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Craft show weekend is bigger than ever



Get in the mood for holiday crafting and holiday shopping at this weekend's craft fairs in and around Merrill. **Stock photo.**
 BY **TINA L. SCOTT**
 EDITOR

We've already had our first snowfall, and though it melted and we're experiencing milder temperatures this week, waking up to the world covered in white on Halloween morning was—though seemingly a bit premature for that holiday—a great reminder that the holidays and Christmas are quickly approaching. In fact, as of this publication's date [Nov. 9], there are 45 days until Christmas Eve. The whirlwind of holiday preparations—crafting, decorating, baking, and shopping—is about to begin, and Merrill's annual craft fair weekend is set to kick things off.

Officially set for this Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, area shoppers can work their way around the community to explore craft shows in multiple locations and shop from hundreds of crafters, small businesses and boutiques, and vendors right here in Merrill. This year nine locations will showcase talented artisans with their wares for sale—

See **CRAFT SHOWS** page 6



Origami fox. Origami horse. Submitted photos.

Beyond Books Community ArtShare: Into the fold

BY **TINA L. SCOTT**
 EDITOR

The T.B. Scott Free Library has a new Beyond Books Community ArtShare exhibit for the months of November and December. "Into the fold: Origami" by Troy Hanson features the origami creations he has created over the years including an array of animals.

Origami is the art, science, and technique of folding flat paper (one dimensional) into three-dimensional

designs and objects. It started in Japan but is now a hobby and skill practiced by people of many ages worldwide, with techniques and projects at many levels. There are books teaching origami techniques, as well as videos, and different designs and techniques developed by people worldwide.

For the entirety of November and December, a collection of Hanson's creations will be on display in the library for the community to view. Some of the models he created were designed by others from around the

globe including Japan, Uruguay, Vietnam, Croatia, Argentina, England, Spain, France, and South Africa, as well as U.S. designers. In addition, some creations are Hanson's own design. Some were fast, taking only 5 minutes to create, while other complex designs took up to 15 hours to complete.

A native of Gleason and graduate of Merrill High School, Hanson then graduated from Purdue University. He

See **ARTSHARE** page 6

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Veterans Day 2023

BY **TINA L. SCOTT**
 EDITOR

Children thank veterans

As part of Veterans Day activities in Merrill, Merrill area schools will again be recognizing and celebrating local veterans and thanking them for their service. All veterans and friends of veterans were/are welcome to attend the school programs. Contact individual schools for specific information about their events and procedures. All veterans organizations are invited and encouraged to attend and show their colors.

Some schools held programs earlier in the week, such as St. Francis Xavier Catholic School which honored veterans with an afternoon program on Tuesday, Nov. 7. Most schools scheduled their program for Thursday or Friday, with programs as follows:

- Nov. 9: Prairie River Middle School @ 8:30 a.m.
- Nov. 9: Washington School @ 2:00 p.m.
- Nov. 10: Kate Goodrich School @ 8:30 a.m.
- Nov. 10: St John Lutheran School @ 10:00 a.m. (Following the program, lunch for all veterans and families/friends will be served.)
- Nov. 10: Merrill High School @ 1:05 p.m. and 2:05 p.m. (approximate)



Public Veterans Day recognition

Public ceremonies to honor veterans will be held on Veterans Day, 2023—Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, as follows:

- Nov. 11: Cenotaph Park Ceremony including VFW Honor Guard rifle salute @ 11:00 a.m. (Held at Cenotaph Park, 301 Grand Ave. in Merrill on the corner of Hwy. 64 and N. Prospect St. Cenotaph Park is a memorial park dedicated to Veterans of our country.)
- Nov. 11: Honorary street sign dedication @ 2:00 p.m. (at the corner of Spruce St. and E. 6th St.), being dedicated in honor of Lt. Robert Russell who was an Army Air Corp flyer during World War II (WWII). He was shot down and killed. He is one of just four Lincoln County service men and the only city of Merrill resident who is listed as Missing in Action from WWII.

of Merrill resident who is listed as Missing in Action from WWII.

- Nov. 11: Veterans Memorial Cemetery dedication @ 3:30 p.m. at St. Francis Cemetery at Thielman St., honoring all Lincoln County war time veterans who died in service.

Private gatherings

A private social and viewing of a new Never Forgotten Honor Flight display, followed by a meal for veterans, will be held later in the day at the Northwoods Veterans Post but is limited to those who made advance reservations. Private donors are making those events possible.

Honoring All Who Served
 *** November 11, 2023 ***

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Stadler is Branch Manager at Nicolet National Bank

Nicolet National Bank (Nicolet), headquartered in Green Bay, recently announced Nancy Stadler of Merrill as the Branch Manager in the Merrill location. Stadler has 29 years experience in the banking industry, ranging from positions in retail banking, mortgage lending, small business banking, and as a branch manager. In her new role as Branch Manager, she will oversee the retail team for the Merrill location.



Nancy Stadler. Submitted photo.

Stadler is passionate about community involvement and has been actively involved with many organizations over the years, including Boy Scouts, Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln County Crime Stoppers, and the Merrill Noon Optimist Club where she is currently a board member. Nancy and her husband, Jason, live in Merrill and have two sons, Trevor (Milwaukee) and Cameron.

"I am very excited to be a part of the Nicolet family; it's a wonderful organization. It feels great to work for a company that truly cares about its customers and employees equally and wants to give back to the local community," Stadler said.

To schedule a personalized banking appointment with a representative in Merrill, call 715.536.8301 or stop in to meet with Stadler at 1400 E. Main St. in Merrill.

Nicolet National Bank is the operating entity of the bank holding company Nicolet Bankshares, Inc. Founded in Green Bay in 2000, Nicolet National Bank is a growing, full-service community bank providing services ranging from commercial, agricultural, and consumer banking to wealth management and retirement plan services. Nicolet operates branches in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota. For more information, go to: nicoletbank.com.

City of Merrill Tree City USA 2022, Arbor Day observation

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

An enduring Merrill tradition, the City of Merrill has again achieved Tree City USA status for 2022. "This marks our 37th year as Tree City USA," said Dan Wendorf, Director of the Merrill Parks & Recreation Department, "And we are very proud to achieve this tremendous honor again this year."

"The Merrill Parks & Recreation Department crew planted over 120 trees in 2022, and 180 trees this fall on city boulevards and in city parks," he said. "The City of Merrill has a very rich and longstanding tradition in supporting urban forestry through tree planting, tree care, and beautification."

Merrill Mayor Steve Hass also proclaimed Nov. 2, 2023, to be Arbor Day in Merrill. In his proclamation, Hass urged citizens to plant trees to gladden the hearts and promote the well-being of this and future generations.



L to R: Patricia Lindquist (Urban Forestry Coordinator - WDNR) and Kyle Gulke (Parks & Recreation Commission member) proudly hold Merrill's Tree City USA designation banner. Photo courtesy of Merrill Park & Recreation Department.

"We are very thankful to have such a supportive community," Wendorf said. "... 37 years as a Tree City USA speaks volumes about how we feel about our valuable trees here in Merrill."

Wendorf added that City of Merrill residents are allowed (even

encouraged) to plant trees on their personal property without a permit as long as the tree(s) are on the approved species list in the City of Merrill Code of Ordinances. Public property, boulevard, and right-of-way tree planting is prohibited without an approved planting permit, he said.

DANGER! Carbon monoxide poisoning kills!

Properly working heating devices and carbon monoxide detectors save lives

As temperatures start to drop, the Lincoln County Health Department wants to remind residents to take action to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, whether it is in your home, cabin, hunting shack, or other enclosed areas. "Fuel burning appliances, when not properly installed or maintained, are the main cause of carbon monoxide poisoning," said Michael Mandli, Environmental Health Specialist, Lincoln County Health Department.

On average, carbon monoxide poisoning sends about 500 Wisconsinites to the emergency room each year, according to data from the Wisconsin Environmental Public Health Tracking Program. These trips to the ER for carbon monoxide poisoning are preventable when people are prepared.

To protect yourself and your family from carbon monoxide, follow these safety tips:

- Make sure you have working carbon monoxide detectors. All single-family duplexes and homes in Wisconsin are required to have detectors on every level, including the basement. Carbon monoxide alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms. Change batteries twice a year and replace your detector every five years or according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Have your furnace or wood-burning stove inspected annually. Hire a professional to make sure it is functionally sound and vents properly outside the home.
- Never run a gasoline or propane heater or a grill (gas or charcoal) inside your home or garage. Any heating system that burns fuel produces carbon monoxide. Use a battery-powered detector where you have fuel burning devices but no electric outlets, such as in tents, cabins, and RVs.
- Generators should be run at a safe distance (at least 20 feet) from the home. Never run a generator in the home or garage, or right next to windows or doors.



Do you have a working carbon monoxide detector on each level of your home? Stock photo.

• Never run a car in an enclosed space. Even with a door or window open, carbon monoxide levels can still build up to an unsafe level.

Symptoms of overexposure to carbon monoxide include headache, fatigue, dizziness, shortness of breath, nausea, and confusion. At high levels, carbon monoxide can cause death within minutes. If you think you may be experiencing carbon monoxide poisoning, or your detector sounds an alarm, head outside immediately for fresh air and call 911. Do not re-enter the building until it has been declared safe to do so.

For more information about carbon monoxide, visit: dhs.wisconsin.gov/air/co.htm.

For more information about Lincoln County Health Department's programs and services, visit lincolncountyhealthdepartment.com or find them on Facebook. Lincoln County Health Department is always working for a safer and healthier Lincoln County.

Pet of the Week

Meet Coral! This sweet, fluffy Siberian Husky/Mix came to us as a stray and is looking for a quiet home to call her own. She loves to get attention and going for walks. She has been great with everyone! Coral appears to be somewhat blind, so a calm home is going to be best for her. Stop in and meet this pretty lady soon!

