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Weinbrenner's Thorogood boots are 1 of 4 finalists in state competition



Thorogood's American Heritage 6" tobacco safety toe work boot manufactured by Thorogood/Weinbrenner Shoe Company are in the running to be named "2023 Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin."

Final round of voting in Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin contest runs Oct. 12-19 in Manufacturing Madness competition

On Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023, the Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) and Johnson Financial Group announced the four finalists in the Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin contest. Weinbrenner's Thorogood American Heritage Tobacco Safety Toe Work Boots are one of those four finalists, and voting to select the 2023 Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin started Oct. 12 and runs through Thursday, Oct. 19, at 12 noon.

Competing for the highest honors in this eighth annual contest, Thorogood Work Boots produced by Weinbrenner Shoe Company, headquartered in Merrill, will now go head-to-head up against the other three finalists: The Bevi Bottleless Water Dispenser manufactured by Plexus Corp. in Neenah; Applewood Smoked Bacon produced by Nueske's Applewood Smoked Meats in Wittenberg;

See **COMPETITION** page 2



Students and firefighters/EMTs pose in front of the fire engine outside the Merrill Fire Station. Photos courtesy of Merrill Fire Department.

MFD's fire prevention school programs

The Merrill Fire Department (MFD) provides annual fire prevention education in area schools. "Our goal is fire prevention education of preschool through 5th grade that will continue to protect you and your families," MFD fire fighters said.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has been promoting Fire Prevention Week for over 100 years now (1922-2023). This year's annual theme is "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention." This theme focuses on simple actions to keep everyone safer while cooking.

The MFD utilizes a progression of education, beginning at the preschool level showing the students the "Friendly Firefighter" dressed in all of his fire gear, and continuing to educate the same students annually for seven years. Each year, they review what was taught the previous year and add in new fire prevention and safety techniques, such as creating a fire escape plan and "Stop, Drop, and Roll."



The Fire Pup poses with some young children in their classroom.

The Fire Pup visits Kindergarten classes to help instill the message and make a memorable impression on young learners, and second graders get a fun video safety lesson from

"Red-E-Fox" explaining the use of the 911 system.

Through the years of educating the

See **PROGRAMS** page 15

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Northwoods Veterans Post planning free Veterans Day meal

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Northwoods Veterans Post is planning a free meal to honor Lincoln County Veterans this Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, 2023.

"This is a first-class meal that we are attempting to get paid for by donations," said Steve Sabatke, a

member of AMVETS Post 2000, VFW Post 10203, and Treasurer of the Lincoln County Veterans Council. He said he already has a substantial donation and hopes others will come forward to help support this worthy cause.

"This dinner is open to all Lincoln County veterans or active duty members and one guest. Join your

fellow neighbors who served their country for a first class meal and casual conversation," he said.

Reservations are **REQUIRED** and space is limited to the first 150 to make a reservation. To reserve a space at the dinner, call Bill Burcalow at 715.612.7118 or email him at

See **MEAL** page 2

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City, Library to honor longtime director with historic street sign

The City of Merrill's Historic Preservation Committee will honor the longest-serving director of the T.B. Scott Free Library, Mrs. Natalie H. Scribner, on Monday, Oct 23, 2023, at 12 noon by unveiling an historic street marker sign at the

intersection of Polk and Main Streets.

Scribner, a native of Argyle, Wis., was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Library School and headed the children's department at the Jacksonville, Ill., library before coming to Merrill in 1922. She served as the director of the T.B. Scott Free Library in Merrill from 1922 until the year before her death in 1948. She had married Frank G. Scribner of Duluth, Minn., just two years prior to her arrival in Merrill but he tragically died from complications of appendicitis just a few years after their marriage. The couple had no children and Mrs. Scribner never remarried. A younger sister of Mrs. Scribner also died young, leaving her no relatives except cousins.

During her tenure leading the library in Merrill, the collection more than quadrupled from 25,000 items to over 100,000. Mrs. Scribner made special efforts to serve the surrounding rural communities. Of the 102,355 books available through the library, almost 35,000 were in the rural branches.

Scribner was one of the founding members of the Wisconsin Valley Library System (WVLS) that currently connects 23 libraries in the north central part of Wisconsin for the purposes of sharing resources, following cost-effective policies, and implementing current and evolving technology for the purpose of maintaining high levels of service to their communities. In addition, under Scribner's leadership, the library in Merrill was one of the first in the state to engage in Inter-Library Lending (ILL), which made scarce materials available even to libraries outside of WVLS. That system today is a nationwide standard practice for most public libraries.

Besides her innovative and pioneering work at the library, Scribner was an active participant in several community organizations. She was the vice-president of the Women's Alliance, and an honorary member of the Monday Club Study Class, the Junior Study Class, and the Social Topic Club. She was a longtime member of the Church of the Ascension and belonged to St. Monica's Guild. She resided for many years in Apartment B of the Ellis Court Apartments of the Badger Hotel (currently the site of Park Place Residence of the Merrill Housing Authority). She only resigned her position from the library due to failing health. Scribner was succeeded by Mrs. Edna Kraft and died, 14 months later, at the age of 55.

There will be refreshments available in the front café area of the library following the unveiling of the street sign.

Stuffed Chicken Breast or Pork Loin (3 kinds) \$4.99 each	8" Red Velvet Cake \$7.99	8" Banana Split Ice Cream Cake \$7.99
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Friends of the T.B. Scott Library to hold Fall Book Sale

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

The Friends of the T.B.

Scott Library will hold their Fall Book Sale at the T.B. Scott Library in Merrill from Oct. 26-28, 2023.

The sale begins on Thursday, Oct. 26, with a special sale open from 3:30-5:30 p.m. for Friends of the T.B. Scott Library. The cost to become a Friend of the T.B. Scott Library is \$5 per individual or \$10 per family.

The next two days the sale is open to the public, beginning at 10 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 27, until 5 p.m. that day, and then again on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The sale includes a large selection of fiction and non-fiction books, as well as CDs and DVDs, organizers said.

Saturday will be Bag Day, where shoppers can fill a bag for just \$2.

The books at the sale include a selection of books culled from the library's shelves, as well as gently used books that have been donated to the library. The proceeds of the sale support library programs and activities at the T.B. Scott Library.

COMPETITION from page 1

and the Ariens® 90th Anniversary Limited Edition Sno-Thro made by AriensCo in Brillion.

The winner of the 2023 Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin will be announced at WMC's Business Day in Madison later in the day on Thursday, Oct. 19.

To vote, go to: madeinwis.com.

MEAL from page 1

BillBurcalow@gmail.com with your name and the name of your guest. Or make your reservation in person at the Northwoods Veterans Post. Reservations will be accepted until Nov. 4, 2023, or until the 150 available spots are filled.

The free Veterans Day meal will be held at the Northwoods Veterans Post on Nov. 11 at 6 p.m.

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MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is **Kayla Klimek**
Daughter of Tim & Heather Klimek
Kayla is in 7th grade at Trinity Lutheran School. She was nominated by Mr. Johnson.

2-2-4 What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
My favorite subjects in school are math and art. Art has always been my favorite and I've always been good at math. Art is relaxing and I love creating things.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?
My favorite part of school is math class. I like that math challenges me.

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?
I want to become a veterinarian. I love helping animals and I've wanted to be a vet since I was a young girl.

In the time that I've known Kayla, she has shown leadership, kindness, and respect. She is one of Trinity's outstanding students, athletes and friends.
~ Mr. Johnson

Student of the Week Sponsored by:
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Invitation to sew Little Dresses for Africa

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Christ United Methodist Church is having a work day to make/sew "Little Dresses for Africa" this Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the Gathering Room at the church at 300 N. Mill St. in Merrill.

All are invited to attend the work day to help reconstruct pillowcases, add embellishments, and turn them into little dresses that will be sent to orphanages, schools, and churches in Africa to be distributed to young girls there.

The project is part of a mission to provide young girls with clothing and also to plant a message in their hearts that they are worthy.

Participants can bring their own sewing machines or just come to help with pinning and cutting, ironing, or



Volunteers pause for a smile as they sew "Little Dresses for Africa" at a previous event. **Submitted photos.**

hand-stitching. Volunteers of all skill levels are needed and welcome, organizers said. "The dresses are simple, yet time consuming to put together," they said.

"Join us as we do mission work through fellowship with laughter and love," organizers said. "We're not only sending dresses ... we're sending HOPE."

For more information, call the church office at 715.536.4676.



Young girls in Africa pose wearing "Little Dresses for Africa" made by previous volunteers.

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Pork Sausage Original - Uncooked Frozen 48 oz ONLY \$3.99	Cheddar Cheese Smoked - White 7 oz ONLY 89¢	Sausage Snack Sticks Ends & Pieces Bourbon - Bacon Flavored 28 oz ONLY \$5.99
Pork Sausage Italian - Uncooked Frozen 16 oz ONLY \$1.69	Shredded Cheese Mozzarella, Cheddar, Pepperjack 5 lbs ONLY \$7.99	Wheat Thins Original 40 oz ONLY \$3.99
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Sausage Links 36 ct, Fully Cooked Original - Frozen 28 oz ONLY \$2.99	Cream Cheese Original 32 oz ONLY \$3.99	Bacon Crumbles Natural - Uncured Fully Cooked - Frozen 5 lbs ONLY \$4.99 a lb
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	Chicken Breast Oven Roasted Fully Cooked - Frozen 6 lbs ONLY \$1.10 a lb	Salmon Frozen Wild Sockeye Filets ONLY \$8.99 a lb
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In-store ONLY. We reserve the right to limit quantities.

Two Wisconsin Local Food Purchase Assistance Program grants accepting applications through Nov. 22

MADISON, Wis. – Two Wisconsin Local Food Purchase Assistance (WLFP) Program grants are accepting applications now through Nov. 22, 2023. These two grants, the Direct-to-Farmer Grant and the Community Partners Grant, are funded through a cooperative agreement between the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service. To apply, go to: wilocalfood.org.

Direct-to-Farmer Grant

Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 will be available for Wisconsin farm businesses. Contracts will include price agreements for pre-season projected products, pre-season payment schedules, product quality, as well as procurement and distribution procedures. The Direct-to-Farmer Grant

See GRANTS page 6

Pet of the Week



Madison came to the shelter as a stray so we aren't sure about her back story. She seems to be more on the shy side & will probably do best in a quieter household. She enjoys people and seems to be okay with other cats. **Madison** is on the smaller side & has a really pretty orange/white pattern on her fur coat. She loves to burrow under all of her blankets & take lots of cat naps. Her adoption fee includes her spay. She is up to date vaccinations & microchip. Visit all the adoptable pets at the Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours by appointment only. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit us at www.furypets.com.

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Merrill Area United Way



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October 2023 -- Foto News Article
Merrill Area United Way
Dee Olsen, Executive Director

United Way is a month away from the tough decisions. Depending on how the annual campaign closes out, these decisions may be tougher than in recent years. The campaign wraps up the 1st week in November; we should then have a good sense of how much money is available to support our funded agencies.

These agencies rely heavily on United Way to help them meet their budget and to be able to provide the services and support they give to people. What makes it really hard is knowing that every agency, and every service they provide, makes a big difference in the lives of our citizens. It's like the old saying – you don't know what you have until it is gone. Let's all work together to keep what we have strong. Every day we see the value these agencies bring to our community.

