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County Board votes to protect civil liberties of Lincoln County residents

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

At the Sept. 19, 2023, Lincoln County Board meeting, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors voted 17-4 to pass a resolution in opposition to COVID-19 mandates. The purpose of the resolution, those in support of the resolution said, is to protect the civil liberties of Lincoln County citizens. While individuals can make their own choice to wear a mask, self-isolate, or get a vaccination, the resolution speaks against government overreach in mandating such items.

District 4 Supervisor Steven L. Osness, Jr. authored and sponsored the resolution. Supervisors Calvin Callahan (District 13), Laurie Thiel (District 8), Angela Cummings

(District 20), Dana Miller (District 16), and Randy Detert (District 11) were co-sponsors.

“Basically it’s giving the citizens of Lincoln County the option to either wear a mask, not wear a mask, follow what they believe is necessary for themselves. It gives them their own freedom,” said Osness.

Prior to the resolution being introduced, District 19 Supervisor Julie Allen made a motion to table the resolution indefinitely. District 3 Supervisor Elizabeth McCrank seconded the motion, but the motion to table failed 17-4 on a roll call vote, with Supervisors Allen, McCrank, District 7 Supervisor Greta Rusch, and District 14 Brian Hafeman voting in favor of tabling the motion.



During the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors meeting on Sept. 19, a resolution in opposition to COVID mandates was the primary public interest item on the agenda. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

Original resolution gets amended

Osness made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by District 12 Supervisor Julie DePasse. Discussion followed during which Cummings made a motion to amend the resolution to include federal government

representatives on the mailing of the resolution, if passed, which was seconded by District 22 Supervisor Greg Hartwig. “I would also like to send it to the federal people—the Biden-Harris administration, Tiffany, Johnson, and Baldwin,” Cummings said in her motion. The motion

passed unanimously on a voice vote.

District 18 Supervisor Ken Wickham then made a motion to strike the words “unless required by law” from paragraphs seven and eight of the proposed resolution, which was seconded by DePasse.

Allen requested clarification as to whether this resolution meant Lincoln County residents would not abide by the law, to which Wickham responded: “I think any law that violates the civil liberties of our citizens would be declared unconstitutional.”

McCrank responded that “to suggest that we would pre-emptively make a decision about what was constitutional, when the

authority to decide what is constitutional is at a much higher body is a little bit absurd ... we are not in a position to decide what’s constitutional or what’s not. There’s a process for that, and it doesn’t include us.”

Hafeman requested clarification that the resolution was just a Board position on the subject, and District 9 Supervisor and County Board Chairman Don Friske confirmed it was.

Wickham said the Board did a similar resolution related to second amendment rights in the past. “It’s not an ordinance, it’s not a law, but it shows our constituency, our citizens ... and those that come to Lincoln County

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September is Chamber of Commerce month

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Earlier this month Gov. Tony Evers declared September Chamber of Commerce Month in an annual celebration of and tribute to the organizations that work to support area businesses and their communities.

City and County recognition

Both the City of Merrill and Lincoln County joined in recognizing Chambers of Commerce this month, issuing proclamations in support of the local Chambers.



Merrill Chamber staff and some members of the Board of Directors pose with Merrill Mayor Steve Hass after the Mayor issued a proclamation recognizing September as Chamber of Commerce Month. **Submitted photo.**

At their Sept. 12, 2023, the Merrill City Council approved a resolution and Merrill Mayor Steve Hass issued a proclamation

declaring September Chamber of Commerce Month in the City of Merrill and recognizing the Merrill Area Chamber

of Commerce and helping to spotlight their work and their efforts in conjunction

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Chamber ribbon cuttings celebrate businesses in Merrill

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce celebrates new businesses in Merrill as well as the successes and milestones of area businesses and organizations with a free ribbon cutting. Whether it’s an expansion, relocation, new business name, or other achievement, the Chamber staff and ambassadors gather to make a big deal out of business growth and development in Merrill.

That’s one of the primary reasons the Chamber exists, to support the Merrill area business community, and the Merrill Chamber provides lots of benefits to its membership.

However, Chamber membership isn’t required for the Chamber to hold a ribbon cutting. It’s just one more way the Chamber works to benefit the Merrill community overall. So if your business is celebrating

See BUSINESSES page 5



The Merrill Chamber was there in May to celebrate the opening of Muddy Paws, a self serve pet wash bay in Merrill’s Sixth Ward at 1325 W. Main St. **Photo courtesy of the Merrill Chamber.**



A Merrill Chamber ribbon cutting for D’s Dogs celebrates their new location at 608 E. Second St. in Merrill. **Photo courtesy of Merrill Chamber.**

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VOTE from page 1

that we stand for their civil liberties and on behalf of the constitution in regards to the circumstances," Wickham said.

The motion to amend the resolution, to strike the phrase "as required by law" in two places, carried on a voice vote.

Board debates resolution as amended

Rusch questioned the study attached and referenced in the Board's packet related to the proposed resolution. She noted it was a study on the economic outcomes of the COVID mandates and not the health and safety aspects and questioned whether the Lincoln County Health Department was consulted on this resolution. Cummings said she spoke with Shelly Hersil, Lincoln County Health Office/Director, who indicated she was not concerned about the language and noted the mandates set during COVID were set by the state and federal government, not the local authorities.

McCrank opined that

she was concerned the Board would be eliminating potential tools that would be helpful in the future and that this would also be marketing Lincoln County as a place where we would not be "using all the tools in our tool bag."

"This is a personal decision," DePasse said. "And this resolution is simply saying that in Lincoln County, we're going to support personal decisions. It's not saying that you can't wear a mask."

DePasse continued: "There are over 150 studies worldwide that have found that masks do not stop the spread of upper respiratory infections. The N95 mask, in particular, which was one of the most recommended ones, is a non oil resistant mask that is supposed to stop 95% of airborne particles. It will not stop a single virus. There's a five-and-a-half hour Rumble video with doctors from all around the world discussing it."

"Masks and isolation led to psychological damage to our people," DePasse said. "It has increased mental illness, domestic abuse. There was lack of

education of our children. We have nonverbal toddlers. Isolation led to suicide, lack of adequate health care. There was a 40% increase in all-cause mortality the first year of COVID. In people, 18-64 years old, 2/3 to 3/4 of those, depending on the states, were not related to COVID. They had over 100,000 businesses closed. It was devastating to our economies. It was devastating to our families."

"Vaccines have caused a lot of harm, and the efficacy is still debatable. We have neurological complications, myocarditis, autoimmune disease, miscarriages-1.5 million people per the CDC vaccine adverse-effect reporting system-have reported serious adverse effects. We've had over 32,000 deaths."

"We're just saying we are not going to support forcing that on people," DePasse said. "People can choose, but we're not going to make people do harm."

District 17 Supervisor James Meunier said, "You've pretty much covered everything. We're not eliminating a tool. We're just making it, you have the

choice. The government doesn't have the right to mandate everything."

Chairman Friske added the resolution's author requested unanimous consent to read his prepared statement about why he brought this resolution to the Board, and there were no objections.

In his statement, Osness explained he got help from, and a lot of information pertaining to this resolution, from Marathon County Supervisor Stacey Morache and that in Marathon County, their similar resolution passed the Health and Human Services Committee and would now be going to the full Marathon County Board.

