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Haunted Sawmill draws thrill seekers, supports kids and community

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

For the 13th year, Merrill's Haunted Sawmill is drawing thrill seekers and putting on a scare with new themes focused on the haunt's infamous ghoul, Vincent Mudgett, and other popular characters in the group's repertoire.

Scary entertainment draws visitors to Merrill

"The 13th Annual Haunted Sawmill - 'The 13th Door' has started the 2023 season off in spectacular fashion. The popular Halloween event is drawing large crowds and providing great entertainment and terrifying scares for all of the guests," said Jerry Hersil, Director of the Haunted Sawmill and the man behind multiple haunt characters including Vincent Mudgett.

"Over 8,000 people regularly attend the Haunted Sawmill and come from all over the state and beyond our borders to take part in the October attraction," he said.

"We have had guests from all of our neighboring states visit us," said Dick Duginski who performs each season as the fan-favorite character Buzz Buzz the Clown. "The people that love the Haunted Sawmill come back every year. We have had a family this year who have travelled four hours to get here and have made several trips from the U.P. just to see us. Their little girl came to see her favorite character for her birthday. That is really amazing and



Hersil surrounded by the 2023 volunteer Scare Crew in costume.

Photo courtesy of the Haunted Sawmill.

pretty darn special."

"The Haunted Sawmill not only brings attention to Merrill every October season, it also brings money into our community," Hersil said.

"If you just look at the guests that travel to the Haunted Sawmill from other cities, all of those people are spending money in our town for things like gas, food, and even motels," said Kristin Woller who helps terrorize haunt guests as Phaedra the Vampire Queen. "We are proud to be something positive for our community that brings people in."

The Haunted Sawmill is open weekends in October. Tickets and more information are available via their

website: hauntedawmill.org.

Supporting kids and community

"The Haunted Sawmill is the major fundraiser for the Friends of Vincent Foundation (F.O.V.), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to help children and their families right here in our own community," said Hersil who is also President of the Friends of Vincent Foundation.

In addition to being haunt actors, Woller is Vice President and Duginski is Secretary. Many of those on the Board enjoy performing as characters in the Haunted Sawmill

See **SAWMILL** page 2



The Friends of Vincent Foundation presents a donation to representatives from St. Vincent de Paul, just one way the funds raised from the Haunted Sawmill help children and families in the local community. Photo courtesy of the Haunted Sawmill.

Trick-or-treating hours

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Trick-or-treating hours in the City of Merrill have been set for Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

- Children are reminded to travel in groups or with adults and to wear reflective clothing or reflective tape on their costumes and carry a flashlight or glow stick for improved visibility, ensure any masks or costumes do not impede their ability to see or to walk, walk on sidewalks where available or facing traffic as far off the road as possible where that is not possible, go to familiar homes and neighborhoods for trick-or-treating, and watch out for traffic to ensure a safe Halloween celebration.

- Drivers should be especially diligent in watching for pedestrians on Halloween and during designated trick-or-treating hours.



- Residents offering treats for trick-or-treaters are reminded to turn on a porch light or otherwise designate their participation in the annual Halloween festivities and to give out treats still sealed in their original packaging.
- Parents should inspect their child's candy before consumption for safety and to eliminate any items that could affect food allergies,

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A lawn full of jack-o-lanterns are ready to celebrate the Halloween holiday. This home on E. 7th St. displays more than a dozen pumpkins bearing a variety of expressions. Tina L. Scott photo.

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SAWMILL
from page 1

productions, but that's just the icing on the cake.

The Haunted Sawmill provides fun and meaningful opportunities for area youth to collaborate, work together,



The 2023 Scare Crew in full costume outside of the Haunted Sawmill.

Photo courtesy of the Haunted Sawmill.

Fall Brush Clean-up NOTICE City of Merrill Residents

The City of Merrill Street Department will be having a Fall Brush Clean-up. All City of Merrill residents will be allowed to place brush on the boulevard, on their regularly scheduled garbage day, during the week of October 30th – November 2nd, 2023. Please place brush, butt ends toward the street, next to your garbage and recyclables. **Your brush pile must not exceed 4' high by 6' wide.** Your brush must be on the boulevard by 7:00 AM. We will not pick up any brush that is not out by 7:00 AM on your regularly scheduled garbage day. We will still collect bundled brush throughout the year, as usual.

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Street Superintendent

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be creative, and work toward a larger mission. It also gives them a place to hang out, provides positive interactions with adult volunteers, shows them they are capable of much, and teaches them to be stewards of their local community. The Haunted Sawmill is located in a residential area, and volunteers traverse the area each weekend after their



It's more than costumed characters on the Scare Crew that make the Haunted Sawmill the huge production it's become. Lots of volunteers help behind the scenes, selling tickets and concessions, and so much more.

events to clean up trash and litter that may have blown into the neighbors' yards. And it teaches them to help others, and to contribute to something bigger than themselves.

"The Haunted Sawmill began in 2011 and has evolved and grown every year. There are upwards of 100 volunteers that participate in the event including actors, security personnel, concessions workers, ticket attendants, and greeters," Hersil said. "We are all volunteers. None of us are paid, and some of us work on the Haunted Sawmill all year long. This has become a second full-time job for us."

The true mission of the people behind the Haunted Sawmill though is to help children locally, he said.

"The Friends of Vincent Foundation is made up of people who believe that it is vital for us to give more than we take," Hersil said. "There are so many things that all of us could do each day to help someone else. All that people have to do is look for opportunities to lend a hand, because those opportunities present themselves multiple times each day. In the end, isn't that what life is supposed to be all about – doing what you can to help others and making their burden lighter?"



Left: Costumes, makeup, and eery lighting create spooky characters. **Right:** An actor steps out of the darkness ready to provide chills and thrills for guests who dare to enter the Haunted Sawmill.

Giving back, helping kids

Funds raised from the Haunted Sawmill are poured back into the community to help area children in many ways. Recently, the F.O.V. Foundation donated \$1,000 to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The Scare Crew also learned about a local family whose furnace went out, who could not afford to purchase a new one.

"The people who are part of the Haunted Sawmill are truly one big family," Hersil said. "When Dick contacted Kristin and myself about the family in need, we knew that we had to help. We actually went to our haunt family and asked everyone to throw in what they could afford.

Within four days we had enough money raised to help the family purchase and install a new furnace."

"That's what the Haunted Sawmill is all about," Woller said with a smile. "Family takes care of family."

"We also support the community in many other ways," Duginski said. "We have our Christmas Giving program which is near and dear to all three of us."

"The F.O.V. also has an annual high school scholarship program, supports many other charities, and funds many other events," Hersil said.

"Parents who are having financial difficulties paying for toys for their children, or clothing, or even to put food on the table, we are here to help with that, as well," he said. "Last year the Friends of Vincent Foundation helped over 20 families and 60 individuals with purchasing things that were necessary for Christmas."

"We are also focused inwards," Hersil said. "Our own volunteers have so many needs. We make sure that our own kids on the Scare Crew, for example, have essential hygiene products, or school supplies, or even warm clothes to wear in the winter. It shouldn't be that way in our modern society, but it's a reality. That is a void that we can help fill through our work with the Haunted Sawmill."

Funds raised by the Haunted Sawmill events also help the F.O.V. support a grant application process where people with children and who are in need can apply for assistance. "It's an easy form," Woller said. "Families might need help with unexpected emergencies, or a child might not be able to afford paying for an extracurricular trip. Those are the kinds of things that they can come to us and apply for assistance."

The application form is available on their website at: hauntedawmill.org.

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MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is

Samuel Szeto
Son of
David & Frances Szeto
Samuel is in 6th grade at St. John Lutheran School. He was nominated by Mr. Catlin.

What is your favorite subject in school?
Why?
My favorite subject is math, because it's fun to play with numbers.

What is your favorite part of school?
Why?
Recess is my favorite part of school, because you get to play with your friends outside.

What would you like to do/become someday?
Why?
I'd like to be an organist for church when I get older because it's fun playing music.

Sam is a good math student that is able to use numbers in a variety of different ways. He is also very respectful and always willing to help if needed. Sam is a super role model for his peers in and out of the classroom.

~ Mr. Catlin

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Gazebo Nights shatters records in 2023

The Gazebo Nights team is celebrating after yet another successful season of Thursday night concerts held in Normal Park over the summer.

Each week local non-profits attend the event, running the concessions stand or holding bake sales or other mini-fundraisers, to help raise money for their organizations. This year the following nonprofits benefited from the concerts: Cancer Society, Lincoln County Humane Society, Aspirus Merrill Hospital Hospital Auxiliary, Patriot K9's, Merrill PD/Lincoln SO K9 teams, Merrill Boys Basketball, Luther Memorial Church, Merrill Boy Scouts, Merrill Lions Club, Merrill Masons Virginia Falls Lodge #226, Merrill Dance Team, Merrill Girls Tennis, Ice Reflections and the Pine River Fire Dept.

In total, a record-breaking amount of \$19,166 was raised by these non-profits and returned to the community, according to Mike "Gus" Caylor who organizes the concerts.