Our agencies are not-for-profit 501-c3 organizations. Each year they make application to United Way for funding based on the programs and services they are providing. United Way's entire focus is to support impact programs for the areas of **health** (physical, mental, and dental), **basic needs/income** (housing, utility assistance, food, meeting children's needs) and **education** (subsidize needs, safety, and more), ensuring opportunities for all children. Thus, the agencies work to address these impact areas in their funding requests.

In mid-November, after reviewing the applications, United Way team members evaluate the funding requests to align the programs with our impact areas. The amount of money we can award to the agencies is based on what we receive during campaign. If we do experience a soft campaign and do not reach our goal of \$230,000 then we must cut the amount of funding in the allocation process. In the end it is basic budgeting – we can't spend more than we can take in. So, to sustain this incredible level of work United Way needs a successful fall campaign.

So where do the funds go? These are the 2023-2024 Organization/Programs supported by United Way: Salvation Army, North Central Community Action Program, Merrill Community Food Pantry, Peaceful Solutions, Inc., Merrill Community Homeless Center aka MAC Home, Our Sisters House for homeless (Tomahawk), Boys and Girls Club-Merrill, The Nest, Parkside Preschool Center, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Samoset Council Boy Scouts-Merrill, Girl Scouts, Family Resource Center, Merrill Safety Patrol, St. Vincent De Paul Outreach, Childcaring, Inc., HAVEN, Food For Kids, Christmas Spirit Appeal, 2-1-1 Help Line, and other interim special requests.

For more information on United Way visit our website is www.merrillareaunderway.org. Consider a donation check to Merrill Area United Way, at P. O. Box 813, Merrill 54452. For further information email us at delores.olsen@merrillareaunderway.org; or call our part-time office at 715-536-2046.

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OBITUARIES



Lyle E. Gast, 92, of Weston, passed away Thursday, October 12, 2023, at Pride TLC, Weston.

Lyle was born December 27, 1930, in Birnamwood, son of the late Herman and Caroline (Wickman) Gast. He married Delores Hoff on June 23, 1951, at the former Zion Lutheran Church in the Village of Maine, Marathon County. They recently celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary. She survives. Lyle was a member of Faith Lutheran Church, Village

of Maine.

Lyle worked at Anderson Brothers & Johnson for 48 years. He liked tinkering and was ingenious. He built a small tractor, scooter and a camper that his family used on a trip to Yellowstone National Park. Lyle enjoyed camping and for 15 years, he and Delores traveled to Palmetto, Florida with their 5th wheel camper. He also enjoyed fishing and going on several Canadian fishing trips a year. In his earlier years, he enjoyed deer hunting. Lyle also hunted squirrels and rabbits with his hunting dogs, Penny, Pepper, and Sporty. He also enjoyed snowmobiling.

Survivors include his wife, Delores Gast of Weston; daughters, Linda (Daniel) Meschefske and Donna Mae (Norbert) Normand both of Wausau; sons, Lyle (Cheryl) Gast, Jr. and Larry (Mary) Gast both of Wausau; two grandchildren, Bonnie Dean of Wausau and Allen (Wendy) Gast of Neillsville; four great-grandchildren, Kaitlyn and Anna Dean and Bryce and Caleb Gast; sister, Shirley Johnson (Norm Bailey) of Pawcatuck, Connecticut; and several nieces and nephews. Lyle was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Caroline Gast; and brother and sister-in-law, Herman Gast Jr. and Audrey Gast.

The memorial service for Lyle will be held at 11:00 A.M., Monday, October 23, 2023, at Faith Lutheran Church, Village of Maine. Rev. Donald Love will preside. The burial will take place in Maple Grove Cemetery, Village of Maine. The family will receive friends beginning at 10:00 A.M., Monday, October 23, 2023. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



Robert "Rob" Dresen, age 59, of Merrill, Wisconsin passed away on Monday, October 9, 2023 with his family by his side. He was born on December 3, 1963 to the late Norbert and Coletta (Birrenkott) Dresen at the Methodist Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. On June 22, 1991, Rob married the love of his life, Christy Mootz. They loved spending time fishing, enjoying "Sunday Fundays" and just being together. Together they had one son,

Bryce and two four legged best buds, Val and Lilly. Rob graduated from Middleton High School in 1982 and attended Madison College. He started at Fish Building Supply, then worked at Hurd Millwork and SEMCO. He worked in the residential and commercial window industry in purchasing, QA, production, estimating and sales and then retired at Old Castle Building Envelope due to COVID and his health in 2020.

Rob grew up in Cross Plains, Wisconsin. Baseball was his favorite sport, he played and coached on numerous championship teams in Little League, Babe Ruth, CYO, Home Talent and softball for Dresens Bar. He also umpired and coached youth travel baseball, women's softball and CYO baseball and basketball, and was coach and AD at Trinity Lutheran School in Merrill.

In his earlier years, Rob loved to hunt and fish. Throughout his life, Rob enjoyed reading, especially Gordon Macquarie and Aldo Leopold. He enjoyed vintage hunting and fishing memorabilia, weekend road trips, and nightly car rides scouting for wildlife. Rob really loved his hat collection too. Rob was often seen cheering on the Badgers, Packers and Brewers and any games his son played in!

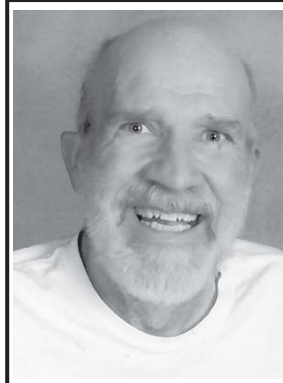
Rob is survived by his wife, Christy Dresen, son: Bryce Dresen, sisters: Luanne (Robert) Ruhland of Madison, WI, Elana Dresen of Waunakee, WI, and Carla Dresen of Cross Plains, WI, parents-in-law: Dave and Jean Mootz of Merrill, WI, brother-in-law: Jim (Julie) Mootz of Merrill, WI, nieces and nephews: Tami (Brian) Munster of Sun Prairie, WI, Matt Ruhland (Godson), Jourdyn (Sam) Koebe of Sun Prairie, WI, Nick (Sydney) Mootz of Schofield, WI, Chaz Mootz of Minneapolis, MN, Zach Mootz of Merrill, WI, Connor Mootz (Godson) of Merrill, WI, and Troy Mootz of Merrill, WI.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother David Dresen.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 11:00 am at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. Rev. Scott Gustafson will officiate. A visitation will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023 from 9:00 am until the time of service also at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Lincoln County Sportsman Club, SAL - Post 245 Cross Plains, Trinity Lutheran School in Merrill, and/or ODHA Gordon Macquarie - Barns History Museum in memory of Rob.

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 Arthur Duley, age 62 of Alma, WI, passed peacefully on October 4, 2023, at Gundersen Health in La Crosse, WI surrounded by family. He was born on October 26, 1960, in Merrill, WI to George and Elaine (Riemer) Duley, their youngest of five children.

Carl cared deeply about his faith, family, and his community which was evident in the way he lived his life. He was raised on the family farm in Merrill where he developed a strong work ethic and learned to work together for a common purpose. Carl was actively involved in his church, 4-H, FFA, football, and he especially loved playing alto saxophone in the jazz band. He graduated from Merrill High School in 1978 and pursued his higher education at UW-River Falls, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in Farm Management and a master's degree in Agricultural Education. In 1982, Carl met the love of his life, Cindy Chase at UW-River Falls through Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and they enjoyed dancing together. Carl and Cindy were married on June 27, 1987 at St. John Lutheran Church in Alma and they were blessed with their son, Lucas, the light of their lives.

Carl's country roots and educational background laid the foundation for a successful career that spanned almost four decades. He accepted his first professional position in 1985 as the Buffalo County Agriculture Extension Agent and he remained committed to this role until his very last days. Carl cherished his relationships and had a knack for connecting people with resources and each other. His strategic planning abilities were unmatched, and he liked to combine work with pleasure by facilitating groups throughout the state as well as overseas with volunteer work trips to Trinidad, Macedonia, Honduras, Mexico, Guatemala, and Tanzania. Carl liked to grow things and he appreciated seeing people and ideas flourish. His passion for working with others was evident to all who knew him and many of his research projects continue to benefit the agricultural community to this day. With an open heart and a generous spirit, he was always willing to share his vast knowledge with those around him.

Carl's warm smile, positive attitude, and fun-loving presence endeared him to everyone he met. He possessed a genuine desire to help others with their endeavors and his dedication extended beyond the professional realm as he actively participated in the community by serving as an EMR with Western Buffalo County Ambulance Service and coordinating the local Red Cross Blood Drive. As an integral member of St. John Lutheran Church, Carl served in many roles including council president, teaching Sunday School and confirmation classes, cooking breakfasts, Christmas caroling, and leading several mission work trips for hurricane relief efforts. He found great joy in participating in the church dart ball league, which served as an opportunity for him to bond with others who shared his faith and love for friendly competition.

Carl made significant contributions to the community, and he was an enthusiastic supporter of youth and local schools. He shared his passion for volleyball by coaching at Alma Area School for many years and he was continually inspired and encouraged by the goodness of our young people. When Carl was diagnosed with ALS, he brought awareness to the community by giving group presentations, participating in research and advocacy efforts, and gathering people together for the Eau Claire Express Lou Gehrig Day baseball games, the ALS Walk, and other events. His commitment to making the world a better place remained unwavering throughout his life, and one of his last gifts was as an organ donor.

Carl's legacy of love will be forever cherished by those who knew him. He is survived by his loving wife, Cindy, and their son, Lucas, who were the center of his world. Carl also leaves behind his brothers: David (Heidi) Duley of Merrill, WI; Duane (Dianne) Duley of Kearney, NE; Keith (Julie) Duley of Merrill, WI; and sister Doris (Paul) Clausen of Aniwa, WI, as well as aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws. His warmth, wisdom, and compassionate nature will be deeply missed by his family and friends. Carl was preceded in death by his parents.

A celebration of Carl's life was held on October 11, 2023, from 12:00 PM until the time of service at 3:00 PM at St. John Lutheran Church - Alma, WI. Burial will follow at Mill Creek Cemetery, Alma. Carl wanted people to know that they are welcome to wear their blood drive, volleyball, and other service-oriented attire.

In remembrance of Carl's life filled with compassion and selflessness, memorial contributions may be made to the ALS Association Wisconsin Chapter, Red Cross, St. John's Mission Fund, or his latest project, community accessibility.

Carl was an educator at heart who touched the lives of countless individuals with his kindness, generosity, and immense knowledge. His memory will continue to inspire us all as we strive for excellence in our own pursuits. May he rest in eternal peace knowing that he made a lasting difference in the world around him.

Talbot Family Funeral Homes - Scenic Rivers Cremation Center assisted the family with arrangements. www.talbotfuneralhomes.com

To honor Carl, the family asks if memorials could be directed to:

ALS Association Wisconsin Chapter
3333 N Mayfair Rd, Suite #104
Wauwatosa, WI 53222

American Red Cross - Southwest Chapter
4860 Sheboygan Ave
Madison, WI 53705

St John's Mission Fund
709 S. 2nd St.
Alma, WI 54610

Alma Community Accessibility fund

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Licensed Director/Licensed Pre-need Insurance Agent



McKenna K. Meunier
Licensed Director

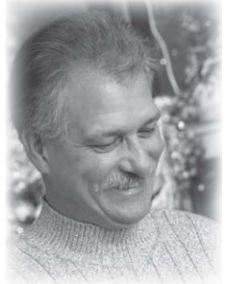


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In Memoriams

In Loving Memory of
JOHN DOE
Apr. 9, 1954-Aug. 6, 2014



It's hard to believe it's been 2 years already since you left us. We think of you every day.