"In the past few weeks," Osness said, "the fear campaign has once again begun regarding the masks, and what's being said is, it's respiratory illness season. This is the reason I'm bringing this resolution to you today, and I hope you will join me in the efforts to protect the civil liberties of our residents of Lincoln County and another round of healthcare overreach."

"This is not meant to be political," he said. "COVID did not discriminate any of us. It affected each person. We must now look at the past year where most of our freedoms have been restored and regarding mask and vaccine mandates, but we must not forget what it was like in the middle of the pandemic where citizens were pitted against one another and clearly, we still are. Which is sad. ..."

"We must not forget how a group of people vilified people for not being willing to wear a mask or get the shot. Were we not told that if you get the shot, you would not get COVID? Were they also told if you get the second or third shot, you were safe? People's livelihoods were jeopardized and people were fired for noncompliance."

"These people chose not to get these things until more studies came, and they were chastised and shamed for all their freedom

See VOTE page 3

MERRILL FOTO NEWS
Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is



Arvella Tomajcik
Daughter of Sarah Tomajcik and Johnny Tomajcik
Arvella is in 1st grade at NTC Christian Academy.

She was nominated by Mrs. Hohman.

What is your favorite subject in school?
Why?
My favorite subject in school is gym class. I like running around.

What is your favorite part of school?
Why?
My favorite part of school is lunch. I like eating.

What would you like to do/become someday?
Why?
When I grow up I want to work in the office at Geiss Meats.

Arvella is very diligent in her work. She is also friendly and looks out for the younger students.
- Mrs. Hohman

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There is no compensation for participating in the research study.

Confidentiality will be maintained throughout the research.

Interview information includes stressors in the workplace you have experienced, training issues, organizational climate, the impact of the loss of collective bargaining rights, and recommendations for changes that need to occur.

If you have any questions or concerns, email the researcher:

• Veronica King, MS, LSW, CSAC, ICS
Edgewood College-Madison, WI
Doctoral Student - Ed.D. Program
Email: Vking@Edgewood.edu

THE RESOLUTION THAT PASSED, AS AMENDED, READS:

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors supports the healthcare rights and freedoms of its residents; and WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, public health emergency orders issued statewide and nationwide included masking mandates applicable to businesses, schools, and public buildings; and WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors is aware of studies that have shown that face masking may not have had a demonstrable effect on the transmission of airborne viruses such as COVID-19. Additionally, face coverings may impact the intake of carbon dioxide which may increase blood pressure, reduce cognitive ability, cause respiratory distress, and cause reproductive concerns; and WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statute Section 252.041 permits individuals, for reasons of religion or conscience, to refuse vaccination during a public health emergency; and WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors finds that forced masking, vaccine, and isolation mandates may have caused harm to adults and children by contributing to isolation and increasing mental health crises and social anxieties. These mandates may also have affected verbal, motor, and overall development of children born during the pandemic; and WHEREAS, as of August, 2023, masking mandates have been renewed in areas of the country where COVID-19 transmission increases have been identified; and WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors finds it is essential that the Board express its position that Lincoln County residents should not have their civil liberties jeopardized by mandates pertaining to face coverings or masking, vaccine requirements, or forced isolation, and should be free to make their own choices regarding whether to, and where to, utilize face coverings, vaccinate, or isolate. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors hereby expresses its position that Lincoln County residents should not have their civil liberties jeopardized by mandates pertaining to face coverings or masking, vaccine requirements, or forced isolation, and should be free to make their own choices regarding whether to, and where to, utilize face coverings, vaccinate, or isolate. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be directed to the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and the appropriate members of the Wisconsin Legislature, and our Federal Representatives.

VOTE from page 2

of choice," he said. "But in the end study, have we not proven natural immunities always win out in time?"

"How many employees and health care workers did the County lose during the pandemic? How many other health care workers have been lost, with our clinics and hospitals, due to the vaccine mandates for lack of health or religious reasons? How many small businesses had to close in our towns, cities, and our County because they were considered non-essential, while Target, Walmart, Sam's Club, and some grocery stores stayed open to name a few?"

"How many people do each one of us know [that] had to choose between their job and the shot? How many of you heard people say, 'If I don't comply, I would lose my job'? How many of you heard, 'I don't want the shot but I have to, I have to feed my family'? How many of you heard 'I only got one shot to keep my job, but now I won't get the other'?" Osness said.

"We now look back at what happened during the pandemic with our kids. When we look back at how many of our kids were sad during the pandemic being locked down. Mental health for kids and adults alike are experiencing being more anxious, they have nervous tendencies, and are being scared something bad is going to happen once again. Students now are experiencing significant problems with anxiety and are 10 times more likely to seriously report considering suicide. CDC experts blame pandemic policies and raising numbers are examples of the damaging effects caused or delays in baby's physical development. Babies struggling to cry and communicate, communicating delays in learning to walk and learning to talk."

"School closures that are in effect online learning, masking, and lack of socialization has caused the decline in normal childhood development, and due to school closures in the U.S., an estimated 24.2 million children have fallen behind in their learning by almost a

year. A study in nature found children ages three months to three years scored almost two standard deviations, more in proxymasurements of development, which is similar to IQ," he said.

Osness continued that he had included articles in the County Board's packet in support of the resolution regarding the ineffectiveness of masks related to preventing transmission or infection of virus and COVID-19. He said one such study done by the NIH also showed dangerous level of toxic compounds, linked to seizures and cancers, were found as a result of using the masks. "The chemicals in these masks had eight

times the recommended safety limit in toxic organic compounds, while inhaling these toxins, and prolonged and repeated use, has been linked to organ damage and cancer," he said. "Other studies have found links to stillbirth, testicular dysfunction, and cognitive decline in children."

"On a positive note, Lincoln County is starting to show signs of recovery," Osness said. "We cannot afford to jeopardize this with another round of unnecessary mandates. I know we all have strong feelings about the pandemic and how it was handled and what we may think may be in store for us in the future." "I have included a

lot of information, the publications in this packet for you to look over. But I have purposely not cited any of the documentation," he said. "Because the matter of the fact is you've already made up your mind. Either you are a critical thinker who searches for the truth, supported by facts and data, or you are willing to believe the approved messages from the CDC, FDA, NIH, WHO, and Big Pharma, who has been sued, in order to tell the truth. In closing, mandates are not law. Mandates mean an authoritative command or instruction. We, as a Board, took an oath to uphold the Constitution and the 14th Amendment. The 14th Amendment reads, 'No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of its citizens of the United States, nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.' ...Please support our health care rights for our citizens, freedoms, and please support this resolution."

Supervisor Simon then called the motion. Supervisors Anderson-Malm, Bialecki, Ashbeck, Boyd, DePasse, Detert, Friske, Hartwig, Miller, Muenier, Osness, Simon, Thiel, Wendorf, Wickman, Lemke, and Cummings all voted yes. Supervisors Allen, Hafeman, McCrank, and Rusch voted no. The motion to adopt resolution 2023-09-58 carried 17-4 by a roll call vote.

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Pet of the Week Penny was one of the 8 hounds that we got in August. Our best guess is that she is around 4 years old. She is still looking for a family to go for walks and play! Penny has been good with other dogs at the shelter and seems to love all people. She will probably need home that is cat free. She knows how to climb a fence so Penny will need someone who is able to have her on a tie out, or walk her when outside. Won't someone come and take this sweet, goofy gal home! SPONSORED BY Brickners Park City, Inc. 3000 E. Main St., Merrill 715-536-2833 Visit the Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours: Mon-Sat 12-4PM and Sun 12-2PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit us on the web at www.furrypets.com.