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MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is **Reagan Fuchs**

Daughter of **Emma Charlier & Jarred Fuchs**

Regan is in 1st grade at Kate Goodrich Elementary School. She was nominated by Mrs. Hahn.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
My favorite subject is math. I like math because it is fun.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?
Recess is my favorite part of school because we get to exercise.

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?
When I grow up I want to be a teacher because I would like to teach math.

Reagan is exceptionally respectful to both peers and adults. She exhibits genuine courtesy and politeness in all interactions! She goes out of her way to support and help fellow students. She demonstrates empathy and kindness in all her actions. Reagan maintains a positive attitude, even in challenging situations. Her actions and character make her a worthy candidate for "student of the week," and her example sets a high standard for all to follow. ~Mrs. Hahn

Student of the Week Sponsored by:

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St. Vincent de Paul Conference begins Annual Fund Drive

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Conference of Merrill announced their Annual Fund Drive is now underway, and they are counting on the support of area residents to help them to help those in need in Lincoln County. SVDP assists individuals and families in need of emergency assistance right here in our community.

This year a number of corporate, individual, and private donors stepped up to donate a total of \$36,000 via their Annual Matching Fund Campaign. Connexus Credit Union, Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, the family of Nick and Kathy Laphen, and an anonymous donor will match donations, effectively doubling the value of other donors' gifts, to help our neighbors during their time of crisis.

"Poverty is an incredibly significant problem in Lincoln County," said Sue Norenberg, SVDP Director of Operations. "[The] St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Program has provided



Sisters of Mercy present a check to St. Vincent de Paul: (L to R, seated) Lisa Carlson, Sister Celine Goessel, Jim Rell, Sister Kathy Lange, Judy Warren. (L to R, standing) Sister Pat Cormack, Sister Dolores Hrdina, Sue Norenberg, Sister Dorothy Niemann, Sister Linda Songy, Pete Mueller, Sister Pam Hodgson, and Karen Bloechl.

Submitted photo.

\$125,711 in assistance to 333 households during the past 10 months."

Once facet of the SVDP Conference is the SVDP Thrift Store in downtown Merrill, which contributes all store profits to the Outreach Program and has also provided more than \$4,500 worth of clothing, furniture, and other

items to those in need during this time.

For more information about SVDP or to find out how you can help, call Norenberg at 715.539.2666. Donations may be sent to: Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 503 S. Center Ave. Suite 2, Merrill WI 54452.



Female driver submitting to a breathalyzer test. Chris Pecoraro photo via Metro.

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

Lincoln County agencies will participate in impaired driving enforcement campaign

Alcohol-impaired Driving: In Wisconsin, in 2020, alcohol was listed as a contributing factor in 5.3% of all crashes. In 2020, 28.5% of all fatal vehicle crashes were alcohol-related, resulting in 167 deaths. Alcohol-impaired driving is associated with other high-risk

See SOBER page 6

Open enrollment for health insurance approaching

WAUSAU, Wis. – It's time to start thinking about your health care coverage with the annual health insurance open enrollment period just around the corner. This time offers the opportunity to enroll in health insurance or to reassess healthcare needs related to your coverage for the coming year.

Open enrollment is a designated period during which individuals and families can sign up for or make changes to their health insurance plans. This year's open enrollment starts Nov. 1, 2023, and ends on Jan. 15, 2024. During this time, you can enroll in a new plan, switch plans, or adjust your current coverage.

"It's critical that people utilize this time to make their health plan decisions for the year," said Sara Seubert, Aspirus Health Plan Director. "Outside of special enrollment periods, open enrollment is the only time individuals can enroll in or make changes to their policies."

A special enrollment period (SEP), is a life event such as getting married, having a baby, losing other coverage, etc. SEPs provide an opportunity to take another look at your coverage.

What to consider during open enrollment:

- **Assess your needs:** Evaluate factors such as prescription medications, ongoing treatments, and anticipated medical procedures.
- **Evaluate plan options:** Health insurance plans vary in terms of coverage, network of doctors and hospitals, and cost.
- **Network of providers:** If you have preferred doctors, specialists, or hospitals, make sure they are in the network. Going out-of-network can lead to higher costs.
- **Prescription drug coverage:** Review the plan's formulary to ensure your prescription medications are covered.

For more information about health care coverage, go to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services WisCovered website, or the Aspirus Health Plan website.

Aspirus Health is a non-profit, community-directed health system based in Wausau, Wis., with 4 hospitals in Michigan and 13 hospitals in Wisconsin, 75 clinics, home health and hospice care, pharmacies, critical care and air-medical transport, medical goods, nursing homes, and a broad network of physicians. For more information, visit aspirus.org.

Name spelling correction

In the Sept. 28, 2023, edition of the Foto News, we published a photo of the Eagles Auxiliary awarding a scholarship to a young woman identified at that time as Kathryn Herdt, however, we have since been informed her name should have been spelled Catherine Herdt.

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Call Lincoln County Health Department at 715-536-0307 if you are unable to pay for your vaccine or have no insurance.



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CIRCULATION AUDIT BY
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Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake monitor report recognizes continued progress

The 18th report from the federal court-appointed monitor for Lincoln Hills School/Copper Lake School (LHS/CLS) was filed on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023, noting continued improvements at the juvenile facility. The Wisconsin Department of Corrections is now in substantial compliance with 36 (or 72%) of the 50 provisions identified in the consent decree, four more than the previous reporting period.

The consent decree stems from a 2017 lawsuit over conditions at the facility under the previous administration. Under Gov. Tony Evers, the DOC has been in either partial or substantial compliance with all provisions of the consent decree. In the latest report, the department gained substantial compliance in provisions related to clinical observation, documentation, and the department's incident review process.

"The staff in the Division of Juvenile Corrections and at LHS/CLS continue to do an exceptional job improving operations and addressing all provisions of the consent decree," said DOC Secretary Kevin Carr. "At the same time, we will not ignore the areas that still need attention, and we will continue to identify additional opportunities

to build upon the progress being made at the facility."

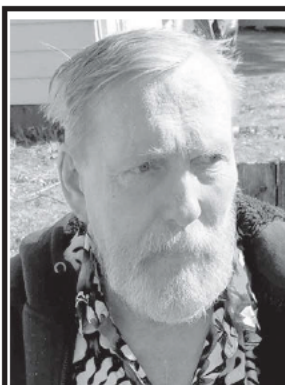
The court-appointed monitor visited LHS/CLS in October and conducted 48 interviews with staff and youth. They noted the cleanliness of the facility, fewer instances of administrative confinement, and the overall positive interactions between staff and youth. They also praised the DOC for creating a "homelike" environment and noted the following improvements:

- Replacement of dayroom televisions with larger models.
- Installation of televisions in the upper day classroom for staff to use with youth.
- Installation of 80-inch monitors in classrooms to assist with instruction.
- Completion of new living unit sidewalks and stairways.
- Expansion of video production studio space and capabilities for the Music and Arts Initiative.
- Requests to update dishwashers, sinks, and living unit bathrooms.

"The [DOC] should be commended for their continuing commitment to improving the physical plant, which improves the daily

See PROGRESS page 8

OBITUARIES



Clifford Frank Gronholm Sr.
June 3, 1950 - November 2, 2023

Clifford Frank Gronholm Sr., 73, of Merrill, WI, passed away on November 2, 2023. He was born on June 3, 1950, in Ashland WI, to the late Kosti and Helen Gronholm. Clifford was an Electrician for his entire career until retirement. He was a member of IBEW Local 430 and the National Electrical Contractors Association. One of his favorite memories was being

directly involved in installing the electrical at the Racine County Zoo. Clifford had a wide variety of electrical experience, from climbing power poles to residential, industrial, and institutional work. Retiring from the State of Wisconsin where he worked at Racine Correctional Institution as an electrician.

Clifford had a green thumb and loved gardening. He also enjoyed spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Cliff was a long-time member of the WBFA and had a passion for fishing in bass tournaments, hunting, and golf. He cherished the weekly card game nights and Trivial Pursuit gatherings with his family. Oldies Country music could always be heard playing on his radio.

Clifford is survived by his sons, Clifford Gronholm Jr, Jason Gronholm, Robert Gronholm (girlfriend Tara); daughters, Katrina (Steve) Woller, Sara Gronholm; 14 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren; sisters, Shirley Gronholm, Darlene (Billy) Bowen, Sandi (Gordon) Starkey; brothers, Mark (Annette) Gronholm, William (Kathy) Gronholm, Gerald Gronholm, Marvin (Beth) Gronholm, Douglas Gronholm. He was preceded in death by his wife, Donna May Gronholm, sister Linda Allen.

A funeral service will be held at John Buettgen Funeral Home in Schofield, WI, on Monday, November 13, 2023. Visitation will be held from 10-11:30am, with the service starting at 11:30am.

John J Buettgen Funeral Home is assisting family. At this time online condolences may be expressed at HonorOne.com



Correen St. George (nee Wolf)

Correen was born to Eternal Life on October 18, 2023, one day after her 81st birthday. Correen is survived by her first husband, Jack Chmiel, their son, John, and her two grandchildren, Isabelle and Wyatt Chmiel, along with her sister Georgette Warlin and brother-in-law, Kerri Warlin. Her beloved son and the grandchildren reside in Wausau, WI.

Correen was the younger daughter of the late Ella (nee Zastrow) and Peter Wolf and grew up in Merrill, Wisconsin. When she and Jack married, he was in the Air Force, stationed in Germany, where John was born.

Correen was an avid traveler and enjoyed many trips throughout the US as well as in Europe. A last and memorable trip was to Egypt and the Holy Land.

After her marriage to her second husband, the late Dale St. George, she lived in California for many years before returning to Wisconsin and the Milwaukee area. Correen was an Executive Secretary by profession and worked in that capacity both in Wisconsin and California. In recent years her physical health along with her memory had slowly been declining and she was currently a resident of the Village at Manor Park in West Allis, Wisconsin.