Love & Miss You Jane, Sue & Bob

We can assist you in finding a heartfelt way to honor and remember your loved one.

Stop or call our office to place your ad.

Nancy K. (Hofmann) Walsh 67, of Merrill passed away on October 4, 2023, at St. Josephs Hospital, Marshfield after a short battle with cancer. Nancy was born on May 24, 1956, in Merrill to Kenneth and Grace Hofmann.

Nancy enjoyed collection Elvis memorabilia, playing cards, reading books, doing circle a words and spending time with family and friends.

Nancy is survived by her son Jake Walsh, her sister Lorene Hofmann, brother Randall Hofmann, brother-in-law Ken Woller, all of Merrill; Three nieces, Judy (Richard) Ryan, Linda (Louie) VanGroll and Lisa (Jeff) Brown and three nephews Wayne (Deb) Woller, Paul (Pam) Schotz, Peter (Heather) Schotz and many great and great-great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her sisters Rita Woller & Ann Hofmann, infant brother Casey and niece Amy Woller Dorgay.

Per Nancy's request, a private family service will be held at a later date.

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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

OCTOBER 2, 2023
Boy, Adrian David Lennart, born to Kaylee Olund and Damien Bryant of Schofield.

OBITUARIES



Colonel Philip E. Livermore, US Army (Retired) passed away peacefully at his home in Wallace, North Carolina on Friday, October 6, 2023.

He was born in Merrill, Wisconsin to Philip Lervy Livermore and Alice May Livermore (nee Smith).

Colonel Livermore served most of his 31 years in the US Army with the Medical Service Corps (MSC). He earned his Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. He further earned his Master of Science in Systems Management from the University of Southern California.

Colonel Livermore entered the military in 1960 via the US Army Reserve while attending college in Wisconsin. In 1961, he completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri following by Advanced Training at Fort Gordon, Georgia. He served with the US Army Signal Corps (USASC) and earned the rank of Sergeant prior to his commission as an Officer.

Colonel Livermore received his commission through the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Officer Basic Course in 1964. He went on to complete the follow service schools throughout the remainder of his military career: Rotary Wing Aviator Course (1966), Essential Medical Training AMEDD Aviation (1967), Medical Supply/Service Course (1969); Management of Mass Casualties (1969), AMEDD Officer Advanced Course (1969), Command and General Staff College (1979), and Army War College (1989).

Colonel Livermore served in the following assignments: Supply Officer, Evacuation Hospital, Fort Polk, Louisiana (1965); Medical Evacuation Pilot, Aeromedical (AEROMED) Evacuation Detachment, Tan Son Nhat, Vietnam (1966); Medical Evacuation Pilot, Aeromedical (AEROMED) Evacuation Detachment, Fort Benning, Georgia (1967); Aeromedical Operations Officer, Aviation Company, Fort Benning, Georgia (1967); Medical Evacuation Pilot, Medical Company, Seoul, Korea (1968); Flight Platoon Leader, Medical Company, Seoul, Korea (1968); Company Commander, Medical Battalion 4th Armor Division, Germany (1970); Chief, Services Branch, Station Hospital, Shape, Belgium (1970); Associate Governmental Program (AGY), Operations Research Analyst, Bethesda, Maryland (1974); Health Services Materiel Officer, Office of the Surgeon General, Pentagon, Virginia (1977); Chief, Materiel Readiness, US Army Medical Materiel Agency (USAMMA), Fort Detrick, Maryland (1980); Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, Pentagon, VA (1982); Chief, Materiel Readiness, US Army Medical Materiel Agency (USAMMA), Fort Detrick, Maryland (1982); Battalion Commander, 32nd Medical Supply, Optical and Medical Maintenance (MEDSOM), Fort Bragg, North Carolina (1984); Chief, Logistics Plans Branch, US Army Element Headquarters Pacific Command (PACOM) Camp Smith, Hawaii (1986); Commander, US Army Medical Materiel Agency (USAMMA), Fort Detrick, Maryland (1988); Chief, Logistics Division, Office of the Surgeon General, Pentagon, Virginia (1990); Assistant Chief of Staff, Logistics, Medical Command (MEDCOM) Headquarters, US Army Central (ARCENT), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; (1990); Chief, Logistics Division, Office of the Surgeon General, Pentagon, Virginia (1991).

During the Vietnam War in 1966, while serving as a MedEvac UH-1 helicopter pilot in Vietnam, a Vietcong sniper targeted his helicopter from the top of a tree line as he was landing to pick up wounded soldiers on the ground. He survived and recovered from two gunshot wounds, one to the right neck and one to the posterior thigh at Fitzsimons Army Hospital, Aurora, Colorado.

Colonel Livermore's experiences as a former non-commissioned officer and Vietnam War survivor, remained in his mind while serving at the top echelon of leadership in Medical Logistics with US Army Central Command (ARCENT) during the Gulf War from 1990-1991. He lead from the top while always keeping in mind the "boots on the ground" soldiers. He was instrumental in organizing and directing the largest medical logistics support operation since WWII, providing medical equipment, medical supplies, medical equipment maintenance, optical fabrication and a variety of other logistical support services to US military hospitals and other combat medical units throughout the Persian Gulf. His contributions to the victory in the Persian Gulf are best summarized by the following comment from the ARCENT Command Surgeon at the time, which appears on his Officer Efficiency Report: "Phil Livermore is the rock on which Desert Shield/Desert Storm medical support was built".

Colonel Livermore's military decorations and awards include: Legion of Merit (IOLC), Distinguished Flying Cross, Antarctica Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4OLC), Air Medal (3), Army Commendation Medal (IOLC), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Army Superior Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal (2), Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Southwest Asian Service Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Aviator Badge, Expert Medical Field Badge, Army Staff Identification Badge.

Post military retirement in 1994, Colonel Livermore continued his service with military contracting companies as Project Manager, ITS Medical Systems, LLC, Atlanta, Georgia and Program Director, Combined Logistics Program, DUCOM, Inc, Silver Spring, Maryland. He also served his community as President and on the Board of Directors for the North Village Homes Corporation in Montgomery Village, Maryland from 1998-2002.

After full retirement in 2003, and relocating from the Washington, DC area to the River Landing community in Wallace, NC, Colonel Livermore dedicated much of his time to the Wallace Rotary Club where he served in the position of President from 2006-2007 and 2009-2010. He partnered as Co-Chair with Steve Paes (current Wallace Rotary Club member) on the Wallace Town Clock Project, Veterans

Memorial, and Veterans Memorial commemorative bench and bricks to honor the military service of local community members. He was instrumental in helping the club to achieve 501c3 status and dedicated his time to filing the club taxes each year. He also served as Assistant Governor for Rotary District 7730 area 7 from 2010-2013 and was a major financial donor to the Wallace Rotary Club.

He will be remembered by his family for his love of everything related to Wisconsin: cheese, beer brats and all German food. Mason Companies Shoes and Duluth Trading Company. College and professional sports teams: Wisconsin Badgers football and basketball, Milwaukee Brewers and especially the Green Bay Packers "Go Pack Go"!

He is preceded in death by his parents, Philip and Alice Livermore; father-in-law and mother in-law William (Betty) Puckett; sisters, Leona (Bill) Lindecker, Lorraine (Larry) Riemer; brother Roger (Joyce) Livermore; brother's-in-law Eddie Meyer; Arthur Hoy; William (Sharon) Puckett; George Puckett; Gerry (Geraldine) Puckett; Ronald (Julie) Puckett.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Virginia Belle Livermore (nee Puckett); daughter, Candice Robin Livermore (Brett Harold Likens, fiancé; Brett's parents Harold and Maria Likens); sisters, Wanda Meyer and Darlene Livermore; sister-in-law Bonnie Hoy and the following nieces and nephews: Sandi (Michael) Stegall, Rich (Kathy) Lindecker, Bob (Sylvia) Lindecker, Bonita Biermier (John Skaar), Paul (Laurie) Riemer, Andy Riemer, Carol (Joe) Day, Ray (Cindy) Meyer, Ronald (Ann) Meyer, Kathy (Dale) Thompson, Jean (Todd) Sutton, Mike (Angie) Livermore, Susan (Bob) Ellman; Susan (Craig) Cannon, Sheryl (Gabby) Obegi, Sonia Falaschi, David (Camille) Hoy, Sara (late Dave) Manson, Brent Puckett, Carrie (Randy) Teynor, Cassie (Josh) Garrett, Gerry (Sara) Puckett.

Memorial services were held Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 6pm at Quinn-McGowen Funeral Home, 612 S Norwood St, Wallace, NC 28466. Contributions in the memory of Colonel Livermore may be made to the Wallace Rotary Club in Wallace, North Carolina, Rotary International, American Diabetes Association and National Kidney Foundation.

Colonel Livermore's final resting place will be at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia with full military honors. This is a tremendous honor to his family, wife Virginia Livermore (Army Veteran/ILT) who served on active duty (1966-1968) as an Army Nurse and is a civil service retiree nurse from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), Bethesda, Maryland and daughter Candice Livermore (Army Veteran/SSG, MP) who served a combination of active duty (2003-2008) and civil service (2008-2017) for 14 years with the 3rd US Infantry Regiment, "The Old Guard", at Joint Base Fort Myer-Henderson Hall, Fort McNair, DC and Arlington National Cemetery.

You may share your memories and send condolences to the Livermore family on our website at www.quinnmcgowen.com. Quinn-McGowen Funeral Home of Wallace, NC is serving the family.



Philipp W. Cohrs was born on May 20, 1934 and went to be with his Lord and Savior on October 15, 2023.

Phil was born and raised in Pine River to Irene and Herbert Cohrs.

He graduated from Merrill Senior High on May 27, 1952. He proudly served his country from 1954-1956 with the United States Army, stationed in Baumholder, Germany.

He married Nancy Jabas on April 24, 1954, she faithfully saved all his allotment checks to furnish their first home when he returned.

He worked for Seeger's Dairy and then became a Union carpenter. He advanced to Business Agent for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, until he retired. He was very proud of his Union Membership and his accomplishments. He served on the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors, serving as chairman for a time. He was a board member for North Central Technical College. He was a proud member of St. John Lutheran Church, serving in many ways along with being instrumental in various projects for both the church and school.

Phil is survived by his loving wife Nancy of 69 years. His children, Julie (Peter) Rajek Sr., Peggy Gruetzmacher (Dean Kleinschmidt), Bruce (Jill) Cohrs.

Grandchildren Peter (Jennifer) Rajek Jr., Philipp Kiefer (Melissa Landenberger), Thomas (Amy) Keifer Amanda (Jason) Peskie, Molly (Robert) Krueger, Jason (Jennifer) Cohrs.

Great Grandchildren: Hunter, Alex, Damien, Makayla, Colten, Hannah, Cody, Jordan, and Justin.

His siblings: Doris Wanless, William (Carolyn) Cohrs, Helen (Harry) Wallace, Margaret (Paul) Zimmerman.

Sister-in-laws, Donna Woller (Buck Tesch), Shirley Woller (Wayne Schultz) and brother-in-law David (Bonnie) Jabas, as well as many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, in-laws, and brother-in-laws.

Funeral services will be held at St John Lutheran Church, Merrill WI. Visitation 9:00 am-11:00 am, Service at 11:00 am, followed immediately by dinner served in the church basement. Friday October 20, 2023.