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OBITUARIES



Bruce Philip Severt, 74, of Merrill, WI, was taken home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus, on September 23rd, 2023. He was born in Merrill, WI on November 17th, 1948, son of Matt and Virginia (Osness) Severt. Bruce graduated from Merrill High School in 1967, and married his high school sweetheart, Carol Zoellner, on July 19th, 1969. Together, they proudly raised their family on a dairy farm in the Town of Pine River. Once his kids were grown, God led

Bruce to successfully work in Real Estate and Banking for many years before he retired to be a grandpa while he continued to serve those in need.

He served in many ways, but it was his leadership on the Merrill School Board in the 80's and 90's that had a significant impact on the Merrill community. Whatever Bruce did, he did it well, and with a positive attitude. He loved to work hard, and the job list was never ending. He modeled Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men". He was deeply rooted in his faith and was an inspiring role model for his children and their families. His life will be cherished.

Bruce is survived by his three children, Scott (Paulette) Severt, Merrill; Connie (Dave) Schwandt, Merrill; and Brian Severt, Springbrook WI. He is further survived by 4 grandchildren, Cole (Makenzie) Severt, Sierra (Jesiah) Bell, Kaden Schwandt, Jake Schwandt; and two great-grandchildren, Nora Bell and Eliza Severt. Bruce is further survived by his brother Gary (Sandy) Severt, sister Sheryl (Tom) Knospe, sister-in-law's Karen Severt and Denise Severt Gruetzmacher. Bruce was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, parents, and brothers James and Steven Severt.

A celebration of his life will be held on September 29th at Highland Community Church in Merrill. Visitation will be from 9am-11am, with service beginning at 11:00am.

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



Jack J. Zimmerman, 95, of Merrill, passed away Sunday, September 17, 2023, at Benedictine Living Community, Wausau.

Jack was born May 22, 1928, in Merrill, son of the late Arnold and Margaret (Savaske) Zimmerman. He married Vera (Kruse) Peck in 1961 and she preceded him in death in 1989. He then married Helen (Erickson) Olsen in 2006 and she preceded him in death in 2016. Jack worked as a maintenance custodian for M.A.P.S

for 25 years, until his retirement in 1990. Jack enjoyed playing cards, especially sheephead and cribbage. In the 1960's, Jack built a cabin with his father on the south fork of the Flambeau River in Fifield. In his younger years he enjoyed spending his time there hunting and fishing. He especially loved spending time with his family, friends and watching his youngest great-grandkids.

Jack is survived by his son, Todd (Cheryl) Zimmerman of Merrill; stepson, Howard (Christine) Peck of Merrill; step-daughter-in-law, Janice Peck of Merrill; grandchildren, Brooke (Andrew) Foss, Kelley (Abiodun) Maflasire, Bradley (Lisa) Peck, Sarah Koskey, Tasha (Troy) Schmidt, and Ryan (Kelli) Peck; great-grandchildren, Jaxon Foss, Chloe Foss, Trevor (Megan) Peck, Molly Peck, Tyler (Anna) Koskey, Christian Schmidt, Ava Schmidt, and Brady Peck; sisters, Dorothy McGuirk of Fifield and Susan Thompson of Arkansas; and brothers, Chuck (Karla) Zimmerman of Merrill and Ralph 'Buck' (Judy) Zimmerman of Merrill. Jack was preceded in death by his wives, Vera Zimmerman and Helen Zimmerman; parents, Arnold and Margaret Savaske; stepson, Roger Peck; grandsons, Russell (Stacy) Peck and Peter Koskey; great-grandson, Christopher Koskey; sisters, Barbara Everitt, Phyllis (Richard) Cole, Shirley (Donald) Anderson, and Marjorie (Harold) Meyer; brothers-in-law, James McGuirk and Tom Thompson; and sister-in-law, Eileen (Clarence) Gross.

A memorial service for Jack will be held at 12:00 P.M., Noon, on Saturday, September 23, 2023, at St. John Lutheran Church in Merrill. The Rev. David Szeto will officiate. Visitation will begin at 10:00 A.M. at the church. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



Morva J. Bishop, 95, of Merrill, passed away Sunday, September 24, 2023, at Pine Crest Nursing Home, Merrill. She was born June 1, 1928, in Abrams, Wisconsin, daughter of the late Rudolph and Barbara 'Florence' Bergner.

Morva was a very kind-hearted lady who strongly believed in The Lord. She was baptized as a Lutheran and attended Faith Lutheran Church in Merrill faithfully each week. Her faith was an important part of her life.

Morva was an excellent cook and baker, delighting her family with delicious meals and treats. She was also a talented seamstress, creating beautiful garments with her skills.

After graduating from Pulaski High School in Wisconsin, Morva dedicated her life to being a loving wife and mother. She had seven children: Joseph, Wendy Bishop, Kay Severt (Greg), Jeri Robl (Tony), Beck Bolf (Mike), Todd Bishop (Mandy), and Connie Bishop. Sadly, Joseph passed away shortly after birth.

In 2003, Morva's beloved husband, Harold, passed away. They had been married for 55 years, and Morva took her marriage vows seriously, caring for Harold at home for 25 years after he had a stroke. During this time, she also managed and kept Harold's Bishop's Carpets business thriving.

Morva was preceded in death by her parents, Rudolph and Barbara Bergner; and her brothers, Eldred and Neal. She leaves a legacy of love and dedication to her family.

Morva will be deeply missed by her family and friends, but her memory will live on in their hearts. May she rest in eternal peace.

A memorial service for Morva J. Bishop will be held at 11:00 A.M., Thursday, October 5, 2023, at Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. The Rev. Donald Love will officiate. The family will receive friends at the funeral home beginning at 10:00 A.M. that morning. The burial will take place at a later date at Faith Lutheran Cemetery - North, Village of Maine, Marathon County.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



Mary Therese Luterbach, age 84, of Merrill, passed away on Friday, September 22, 2023, at Bell Tower Residence in Merrill, while surrounded by her family and under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services. She was born on October 21, 1938 to the late Paul and Mary (Kellnhofner) Schupp in Medford, WI. Mary grew up on the family dairy farm in Medford, WI. She attended and graduated from Medford High School. Mary followed the

love of her life, Bill Luterbach, to Milwaukee, and within a year, they exchanged marriage vows on October 5, 1957 in Medford, WI. He survives.

The family moved around a bit in the early years of their nearly 65-year marriage, spending time in Lawton, OK, Menomonee Falls, and Germantown, before settling down in Merrill. In Merrill, they spent 7 years on the family dairy farm where she worked hard at being a farmer's wife and homemaker, along with raising their 5 children. But, when they moved to town, Mary fell in love with and excelled at her job as a CNA at Pine Crest Nursing Home, where she worked for 20 years. Her caring personality and hard work ethic meant she was a compassionate caregiver and supportive coworker. Mary would look forward to birthday meals and regular get-togethers with her sisters, they had the best time!

