Enrichment Center/Expo Center, and organizers said the turnout was good. Many shoppers were out and about scouting the Merrill City-wide Garage Sales, and this was another stop on their mission to find treasures and great deals.

State Building Commission approves funding for juvenile correctional facilities in southern Wisconsin

FOR THE MERRILL FOTO NEWS

WISCONSIN – Governor Tony Evers, on Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023, announced the Wisconsin State Building Commission approved a total of approximately \$341.8 million in key projects across the state.

Among the projects approved by the Commission are the construction of a Type 1 Juvenile Correctional Facility in Milwaukee

County and the planning and development of a second Type 1 facility in Dane County.

A release from Evers' office said the new facilities will "enable more youth to be located closer to their homes and move the state forward in being able to close the outdated Lincoln Hills School for Boys and Copper Lake School for Girls located outside Irma."

"The focus on smaller juvenile correctional facilities over larger conventional facilities will foster increased family engagement, interaction with mentors, and access to treatment programs, providing a more supportive environment for youth rehabilitation," the release stated.

The State of Wisconsin has

sought for years to close the Irma facility amid allegations of abuse brought by inmates and staff, investigations into civil rights violations, and the use of excessive force and a number of lawsuits that cost the state millions of dollars in legal settlements.

State legislators in 2018 voted to close the youth detention center and replace it with a total of six regional state- and county-run facilities. Governor Evers later signed into law a July 1, 2021, deadline to shutter the facility, but the state ultimately did not meet the deadline after Legislative Republicans rejected plans to fund the state-run facilities.

In April 2022, Evers signed Senate Bill 520, which allocated roughly \$42 million to the construction of a facility designated to replace Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake. The bill received bipartisan support in the State Legislature.

Under the legislation, the Irma facility will be repurposed as an adult correctional institution.

City of Milwaukee officials in January approved the site where the new Milwaukee County juvenile detention center will be constructed.



WEEKLY BRIEFING - SEPT. 14TH - 18TH

THUR - STUFFED PORK LOIN	DRINK SPECIALS
FRI - FISH FRY CATFISH	THUR - BUCKETS OF BEER
SAT - PRIME RIB	FRI - \$1 OFF OLD FASHIONS
SUN - BROASTED CHICKEN	SAT - WINENOT
MON - ALFREDO	SUN - \$5 BLOODY MARY
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Bantams (recommended ages 7-8) - Mondays at 4pm
Preps (recommended ages 9-12) - Thursdays at 4pm
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Competition Starts week of Sept. 18th
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SUN. 11am - Close

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 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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 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:00 & 7:00PM
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THE NUN 2
 "R" (1HR 50MIN)
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Knights of Columbus, Merrill Silver M Club & Merrill High School
 are hosting a Regional Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Punt, Pass & Kick Competition at Jay Stadium

FRIDAY SEPT. 22, 2023

- Registration is 3:15pm-4:00pm on site
- All boys & girls ages 6-12 are welcome
- Competition begins 4:00pm sharp to 6:00pm

Awards 1st thru 3rd will be given for each boys & girls age groups afterwards
 First place winners in age groups 8-12 yrs old will be eligible to participate in Sectional rounds in October.

For more information contact
Mark Weix at 715-536-8349

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 Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

FRIDAY NIGHTS
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 SEPT. 22ND - BLUEGILLS
 Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM
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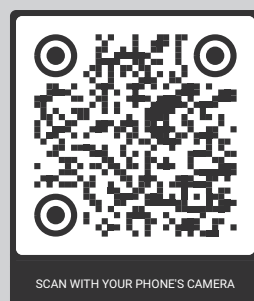
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Geiss Meat Service bratwurst won Grand Champion at the Wisconsin State Fair and sold at the Governor's Blue Ribbon Meat Products Auction for a whopping \$4,600. Proceeds benefit the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation. Submitted photo.