He estimated more than 6,900 people attended the concerts over the course of the seven-week concert series, with the



Gazebo Nights/Thorogood Thursday concert organizers, Valerie and Gus Caylor, pose with representatives of local non-profit organizations that held fundraisers at Normal Park in conjunction with the concerts, together raising \$19,166 for those groups, money that will be used to do good things in our Merrill community. Submitted photos.

largest crowd attending the BriTins band. The budget for the concerts also surpassed the \$10,000 mark, the first time in the 14-year history of the concerts in the Gazebo at Normal Park.

Caylor credits the branding sponsor Thorogood and the numerous weekly sponsors with making each each week a success. "If it wasn't for our sponsors, we never would be able to do what we do each week," he said. "It was always a dream to bring in the BriTins, which we were able to do this year. We are already talking to a large band for 2024, and if we are successful in bringing them to the Gazebo, we feel it will be the biggest concert ever at the park."

Gazebo Nights at Normal Park traditionally starts after the Fourth of July and runs up until Labor Day weekend. For more information or to become a sponsor, go to their Facebook page: facebook.com/GazeboNightsAtNormalPark.

Pictured are members of the nonprofits who benefited from the concerts including the 50/50 team organized by Marlene Graap.



Marlene Graap and her team helped raise funds with their 50/50 raffles each week, enabling them to donate to local law enforcement K9 programs. Marlene is pictured presenting checks to the Merrill Police Department and Lincoln County Sheriff's Office.



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The roundabout in Merrill is maintained by Park City Gardeners and showcases seasonal displays throughout the year. Autumn flowers and pumpkins make for an inviting welcome to the downtown Merrill community from any direction. Tina L. Scott photo.

Weinbrenner's Thorogood boots made it into top 4 in state competition

Weinbrenner Shoe Company's Thorogood American Heritage Tobacco Safety Toe Work Boots made it into the top four in the Manufacturing Madness competition conducted statewide by the Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) and Johnson Financial Group to select the 2023 Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin.

On Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023, WMC announced the four finalists and the final round of voting. Thorogood's Boots were up against three other finalists: The Bevi Bottleless Water Dispenser manufactured by Plexus Corp. in Neenah; Applewood Smoked Bacon produced by Nueske's Applewood Smoked Meats in Wittenberg;

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

On Oct. 19 the official winner was announced at WMC's Business Day in Madison, and the Bevi Bottleless Water Dispenser produced by Plexus Corp. in Neenah was named the official 2023 Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin.

While Thorogood Work Boots didn't win the 2023 honors, Weinbrenner's employees can be encouraged by the tremendous statewide support for the products they produce, and the owners and wearers of Thorogood footwear will continue to enjoy the benefits of high quality work footwear every day.

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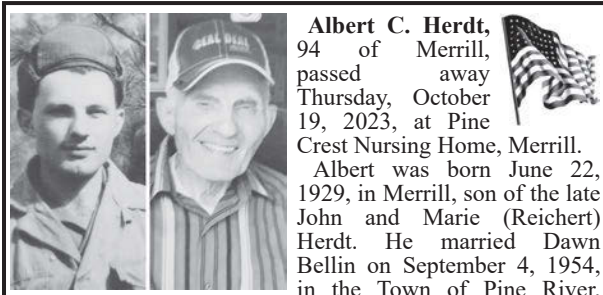
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OBITUARIES



Albert C. Herdt, 94 of Merrill, passed away Thursday, October 19, 2023, at Pine Crest Nursing Home, Merrill.

Albert was born June 22, 1929, in Merrill, son of the late John and Marie (Reichert) Herdt. He married Dawn Bellin on September 4, 1954, in the Town of Pine River, Lincoln County. She preceded him in death on February 4, 2009. Albert enlisted in the United States Army on January 17, 1952, during the Korean War. He was stationed in Korea and was honorably discharged on October 16, 1953, as a Corporal in Artillery and had served as a Gunner.

Albert worked as a residential carpenter for Schield & Schmidt Construction and Taschler Construction. During this time, he also had a cattle farm. Albert liked woodworking and made several grandfather clocks. He also enjoyed constructing beautiful masonry fireplaces. He loved helping everyone and could always be relied on. Albert enjoyed hunting rabbits, partridges, and deer. For many years, the hunting gang's meeting spot was Albert and Dawn's house. He also enjoyed fishing, camping, and gardening. Albert had a wonderful sense of humor and was always ready with a witty comeback.

Survivors include his daughters, Sheri (Herbert) Naef and Lori (Gary) Thom, both of Merrill; son, Shane Herdt Sr. of Merrill; grandchildren, Nathan (Andrea) Naef, Clinton Naef, Jonathon Thom (Jennifer Mohr), Joshua (Tina) Thom, Corey Herdt, Kimberley (Luke) Maluegge, and Shane (Tara) Herdt, Jr.; step grandchildren, Shannon (Stephanie) Jaeger and Bill (Sarah) Jaeger; great-grandchildren, Alexander, Zachary, Brayden, Benjamin, Ashton, Cameron, Skylar, Madilyn, Holden, Mackenzie, and Archer; step great-grandchildren, Emma and Evan; brothers, Ervin Herdt of Merrill and Paul (Diane) Herdt of Washington; and many nieces and nephews. Albert was preceded in death by his wife, Dawn Herdt; parents, John and Marie Herdt; daughter-in-law, Phyllis Herdt; sisters, Pauline, Molly, Marie, Esther, and Lydia; brothers, Raymond, Herman, Benjamin, Alex, Edward, and infant John Jr.; and his very close dear friends, Fuzzy Dittmar and Earl Dittmar.

The funeral service was held at 11:00 A.M. Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Rev. Michael Southcombe will officiate. The burial will take place in Springbrook Cemetery, Town of Pine River. The visitation will begin at 9:00 A.M. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Albert's family would like to thank the staff at Pine Crest Nursing Home, Merrill, for the loving care they gave him during the twelve years that Albert resided there.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



David Showalter, age 77 of Gleason, Wisconsin passed away on October 22, 2023 in Marion, Illinois. He was born on October 22, 1945 to the late Elmer and Helen (Weaver) Showalter in Ohio. He married his first wife Sandra Schrey on August 10, 1968. She precedes him in death. He was united in marriage with his second wife, Mildred Huber in June 1996 in Tennessee.

David grew up in Pennsylvania. He spent 21 years as a missionary in South America and spent 7 years in Kentucky as a print shop manager printing Christian school books before settling in Gleason, Wisconsin. He was a tremendous gardener and he was a very handy person when it came to electrical and plumbing work. His greatest desire in life was to be a faithful Godly man. He was a farmer who loved his church, his children and grandchildren deeply.

David is survived by his children: Joseph (Rosemary) Showalter, Jonathan (Frieda) Showalter, Daniel (Marion) Showalter, James (Elfreda) Showalter, Joyanna (Walter) Martin, Ivy (Allan) Steiner, Jennifer Showalter, Eunice (Harlan) Witmer, Ethan (Caroline) Showalter and Rose Showalter, roughly 40 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, brother: Glen (Mary) Showalter, and sisters: Carol (Billy) Caudil, Joy (David) Beachy and Mary Showalter.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Sandra Schrey, sons: Timothy and Enos Showalter, sister: Jane Weber and parents: Elmer and Helen Showalter.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, October 27, 2023 at 10:00 am at the Merrill Enrichment Center, 303 North Sales Street, Merrill, WI. Calling hours will be held on Thursday, October 26, 2023 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Gleason Mennonite Church. Interment will take place at the Gleason Mennonite Cemetery.

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.



Paulette A. Robinson, age 76, of Merrill, Wisconsin passed away on Saturday, October 21, 2023 in Wausau, Wisconsin at Aspirus Hospice House. She was born on June 28, 1947 in Merrill, Wisconsin, the daughter of Norman and Bernice (Luedtke) Wetterau. Paulette was united in marriage to David Czech in 1968 and later divorced. Paulette was united in marriage to Ben Robinson on January 28, 1984. He died on November 25, 2013.

Paulette graduated 8th grade from the last one room county school, Park School. She graduated Merrill High School with the class of '65.

After graduation she worked for Farmer Employers Insurance, Semling-Menke, then took a leave to get married and have a family. Once her children were in school, she went back to work. She worked at Merrill Gravel and Construction and then her final job was with Lincoln County Commission on Aging. After retiring, she stayed at home for a few years and then started volunteering at Park Place room meal site, and later became a resident of Park Place. Paulette also enjoyed playing cards, puzzles, reading, antiques and collecting teddy bears.

Paulette is survived by her sons: Christopher (Lisa) Czech and Michael (Lynn) Czech, step-children: Joseph (Grace) Sophia, and Dana (Doug) Peterson, grandchildren: Emily (Tucker) Roesler, Derek, Valerie and Vanessa Czech, Bethany, Allie, Benjamin, and Tabettha Durdall, and Daniel, Aiden, and Jeremy Peterson, great-grandchildren: Braxton, Willow and Maverick, sister: Kathy (Ken) Brice, sister-in-law: Sheri Wetterau, many nieces and nephews and special friends: Joy Hachlke and Diane Ziebell.

Paulette was preceded in death by her husband, Benjamin Robinson, brother, Russell Wetterau and parents.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 11:00 am at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill. A visitation will be held from 9:00 am until the time of service also at the funeral home. Rev. Donald Love will officiate. Interment will take place at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church in the Town of Hamburg, Wisconsin in loving memory of Paulette.

The family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff at Aspirus Hospice House for their care and compassion shown to Paulette and her family.