She enjoyed reading and baking, and was very proud of her children and grandchildren. Mary was very welcoming and was a "bonus mom" for lots of kids. Mary was easy to talk to and to love. She made strong friendships easily and had a great group of neighborhood friends. Mary had a wonderful smile that brought joy to everyone. In the 6 months she resided at Bell Tower, her smiles were noticed by every resident and staff person she met. She couldn't go anywhere without receiving comments of gratitude for her smile and sweet disposition. Mary leaves a void in her loved one's hearts, but she will never be forgotten.

She was deeply devoted to her Catholic faith, as she worked her whole life to prepare herself and her family for her own celebration of life. Not one to preach faith to others, she regularly prayed the Rosary and led by example.

Mary leaves behind her loving husband: Bill Luterbach, sons: Jeff (Debra) Luterbach and Russ (Brenda) Luterbach, daughters: Renee (Tabb) Benzinger and Joan (Peter) Tabor, a proud grandma to Keith, Tory, Rene, Zach, Travis, Tyler, Rachel, Erik, Benjamin and Allison, 16 great grandchildren, sister: Rita (Sam) Way and numerous nieces, nephews, good friends and neighbors. She was preceded in death by her parents, son: Steve Luterbach and sisters: Wilma, Lucille and Jeanne.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 11:30am at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Merrill. Father Maria Vallabhaneni will officiate. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 from 9am until 11am, with a Rosary starting at 10:30am, at Waid Funeral Home. Inurnment at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Cemetery will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mary's name may be directed to the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church or school or to Bell Tower Residence.

Family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to Father Maria for his visits to Mary, the staff at Bell Tower for their care and compassion and to Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services for their support. Family would also like to thank Barb, a very special caregiver that helped Mary in her 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.



Peter Raymond Gervais, 66, of Merrill, Wisconsin, went home to be with Jesus on September 14, 2023, after a brief stay at Bellin Hospital in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Peter was born on January 10, 1957, to Donald T. Gervais and Irene H. Gervais at St. Joseph's Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He attended school in Milwaukee until the 7th grade and finished elementary and high school in Merrill where he graduated in 1975. He married Mary Hinz in 1984 in Merrill, Wisconsin. He graduated from Northcentral Technical College with a degree in Mechanics. He worked for an automotive repair shop for a dealership in Wausau for several years. He attended Northcentral Technical College for a second degree in Electronics. He then was employed working with EO Johnson for close to 15 years fixing copiers. Over the years Peter worked several part-time jobs. He also did volunteer work serving lunches. Peter and Mary were blessed with five children. Despite many good years together, the marriage dissolved. Peter once again married in 2006 to Diane Strand. They were married for 10 years before they divorced. They remained companions until Diane's untimely death in 2017.

Peter's hobbies included hunting, fishing, and of course, the Packers. He enjoyed visits and phone calls from his children and grandchildren. His face lit up when they were around, and you could just see the joy. Peter enjoyed his lunch dates with Chuck Svetlik, a long-time friend from church. He also went with Chuck to help him deliver Meals on Wheels weekly. He was involved with the community programs where he was able to do various activities such as a cooking class, hiking club, and movie nights. Peter enjoyed his hunting and fishing trips and his lunch dates with his brother, Dave. He visited his good friend Jim Slozes where they would watch Packer games together & sometimes go fishing or hunting. He visited his sister, Noel, routinely from shortly after Diane passed until he fell sick in June of this year. Peter enjoyed watching movies when he was in Wausau and attending events and family activities.

Peter is survived by Mary Wegner, the mother of his children; his five children: Stephanie Madigan, Ruth (Eddie) Edet, Sarah (Rory) Collins, Michelle Gervais, and Joseph (Lauren) Gervais; brother, Dave (Lisa) Gervais; sister, Noel Gervais; ten grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Peter is preceded in death by his brother Joe Gervais, Father, Donald T. Gervais, Mother, Irene H. Gervais, companion and former, Diane, and grandparents.

Remembrance and celebration will be held at Hillside Fellowship Church in Merrill, WI, on September 30, 2023. The visitation will be from 9 - 11am with a service at 11am. A meal in the church basement will follow. All are welcome to join and share their memories of Peter. Pastor Brandon Wade will be officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hillside Fellowship Church in Merrill in Peter's name. We the family of Peter Gervais wish to thank the people at Aspirus Merrill Hospital and Bellin Hospital of Green Bay and all the numerous family and friends for their support in person and in prayer during the last few months while we endured Peter's end stage illness.



Laura M. Gryskiewicz, 90, of Merrill, passed away Friday, September 22, 2023, at Rennes Health & Rehab, Weston.

Laura was born August 19, 1933, in Chicago, daughter of the late William and Anna (Smith) May. She married Eugene Gryskiewicz on July 24, 1954, in Highland Park, Illinois. He preceded her in death on May 1, 2015. Laura was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Merrill. She was also a member of the VFW Auxiliary,

DAV Auxiliary, and American Legion Auxiliary. Laura enjoyed watching her favorite shows on television and playing the lottery.

Survivors include her children, Michael (Desi) Gryskiewicz of Oklahoma, and Eugene S. (Sue) Gryskiewicz, Frances Wienke, Kip (Penny) Gryskiewicz, and Patrick Gryskiewicz all of Merrill; 18 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and siblings, Louise DeCent of Sutherland, Nebraska, Alice VanNurden of Osakis, Minnesota, Delores Arellano of Omaha, Nebraska, and Joe May of Brady, Nebraska. Laura was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Gryskiewicz; parents, William May and Anna May Ash; son, Clarence Gryskiewicz; son-in-law, Roger Wienke; and siblings, Bill May, Ruth Loving, Walter Mayes, Kathleen George, Vera Sleeper, Virginia Hedger, and Pat May.

The funeral liturgy will take place at 12:00 P.M., Noon, Friday, September 29, 2023, at Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Father Mariadas Vallabhaneni will preside. The family will receive friends beginning at 10:00 A.M. Friday at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

Leila L. Howland, age 86, of Merrill, Wisconsin passed away on Thursday, September 21, 2023 in Wausau, Wisconsin. She was born on December 27, 1936 to the late George and Evelyn (Moderow) Krueger.

After Leila graduated from Wausau East High School, she worked at Employers Mutual Insurance Company. She then worked at Ace Hardware up until her retirement. She married John Albert Howland in Wausau, Wisconsin on June 1, 1957. He preceded her in death in November 1995.

Leila loved her children, grandchildren, brothers and sisters. She enjoyed watching the Green Bay Packers, fishing, boating and staying at their cottage on Lake Nokomis. Leila also loved living in Arizona during the winter months. She was a good cook and an active member at St. Stephens United Church of Christ in Merrill up until her battle with dementia worsened.

Leila is survived by her children: Michael J. Howland, Lori A. (Dan) Johnson, and Lisa A. Mussell, grandchildren: Jesse Harmon, Josh Harmon, Phillip Mussell, and Tyler Le sieur, and siblings: Darlene (Derald) Kell, Richard (Kim) Krueger, Thomas Krueger, and Judith (Dan) Wadzinski. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Howland, parents: George and Evelyn Krueger, siblings: Diane Goetz, Carol Rhyner, Janice Normand, and Ronald Krueger, and brother-in-law: Michael Goetz.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, October 6, 2023 at 11:00 am at Waid Funeral Home. A visitation will be held on Friday, October 6, 2023 from 10:00 am until the time of service also at the funeral home. Inurnment will take place at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Lincoln County Humane Society in loving memory of Leila.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Judy Stevens for being there for their mom.