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GEISS from page 1
"We're so proud of Geiss' accomplishments," said Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Executive Director Brenda Scheider. "And we're grateful that Wisconsin State Fair Champion processors, like Geiss Meat Service, help us be able to continue our support of Wisconsin 4-H youth."
Complete auction results are available at: Wis4HFoundation.org/gbrmpa
Since 2007 Geiss Meat has received several awards for their variety of smoked and cured products.
Geiss Meat Service has been in business for over 66 years. Going into their third generation of ownership, they are extremely proud of their rich history and achievements. Geiss Meat Service prides itself on its strong reputation of providing the best in both quality and service. Over the many years, their location has remained the same, but their building and equipment are improving and expanding every day, including with the opening of their new retail store.
Geiss Meat Service has remained an integral part of the Merrill community. Learn more about Geiss Meat Service at geissmeat.com.





Copper Box, a community favorite, performed at the last Thorogood Thursdays/Gazebo Nights of the 2023 season on Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023, in Normal Park. **Joseph Frederick photos.**

Representing the 35th Assembly District

A GUEST COLUMN BY REP. CALVIN CALLAHAN
WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

Returning your money

Earlier this summer, my legislative Republican colleagues and I proposed a historic tax cut targeted at the middle class, which included \$4.4 billion in savings for Wisconsin taxpayers. The people of Wisconsin know how to spend their own money better than bureaucrats in Madison. The proposal would have targeted middle-class earners, saving the average taxpayer \$537, and bringing our top rate down to be closer to that of neighboring states.



Governor Evers did not approve of this, unfortunately. He had, after all, proposed a \$2 billion tax increase earlier in the year. When the budget was all said and done, his vetoes left individual filers in Wisconsin with a maximum possible tax cut of \$40, and he instead chose to exponentially increase spending for the next 400 years. As I said at the time, the Governor chose petty political games over fiscal responsibility and the economic needs of everyday Wisconsinites.

To right this wrong, my legislative Republican colleagues and I are re-introducing much of the middle-class tax cut that Governor Evers vetoed. We are decreasing the third tax bracket rate from 5.3% to 4.4%. This includes income earned between \$27,630 and \$304,170 for single filers and \$36,840 and \$405,550 for married-joint filers. This will result in an average decrease of \$772. Not only that, but we are introducing tax-free retirement, which is something that many other states already provide in some form. Wisconsin residents who are at least 67 will qualify for an income tax exemption on their retirement accounts, up to \$100,000 for single filers and \$150,000 for married-joint filers. These are overdue changes that will benefit everyday Wisconsinites and make our state attractive to new and current residents. I look forward to voting for this legislation soon, and I hope to see the Governor do the right thing.

Strive 4 Life moves to new location

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 31, 2023, at the new Strive 4 Life, LLC, location at 902 E. 1st St. in Merrill, in the back half of the American Family Insurance, David J. Cooper Agency, building.

Strive 4 Life settled into their new location and opened to the public there on May 1.

"This move was a needed opportunity for our business," said Kathy Olson, Co-Owner of Strive 4 Life, LLC. "Although smaller than our previous location, we now have bright natural light in our lobby area and a needed parking area for our customers."

The move has also made their business more visible to the public, Olson and Co-Owner Tammy Strehlow say, and this is a plus.

Strive 4 Life provides blood testing labwork "at an affordable price" for their customers. They do not accept health insurance, but provide a less-expensive alternative than many labs and hospitals that do accept insurance, providing an affordable alternative for customers who have high deductibles or who do not



The Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce celebrated Strive 4 Life's move to a new location with a ribbon cutting on Aug. 31.

Photo courtesy of Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce.

have health insurance.

Blood test kits are also welcome for a small draw fee, they say.

Since opening for business in early 2022, Olson and Strehlow have been providing in-office drug and alcohol screens, and they will be training for DOT oral fluid collection when it becomes available (later in 2023 or early in 2024), they said.

They also offer DOT consortium service, FMCSA Clearinghouse, and third party administrative (TPA) services.

Olson is a certified collector and trainer for urine drug and breath alcohol screens, and Strive 4 Life accepts walk-ins

for those services; no appointment is necessary. She is also a certified calibration technician for the Intoximeters Alco-Sensor V XL (RBT VXL).

Strehlow is a certified collector for urine drug screens and breath alcohol tests, as well.

Olson and Strehlow are currently seeking an Advanced Nurse Practitioner with DOT Registry to work in their office to enable them to expand their offerings.

For more information about any of their services or this job opening, call Kathy Olson at 715.201.9600, Ext. 801 or Tammy Strehlow at 715.201.9600, Ext. 800.