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.



Jerry Westerhouse of Plover, WI, passed away on Oct. 13, 2023, at 81 years after several months of illness.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Karen [Voros] and their children David [Jenna] Westerhouse of Hawaii and Kristine Westerhouse of Plover, WI. He had four cherished grandchildren, Madeline Teeter, Gage, McKenna, and Apollo Westerhouse and great-grandson, Emmett.

He is also survived by a sister Delilah Jordan and brother Samuel Westerhouse both of Indiana, and by several nieces and nephews and friends. He loved the family's black lab, Sako and being outside in the sun.

Jerry, a graduate of Purdue University, retired from the Wisconsin Dept. of Corrections as a business executive, once being named Wisconsin Employee of the Year.

Per his wishes, there will be no services. He wished that all friends and family go out for a meal together and celebrate life. Donations can be made to your favorite charity.

Pisarski Funeral Homes are honored to be serving the family. For online condolences please visit www.pisarskifuneralhome.com



Ricky 'Rick' Lyle Henrichs passed away on October 17th, 2023, at his home, surrounded by family. Rick was born in Merrill on September 11th, 1955, son of the late Lylas and Ethel (Kleinschmidt) Henrichs. He attended Trinity Lutheran School and Merrill High School. He worked at various positions in Merrill, with 33 years at Rite Service.

Rick married the love of his life, Beverly Allen on Christmas Eve, 1978 and enjoyed 45 years of marriage. Their first date was at the Grand Theater in Wausau for an Elvis Presley tribute on the big screen. He enjoyed rock and country music which he played frequently on the weekends. He built and drove stock cars at Tomahawk and Wausau speedways, enjoyed motorcycling, fishing, and hunting. But he was most happy living in his cottage in the woods with Beverly.

Rick is survived by his wife Beverly; daughters Robbin (Jan) Seehafer and Christine Zuelsdorff, both of Merrill; grandchildren Valerie (Jeremy) Wilmlink, Schylur (Alexandria) Seehafer, Olivia (Brogan) Aarstad, and Noah Wilmlink; sisters Kate Whitt and Patricia (Larry) Schwartz; brother-in-law Mark Allen; sister-in-law Joanne (Monty) Sczygelski; and many nieces and nephews.

Rick was preceded in death by his parent; infant brother Bruce; brother-in-law Donald Whitt, sister-in-law and brother-in-law Barbara and Donald Schuster; and mother-in-law Margaret Taylor.

A celebration of life will be held at S&S Bar, Grand Avenue, Merrill, Saturday, November 11th, 1-5pm. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

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Dennis, Diane, Dan & Daryl
and Their Families

Movie Reviews

BY CHRISTOPHER STAMM
GUEST MOVIE REVIEWER

The Birds

(available on many platforms)

★★★★

Rated PG-13 for some disturbing imagery and smoking on screen (nearly everyone has a smoke in their hands throughout)

I had the opportunity to see Alfred Hitchcock's classic *The Birds* on the big screen this past week for the very first time, and I am here to tell you that while some may say it is dated, it is still very effective, and let's face it, 33-year-old Tippi Hedren is a real looker.

Filmed way back in 1963, this 60-year-



old classic still had me walking out of the theatre and looking up at our fair feathered friends and wondering what would really happen if they got it into their little minds that the pink apes known as humans were just no longer needed or wanted.

A little trivia for you all: Based on the short story *The Birds* by Daphne du

See **REVIEWS** page 14

MOVIES YOU GOTTA SEE

'The Shining' further proves Jack Nicholson holds the Going Insane Championship Belt

BY JALEN MAKI

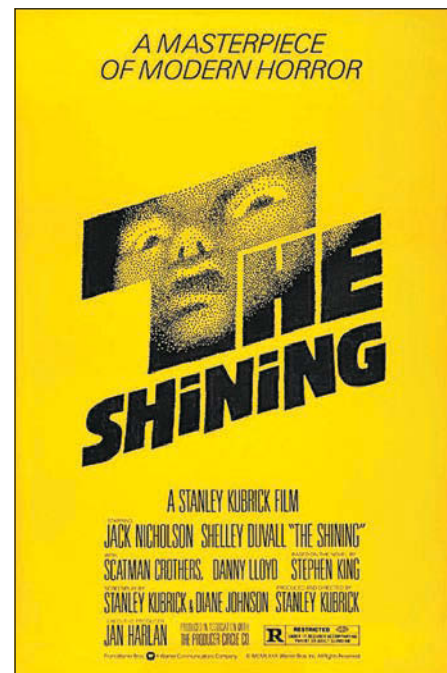
If you were to ask me what my favorite Stanley Kubrick movie is, I might tell you it's *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Ask me tomorrow and there's a good chance I'll say it's *Barry Lyndon*. Next week it'd probably be *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*.

But there's one Kubrick film that has a critical element the others don't, which ultimately makes it not only my true favorite movie of his, but my favorite horror film. It's something that might even help it earn the distinction of being Kubrick's crowning achievement. This crucial factor is "Jack Nicholson going insane."

In Kubrick's 1980 horror masterpiece *The Shining*, based on the Stephen King novel of the same name, Nicholson plays Jack Torrance, a writer who signs on to be the over-winter caretaker of the Overlook Hotel in the Colorado Rocky Mountains while it's closed for the season. During his first visit to the hotel to discuss the job, Jack is informed that the previous caretaker committed a horrific crime on the premises, to which Jack responds with an odd level of calm. I feel like such information would give most people pause. "Hey, the guy who used to have the gig you're going for went completely berserk and did something heinous beyond belief. Wanna take his place and hang out here for like four months?" "What? No. I'm good, man. Thanks, though. Take care!"

But Jack accepts the job, figuring it'd give him time to get some writing done. I gotta tell ya, I enjoy his naïve optimism. I don't think there's a single place on this planet where a writer could not find a way to procrastinate. If I were stuck in an empty hotel for several months with nothing but my laptop, I'd be counting the ice machines within an hour and a half.

Jack, along with his wife, Wendy, and son, Danny, hole up in the huge, remote hotel, and as winter drags on, the vibes seriously begin to deteriorate. Danny, who possesses psychic abilities referred to as "shining," sees unsettling visions. Meanwhile, Jack's cognitive state, seemingly affected by isolation, boredom, a severe case of writer's block, and otherworldly forces within the hotel, begins to slip. As Jack declines psychologically, he grows increasingly menacing toward Wendy and Danny. At a key point in the film, Jack, who had quit drinking a few months before arriving at the hotel and had injured Danny in a drunken outburst years earlier, bellies up to the bar in a large ballroom, knocks back a bourbon or two and shoots the breeze with Lloyd, a bartender who may or may not be there. Watching a man evidently oblivious to his cataclysmic mental break, and subsequently considering the danger



he poses to his family, is truly chilling and accentuates a feeling of claustrophobia, despite the hotel's massive size. The fact that Wendy and Danny are trapped in the snow-drifted building with Jack all but reduces the colossal resort to a single-family home. There's nowhere to run. Nowhere to hide.

Jack's descent into madness is among the most entrancing and horrifying things ever put to film, and it's intensified by Nicholson's remarkable ability to convey his emotions in a physical fashion. Nicholson has one of the most expressive faces in the history of Hollywood, and the singular combination of his eyes, eyebrows, smile, voice, and laugh – and when and how he utilizes them – are invaluable traits when he's letting a few screws come loose.

The superb 1975 drama *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* showcases Nicholson at the top of his game. Playing a man who motivates his fellow patients at a mental institution to defy the iron fist rule of a dictatorial nurse, his stellar performance is propelled by his manic physicality. In Tim Burton's 1989 *Batman*, Nicholson shines as The Joker, the infamous villain also known as The Clown Prince of Crime – not a description typically applied to a fellow known for Being Normal. Running amok clad in a purple suit and makeup seems like the kind of thing only Nicholson could've truly pulled off. One of the most electrifying yet mystifying performances of Nicholson's career is in Martin Scorsese's astounding 2006 film *The Departed*, in which he plays an aging, eccentric Boston Irish mobster. I'm honestly not sure if Nicholson's even particularly *good* in the movie, but there's

See **MOVIES** page 7

"People for Pine Crest" hold press conference at nursing home

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

A group of Lincoln County citizens calling themselves People for Pine Crest held a press conference at Pine Crest Nursing Home (Pine Crest) on Oct. 17, 2023, calling for the Lincoln County Board to "rescind the sale and fully fund Pine Crest in 2024," in advance of the County Board meeting that evening.

To be clear, matters pertaining to Pine Crest were not on the Agenda for that Board meeting. However, representatives from People for Pine Crest wanted to go on record in advance of the meeting that they continue to be against any proposed sale of the nursing home and they believe they represent the majority of Lincoln County residents in their position. Numerous members of the group reiterated their position during the public comment portion of the Board meeting.

The group maintains Pine Crest is "in

the black" financially.

"Contrary to what we have been led to believe, the sky is not falling. In fact, Pine Crest has rebounded from COVID and is right on budget through the end of September," said Todd Frederick, a member of People for Pine Crest.

In a press release issued earlier that day, People for Pine Crest maintain that "According to North Central Health Care, which operates the nursing home for the County, Pine Crest is running a small surplus through the period ending Sept. 30, 2023. Pine Crest's improved finances is due in part to changes in Medicaid and these changes are expected to keep the nursing home on solid financial footing going forward."