WAID FUNERAL HOME
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Arlys Maria Bourdage, age 73, passed away on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at her home. She was born in Duluth, MN in 1950, the daughter of Norman R. and Hattie (Carlson) Bourdage. She and Richard A. Johnson were united in marriage in Merrill on June 30, 1979. After graduating from high school in Two Harbors, MN, and graduating from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN, with a degree in Health Information Management, Arlys was employed

for seven years at Appleton Memorial Hospital in Appleton, WI, before joining Aspirus Merrill Hospital (formerly Holy Cross Hospital, Ministry and Ascension Good Samaritan Hospital) as Director of Medical Records, a position she held until 2000. She then transitioned to a medical coder position until her full retirement in 2016.

Arlys' second life was bowling, not just the sport of it (carrying a 180+ average for more than 20 years), but the administrative side. She served as the Merrill Area USBC Association Manager (previously called Secretary - Treasurer) from 1995 through current, Youth Association manager from 2006-2018. She also served as the Merrill 600 Club Secretary - Treasurer from 2004 to present. She was a director on the Merrill Bowling Hall of Fame Board, as well as an inductee into that Hall in 2000. Arlys also served as the Secretary - Treasurer/Tournament Manager for the Wisconsin State 600 Bowling Club from 2004-2022. She had been an officer of bowling leagues throughout the years, served as a Merrill delegate to the WI State USBC many years, was a member of the Wisconsin Bowling Writers' Club, and served on one of the State Association committees. In recognition of her bowling service and dedication to the sport, Arlys was honored in 2014 as a "Women of Distinction" by the WI State Women's Bowling Association.

Arlys also enjoyed golfing, kayaking, traveling (snow-birding to parts of the south for many years), reading and playing the slots. She was an active member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Community in Merrill, serving as sacristan and lector.

Survivors include her husband, Richard Johnson; twin daughters, Alycia Rae Johnson, LaCrosse, WI, and Lauren Renee (Ryan) Whalen, Cottage Grove, WI; granddaughter, Haddie Rae Whalen and step-granddaughter, Taylor Whalen. She is further survived by brothers; Normand (Geri), Two Harbors, MN, Armand (Diane), Vancouver, VA, and Roland (Sharon), Cloquet, MN, and sister-in-law; Sharon Bourdage, Delmont, PA. Several nieces, nephews and cousins also survive. She is preceded in death by her parents, grandparents, brother; Raymond Bourdage and nephew; Joseph Bourdage.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Arlys was held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 11:30am, at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Merrill. Father Jim Horath will officiate. Visitation was held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, from 9am until 11am, at Waid Funeral Home. Inurnment will take place at a later date in Two Harbors, MN.

For those unable to attend, the Mass will be recorded and available for future viewing. It can be found under her obituary on the funeral home website.

Please consider memorials in Arlys' name to: Merrill Area USBC Blanche Krueger Youth Scholarship; St Francis Xavier Catholic Community; Aspirus Merrill Hospital Volunteers; Aspirus Wausau Regional Cancer Center.

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.



ESTHER M. AMENT (August 17, 1932 - September 25, 2023)

Esther Marie Ament, 91, passed away at her home on Monday, September 25, 2023, surrounded by her family. She was born to the late Adam John & Anna Sczygelski on August 17th, 1932, on the farm in Merrill, WI. She married the late Jerome Ament on June 9th, 1951, in Merrill. He preceded her in death on November 26, 2012. Esther retired from Theda Clark Memorial Hospital as head of housekeeping after 19 years. She loved crocheting, gardening, computers, traveling, flying, scrabble, puzzles, reading the Readers Digest Condensed books, her famous "Ma's Cake", and in her younger years, roller skating. Esther was a charter member of St. Gabriel's Catholic Church as well as a remarkable wife and mother as she instilled her faith and values in her children.

Esther is survived by her children: Teresa (David) Coulthurst, Menasha, Germaine Smith, Appleton, Charlene Collier, Menasha, Susanne (Kevin) Parman, Neenah, Timothy (Lisa) Ament, Leopold, WI, 12 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren "Gamma the Grape"; and 5 great-great-grandchildren; a daughter-in-law, Becky Ament Klein; her sister, Rosemary Eckardt, Merrill, her brother John (Helen) Sczygelski, Merrill, and sister-in-law Corrine Sczygelski, Merrill.

Esther is preceded in death by her sons: Jerome and James; son-in-law, Carl Collier; great-grandson, Ajay Coulthurst; sisters: Regina (Norman) Roetz and Genevieve (Jerome) Hollenback; brothers: Charles Sczygelski, Lawrence Sczygelski, and Antone Sczygelski; brothers-in-law: David (Marian) Ament, Eldor (Dorothy Mae) Ament, Daniel (Dorothy) Ament, Vilas (Marian) Ament, Duane Ament, Max (Corlis) Woller, Robert Eckardt; sisters-in-law: Carmelita (Lawrence) Kleinschmidt, Joyce Sczygelski and Vivian Sczygelski.

The Mass of Resurrection was held at 11:30 AM on Saturday, September 30, 2023, at St. Gabriel Catholic Church, 900 Geiger St., Neenah, with Fr. Robert Kollath officiating. The visitation was held at the church from 10:00 AM until the hour of service. Interment followed in Oak Hill Cemetery.

The family would like to thank the staff of Moments Hospice, especially her aide, Kim, for all their care and compassion.

Thank You

TO ALL WHO SERVE & PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY!

Departments in action



Responding to emergencies requires teamwork, often with multiple departments and agencies responding to the same call to work together for the safety of our community.

Photos courtesy of Pine River Fire Department.



Numerous agencies, including the Pine River Fire Department, are on the scene of an accident, as the Lifelink emergency helicopter comes in overhead in the background.



En route just east of Merrill's city limits.



Pine River Fire Department responds to a call on icy roads.

Merrill Police Department

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"2023 was a year of people getting accustomed to their roles," said Merrill Police Chief Corey Bennett. "Captain Bacher returned to the Administrative Captain role, a role he was meant for. This move returned the MPD to its proven pre-2017 structure, prior to testing a narcotics detective position."

This was also very important as the Police Chief was also serving a shared role of Co-Interim City Administrator.

"New officers settled into the Department and are developing well," Bennett said. "We have a lot of work to do in a short time period as we develop these relatively new officers into experienced ones. We are anticipating a massive shift in our command staff and specialized positions within the next five years, so we need to make significant investments in our employees."

"K9 Dasty had a rough year after starting duty in 2022. Dasty developed a significant case of Blastomycosis and almost did not make it," he said. "Thankfully his youth and spirit have continued to push him through these hurdles. He is demonstrating his talents, and we are excited to put them to use."

"Retired K9 Eros passed away in the summer of 2023. Eros had retired the previous fall and was turned over to the Drabek family, with whom he belonged. He will forever be remembered as our first K9 who seeded the program for the community," Bennett said.

New equipment has been a huge benefit to the Department in 2023. "Body cameras and weapon mounted cameras have been implemented for patrol and the detective division," he said. "We are already seeing an advantage to the content and quality the captured evidence provides. Our previous squad-mounted technology will phase out as we replace squad cars over time."

"We also acquired a Police UTV thanks to the Bierman



K9 EROS

Family Foundation," Bennett said. "The UTV has generally been put to use when staffing permits or the assignment calls for it. It can be expected to be seen on the River Bend Trail, in parades, and on our city streets. It's a unique vehicle with a unique purpose and it should last us a very long time."

"As we finish the year, we find ourselves in another hiring process after losing a detective to the private sector," he added. "At the time of this summary, we are planning our final meetings with three possible candidates, one of whom will be offered the position and begin training with us as soon as possible."

2023 DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL:

22 sworn personnel, 3 non-sworn, plus 4 adult crossing guards and 1 K9 officer

ADMINISTRATION

Corey Bennett, Chief of Police, Instructor
Dale Bacher, Captain, Training Coordinator
Jenny Thorson, Administrative Assistant, Property/Evidence Manager
Christine Brahos, Administrative Assistant, Property/Evidence Manager

Marci Rankin, Administrative Assistant/Desk and CVR primary contact

INVESTIGATIONS

Don Seubert, Lieutenant/Instructor
Jamie Jaeger, School Resource Officer/DARE Officer
Nicole Cimino, Detective
Vacancy, Detective
PATROL
Pete Borchardt, Lieutenant

Tyler Tesch, Lieutenant/Instructor/Drug Recognition Expert

Matt Drabek, Lieutenant/K9 Handler
Robert Caylor, Lieutenant, Instructor

Brad Becker, Police Officer
Dane Mathwich, Police Officer, DARE Officer, Instructor
Josh McCaskill, Police Officer, K9 Handler
Wyatt Pufall, Police Officer
Bryan Allen, Police Officer

Christina Doering, Police Officer
Brandon Brost, Police Officer
John Stubbe, Police Officer
Jonathon Sass, Police Officer
Ben Hintze, Police Officer
Trevor Asmundsen, Police Officer
Brandon Lor, Police Officer
K9 Dasty

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Jeff Zettler
Gerald Burnett
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Merrill Fire Department

110 Pier St., Merrill, WI 54452
Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 715.536.2233

The Merrill Fire Department proudly provides fire protection and rescue service to an area spanning approximately 142 square miles, including the City of Merrill and Town of Merrill, Town of Scott, and most of the Town of Rock Falls. The Department provides ambulance service to an area spanning approximately 520 square miles, including the City of Merrill, Town of Merrill, and the Towns of Corning, Harding, Scott, Pine River, Schley, Birch, Rock Falls, Russell, and part of the Town of Harrison.

The Merrill Fire Department is the only full-time career Department in Lincoln County, Merrill Fire Chief Josh Klug said.

Each member of the Department is cross-trained for EMS (EMT Basic, EMT Intermediate, and Paramedics) and fire-fighting. Also members are state certified inspectors, state certified driver/operator pumper and aerial. Many are also state certified Fire Officer 1 and Instructor 1. In addition, members of the Merrill Fire Department frequently undergo specialized training, including ice rescue, swift water rescue, trench rescue, collapse rescue, confined space rescue, hazardous materials operations level training, vehicle extrication, mass casualty incident, rescue task force (active shooter), wildland fire training, and EMS Paramedic level service.

Department apparatus consists of Engine-61 & 62, 63-Truck, Tender-65, Brush-66, Car-60 & 67, Utility & UTV-68, Boat-69, and Meds-61, 62, & 63.

DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Fire Chief: Josh Klug	Eric Trempe
Battalion Chief Phil Skoug	Ross Witucki
Battalion Chief Jon Leiskau	Josh Grovogel
Battalion Chief Tadd Wegener	Tyler Mueller
Battalion Chief John Kraegenbrink	Dylan Schielke
Administrative Assistant: Jana Johnson	Dave Graveen
Fire Inspector: Joe Bozinski.	Jacob Aumann
Firefighters/Paramedics: Corey Nowak	Kyle Banaszak
Nick Phelps	Bryson Cruise
Paul Peterson	Daylan Enkers
	Scott Gomoll
	Jason Hendricks
	Rick Sparks (EMT)
	Tom Teetzen



(2022) Stacy Literski photo.



Left: Scott Krause with MFD Chief Josh Klug at his retirement celebration. Right: Battalion Chief Scott Krause retired last fall after a distinguished career as a firefighter with the Merrill Fire Department. Here he receives the commemorative ax from members of the department during his Oct. 28, 2022, retirement ceremony and celebration. Tina L. Scott photos.