Merrill native and new American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer is sworn in at the 104th National Convention at Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, N. Carolina, on Aug. 31, 2023. **Hilary Ott /The American Legion photo.**

Merrill native and Navy veteran elected National Commander of The American Legion

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Daniel J. Seehafer was elected National Commander of the nation's largest veterans organization in Charlotte, N. Carolina, during The American Legion's 104th National Convention on Aug. 31, 2023. Seehafer likes to say, "It's personal," when it comes to The American Legion's mission of serving veterans and their families. He is continuing the theme of "Be the One," The American Legion's initiative to prevent veteran suicide.

An ordained minister from Wisconsin, Seehafer earned his American Legion eligibility through service in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve, where he served as a military chaplain. A member of American Legion Post 157 in Horicon, Wis., he served in a number of American Legion offices at every level, including National Chaplain and Commander of the Department of Wisconsin.

Born and raised in Merrill, Seehafer lettered in cross-country while in high school and later received a Bachelor's degree in pastoral ministry from Concordia



The American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer and his wife, Stacey, walk in a parade shortly after he is elected at the 104th National Convention at Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, N. Carolina, on Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023. **Hilary Ott /The American Legion photo.**

University and a Master of Divinity at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Seehafer was installed as Assistant Pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Horicon in 1997 and continues to serve as Administrative Pastor of the church and its school. His American Legion post was recognized for "100 percent" and "All-Time High" in membership during his terms as Commander and Adjutant. Other honors include District Commander's

New Post Achievement Award, Silver Brigade, and Post 157 Legionnaire of the Year.

In 2023, Seehafer earned an Outstanding Heroism Award for administering the Heimlich maneuver to a choking victim at an American Legion dinner.

Seehafer and his wife, Stacey, who is a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 157, currently live in Beaver Dam. Dan's son, Jacob, and daughter, Emma, are also members of the Post 157 family.

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SCAN TO
SEE INVENTORY

Merrill Girls Varsity Tennis is getting into the swing of things

The girls are strengthening their skills and starting to see results

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On Sept. 9, 2023, the Merrill Girls Tennis Team traveled to Wausau West High School for the Girls Varsity Tennis Invitational where they played against teams from throughout the area.

Merrill vs. Antigo

In the competition against Antigo, despite losing the matches, "Chloe Belant, Sarah Rell, Parker Wagenaar, and Johanna Dahlke played very well," Merrill Girls Varsity Head Tennis Coach Brad Barton said.

Singles:
No. 1 - Molly Neufeld,

Antigo def. Lauren Belsky, Merrill, 6-3, 6-1, -;

No. 2 - Jacqueline Belling, Antigo def. Emily Frahm, Merrill, 6-1, 6-3, -;

No. 3 - Hailey Burhop, Antigo def. Kaytlyn Hulke, Merrill, 6-2, 6-0, -;

No. 4 - Julia Volpentesta, Antigo def. Rose Dornbrack, Merrill, 6-3, 6-0, -;

Doubles:

No. 1 - Amanda Waite, Antigo - Anna Vandeweerd, Antigo def. Chloe Belant, Merrill - Sarah Rell, Merrill, 6-2, 3-6, 12-10;

No. 2 - Evie Trabant-McKenna, Antigo - Anna Heuss, Antigo def. Korina Kraegenbrink, Merrill - Jenna Malluege, Merrill, 6-0, 6-2, -;

No. 3 - Haven Baumgartner, Antigo - Maddy Ratliff, Antigo def. Johanna Dahlke, Merrill - Parker Wagenaar, Merrill, 6-3, 5-7, 8-5;

Box Score:
Merrill 0 @ Antigo 7

Merrill vs. DC Everest

"I could not be prouder of Lauren Belsky and Emily Frahm in this match," Barton said. "They played excellent."

Singles:

No. 1 - Lauren Belsky, Merrill def. Mila Bublik, D C Everest, 6-4, 4-6, 10-7;

No. 3 - Brooklyn Costa, D C Everest def. Kaytlyn Hulke, Merrill, 6-0, 6-0, -;

No. 4 - Emily Ringwelski,



Lauren Belsky playing against Rhinelander on Sept. 9.

Morgan Wilde photo.