"For decades, the people of Lincoln County have been investing in Pine Crest, and we want Pine Crest to be part of our community for years to come,"

See **PINECREST** page 15

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Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

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 - Friends of the Library Book Sale - Open to Public

Oct. 28 - Saturday Corn Maze

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 - Food For Kids "Love Your Neighbor" Fundraising Banquet

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

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

Oct. 28 - Council Grounds State Park Candle Light Walk

Oct. 29 - Sunday Corn Maze

Oct. 29 - Spooktacular Specimens at Treehaven

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

Oct. 31 - Community Trick or Treating at Pine Crest Nursing Home 3-5 p.m.

Oct. 31 - St. Stephens Trunk or Treat 4-7 p.m.

Oct. 31 - Citywide Trick or Treating from 4-7 p.m.

Nov. 2 - HAVEN Fundraiser @ Riverside Athletic Club

Nov. 4 - Make A Difference Day (Leaf Raking)

Nov. 5 - MACA Charlie Albright Piano Concert

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

MOVIES from page 6

no denying how fun he is to watch when he's given a long creative leash.

The Shining is truly one of the greatest films of all time, directed by maybe the best American filmmaker. There's never-ending content about the film to be found - documentaries, books, YouTube deep dives, and Reddit threads - covering everything from the making of the film to its myriad debated themes and deeper meanings. They're fun rabbit holes to go down and make revisiting the film very rewarding, but it's Nicholson's performance that brings me back at least once a year. With every viewing, Jack's downward spiral never becomes any less captivating; if anything, it grows even more stunning and disturbing.

When looking at the totality of Nicholson's filmography, *The Shining* stands out as a high-water mark - maybe the high-water mark. It might be the key movie in making the case that when it comes to just absolutely sending it, there's no one better. As brilliant as he is in more laid back or subdued roles, Nicholson's at his best when he's cutting loose, and I'm sure the only person who enjoys this more than the audience does is Jack Nicholson himself. After all, it can't be all work and no play.

Follow Jalen on Letterboxd at www.letterboxd.com/jalenmaki182/ to see what he's been watching, and read more at www.medium.com/@jalenmaki.



WEEKLY BRIEFING - 26TH - 30TH

THUR - BRATS & HAMBURGERS	DRINK SPECIALS
FRI - FISH FRY CATFISH	THUR - BUCKETS OF BEER
SAT - PRIME RIB	FRI - \$1 OFF OLD FASHIONS
SUN - BROASTED CHICKEN	SAT - WINENOT
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OCT. 27TH - BLUEGILLS
NOV. 3RD - BREADED SCALLOPS
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WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! **PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!** For more information, or to file a complaint regarding an ad, please contact The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)

Announcements 7005
 Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Call for free author's guide 1-877-729-4998 or visit dorranceinfo.com/ads

Classifieds GET THE JOB DONE!

WE ARE HIRING!

JOIN OUR TEAM

SIERRA PACIFIC WINDOWS

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

OHIO STREET
 4 10-Hour Days

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

Individual: \$80/Month
 Spouse: +\$128/Month
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Retirement & Life Insurance
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APPLY IN-PERSON
 605 N. Ohio St.
 Questions? Call: 715-722-1884
 Visit us online at spi.careers!

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

EARN SOME EXTRA MONEY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Russ Davis Wholesale in Merrill has multiple openings for a short term position packing fundraiser fruit boxes.

Mon-Fri 7am (approx 6-8 hrs)
 Nov. 27th through Dec. 15th.

APPLY ONLINE OR IN PERSON!

www.russdaviswholesale.com
 1200 Commerce St.
 Merrill, WI 54452

ROW CRAZY FRESH

Check us out online!
merrillfotonews.com

POTATO HELP WANTED

POTATO GRADING & GENERAL FARM LABOR

Pick up application at
Schroeder Bros. Farms, Inc.
 N1435 County Road D, Antigo, WI 54409
 715-623-2689

BE YOUR OWN BOSS!

We are looking for bulk drop drivers to deliver in the Wausau area Wednesday & Thursday mornings.

REQUIREMENTS

- Must be Responsible/Reliable
- Have your own vehicle with insurance
- Have and maintain a good driving record.
- Desire to become an Independent Contractor

GREAT OPPORTUNITY IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO SUPPLEMENT YOUR CURRENT INCOME!

Serious inquirers should email their name and phone number to:
rargall@mmclocal.com
 Subject line: Circulation

MMC
 MULTIMEDIA CHANNELS
 LOCAL MEDIA LETTER SERVICES

We're hiring!

1st & 2nd Shift Production Positions

ONSITE JOB FAIR
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26TH • 1PM to 6PM
8011 Technology Dr., Schofield, WI

WAUSAU SUPPLY COMPANY
Innovation in Distribution

100% Employee-Owned Company-Funded Retirement Account (Employee Stock Ownership Plan)
 Up to 3 Weeks Paid Vacation to Start • 9 Paid Holidays • Up to \$3,000 Sign on Bonus Company
 Paid Disability • Employee Discount, Medical, Dental, Vision & 401K Savings Plan

Announcements 7005



STRIVE 4 LIFE LLC
902 East 1st Street Merrill WI 54452
(715)201-9600

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS: STRIVE 4 LIFE, LLC. is hosting a HEALTH EVENT Dates: November 8 & 9 Time: 5:00 am - Noon Both Days. Packages Offered GENERAL WELLNESS \$30, WOMEN'S WELLNESS \$40, MEN'S WELLNESS \$40. Pricing is for these days ONLY. Book your appointment Online www.strive-4-life.com or call our Office: (715)201-9600 Ext: 800

Rummage Sales This Week 7200

Merrill: Thursday, 10/26, 4 p.m.- 8 p.m., Friday, 10/27, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Household items, Amish made king bedroom set, coffee and end tables, lamps, desks with chairs, pack and play, portacrib, bakers rack, cobblers bench, kitchen items, blue canning jars and more 1303 Lark St.

Firewood 7244

DRY OAK & Hard Maple, \$250/cord. Over 15 mi is extra. Have hard wood in wood shed over a year old. Clean & no bark. 715-351-1888 or 715-873-4196.

DRY OAK & Hard Maple, \$250/cord. Over 15 mi is extra. Have hard wood in wood shed over a year old. Clean & no bark. 715-351-1888 or 715-873-4196.

Mixed firewood: oak and maple. \$60 face cord, seasoned 1 year. \$75 from woodshed, seasoned 1 year. Bone dry. 715-253-2060. No delivery.

Lawn and Garden 7250

New & Used Lawn & Garden Equipment
Servicing all brands. Full service small engine repair. Tillers, mowers, chainsaws, log splitters & more. North Central Power Equipment 4001 Dixie Ave, Wausau 1 mile north of Fleet Farm off Hwy K, east on Emery Dr. to South on Dixie 715-370-3002

Guns 7264

For Sale
Harington & Richards 4-10 ga. Topper Jr. shotgun \$150. Ithaca 20 ga. XL 900 shotgun \$300. Call 715-362-3574.

For Sale: 12 Old Gun Magazines from 1952-1964, \$100. Call only if interested 715-218-6438

GUN SHOW TOMAH, WI Fairgrounds, Oct. 27, 28 & 29th; Fri 3-8pm, Sat 9-5pm, Sun 9-3pm **Info 563-608-4401 Marv Kraus**

Miscellaneous Merchandise 7266

DONATE YOUR CAR, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at **1-844-406-2647 today!** (WCAN)

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

For Sale:
Brand New Inversion Table with heat and back massager, \$185.
Call 715-921-4544.

For Sale: City of Merrill Afghan, \$35. Call 715-218-6438

SWITCH & SAVE UP TO \$250/YEAR on your talk, text & data. No contract & no hidden fees. Unlimited talk & text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more info, call **1-844-883-1477 (WCAN)**

UP TO \$15,000 OF GUARANTEED LIFE INSURANCE! No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral & other final expenses. Call **Physicians Life Insurance Company 844-433-5898** or visit www.Life55plus.info/wcp (WCAN)

Wanted to Buy 7268

STONEWARE WANTED
Collector paying \$1000+/- for Red Wing salt glazed or advertising crocks, jugs, churns & water coolers. (612)685-6762

Cats 7270

3 Playful Kittens need a good home, 2 Female, 1 Male. Call after 5 pm. 715-921-5100.

LOST CAT: Fred is older, large, orange, shy cat missing 10/10/2023 from 800 E. 9th Street Merrill. Tanya 715-921-6566

PUREBRED REG SIAMESE SNOWSHOE CATS & KITTENS
1-715-846-1930 for avail & prices

Dogs 7272

AKC BLACK LABRADORS AND BEAGLADORS: Black Labs ready Nov 20th \$600. Beagladors ready Nov 15th \$200. Dew claws removed, dewormed regularly, and raised in a family home with kids, cats, and other dogs in Phillips, WI Patty 920-883-2613

AKC GOLDEN RET PUPS, shots/dews/wormed/Vet \$700 Can Divr **715-255-2661** (269146)

AKC REG COCKER SPAN PUPS! Sweet Adorable Pets! Shots/Wormed \$500-\$1500 920-563-3410 mornings (#268588) (WCAN)