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.

LCHS August Donors

The Lincoln County Humane Society (LCHS) would like to thank the following donors for their support in August!
 Jonathon Peck; The Boquist Family Lemonade Stand; Meghan Stevenson; Taste N Glow Balloon Fest; Michael Oemichen; American Online Giving Foundation - Liberty Mutual Group & UnitedHealth Group; Dean Barker; Rita Jaeger; Ruth James; Jean Perkins; Nadine Appel; Cecil Ballou; Darlene Raunio; The Teeters Family; Mary Jaax; Angelia & Todd Johnson; Angeline Marquis; Jennifer & Robert Ingman, Jr.; Rick & Judith Lombard; Janet Selnes; Pamela Welch; Therese Devine; Kendra Hawley; Scott Nardi; Paws at Rest; Ivy Catlin; Carol Brawn; Sharayah Lee; Tasha Jaeger; Penny Ross; Peggy & Bob Bauman; Tomahawk Home, Sport, & Travel Show; Heidi Fleurant; Christine & George Brahos; Amy Hameister; Jane Parsons; Angela Matti; Ivy Catlin; Elisa Marie Lang; David & Dorothy Jorgensen; Judith Kusiak; Joy of Grooming; Hilary Scully; Tanya Kleinschmidt; Philip & Virginia Giese
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 Licensed Director

Tammy Klade
 Non-Licensed Support Staff Licensed Pre-Need Insurance Agent

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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-Blaesser
 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

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

DATE SIGNED: September 19, 2023
 Electronically signed by: Becky S. Byer
 Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
 Mark A. Kanitz
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
 Case No. 2023 IN 42
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
 1. An application for informal administration was filed.
 2. The decedent, with date of birth 2/18/1959 and date of death 6/21/2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of W5063 S. Shore Drive, Merrill, WI 54452.
 3. All interested persons waived notice.
 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is January 12, 2024.
 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.
 Dan C. Koblitz, Attorney
 2320 Parallel Lane
 Silver Spring, MD 20904
 Telephone 301-960-5857
 Bar Number 1102710
 Published 9/28/23, 10/5/23 & 10/12/23
 WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: September 19, 2023
 Electronically signed by: Becky S. Byer
 Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
 Ernest P. Weisskopf
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
 Case No. 2023 IN 41
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
 1. An application for informal administration was filed.
 2. The decedent, with date of birth 1/17/1958 and date of death 7/26/2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of W2455 Burgener Ave., Merrill, WI 54452.
 3. All interested persons waived notice.
 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is January 12, 2024.
 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.
 Dan C. Koblitz, Attorney
 2320 Parallel Lane
 Silver Spring, MD 20904
 Telephone 301-960-5857
 Bar Number 1102710
 Published 9/28/23, 10/5/23 & 10/12/23
 WNAXLP

Legals 7700

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



The opening of Outskirts Bar, N1469 Tannery Rd. in Merrill, was cause for celebration and a Chamber ribbon cutting.
Photo courtesy of Merrill Chamber.



When Merrill Chiropractic moved to their newly renovated space at 921 E. Main St. in Merrill, Chamber staff and ambassadors celebrated with them, with a ribbon cutting ceremony.
Photo courtesy of Merrill Chamber.



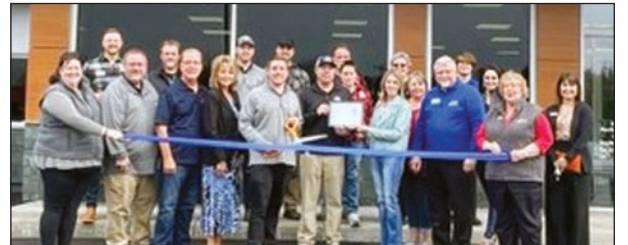
Geiss Meat Market opened their new retail store this summer. The employees and families came out to celebrate. And, you guessed it! So did the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce and Chamber ambassadors.
Tina L. Scott photo.



Chamber staff and ambassadors drove up to Gleason for a ribbon cutting and to check out all the flavors of ice cream at 17 Scoops.
Photo courtesy of Merrill Chamber.



Chamber staff and ambassadors joined the owners of the new Inspired Creativity and Craft Supplies and More LLC to celebrate their Grand Opening. The business is located at 705 S. Center Ave., Suite C in Merrill in what was once the Stark GM building.
Photo courtesy of Merrill Chamber.



The Merrill Chamber held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of Breman Merrill Ford's expansion and remodeling project.
Photo courtesy of Merrill Chamber.

BUSINESSES from page 1

a move to a new location, a remodel, or some other success, give them a call to schedule a ribbon cutting.

The Merrill Foto News includes photos of many of these ribbon cuttings as space permits. Take a look at many of the Chamber/business celebrations from recent months.



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 11:30 a.m. Monday

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

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

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

Tim Schreiber
 General Manager
tschreiber@mmclocal.com

Kurt Haebig
 Circulation Manager

Sue Schroeder
 Graphic Designer

Tina L. Scott
 Editor
tscott@mmclocal.com

Dinah Schneider
 Sales Consultant
dschneider@mmclocal.com

Jennifer Gartmann
 Sales Consultant
jgartmann@mmclocal.com

Heidi Schult
 Front Office Manager/CSR

Heidi Griebel
 Customer Service Representative

Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

- Sept. 28 - Merrill Enrichment Center's Open House
- Sept. 29 - Sawmill Spooktacular
- Sept. 29 - Park City Credit Union Blood Drive
- Sept. 29 - Flash Light Friday!
- Sept. 30 - St. Stephens Oktoberfest
- Sept. 30 - Gleason Special Fall Race
- Sept. 30 - Merrill Area Farmer's Market
- Sept. 30 - 11th Annual Craft, Gift & Bake Sale with Raffles
- Sept. 30 - Grampa's Farm
- Sept. 30 - Saturday Corn Maze & Pig at the Patch
- Sept. 30 - MACA Wisconsin Wind Orchestra Concert
- Sept. 30 - 5th annual Fall Jeep Ride
- Oct. 1 - Grampa's Farm
- Oct. 1 - Sunday Corn Maze
- Oct. 3 - MACA Folk Legacy Trio Concert
- Oct. 3 - Cycling Without Age Pilot Training
- Oct. 6 - Medical Mayhem at the Haunted Sawmill
- Oct. 7 - The Malevolent Masquerade at the Haunted Sawmill
- Oct. 7 - Pine River Fire Department Annual Open House & Pig Roast
- Oct. 7 - MEC's Fall Craft & Market
- Oct. 7 - Fall "Everything Goes" Sale at MARC
- Oct. 7 - History Hunt 2023
- Oct. 7 - Saturday Corn Maze
- Oct. 7 - Grampa's Farm
- Oct. 8 - Sunday Corn Maze
- Oct. 8 - Grampa's Farm

For more information, go to: merrillchamber.org/events



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DINNER SPECIALS SEPT./OCT.
TUESDAY NIGHTS
OCT. 3RD - LIVER - N - ONIONS
OCT. 10TH - PORK ROAST
Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

FRIDAY NIGHTS
SEPT. 29TH - HADDOCK
OCT. 6TH - BAKED SALMON
Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM
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CARRYOUT AVAILABLE
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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

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HAPPY HOUR: TUESDAY-THURSDAY • 3-6PM