D C Everest def. Rose Dornbrack, Merrill, 6-1, 6-0, -;

No. 2 - Emily Frahm, Merrill def. Ruth Xiong, D C Everest, 7-5, 6-3, -;

Doubles:
No. 1 - Makenna Kampmann, D C Everest - Brianna Cook, D C Everest def. Sarah Rell, Merrill - Chloe Belant, Merrill, 6-2, 6-4, -;

No. 2 - Kaylee Dunow, D C Everest - Sandra Brierton, D C Everest def. Jenna Malluege, Merrill - Korina Kraegenbrink, Merrill, 7-5, 6-3, -;

No. 3 - Madison Szama, D C Everest - Shela Lee, D C Everest def. Parker Wagenaar, Merrill - Johanna Dahlke, Merrill, 6-0, 6-0, -;

No. 4 - Haven Baumgartner, Antigo def. Claire Hintz, Merrill, 6-1, 6-1, -;

Doubles:
No. 1 - Chloe Belant, Merrill - Sarah Rell, Merrill def. Anna Heuss, Antigo - Evie Trabant-mckenna, Antigo, 6-1, 6-2, -;

No. 3 - Jenna Malluege, Merrill - Johanna Dahlke, Merrill def. Harmony Kannenberg, Antigo - Olivia Spencer, Antigo, 6-3, 7-5, -;

Box Score:
DC Everest 5 @ Merrill 2

Merrill vs. Antigo - Round 2

"Emily Frahm, Chloe Belant, Sarah Rell, Jenna Malluege, and Johanna Dahlke were Merrill's top performances in this match," Barton said.

"Both teams did not have a doubles team to play 3 doubles, so there was no winning team."

Singles:

No. 1 - Emily Frahm, Merrill def. Julia Volpentesta, Antigo, 2-6, 7-5, 11-9;

No. 2 - Jacqueline Belling, Antigo def. Kaytlyn Hulke, Merrill, 6-1, 6-1, -;

No. 3 - Hailey Burhop, Antigo def. Rose Dornbrack, Merrill, 6-1, 6-2, -;

No. 4 - Haven Baumgartner, Antigo def. Claire Hintz, Merrill, 6-1, 6-1, -;

Doubles:

No. 1 - Chloe Belant, Merrill - Sarah Rell, Merrill def. Anna Heuss, Antigo - Evie Trabant-mckenna, Antigo, 6-1, 6-2, -;

No. 3 - Jenna Malluege, Merrill - Johanna Dahlke, Merrill def. Harmony Kannenberg, Antigo - Olivia Spencer, Antigo, 6-3, 7-5, -;

Box Score:
Merrill 3 @ Antigo 3

Merrill vs. Rhinelander

"Lauren Belsky is See **TENNIS** page 15

Merrill's first win against a Rhinelander team in about five years," Barton said. "To make it even more impressive, she was playing at the number one singles spot. She got off to a fast start and never let up."

Singles:

No. 1 - Lauren Belsky, Merrill def. Kayla Tessman, Rhinelander, 6-2, 6-2, -;

No. 2 - Karmen Lopez, Rhinelander def. Kaytlyn Hulke, Merrill, 6-1, 6-0, -;

No. 3 - Maya Patrick, Rhinelander def. Rose Dornbrack, Merrill, 6-0, 6-2, -;

No. 4 - Becca Brost, Rhinelander def. Forfeit Forfeit, Merrill, 2-0, 2-0, -;

Doubles:

No. 1 - Tori Riopel, Rhinelander - Shayla Coppenger, Rhinelander def. Chloe Belant, Merrill - Sarah Rell, Merrill, 6-0, 6-0, -;

No. 2 - Evelyn Sawyer, Rhinelander - Dawsyn Barkus, Rhinelander def. Jenna Malluege, Merrill - Johanna Dahlke, Merrill, 6-0, 6-1, -;

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Merrill Boys Varsity Soccer

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

For years it's been dubbed "the war on 64" ... that age-old, good-natured football rivalry between the Merrill Bluejays and the Antigo Red Robins.

Last Friday night's game at Jay Stadium on Sept. 8, 2023, drew a crowd ready to see some Friday-night hometown football to celebrate that rivalry, but unfortunately, Merrill lost the battle big time this go-round, with a stinging final score of 28-0.