AKC REG. YELLOW LAB PUPS & GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS shots/worm/vet, \$800-M, \$850-F 715-671-3092 (267331)

Are you a pet owner? Do you want to get up to 100% back on vet bills? Physicians Mutual Insurance Company has pet coverage that can help! Call 1-844-774-0206 to get a free quote or visit insurebarkmeow.com/ads

AUSSIE PUPS Great Colors, Vet/Shots 7 yrs. experience \$300 & up **715-250-2793**

BLACKRIVERPAWS.COM Poodles & more Find us on Facebook! **715-316-2617 (516695)**

CAVALIER KING CHARLES PUPPES & CAVAPOO PUPPIES Vet/wormed/shots \$300 715-223-0782

FOR SALE: Beautiful, AKC-registered Golden Retriever puppies. First shots & de-wormed. Friendly & playful!
Please call or text 715-219-1806

FOR SALE: FRENCH BULLDOG & FRENCHTON PUPPIES Shots Dewormed and Vet Checked **CALL 715-316-2905**

German Shephard Puppies for sale. Black & Tan. Parents on site. Neilsville. Please call 715-937-3770

Labradoodle Pups Yellow or Black F-\$400 M-\$350 Shots/dewormed **715-229-4936**

MINI GOLDENDOODLE PUPPIES 1st shots, vet checked, \$450 **715-773-2985 No Sun Calls**

Rat Terrier Pups Tri Color & B&W, 4-F \$150, 7-M \$100 Athens, WI 717-597-5017

Ready NOW Blue Heeler & Australian Shephard mix pups. \$100ea male & female ready now to go to a good home. 715-350-1282

Reg. Border Collies. VAC-Dewormed-agility-obedience, working blue merle, brown merle, vl/white tri. Will meet best friend. \$350-\$650 715-257-7215.

REG. CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL PUPS Vet check. Shots, wormed, dewes \$1000 Call **715-470-0458 Lic# 509642-DS**

SHIBA INU PUPPIES ACA Reg, Shots, Dewormed, Child Friendly \$300 **715-773-1778**

Pet Services 7280

ARE YOU A PET OWNER? Do you want to get up to 100% back on Vet Bills? Physicians Mutual Insurance Company has pet coverage that can help! Call **1-844-244-7146** to get a free quote or visit insurebarkmeow.com/wicp (WCAN)

Agriculture Services 7292

Hand Crafted Garden & Storage Sheds, Garages & Cabins. Many Styles and Options. Sizes from 8' x 8' up to 15' x 40' are available. Call **BAKER BARN, LLC** 715-873-3338 mile North of Gleason, Hwy 17

Apartments for Rent 7400

THE MEADOWS APARTMENTS
1, 2, & 3 bedroom units in Merrill, WI For low & moderate income individuals & families. Handicapped accessible. Units Available. Appliances, hot water, water/sewer, garbage service provided. Coin-op laundry facility.

CALL NOW!
712-580-5360 or Toll Free 855-441-8688
Certain income restrictions apply



This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Homes for Rent 7409

808 N State St., Merrill. Pet friendly, Fees apply, 2BR House, 2 Bonus rooms, Mud room, W&D hookups, Close to Kate Goodrich, \$979/mo + sec, No Sun calls, 715-558-5282

Vacation For Rent 7421

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free info package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get FREE informational package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! FREE consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. **CALL 844-374-2565 (WCAN)**

Motorcycles 7502

For Sale: 1989 Harley-Davidson Ultra, High miles but runs very good. Good shape for the year, always kept in heated garage. \$2,200. Call or Text 715-362-3574.



WANTED:
1900s to 1960s American-made motorcycles, parts, projects, engines, frames. ect. Original advertising signs. 920-647-0056

Campers and Motorhomes 7526

24 Foot 5th Wheel Camper 2011. One Slide, Rear Kitchen, New Tires, Used very little. Phone 715-536-8006 or 715-218-0997 N629 HWY W, Merrill.

Vehicles Wanted 7554

Donate Your Car to Veterans Today! Help and Support our Veterans. Fast - FREE pick up. 100% tax deductible. Call 1-800-245-0398

Miscellaneous Transportation 7574

DONATE YOUR CAR or TRUCK to HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. Free 3-Day Vacation. Tax Deductible. Free Towing. All paperwork taken care of! **CALL 844-374-3067 (WCAN)**

Attorney and Legal 7306

Diagnosed with lung cancer & 65+? You may qualify for a substantial cash award. No obligation! We've recovered millions. Let us help! Call 24/7 1-877-707-5707

Insurance 7308

Dental Insurance - Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Covers 350 procedures. Real insurance - not a discount plan. Get your free dental info kit! 1-855-526-1060 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/ads)

Health Care Services 7310

Attention oxygen therapy users! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. Free info kit. Call 877-929-9587

DENTAL INSURANCE. From Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for (350+) procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Don't Wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! **855-807-9516** [#6258 \(WCAN\)](http://www.dental50plus.com/wicommunity)

Health Care Services 7310

MobileHelp, America's premier mobile medical alert system. Whether you're home or away. For safety & peace of mind. No long term contracts! Free brochure! 1-888-489-3936

MobileHelp, America's Premier Mobile Medical Alert System. Whether you're home or away, for safety and Peace of Mind. No Long Term Contracts! Free Brochure! Call Today! **1-855-491-0732 (WCAN)**

STROKE & CARDIOVASCULAR disease are leading causes of death, according to the AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION. Screening can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact **Life Line Screening** to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149! Call **1-888-675-5048 (WCAN)**



Classifieds Rock
715-536-7121

EMPLOYMENT

MULTI MEDIA CHANNELS THE PARENT COMPANY OF THIS PUBLICATION, IS LOOKING FOR A MARKETING AND SALES CONSULTANT




The position involves meeting with businesses to find out their needs and create a marketing plan with our lineup of print products. This position sells advertising to businesses to help them grow via weekly newspapers, special sections, web ads, and a variety of specialty magazines.

This position offers competitive pay and benefits, no nights or weekends, mileage and expense reimbursement.

EMAIL MIKE HOLLIHAN AT MHOLLIHAN@MMCLOCAL.COM

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WINDOWS & DOORS

We're for the visionaries.®

Kolbe & Kolbe Millwork Company, Inc. is recognized throughout the industry as a leader in the manufacturing of custom, superior quality windows and doors that can be found in some of the most visionary residences and commercial projects in North America.

The Kolbe story began 77 years ago after the Kolbe brothers began repairing and building window frames. As the business grew, maintaining a closely held family business was the priority, along with understanding the important role a large company plays in the community. Those commitments remain intact and have greatly influenced the success of the company. We hope you will consider joining the Kolbe team!

Seeking Full-time 1st Shift Production Team Members
No Experience Required

Four-day work week, 5am-3pm, Monday through Thursday. \$18.50 per hour.

Three-day work week, 5am-5pm, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. No required over-time. \$20.55 per hour.

Part-time, work 24-28 hours during yrst shift hours. \$20 per hour.

Excellent beneÿts package, relaxed and safe working environment.

Seeking Full-Time Electrician

Four-day work week, Monday through Thursday from 5am-3pm.

Responsibilities:

- Install, maintain, and bring up to code all services, building wiring, and machine installation.
- Design installations and requisition material needed.
- Keep up-to-date on code changes.
- Troubleshoot electrical issues and perform necessary repairs
- Understand programmable controllers and computer parts, interpret electronics, ladder diagrams and circuit boards.
- Trace, detect, and correct phone and computer hardware installations and make repairs.

Experience:

- Minimum of 1 year of experience as an electrician
- Electrically and mechanically inclined.
- Able to use ladders, scaffolding, manlifts.
- Familiarity with high voltage electrical work.
- Must be self-motivated and able to work unsupervised.
- Excellent problem-solving skills and attention to detail
- Strong communication and teamwork abilities

Kolbe offers competitive pay rates, beneÿts package, and opportunities for career advancement.

Salary: \$22.00 - \$32.00 per hour

Apply online at www.kolbewindows.com/careers.