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Heavenly Father,
Bless those who are our First Responders, protect them from harm and danger. Thank you for calling them to the position they hold, and may they find joy in performing this service you have given to them. When they are afraid, give them courage, and strength when they are weak. We are blessed to have them serve and protect us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

St. John Lutheran Church and School
1104 E. Third St., Merrill

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Hamburg Volunteer Fire Department.

Hamburg Volunteer Fire Department

240131 Schoolhouse Ln., Marathon, WI 54448
Emergency: 911, Non-Emergency: 715.443.3709

The Hamburg Volunteer Fire Department protects the Town of Hamburg, and, by contract, portions of the Towns of Rib Falls, Berlin, and Stettin. Automatic Aid agreements are in place with the Town of Corning, Harding, Berlin, Rib Falls, Rietbrock, and Stettin, as well. Including these automatic aid agreements, they cover 345 square miles. They provide structure fire and wildland fire suppression, rescue and extrication, operational level hazardous materials response, and emergency medical response to a first-due area that is 101 square miles.

"In this large response area, we have no hydrants available to us, so our response capacity includes two water tenders to haul the required water needed for fires to our engine. Our apparatus consists of two engines, two tenders, a utility vehicle that carries all of our turnout

gear on it to the scene, a brush truck, a tracked UTV for wildland fires and off-road personnel rescue, as well as a command/rehab trailer," said Hamburg Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ryan DeBroux.

As of 2023, their roster consists of 30 firefighters and 14 emergency medical responders, some of whom are cross-trained and perform both duties.

Thank You for all you do

FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFF:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Chief: Ryan DeBroux, President, MABAS Division 130 | Firefighter: Troy Sadler |
| Deputy Chief: Kevin Borchardt | Firefighter/EMR: Maddie Strand |
| Captain 1: Brad Borchardt | Firefighter: Maddie Sturm |
| Captain 2: Chris Blaubach | Firefighter: Riley Westfall |
| Lieutenant: Troy Modrzejewski | Firefighter: Mike Wiederhoeft |
| Safety Officer/EMR: Udell Passehl | Firefighter: Will Zick |
| Secretary: Sarah Blaubach | EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDERS |
| Treasurer: Amber Westfall | EMS Captain: Karri Moodie |
| Training Officer: Coleton Bloch | EMS Lieutenant: Udell Passehl |
| Firefighter: Jeff Artus | Secretary/Treasurer: Nicholle Modrzejewski |
| Firefighter: Mark Bloch | Training Officer: Jennifer Borchardt |
| Firefighter: Roger Borchardt | EMR: Elliott Gomez |
| Firefighter: Craig Carlson | EMR: Jennifer Jahnke |
| Firefighter: Scott Haig | Firefighter/EMR: Jackie Jankowski |
| Firefighter: Richard Holm | EMR: Cindy Klockziem |
| Firefighter/EMR: Jackie Jankowski | Firefighter/EMR: Craig Klumppyan |
| Firefighter: Mike Jankowski | EMR: Tiffany Luckey |
| Firefighter: Dan Klockziem | EMR: Bryan Moodie |
| Firefighter/EMR: Craig Klumppyan | EMR: Tom Napierala |
| Firefighter: Cory Leistikow | EMR: Paula Paulson |
| Firefighter: Matthew Leistikow | Firefighter/EMR: Maddie Strand |
| Firefighter: Tyler Leistikow | EMR: Cindy Wasmundt |
| Firefighter: Dennis Paulson | EMR: Mark Wasmundt |
| Firefighter: Bill Rauhen | |

Town of Corning Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders

N1369 State Rd. 64 & 107, Merrill, WI 54452
Emergency: 911, Non-Emergency: 715.536.9697

The Corning Fire Volunteer Department is a single station 100% volunteer Fire Department providing fire protection to the Towns of Corning and Harding which total 218.6 square miles. The dedicated volunteers who serve as firefighters and EMTs give many hours of their time to attend meetings, drills, weekly maintenance nights, and of course calls.

Department apparatus consists of 1 Engine, 2 Tenders (Tankers), 1 Utility Truck, 1 Brush Truck, 1 6-wheeled Brush Unit, and 1 Rescue Truck.

First Responders

The Corning First Responders proudly provide the residents and visitors of the Town of Corning with pre-hospital emergency medical care. Each First Responder must complete rigorous training and have a valid license to practice in the State of Wisconsin. Each First Responder carries with them a Basic Life Support kit to assist in their duties. Items in this kit include an automated external defibrillator (AED), digital pulse oximeters, multiple bandages and dressings, oxygen therapy equipment, and basic airway adjuncts.

First Responders play a vital role in the EMS community by assessing, stabilizing, and beginning treatment of patients before an ambulance arrives.

DEPARTMENT STAFF:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Chief: Dave Hoff | Firefighters: Brian Klebenow |
| Assistant Chief: Jared Semling | Tim Berndt |
| Safety Officer, EMS: Jason Bondioli | Joel Oelke |
| Captain, Equipment: Kyle Kudick | John Kudick |
| Lieutenant, Fire Inspector: Josh Kohnhorst | Brian Literski |
| Lieutenant: Bob Giese | Joe Pilecky |
| Secretary & Fire Inspector: Mark Woller | Andy Monnot |
| Firefighter, Equipment Officer: Cody Stevenson | Stan Wendt |
| Firefighter, Maintenance Officer: Matt Radke | Paul Goetsch |
| | Matt Prebeg |
| | Jason Derizzo |
| | EMS: Sue Dickerson, |
| | Jessi Ryan-Geiger |
| | EMS Director: Jody Geiger |

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Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

Address: 1104 E. 1st St., Merrill, WI 54452
Phone: Emergency: 911; Non-Emergency: Merrill area 715.536.6272; Tomahawk area 715.453.5747

Municipalities covered: Patrol Deputies are responsible for patrolling all portions of Lincoln County. Dispatch provides services to: Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Merrill Police Department, Tomahawk Police Department (on overnights and weekends), and handles all 911 calls Countywide. Additional agencies dispatched include: Fire Departments: Corning, Merrill, Pine River, Russell, and Tomahawk. EMS: Merrill EMS, Tomahawk EMS, Corning First Responders, Pine River First Responders, Russell First Responders. In 2021, the Dispatch Center handled 27,084 calls for service.

Equipment utilized: In order to reach the entire County through ever-changing weather conditions, the Sheriff's Office uses sedans as well as four-wheel-drive SUV's for patrol work. Each patrol unit is equipped with a mobile data computer that provides call information and digital

mapping of the entire County. The Rec. Deputy is equipped with a four-wheel-drive pickup truck, an ATV, a boat and diving equipment, along with a snowmobile, to provide services on the County snowmobile trails. The Search and Rescue Team (SRT) utilizes a mobile command trailer, a four-wheel-drive pickup truck to tow it, and a Bearcat.

Specialized training: We endeavor to recruit new employees who have the best training and experience. Members of the Sheriff's Office who, through their job performance or interest in a field may go on for additional training or assignments, include DARE officers, SRT members, investigators, drug unit, emergency vehicle operator course (EVOC) instructor, traffic safety specialist, field training officers, firearms instructors, honor guard, or other unit-specific training.

What agency is most proud of: The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office employees strive to serve the community through effective and professional law enforcement. We



recognize that we must always have the public's trust in order to truly be effective. Over the last few years, we have been able to use our proactive approach to reduce fatalities on the roadways and make arrests for operating a motor vehicle while impaired. Our drug unit continues to diligently and aggressively address the manufacture and sale of illegal drugs in Lincoln County. The dive team has been expanded to three personnel, making us more effective in prompt responses to water-related emergencies. With strong leadership and a determined group of employees, this agency continues to provide effective response and handling of incidents throughout the County as we work with fellow emergency service agencies and the public to provide a safe and secure environment.

DEPARTMENT STAFF:

SWORN STAFF WITH YEARS OF SERVICE

- Sheriff: Ken Schneider - 33 years
- Chief Deputy Tyler Iverson - 17 years
- 911 Lieutenant Grant Peterson - 30 years
- Patrol Lieutenant Andy VanderWyst - 19 years
- Patrol Lieutenant Blade Mikula - 9 years
- Patrol Lieutenant Michael Remington - 7 years
- Patrol Lieutenant Thomas Tollefson - 2 years
- Detective Lieutenant Brian Burkhardt - 4 years
- Sergeant Investigator Kevin A Orzech - 23 years
- Sergeant Investigator Roger Sir - 15 years
- Sergeant Investigator Logan Lange - 6 years
- Court Security Deputy Reed Lazarz - 21 years
- Deputy Michael Sundquist - 19 years
- Recreation Deputy Travis Watruba - 17 years
- Deputy Samuel Steckbauer - 13 years
- Deputy James Gerhris - 11 years
- Deputy Holly Steckbauer - 10 years
- Deputy Joel Prah - 8 years
- Deputy Corey Brehmer - 7 years
- Deputy Conner Monk - 4 years
- Deputy Ethyn Van Camp - 2 years
- Deputy Mariah Vogel - 2 years
- Deputy Ashtin Zunker - 2 years
- Deputy Zachary Irish - 2 years

- Deputy Bradley Weeks - 1 year
- Deputy Samantha Barch - 1 year
- Deputy Jake Spoehr - 1 year
- Deputy Trever Zunker - 1 year
- K9 Poncho [partnered with Deputy Samuel Steckbauer] - 6 years
- K9 Nina [partnered with Deputy Joel Prah] - 6 years

CORRECTIONS STAFF WITH YEARS OF SERVICE

- Jail Administrator: David Manninen - 26 years
- Corrections Sergeant Jodie Wilhelm - 21 years
- Corrections Officer Ivy Janak - 14 years
- Corrections Sergeant Nicholas Hoeft - 11 years
- Corrections Sergeant Michael Tuley - 6 years
- Corrections Officer Jason Meister - 19 years
- Corrections Officer Timothy Kurtz - 14 years
- Corrections Officer Austin Brown - 2 years
- Corrections Officer Jessica Steenweg - 5 years
- Corrections Officer Julie Remington - 5 years
- Corrections Officer Tara Howard - 4 years
- Corrections Officer Thomas Laiter - 4 years
- Corrections Officer Jamie VenRooy - 4 years
- Corrections Officer Austin Brown - 2 years
- Corrections Officer Kaylin Kasten - 2 years
- Corrections Officer David Tinker - 2 years
- Corrections Officer Rebecca Krohn - 1 year
- Corrections Officer Jevin Budzynski - New Hire
- Corrections Officer Payton Miglieri - New Hire
- Corrections Officer Haydn Fischer - New Hire

- PT Corrections Officer Jordan Oelke - 9 years
- PT Corrections Officer Lexie VanStrydonk - 1 year

TELECOMMUNICATIONS STAFF WITH YEARS OF SERVICE

- Dispatcher Christine Turner-Meillahn - 21 years
- Dispatcher Rhonda Bacher - 16 years
- Dispatcher Kyla Brunett - 2 years
- Dispatcher Jerrica Dengel - 2 years
- Dispatcher Justine Engman - 1 year
- Dispatcher Jessica Haenel - 1 year
- Dispatcher Jennifer Lau - 1 year
- Dispatcher Leonna Spoehr - 1 year
- Dispatcher Faythe Hixon - New Hire
- Dispatcher Myranda Heier - New Hire

CLERICAL STAFF

- Office Assistant Julie Strassman - 7 years
- Office Assistant Jessica Allen - 1 year
- Office Assistant Christine Baumann - 1 year

TRIP TEAM

- Randy Osnes - 13 years
- Dale Knapp - 10 years
- Mike Hamamn - 4 years

TACTICAL INSTRUCTOR

- Michael Ratkovich - 12 years

New Hire indicates less than 1 year of service



The Merrill community and Lincoln County have three K9s that served in 2023. Dasty serves with the Merrill Police Department, and Nina and Poncho serve with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department. Photo courtesy of Merrill Police Department.