While Merrill's #3 Jacob Schmeltzer and #2 EJ Weix were the Bluejay's top performers of the game, with 15 passing yards for Schmeltzer and 54 rushing yards and 18 receiving yards for Weix, they couldn't stand up to the force of the Red Robins this game. Antigo came out



Joseph Frederick photos

playing hard, scoring 14 points in the first quarter, and finished just as hard, racking up another 14 points in the fourth quarter, with both teams battling hard and remaining scoreless in the second and third quarters.

"Antigo was a very sound football team and came to play," said Merrill Head Varsity Football Coach Jason Wadzinski. "As a

team, we didn't execute well, and I need to do a better job of getting this group of young men Friday night ready."

The Merrill Varsity Football Team will give it their best shot this Friday night with an away game against Lakeland Union High School.

Box Score:
Antigo 28 @ Merrill 0

TENNIS

from page 14

No. 3 - Willow Vanderveil, Rhinelander - Teagan Turcotte, Rhinelander def. Maycie Zastrow, Merrill - Claire Hintz, Merrill, 6-0, 6-0, -;

Box Score:
Rhinelander 6 @ Merrill 1

Wausau East

On Sept. 5, the Merrill Varsity Girls played against Wausau East on their home courts here in Merrill. While Wausau East took the win, Merrill had some strong moments and some winning games. The girls are making progress.

"Merrill fared better than usual against Wausau East tonight," Barton said.

"We won at No. 1 doubles convincingly."

"We pulled out a close win at No. 2 doubles," he said. "Kaytlyn Hulke got out to a fast start but eventually succumbed 6-3, 6-0.

Singles:

No. 1 - Abbey Olson, Wausau East def. Lauren Belsky, Merrill, 6-0, 6-0, -;

No. 2 - Talia Schlindwein, Wausau East def. Emily Frahm, Merrill, 6-1, 6-0, -;

No. 3 - Salome Ujarmeli, Wausau East def. Kaytlyn Hulke, Merrill, 6-3, 6-0, -;

No. 4 - Scout Sweeney, Wausau East def. Rose Dornbrack, Merrill, 6-3, 6-1, -;

Doubles:

No. 1 - Chloe Belant, Merrill - Sarah Rell, Merrill def. Alaina Baken, Wausau East - Daeisha Chang, Wausau East, 6-1, 6-2, -;

No. 2 - Jenna Malluege,

Merrill - Korina Kraegenbrink, Merrill def. Taryn Thom, Wausau East - Meghan Schwartz, Wausau East, 7-6 (3), 6-3, -;

No. 3 - Naomi Potter, Wausau East - Lillyan Casey, Wausau East def. Johanna Dahlke, Merrill - Parker Wagenaar, Merrill, 6-1, 6-0, -;

Box Score:
Wausau East 5 @ Merrill 2



Gus and Val Caylor recently donated a framed poster of Merrill native H.V. Kaltenborn to the Merrill Area Housing Authority (MAHA). Kaltenborn, known in the early days of radio as the "Voice of America" was raised on E. 1st St. where Jenny Towers stands today. The City of Merrill recently dedicated an honorary street sign commemorating Kaltenborn's early life in this city, and the poster was used by Merrill historian Tom Burg for the ceremony. The Merrill Historical Society agreed to donate the poster to Jenny Towers, and the Caylors had it framed and labeled. The picture will hang on the first floor of Jenny Towers so residents can remember Kaltenborn and his contributions. In photo, L to R: Pictured are Gus and Val Caylor and Jamie Schmeltzer from MAHA.

Submitted photo.

2023 FALL MERRILL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Boys Football (Varsity, JV, & JV2)

Thurs. Sept. 14	Lakeland Union (JV2)	Home	5:30 pm
Fri. Sept. 15	Lakeland (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Mon. Sept. 18	Lakeland (JV)	Home	7:00 pm
Thurs. Sept. 21	Marshfield (JV2)	Home	5:30 pm

Girls Tennis (Varsity & JV)

Thurs. Sept. 14	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity & JV)	Home	4:00 pm
Tues. Sept. 19	D. C. Everest (Varsity & JV)	Home	4:00 pm
Thurs. Sept. 21	Marshfield (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:00 pm

Girls Swimming (Varsity & JV)