EOE

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Internet 7318
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FREE high speed internet for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & Handling. Call Maxisp Telecom today! **1-855-454-6827 (WCAN)**

Free high speed internet if qualified. Govt. pgm for recipients of select pgms incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet. Android tablet free w/one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping. Call Maxisp Telecom! **1-833-758-3892**

HughesNet - Finally, super-fast internet no matter where you live. 25 Mbps just \$59.99/mo! Unlimited Data is Here. Stream Video. Bundle TV & Internet. Free Installation. Call **866-499-0141**

HughesNet Satellite Internet: 25 mbps starting at \$49.99/mo! Get More Data, FREE Off-Peak Data, FAST download speeds. Wifi built in! FREE Standard Installation for lease customers! Limited Time Call **1-844-829-5070 (WCAN)**

Satellites and Antennas 7324
DIRECTV OVER INTERNET Get your favorite live TV, sports, & local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12 months. HBO Max & Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call **IVS 1-833-574-1746 (WCAN)**

DIRECTV Sports Pack 3 Months on Ust! Watch pro & College sports LIVE. Plus over 40 regional & specialty networks included. NFL, College Football, MLB, NBA, NHL, Golf & more. Some restrictions apply. Call **DIRECTV 1-888-925-9452 (WCAN)**

DIRECTV Stream - Carries the most local MLB Games! Choice Package \$89.99/mo for 12 mos Stream on 20 devices at once. HBO Max included for 3 mos (w/Choice Package or higher.) No contract or hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call **IVS 1-866-859-0405**

DISH TV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 1/31/24. **1-866-479-1516**

Gutters and Gutter Cleaning 7356
 Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule free LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call **1-833-610-1936**

Home Building Supply 7358
 Aging Roof? New Homeowner? Got Storm Damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call **1-888-878-9091**

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: **855-761-1725**

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. Limited time, we're waiving all installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 12/31/23 Call **1-844-501-3208**

Knotty Pine For your walls and ceilings. Cabin Grade T&G 1X6, End Matched, Clear Coated in stock. \$1 lin. FT. Call Lawrence at Iron Bridge **715-257-1011 Athens, WI.**

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator \$0 Down + Low Monthly Pmt Request a free Quote. Call before the next power outage: **1-855-948-6176**

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-in tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our free shower package & \$1600 off - limited time! Financing available. **1-855-417-1306**

Water damage cleanup & restoration: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold growth in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: **1-888-872-2809**

Roofing and Siding 7370
 Replace your roof w/the best looking & longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! 3 styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off install + Additional 10% off install (military, health & 1st responders.) **1-833-370-1234**

Miscellaneous Services 7374
DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! **1-888-686-1458 (WCAN)**

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call **1-877-920-3533 (WCAN)**

JACUZZI BATH REMODEL Can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're waiving all installation costs! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 12/31/23 **1-833-224-4977 (WCAN)**

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote! Call now before the next power outage: **1-877-626-1009 (WCAN)**

REPORTS

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 8, 2023

During this week, the Lincoln County 9-1-1 Center received seven 9-1-1 nuisance calls/hang ups. The Lincoln County Deputies conducted 19 traffic stops with 2 resulting in OWI arrests, and within the County, there were 8 car vs. animal collisions.

On 10/02/2023 at approximately 7:30 p.m. Lincoln County Dispatch Center received a call stating there was a vehicle all over the road and that had almost hit a stop sign. This occurred in the area of County Rd. G and State Rd. 17 in the Township of Merrill. Lincoln County Sheriff Deputies arrived on scene advising that Merrill EMS needed to be paged for the driver. The Deputy made contact with the driver, a 76-year-old male from Merrill who was bleeding from the arm and confused. The driver was transported to Aspirus Merrill and keys were turned over to the driver's wife.

On 10/03/2023 at approximately 2:30 p.m. in the area of N2800 Block of State Rd. 107, a Lincoln County Deputy came across a large amount of smoke. Upon further inspection it was determined that logs and shrubs were on fire. Merrill Fire Department, and Merrill DNR were paged to the scene. Upon Merrill Fire Department's arrive, the Lincoln County Deputy and a homeowner were able to extinguish the fire. Merrill Fire Department took over the scene from there.

On 10/04/2023 at approximately 4:00 p.m. Lincoln County 9-1-1 Center received a call regarding a vehicle driving erratically in the area of US Hwy. 51 and MM208. Merrill Police Department was able to intercept the vehicle at a local restaurant. Once Lincoln County Deputies arrived on scene, contact was made with the driver, a 35-year-old male from Woodruff, who was cited for operating after suspension, no insurance, and obstructing an officer.

On 10/05/2023 at approximately 10:30 p.m. a Lincoln County Deputy conducted a routine traffic stop in the area of County Rd. Q and Brush Rd. in the Township of Scott. The Deputy made contact with the driver, a 24-year-old male

from Merrill, who was showing signs of impairment. The driver was placed through a series of field sobriety tests and, as a result of those tests, he was arrested for a OWI 4th, Possession of THC, OAR-Criminal, and Fail to Install IID. N

On 10/06/2023 at approximately 12:00 p.m. Lincoln County 9-1-1 Center received a call stating there had been a UTV roll over in the area of the Town of Harrison. One person was said to be entrapped in the UTV but alert and conscious. Lincoln County Deputies, Tomahawk EMS, and Tomahawk Fire Department responded to County Rd. D and Gouda Rd. Once Deputies were able to make contact, the patient was stable and taken out of the woods by the Fire Departments UTV. Patient was then transported to Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

MERRILL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

10-09-23

At 12:35 a.m. a caller reported a female at a tavern punching males. The female reported a male had called her a vulgar name but denied punching anybody or other issues. A patron had a recording on a cell phone showing the female chasing one male attempting to punch him, spitting at him, as well as her punching another man. The female was arrested for disorderly conduct.

At 10:43 a.m. a student was cited for underage tobacco violation after being found in the restroom using a nicotine vape.

At 11:40 a.m. a female was arrested for a probation violation at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, and at 1:04 p.m. a male was arrested for a probation violation at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

At 3:16 p.m. a caller reported an intoxicated woman came to her door requesting a ride. The caller declined the request and the female remained in the caller's yard. Officers found the intoxicated female had an open bail bond which stipulates she is not to possess or consume intoxicants. She was arrested for bail jumping.

10-10-23

At 10:35 a.m. the Parks

Miscellaneous Services 7374
REPLACE YOUR ROOF w/the best looking & longest lasting material, steel from Erie Metal Roofs! 3 Styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% OFF Installation + Add'l 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders) Call Erie Metal Roofs **1-877-845-6606 (WCAN)**

Switch to DISH Get up to a \$300 gift card! Plus get the Multisport pack included for a limited time! Hurry, call for details: **1-844-897-8523 (WCAN)**


Miscellaneous Services 7374
 The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments & No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. **BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call today! 1-877-651-1850 (WCAN)**


THINKING ABOUT INSTALLING A NEW SHOWER? American Standard makes it easy. FREE design consultation. Enjoy your shower again! Call **1-844-479-1327** today to see how you can save \$1,000 on installation, or visit www.newshowerdeal.com/wcp **(WCAN)**

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 1/2 Hunters Firearms Auction - Online Bidding Ends Monday, October 30th
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 Open House Wednesday, October 25th from 10:00am-3:00pm
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SOLICITATION OF BIDS

 The Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross herewith solicit bids for the purchase of the former Harry Hurd residence located at 700 E. Riverside Avenue in the City of Merrill, Wisconsin. This home is located on a large approximately two (2) acre lot with frontage on the Wisconsin River. This 3 bedroom, 3.1 bath ranch home, with Lannon stone and wood exterior, features a spacious living room with a striking Lannon stone fireplace. Floor to ceiling picture windows in the living room provide a panoramic view to the serene, peaceful, open backyard. The galley kitchen offers a quaint and charming view of the tree-filled front yard. A separate entrance into space with closet storage, provides welcome options for a home office, study, playroom, music room, or bedroom for eventual owner. There is a detached garage (workshop) in addition to the attached two (2) car garage. The basement is finished with eight (8) additional rooms including bedrooms, a workshop area, full bath and washer/dryer. Recent improvements include carpet on first-level living room and bedrooms, interior painting, waterproofing in front of fireplace, and two (2) new doors for attached garage.
 The premises may be inspected on **Saturday, October 28th from 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.** The premises and improvements are being sold in an **AS IS** condition without any warranties or representations of any nature whatsoever. All bidders are encouraged to thoroughly inspect the premises and may make their bid contingent upon an inspection. Title to the premises shall be conveyed by warranty deed and shall contain a restrictive covenant prohibiting the leasing of the premises for a period of three (3) years from the date of closing which shall be binding upon the successful bidder and the bidder's heirs, trustees, personal representatives, successors, and assigns. The restrictive covenant shall be included in the warranty deed conveying the premises.
 The Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross reserve the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any bid they deem most satisfactory in their sole discretion. Terms of sale: \$2,500 within seven (7) days of notification of acceptance of bid and balance of bid price in cash at time of closing, with closing to be within thirty (30) days of notification of acceptance of bid. All bids shall be sealed in an envelope marked "Harry Hurd House Bid" and sent by first class mail to the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, 1400 O'Day Street, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452.
Bids will be examined on the 10th day of November, 2023. The successful bidder, if any, will be notified on or before the 17th day of November, 2023.

Department reported vandalism to a building's window. This matter is under investigation.

At 6:11 p.m. a store reported a juvenile had stolen a pack of alcoholic beverages. Investigation is ongoing.

At 9:43 p.m. a caller reported someone threw an object through a window at their residence. Investigation is ongoing.

10-11-23

Officers handled numerous reports of vehicles being entered overnight and items being taken. These matters are under investigation.

At 11:10 a.m. an officer responded to Social Services for a report of a female subject who had driven there and appeared to be under the influence. The responding officer placed the female through field sobriety tests and ultimately arrested the female subject for operating while under the influence.

At 12:26 p.m. an officer took a report of a theft of a package from a residence. A suspect was observed on camera, and the investigation is ongoing.

At 4:32 p.m. officers responded to a residence after the owner found that someone had entered the home without permission and appeared to have been staying there. The suspect was identified and charges will be forthcoming.

At 4:33 p.m. an officer responded to a business for a retail theft incident. The suspects were identified and the investigation is ongoing.

At 8:41 p.m. an officer responded to a business after staff located what appeared to be methamphetamine on the floor. The investigation is ongoing.