GLEASON AREA LIONS PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Sunday, October 1st
8am-12noon
Gleason Lions Park N5179 Bradley St., Gleason

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SENIOR/CHILDREN • STANDARD • UNLIMITED PANCAKES ONLY
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Serving: Regular & Potato Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Applesauce, Juice, Milk or Coffee
We serve Pure Wisconsin Maple Syrup produced by Local Suppliers

BAKE SALE
Sunday, October 1st • 8 AM - 12 NOON

Willow Springs Garden LLC
Old Fashioned Harvest Festival
SUN., OCT. 1, 2023 ~ 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

VETERANS GARDEN DEDICATION
1 pm at the Veterans Garden

AT THE HALL:

- Fall Canvas Painting with Stephanie
1 class for kids, 1 class for adults, preregistration required, call the office for more information.
- POP'S CORN CRIB:
Concessions, popcorn, snow cones, soda & cotton candy

AT THE BARN:

- Breakfast served from 9-11 am
\$10.00 per person; \$5.00 Ages 6-11; 5 and under free
Pancakes, eggs, sausage, cheese, milk, juice & coffee
- Old fashioned oat threshing, antique tractor, machinery and farm tool display. Learn how to shell corn and grind wheat the old fashioned way.
- Kids Bounce House: 10 am - 3pm
- Live music with Carl Jackson 10:00am-1:00pm
- Antique education display 11 am - 3 pm (at the suite)
- Charcoal chicken & ham buffet served from 12-3 pm
\$15.00 per person; \$5.00 Ages 6-11; 5 and under free.
- Richie Yurovich & Polkarioty 1:30-4:30 pm
- Craft beer, wine and soda's.
- Apple Pie Contest* (bring in your homemade pie any time before 1pm and judging will be at 2pm)
- Creative crafters will be selling in suite, tents & barn

AT THE MAZE:

- The two mazes and all their attractions: tractor wagon rides, pumpkins, barrel train, and more
- Face painting from 11 am - 2 pm
- New this year, a scavenger hunt 11 am - 3 pm

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DIRECTIONS: 3.6 MILES NORTH OF FLEET FARM ON HWY. K TO HILLCREST DRIVE. WEST ON HILLCREST 1/2 MILE. WATCH FOR SIGNS!



Despite the rain, bicyclers on the Colorama Fall Ride were enjoying the ride and the changing autumn colors. Joseph Frederick photo.

Merrill Park & Rec holds annual Colorama Bike Tour

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

The Merrill Park & Recreation Department held their 40th annual Colorama Bike Tour this past Saturday, Sept. 23, beginning at Kitchennette Park in Merrill. Participants could choose to register for a 10-, 30-, or 50-mile ride. It was a great opportunity to enjoy the

Merrill area's beautiful changing colors, though the colors were a bit muted due to the rain and clouds. Still, bikers enjoyed the opportunity to get outdoors in the Northwoods on an early autumn Saturday morning.

A light lunch was served at the Smith Center in the Merrill Area Recreation Complex around midday.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

What Matters?

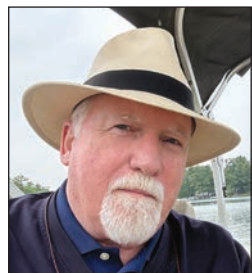
Dear Reader,

Remember those events back in high school – sports, homecoming, prom, the musical? It was a big deal back then. And now?

Remember those happenings back in college – football games, parties, concerts, road trips? More big deals back in the day. And now?

You ran the gauntlet of life with all the challenges, barriers and naysayers. So, here you are. At last you can recalibrate from this place and time you have gotten to and move forward, with the realization that the big stuff from once-upon-a-time is now minuscule. It no longer even exists, except in memory. Why? Because in a world of rational perspective and the ability to take the long view, things take on their proper significance – or insignificance.

But there are eternal values that we can touch, if only briefly. There can be joy in every moment if we so choose. It is joy that makes any single instant into an eternal experience of love.



PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher



The GLCW brought World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) to the Merrill Expo Center at the Merrill Festival Grounds this past Saturday. WWE combines wrestling with boisterous personalities, costumes, a little smack talk, stunts, and athleticism for a unique kind of entertainment. Joseph Frederick photos.



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MONTH
from page 1

with and for the benefit of their 235 local members and the greater community.

The proclamation said, in part, "Chambers of Commerce provide a wide variety of services to their members and community, including advocacy, education, and economic development, to promote entrepreneurship, tourism, and to solve economic challenges;" and "Chambers of Commerce are critical community partners and problem solvers with the unique ability to work with stakeholders from both the private and public sectors."

Further, "This month, the City of Merrill commends the local Chamber of Commerce which works hard to make the city a better place to live, work, and play," it said.

Similarly, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors, at their Sept. 19 meeting, issued a proclamation recognizing both the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce and the Tomahawk Chamber of

Commerce and September as Chamber of Commerce Month.

Both serve to benefit Lincoln County, both "exist to support members and community through networking, tourism, advocacy, and promotion of new and existing businesses," ... "have partnered with Lincoln County to support marketing the branding of Lincoln County-Where the Northwoods Start & Your Adventure Begins," ... and "have engaged in various Lincoln County groups, such as Dream Up! Childcare to promote awareness to critical community needs that also support growth and sustainability of businesses," the proclamation said.

Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce celebrates

To celebrate Chamber of Commerce Month, the Merrill Area Chamber spent the entire month bringing attention to the services they provide for their members and the community.

"Our organization plays a vital role in making sure the Merrill Area is a vibrant place to do business," representatives from the Merrill Chamber said, "[and] 'is an advocate for all our members, and Wisconsin Chamber Month gives us the opportunity to recognize the value each of them bring.'"

"We are happy to report that the Merrill Chamber has seen significant growth over the past few years," said Clyde Nelson, Executive Director of the Merrill Chamber. "This is all due to the wonderful business community we are fortunate to have. They can see how our staff, albeit small, is dedicated to helping our members grow and succeed."

"Now is a great time to consider joining our Chamber if you've been thinking about it," Nelson said. "I foresee a lot of continued momentum with what we can do to benefit our members in the not-too-distant future."

Throughout this month, the Merrill Chamber hosted community events and special programs

including a Loyal to Local Bingo Hunt Game, Hidden Prize Rocks, the "I Belong" Business Campaign, the Loyal to Local Patron Campaign, Facebook Live Business Interviews, and Business After Hours evenings on Sept. 14 at Strive 4 Life and on Sept. 21 at Ed & Sharon's

Restaurant. They are also planning a Chamber Open House at their business office at 705 N. Center Ave. in Merrill. Visit www.merrillchamber.org/chamber-month for complete details.

The Merrill Chamber is also partnering with Wisconsin Manufacturers

& Commerce—the state chamber—to recognize all their efforts at a local, state, and national level, Nelson said. Representatives at the Merrill Chamber will attend the Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce Executives Annual Conference in Lake Geneva from Sept. 26-28.

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Miscellaneous Sales 7212
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Sunday evening's lightning storm hit a tree west of Merrill on Snow Hill Rd., splintering it like kindling. The property owners heard the lightning strike and feared it had hit their garage or one of their outbuildings. They went outside to check and didn't notice any damage. The next day they discovered the nearby tree had been struck. The tree had been a perfectly healthy white ash. **Marge Daul photo.**

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#20 Callum Wheeler eludes the Oredockers.

Joseph Frederick photo.