Correen was a beautiful, intelligent woman. She was wise and funny, continually thinking of things she could do to bless others, very generous in so many ways. She and her sister were particularly close, and always enjoyed doing things together. Correen loved to read and devoured books - something she had in common with her late mom, her sister and her son - delighting in discussing the contents with others. Most recently books about WWII seemed to have captured her interest.

Shortly before moving to California, Correen came to know Jesus as Her Lord and Savior and ever after she did her best to follow His teachings in every facet of her life. Her family takes great comfort in the fact that while they will miss her presence here on earth, they know with a certainty they will one day see her again in Heaven.

Visitation was held for Correen on Friday, October 27, 2023, at CHURCH AND CHAPEL FUNERAL HOME, 1875 N. Calhoun Rd. Brookfield, WI from 11:00 AM until time of the Memorial Service at 12:00 PM.



Donna Mae Eckerle
May 30, 1933 - November 3, 2023

Longtime Merrill resident Donna Mae Eckerle died quietly in her sleep on November 3, 2023, after a years long battle with Alzheimer's Disease. She was 90 years old.

Born in Wausau, Wisconsin to Harold and Genevieve Ruprecht, she moved with her parents to Merrill as a youngster. A popular and active student, she displayed

keen interests in music, medicine and her beloved dogs, Popeye and Popeye II. Upon graduation from Holy Cross High School in 1951, the coloratura soprano appeared in various singing competitions in Chicago, Milwaukee and Minneapolis. After one such performance, she was approached by a representative of New York's Metropolitan Opera, who offered to put her through music conservatory, if she signed with the company. However, Donna had other plans, trading in her bouts with pre-performance stage fright for the rigors of Holy Cross Nursing School, after which the newly minted registered nurse accepted a position at Holy Cross Hospital.

Around the same time, she met her future husband, Charles Eckerle, who had returned to his hometown of Merrill after a stint with the Air Force Band. So smitten was "Chuck" that, following a chance encounter with her at Club Modern, he drove all the way to her parents' cottage on Birch Lake to ask her out on a date. They were married at St. Stephens United Church of Christ on August 13, 1955, and welcomed their first child, Jeffrey, the following year.

A daughter, Kathy, arrived in 1957, followed by David in 1959, Mark in 1961 and Connie in 1963. As Chuck worked his way up the executive ranks at Lincoln County Bank, Donna dove into her now full-time job as mother of a robust brood of young Eckerles, which included stints as Den Mother to her kids' Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.

Tragedy struck in the spring of 1967, when son Mark drowned in the river behind their Pinewood Lane home. Struggling with depression in the wake of this loss, she found her way back by focusing on her family and her community. She joined the St. Stephens Church Council and went to work for the Lincoln County Health Department and the Lincoln County Nursing Service. She also took a leadership position with the local Head Start Program, helped establish a mobile dental service for homebound patients, and sat on the board of Haven, Inc., a shelter and assistance center for victims of domestic abuse.

That sense of commitment served her in the wake of Chuck's death by congestive heart failure in 1982 and son David's death by lung cancer in 2004. No matter how deep the pain or how crushing the loss, she never lost her faith in God or her fellow human beings.

At the same time, she had an enduring passion for fun. She was an active member of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority and hosted multiple incarnations of an ongoing bridge club. With the kids grown, she embarked on a European adventure with a few close friends, which she enjoyed immensely. But after three weeks of sightseeing, a creeping case of homesickness brought her back to Merrill. When asked about her next globetrotting adventure, she replied that she had the best adventures of her life right here in her own backyard.

In later life, she found a special joy watching her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren grow and find their way in life.

She's preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Genevieve, her husband Chuck, her sons Mark and David, and her grandson Jon Manthei. She's survived by her children: Jeffrey (Marilyn) Eckerle, Kathy Badeau, Connie (Robert) Russell, Marsha Eckerle; her grandchildren: Matthew Badeau, Jacob (Kristen) Spanaus, Missy (Walter) Kanitz, Kristina (Drew) Ebben, Alisha Scantlin, Melissa (Shane) Maluegge, David Manthei, Kylie Russell, Eric Russell; and her great grandchildren: Pierce Ebben, Dillon Ebben and Asher Spanaus.

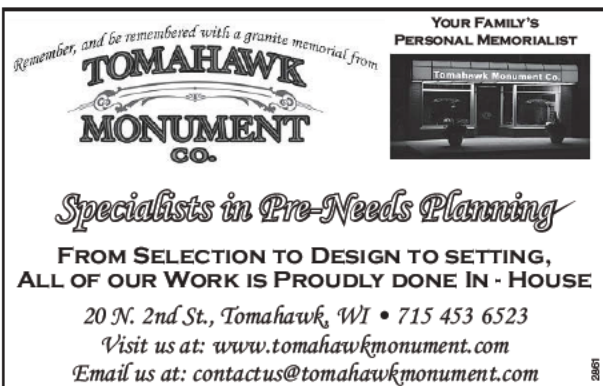
There has never been a better listener, a stronger advocate or more loving presence in this world. We, her family and dear friends, have been blessed to have her in our lives. And though we will miss her warm smile, kind eyes, and wry sense of humor, she will always be with us in our hearts and in our deeds as we strive, as she did, to make the world a kinder, more loving and happier place. Thanks for everything, Donna Mae. Oh, and put in a good word for us with You-Know-Who.

The funeral service for Donna will be held at 12:00 P.M., Noon, Thursday, November 9, 2023, at St. Stephens United Church of Christ, Merrill. The Rev. Michael Southcombe will preside. The burial will take place in Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 11:00 A.M. Thursday at the church. The Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



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Thomas Charles Curran, 73,
of Merrill, WI, passed away on Nov. 1st, 2023 surrounded by his family.

Tom's story started on March 16th, 1950 as the oldest child born to Harry and Faye Curran in Medford, WI. He attended Medford High School and went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire. He started his career as a high school counselor in Bruce, WI where he met his wife Gail

who was a teacher there. They then moved to Merrill, WI where he was a social worker at the Lincoln Hills Juvenile Correction Facility in Irma, WI for several years and then ended his career as a Probation and Parole Officer in the Merrill, Wausau and Medford areas. He has been retired for the last 18 years and spent time enjoying his hobbies and his grandkids.

Tom was well known by his family and friends as a junk collector and one of his favorite hobbies was garage saling. He loved the hunt for things he didn't know he needed. He would never accept sticker price for anything and was always ready for negotiations. His second favorite hobbies were hunting and fishing. His favorite place to spend time was at his land and cabin in Rib Lake, WI. Over the years, he hosted many hunters at his cabin and not one of them left without having a good time.

Tom's grandchildren were the greatest gift of his life and he spent every bit of time enjoying them. The greatest memories for his grandkids are his bedtime stories of the Old, Old Cabin and sharing his love of garage saling, hunting and fishing with them.

Loved ones who cleared the path for Tom are his mother Faye Curran and father Harry Curran. Loved ones that will miss him dearly are his wife Gail Curran, his son and daughter in law Mike and Laura Curran, his daughter and son in law Sarah and Brian Bradshaw and his grandchildren Anna Curran (6), Ella Curran (9), Sophia Curran (7) and Rylan Bradshaw (14).

Per Tom's request there will be no public services or funeral and his life will be celebrated privately by his family and close friends.

www.merrillfotonews.com

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023
Girl, Delilah Olivia, born to Lindsay Washburn and Dustin Elsholtz of Antigo.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023
Boy, Junior Adriel Bello Garcia, born to Scarleth Garcia and Junior Bello of Merrill.



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Tammy Klade
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www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

OBITUARIES



Harry Donald Doering, 95, of Elk Grove Village, Illinois, devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, formerly of Merrill, WI, passed away Sunday, October 29, 2023, at his home in Elk Grove Village, Illinois.

Harry was born June 16, 1928, and raised in Doering, Wisconsin. He graduated from Merrill High School and later attended Spencerian Business College in Milwaukee, where he met Joyce Beaudry. They were married on October 22, 1955, in Merrill.

Harry worked as a salesperson for the Rhinelander Paper Company for most of his life and was the owner of Doering Trees, selling Christmas trees and evergreen products throughout the Northern Illinois area. Harry was a Korean War Veteran. His passion was spending time at his cabin in the woods on a lake his father developed and built in Gleason, Wisconsin. Harry loved traveling with his wife Joyce including trips to Russia, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, France, Netherlands, Switzerland and many other amazing destinations throughout the world. Harry was a devoted race fan and attended the Indy 500 car race for over 50 years. He also enjoyed attending and watching Green Bay Packer football games.

Harry is survived by his children: Rick (Cindy) Doering of Barrington, IL & Debbie (Kerry) Field of Elk Grove Village, IL; grandchildren: Kelly Doering, Dan (Shana) Doering & Tyler (Kelly) Doering; Jaime (Greg) Painter & Nick (Ashley) Andriopoulos; Ryan (Lauren) Field, Emily (Alex) Smolan, & Alec Field; great-grandchildren: Avery, Harper Field; Evelyn, Luke, Eli Doering; Grace, Heidi, James Doering; Sophie, Gemma Painter; and Colton Andriopoulos; son-in-law, Bill Andriopoulos of Elk Grove Village, IL.

Harry was preceded in death by wife, Joyce E. (Beaudry) Doering; daughter, Cheryl L. (Doering) Andriopoulos; parents, Harry G. and Katherine (Bloechl) Doering; sisters: Elaine (Lester) Sukow, Dorothy (Marvin) Kanitz, brothers: Roy (Nancy) Doering, and Norbert Doering.