10-12-23

At 11:19 a.m. officers were requested by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections to take a male subject into custody for a probation violation. The male subject was taken into custody and taken to the jail.

At 1:48 p.m. officers responded to a report of a theft of a package from a residence. The property owner was watching the suspect take the package on camera. Officers responded and located the male subject who had taken the package. He was also found to have taken other packages from the residence previously. The male subject was arrested for the theft and taken to the jail.

10-13-23

At 12:07 a.m. a male was cited for burning violation after he was burning trash in a barrel.

At 10:00 a.m. a bank reported having two counterfeit \$100 bills come in from a business. Investigation is ongoing.

10-14-23

At 3:07 a.m. an officer was flagged down by a motorist who reported her juvenile son was struck by his aunt. Contact was made with the son and his aunt. The juvenile had a minor injury to his lip, which he stated occurred when his aunt punched him. The aunt was arrested for physical abuse to a child. The juvenile was cited for underage drinking.

At 10:39 a.m. a caller reported finding damage done to a basement window. Investigation is ongoing.

At 12:34 p.m. a caller reported a male in her hotel room causing problems. The male had since left. It was found the two had been arguing about politics. No enforcement action taken.

At 5:52 p.m. a caller reported money stolen by another tenant of the apartment she resides at. Investigation is ongoing.

10-15-23

At 1:20 a.m. an officer was dispatched to a downtown tavern for a report of a hit-and-run. The officer located the suspect vehicle parked in a parking lot of an apartment complex. The owner will be cited for hit-and-run and operating without insurance.

10-16-23

At 8:17 p.m. an officer was conducting follow up on a case when he observed a male subject walking by who he knew had warrants for his arrest. Contact was made with the male, and he was confirmed to have three warrants for his arrest. The male subject was taken into custody and transported to the jail.

At 11:56 p.m. officers were dispatched to a local establishment for a report of a male subject who was on the premises in violation of his open bond conditions. When officers arrived, it was found that the male had already left. The investigation is ongoing.

10-17-23

At 6:38 p.m. an officer was dispatched to a report of a group of individuals breaking into a vehicle. The suspects were identified and found to have taken items from the vehicle. The juveniles will be referred for theft charges.

10-18-23

At 10:50 a.m. an officer conducted a traffic stop for a registration violation. The driver was found to have a warrant for her arrest. She was arrested for that warrant and transported to jail.

At 10:57 a.m. a caller reported finding damage around her door frame and suspected someone may have attempted to break in. Investigation is ongoing.

At 7:05 p.m. a caller reported her juvenile daughter was working at a restaurant and a male came through the drive-through with his genitals exposed. The male was located and arrested.

10-19-23

At 11:00 a.m. a student was found to be in possession of nicotine vaping products at the high school.

At 10:26 p.m. a 911 hang up call was found to be in relation to a domestic disturbance. An officer met with the female caller who reported her husband had become upset and threw his wedding ring and a set of keys at her, striking her with the keys. He also made a threat to bloody her nose at one point. The husband had left the residence, and an officer made phone contact with him. He agreed to come to the police department to discuss the matter but failed to show up. He will be charged with domestic disorderly conduct.

10-20-23

At 1:58 a.m. officers were requested by the Wausau Police Department to attempt to locate a female subject that they wanted taken into custody for charges from an incident in their jurisdiction. Officers were able to locate the female subject and take her into custody. She was turned over to the Wausau Police Department.

At 12:07 p.m. officers received information as to the whereabouts of a male subject who officers were looking for that was involved in an earlier domestic disturbance. The male subject also had a warrant for his arrest through Probation and Parole. The male subject was located and taken into custody for the warrant and the charges related to the domestic disturbance.

10-21-23

At 8:05 p.m. an officer was dispatched to a business in reference to a shoplifting. The suspects had left the scene with property that had not been paid for, however, it was later recovered by staff. The investigation regarding this is still ongoing at this time.

At 9:50 p.m. officers were dispatched to a business in reference to individuals smoking marijuana inside the bathroom. The individuals were found and later cited for possession of drug paraphernalia.

10-22-23

At 6:04 p.m. officers were dispatched to an area business in reference to a party who was drinking and had bond conditions to not consume or possess alcohol. The party was located at the establishment drinking; she was taken into custody for bail jumping.

Drug Take Back Day is Oct. 28

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) has designated this coming Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, as National Drug Take Back Day. More than 140 events are planned across Wisconsin, with more than 270 participating law enforcement agencies, where Wisconsinites are encouraged to dispose of unwanted and unused medications.

"The simple step of cleaning out your medicine cabinet and properly disposing of unwanted medications can help in the fight against the opioid epidemic," said Attorney General Kaul. "I encourage Wisconsinites to participate in this fall's Drug Take Back Day."

Drug Take Back Day provides a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposal, while also educating the community about the potential abuse and consequences of improper storage and disposal of these medications.

To find a Drug Take Back location near you, go to: dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/drug-take-back-day.htm.

Unused or expired medicine should never be flushed or poured down the drain. Water reclamation facilities are

not designed to remove all pharmaceuticals, and trace amounts are showing up in rivers and lakes.

To ensure the success of Drug Take Back Day, Wisconsin DOJ relies on assistance from the DEA, and the generous support of Fuchs Trucking, Covanta Energy, the Wisconsin State Patrol, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, the Indiana State Police, Waukesha County, Waukesha County Sheriff's Office, and all participating local law enforcement agencies.

GUIDELINES:

- All waste pharmaceuticals must be generated by a household – no businesses are allowed.
- Bring: Prescription (controlled and non-controlled) and over-the-counter medications, ointments, patches, inhalers, non-aerosol sprays, creams, vials and pet medications. and vape pens or other e-cigarette devices (batteries removed).

See TAKE BACK page 15

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Operation Green Light

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

This November, Lincoln County invites the community to participate in Operation Green Light, a national initiative to shine a light on the service of U.S. veterans.

From Nov. 1-30 Lincoln County buildings will be illuminated in green as a way to remind veterans and their families that they have support, and Lincoln County Veterans Service Officer John B. Olson Jr. is inviting the community to do the same.

“We encourage individuals and businesses to join us by changing one light bulb in the entryway of your home or business to a green bulb,” Olson said. “By shining a green light, you let veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported.”

Veterans Day is Nov. 11, which is why the month of November was selected for Operation Green Light. “In 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming Nov.

11 as Veterans Day, calling on the nation to ‘solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting and enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain,’” he said.

“This Veterans Day, join us in shining a light of hope and support for over 2,000 veterans who call Lincoln County home,” Olson said. “Join Operation Green Light and let’s turn Lincoln County green this Veterans Day.”

While the event is focused on Veterans Day and the month of November, he encourages Lincoln County residents to “continue to shine the light year-round” as a visible sign of support for Lincoln County’s veterans. “Now more than ever, our veterans and their families need our support,” he said. “... We are here for them.”

REVIEWS from page 6

Maurier, both the short story and the film are partly inspired by the true events of a mass bird attack on the seaside town of Capitola in California on August 18, 1961. Turns out those birds were poisoned by a neurotoxic microalga that made its way into the food cycle which made them psychotic.

The premise is simple really, and I am sure you all know it. Boy meets girl, girl becomes stalker (by today’s standards anyway) and follows boy up to his seaside hometown. Girl gets talked into staying, birds lose their minds and start attacking, people die, kids scream, and we (the viewers) munch our popcorn and love every minute of it because we are a seriously weird species.

Alfred Hitchcock was a genius. It really is as simple as that. While a womanizing lowlife, the guy had skills when it came to

making movies, and he possessed a very odd sense of humor. For example, while our heroine is driving up to stalk our hero at his seaside hole, we get a strange camera shot of two lovebirds in a cage in her car leaning one side to another as she speeds through turns on the Pacific Coast Highway. Odd but honestly pretty funny.

As always I like to avoid spoilers for the three people over 40 and the hundreds under 30 who have not seen *The Birds*, but folks, some films stay good no matter how old they are and *The Birds* is one of them. Made when people dressed to go shopping (no pajamas at Walmart to be seen anywhere) and playful banter between sexes didn’t insult everyone within earshot, *The Birds* is a classic.

I am sure it’s available everywhere, but if you ever get the chance to watch it on the big screen, do so. It does not disappoint.

Five out of five possible stars for this classic.

Keep Your Kids Safe Online Month

October has been designated as Keep Your Kids Safe Online Month. It’s a reminder that the online world can be a dangerous place, especially for kids.

Recently the Wisconsin Attorney General, Josh Kaul, sent out a press release focused on this reality and to draw attention to resources available to protect the online safety of Wisconsin’s kids.

“Online safety has become an integral part of overall safety,” said Attorney General Kaul. “Just like we talk to our kids about how to stay safe in other aspects of their lives, it’s vital for parents to talk to their kids about how to stay safe online.”

Financial Sextortion

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force is warning against a current and concerning trend known as “Financial Sextortion,” which is occurring nationwide and right here in Wisconsin. A common situation involves a victim being coerced into sending nude or potentially compromising images to someone online. Within minutes, the person on the other end threatens to post the material sent by the victim to family, school, or friends of the victim, unless the victim sends the person a specified amount of money according to their instructions.