Merrill football players lose by a single point

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

In a competitive game last Friday evening, the Merrill Varsity Bluejay Football Team took on the Ashland Oredockers at Jay Stadium. It was also Tackle Cancer Night for the “boys in blue” who donned special pink jerseys for the game, drawing attention to the need for cancer awareness and research.

Both teams played hard and remained scoreless in the first quarter, but in the second, Ashland scored a touchdown and their kicker got the extra point, bringing the score to Ashland 7-Merrill 0.

In the third quarter, the Bluejays fought hard for the come-back and made a touchdown, but failed on their attempt to make a two-point conversion, bringing the score to Ashland 7-Merrill 6. And there the score would stay, despite both teams’



#3 Jacob Schmeltzer has the ball for the Bluejays.

Joseph Frederick photo.

attempts to bump the score up. Neither team was able to get the traction they

needed to score again after that, and the fourth quarter remained scoreless.

In the end ... “The Bluejays dropped a tough game by one point to the Ashland Oredockers,” Merrill Varsity Football Head Coach Jason Wadzinski said. “The Merrill defense created three takeaways, but this defensive battle ended in a tough way.”

#3 Jacob Schmeltzer racked up 25 passing yards and #15 Isak Clapper had 25 receiving yards in the game, while #20 Callum Wheeler got in 60 rushing yards.

Fan turnout was good and helped push the team on as they battled against the Oredockers.

“The community showed up in a big way Friday night and, as a staff, we are very appreciative of the support,” he said.

Box Score:
Ashland 7 @ Merrill 6

Merrill Girls Tennis @ DC Everest

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Merrill Girls Varsity Tennis Team played against DC Everest on Sept. 19, 2023. Despite losing the match-up, “Merrill’s top doubles team of Chloe Belant and Sarah Rell played their best match of the year,” Merrill Girls Varsity Head Tennis Coach Brad Barton said. “In their third set, they decided to just hit the ball much harder than they normally do and it worked. They ended up losing that third set, but not because of their choice

to hit the ball harder.”

In singles play, “Claire Hintz is starting to get in the Varsity lineup,” he said. “She had come a long ways as a Freshman.”

Singles:

No. 1-Mila Bublik, DC Everest def. Emily Frahm, Merrill, 6-4, 6-2, -;

No. 2-Kylie Koch, DC Everest def. Kaytlyn Hulke, Merrill, 6-1, 6-0, -;

No. 3-Brooklyn Costa, DC Everest def. Rose Dornbrack, Merrill, 6-0, 6-1, -;

No. 4-Emily Ringwelski, DC Everest def. Claire Hintz, Merrill, 6-0, 6-1, -;

Doubles:

No. 1-Brianna Cook, DC Everest-Makenna Kampmann, DC Everest def. Chloe Belant, Merrill-Sarah Rell, Merrill, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4;

No. 2-Kali Rutta, DC Everest-Madison Szama, DC Everest def. Jenna Malluege, Merrill-Korina Kraegenbrink, Merrill, 6-2, 6-2, -;

No. 3-Kaylee Dunow, DC Everest-Sandra Brierton, DC Everest def. Parker Wagenaar, Merrill-Johanna Dahlke, Merrill, 6-1, 6-3, -;

Box Score:
Merrill 0 @ DC Everest 7



Celebrating Emma Hoff's 1,000th career assist with the team on Sept. 2. Kasie Holt photo.



On Sept. 14, the Merrill Girls Volleyball Team celebrated Avery Hoff's 1,000th career assist. Kasie Holt photo.

Merrill Varsity Volleyball twins each complete their 1,000th career assist

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Varsity Volleyball Team celebrated significant accomplishments of two of their players recently. The girls, who also happen to be twins, are both Merrill High School (MHS) Seniors and setters on the Varsity Volleyball Team. Within a week of each other, Emma Hoff and Avery Hoff each completed their 1,000th career assist.

“I thought it was really cool, and in the volleyball world it is a very big deal,” said Merrill Girls Varsity Volleyball Head Coach Kasie Holt.

“Emma completed hers on Aug. 26, 2023, against Regis at the Menomonie Sprawl, and Avery completed hers on Sept. 2, 2023, against Edgar at the DC Everest Invitational,” she said.

Both girls started playing volleyball competitively in the fourth grade, and both love their positions as setters because they like being able to control how their offense runs, they said.

When asked what they love most about



Avery Hoff (left) and Emma Hoff (right). Erin Swan photo.

volleyball, Avery said: “Playing with some of my closest friends, and Emma said, “Playing with a team that will always have my back.”

The girls are similar in many ways, as twins often are, even in how they answered the same questions. They love playing together, and both say they frequently give each other advice on which hitters to go to when they’re

playing. “Emma is also my setter, and I love that she sets me up for success,” Avery said. And Emma’s favorite thing about playing together? “Getting each other hyped up after a big play,” Emma said.

After high school graduation, Emma plans to go to college for Physical Therapy. Avery is still undecided about her plans for after high school.

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On Sept 19, 2023, proceeds from the Black Squirrel Scurry Triathlon were donated to the following organizations at Northwoods Veterans Post: \$1,600 to VFW Post 1638; \$100 to VFW auxiliary; for setting up and staffing the aid stations on the run course and finish line; also to Boy Scout Troop 503 for assisting at the Kayak pull out station, hauling kayaks, and loading kayaks for participants after the race. The triathlon was held throughout the Merrill Area on July 29. **Submitted photo.**

Bridges Virtual Academy featured at Harvard Kennedy School and internationally

Bridges Virtual Academy (BVA) and Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) will be featured Sept. 28-29, 2023, at the Harvard Kennedy School in Cambridge, Mass., as part of a conference entitled: Emerging School Models: Moving from Alternative to Mainstream. John Hagemester, BVA Executive Director, was invited to be part of a three-person panel on Sept. 28 to discuss the "conditions necessary for success" in virtual schools.

of the success of BVA as a virtual charter school and as a unique educational model in Wisconsin prompted the invitation.

BVA was also invited for a second year to present and collaborate internationally with educators and governmental leaders through a network of English Without Borders (EWB). Last year BVA presented on elements of virtual instruction to a delegation from Tajikistan. This year BVA was invited, as honorary members

of the EWB network, to present practical strategies for virtual instruction to a larger audience that includes educators and leaders in both Tajikistan and throughout the world. BVA teachers will provide examples of current instructional strategies being used that lead to success for students in the virtual classroom.

BVA is a K4-12 online school chartered by the MAPS district serving over 700 students throughout the state of Wisconsin.



Merrill Eagles Auxiliary representatives Linda Blake and Barb Middelstad present Merrill High School Senior Spencer Smith with a \$1,000 scholarship. **Submitted photos.**



Merrill Eagles Auxiliary representatives Linda Blake and Barb Middelstad present Merrill High School Senior Erin Kremsteiter with a \$1,000 scholarship.



Merrill Eagles Auxiliary representatives Linda Blake and Barb Middelstad present Merrill High School Senior Kathryn Herdt with a \$1,000 scholarship.



Jim Woller of Merrill was ecstatic to discover he had hit a hole in one on the 17th hole at the Merrill Golf Course on May 30, 2023. He said he looked all over for his ball, thinking he had for sure hit it close to the green, and discovered it in the hole! Phil Knosp witnessed the remarkable shot.