Visitation began at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill, WI. The funeral service followed at 11:00 a.m. Burial took place in Doering Cemetery, Town of Schley, Lincoln County.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



Philip E. Woller, 65, of Plover, passed away Thursday, November 2, 2023, at his home.

Philip was born November 15, 1957, in Merrill, son of the late Laverne and Donna (Beste) Woller. He married Nancy Hagedorn on November 16, 1996, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Merrill. They moved to Plover, WI after their marriage.

Phil worked at Lemke Cheese and Marathon Cheese. When he and Nancy moved to Plover, he took a job with Dunkin' Donuts and worked there for over twenty years. In his younger years, Phil was the drummer and a singer for the Polka Twins. He enjoyed singing karaoke, pulling pull-tabs, and having pizza night with "the (neighborhood) ladies." Phil enjoyed keeping a tidy place and always helped his family, friends and neighbors. He was always present at all the family gatherings.

Survivors include his son, Matt (Wendy) Woller of Tigerton; sister, Penny Zoellner (Thomas May) of Gleason; brothers, Kim (Debra) Woller of Wausau, Tom (Linda) Woller of Rothschild, Scott (Carrie) Woller of Hatley, Mark (Sally) Woller of Merrill, and Lyle Woller of Hatley; sister-in-law, Joan Hagedorn of Madison; and many cousins, nieces and nephews. Philip was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy Hagedorn-Woller; parents, Laverne and Donna Woller; siblings, Leigh Ann Woller and Brian Woller; brother-in-law, Lee Zoellner; and his in-laws, Richard and Dolores Hagedorn, Richard Hagedorn Jr., Mark Hagedorn, and Dan Hagedorn.

The funeral service was at 11:00 AM Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Merrill. The Rev. Justin Smoot will officiate. Burial took place in St. James Cemetery, Town of Pine River. Visitation began at 9:00 A.M. Wednesday at the church. The Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

"Pass It Forward": Help Us Shape the Future of Journalism

DEAR READER,

Today, I invite you to be a part of something extraordinary – the MMC Internship Program. The "Pass It Forward" program has been a resounding success, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Packers Give Back and Nicolet Bank. This initiative has thrived, powered by the unwavering support of seasoned editors and writers from the Press Times in collaboration with talented interns from UWGB and St. Norbert College.



have a chance to acknowledge and appreciate these businesses that have given us the gift of knowledge and insight.

But our journey doesn't end here. We are on a mission to expand our reach and create more opportunities. In the coming year, we plan to extend Pass It Forward to other Wisconsin cities, including Wausau and Stevens Point. We also intend to welcome journalism and communications interns from a broader spectrum of schools, including both college and

high school levels. Pass It Forward is not just an internship program; it is a transformational journey. It is a collective effort that has led to positive change in our local communities. By filling the gaps where coverage of news was previously lacking, this program has given a voice to stories that matter. Concurrently, our interns have realized that they are not merely students; they are the future of journalism, learning and growing through "Earn Your Press Pass" webinars, on-site seminars, and hands-on experience covering real stories across sports, entertainment, and government.

high school levels.

To make this vision a reality, we need your support. Whether you are a business owner, an influencer in your local or regional community, or simply someone who values the power of journalism and education, we invite you to join us. Together, we can nurture the next generation of storytellers and continue to shine a light on the stories that deserve to be told.

The impact of this program reaches far and wide. Our sponsors have seen their names associated with the incredible work of our interns, earning well-deserved recognition for supporting local news. As a community, we

For more information and details on how you can become a part of our mission, please contact mholihan@mmclocal.com. Let's "Pass It Forward" and make a lasting impact on the world of journalism.

Thank you for considering our call for support.

PATRICK J. WOOD, Publisher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome letters to the Editor, a chance for members of the community to comment on issues of concern to them. All letters must be original, not duplications of letters addressed to public officials or written by others. The views and opinions expressed are those of the letter writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of this publication, its publishers, Editor, or staff.

The second letter addresses the Pine Crest Community Survey. This survey was published in both local newspapers and all Lincoln County residents were invited to participate. 782 people responded to the survey and of those 85.3% said that Pine Crest should remain County owned.

The letter writer complains about the sample size. The minimum sample size necessary to obtain a useful result from an opinion survey is 100 participants. The community survey's sample size is more than adequate to provide a good indication of public opinion.

To the Editor:

This letter responds to the two letters to the editor, concerning Pine Crest, in last week's Foto News. The first letter claims that nursing home administrators with a nursing background are the most qualified. I agree and would add that our current Pine Crest Administrator is an RN. Contrary to the author's claims that Pine Crest is in the "red," its operations are generating a small surplus due to the recently increased Medicaid reimbursement rate.

The question is whether we as a community should continue to care for the elderly among us. Those who support County ownership of Pine Crest believe we should. We appear to be in the majority.

–Ruthann Dunphy
Merrill, Wis.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legals 7700

BY THE COURT
DATE SIGNED **October 27, 2023**
Electronically signed by **Becky S. Byer**
Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Russell B. Warye
Amended
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2023 IN 46

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 12/11/1942 and date of death 07/30/2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of W4385 Eagle Ridge Lane, Merrill, WI, 54452.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 02/16/2024.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.
Dan C. Koblit, Attorney
2320 Parallel Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20904
Telephone: 301-960-5857
Bar Number: 1102710
Published November 2, 9 & 16, 2023
WNAXLP

Notice is hereby given that the following application has been filed with the City Clerk, Merrill, Wisconsin:
Class B Liquor/Class B Beer Combo License
Seth Clark, Agent
Clark All Aboard, LLC
dba All Aboard
315 E 2nd St
Merrill, WI 54452
License Period: 01/01/2024-06/30/2024
Lori Anderson-Malm
City Clerk
Published November 9, 2023 WNAXLP

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
OF
TRUST ADMINISTRATION
STATE OF WISCONSIN, County of Lincoln, in the matter of the Leila L. Howland Revocable Trust dated February 19th, 1997 and amended

Legals 7700

February 3rd, 2005 (the "Trust"):
1. Leila L. Howland, with the date of birth December 27th, 1936 and date of death September 21st, 2023 was domiciled in Lincoln County, Wisconsin.

2. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent, Leila L. Howland, is February 26th, 2024.
3. All claims must include detailed documentation and must be submitted to the Trustee of the Trust at the following address: N5041 County Road JJ, Irma, WI 54442
Date: October 17th, 2023
Leila L. Howland Revocable Trust dated February 19th, 1997 and amended February 3rd, 2005.
By: /s/Craig J. Nienow
Craig J. Nienow, Trustee
Published 10/26/23, 11/2/23 & 11/9/23
WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Publication Summons and Notice (Small Claims)
Case No. 2023SC000232
Plaintiff(s): S C Swiderski
401 Ranger St.
Mosinee, WI 54455
Defendant(s): Azzizah Ragin
Ibrahima Hane
2401 W Jackson St. #339
Merrill, WI 54452

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S)
You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following small claims court:
Lincoln County Courthouse
Telephone Number of clerk of court: 715-536-0319
Courtroom/Room Number: Branch 2
Address: 1110 E Main St
Merrill, WI 54452
on the following date and time:
November 30, 2023 9 00 a.m.
If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgment may be

Legals 7700

enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.
You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to

Legals 7700

determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.
If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0319 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.
Published November 9, 2023 WNAXLP

TOWN OF MERRILL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING & SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF ELECTORS

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, November 13, 2023 a **PUBLIC HEARING** on the Proposed 2024 Budget will be held at 6:00 P.M., at The Town of Merrill Community Center, W4594 Progress Avenue. The Proposed Budget will be posted and available for inspection at the Clerk's Office, W4594 Progress Avenue, during regular office hours.

Following completion of the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2024 Budget, **the SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORS** called pursuant to Sec. 60.12(1)(c) of Wis. Statutes by the Town Board for the following purposes will be held:

1. To Adopt the 2023 Town Tax Levy To Be Paid In 2024,

Pursuant to Sec. 60.10 (1) (a) of Wis. Statutes

The regular monthly board meeting will be held following completion of the above meetings.

Mitzi Flegner, Clerk-Treasurer

Published November 2 & 9, 2023 WNAXLP

NOTICE
TOWN OF CORNING
2024 PROPOSED BUDGET HEARING

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, Nov. 13th, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. at the Corning Town Hall, a public hearing will be held on the 2023 proposed Town of Corning Budget.

Following the hearing, a meeting will be held to adopt the 2023 Town Tax Levy to be paid in 2024 pursuant to Section 60.10 (1) (A) of Wisconsin Statutes.

Dated this 1st day of November 2023

BY:
Rickey C. Hass
Clerk, Town of Corning

Published November 9, 2023 WNAXLP

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Timm is 11-year-old Punt Pass & Kick State Champion

Two other Merrill students take 2nd and 3rd place at State in 12-year-old division

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Knights of Columbus held their annual Punt Pass & Kick competition at Jay Stadium on Sept. 22, 2023, open to children ages 8 to 12. The competition was divided by age and gender, with the child who took first place in each division advancing on to the Sectional District competition in New Richmond, Wis.

Competitors who placed first in that competition then go on to the State Championship in De Pere to compete against the winners of the other Sectional District competitions.

Merrill made a strong showing at the State Championship this year, with several kids placing in the top three and one bringing home the first place State Championship in his division.

11-year-old boys

Taylor Timm, 11-year-old son of Heather Ohlmann and Paul Timm, both of Merrill, took first place in the 11-year-old boys division at Jay Stadium in Sept. That advanced him to the Oct. 14 Sectional District competition in New Richmond on Oct. 14 where he also took first place in that division and punched



Taylor Timm took home the State Championship trophy in the 11-year-old boys division. Submitted photos.

Taylor's ticket, moving him through to the State Championship competition in De Pere. The State Championship 2023 Knights of Columbus Punt Pass & Kick competition was held on Oct. 28 at East De Pere High School in De Pere, and Taylor competed with nine other 11-year-old boys. Taylor emerged the victor in that competition and brought the first place State Championship trophy home to Merrill.