We appreciate your service. THANK YOU!

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Stacy Literski Photography.

Town of Russell Volunteer Fire Department

N5369 State Highway 17,
Gleason, WI 54435

Emergency: 911.

Non-Emergency: 715.873.4033

Langlade County.

Equipment utilized: Eng. 7 & 23, 1500GPM Pump; Eng. 6 1500 GPM pump with compressed air foam; Tender 8 holds 3000 Gal with 500GPM pump; Tender 5 holds 3000gal with 500GPM pump; Truck 3 4-door Utility 4X4 pickup, Truck 3 1-Ton 4X4 Brush Truck; Rescue 1 Polaris UTV with Tracks. The Town of Russell Volunteer Fire Department's newest engine, dedicated to the memory of Gary Preuser [last call 8-13-93], entered into service on May 28, 2022.

The Town of Russell Fire Department is a volunteer Fire Department that proudly protects the Townships of Russell, Schley, Birch, and the southern portion of Harrison, as well as Lincoln Hills School and Copper Lake School in Lincoln County. The Department also serves the Townships of Summit, and Parrish in



The Town of Russell Fire Department poses with their newest addition, Engine 4-23.

Town of Russell Fire Department photo.

Town of Pine River Volunteer Fire Department & First Responders

N1622 Range Line Rd, Merrill, WI
715.539.3255

Municipalities covered: Town of Pine River, automatic mutual aid to the Marathon County Town of Hewitt for vehicle crashes

Equipment Utilized: A 2020 Pierce Enforcer pumper, a FWD Seagrave Pumper, two tankers, a brush truck and six wheeled off-road-rescue vehicle, heavy duty rescue truck, and utility truck for manpower transport and fill-site operations.

Training: Each member of the department is certified Firefighter 1; many have gone on to become Firefighter II certified. We utilize our own in-house training program and have three certified instructors on our roster. We also use the NTC Merrill Campus to keep our members

up to date on the latest training advances in the fire service and work with the Towns of Texas and Hewitt quarterly.

What your department is most proud of: We enjoy a strong commitment from both our members and our town residents to keep the Department well-staffed and adequately equipped. This past October 7 we had our annual open house and once again saw record crowds. We sincerely appreciate the community support and the support of all of our sponsors. This December we are looking forward to holding our fourth annual Santa in the Firehouse on December 16; that is becoming a very popular holiday event and gives us a chance to give back to the community and hopefully garner interest in the Fire Department among the youngsters. They are our future, after all.

DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Fire Chief: Robert P. Kressel
Assistant Chief: Mike Hoffman
Captain: Marcel Rusch
1st Lieutenant: Cody Bergman
2nd Lieutenant: Keith Maas
Secretary: Kristy Isberner
Treasurer: Jamie Rusch

Firefighters:
Cody Bergman
Travis Gerdes
Dave Heller
Tony Hillskotter
Mike Hoffman
Kristy Isberner
Timothy Klimek

Robert P. Kressel
Greg Lange
Christian Lee
Keith Maas
Jeff Miller
John Mooneyham
Rosaleta Pahnke
Tim Ronis

Jamie Rusch
Marcel Rusch
Adam Schenk
Tina Schenk
Elise Schuler
Samuel Schuler
Keith Stoney
Jason Yanke

Town of Russell First Responders

N5369 State Highway 17,
Gleason, WI 54435

Emergency: 911,

Non-Emergency: 715.218.2585

They currently serve the Towns of Birch, Harrison, Russell, and Schley in Lincoln County, and Parrish, Summit, and Vilas in Langlade County. "We are truly blessed to serve our surrounding communities."

FIRST RESPONDER STAFF:

Tricia Maas
Tim Steinfest
Andrew Headings
Michelle Last

DEPARTMENT STAFF:

DEPARTMENT STAFF WITH YEARS OF SERVICE

CHIEF: John Uttech - 18 years

ASSISTANT CHIEF: Tony Hartwig - 18 years

CAPTAINS: Mike Caylor - 18 years
Jeff Zettler - 18 years

LIEUTENANTS: Doug Sann - 18 years
Brad Hartwig - 15 years

SAFETY OFFICER: Ryan Lofink - 5 years

MAINTENANCE OFFICER:

Gene Emmer - 18 years

TRAINING OFFICER:

Kevin Georgeson - 4 years

FIREFIGHTERS:

John Deering - 18 years
Andrew Grawien - 3 years
Marvin Hartwig - 18 years
Nick Krzanowski - 18 years
Dustin Meunier - 18 years
Dave O'Brien - 18 years
Maxine Schuetze - 11 years
John Spohn - 12 years
John Rainville - 18 years

Todd Roman - 18 years
Carl Uttech - 18 years
Lori Wendt - 12 years
Gene Williams - 18 years
Marilyn Zastrow - 18 years
T. J. Brunett - 4 years

FIRST RESPONDERS:

Sharon Uttech - EMS Director - 16 years
Mike Caylor - 16 years
Andy Grawien - 2 years
Mark Handlin - 16 years
John Uttech - 16 years
Marilyn Zastrow - 65 years
Valerie Caylor - 7 years

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Social Security Administration announces 3.2% benefit increase for 2024

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for more than 71 million Americans will increase by 3.2% next year, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announced on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023.

On average, Social Security retirement benefits will increase by more than \$50 per month, according to a release from the SSA.

More than 66 million Social Security beneficiaries will see a 3.2% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) beginning in Jan. 2024. Increased payments to approximately 7.5 million people receiving SSI will begin on Dec. 29, 2023.

SSA noted that some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits.

"Social Security and SSI benefits will increase in 2024, and this will help millions of people keep up with expenses," said Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner of Social Security.

SSA said some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages.

"Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$168,600 from \$160,200," SSA stated.

Social Security will begin notifying people about their new benefit amount by mail starting in early December.

"Individuals who have a personal My Social Security account can view their COLA notice online, which is secure, easy and faster than receiving a letter in the mail," SSA said. "People can set up text or email alerts when there is a new message—such as their COLA notice—waiting for them in My Social Security."

Individuals must have a My Social Security account by Nov. 14 to see their COLA notice online. To get started, visit: ssa.gov/myaccount.

Information about Medicare changes for 2024 will be available at medicare.gov. For Social Security beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare, their new 2024 benefit amount will be available in December through the mailed COLA notice and My Social Security's Message Center, SSA said.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

For more information, visit: ssa.gov/cola.

DMV Road Test Waiver pilot program to end December 31, 2023

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) announces that the Road Test Waiver pilot program will end on Dec. 31, 2023.

As of Jan. 1, 2024, those under 18 years old will need to complete an in-person road test at DMVs which offer this service to obtain their probationary license. Appointments for a road test can be scheduled 11 weeks in advance at wisconsin.dmv.gov/roadtest.

Student drivers ages 16 and 17 who have completed their required driver education course, behind the wheel training, and 50 hours of supervised driving may apply for the road test waiver through Dec. 31, 2023.

The Road Test Waiver Pilot program began in May 2020, at the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic. DMV is authorized to introduce pilot programs, but legislative action would

See **WAIVER** page 20

PROGRAMS from page 1

community's youth, the MFD also empowers them through homework assignments to bring their safety education into their home, which results in moms, dads, and families creating and practicing fire escape plans, checking smoke detectors, and going through fire safety checklists, among several other take-home assignments.

MFD's "Fire Prevention Week" usually takes three weeks to complete. "For our 2023 fire prevention education, our 21 shift personnel will personally talk to and educate 1,177 students, not to mention the teachers and school staff enjoy a refresher annually," said MFD Chief Josh Klug. "Our fire prevention and safety messages will then be taken into many of the homes in our community by our Junior Firefighters (students)."

This annual fire service tradition that has been passed down for over 100 years is one more way the Merrill Fire Department works toward making sure you and your loved ones are safe, Klug said.



Students in Mrs. Marnholtz's class pose at the Merrill Fire Station. Photo courtesy of Merrill Fire Department.

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DSPS launches online dashboard to help fire departments assess risk, identify vulnerable groups

On Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023, the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) launched a new dashboard aimed at helping state fire departments better identify risks and vulnerable groups in their communities.

In a release, DSPS said the Fire Safety Dashboards-Risk Reduction Tool expands on the department's commitment to safety.

DSPS explained that the data is put together in a product called CRAIG 1300, which stands for Community Risk Assessment Insight Generator. It is a risk-reduction tool that uses publicly available data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) to help fire departments and other agencies develop data-driven public safety programs.

"In addition to data on fire calls, EMS calls, and other incidents, the dashboards provide data on housing conditions and demographic information for different communities, like age, number of people with disabilities, or number living in poverty," DSPS said.

DSPS noted it has provided statewide data to fire departments in the past, but this upgrade "allows them to drill down and find data for individual counties, municipalities, or even districts/neighborhoods within those municipalities."

"Fire Prevention is an important part of our department's overall safety mission," said DSPS Secretary-designee Dan Hereth. "These Fire Safety Dashboards are going to help fire departments across Wisconsin identify risks in the communities they serve and allocate their resources accordingly, potentially saving lives."

"Fire departments will be able to more easily analyze incident report data related to public emergencies and gain valuable insights," said Bradley Johnson, Director of the DSPS Bureau of Field Services. "There are three years' worth of data, which will also assist in identifying any trends."

"We know the most common fires in the United States are cooking fires," Johnson said. "Using this tool, Wisconsin fire departments can look at the individual communities they serve and see where these incidents are most common, then also check, for example, if that community has a high number of dependent youth or seniors. They can then adjust their education and outreach efforts to target the groups most susceptible, and even apply for grants specific to their needs."

"The effectiveness of fire prevention and suppression is dependent on the risks identified through community demographics and emergency responses in our jurisdictions," said Joe Pulvermacher, Fitchburg Fire Department Chief and President of the Wisconsin Fire Chiefs Association, which advocated for the new product. "This new community risk assessment tool allows us to thoughtfully provide response and prevention programs—and share insight for practical staffing plans. If fire departments and EMS agencies are going to plan appropriately, it will be driven by conditions that we know have the likelihood of impacting those that reside in and visit our state. DSPS's commitment to data-driven preparedness is a crucial component to this effort."

Hereth noted that the dashboard "gives us the opportunity to organize and look at data in ways we've never been able to before, helping us understand how demographics, economics, housing, and other factors are influencing incident trends."

"This tool really has the potential to make a tremendous impact," he said.

DSPS said it will be demonstrating some of the uses of the Fire Safety Dashboards in a series of trainings with state fire departments over the next month.

To view the dashboard, go to: tinyurl.com/yacvwpbs. DSPS issues more than 240 unique licenses, administers dozens of boards and councils that regulate professions, enforces state building codes, runs the state fire prevention program, and maintains the award-winning Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which is a key tool in the multi-faceted public health campaign to stem excessive opioid prescribing. A fee-based agency, DSPS is self-sustaining and receives no general fund tax dollars for its day-to-day operations. With five offices and 250 employees throughout Wisconsin, DSPS collaborates with constituents and stakeholders across a wide range of industries to promote safety and advance the economy.