Imagine Jim Woller's joy and surprise when he hit ANOTHER hole in one just 28 days later! Jim points to his ball in hole 13 on June 28, 2023. Jim said he used a #9 wood on both shots, which he had never used before. George Dintelman and Larry Krueger were there to witness the event. **Submitted photos.**

2023 FALL MERRILL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Boys Football (Varsity, JV, & JV2)			
Thurs. Sept. 28	Hayward (JV2)	Home	5:30 pm
Fri. Sept. 29	Hayward (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Thurs. Oct. 5	Rhineland (JV2)	Away	5:30 pm
Girls Tennis (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. Sept. 28	Wausau East (Varsity)	Away	9:00 am
Girls Swimming (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. Sept. 28	Stevens Point (Varsity & JV)	Home	5:30 pm
Thurs. Oct. 5	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity & JV)	Home	5:30 pm
Girls Cross Country (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. Sept. 28	Medford (Varsity)	Away	4:30 pm
Tues. Oct. 3	Northland Pines (Varsity)	Away	4:00 pm
Boys Cross Country (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. Sept. 28	Medford (Varsity)	Away	4:30 pm
Tues. Oct. 3	Northland Pines (Varsity)	Away	4:00 pm
Girls Volleyball (Varsity, JV, & JV2)			
Mon. Oct. 2	D. C. Everest (JV2)	Away	4:00 pm
Thurs. Oct. 5	D. C. Everest (JV & JV2)	Home	5:30 pm
Thurs. Oct. 5	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Boys Soccer (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. Sept. 28	Wausau East (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:30 pm
Fri. Sept. 29	Shawano Community (JV)	Away	4:30 pm
Fri. Sept. 29	Shawano Community (Varsity)	Away	6:30 pm
Thurs. Oct. 5	Pool Play (Varsity & JV)	T. B. D.	T. B. D.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Emma Hoff, a Senior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. Emma plays on the Merrill Varsity Girls Volleyball Team as a setter, and has been playing Varsity since Freshman year. She began playing volleyball competitively in the fourth grade at Trinity Lutheran School. Last year, Emma also joined JV Track.

At MHS, Emma is a member of the Link Crew and belongs to the National Honor Society. Outside of school, she has a part-time job working at The Grand Stand. And in her free time, she enjoys playing sand volleyball, hanging out with friends (shopping, movies, and going out to eat), and going on the water with her family, tubing and swimming.

The daughter of Molly Hoff-Davis and John Davis of Merrill, Emma has a 3.5 GPA. After graduation, she hopes to attend either St. Norbert College or UW-Green Bay and plans to become a physical therapist.



Emma Hoff

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Lincoln County taxpayers urged to complete community survey on Pine Crest by Oct. 1

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

For those who are frustrated trying to type in the url for the community survey on Pine Crest Nursing Home being conducted by the Merrill Foto News and the Tomahawk Leader, there is an easier way. Go directly to our website [merrillfotonews.com] and click on the link in this article or the original article on this topic. That link will take you directly to the survey with ease. [The direct url with all the numbers and letters is auto-generated by the survey program.]

If you don't have a computer, feel free to go to the T.B. Scott Library to use a computer there to complete the survey.

Remember, the survey is to gauge whether or not, and to what degree, Lincoln County taxpayers support any efforts to keep Pine Crest County owned and any potential increase in taxes that might be needed to do so. If you have

an opinion about this topic, either one way or the other, AND you are a Lincoln County resident, don't forget to complete the survey before Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. The survey is limited to Lincoln County residents, as they are the taxpayers affected by any decision made on this matter by the Lincoln County Board.

Already, hundreds of Lincoln County residents have taken the survey.

It's fast, easy, and you don't need to enter your name. Address and phone number are required for verification purposes, to protect the integrity of the survey data; however, that information will NEVER be sold or used for any other purpose.

All Lincoln County residents are urged to take the survey so that the results will reflect the opinions of all Lincoln County taxpayers and community members.

The results will be published.

Callahan resigns from Lincoln County Board, reaffirms role as State Representative

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR



On Sept. 25, 2023, Lincoln County Board District 13 Supervisor Calvin Callahan announced his resignation from the Lincoln County Board, effective last week at the adjournment of the Sept. 19 County Board Meeting.

Callahan will be moving and will no longer reside within the boundaries of District 13.

In a statement regarding his resignation, Mr. Callahan expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the people of the 13th District and his excitement for the future. "It has been an honor and a privilege to represent the wonderful people of the 13th District on the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors," he said.

Callahan wished to extend his sincere appreciation to his fellow Board of Supervisors members, County staff, and, most importantly, to the constituents of the 13th District for their support and collaboration throughout his time in office.

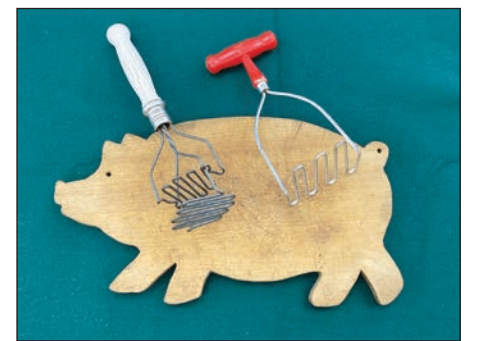
Callahan's move will not effect his role as State Representative for the 35th Assembly District of the State of Wisconsin. His new residence will be within

Lincoln County and he will continue to represent the 35th Assembly District.

In addition, Callahan confirmed his decision to seek re-election to another term as State Representative in the Nov. 2024 election and said he is committed to continuing to advocate for the needs of the community on a broader scale.

Kitchen Collectibles Beyond Books Community ArtShare Exhibit

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR



The T.B. Scott Library is currently hosting a Tena's Kitchen Collectibles exhibit as part of their Beyond Books Community ArtShare program. Through the end of October, the exhibit will have some community members wandering down memory lane as they peruse the exhibit, while some younger visitors may be asking what some of the items were used for. A portion of Tena Gnewuch's collection makes up the exhibit. Gnewuch has been collecting miscellaneous kitchen tools most of her life, she said, and particularly loves rolling pins, creamers, and potato mashers. Her very favorite items, though, are related to pigs.

Gnewuch said she discovers most of her treasures at flea markets, but also occasionally finds items at garage sales and antique shops.

She loves the history of the individual

Vintage potato mashers and an old pig cutting board are a part of the Tena's Kitchen Collectibles display at the T.B. Scott Free Library.

Submitted photo.

objects and the stories behind them. And she also enjoys seeing how some of the tools have evolved over the years.

Tena's Kitchen Collectibles are on display in the Carnegie Wing of the T. B. Scott Free Library.

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APRIL 2024






9-DAY JOURNEY

HIGHLIGHTS:

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- Truffle Demonstration & Tasting at a Tuscan Estate
- Florence Walking Tour
- Academy Gallery & the Statue of David
- Pasta Making Cooking Class
- Winery Tour & Tasting
- Pecorino Cheese Tasting
- Music & Wine Experience with a local Sommelier at a Farmhouse in Montalcino
- Sienna Walking Tour
- Dinner at Tuscan Farmhouse & Winery San Gimignano Gelato Tasting
- Lunch at a local Farmhouse famous for Saffron
- Lake Trasimeno Boat Excursion
- Island Maggiore with Lunch & Wine
- Full Day at Leisure to Relax or Explore on Your Own

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