12-year-old boys

Andrew Josiger, 12-year-old son of



Andrew Josiger took second place at State in his division.

Craig and Nicole Josiger of Merrill, took first place in his division at the Sept. 22 event at Jay Stadium and advanced to the Sectional District competition in New Richmond where he also took first place, advancing him to the State competition. In DePere, Andrew fell just short of the State Championship but did Merrill proud with a second place finish.

12-year-old girls

Makaylynn Roehl, 12-year-old daughter



Makaylynn Roehl took third place at State in her division.

of Amanda and Doug Roehl of Irma, took first place in the 12-year-old girl division of the Punt Pass & Kick competition on Sept. 22. She then also advanced to the Oct. 14 Sectional District competition in New Richmond where she also took first place and then advanced to the State competition in DePere. Makaylynn represented Merrill girls well in DePere, finishing in third place in her division at the State Championship level.

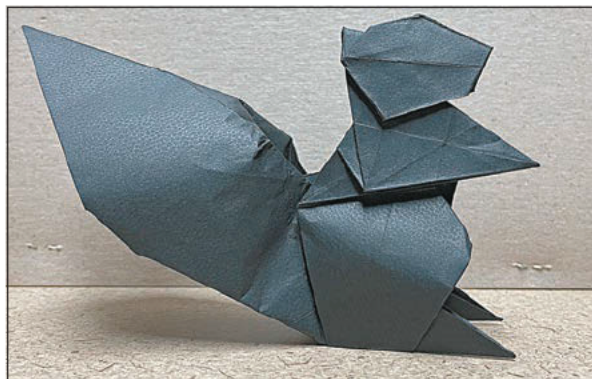
All three of the kids did a great job representing Merrill at every stage of the competition.

ARTSHARE from page 1

works as an engineer and lives in Merrill with his family and pets.

The T.B. Scott Library is offering origami activities for children in the Youth Department.

In addition, Hanson will demonstrate origami folding techniques at a special presentation at the library on Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The demonstration is open to all ages.



Origami squirrel. Submitted photos.



Origami scorpion.

CRAFT SHOWS from page 1

with two locations beginning their sales on Friday.

Merrill's City Wide Craft and Vendor Extravaganza, as it has been dubbed, will feature craft shows in churches, schools,

pavilions, and businesses throughout the Merrill area. Many locations will also have food for sale so shoppers can grab a bite to eat as they search for unique gifts, holiday decor, crafts, clothing, books, jewelry, baked goods, and much, much more. Hitting the craft show circuit in Merrill this weekend is the perfect way to get into the holiday mood.

Friday craft show locations

- Holiday Market in the Lange Building, 11580 S. Co. Rd. K, - 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Roadside Wreaths & Uniques in the Agra Pavilion, 404 S. Park St. - 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday craft show locations

- Former Jefferson School, 1914 W. Jackson St. - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- St. John's School Gymnasium, 1104 E. 3rd St. - 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- VFW Post 1638, 601 Johnson St. - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes, 1208 N Center Ave. - 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- New Testament Church, N2519 Co. Rd. K - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- St. Francis Xavier Church & School, 1708 E. 10th St. - 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Merrill High School Fieldhouse, 1201 N Sales St. - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Holiday Market in the Lange Building, 11580 S. Co. Rd. K, - 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Roadside Wreaths & Uniques in the Agra Pavilion, 404 S. Park St. - 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information about this weekend's area craft shows, including a city map, go to the "Merrill Craft & Vendor Events" Facebook page.

SOBER from page 3

behaviors that increase the likelihood of a crash and of significant injury or death occurring; these include speeding and failure to wear seat belts.

While the focus of the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign initiative is to deter impaired driving, officers will also issue

citations and make arrests during traffic stops for the following: speed, operating without a license, traffic sign/traffic light violations, seat belt violations, drug arrests, and criminal arrests.

Lincoln County law enforcement agencies will be participating in the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign from November 2023 through September 2024.

Merrill Foto News
Your Community
Your News
Your Paper



PRMS October Youth Optimist

Kylie Roberge, an eighth grader at Prairie River Middle School (PRMS), is the October Youth Optimist of the Month "Kylie is on to a terrific start this school year. She works incredibly hard in class and asks thoughtful questions that not only help her, but her classmates," said Jason Wadzinski in his nomination of Kylie. "I notice her also aiding classmates through problems and discussing the material in a positive way." "Kylie ALWAYS has a smile on her face and a can-do attitude," he said. "It is an absolute pleasure teaching Miss Roberge." At PRMS, Kylie has a 4.0 GPA. She enjoys travel softball and snowmobiling. Kylie is the daughter of Michelle Roberge and Jesse Roberge.

Kylie Roberge

MHS October Youth Optimist

Anna Bowe, a Senior at Merrill High School, is the October Youth Optimist of the Month. "I have had the privilege of getting to know Anna both as a student and as a volleyball player," Ms. Kasie Holt said in her nomination. "Anna is, without a doubt, one of the most mature, kind, and helpful students I have ever encountered. She consistently stands out for her academic achievements, her exceptional character, and her strong sense of responsibility. Maturity is a quality that many students strive to attain; Anna possesses it naturally. She approaches each challenge and task with a level of composure and thoughtful consideration that is rare among individuals her age. She demonstrates a keen ability to analyze situations, make informed decisions, and maintain a sense of perspective even in the face of adversity." "[Anna] consistently goes above and beyond to offer assistance and support to people around her, always willing to lend a helping hand, offer words of encouragement, and make those around her feel included," Holt said. "Last spring Anna had an unfortunate injury which meant she would be out for her Senior Volleyball season. A true testament to her hard work, leadership, and positivity is [that] even though she cannot be on the court, she is there for every workout, practice, and game; her teammates voted her as captain. Anna's optimism changes those around her, including myself, for the better." At school, Anna is active in Volleyball (Captain), Soccer (Captain, Honorable Mention), National Honor Society (Treasurer and Historian), Junior Optimists, Link Crew, Leadership, Student Council, High School Honor Roll, and Employability Skills. Within the community, she is involved in Messy Church, Youth Group, and Lunch in the Park through her church, and she is also a Junior Jays Coach. After high school, Anna plans to attend either UW-La Crosse or St. Norbert's College to become a physical therapist. She is the daughter of Kristine and Dean Bowe.



Anna Bowe

Optimist Clubs: "Bringing Out the Best in Kids"
Merrill Noon Optimists - Wednesdays at 12:00 noon at the Eagles Club, 1205 Lake St., Merrill. Adult volunteers join Optimist Clubs to conduct positive service projects in their communities aimed at providing a helping hand to youth. Their upbeat attitudes empower youth to be the best they can be. Optimists International, with 3,000+ clubs, conducts 65,000 service projects, serving more than six million youth annually. Locally, Merrill Noon Optimists serve 3,000+ area youth, contributing or organizing events and service projects in our Merrill community.

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Gail Abegglen

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Bacon Hardwood Smoked- Frozen 16 oz..... ONLY \$2.69	American Cheese Sliced 5 lbs..... ONLY \$9.99	Saltine Crackers Salted 16 oz..... ONLY 89¢
Fish Tenders Beer Battered - Frozen..... ONLY \$2.69 a lb	Pepper Jack Cheese 5 lbs..... ONLY \$1.79 a lb	Sandwich Cookies Choc. w/Vanilla Creme 19.1 oz..... ONLY 89¢
Chicken Breast Skinless - Boneless Frozen 40 oz..... ONLY \$4.99	Cream Cheese 1/3 Less Fat 8 oz..... ONLY 69¢	Bratwurst Frozen Beer - Fully Cooked 14 oz..... ONLY \$1.99
Deli Hams Uncured - Frozen 4 lbs..... ONLY \$1.49 a lb	Mozzarella Cheese Shredded 5 lbs..... ONLY \$8.99	Corn Dogs w/Stick - Frozen 9 lbs..... ONLY \$11.99
Corned Beef Raw - Frozen 3 lbs..... ONLY \$1.69 a lb	American Cheese Shredded 5 lbs..... ONLY \$9.99	Ham Steak Thick Cut - Frozen 4 lbs..... ONLY 89¢ a lb
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Creating a healthier holiday spread

Aspirus dietitian shares tips for a nutrient-rich celebration



Aspirus Registered Dietitian Ashley Chrisinger.

“During the holiday season, we have the luxury of time, a day off work, and extra hands in the kitchen. This is the perfect opportunity to slow down, prepare vegetables through slow roasting, and make stuffing from scratch instead of relying on convenience items.”

When we think of holiday gatherings, images of decadent feasts often come to mind. However, it's crucial to be mindful of the choices we make during these celebrations, as they can have a significant impact on our health. "One of the biggest red flags that stands out on holiday menus is the prevalence of refined carbohydrates and ultra-processed foods," said Aspirus Registered Dietitian Ashley Chrisinger. These foods are enjoyable, but they often overflow our plates, and leave little room for healthy green vegetables.

Our holiday dining habits tend to mirror the standard American diet, which is characterized by an overabundance of refined carbohydrates and ultra-processed foods. "We in general have way too many

refined carbohydrates, too many ultra-processed foods, and we miss out on vegetables," Chrisinger said.

Vegetables, the nutrient powerhouses of our meals, can be easily forgotten in the midst of our holiday feasts. The lack of balance in holiday meals can result in nutrient gaps, as we miss out on crucial vitamins and minerals that fruits and vegetables provide. While this may be just one meal, it's a meal that everyone is paying extra close attention to. It's a missed opportunity to teach others what a healthy, nutritionally balanced and beautiful meal could look like. To address this issue and create a more balanced holiday menu, planning ahead and coordination among those contributing to the meal can be



Don't forget to include vegetables in your holiday meals.