Enjoy fall colors from the road

Looking to see tons of red, yellow, orange, and brown foliage? Many of Wisconsin's parks have phenomenal roadside views with plenty of parking available. Be sure to buy a 2023 admission sticker from the DNR admissions page online at: dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/admission.

Here are some tips on staying safe while enjoying the best fall colors from the road:

- With fall comes quickly changing weather conditions and reduced daylight hours. Stay ahead on vehicle maintenance and replace dim or burned out headlights. Cleaning or polishing headlight lenses can help with visibility too.

- Wet leaves stick to windshields, so clear these before heading out. Do not count on them blowing away while driving. A clean windshield and sunglasses reduce morning and evening glare.

- These beautiful fallen leaves also obscure hazards (below and above road level) and can be slippery with wet conditions. With this, ensure your tires have enough tread to channel water away from the wheels. Be careful with puddles, as some may be unexpectedly deep with seasonal rainfall.



Driving through fall color is a great way to see multiple sights each trip.

Photo courtesy of Wisconsin DNR.

- Be mindful of others. Watch for children near schools or along roads before and after school. Joggers, pedestrians, and cyclists are also likely to be on the roads on comfortable cooler weather days. Keep an eye out for wildlife and deer, especially around dawn and dusk. Where there is one, there are likely more.

- Bring another person along for the drive. One person takes the wheel while the other relaxes and takes in the scenery. Swap roles throughout the drive and get the best of both

worlds. As always, leave extra space ahead of the vehicle for stopping distance.

- When planning a drive to a forested overlook destination, consider which direction the overlook faces, and if that area would best be viewed during sunrise, sunset, or mid-day.

Now you're ready to take on the road and the leaves even safer than before. To find more parks near you, check out the DNR's Find a Park page at: dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/findapark.

Funeral books document Merrill history

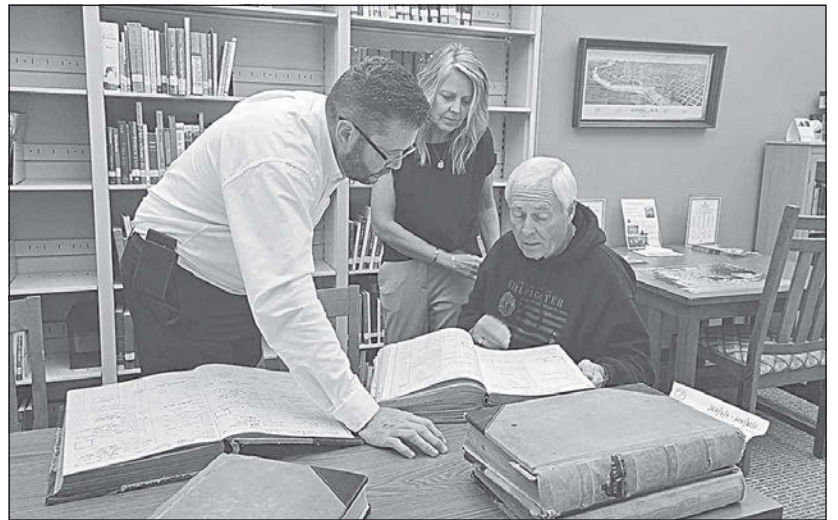
Books, at one time feared lost to the ages, have returned to Merrill. The books chronicle the business of a family of funeral directors and show how the Merrill community buried their dead in over 70 years of journal entries.

Three years after the City of Merrill was organized in 1883, Emil O. Krueger was born in the city he would call home for the rest of his short life. Fascinated with the evolving trade of "undertaking," Emil studied under Henry Littlejohn and then J.A. Nusbaum, both of whom ran furniture and "undertaking services" in Merrill.

Emil started his own funeral home as a storefront in downtown Merrill in 1914. As the funeral home grew, the former home of T. B. Scott was purchased at 800 E. 3rd St. and it remained a funeral home until 1986 when its then owner Milt Wistein passed away.

Since Emil in 1914, four generations of Kruegers have cared for families in Lincoln County. Kevin Krueger and his sister, Karri Krueger Ernst, are the last of the Kruegers to own a funeral home in Lincoln County, Generations Funeral Home in Tomahawk.

Recently the family went to the



Kevin Krueger, Karri Krueger Ernst, and their father, Jim, who was licensed as a funeral director in 1970, peruse the pages of the old journals documenting 20th century funerals in Merrill. Submitted photo.

T.B. Scott Library to view the original books that contain the ledgers of the funerals that date back to April of 1914 and records the details of each of the funerals until 1985. Recognizing many of the names and detailed notes and handwriting of their ancestors proved fascinating for the family, who now works in a completely digitized world of record keeping.

The North Pines Genealogy Group

now owns the books, thanks to a generous donation from Gordon Stevenson. The group worked for a year to digitize the pages from the ledgers. Those files, along with much of Merrill's history, can be found in the genealogy section of the third floor of the T.B. Scott Library. For more information about the North Pines Genealogy Group, email Sharon Karow at SLKarow@aol.com.

DATCP highlights Cybersecurity Awareness Month

In observation of Governor Tony Evers' proclamation recognizing October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month in the state, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is partnering with the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) and Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) to share educational materials about how individuals and organizations can protect personal data, private information, and the digital networks and systems we all rely on.

"The theme of this year's national campaign, 'Secure Our World,' emphasizes that as we become more dependent on technology, it is more important than ever to strengthen and adapt our cybersecurity habits," DATCP said in a release. "Cybersecurity practices can sometimes require some effort, but they are simple, effective, and easy to remember."

DATCP, DOA, WEM, the National Cybersecurity Alliance, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency recommend the following steps to improve online privacy and safety:

- Update software regularly to optimize performance and minimize security risks.
- Create strong, unique passwords and consider using a password manager.
- Enable multi-factor login authentication on your digital accounts.



- Recognize and report phishing attempts.

"Technology is always changing," said DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski. "That makes Cybersecurity Awareness Month a great opportunity to reassess and adjust our personal practices. Whether they are already experienced users or new to the idea of cybersecurity, Wisconsin consumers, businesses, and government agencies all benefit from improved digital safety measures."

"We all have a responsibility to protect our information, both online and offline," said DOA Secretary Kathy Blumenfeld. "DOA is proud to partner with state agencies and our partners statewide to share resources and help people safeguard their digital assets from bad actors."

"With the increasing threat of malicious cyber activities, it's important that everyone takes action to remain secure," said Maj. Gen. Paul Knapp, Wisconsin's Adjutant General and the Governor's Chief Cybersecurity Advisor. "Staying safe online is easier when people learn how to protect themselves and their workplace, which also includes knowing what to do if they are the victim of a cyber-crime."

For additional information and consumer protection resources or to file a complaint, visit DATCP's Consumer Protection webpage at: ConsumerProtection.wi.gov.

For more information or to report a potential scam, contact DATCP's Consumer Protection Hotline at 800.422.7128 or email: DATCPHotline@wisconsin.gov.

Fall Candle Light Walk at Council Grounds

Council Grounds State Park will hold a Fall Candle Light Walk on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, from 6-8 p.m. The walk will start and end at the beach picnic area.

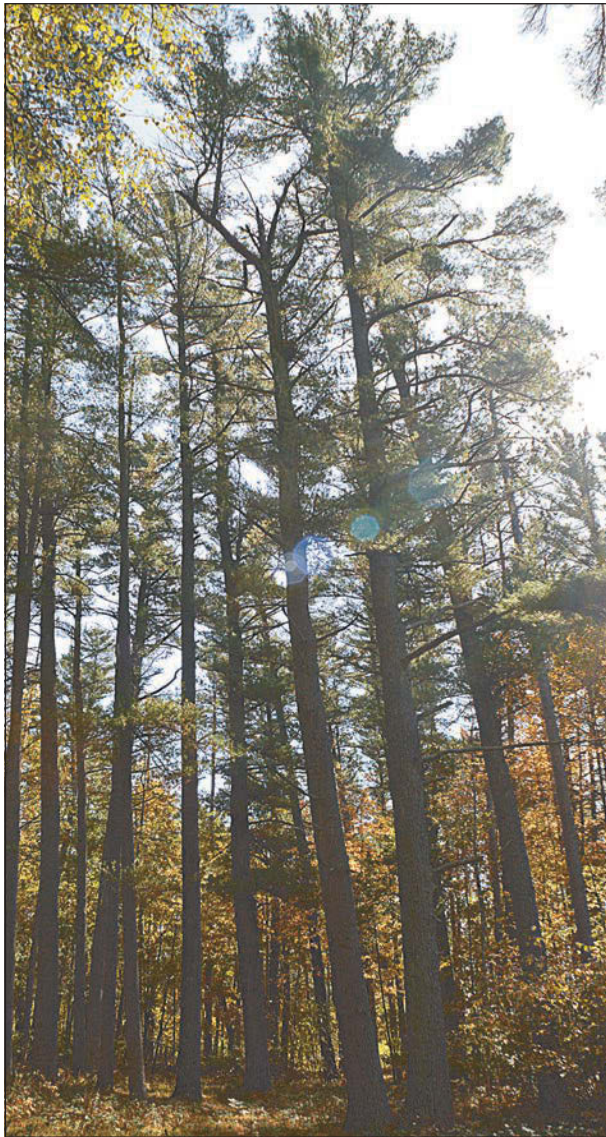
Walkers can choose from either a shorter, more paved walk or a longer trail walk. The walk routes will be determined just before the hike depending on trail conditions.

Members of the Friends of Council Grounds State Park (FoCGSP) will provide a warming fire, light snacks, and water.

Winning photos from this year's contest will be on display, along with a poster about the Friends group and membership brochures. Park vehicle admission stickers are required; day passes may be purchased at the entrance.

Walkers are encouraged to dress to keep warm and dry, car pool, and bring a flashlight.

Check the website at: councilgrounds.org or follow the Friends of Council Grounds State Park Facebook page for updates, notices, or any cancellation due to inclement weather.



Towering trees at Council Grounds State Park. Photo courtesy of Friends of Council Grounds State Park.

Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

Oct. 19 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Company

Oct. 19 - Karaoke Night at Hy-Da Way

Oct. 20 - Phaedra's Phobia Night at the Haunted Sawmill

Oct. 20 - Flash Light Friday

Oct. 21 - Blackout Night at the Haunted Sawmill

Oct. 21 - Fall & Holiday Market at Sawmill Brewing Company

Oct. 21 - Saturday Corn Maze

Oct. 22 - Sunday Corn Maze

Oct. 26 - Friends of the Library Book Sale - Members Only

Oct. 27 - Friends of the Library Book Sale - Open to Public

Oct. 27 - Night of the Sawmill Dead at the Haunted Sawmill

Oct. 27 - Flash Light Friday

Oct. 28 - Saturday Corn Maze

Oct. 28 - Friends of the Library Book Sale - Open to Public

Oct. 28 - Food For Kids "Love Your Neighbor" Fundraising Banquet

Oct. 28 - Annual Free Trunk or Treat at Trinity Lutheran Church

Oct. 28 - Trunk or Treat at St. John's Lutheran Church/School

Oct. 28 - Children's Matinee at the Haunted Sawmill

Oct. 28 - St. John's Lutheran Live and Silent Auction

Oct. 28 - Buzz Buzz's Clown Takeover Night at the Haunted Sawmill

Oct. 28 - Fall Candle Light Walk at Council Grounds State Park

Oct. 29 - Spooktacular Specimens at Treehaven

Oct. 29 - Vincent's Birthday Bash - and Halloween at the Haunted Sawmill

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



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OCT. 20TH - CATFISH
OCT. 27TH - BLUEGILLS
Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM
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MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

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"PG13" (1HR 43MIN)
FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:00PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:15, 7:00 & 9:00PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

PAW PATROL: THE MIGHTY MOVIE
"PG" (1HR 32MIN)
FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:00PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:00, 7:00 & 9:00PM
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Merrill Fire Department gets WPS Grant for AED



The Lincoln County Humane Society wants to send out a big thank you to Kim, Kris, and Karyl. They donated all of the much-needed pet food and supplies shown in this photo in memory of their mom, Arnine Seis.