This victimization has led to numerous suicides across the United States as these victims feel they have nowhere to turn, Kaul’s press release. Financial Sextortion should immediately be reported to local law enforcement.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has tools to remove and identify Child Sexual Abuse Material from common websites and platforms, the release said. Take It Down (ncmec.org) and family resources at NetSmartz Home (missingkids.org) are two examples.

Talk to your kids, early and often

Wisconsin ICAC Task Force leaders suggest parents talk to their children about online safety early and often. Parents should discuss online dangers and risks with their kids. They should also

have an open dialogue about their kid’s online activity, including the websites they’re visiting, the people they’re communicating with, the information they’re sharing about themselves, and any situations that make them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.

The Wisconsin ICAC Task Force and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction created the interact! Program to help keep kids safe online. Together, caregivers and children can go through interact!, a three-module course that has the goal of creating basic discussions about online safety at home. Each module varies from 15-45 minutes and allows parents to reflect on their own technology use and set a good example for their children. There are also activities to complete alongside their children. After the modules are finished, discussions can continue with follow-up resources.

Protect Kids Online podcast

The Wisconsin ICAC Task Force also produces an educational podcast called Protect Kids Online (PKO) that serves as a resource for parents, grandparents, guardians, or caregivers of children to learn about tips for combating online child exploitation and sextortion, internet safety laws, cyberbullying, protecting your child from strangers online, safe sharing tips, and more. PKO podcast episodes are available at: <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dci/icac/protect-kids-online-pko-podcast>.

Parents and guardians can also subscribe to the Wisconsin Community & Parent email list to receive online safety updates and information by emailing icac@doj.state.wi.us and requesting to be added.

If you or someone you know has information on potential child exploitation, you can report it to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children online at <https://report.cybertip.org/> or by calling 1-800-843-5678. Visit the ICAC Task Force page for internet safety tips for parents and caregivers at <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dci/icac/resources-materials>.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER ...

Community-Wide Survey Coming Soon

As everyone is aware, Merrill Area Public Schools has been dealing with operational issues, in addition to facilities needs, and has been unable to pass an operational referendum. In response to two operational referendums being rejected last year, MAPS was forced to cut 30 staff positions, eliminate programs, reduce bussing, and cut other expenses. This summer, a favorable State budget provided the district with the necessary funds to maintain programs and operations at the new, reduced level, and eliminated the need to consider an operations referendum for the next couple of years. That's good news.

It's important for the community to understand our financial situation, how we have responded, and the impact it has had on our staff, students, and community,



as those reductions have had a significant impact on those we serve.

MAPS also has needs in our school buildings, and since initiating a long-range facilities planning process in fall 2022, the district has been diligently working to identify the areas of greatest need to phase into distinct projects to make this affordable to MAPS taxpayers. What started as a study exploring the future of the vacant Jefferson Elementary building led us to evaluate all of our buildings in order to make the best use of our best facilities. This study included significant community focus group input during the summer of 2023, and several recommendations have emerged from that work on how and when to address these needs.

The next step in our long-range facilities master plan is to conduct a district-wide

survey to gather valuable community input. The survey, which is being conducted by an independent, third-party consultant, will be mailed to every household in the district and emailed to all staff in late October and early November. The purpose of this survey is to explain our challenges and get community input on what to do next. Data gathered from the survey will assist our School Board in making a decision on whether or not to go to a capital projects referendum in April or November 2024—the survey results will be presented to the board in December. Please watch your mailboxes for this survey and take some time to respond to the survey questions as your input is very important to our district.

If you have questions about the survey, we encourage you to attend our Community Listening Session on November 7 at 6 p.m. Join us at Jefferson School to hear about the long-range facilities master planning process thus far, and to get your questions answered. No RSVP is necessary.

Types of referendum questions in Wisconsin

There are two main types of public school district referendum questions in Wisconsin:

Operational referendum: referendum used to fund daily operations, including programs and services. This type of referendum proposes to raise the district's revenue limit. While MAPS has pursued several operational referendums over the past few years, the budget

reductions that were made going into this school year, combined with a favorable budget from the State over the summer, mean that we will not need to pursue an operational referendum over the next few years.

Capital Referendum (debt issuance referendum): referendum that allows a district to issue debt (take out a loan) to pay for major facility improvements and is typically financed over a 20-year period. Wisconsin school districts can issue up to \$1 million in debt before triggering the need to pass a referendum. Debt issued under this \$1 million threshold must be paid off using funds within the district's revenue limit. Any other debt must be approved via a referendum.

School districts in the state of Wisconsin have the opportunity to ask two referendum questions per calendar year, whether those questions are successful or not. During even-numbered years, like 2024, there are two election cycles in Wisconsin—April and November—and during odd-numbered years, only an April election.

For additional information on Wisconsin referenda, the Wisconsin DPI is a great resource: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sfs/reporting/safr/referendum/overview>. I would also encourage MAPS district taxpayers to reach out to the District Office, as I am more than happy to answer questions you may have.

Shannon Murray
Superintendent

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.

PINECREST from page 6

said Judy Woller. "To do that, we need to make good decisions as a community and that will require transparency. That's why we are demanding a full independent financial audit of Pine Crest with a public report of its findings."

The group again cited the recent survey conducted by Lincoln County's two

newspapers, the Merrill Foto News and the Tomahawk Leader, and the results published in our Oct. 5 edition. that "85.3% of the 782 respondents replied, 'Yes,' they would support an increase in their real estate taxes for five or more years, in order to keep Pine Crest Nursing Home owned by Lincoln County."

"The County Board should take Pine Crest off the market immediately. Selling Pine Crest to outside

interests is not good for the residents, the staff, or the community. It's time to rescind the sale," said Dora Gorski.

"The people of Lincoln County are united. We want to keep Pine Crest affordable, accessible, and County-owned so it will continue to provide high quality care. That starts with the County Board fully funding Pine Crest in the 2024 budget," Don Dunphy said.

TAKE BACK from page 13

- Do not bring: Illegal drugs, needles/sharps, acids, aerosol cans, bio-hazardous materials (anything containing a bodily fluid or blood), personal care products (shampoo, soaps, lotions, sunscreens), household hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, oil, gas), or mercury thermometers.

- Participants may dispose of solid, non-liquid medication(s) by removing the label or blacking out personal information on the label of the plastic pill container or by putting the medication into a clear sealable plastic bag. Blister packages without the

medications being removed are also acceptable.

- Liquids will be accepted during this initiative. However, the liquids, creams, and sprays must be in their original packaging. Liquids without the original packaging will not be accepted.

- Illicit substances such as marijuana or methamphetamine are not a part of this initiative and should not be placed in collection containers.

Here in Merrill, the Merrill Police Department (MPD) has a receptable where the above drugs may be dropped off to be property disposed of this Saturday, but also year round. Stop into the MPD office to dispose of drugs in the receptable

there following the above guidelines.

2023 FALL MERRILL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Girls Swimming (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. Oct. 26	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Away	5:30 pm
Girls Volleyball (Varsity & JV)			
Sat. Oct. 28	Sectional Final (Varsity)	Home	4:00 pm
Boys Soccer (Varsity & JV)			
Sat. Oct. 28	Sectional Final (Varsity)	Home	1:00 pm

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

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Olivia Pajtach, a Junior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. A stand-out member and Captain of the Merrill Varsity Swim Team, Olivia began swimming competitively in second grade and began swimming for Merrill Aqua Jays, then the Prairie River Middle School (PRMS) Swim Team, then the Rhinelander Swim Club, before joining the Varsity team. During the summers, she works part-time as a lifeguard at the Bierman Aquatic Center at the MARC, and now also works as a lifeguard at the PRMS pool.

Last spring, Olivia joined the Merrill Girls Varsity Soccer Team and she plans to do that again this year.

Olivia is active at school, involved in National Honor Society, Link Crew, Junior Optimists, The Nest, Raise Your Voice, Student Council, LEAD, Tri-M Music Honor Society, and is a section leader in the Merrill Marching Jays.

When her sister comes home, she loves spending time with her. Olivia also enjoys baking, hanging out with family, watching movies, and shopping or just hanging out with friends and/or family.

The daughter of Seth Pajtach and Stephannie Pajtach, both of Merrill, Olivia has a 4.0 GPA. After graduation, she plans to go to nursing school, then get her Masters degree, and to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) and to work in anesthesiology.



Olivia Pajtach

Congratulations from these sponsors:



Athletes highlighted in this feature are selected by the Foto News editorial staff, not by the sponsors.

Please direct comments or suggestions to fotonews@mmclocal.com



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Wednesday, November 1, 2023
 LOCATION-13141 Old W. Road, Winchester
 Police & SCIG Volunteers Session 8am-Noon
 EMS/Fire & SCIG Volunteers Session 1pm-4pm
 General Public & SCIG Volunteers 6pm-8pm

OR

Thursday, November 2, 2023
 LOCATION-Lakeland Union HS, Distance Learning Room
 Police & SCIG Volunteers Session 8am-Noon
 EMS/Fire & SCIG Volunteers Session 1pm-4pm
 General Public & SCIG Volunteers 6pm-8pm

***Must register by October 28, 2023**
 Call 715-493-3534

319750



Maria Ashbrenner of Merrill bagged her bear on opening day. It weighed a whopping 390 pounds dressed out! That's a big bear!
 Submitted photo.

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@mmclocal.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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