Stock photos.

immensely helpful.

"What works really well when planning holiday meals ahead," Chrisinger said, "is to, whether via email or some of the fancy new apps, get everybody that's providing food to commit to what they're making ahead of time. This way, you can assess whether you've overdone the pasta or potatoes and whether there's a need to add more vegetables." This approach allows you to have a well-rounded holiday spread that includes not only the festive favorites but also the essential greens.

Ultra-processed foods, those that undergo numerous transformations from the fields to the grocery store shelf, have become all too common in our diets. These foods are processed for convenience, appealing to our fast-paced and busy lifestyles. "We love convenience," Chrisinger said. "We have very busy lifestyles. We need things quick and easy. And so we're really drawn to those ultra-processed foods to be able to put things on the table quickly. However, during the holiday season, we have the luxury of time, a day off work, and extra hands in the kitchen. This is the perfect opportunity to slow down, prepare vegetables through slow roasting, and make stuffing from scratch instead of relying on convenience items."

When gathering with friends and family

during the holidays, it's essential to keep nutrition and body-size discussions off the table. "I think the holidays are definitely a time to celebrate with food and to enjoy eating," Chrisinger said. "Be the one to bring the vegetable dish. Be the one to make sure our green veggies are covered. Compliment people on things they can control, such as their stylish sweater or lovely hairstyle, rather than making remarks about their weight."

She also encourages people to continue to keep their own health journey in mind. "The holidays are a time to celebrate and enjoy food, and indulgence is perfectly acceptable. However, there's no need to feel pressured into overindulging."

In addition, Chrisinger said to be cautious about high-sodium sources during holiday meals, as they can lead to fluid retention. She also suggests staying active over the holidays. "Taking a walk, going for a hike, or engaging in outdoor games with family can help rebalance your digestion and appetite, making it easier to enjoy the festivities without overindulging."

Remember that moderation and enjoyment can go hand in hand, and the holidays are a perfect time to appreciate the work you've put into improving your health. This holiday season, focus on good food, good company, and good health.



Enjoy your extra prep time in the kitchen and embrace healthy additions to this year's holiday meal.

Thank You

After our house burned a week ago, we have truly been blessed with an outpouring of help and support from family, friends and people we don't even know. A friend told me that the Merrill community takes care of one another and I can personally confirm that to be true as a lot of people have stepped up and helped us.

Thank you Merrill Fire Dept., Wausau Fire Dept., Pine River Fire Dept., Russell Fire Dept., and Coming Fire Dept., who fought the fire, the Merrill Police Dept., Tomahawk EMS, WI Public Service, Aspirus Merrill ER and Fire Chief Josh Klug, all performed their jobs professionally and efficiently. Our family, near and far, friends, co workers, and neighbors who have rushed to our aid with love, prayers, caring, supportive words to the point where we feel overwhelmed.

Words can't express our gratitude to each and every one mentioned and others who also have stepped forward. To list each person, business, organization will come at a later date but will be recognized I promise!

We are blessed to have so many people who care for us and those who have done their jobs so well. Our hearts are full of love, respect and thankfulness to all. Each thought, prayer, hug and other support will never be forgotten and will be paid forward.

A house is four walls and a roof. What makes it a home, is family (my late husband and kids) where memories are made.

The Rajek Family

324552



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Participate in this Saturday's Nov. 11 Poker Run to win

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The 23rd annual Merrill Poker Run will take place on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023.

This year 12 Merrill businesses will sponsor the Poker Run, bringing participants in and out of downtown Merrill businesses including Strive-4-Life, Auntie Ray's Coffee Shop, Polka Dotted Pie, Hargrave Appliance Center, Merrill Ace Hardware,



VIP Office Products, and Courtside Furniture. It will also take participants to Merrill's mid-city area to check out Miller Home Furnishings and Ballyhoos; the north Center Ave. business district to visit Merrill Sheet Metal, and to the sixth Ward retail area to stop at Westside Market. In addition, St. Francis Xavier Church is a sponsor, drawing Poker Run participants over to their school cafeteria/hall where they will be holding their annual St. Francis Xavier School Christmas Bazaar from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with vendor booths/sales, craft sales, basket raffles, candy and cookie sale, a soup and sandwich lunch, and more.

A lot is happening on Nov. 11 and the 23rd annual Merrill Poker Run just adds to the fun and excitement in the community. It's a great opportunity to kick off the Christmas shopping season and gather Christmas ideas for the coming season, and possibly win prizes along the way. Participating businesses will have special Poker Run displays, showcase new Christmas items and ideas, offer in-store specials, and more.

The Poker Run will have multiple winners. Grand prize is \$500, first prize is \$150, second prize is \$120, third prize is \$90, a prize will be given for "worst poker hand," and there will be a drawing from all Poker

Run cards turned in. That prize is an overnight stay at the Chula Vista resort in Wisconsin Dells good for four people which includes four waterpark passes and a \$25 food coupon.

How do you play?

Go to any of this year's 12 participating businesses to pick up a game card on Nov. 11. Then visit each business to get your card stamped (no purchase necessary to play or to win). Be sure to get at least five stamps from five different businesses. Then at 12 noon or later that day (but before they close at 5 p.m.), go to Courtside Furniture to turn in your game card. Courtside is the only location where game cards can be turned in. You will be dealt a hand based on the number of stamps you collected on your game card (i.e. five stamps = five cards and so on). The dealer will help you receive a poker hand with the possibility of getting a royal flush, organizers said.

Be sure to turn in your game card and get your poker hand before 5 p.m.

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FRI - FISH FRY BLUEGILL	THUR - CHICKEN
SAT - PRIVATE EVENT	FRI - CLAM CHOWDER
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PROGRESS from page 3

lives of staff and youth," the monitor wrote.

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improved since the last report, but the DOC continues to hold hiring events to address worker shortages. The monitor noted the vacancies, especially among education staff, but they applauded the DOC and its efforts to address the shortages.

"The [DOC is] working diligently to try to attract and retain staff for these critical roles and have truly created significant incentives for new and existing employees to help with attracting new talent and retaining current staff," the monitor wrote.

The DOC continues to move forward on the

development of a new Type 1 facility in Milwaukee County. On Aug. 9, the Wisconsin State Building Commission approved funding for construction of the new facility, as well as funding for the planning and development of a second Type 1 facility in Dane County. The projects would allow youth to be closer to their families and community support systems. The Milwaukee County project is expected to be completed in 2026.

A listing of all monitor reports can be found on the DOC website at: doc.wi.gov/.

Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

- Nov. 9 - Lincoln County Sports Club Gun Raffle
- Nov. 9 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.
- Nov. 10 - Holiday Market at Lange Machine & Tool

- Nov. 10 - Roadside Wreaths & Uniques at Agra Pavilion
- Nov. 11 - Holiday Market at Lange Machine & Tool
- Nov. 11 - Veterans Day ceremonies

- Nov. 11 - Holiday Preview at Fritz's Mountain
- Nov. 11 - Merrill Citywide Fall Craft Sales (see page 1)

- Nov. 11 - Merrill Poker Run

- Nov. 14 - Merrill Chamber Ambassador Club

- Nov. 15 - Trivia Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.

- Nov. 16 - Chili Cookoff Fundraiser at Nicolet Bank

- Nov. 16 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.

- Nov. 18 - Opening Day: Rifle Deer Hunting Season

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

Merrill's City Wide Craft & Vendor Extravaganza

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New Testament Church 9am-3pm N2519 Co Rd K	VFW Post 1638 9am-3pm 601 Johnson St.
Holiday Market Fri 3:30pm to 6:30pm Sat 9am to 4:30pm Lange Building 11580 S. Co. Rd K	Roadside Wreaths & Uniques Fri & Sat 7am-4pm Agra Pavilion 404 S Park St.
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11 AM
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3:30 PM

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Merrill area schools are again celebrating V
and events that all veterans and friends

- Tuesday, November 7: St. Francis Catholic School - 2:00 PM
- Thursday, November 9: Prairie River Middle School - 8:30 AM
- Thursday, November 9: Washington School - 2:00 PM
- Friday, November 10: Kate Goodrich School - 8:30 AM

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2023 DEER HUNTING Guide

2023 Hunting seasons

Wisconsin deer hunting season

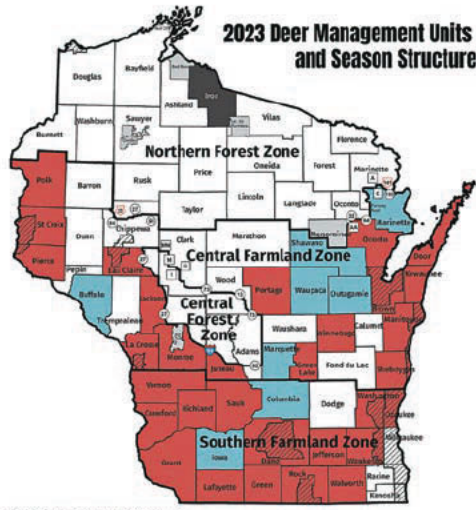
Gun Deer Hunt – Nov. 18–26, 2023
 Muzzleloader – Nov. 27–Dec. 6, 2023
 Statewide Four-Day Antlerless Hunt – Dec 7–10, 2023
 Antlerless-Only Holiday Hunt* – Dec 24, 2023–Jan 1, 2024*

*Open only in select Farmland (Zone 2) counties. Please see page 12 of combined hunting regulations for valid counties.

Archery and Crossbow Hunt - Started Sept 16, 2023 and goes until Jan 31, 2024, in some counties with an extended season. (See provided map.)

Hunting regulations

Complete Wisconsin hunting regulations are available online. Go to idnr.widen.net/s/fjhxtzq6t/2023-wisconsin-hunting-regulations to read and/or print the regulations.