Submitted photo.

The Merrill Fire Department (MFD) recently announced they received a 2023 Rewarding Responder Grant from the Wisconsin Public Service Foundation. "The \$2,000 grant will be used to purchase an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for one of the department's command vehicles," MFD Chief Josh Klug said. "Having an AED on emergency vehicles is quite common. Our command vehicles are out on the road often and can respond to any sort of call for service in our community."

"Early defibrillation of a patient with an AED before an ambulance arrives can mean the difference between life and death," he said.

"It is our honor to support the brave men and women making our communities safer places for everyone over the past 10 years," said Beth Straka, President of the WPS Foundation. "This program's true reward lies in what doesn't happen—the lives that remain unchanged, the moments we never have to remember—because our first responders had the lifesaving tools needed to make a difference."



The CAR 60 AED defibrillator unit in a vehicle, ready to be used in case of an emergency.

Photo courtesy of Merrill Fire Department.

ATTENTION HUNTERS

DO YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR HUNTING MEMORY OR EXPERIENCE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

How about a particular photo of that trophy Whitetail Buck or other game? If so, we want to hear from you!

Please send your submissions to Merrill Foto News Editor Tina Scott at tscott@mmlocal.com by Friday, Oct. 27.

Your submission(s) may be featured in the Merrill Foto News' Annual Hunting Guide in mid-November!

**Any hunting-related submission is welcome, regardless of how new or old. While e-mailed submissions are preferred, in-person submissions may be dropped off at the Merrill Foto News Office (2011. E. Main Street) between regular business hours of 8 a.m-5 p.m, Monday-Friday.*



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Cheryl Radloff, Karen Radloff, and Russell Radloff are pictured with Merrill Mayor Steve Hass. The Radloff family donated a new American flag to the Merrill Enrichment Center, in memory of Donald Radloff.

Tammie Mrachek photo.

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Merrill Varsity Football regular season is a wrap, but playing a “futures game” Friday night

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Mosinee Indians came out hot in their matchup with the Merrill Bluejays last Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. The Bluejays traveled to the Veterans Park Football Field in Mosinee to play against the team from Mosinee High School, and they were up against stiff competition from the start. “The Mosinee defense was formidable, and we couldn’t put ourselves in a position to be successful,” said Merrill Varsity Football Coach Jason Wadzinski.

Mosinee players made five touchdowns and five good kicks and racked up 35 points before the first quarter clock ran out. The second quarter the Bluejay defense was able to keep Mosinee from adding anymore to their scoreboard, but they couldn’t get a touchdown for their team. At halftime the score was Merrill 0-Mosinee 35.

The second half of the game wasn’t quite as painful, but the third quarter was another setback for the Bluejays when the

Indians added two more touchdowns and successful kicks and the accompanying 14 points to their total. Fourth quarter was another scoreless quarter, but though Merrill kept the Indians from adding more points to the score, the Bluejays ended the game without getting any points on their side of the scoreboard.

“The Bluejays finished out their regular season with the conference champs,” Wadzinski said.

Despite the regular season being a wrap, “We will be adding a week 10 game on Oct. 20 at Jay Stadium,” he said. “This game will be between Merrill and Wausau East and is dedicated as being a ‘futures game.’ It will be a matchup consisting of all Sophomores and Juniors, acting as a preview for next season.”

“I hope you will come out one last time and cheer on the future of Bluejay football!” Wadzinski said.

Box Score:
Merrill 0 @ Mosinee 49



17 Scoops Ice Cream Shop in Gleason made a donation to the Merrill Wrestling Club in memory of Ian Skaar. The Roggenbuck family, owners of 17 Scoops Ice Cream Shop, organized an ice cream challenge this summer to raise the money in honor of Ian. This October members of the Merrill Wrestling program (youth through high school) and coaches, along with 17 Scoops owner Andrea Roggenbuck and the Skaar family, came together to receive the \$445 donation. “The Merrill Wrestling program is so grateful to receive the donation,” Merrill Wrestling Coach Brian Suchocki said. “Ian is in all of our hearts.” Kristin Jacobson, Wrestling Club President said, “Thank you to Andrea/17 Scoops for organizing the memorial fundraiser in the community. It will be an honor to be able to use these funds within our programs in Ian’s memory.” **Submitted photo.**

Merrill Bluejays Varsity Girls Swim Team scores another win

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The ladies from Lakeland Union High School traveled to Merrill to compete against the Merrill Girls Varsity Swim Team at the Prairie River Middle School (PRMS) pool on Oct. 10, 2023. The Merrill Lady Bluejays once again had a great meet, taking first place in nine events. They also took second place in seven events.

The Merrill Girls took first place in:

Event 2. 200 Yard Medley Relay, with Addison Jirovec, Olivia Pajtash, Marissa Miles, and Claire Jirovec coming in with a time of 2:04.14.

Event 6. 200 Yard IM, with Olivia Pajtash coming in at 2:33.12.

Event 8. 50 Yard Freestyle, with Claire Jirovec coming in at 27.89

Event 10. 100 Yard Butterfly, with Marissa Miles coming in at 1:05.43.

Event 14. 500 Yard Freestyle, with Olivia Pajtash coming in at 5:53.51.

Event 16. 200 Yard Freestyle Relay, with Claire Jirovec, Emily Winter, Brenna Jirovec, and Melissa Miles coming in with a time of 1:53.99.

Event 18. 100 Yard Backstroke, with Addison Jirovec coming in at 1:08.40.

Event 20. 100 Yard Breaststroke, with Marissa Miles coming in at 1:17.89.

Event 22. 400 Yard Freestyle Relay, with Oliva Pajtash, Emily Winter, Caroline Durbin, and Addison Jirovec coming in with a time of 4:25.89.

Box Score:
Lakeland Union 47 @ Merrill 111

2023 FALL MERRILL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Boys Football (Varsity, JV, & JV2)

Fri. Oct. 20 Wausau East (Varsity) Home 7:00 pm

Girls Swimming (Varsity & JV)

Thurs. Oct. 26 WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity) Away 5:30 pm

Girls Cross Country (Varsity & JV)

Sat. Oct. 21 Colby High School (Varsity) Away 2:30 pm

Boys Cross Country (Varsity & JV)

Sat. Oct. 21 Colby High School (Varsity) Away 10:30 am

Please go to www.wiaawi.org for more playoff schedules and brackets.

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CAMPUS BRIEFS |

Pehlke named to women’s swimming and diving team at UW-Whitewater

Caitlynn Pehlke from Merrill has earned a roster spot on the Warhawk women’s swimming and diving team for the 2023-24 season. Pehlke is studying Business at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

The Warhawks finished fourth at last year’s Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships. UW-Whitewater is coached by Elise Knoche, who enters her sixth season at the helm of the program. The team garnered the College Swimming Coaches Association of America Scholar All-America Award for the 10th straight season in 2022-23.

The full 2023-24 Warhawks season schedule is online at: uwwsports.com/sports/womens-swimming-and-diving/schedule.

Lentz graduates from Marquette University

Macy Lentz of Merrill graduated from Marquette University in Milwaukee, earning a Doctorate degree in Dentistry.

See CAMPUS BRIEFS page 20

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Claire Jirovec, a Sophomore at Merrill High School (MHS) has been named Athlete of the Week. Claire has been on the Varsity Swim Team since Freshman year and has been swimming competitively since sixth grade at both Prairie River Middle School (PRMS) and in the Aqua Jays. She has also been on the Varsity Track and Field Team since last year and competes in the long and triple jump events. She competed on the PRMS Track and Field Team, as well.

At school, Claire is involved with Student Council and Raise Your Voice Club. Her favorite subjects are science and history. Claire works part-time as a lifeguard at the Bierman Aquatic Center and also works at McDonalds. In her free time, she enjoys hanging out with her friends, watching movies, playing games, and riding bikes; swimming; and going camping.

The daughter of Rory and Jenny Jirovec of Merrill, Claire has a 3.38 GPA and, after graduation, she plans to go to the tech for two years for their nursing program and then go to UW-Eau Claire or UW-Stevens Point to get her Bachelor’s degree. She plans to become a NICU nurse.



Claire Jirovec

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CAMPUS BRIEFS from page 19

Marquette University is a Catholic, Jesuit university that draws over 7,500 undergraduate and 3,500 graduate and professional students from nearly all states and more than 60 countries. In addition to its nationally recognized academic programs, Marquette is known for its service learning programs and internships as students are challenged to use what they learn to make a difference in the world. Find out more about Marquette at marquette.edu.

Weller is UW-La Crosse summer 2023 graduate

Liam Weller of Athens graduated this summer from UW-La Crosse with a Bachelor of Science degree, Management Major and Finance Major. UW-La Crosse, founded in 1909, is one of 13 four-year institutions in the University of Wisconsin System. UWL has more than 10,400 full- and part-time students enrolled in 101 undergraduate, 28 graduate, and 2 doctoral academic programs.

Depies receives scholarship from UW-Eau Claire

Five hundred sixty-five incoming Freshmen received scholarships from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire for the 2023-24 academic year, with many students receiving multiple awards. Each award varies in amount and criteria. Ryder Depies of Merrill was awarded both the CARE Center Founders Scholarship and the Mark of Excellence Scholarship.

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St. Vincent de Paul Conference in Merrill announced they have a new President, effective Oct. 1, 2023. On left, outgoing President, Freida Swanson. On right, incoming President, Pete Mueller. Swanson has been the President for the past three years. Mueller served as Vice-President. Last year, St. Vincent de Paul provided \$136,680 in assistance to residents in need in Lincoln County.

Submitted photo.

WAIVER from page 15

need to take place to make such programs permanent. As part of the pilot, DMV tracked potential safety implications and found no negative effect on driver safety. Through Aug. 31, 2023, 144,082 parents/guardians of 16- and 17-year-old drivers utilized the road test waiver. "Wisconsin DMV launched this innovative pilot program to continue to meet our customers' needs as we all faced tremendous challenges during the pandemic," Reggie Paradowski, deputy DMV administrator said. "We will continue to develop online services to provide greater convenience and efficiency for our customers."

Skills test appointment availability

To manage staffing and services, DMV's appointment calendar opens day-by-day for scheduling up to 11 weeks prior. Which means, for example, the first opportunity to schedule a road test appointment in the new year opens on Oct. 17, 2023. Drivers hoping for a road test on a specific date will have to wait until 11 weeks before that date to schedule their appointment. Additional appointments are routinely added with peak availability four weeks prior to the testing date. As more customers return to complete in-person DMV services, extra time may be necessary when visiting. Faster, convenient service is available 24/7 online at wisconsin.dmv.gov. Customers needing to visit a DMV service center for driver's license or identification card services may be eligible to expedite their service by submitting their application online and scheduling an appointment online. All vehicle-related services can be completed online.

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