Thurs. Sept. 14	Wausau East (Varsity & JV)	Home	5:30 pm
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Girls Cross Country (Varsity & JV)

Sat. Sept. 16	Wausau East (Varsity & JV)	Away	8:30 am
Thurs. Sept. 21	D. C. Everest (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:30 pm

Boys Cross Country (Varsity & JV)

Sat. Sept. 16	Wausau East (Varsity & JV)	Away	8:30 am
Thurs. Sept. 21	D. C. Everest (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:30 pm

Girls Volleyball (Varsity, JV, & JV2)

Thurs. Sept. 14	Wausau East (JV & JV2)	Home	5:30 pm
Thurs. Sept. 14	Wausau East (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Sat. Sept. 16	Marshfield-WVC (Varsity)	Away	9:00 am
Sat. Sept. 16	Multiple Schools-Meet (JV2)	Home	9:00 am
Mon. Sept. 18	Stevens Point (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs. Sept. 21	Stevens Point (JV & JV2)	Away	5:30 pm
Thurs. Sept. 21	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm

Boys Soccer (Varsity & JV)

Thurs. Sept. 14	D. C. Everest (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs. Sept. 14	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Sat. Sept. 16	Antigo (Varsity)	Away	10:00 am
Tues. Sept. 19	Wausau West (JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Tues. Sept. 19	Wausau West (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Thurs. Sept. 21	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Thurs. Sept. 21	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Katie Heckendorf, a Junior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. Katie plays Outside on the Merrill Girls Varsity Volleyball Team. Last year she was split between Varsity and JV; she started playing volleyball in sixth grade for the Prairie River Middle School Junior Jays. Katie has also been on the Merrill Varsity Girls Softball Team since she was a Freshman. Her primary position is Catcher, and she's been playing softball since she was eight years old.

At school, Katie hopes to get involved with the Leadership Program and Junior Optimists. She is also involved in AP classes.

Katie has a part-time job working for Smiling John's Christmas Trees. In her free time, she likes to take her dogs, Miley and Diesel, for walks and enjoys boating and rifle deer hunting. She also likes to hang out with friends, going out to eat or shopping, and enjoys quality time with her family.

The daughter of Carrie and Richard Heckendorf of Merrill, Katie has a 3.0 GPA and, after high school graduation, is considering college and/or doing something with housing or real estate.



Katie Heckendorf

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Merrill PT moves to new location

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Merrill PT recently moved from their Eagle Drive location and is now located at 1219 E. Main Street in Merrill (the former Merrill Chiropractic location). Aug. 31, 2023, was their first day in the new space, which they completely renovated over the last several months prior to moving in. "It was a family effort but also made possible by our contractors John Manderfield and the Wallace family," said Jenna Bowman, Digital Media Specialist for Merrill PT.

The Merrill PT team is excited to be located in a more centralized part of town, they said.

That team consists of providers Mike Mathson, DPT, who has been serving Merrill for the last seven years, and Ashley Butalla, who has been serving the Merrill area for the last two years, along with assistant Dee Tesch and front office manager Stacy Roesler.

"We welcome people to stop by and say hi and check out the new clinic," Bowman said. Merrill PT is open Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-5 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Merrill PT offers functional movement assessments, balance retraining, vestibular and dizziness rehabilitation, total joint rehabilitation, surgical and conservative care rehabilitation, spinal manipulation and mobilization, falls preventions, sports specialization, and trigger point dry needling.

For more information, call 715.539.2740, go to merrillpt.com, or follow them on any of their social media platforms.



This fawn was bedded down on the Merrill Golf Course on Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023, so golfers took the opportunity to snap a photo. **Tim Schreiber photo.**

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The Northern Wisconsin Houndsmen iAssociation, in conjunction with the Robin Middlestead Memorial Pool Tournament, were proud to make a donation to the Never Forgotten Honor Flight. The donation will allow three veterans from our area a chance to make the trip to Washington D.C. on an upcoming flight. Houndsmen's officers Gary Stanke and Jay Burrows met with Honor Flight Representative Jim Campbell (center) to recognize our veterans. The Houndsmen's organization hopes to continue to help our veterans in our community on future flights, as well, as they are very special people to us all, their officers said. **Submitted photo.**

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