2023 Deer Season Structure
 Statewide: Bucks plus antlerless by harvest authorization*
 *Buck only county: No antlerless harvest authorizations available for purchase
 Junior antlerless harvest: authorizations remain valid
 Holiday Hunt: Antlerless only, Dec. 24 - Jan. 1
 Holiday Hunt: Antlerless only, Dec. 24 - Jan. 1 and Extended Archery Season: Jan. 8 - 31, 2024
 Metro Sub-unit: See regulations for detailed boundaries
 Non-quota area: No harvest authorizations issued by the DNR

Firearm safety

- T - Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
- A - Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
- B - Be certain of the target, what's before it, and what's beyond it.
- K - Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until it is safe to shoot.

Please note that at least 50% of all hunters' clothing above the waist must be blaze orange or pink any time a firearm deer season is taking place. This requirement includes archery and small game hunters. Waterfowl hunters are exempt from this rule.

Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1973, must have a hunter education certification to purchase a hunting license, unless hunting under the Mentored Hunting Law. Learn more about safe hunting in Wisconsin and register to take a hunter education course on the DNR website at: dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Hunt.

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GOOD LUCK HUNTERS!
 We wish you a safe & successful season!

2023 DEER HUNTING Guide

Slowing the spread of CWD

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is asking for hunters' help to slow the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD). How?

Get your deer tested.

Deer testing for CWD is free and relatively easy. Submit a sample:

- At a 24/7 self-service kiosk.
- Drop off a sample in person at one of the DNR "sampling partners."
- Extract a lymph node for testing yourself. Go to: widnr.widen.net/s/x9gd5plzpf/cwd-self-service-instructions for instructions.
- Make an appointment with local DNR staff.

There are two collection sites in Merrill: 1) Merrill DNR Ranger Station at 101 Eagle Dr. in Merrill and 2) Geiss Meat Service at W4490 Pope St. in Merrill.

Providing a deer sample for CWD testing is relatively easy, free, and available around the state. The data from the samples provides the DNR with information about CWD throughout the state.

Those who provide a sample will be notified afterward with the test results.

To save time when completing the CWD testing form, use the DNR's online CWD reporting form. "The form automatically fills in the details, like name and harvest authorization, and provides an interactive map to pin exactly where you harvested your deer," DNR representatives said.



One of the CWD sample collection sites located throughout the state. Here in Merrill, a collection site like this is located near the DNR ranger station and near Geiss Meat Service.

Wisconsin DNR photo.

The form is available in the hunter's Go Wild harvest history after registering a harvested deer.

The DNR advises hunting "plays the most important role in the battle to slow the spread of CWD by maintaining deer populations."

It is also important to dispose of deer carcass waste appropriately. There are designated landfills and deer carcass dumpster locations throughout the state. Deer carcass dumpsters are large, lined with plastic, and usually in an easily accessible parking lot. They are labeled for deer carcass disposal.

"Proper carcass disposal helps slow the spread of CWD by removing potentially infected deer waste from the landscape and preventing the introduction of the disease to new areas," the DNR said.



Lindsey Klade harvested a bear on Sept. 14, 2023, in Lincoln County. It was her first year getting a tag and she got her bear the very first day of her hunt. The bear was about 200 pounds. Submitted photo.



Julia Skaar, age 10, went deer hunting for the first time with her dad, Tom Skaar, as part of the mentor program. Julia harvested her first doe during the youth hunt in October in Gleason. Submitted photo.

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Lukas Gessler (formerly of Merrill, now residing in Maine) (on left) and his father, Tony Gessler of Merrill (on right), harvested a bull moose on Oct. 10, 2023, at 7:20 a.m. in Allagash, Maine. "It took me 10 years as a Maine resident to draw a bull tag," Lukas said. Now the trophy bull moose he and his father harvested is in the running for the Maine Antler and Skull Trophy Club. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime hunt," Lukas said. The rack had 15 points and a 54.5" spread. They don't have a weight for the animal, as they quartered it in the woods and hiked it out. **Submitted photo.**



Jake Collinworth (in orange on left) harvested his first bull elk near Laramie, Wyoming, on Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023. He is shown here with his college buddy, Jake, from Gleason, is 25 years old, and is a third year law student at the University of Wyoming. **Submitted photo.**

2023 DEER HUNTING Guide

DON'T SHOOT AN ELK!

Elk have been reintroduced to Jackson County
Watch for similarities and differences between elk and white-tailed deer

ELK COW/CALF



WHITE-TAILED DOE/FAWN



Similarities and differences

ELK CALVES & WHITE-TAILED DOES:

A 5-6-month-old elk calf will be about the same size as an adult white-tailed doe.

TAILS:

Elk have a short tail; Deer have a long tail with a white underside.

SIZE:

Adult Elk stand 4 - 5 feet at the shoulders; Deer stand 3-3 1/2 feet at the shoulders.

COLORING:

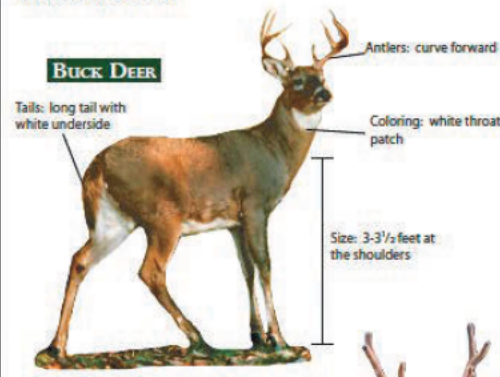
Elk have a tan rump patch, black legs and dark brown, furry neck. Deer have legs the same color as their bodies, and a white throat patch.

ANTLERS:

Elk antlers sweep back; Deer antlers curve forward.

JEWELRY:

Most elk have been marked with collars and ear tags.



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2023 DEER HUNTING Guide

Donate deer hides for Lions Camp, antlers for pups, hearts for refuge

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Lions Club is again collecting deer hides, antlers, and hearts.

Deer hides

Deer hunters who wish to put their deer hides to good use and support a worthy cause should remove the head and legs and can deposit their deer hides in the Deer Hide Collection box on the corner at 1401 E. Main St. in Merrill (former Caylor's Corners building). Look for the sign and the box in the parking lot.

All proceeds from the deer hides will be used to support Wisconsin Lions Camp.

Since 1956, Wisconsin Lions Camp has been providing people with disabilities with a high quality summer camp program, and the proceeds of the deer hide collection program are an important part of keeping the camps operational. There is no cost for campers to participate.



Piles of deer hides outside the old Caylor's building donated in a previous year to help support Wisconsin Lions Camp.

Photo courtesy of Merrill Lions Club.

Deer antlers

The Merrill Lions Club is also collecting deer antlers. Antlers will be donated to Leader Dog puppy raisers for the puppies to chew on.

Deer hearts

Deer hearts are also being collected and will be donated to the Wildlife Refuge in Antigo.

Thanks to local businesses for their support

The Merrill Lions want to thank the local

businesses and individuals that made it possible for the collection. Mike Giese and RESI provide the space and location for the collection on their property, and River Country Co-op is donating a portion of the salt used to preserve the hides.

For more information about the collection or if there are any questions, contact Dennis Knott at 715.218.1525 or Jeff Kraft at 715.536.6656. Both are members of the Merrill Lions Club.



Marie Skic was out hunting with her son, Wally, on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023, during the youth and gun hunt for hunters with disabilities. Marie downed this beautiful 8-point buck with a 20" spread, with one shot from 180 yards using a .243 caliber rifle. Marie turned 96 years old on October 30. Nice buck, Marie!
Submitted photo.

DNR seeks hunter participation in statewide Deer Hunter Wildlife Survey

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages hunters to participate in this year's Deer Hunter Wildlife Survey. This survey is an opportunity for hunters to report which animals they observe while deer hunting.

Data from these reports helps DNR researchers to better understand the relative abundance and distribution of mammals, birds, and other species of wildlife across Wisconsin. Past efforts have provided the DNR with valuable information for managing many wildlife species.

The survey period is open now through Jan. 7, 2024, requires no registration, and observations can be submitted from the field with a smartphone, at home from a computer, or through the mail to:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
c/o Jes Rees Lohr, DNR Research Scientist
2801 Progress Road, Madison, WI 53716

Or at Jessica.ReesLohr@wisconsin.gov or 608-228-8851.

Hunters should include the following information in their survey submissions:

- Date(s) hunted.
- Numbers of hours hunted.
- County in which they hunted.
- Zone referenced on the deer management unit map. See map at: https://widnr.widen.net/s/jdqqztt6ph/deer_zonesssforweb
- Land type (public vs. private).
- Weather conditions at the time of sighting.
- Type and number of animals observed.

Participants can find a list of animals to report and learn more about the survey by visiting the DNR's Deer Hunter Survey webpage at: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/wlsurvey>.



Data from these reports helps DNR researchers to better understand the relative abundance and distribution of various species of wildlife across Wisconsin. Photo courtesy of Wisconsin DNR.

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Sawyer Wirth shot this 8 pointer, his first deer, on Oct. 7, 2023, while hunting with his Grandpa, Jon Woller, in the town of Berlin. Submitted photo.



Clint Reed shot this beautiful buck hunting with his dad on Oct. 7, 2023, during the youth hunt. He dropped this 169-pound buck at 7 a.m. from 150 yards using his 270. They were hunting on private property in Marathon County. Clint is 12 years old. Submitted photo.



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Bluejay Girls host Sectionals, four swimmers advance to State

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Bluejays Varsity Girls Swim Team hosted Sectionals on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, at Prairie River Middle School (PRMS). Competing against teams from Antigo, Colby/Abbotsford (Coop Team), Ladysmith, Lakeland Union High School, Medford, Menomonie, Mosinee, Rhinelander, Rice Lake, Tomahawk, Wausau East, and Wittenberg-Birnamwood, the girls had to put forth their best effort to stand out in the competition. All of the competitors with a first place finish in each of four Sectional meets throughout the state qualified to go on to the State competition. Merrill didn't have any first place finishes during the Sectional meet, but "then they pool the times from all 4 Sectionals and the next 12 fastest times make it" in each event, Merrill Varsity Girls Swim Team Head Coach Kristie Winter said.

All four Sectional events were held on Saturday, and Winter got the call Saturday night to say four Merrill swimmers qualified to go on to State in two different events.

In the 200 Yard Medley Relay, a team of four Lady Jays who have worked together the majority of this season in this event—Addison Jirovec, Olivia Pajtach, Marissa Miles and Claire Jirovec—will be competing together at State, and Olivia Pajtach will also be competing in an individual event—the 500 Yard Freestyle.

"Merrill had some phenomenal swims today at our Sectional meet," Winter said after Saturday's meet. "The girls have



Olivia Pajtach swimming the Breaststroke leg of the State-qualifying 200 Yard Medley Relay. Joseph Frederick photo.



Caroline Durbin, swimming the 100 Yard Butterfly. Joseph Frederick photo.



Patricia Priebe swimming the 200 Yard Freestyle. Joseph Frederick photo.

worked so hard this season and it really showed through."

"The team will be headed to the DII State Swim Meet in Waukesha on Friday," she said. They are planning to leave around 10 a.m. with a police and fire escort, going through town past Washington School and then PRMS and hope to see some hometown support to cheer them on as they get ready to leave town.

The team of four Merrill swimmers will compete "in the very first heat of the very first event," Winter said, so the girls will be excited to kick things off. The competition begins at 5:30 p.m. Then the ladies will have to wait a while until teammate Olivia Pajtach is up to compete in event 8, the 500 Yard Freestyle.

Good luck at State, Addison, Claire, Marissa, and Olivia!

Marissa Miles also narrowly missed going to State this year. "[She] missed qualifying by one spot," Winter said. "She was 13th after they pooled the times, in the 100 Yard Freestyle event. Missing her first chance at individual state by 0.15 seconds as a Freshman. [It's] a huge let down but also lots of room to grow. She has a great future."



Olivia Pajtach, Merrill Varsity Girls Swim Team Captain, on the podium after taking second place in the 500 Yard Freestyle. Submitted photo.

Sectional results

The top Merrill Girls in each event at Sectionals were:

Event 1. Diving (No Merrill girls were competing in this event.)

Event 2. 200 Yard Medley Relay, Addison Jirovec, Olivia Pajtach, Marissa Miles, and Claire Jirovec came in 3rd place at 1:56.73.

Event 3. 200 Yard Freestyle, Emily Winter came in 12th place at 2:18.91.

Event 4. 200 Yard IM, Marissa Miles came in 9th place at 2:23.12.

Event 5. 50 Yard Freestyle, Claire Jirovec came in 10th place at 26.43.

Event 6. 100 Yard Butterfly, Caroline Durbin came in 13th place at 1:11.55.

Event 7. 100 Yard Freestyle, Marissa Miles came in 7th place at 57.06.

Event 8. 500 Yard Freestyle, Olivia Pajtach came in 2nd place at 5:36.58.

Event 9. 200 Yard Freestyle Relay, Claire Jirovec, Emily Winter, Brenna Jirovec, and Caroline Durbin came in 9th place at 1:51.36.

Event 10. 100 Yard Backstroke, Addison Jirovec came in 8th place at 1:06.37.

Event 11. 100 Yard Breaststroke, Olivia Pajtach came in 7th place at 1:16.24.

Event 12. 400 Yard Freestyle Relay, Olivia Pajtach, Marissa Miles, Claire Jirovec, and Addison Jirovec came in 6th place at 4:00.51.

Team Rankings:

1. Rhinelander 424.5
2. Rice Lake 194
3. Wausau East 190
4. Medford 182
5. Ladysmith Co-op 171
6. Merrill 167
7. Wittenberg-Birnamwood 164
8. Colby/Abbotsford Co op 148
9. Black River Falls Co-op 139
10. Lakeland 132
11. Tomahawk 89.5
12. Mosinee 62
13. Menomonie 43
14. Antigo/Wabeno 36



Celebrating their third place finish in the 200 Yard Medley Relay, from the top down: Marissa Miles, Olivia Pajtach, Claire Jirovec and Addison Jirovec. Submitted photo.

2023 WINTER MERRILL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Girls Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)

Fri. Nov. 10	Scrimmage (Varsity & JV)	Home	4:00 pm
Tues. Nov. 14	Shiocton (JV)	Home	5:45 pm
Tues. Nov. 14	Shiocton (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Thurs. Nov. 16	Ashland (JV)	Away	5:45 pm
Thurs. Nov. 16	Ashland (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm

Boys Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)

Practice Begins Monday, November 13th.

Girls Wrestling (Varsity)

Practice Begins Monday, November 13th.

Boys Wrestling (Varsity & JV)

Practice Begins Monday, November 13th.

Ice Hockey (Varsity & JV)

No Scheduled Events For This Week.

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Addison Jirovec, a Sophomore at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. Addison is on the Merrill High School Varsity Swim Team where she competes individually and as part of relay teams. Her favorite and best event is the 100-yard backstroke, she said. Addison learned to swim at a young age and began swimming competitively in middle school as part of the Merrill Aqua Jays. She also runs Track and Field and joined the MHS JV Track and Field Team last year.

At school, Addison is on the Student Council and really likes chemistry and math. She currently works part-time at McDonalds and plans to apply for a position as a lifeguard at the Prairie River Middle School indoor pool.

The daughter of Rory and Jennifer Jirovec of Merrill, Addison has a 3.6 GPA. After graduation, she plans to study veterinary science and wants to become a veterinarian.

Congratulations from these sponsors:



Addison Jirovec

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



The Merrill Girls Varsity Tennis program recognized three players at the 2023 end-of-season program. From L to R: Chloe Belant and Sarah Rell were honored as Co-Most Valuable Players and Emily Frahm was recognized as Most Improved. Congratulations, ladies! Jessica Belant photo.



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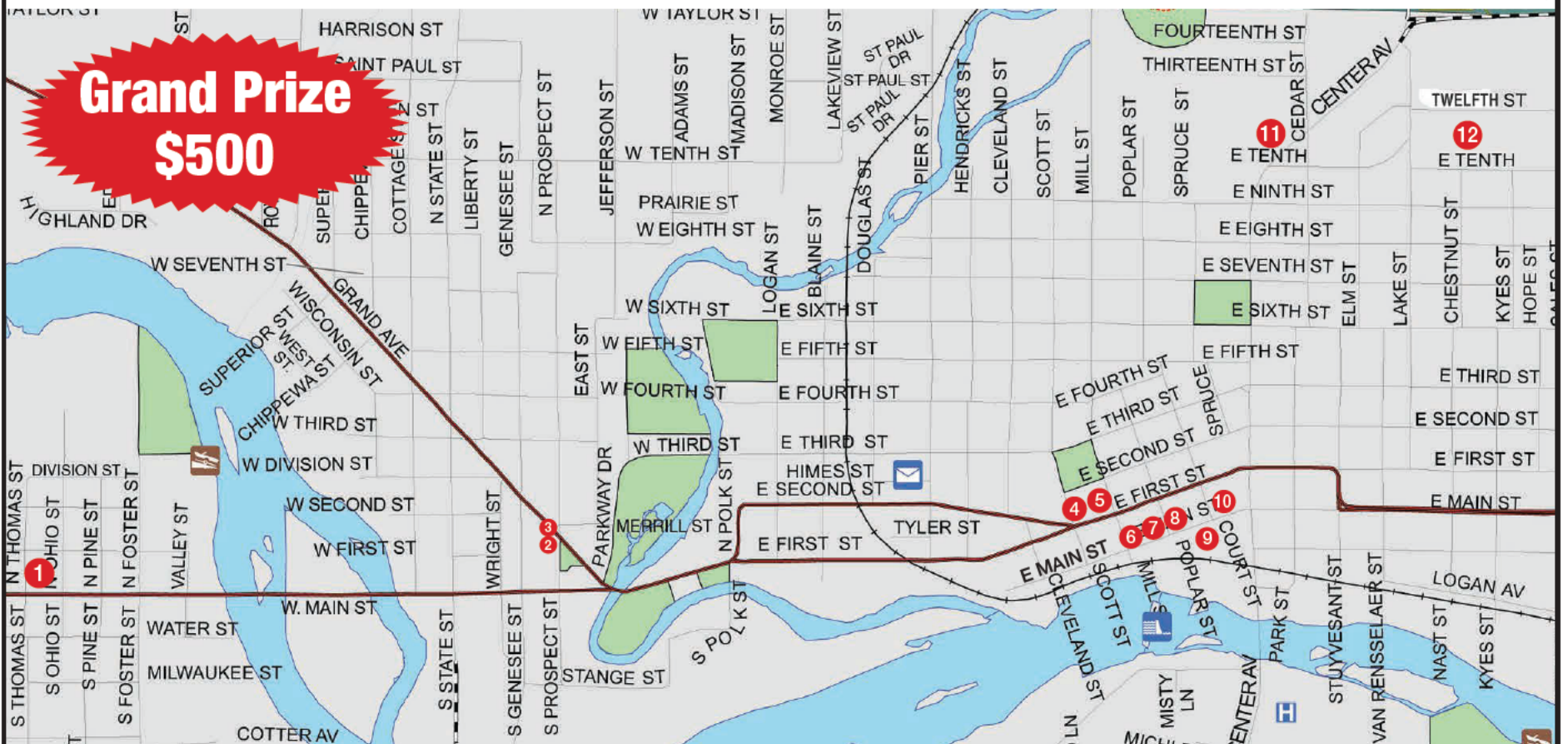
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- More stamps means more cards to choose from. Example: 15 stamps = 15 cards
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